

The 8th Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (AFRSD 8)
Side Event on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Africa: Progress, Challenges, Opportunity and key Priority Actions for accelerating implementation of SDG 5

1. Background

The Sustainable Development Goal 5: “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, more than being a standalone goal holds the key for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the realization of an African where no one is left behind. African countries have taken significant steps in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Most countries have identified government units to coordinate the implementation and have prioritized specific targets and indicator.¹ In addition, The Africa We want, Agenda 2063 under Aspiration 6 recognizes that women are at the heart of Africa’s development. The [AU Gender Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment](#) (2018-2028) further reinforces the commitment of AU and Member States to deliver on gender equality and women’s empowerment GEWE.

However, while women represent around 50% of Africa’s population, Africa’s gender index² scores an average of 48.6% revealing a wide gender gap in key sectors pertaining to the development of the continent. For the continent to bridge the gender divide and mobilize the African citizenry to be drivers of “the Africa we want,” Member States need to accelerate the implementation of international, regional and national GEWE commitments and respond to challenging poles of inequalities.

2. Objective

Against this background, UN Women, UNFPA and UNECA are proposing to host a virtual multi-stakeholder side event at the margins of the 8th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (AFRSD) to provide regional peer learning and experience sharing platform on the implementation of SDG5 and Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 in the context of COVID19 and building back better. The outcome of the discussion will inform the ARFSD-8 consultations and Africa’s regional input to the 2022 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.

The platform will specifically look into lessons learnt and progress in the implementation of the SDG 5 and the relevant commitments under Agenda 2063. The session will discuss challenges, opportunities and proposed actions for the full realisation of GEWE.

3. Expected Outcome

- A Knowledge sharing multistakeholder platform to take stock on the implementation of SDG5 and Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 created.
- Key proposed priority actions identified to inform the ARFSD-8 consultations and Africa’s regional input to the 2022 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.

4. Participants

¹ <https://sdgindex.org/reports/2020-africa-sdg-index-and-dashboards-report/>

² <https://sdgindex.org/reports/2020-africa-sdg-index-and-dashboards-report/>

The session will be attended by representatives of AU Member States through Ministries of Women and Gender Affairs, CSOs, UN System, youth, men and boys, traditional, religious and cultural leaders.

5. Proposed Date and Time

Date: March 1, 2022

Time: 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM EAT

Proposed annotated agenda and panelists

Moderator: - TBD

14:05- 14:15 **Opening Remarks**

Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women representative to Ethiopia, AU and ECA

Mr. Mabingué Ngom, Director, UNFPA- Representation to AU and UNECA

ECA-GPSPD- Director

SESSION I: Progress and challenges on SDG5's implementation

14:15 -14:25 Overview of Progress, Challenges, Opportunities and key Priority Actions for accelerating implementation of SDG 5- **Dr Jacinta Muteshi, Independent Consultant**

Session II Panel Discussion

14:25 -14:50 - Good practices in the implementation of SDG 5 in AU Member States–
(Member State TBC)
-Advancing the coherent implementation of SDG5 and Agenda 2063's Aspiration 6; AU Perspective – **Ms Prudence Ngwenya, Ag Director of WGYD**
- The role of CSOs and GEWE advocates for the accelerated implementation of SDG 5 – Memory Kachambwa, **FEMNET**
- Young Women as key stakeholders in building forward better in the context of COVID 19, **Ms. Chido Mpemba, AU Youth Envoy**

14:50 -15:20 **Moderated Discussion**

Q and A - Participants

15:20-15:30 **Summary of discussions, key actions and way forward**

Moderator
