



Side Event Co-Organized by FEMNET and EVA in the margins of the 8th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development

**Title: Influencing access to Sustainable, Resilient, Inclusive and Green Education for Girls in Africa**

### **Introduction and Background**

The eighth session of the Regional Forum will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022, under the theme of “Building forward better: a green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”.

FEMNET has established her niche as a nucleus serving to mobilize African women and girls to influence and advocate for, the domestication and implementation of commitments made by African governments for the advancement of gender equality and realization of women’s and girl’s rights. Such commitments include the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (SDGs and the Action).

During the session, an in-depth review will be undertaken of progress made in the implementation of five selected Sustainable Development Goals, namely, Goals 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals), and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

In order to address the unique challenges of girls’ education in Africa, it is important to address the key elements that are needed to truly ensure that Africa “Leaves No One Behind”. This includes policy formulation and implementation, the use of data, and innovative tools and methods to effectively track the progress of the SDG 4, specifically targets and indicators on girls' education in TVET sector. According to Plan International, in a recent report by UNESCO (2020a), 89% of students are currently out of school due to the COVID19 pandemic. It is estimated that 1.54 billion children and youth enrolled in schools or universities are out of schools; this includes 743 million girls in this estimation.

With the focus of ARFSD and the High-Level Political Forums on Voluntary National Reporting, it is also important to ensure that countries are well supported to address critical issues of population and development in their national reports. This session would contribute to all 5 Ps with a particular focus on People and Partnership.

**Key Objective:** FEMNET is seeking to partner with CSOs particularly women’s rights organizations and girls’ and young women-led organisations and networks to influence and advocate for **Sustainable, Resilient, Inclusive and Green Education for Girls in Africa** including in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) using a feminist approach.

In accordance with the structure planned for the ARFSD 8, most side events will be organized virtually on an allocated day between 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2022, prior to the actual Forum from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022, except those organized by the host country, which will be organized face-to-face at the margins of the Forum. The events should focus on at least two of the subthemes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, organized by a group of three or more partners, and take consideration of gender and geographic balance.

**Speakers and Panelists: -**

- Memory Kachambwa- Executive Director FEMNET
- Paschalia Ouma- Director TVET County Government of Kisumu- Kenya
- Sebastian Simpala- Senior TVET Officer Uganda
- Toyin Chukudozie – Executive Director EVA -Cameroon
- Mageda Esyolo – Manager Programs and Innovation Crea World Organisation
- Ministry of Education Kenya- TBC