



AWID

AFRICAN WOMEN
IN DIALOGUE

The Inaugural African Women in Dialogue:

Strengthening the Continental African Women's Movement within the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) towards a New and Value-Based Eco-System

19-23 November 2018 | Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg South Africa

African Women in Dialogue

CONTENTS

Foreword by Zanele Mbeki Development Trust Founder, Zanele Mbeki	01
Welcome by Zanele Mbeki Development Trust Chairperson, Nana Ngobese.....	04
About The Zanele Mbeki Development Trust (ZMDT)	06
About African Women in Dialogue (AWID).....	07
AWID Programme.....	08
AWID Inaugural Forum Excursions.....	12
Speaker Profiles	14
Recommended Reading.....	25
• The Fourth Industrial Revolution by Professor Tshilidzi Marwala	26
• Creating a Value-based Ecosystem for the Continent by Professor C.A. Odora Hoppers.....	28
• Speech delivered by The Pan African Women’s Organisation’s (PAWO) President Madame Assetou Koite, at the 56th Anniversary Celebration of PAWO	30
• UN Women Executive Director’s remarks at the UN Security Council open debate on Women, Peace and Security.....	33
• The African Women’s Decade	38
Partners and Sponsors	42
Acknowledgements	44



FOREWORD

SAWID background

African Women in Dialogue (AWID) is inspired by our own experience as South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), an inclusive platform of dialogue established in 2003, when more than 1 000 women from all over South Africa gathered at the University of Pretoria to celebrate the achievements of women and the nation since 1994; to identify and address all ongoing challenges; and to envision a post-2004 future.

SAWID went on to host national, provincial and regional dialogues with diverse women in South Africa as well as with women of the DRC, Burundi and Sudan.

The healing and barrier-breaking power of these dialogues prompted our desire to extend this platform to women in the rest of the African continent. Dialogues as conducted in the SAWID method allow for, not only the healing of our wounded past and the breaking of geographic,

language, cultural and class barriers, but also creating safe spaces for networking and shared learning. It provides an opportunity for collective visioning and action and offers a huge potential for building social cohesion in our region.

Many people in South Africa and in other parts of our continent would be inspired by the fact that the SAWID Forum was itself inspired by our interaction with and support for the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who were participating in the Inter-Congolese Peace Dialogue in South Africa in 2002 under the leadership of retired Botswana President Quett Masire.

Why AWID?

As South Africans, we knew very well the value of solidarity because of the generous support that our friends in Africa and all over the world gave to us during the difficult years of our struggle for freedom. It was, therefore, fitting and proper that we, as South Africans, also contribute whatever we can to the regeneration of Africa and lend a hand to support efforts towards peace, stability, democracy and development on our continent.

It is intended that AWID will also be an inclusive platform of dialogue to unite African women from all walks of life under one roof to deliberate on issues of continental importance. AWID will be an annual pilgrimage of African women from diverse fields to explore emerging challenges, share opinions, exchange views and review policies on themes crafted by national, continental and global agendas.

Governance

The AWID Dialogue that we are launching this November 2018 has targeted representatives mainly from the Southern African Development Community (SADC). We have done this in order to ground ourselves in our region before we cover the whole continent. We shall co-create the AWID platform, its vision, mission, objectives and values as well as its governance processes. In this regard, the ZMDT (Zanele Mbeki Development Trust) founding document proposes a flexible steering committee comprising professionals and activists from around the continent.

African Women in Dialogue

This will be an evolving structure that allows access to various expertise and disciplines, without necessarily binding its members on a long-term basis. Steering committee members offer input, expertise and value as and when required, and may differ from year to year as the forum theme demands. This means that there will be no elections of presidents/chairpersons or of office-bearers. AWID will work through those who volunteer to participate. The ZMDT secretariat commits itself to fundraising to sustain the dialogues and will coordinate action based on the recommendations of the steering committee. Countries that wish to emulate AWID in their geographic areas are free to do so because it is not a registered entity. It is a programme of a Trust. It is open-source and available to every African woman, much as SAWID in South Africa is available to all South African women.

Rules of engagement

We will engage with one another with honesty, empathy and respect for our differences. We shall be guided by the spirit of Ubuntu which underpins all our values.

Setting our own agenda

Another reason we need AWID is that, as African women, we need to convene in Africa in order to set our own agenda based on our lived experiences and find fitting solutions for ourselves. Right now, we have very few platforms which address continental issues that are convened by us as Africans. In the main, as women, we meet as invitees on platforms created by other global forums. We meet at the United Nations CSW funded by our governments because it is just unaffordable, the World Economic Forum and the Women's Forum Global Meeting, among others. Happily there are a number of focused platforms that are now convened by Africans, in particular the Graça Machel Trust and Tsitsi Masiyiwa's African Philanthropy Forum (APF), both convened and funded by African women. There are probably others that one is not aware of. AWID wishes to join this new cohort by convening and funding ourselves for the inclusion of grassroots women who cannot afford airfares in order for their voices also to be heard.

AWID 2018 theme

The chosen theme for this dialogue, "Strengthening the Continental African Women's Movement in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) towards a new values-based ecosystem" allows for three areas of focus for the week's discourse:

- First, we seek to strengthen the continental women's movement. We need this movement to be very strong in order to effect substantive change in our continental condition. Seismic policy shifts in society are not driven by individual voices even as these are very important. Shifts are driven by massive social movements. It is the global women's movement that enabled the new architecture for women's high-level inclusion in the United Nations, hence the first UN Woman Executive Director and Under Secretary-General, Madam Bachelet, was appointed only in 2010, when the UN CSW was founded in 1946. We need our continental Women's Movement strong in order to ensure change in the current ecosystem, which is toxic to both women and men, as well as excluding many others on grounds of race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic and social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.
- We must transform not only our constitutions but also design systems and practices towards inclusivity for all. Hence the need for a new values-based inclusive and humane ecosystem.
- We are told that Africa missed out on the first, second and third revolutions and that the fourth is already upon us. Through this dialogue we want to understand what this Fourth Industrial Revolution looks like; how it affects us; and how we can participate so that, this time, Africa is not left behind.

Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO)

By aligning our efforts with continental aspirations, as AWID, we shall be emulating the women's continental movement of the 1960s, which formed the Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO), which is still active in many African Union (AU) member states. PAWO predated the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), yet shares the same objectives as the continental body. PAWO all along had an observer status in the OAU/AU. It is only in January 2017, that PAWO was accorded specialised agency status within the structures of the AU. We have included the recent media statement by our Regional PAWO Secretary General, Ms Pinky Kekana, after the PAWO's meeting in Namibia on October 22 -25, 2018 as well as the constitution of PAWO because it is incumbent upon all of us to build the continental women's movement within or outside of PAWO.

I hope we shall find a PAWO speaker who will explain PAWO's specialised agency role in the AU so that we can play our part as African women.

Let us journey together

There is a lot of work to be done, and the road is a long one – but we have seen at first hand the strength of collaboration: when women get together to create a space where we can collectively plan solutions for real and lasting change and, therefore, affect the lives of many.

I hope every participant will find this initiative rich and fulfilling and that this forum will grow from strength to strength in our country and on the rest of the continent. Thank you for taking this journey with us.

Zanele Mbeki



WELCOME

ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED

Jambo and good morning, dear AWIDians.

As we conclude the African Women's Decade in 2020 – in two years' time – we should be asking ourselves honestly if enough has been done in the last eight years since its declaration to take a “grassroots approach to gender equality and women empowerment”.

The results speak for themselves. And let me be honest here ... I can confidently say that little or nothing has been achieved. I believe that from here onwards, everything – including any decisions or actions about gender equality – has to be in our hands. That way, there will be no excuses, finger pointing and blaming for what is not achieved.

Until women take action on their own to immerse themselves in programmes that empower and uplift them, little or no results will ever

be satisfactory. Not today. Not even in 2063 when we will once again be reflecting to see how far we have come. Agenda 2063 is only 45 years away ... Let that sink in. It's time for African women to 're-imagine' themselves in light of Agenda 2063, which will be as inclusive as we want it to be. No one should be left behind. In our agenda to co-vision and co-create the future of the continent, women must take centre stage, as we are all doing now. Let us be curious, let us find ways and solutions that are ours to own, as we manifest a future different from what we have known. It is not possible that our very existence will continue to be 'half-lived' as we continue to drag with us the scars of our past colonial and patriarchal influences, and allow the same psychological and spiritual wounds to deny ourselves the opportunities our forebears could only dream of.

A time for healing

Recently, at the Gender-Based Violence Summit in Pretoria, we witnessed physically- and emotionally-scarred women whose identities had been subsumed with the traumas of their past. They are just a representation of many of us sitting here carrying similar emotional burdens, which we hope will be addressed as we continue with the conference. Thanks to the insistence of the patron of the Zanele Mbeki Development Trust (ZMDT), Mrs Zanele Mbeki, acknowledging our pain has become part of the DNA of women's dialogues in the ZMDT programmes.

There is no doubt that we need these sessions, but the intent is far bigger than the process. And it shouldn't end there. During and after the healing processes, there is hope that the space will be opened for re-thinking and re-imagining our true identities as we let go of those emotional and spiritual scars that bind us so deeply to our past. My wish for you is that, as the veil lifts, your heart and soul capture their true identity – free from anger, regret and hopelessness – because what lies ahead of us is so much bigger than what we've faced before.

The theme of our inaugural African Women In Dialogue is “Strengthening the Continental African Women's Movement within the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) towards a New and Value-Based Ecosystem”.

Let us ask the question: what does that mean for us?

It is not fitting that African Women – the Mothers of the Earth – still see themselves as inadequate when we have more than 30% of the world's most coveted resources under our feet. We have an incredible climate, a spirit of collaboration and a sense of community that is the envy of the world. What is missing is the reconnection with our imaginations for a different future. We need to pave the way for a brave new world because the future

truly lies in the hands of our children. They are the future champions of the 4IR. Hopefully, theirs will be a world unencumbered by the weight we carry. A weight made worse by rumination that gets in the way of focusing on what lies ahead. Is it not possible the scars can create new pathways of redesigning our psyche for a better future?

Perhaps some brilliant young African neurologist will find the answer? There's no doubt in my mind that the 4IR and its gift of technology gives us an opportunity to identify, grasp and consciously improve our lives, and change the course of what it means to be human.

Embracing collective leadership

Let me ask you, which great nation has not had its fair share of wars, disease, famine and being maimed (both physically and mentally) and has had to start all over again? Practically, with determination, all these nations rose from the ashes. Why? Because of the collective leadership – who knew that very little can be accomplished by looking back. Nations are built by looking ahead with zeal, faith and resolve.

The 4IR gives us, as African women, an opportunity to question ourselves: Now that yet another window of opportunity is opening, what will I do personally, or collectively with others, to take my people forward? Which area am I passionate about that will make a difference in the lives of the people so dear to me? We need to be the launchpad for young minds and hearts to fly. We don't have to create technology ourselves but let us be willing to open the pathways for it to reinvent the world. Let us engage and collaborate with the greatest resource the universe ever gave us: young minds.

I'm glad they're here ... because they struggle with us at home, in our villages and communities. They are our immediate answer to our future dreams through the 4IR. Nothing will survive the future without the 4IR. It's already happening in Japan, South Korea, Europe and, indeed, here in Africa. We don't want other nations to come and solve our local problems when our children and young people can do it themselves – African solutions for African problems. Our tech, our creativity, our way. It's as simple as that.

The time is now

This time around, the sky is truly the limit. Within the next 45 years (before Agenda 2063), just imagine how different the world will be if we let our children free themselves from our burdens and let them thrive to become who they were meant to be.

I hope you enjoy the interactions among yourselves at this Dialogue. I am looking forward to the day when one of these inspired young African minds creates an app that allows us to cross borders without standing in those long queues as we plan the next AWID Conference in another country outside South Africa. Or perhaps they will find a technological solution that dissolves borders altogether – that allows us to be as we are in reality, one continent with one vision.

As this is the inaugural African Women In Dialogue, we are in South Africa to honour our patron, Mrs Zanele Mbeki. It is her hope and dream that AWID will crisscross the continent and it is up to all of us in this room to make sure that her dream is realised. We are nothing without each other and together we can create this brave new world – one our ancestors will applaud and one our youngsters will thrive in. A place where lack is no more and abundance is the order of the day.

The time is now and, as the young ones say, the future is so bright we need to keep our sunglasses on ...

Welcome to you all AWIDians.
Asante Sana ...

Nana Ngobese

ZANELE MBEKI DEVELOPMENT TRUST (ZMDT)

About the ZMDT

The Zanele Mbeki Development Trust (ZMDT) is an independent, non-partisan, Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) which is committed to improving the status of African women. To facilitate our mission, ZMDT engages national government, the private sector and civil society as well as donor funders to shape national, regional and continental agendas.

Vision of the ZMDT

“Pan African women working together to build a sustainable ecosystem to humanise our continent”

Programmes of the ZMDT

ZMDT Supports three programmes:

- **African Women In Dialogue Forum:** AWID is an inclusive annual platform of dialogue which seeks to unite African women from all walks of life, with a bias towards women who live in under-resourced rural areas, under one roof to deliberate on issues of continental importance.
- **The Zanele Mbeki Fellowship:** A year-long programme which seeks to cultivate a new generation of values-driven young women leaders on the continent and to foster in them the knowledge, skills and attitude required to effect positive change for women in public and private spaces.
- **Research, Documentation & Publications:** This programme is committed to preserving, promoting, and widely disseminating research of historic and current issues affecting society, particularly in respect of topics that are relevant to the issue of African women development and gender justice.

Governance

The board of trustees of the ZMDT:

Ms Nana Ngobese:	Chairperson & Trustee
Mrs Zanele Mbeki:	Founder & Trustee
Ms Futhi Mtoba:	Trustee
Ms Nana Magomola:	Trustee

Statutory Registrations:

Public Benefit Org. Reg. No:	9300 54495
Non-Profit Org. Reg. No:	168-280
IT No:	003652/2015 (G)
Income Tax Reg. No:	3678/695/16/8

AFRICAN WOMEN IN DIALOGUE (AWID)

AWID is an inclusive annual platform of dialogue that seeks to unite African women from all walks of life, with a bias towards women who live in under-resourced rural areas, under one roof to deliberate on issues of continental importance, with its location in South Africa. This platform is not representative of any organisation or political opinion. Women speak in their own voices according to their own perspectives and personal experiences.

AWID objectives

The objectives of AWID are to:

- Contribute towards attaining a united voice of African women on continental issues;
- Vitalise, inspire and broaden the vision of African women, under a concrete common development agenda;
- Identify current and evolving systemic barriers, including practices and norms, which work against the implementation of the women's, and development agenda;
- Facilitate the review of undergirding systems, structures and practices, which hinder the advancement of African women. This includes the review of policies, strategies and programmes, on a national and continental level;
- Influence community, national and continental structures (public, private, civil society) aimed at empowering African women; and
- Strengthen national, regional and continental networks of African women organisations.

African Women in Dialogue

PROGRAMME

19 – 23 November 2018

SUNDAY, 18 NOVEMBER	Arrival & Registration	
DAY ONE: MONDAY, 19 NOVEMBER		
06h00 – 08h30	Breakfast	
08h00 – 08h45	Participants Arrival & Registration	
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR/MODERATOR: Ms Lerato Mbele, BBC Africa Business Report		
08h45 – 09h00	Music Item AU Anthem & SA National Anthem	Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society
09h10 – 09h20	Inter-Faith Devotion	Muslim, Christian, & Traditional (South Africa)
09h20 – 09h40	Welcome Address Introduction to the AWID Forum and its Objectives	Ms Nana Ngobese , Zanele Mbeki Development Trust Board Chair & Forum Chair
09h40 – 09h45	Messages of Support Through video link	Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka , Executive Director of UN Women
09h45 – 09h50		Ms Winnie Byanyima , Executive Director of Oxfam International
09h50 – 10h00	Music/Poem Item	Chief Albert Luthuli Primary School
10h00 – 11h30	PANEL DISCUSSION THEME: STRENGTHENING THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT ON THE CONTINENT In this 8th year of the African Women's Decade and in the time of the resurgence of active feminism seen across the world, this panel will reflect on the status of the African Women's Movement and its effectiveness in the last decade in changing the lives of African women. In recent years, the Movement has been criticised for having lost its autonomy, vigour and vigilance and thus being complicit in the deepening of challenges as well as reversals of some of the development gains made by women on the continent. What is the current status of collective organising within the movement and how can it be strengthened to be more responsive to the new and persistent challenges facing women?	
PANELLISTS: Opening Comments: Dr Gertrude Mongella , Special Advisor to the UNESCO Director General; Founder, Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA); Former President of the Pan-African Parliament (Tanzania)		
1. Ms Emma Kaliya , Chairperson of the SADC Protocol Alliance (Malawi)		
2. Ms Colleen Lowe Morna , CEO of Gender Links (SA)		
3. Ms Sara Longwe , Board Member of Gender Links (Zambia)		
4. Ms Memory Kachambwa , Executive Director of FEMNET (Pan-Africa)		
5. Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe , UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office Representative		
11h30 – 12h30	OPEN MIKE SESSION: Plenary Discussion and Q & A	All
12h30 – 14h00	LUNCH	
14H00- 17H30	BREAKING BARRIERS: CONNECTING WITH SELF AND WITH OTHERS The purpose of this session is to give participants an opportunity to meet and connect with other participants on a personal basis. Through this session, we plan to strengthen our connection as diverse women from across the continent, united in our quest for a solid vision for Africa's development and future. Facilitator: Mr Mike Boon: CEO of Vulindlela	
18h00 – 20h30	DINNER	

DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

06h00 – 07h00 Morning Meditation & Physical Exercises (Optional)

06h00 – 08h30 Breakfast

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR/MODERATOR: Ms Tamala Chirwa, Founder of Women’s Leadership Footprint (Malawi)

BREAKING BARRIERS, CONNECTING WITH SELF AND WITH OTHERS (cont.)

09h00 – 11h30 Conclusion & Report Back

Facilitator: Mr Mike Boon, CEO Vulindlela

MEDITATION WITH BRAHMA KUMARIS

11h45 – 12h30 The Barrier-Breaking Session will conclude with a guided meditation facilitated by Brahma Kumaris

12h30 – 14h00 **LUNCH**

PANEL DISCUSSION

THEME: “MOVING TOWARDS A NEW VALUE-BASED ECOSYSTEM FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT”

We currently witnessing the detrimental effects of some of the local and global shifts which are threatening to reverse developmental gains made over the years. Over the last decade, we have seen the emergence of worrying political shifts to the right, declining economies, the rise of human rights violations, deepening poverty, inequality, anti-migrant policies, destructive environmental changes, and increased violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups. This panel discussion will focus on the growing call for value-based leadership, in all spheres of society, which will lead communities towards the creation of peaceful and more egalitarian societies.

14H00 – 15h30

PANELLISTS

Opening Comments: Prof Catherine Odora Hoppers: DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Development Education (Uganda)

- **Dr Mamphela Ramphele**, Co-founder of ReimagineSA (South Africa)
- **Ms Fatima Shabodien**, Feminist Activist (South Africa)
- **Ms Mildred Ngesa**, Head of Communications at FEMNET (Kenya)
- **Sister Pratiba Daya**, Senior Yogi of the Brahma Kumaris (South Africa)

15h30 – 16h30 **OPEN MIKE SESSION: Plenary Discussion and Q & A**

ALL

16h30 – 16h40 **Closing Devotion: Led by Zimbabwe & DRC**

18h00 – 20h30 **DINNER**

African Women in Dialogue

DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER

06h00 – 07h00	Morning Meditation & Physical Exercises (Optional)	
06h00 – 08h30	Breakfast	
PROGRAM DIRECTOR/MODERATOR: Iman Rappetti, Power FM		
09h00 – 09h05	Morning Devotion: Led by Mauritius & Zambia	
09h05 – 09h20	Reflection on previous day's programme	
MASTER CLASS & PANEL DISCUSSION		
THEME: "DRIVING INCLUSIVITY: EMPOWERING WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR)"		
09h20 – 11h40	This segment arises from the recognition that most African women are not familiar with the concept of this revolution. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is upon us, and it is therefore imperative to take time to consider exactly what kind of shifts we are experiencing and how we might, collectively and individually, ensure that it creates benefits for the many, especially for African women, rather than the few.	
(1 hour)	MASTER CLASS By Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg	
(1h 20min)	PANELLISTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Siphso Maseko, Group CEO Telkom (South Africa) • Ms Lillian Barnard, Public Sector Director at Microsoft SA (South Africa) • Ms Regina Gouden, Provincial Manager for Small Business & Professional Bank at Nedbank (South Africa) • Prof Fiona Tregenna, DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development at the University of Johannesburg. 	
11h40 – 12h30	OPEN MIKE SESSION: Plenary Discussion and Q & A	All
12h30 – 14h00	LUNCH	
COMMISSIONS		
Participants will have an opportunity to participate in various commissions on topics of personal interest.		
Commission Moderators & Rapporteurs to be confirmed		
14h00 – 17h00	Agriculture & 4IR	Inclusive Finance
	This commission will discuss agricultural advancements, challenges and opportunities within the context of the 4IR.	This commission will address the challenges and opportunities in the finance sector in the context of the 4IR including related policy issues.
	Education & 4IR	Peace & Security
	This commission will discuss educational advancements, challenges and opportunities within the context of the 4IR.	This commission will review the UN Resolution 1325 on peace and security with regards to its impact on women in various countries on the Continent.
	Land, Water & Energy	Youth
	This commission will address challenges faced by women on the continent with regards to access to land, water and energy.	This commission will give an opportunity to young women to collectively discuss issues relevant to them as well as explore ways in which to create and strengthen cross-boarder networks and collaborations.
	Entrepreneurship	Commission on the Status of Women
	This commission will unpack the notion of entrepreneurship, barriers for African women as well as explore opportunities in various sectors including manufacturing.	This commission will review the theme for CSW 63 as well as garner inputs from women which will be channelled to various continental platforms and declarations in preparation for the commission next year.
18h00 – 20h30	DINNER	

DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, 22 NOVEMBER

06h00 – 07h00 Morning Meditation & Physical Exercises (Optional)

06h00 – 08h30 Breakfast

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: TBC

09h00 Morning Devotion: Led by Seychelles & Namibia

09h05 – 10h00 Reflection on previous day's programme & Commission Reports

10h00 – 12h30

COUNTRY-BASED COMMISSION CAUCUSES

Participants will be grouped into their respective countries. The purposes of the caucuses are to discuss and highlight country-specific challenges as well as to provide inputs on how the Forum can be improved going forward.

12h30 – 17h00

LUNCH (Lunch packs for the road)

FORUM EXCURSIONS

Participants will have an opportunity to take part in various excursions. Participants to pre-select their options by end of Monday.

- Freedom Park (Pretoria)
- Apartheid Museum (Johannesburg)
- Gold Reef City (Johannesburg)
- Hector Peterson Museum & Vilakazi street (Soweto)
- Black Panther @ Ster Kinekor cinema (Johannesburg)
- Shopping at Eastgate Mall (Johannesburg)

18h00 – 22h00

CELEBRATORY DINNER

DAY FIVE: FRIDAY, 23 NOVEMBER

06h00 – 07h00 Morning Meditation & Physical Exercises (Optional)

06h00 – 09h00 Breakfast & Hotel Check-out

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Linda Vilakazi, AWID Coordinator, ZMDT

09h30 Morning Devotion: Led by Angola & Botswana

09h35 – 11h00 Reflections of the week & Country Commission Reports

11h00 – 11h20 Closing Address
Ms Granny Seape, CEO of Ahanang

11h20 – 11h50 Next steps & Vote of Thanks

12h20 Closing Devotion & Moment of Silence

12h30 – 14h00

LUNCH & DEPARTURE

African Women in Dialogue

AWID Inaugural Forum excursions

It's not all work and no play. We'd love you to explore some of our surrounding attractions, or even take in a movie. Please sign up at the front desk for your excursions by the close of business on Monday 19th November.

Freedom Park



Celebrate South Africa's heritage at Tshwane's Freedom Park. It is an empowering site that celebrates the ideals of liberty, diversity and human rights as it narrates the roots of our democracy today. A visit to Freedom Park takes guests through the story of the African continent, and specifically that of South Africa, from the dawn of humanity, through pre-colonial, colonial and apartheid history. The cultural institution houses a museum and a memorial dedicated to honouring the many who contributed to South Africa's liberation.

Eastgate Shopping Centre



Eastgate Shopping Centre is a well-established mall in Bedfordview, Johannesburg. With more than 270 stores under its roof, it has cemented itself as the leading shopping centre in the region. Whether you are seeking to shop till you drop, indulge in some fine dining, run errands, socialise with friends or scout the latest fashion trends, it is the go-to place. Eastgate Shopping Centre ranks high on the architectural scale and is conveniently structured to give customers an efficient and enjoyable shopping experience.

Gold Reef City



Bring out your inner child at one of Africa's biggest and most popular theme parks, Gold Reef City. Designed to recall the grandeur of Johannesburg's Gold Rush, the state-of-the-art facility is a must visit, offering a world of entertainment. From its thrilling roller coaster rides to its luxury casino as well as its fun outdoor and leisure activities, there is something for everybody. One can look forward to an unforgettable experience at this unusual venue.

Credit: Selected images provided by Ryan James

Cinema date: “Black Panther”



Africa’s very own superhero movie... A gem!

After the death of his father, T’Challa returns home to the African nation of Wakanda to take his rightful place as king. A powerful enemy suddenly reappears, putting the fate of Wakanda at risk, and T’Challa’s courage gets tested. Faced with treachery and danger, the young king must rally his allies and release his full power to defeat his foes and secure the safety of his people. It’s only right that we have a private screening of the gripping award-winning movie with popcorn and the likes.

Hector Pieterse Museum and Vilakazi Street



Situated in the heart of Soweto, the Hector Pieterse Museum takes one on a trip down memory lane as it honors the youth’s struggle against apartheid and, in particular, the role played by schoolchildren who took part in the protest on June 16, 1976. It was a tragic day that was pivotal in South Africa’s history and stirred the birth of our national holiday, Youth Day. Its name pays homage to the acclaimed Hector Pieterse, who was 12 years old and one of the first students to be killed by the police during the protest.



Just a stone’s throw from the museum is Vilakazi Street, known as “the Soweto street of the greats”. It was named after Dr Benedict Wallet Vilakazi, a distinguished writer and educator who wrote the first poetry book published in Zulu. The homes of the icons (and Nobel Peace Prize winners) the late Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu are also along the street. Get ready to be moved. Get ready to be inspired.

The Apartheid Museum



The Apartheid Museum, the first of its kind, illustrates the rise and fall of apartheid. For one seeking to understand and experience what South Africa’s past was really like, a visit to the renowned museum is recommended. Since its founding in 2001, it has made a name for itself as the top museum in the world showcasing the country’s story. The striking museum has a series of 22 individual exhibition areas that are comprehensively designed to take visitors through an authentic historical journey using film footage, photographs, text panels and artefacts.

African Women in Dialogue

AWID Inaugural Forum speaker profiles



Lerato Mbele

One of South Africa's top journalists and broadcasters, Lerato Mbele works for BBC World News for which she presents the weekly Africa Business Report. This programme visits different countries and films inserts about diverse sectors of their economies, and also features entrepreneurs and leading business personalities in Africa.

Mbele attained a Bachelor's degree, majoring in politics and international relations from the University of Cape Town and a Masters in development studies from the University of London.

Her journey began as an anchor for a news programme on the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) in 1999. She then joined CNBC Africa as one of the channel's senior business presenters and hosted multiple shows on the channel, as well as major business events such as the World Economic Forum.

Her career continued to skyrocket and, in 2012, she joined BBC World News. In 2014, she was nominated a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.



Nana Ngobese

As president of Women Forward – a women-focused political party in South Africa that mobilises various sectors of society to focus their attention on women's issues at community level – Nana Ngobese plays a significant role in empowering women across the nation.

A Zanele Mbeki Development Trust (ZMDT) Chair and Charter 10 Visionary for "1000 Women Can Change The World" movement, Ngobese is also an executive life coach dealing specifically with women empowerment, so the accomplished University of Kansas business graduate wears many hats.



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

The United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy President of South Africa and the first president of the Natal Organisation of Women (NOW).

She has a Bachelor's degree in social science, a Master's degree in philosophy and a PhD in mobile technology.

A former youth director for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Board in Geneva, consultant at Phumelela Services, board member of the Women's Development Foundation and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry, she is surely a jack of all trades.

She also founded the Umlambo Foundation that supports over 30 schools across South Africa, contributing to the professional development of school heads and empowering them to elevate learners from the cycle of poverty.



Winnie Byanyima

Oxfam International's Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima is a Ugandan engineer, politician and diplomat.

She completed her MSc in mechanical engineering at Cranfield University, after which she worked as a flight engineer for Uganda Airlines. The Ugandan Bush War saw her branch into politics to serve her country as a combatant in the National Resistance Army.

Byanyima was later appointed Uganda's ambassador to France; she served two consecutive terms as a member of parliament and became a director of the Directorate of Women, Gender and Development at the African Union.

After serving as Director of the Gender Team in the Bureau for Development Policy at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Byanyima was most recently appointed to the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines.

African Women in Dialogue



Gertrude Mongella

In 1985, Gertrude Mongella became Vice-Chairperson of the world conference assessing the achievements of the United Nations (UN) Decade for Women. Four years later, she was Tanzanian Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women.

From 1990 to 1993, she served as a member of the board of trustees to the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and she later became Senior Advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa on Gender Issues.

Mongella became a Member of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1998, sitting on the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development.

Leader of the OAU Election Observer team for the 2002 Zimbabwean Presidential Election, Mongella was also a Goodwill Ambassador for the World Health Organisation's Africa Region and designated Chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the African Press Organisation (APO).

The founder of the Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA) became the first President of the Pan African Parliament in 2004 and was awarded the Delta Prize for Global Understanding by the University of Georgia a year later.



Colleen Lowe Morna

Named the "most influential woman" in South Africa and Africa as a whole in the Civil Society Category by CEO magazine in 2013, Colleen Lowe Morna began her career as a journalist specialising in gender and development and has since worked extensively on gender equality.

She holds a BA in international affairs from Princeton University, MA in communications from Columbia University and a certificate in executive management from the London Business School.

After South Africa's first democratic election in 1994, she was an advisor on gender and institutional development to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Assistance on its special programme to help the country.

She also served as an editor of the New Delhi-based Women's Feature Service; Coordinator of the Africa office of Inter Press Service in Harare; Correspondent for South magazine; Senior Researcher on the Africa desk and Chief Programme Officer of the Commonwealth Observer Mission to South Africa.

She is the CEO of Gender Links, which is committed to an inclusive, equal and just society in the public and private space in accordance with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.



Emma Kaliya

A passionate human rights, gender/women's rights and gender equality activist from Malawi, Emma Kaliya continues to extend herself for these causes. This can be seen in her impeccable works over the decades, such as the portfolio of Manager at the Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre.

At the provincial and national level, Kaliya was appointed Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Gender Coordination Network in Malawi and Trustee of the Media Institute of Southern Africa-Malawi Chapter.

Kaliya has also held the position of Chairperson of the Malawi Country Advisory Committee of the Southern Africa Aids Trust (SAT), as well as serving as a Board Member of the Partners in Hope Medical Centre in Lilongwe and Board Member of the Malawi Electoral Support Network.

Most recently, she was Chairperson for the African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) and she is a member of the Country Advisory Committee of UN Women.



Sara Hlupekile Longwe

Zambian consultant on gender and development, Sara Hlupekile Longwe's feminist journey began in the 1970s when, as a young secondary school teacher, she was refused maternity leave.

She led a lobbying group that successfully pressed the government to introduce paid maternity leave at workplaces across Zambia and she developed a method of analysing gender issues called the Longwe Women's Empowerment Framework.

As a founding member of the Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD), Longwe also played a vital role in the government sanctioning the 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

She has co-founded many other organisations and networks, including the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET); UN's sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW); Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) and the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), and SADC Gender Protocol Alliance.

African Women in Dialogue



Memory Kachambwa

Before becoming the current Executive Director of the African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET), Memory Kachambwa served as the organisation's Programme Director for two years.

The successful African feminist has more than 18 years' experience in her field from five organisations including FEMNET.

She holds a Masters in Philosophy in management and integrated water resources with a focus on women and is currently pursuing another in peace, human rights, gender and development.



Anne Githuku-Shongwe

Anne Githuku-Shongwe is the Representative for UN Women's South Africa Multi-Country Office (Samco), which is responsible for women's empowerment and gender equality in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia as well as South Africa, where the office is based. A key responsibility of her work is to develop women-owned businesses and the leadership capacity of women both in the public and private sector.

Anne is the founder of Afroes Games, a Tech Education Social Enterprise with multiple award-winning games. Prior to her new assignment at UNWOMEN, Anne spent eight years as a globally recognised and pioneering Social Entrepreneur, Digital Innovator and Thought Leader on Technology for development.

Anne Founded Afroes in 2010 to create innovative educational products to engage and equip African youth with life skills and connect them to future work opportunities. Afroes received multiple awards including the UN's PeaceAPP, MEFFYs award, London UK and Netexplo award, Paris among others. Anne was recognised for the prestigious Schwab Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2013 award.



Mike Boon

Pioneer and adventurer, Mike Boon has dedicated his works towards a human-centred world.

His early childhood in rural KwaZulu-Natal and hard years in the bush across Southern Africa have given him priceless insights into several African cultures, as well as how the merging of Western and African ways can be applied to the commercial and public sectors, and non-governmental organisations.

After South Africa's first democratic election in 1994, Boon used his military background to facilitate the post-struggle amalgamation of the armed forces. He has also acted as host facilitator in the visit of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, to South Africa.

He worked together with Mrs Zanele Mbeki (ZMDT Founder) in the establishment of South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID). Its extension to the continent has brought African Women in Dialogue (AWID) to the fore and he speaks soulfully on breaking barriers and connecting with self and others.



Tamala Chirwa

The certified coach is accredited by the International Coach Federation specialising in Leadership, Talent Management, Career and Group Coaching (ICF ACC).

Chirwa is also a consultant and speaker with an MBA degree from MANCOSA, ACCA diploma in financial management and post-graduate management certification from the University of Cape Town.

She has held various positions with leading organisations such as the Anglo-American Corporation, Kohler Packaging Ltd and the Coach Development Institute of Africa in Kenya. She also served as a member – and later as Chairperson – of the Executive Committee of the Diplomatic Spouses Association of Kenya.

Her practice – Women's Leadership Footprint – is committed to mentoring and enhancing the leadership capabilities of professionals and leaders (especially women) for greater success in their roles.

African Women in Dialogue



Catherine Alum Odora Hoppers

A renowned Unesco expert in basic education, lifelong learning, information systems and on science and society, Professor Hoppers is also an expert at the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs, the World Economic Forum and the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

She holds a South African Research Chair in Development Education from University of South Africa (Unisa) and is also a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, as well as a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences.

Hoppers received honorary doctorates in philosophy and education and her myriad accolades include the Presidential Medal of Honour for Academic Leadership from the President of Uganda in 2013, the Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award for Leadership, and Unisa Woman of the Year in 2015.

Hoppers is honoured in the Gallery of Leadership in a permanent exhibition in Kgorong at Unisa and received the distinction of Honorary Fellow in Lifelong Learning from Unesco in 2017.



Mamphela Ramphela

In 1968, Dr Mamphela Ramphela enrolled for a medical degree at the University of Natal, where she became involved in the South African Students Association (SASO) and founded the Black Consciousness Movement along with Steve Biko.

In 1976 she was detained under the Terrorism Act, and from 1977 to 1983 she was issued with banning orders and banished to Tzaneen in what was then the Northern Transvaal.

Years later, she received her Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) from the University of Natal. She has a PhD in social anthropology, a BCom degree, a diploma in tropical hygiene and a diploma in public health.

In 1996 she was appointed Vice-Chancellor of UCT and in 2000 she became a managing director of the World Bank, based in Washington, DC.

Ramphela formed the political platform AgangSA in 2013, but she withdrew from party politics the following year to return to her role as an active citizen.

She is currently a trustee of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and a board member of Women Strong International. She founded the Open Society Foundation for South Africa and the Citizens Movement, and is Co-Founder of ReimagineSA.

Ramphela has authored several books and publications on socioeconomic issues in South Africa, and has received numerous national and international awards.



Fatima Shabodien

A known feminist civil society leader in South Africa, Fatima Shabodien's activism dates back to the 1980s when she was a youth activist in the anti-apartheid liberation movement.

She holds two Master's degrees, one in international peace studies from the University of Notre Dame and the other in development studies from Sussex University.

Shabodien has worked in the NGO sector for more than 20 years, in South Africa and abroad, and her areas of expertise include women's and land rights, with a focus on movement building within these sectors.

She has also occupied several leadership positions in NGOs and civil society collectives. Her most recent posting was as Country Director for international NGO Action Aid in South Africa.



Pratiba Daya

This renowned yogi has acquired over 30 years' experience as a public speaker, presenter and facilitator, and she is the Programme Coordinator for the Brahma Kumaris in South Africa.

The Brahma Kumaris is a global spiritual movement described as a "rainbow" family of individuals across the world, from all walks of life. Committed to helping people rediscover their inherent worth and reconnect with their spirituality, they encourage people to live by their highest values, vision and purpose.

It is their firm belief that this commitment to self-transformation will create peace and a better world for all.

African Women in Dialogue



Mildred Ngesa

Mildred Ngesa is a Pan-African media and communications specialist and has made a name for herself as a skilled journalist, author, poet, professional moderator and international public speaker. Her talents have earned her multiple awards over the course of her career.

She is the founder of Peace Pen Communications, which is a professional media organisation pegged on peace, social justice and community cohesion to sustain positive change.



Iman Rappetti

Having been a familiar face on eNCA for over a decade, Iman Rappetti is one of Africa's most loved senior news anchors.

The award-winning journalist also has experience on other media platforms, including radio, and she has recently added being a published author to her list of achievements.

Her expertise in print, digital, television and radio have cemented Rappetti's influence in the industry.



Regina Gouden

International Banking graduate, Regina Gouden holds various qualifications relating to leadership, marketing, public relations and financials, and she currently holds the position of Nedbank's Regional Manager for Retail Relationship Banking.

With more than two decades of experience in the small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector, as well as personal experience in the franchise business, Gouden has been instrumental in taking SME Incubation to townships across South Africa.

She is also an accredited professional business coach registered with the International Coaching Federation (ICF), using her knowledge and experience to fuel the ambitious.



Tshilidzi Marwala

Appointed Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in January 2018, Marwala has held the position of Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment both at UJ; Associate Professor and Full Professor at the Carl and Emily Fuchs Chair of Systems and Control Engineering, and SARChI Chair of Systems Engineering at the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (magna cum laude) from Case Western Reserve University (USA), a Master of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pretoria and a PhD specialising in Artificial Intelligence and Engineering from the University of Cambridge.

In the early 2000s, he was post-doctoral research associate at the Imperial College (then University of London). Marwala completed both the Advanced Management Program at Columbia University Business School and a Program for Leadership Development at Harvard Business School in 2007.

His multidisciplinary research interests include the theory and application of artificial intelligence to engineering, computer science, finance, social science and medicine. Marwala holds four international patents, and his published works include 12 books on artificial intelligence.



Siphon Maseko

Currently a Non-Executive Director of the Board of the Centre for Development & Enterprise (CDE), Maseko was also appointed as a Non-Executive Director at BMW SA in 2018 and is the Chairman of the Board at BCX.

He has a BA and an LLB degree and, prior to 1997, he served as Chairman of the Board of SAPREF (joint venture between Shell SA and BP SA). Thereafter he has held various roles at Vodacom, including CEO, Group COO and Managing Director.

Maseko has also served as Group Chief Executive Officer and as Executive Director of Telkom since April 1, 2013.

African Women in Dialogue



Lillian Barnard

Digital transformation leader Lillian Barnard is the Director of the Public Sector at Microsoft.

Her work history includes being a Non-Executive Board Member at Mango Airlines, Chief Sales Officer at Vodacom and an Independent Non-Executive Board Member at Vodacom.

Barnard's hard work has earned her international recognition and awards such as the Quarterly Global GM Award for Excellent Execution, the European Leadership Award and a number of other acknowledgements for her professional development of women.

In 2011 she established her consulting firm, Lillian Barnard Consulting Services.



Fiona Tregenna

Fiona Tregenna holds the DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, and is a Professor of Economics at the University of Johannesburg.

She has a PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge, a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, and earlier degrees from the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) in South Africa.

Her primary research interest is in issues of structural change, de-industrialisation and industrial development. Tregenna has also published works on poverty, inequality and unemployment.

She has worked for the National Labour and Economic Development Institute, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, several universities, and as a consultant to various research institutes and international organisations such as UNIDO, UNCTAD and the ILO.

Tregenna is a part-time member of the Competition Tribunal, where she adjudicates competition (anti-trust) cases, and she serves on a number of boards, advisory panels and councils. She is also an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

*Recommended
readings*

African Women in Dialogue

Recommended readings

The Fourth Industrial Revolution by Prof Tshilidzi Marwala

The company Google created a speech recognition system-based search device (“Google Assistant”). This speech recognition device is able to hear and execute verbal instructions using artificial intelligence (AI). AI learns from past data about the problems it is trying to solve. For example, one can verbally give this device an instruction to play a number by Chicco Twala and it listens, understands and then plays the requested song. It takes instructions through the voice just as human beings do. This is a device of the fourth industrial revolution.

To understand the fourth industrial revolution it is important to understand the history of industrial revolutions.

The first industrial revolution occurred in England in the 18th century. Given the population size and density, the first industrial revolution should have happened in India and perhaps China, but not England. Why did it happen in England, not China nor India? It was because the scientific revolution that gave us the laws of motion, the theory of gravitation and thermodynamics did not occur in New Delhi nor Peking but in London. It was also because of the centrality of universities such as Cambridge and Oxford that allowed scientific thought to flourish.

The first industrial revolution gave us steam engines, and the mechanisation of the production of goods. The first steam train arrived in South Africa in 1860, 60 years after it was first discovered. Even at the time, no nation can afford to be 60 years behind.

The second industrial revolution happened due to the ideas of electromagnetism formulated by Michael Faraday and James Maxwell. British scientist Faraday realised that moving an electric conductor next to a magnet generates electricity. To this day, the majority of electricity in the world is generated by moving a conductor next to a magnet.

Whether it be a coal-fired power station, nuclear or hydro power stations, electricity is generated by moving a conductor next to a magnet. The corollary is that, when one puts a magnet next to a conductor, with electricity, the conductor moves. This is what we call an electric motor. The electric motor has been the basis for the assembly line in our factories.

Assembly line revolution gave us mass production of goods. This sounds like magic, but it is nothing but a scientific principle that links a magnet to electricity as a unified force. Whether it is in our electric mowers or fridges or robots that are powering factory floors today, an electric motor is a basic element. Scottish scientist Maxwell theorised the relationship between a magnet and electricity to give us the theory of electromagnetism, which was the basis for Einstein’s theory of relativity.

The third industrial revolution came about because of the invention of semiconductors in the 1950s in the USA. These materials conduct electricity under certain conditions. They gave us the transistor and ushered in the digital age. Our phones, computers and televisions are powered by transistors. To this day, 70 years after the discovery of a transistor, in South Africa, we do not have a home-grown computer, or cellphone, or semiconductor industry. The fourth industrial revolution is about the cyber-physical-biological systems. The cyber part of the fourth industrial revolution is the digital aspect of this revolution and evolves from the third industrial revolution. This cyber system includes technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain. Blockchain technology is used to create the cryptocurrency Bitcoin.

Artificial intelligence is a method of making computers intelligent. Because of AI we are now able to build machines that can see, think, and speak. Because of AI we are able to build machines that can do what a medical doctor, policeman, magistrate and people in many other professions are able to do. This is changing the world of work.

The physical aspects of the fourth industrial revolution include robotics. Robots are now helping the elderly in Japan and making cars in Germany.

The fourth industrial revolution will automate a large number of processes around us. The world of work will shrink while our productivity will increase. While the first, second and the third industrial revolutions gave us many high-paying industrial jobs, the fourth industrial revolution will give us a mass of unemployed and unemployable people. We, therefore, have no choice but to think of reskilling and re-educating our population.

One industry that has not caught up with the fourth industrial revolution is mining. The mining industry is still stuck in the first and the second industrial revolutions. If we are to measure the industry's citizenship in the fourth industrial revolution by measuring how many semiconductor devices – i.e. phones, computers, intelligent robots – are used for production, then the mining industry is lagging behind others such as the automotive, defence and manufacturing industries.

The first industrial revolution created trade unions and united the working class to fight against exploitation. Yuval Harari, in his book *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, notes that the fourth industrial revolution is making the working class irrelevant in production and that it is easier to organise against worker exploitation (in the first industrial revolution) than worker irrelevance (in the fourth industrial revolution).

It is also expected that the reduction of people working in the mines will result in less tax collection from this sector. This will increase social burden which will be borne by society and government.

A special tax regime specifically for extractive industries will have to be developed. Currently, mining companies pay corporate taxes and royalties to government and the important question is whether these are enough.

We need to invest in our educational institutions to develop technologies suitable for the underground as well as understand the psychology of people working with automated machines of the fourth industrial age.

In preparation for the fourth industrial revolution, education is key. We need to offer our citizens multidisciplinary education by which the people who are studying technology subjects understand human and social sciences and those who are studying human and social sciences understand technology.

Our governments must adopt a strategy around the fourth industrial revolution. This strategy should deal with how we should prepare for the future of society, the economy and politics in the light of the fourth industrial revolution. 🇳🇬

African Women in Dialogue

Creating a value-based ecosystem for the continent by Professor C.A. Odora Hoppers

Ethical African leadership

Creating a new ecosystem for the continent needs ethical African leadership. To create ethical leadership, we need to pay attention to what I call “second-level indigenisation”. But what do I mean by this?

The 20th century was the century of Africa’s political independence; I believe that the 21st century is the century of Africa’s reclaiming of human agency, and of her status in world citizenship as a subject, not object.

The 21st century will be one in which the political freeing of the continent from various strands of colonial control as an act linked with the attainment of political sovereignty transforms and metamorphoses into being free as a creative act of the spirit.

But if, by attaining political freedom and sovereignty, the continent attained the right to act politically, awareness of freedom in the 21st century brings with it what Béji has called “a greater consciousness of our duties” (Béji 2001).

Yet, awareness of spirit in our times, in our generation, and of being free as a creative act of the spirit takes us far beyond the cries of reparation and claims of injustice against a historical experience that was cruel and in some instances actually evil.

It goes beyond the dictates of modernity and enlightenment in which all nations of the world are locked into the grids of the European experience; to quite a different place, in which that freedom in the 21st century now meets the requirement of the common good and the demands of common wellbeing ... of new futures of a different kind.

In other words, a key question for Africa in my mind is precisely how active and fully knowing human agency is to be realised in an ethically cognisant dispensation?

On the one hand, we can clearly see that political freedom creates a strange handicap and incoherence, an intimate juxtaposition of the past and present that Africa represents. On the other, what this does is that it puts Africa in a unique position in relation to both human history and human destiny from which position she can articulate the contours of that new dispensation, and herald the new social compact on a global scale. Because to attain what the West has attained using the formula it espouses, one would need a lot of other countries and lands to conquer, subjugate, dehumanise ... and, thereafter, “develop”.

Africa must, therefore, weigh carefully its methods of transcending the realms of that bondage, that is, she must go beyond naming what she is fighting against, to courageously naming what she is fighting for.

Where Europe needed to destroy and subjugate so many, Africa must define new formulas for its reconstruction (in relation to the historical destruction); name the new icons symbolising its points of departure; and articulate the kind of energy she will bring to bear in the building of its future in the new, more humane, dispensation.

As she confronts the dysfunctions of modern, and behind it, European-programmed notions of progress and its offspring: development, progress, rationality etc, it becomes clear that it is Africa that is now in control of the definition of “time”, lived time that needs to be humanised.

It is, therefore, Africa that, in transforming the contours of its struggles from archaic resistance to domination, holds the key to the world’s future.

But, to do this, a lot depends on how she questions her past (one that is still painful) and the kind of future she would like to see unfold, not just for herself, but also for humanity at large. Much will depend on how she

articulates herself out of the experience of humiliation suffered in the hands of colonialism, and avoids adding to self-perpetuating cultural cycles of violation and vindication which would seem to say: “I have the right to be angry and make others suffer forever because someone hurt me in the past” (Lindner 2006).

The question then becomes: How can Africa generate less “humiliation entrepreneurs” like Hitler and more Nelson Mandelas who interrupt the cycle of humiliation by triggering new cycles of dignity? How can we, together, cultivate enduring instruments and practices that can disarm this singular weapon of mass destruction – HUMILIATED HEARTS AND MINDS, and turn them into weapons of mass creativity and solidarity?

How can we move, using the existing resources already at our disposal, to free the many hearts clogged with resentment?

Clearly, we need new concepts to guide our thinking and action in this generation. Here, I draw once again from Ashis Nandy (1997), who argues that the transition from bandit colonialism through the intricate systems of the modern triage society that is wired for Western cultural compliance requires more than just critique, or a prayer for the meek to inherit the earth.

It requires a decisive consensus that the meek do not inherit the earth by their meekness alone. They need defences of the mind and conceptual categories around which they can organise their thoughts and actions. Turning the previously colonised into participants in a new moral and cognitive venture against oppression requires more than just periodic elections – significant though that process is.

Addressing the atrophy of human capabilities that has characterised human development in the context of both bandit colonialism and the modern triage society demands the development of a plurality of insights, of critical traditions, and deepening the tools for diagnosis and hence the quality of prognosis. It may, in certain instances, demand a cognitive indifference to the Western model and a robust engagement with tenets of the knowledge production systems themselves – the disciplines (Odora Hoppers 2009)!

I also draw from Lawrence Blum who has argued that an agent may reason well in moral situations, uphold the strictest standards of impartiality for testing maxims and principles, and even be adept at deliberation. Yet, unless he/she perceives moral situations as moral situations and unless he/she perceives their moral character accurately, their skills at deliberation will be for nought, and may even lead them astray. One of the most important moral differences between people is between those who miss, and those who see various moral features of situations confronting them.

Perception is the setting for action, and salience – i.e. the adequacy of an agent’s consciousness concerning the situation, or ability to grasp the contours of a problem prior to being called upon to exercise that agency -- is key in this (Blum 1991).

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African Women in Dialogue

Speech delivered by the Pan African Women's Organisation's President, Madame Assetou Koite, at the 56th anniversary celebration of PAWO, The Pan African Women's High-Level Panel on the Revitalisation of PAWO held on 30 July 2018 at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Pretoria.

The Minister in the Presidency Responsible for Women Hon Bathabile Dlamini; The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Hon Lindiwe Sisulu; Members of the diplomatic corps UNWomen South Africa Multi-Country Office (UN WOMEN) Themba Kalua; Distinguished Guests:

I am deeply honoured that this historical movement on the continent has mobilised all of you to come and join us as we look back in order to look forward. As the old adage goes, if you do not know where you come from you cannot claim to know where you are going.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From Queen Nzinga Mbande to Albertina Sisulu, women have not only been at the forefront of historical moments, they have also led with great aplomb. As a Queen, Nzinga Mbande resisted the early thrusts of colonialism whilst building an empire which could rival any other in the world.

In Ethiopia, it was Queen Taytu Betul (c.1851–1918), wife of Menelik (King of Shoa and later Negus Negast or King of Kings) who deftly shielded Ethiopia from colonialism.

She is credited with devising a plan that led to the Ethiopian victory at Makalle. It is said that her presence was crucial in the Ethiopian victory at Adwa in 1896, the most significant victory of any African army during the climax of European colonialism. At every phase of numerous moments, women have been the trailblazers.

It is little wonder that, even in Africa's oldest liberation movement, the African National Congress, the seismic changes both in society and in liberation movements were made at the behest of women.

Despite being one of the last countries to break the shackles of colonialism South Africa also has one of the oldest female associations on the continent, in the form of the Bantu Women's League led by one of our earliest women activists, Dr Charlotte Maxeke in 1918, and which has now become the ANC Women's League..

One of the issues at stake was the carrying of passes by black women. The pass came to be seen as a symbol of oppression and the Bantu Women's League was created in protest of this. Black men had already been required to carry passes for some time. White men and women did not have to carry passes.

Prior to its formation, a group of women led by Charlotte Maxeke burned their passes in front of municipal offices, staged protest marches, sang slogans and fought with the police in 1913.

This was one of the first protests of defiance against the apartheid regime. Writer, Sol Plaatje commented on their strength and courage when he went to see them in the Kroonstad Prison. "They don't care," he wrote in Tsala ea Batho, "even if they die in jail. They swear they will cure that madness; they will stop their protest only when the law prevents policemen from stopping and demanding passes from other men's wives"

In 1914, the South African colonial government had to respond to Charlotte Maxeke and her group by relaxing the women's pass laws and their resistance ended that year.

This act of defiance was replicated on 9 August 1956 when South African women led a total revolt against pass laws, led by Albertina Sisulu and other gallant women.

It is, therefore, unsurprising that great women like Jeanne Martin Cissé of Guinea, the founder and first Secretary General of the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO) had the foresight to create a continental organisation that sought to:

- Advance unity among African states;
- Eradicate the blatant violation of human rights; and
- Advance the struggle of women to participate in decision-making in politics, economics, cultural and social spaces.

This historic day in Tanzania on 31 July 1962 was somewhat replicated in the form of the Organization for African Unity, currently known as the African Union. Once again, women on the African continent had led the charge both in vision and in action.

Since our formation we still hear statements like “women's activism is a product of corrupting Western feminist influences”. But there are pockets of excellence on the African continent where we see progress in the way of gender parity on the continent, but the resistance to advancing women's rights continues.

This is a true testament to these wise words of counsel by author and novelist Zadie Smith: “Progress is never permanent, [it] will always be threatened, [it] must be redoubled, [it must be] restated and reimagined if it is to survive.”

A number African states have emerged as world leaders in promoting women in leadership positions but this has not stemmed the tide when it comes to patriarchal and misogynist conduct in society.

Our continent historically has been blessed with numerous female revolutionaries. Moreover, what is evident is that PAWO became a transnational feminist movement. This movement has been instrumental in forging international consensus on a rights-based approach to women's rights.

Continental and sub-regional influences are for domestic politics, serving as a critical conduit for changing international norms. In this sense, they are perhaps more important than global transnational influences as a vehicle for changing the status of women.

Today, most of the impetus for change comes from within Africa and from regional-level networks. This may explain why there is greater openness to these changing norms at present, even as resistance to advancing women's rights continues. Africa has, for example, emerged as a global leader in promoting women's leadership in politics.

To this end it is critical that a formation like PAWO unites and organises women cadre who are skilled, educated, gifted with leadership and organisational skills, to ensure that gender equality truly manifests itself in our society. It is for this reason that the celebration of Pan African Women's Day has been themed “Celebrating a Legacy of Liberation by the Pan African Women: Taking Forward the Struggle for Gender Equality”.

African Women in Dialogue

It is a clarion call for the continent to honour women's contribution to the decolonisation of the African continent. It is also a call to action for the continent to take forward the struggle for gender equality.

Having been declared as a special agency of the African Union last year, this year's celebrations will focus on women on the continent.

We must ask ourselves what it means to move the baton from Queen Nzinga, Jean Martin Cisse, Maria Ruth Neto, Winnie Madikizela Mandela, Gertrude Mongella, Wangari Mathaii, Albetina Sisulu and many others to the next generation.

How do we recalibrate the women's movement so that it can continue to champion issues which relate to the plight of women? What does it mean to re-imagine society to achieve real gender equality? The women of yesteryear are not only our refuge but an indelible rock of inspiration.

I wish to thank you all for coming and being with us on this very historic day.

May we arrive at fruitful deliberations that will reposition this glorious movement to be a movement of solidarity, champions of peace and conflict resolution and a champion of women's economic emancipation. 🌹

Executive Director remarks at the UN Security Council open debate on women, peace and security Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka presented the Secretary-General's report on women, peace and security at the UN Security Council on 25 October, in New York.

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2018

Source: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/10/speech-ed-phumzile-security-council-open-debate-on-women-peace-and-security>

(As delivered)

It is an honour to address the Security Council and to present the Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security. I thank Bolivia for all the support they have given us in preparing for this debate

This report is a loud alarm bell on systemic failures to bring women into peacemaking in a meaningful manner.

The trend is, women are being excluded from the peace processes. The ones who do not wage war seem to be disqualified from making peace, while those who may be implicated in making war, seem to find it easier to be at the peace tables.

I together with DPKO, have just come back from a joint UN/AU mission to South Sudan. The women we met there told us how they long for peace and to resume their lives, after nearly five years of suffering from a civil war that they are not responsible for waging. They said, "we are here because we want to reconcile even though we have never quarreled." While they still fear for the future, they appreciated the 'Revitalized Agreement' on the resolution of the conflict, which offers new hope for the country and an unmissable opportunity to build peace, with a 35 per cent quota for the representation of women.

Their fears are however bolstered by the fact that, in these early days of the revitalized agreement, in the National Pre-Transitional Committee – there is just one woman among the ten persons nominated to be members of the committee, this is not the agreed 35 per cent.

The report today details inescapably how this is not an exception but the rule. How there is at the same time hope for progress, and how we are failing to make it a reality. But hope is something that we cannot and must never lose.

It shows us undeniable possibilities with undeniable failures, which are costing the lives of women and girls. They do not wage war, but they die and suffer from it.

A year ago in this chamber, I raised the alarm at the numbers shown by the indicators we track yearly on peace processes and mediation.

Today I want to raise the alarm once more with the hope to jolt us into greater action, as indicators show numbers have stagnated or dropped again.

For that reason, we focused this year's report on the need for women's meaningful contribution to peace, and we call on you to take the much-needed concrete actions.

African Women in Dialogue

We need you to be vigilant about ending superficial efforts to include women that do not genuinely extend the opportunity to influence outcomes.

We wanted to show that the extreme political marginalization at peace tables is often worse in the institutions set up to implement those agreements.

And we wanted to spotlight the many ways in which women are keep on being active and resilient. They are active in negotiating ceasefires, civilian safe zones, demobilization of fighters, or humanitarian access at the local level, or drawing up protection plans at the community level, like in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan or the Central African Republic.

We want the UN membership to pay due attention to these dynamics, make them visible in forums like this one, and use them to support the women's political agency, provide financial resources and enable women to do even more.

The continued tolerance for the limited recognition of women's expertise and lived experience is a setback for all of us. Statistics on women's involvement speak for themselves.

Between 1990 and 2017, under our watch, women constituted only two per cent of mediators, eight per cent of negotiators, and five per cent of witnesses and signatories in major peace processes. Only three out of 11 agreements signed in 2017 contained provisions on gender equality, continuing last year's worrisome downward trend. Of 1,500 agreements signed between 2000 and 2016, only 25 raise the role of women's engagement in the implementation phase.

In Yemen, current efforts at resuming dialogue do not include women, beyond setting up observer bodies to advise the UN Special Envoy. Even in a consultative meeting in London this summer organized by the UN, convening 22 prominent Yemeni leaders to discuss the peace talks, there were only 3 Yemeni women invited.

In Mali, women average a dismal three per cent of the membership of the multiple national committees set up to monitor and implement the peace agreement.

In the Central African Republic, mediation efforts are focused on the presidency and the 14 armed groups and exclude women altogether.

In Afghanistan, the government and its international partners invest efforts in including women in the High Peace Council and provincial peace councils, but when it comes to actual talks with the Taliban, women's absence is noticeable.

Undeniably, there are possibilities, but also undeniably there are failures and determined women.

In 23 rounds of Afghanistan-Taliban peace talks between 2005 and 2014, women were at the table just twice. Now that there are offers to resume peace talks without pre-conditions, Afghan women peacebuilders want to be at the table and want to make a difference.

Finally, here is a number that is more positive. Security Council decisions about country-specific or regional situations that contained language on women, peace and security increased from 50 to 75 per cent. This must lead to increased action on the front lines.

The number of women leaders and civil society representatives who briefed the Security Council also increased significantly.

I thank Council members for these efforts and their continued participation in the Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security, currently co-chaired by Sweden and Peru, in collaboration with the United Kingdom.

But we need to use all available diplomatic channels and political influence to ensure that these decisions in New York are making a difference on the ground. This is simply not happening in the most meaningful way.

The bigger picture of gender inequality in conflict and post conflict countries is something we need to continue to watch.

Today's report gives us a broad picture of the many remaining areas of challenge to reach equal representation of women in the vital processes of our nations.

For example, only 16 per cent of parliamentarians in conflict and post-conflict countries are women – same as last year, and the year before that.

There is 20 per cent representation of women in countries that use quotas and just 12 per cent in countries that do not use quotas. It is for that reason that we appreciate the leading from the front demonstrated by our Secretary-General and call for special measures in the manner in which he is driving the parity process within the United Nations.

This Council just visited the Democratic Republic of Congo ahead of crucial elections. Only 12 per cent of registered candidates are women, just like in the previous elections seven years ago. And women are suffering intimidation.

Of the 17 countries that have elected a woman head of state or government, none are post-conflict countries at this point.

I ask again, as I did last year, we need to heed the call and address the patterns these numbers show us. On our part we will continue to follow up with you on to address this situation with vigilance and make a significant difference.

It is not only women whose opportunities are being limited. In many conflict settings, girls are one and a half times more likely to be out of primary school and whole communities are set back. The numbers of children lacking education in conflict areas calls for a concrete response and solution, with schools and second chance education.

Child marriage rates are also affected by war. In Yemen, the rate of child marriage was 66 per cent in 2017. It was 52 per cent last year. And 32 per cent before the recent conflict erupted.

Unsurprisingly, but tragically, maternal mortality rates are almost twice the global ratio in conflict and post-conflict countries. Of the 830 women and adolescent girls who die every day from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, 507 die in countries that are considered fragile because of conflict and disaster.

To address these issues and support the regeneration of families and communities, we need strong and targeted investments in women in conflict areas.

This is just not happening enough, despite undeniable goodwill towards the women peace and security agenda in countries that are affected.

The clear gender inequality in women's access to resources is not simply caused by the presence of conflict. It is also a reflection of non-prioritization of women's needs and the relegation of women to small-scale and local peripheral initiatives.

In the Sahel, where we visited with Deputy Secretary-General, the African Union and Minister Wallstrom, we saw the dire poverty of women and communities in the Lake Chad basin.

African Women in Dialogue

We saw households with no electricity in a part of the world which has the highest penetration of the sun on earth and is more suitable than anywhere else in the world for sustainable energy generation from solar power.

Yet clinics lack power. Women have no cold storage for their fish and the fresh produce needed for food security—which contributes in some cases even more to peace than the military.

In conflict-affected countries, only 11.5 per cent of landholders are women.

Although bilateral aid to promote gender equality in fragile country situations rose by 17 per cent compared to the previous year, it still only amounts to five per cent of total bilateral aid spent on programmes with gender equality as the primary objective.

In the DRC, for example, aid from OECD-DAC to gender equality was only 8 USD per capita last year. The same year, the UN documented a 56 per cent increase in sexual violence.

The share of the aid channeled through non-governmental women's organizations has stagnated.

Our financial commitments do not match the extent to which we rely on these groups.

Yes, there has been undeniable progress, because the actions undertaken with civil society continue to be favoured as a way to operate. This must turn into concrete action and better investment in these groups.

Civil society and women's organizations have been failed in the midst of record-breaking numbers of side events at intergovernmental meetings. Our plea is to refocus our energies and resources. I believe there is goodwill and we all want what is best for women and girls.

While we have disappointing indicators on women and girls, global military spending has reached 1.74 trillion USD, a 57 per cent increase since 2000. Some countries allocate more public money to the military than to education or health.

Ninety per cent of grassroots women's organizations working in areas directly impacted by terrorism and violent extremism state that current counterterrorism measures have an adverse impact on work for peace, women's rights and gender equality.

We must respond to the many violations against the human rights of women and girls within these groups, and to the social stigma, economic hardship and discrimination women and girls experience when returning to their homes and communities when they have been part of violent groups.

These challenges are best addressed by actions that protect and promote the rights of victims and are fundamentally based in human rights law.

Women human rights defenders, who are on the front lines, are fighting a lonely battle. Many die a lonely death from weapons that are meant to protect them.

Let us look ahead with hope, and the knowledge of what we are capable of together.

This includes what we can do with women such as the African Women Leaders Network, which has been given a boost by the support of Germany and has focal points already in more 30 African countries.

We are already gearing up for the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325, which will be an opportunity to shape the agenda for the next decade with new commitments and priorities.

We have to start now to gear up towards better results.

We need more positive signs such as those I saw in Somalia where we need to help accelerate positive change.

There will be opportunities for everyone to weigh in, including at next year's meeting of the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network in Windhoek, Namibia, which will carry a special symbolism for those that have been in this movement for a while.

For now, I want to share three priorities for 2020.

This August, the world mourned the loss of Kofi Annan. Part of his legacy was that the UN debated and decided to stop supporting peace agreements that included blanket amnesties. I think that, two decades later, it is time for the UN to have a similar conversation about supporting, brokering and paying for peace negotiations that exclude women. This is in your hands. This was raised by women from civil society at the forum this Council was invited to earlier this week, at the initiative of Sweden.

Secondly, one of the many positive examples in the report is the UN Peacebuilding Fund's steadily growing support to projects advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

Finding ways to make the 15 per cent minimum target a reality across all relevant entities and other peace and security funds is a point we can all focus on. Joint programming on rule of law in conflict and post-conflict countries, and addressing educational and Economic resilience, or multi-partner trust funds in fragile settings, should be at the start of all conversations about financing.

And finally, we need to do much more to protect women activists, peacebuilders and human rights defenders in conflict-affected countries. We applaud the historic participation of a Palestinian woman representing civil society in addressing this Security Council for the first time.

We commend the Nobel Committee's recognition to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad for their advocacy on behalf of victims of wartime sexual violence. It is an example of the importance of this issue, to which my esteemed colleague SRSR Pramila Patten devotes all her time and energy.

I met many exceptionally courageous women in my recent travels to Somalia, South Sudan, the Sahel and the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Many of them are here today. But many could not be here.

In 2017, half of the women honoured in the annual tribute of the Association for Women in Development were murdered in conflict affected countries.

But the list is much longer when we include women political leaders, journalists, justice actors and security sector personnel, and those perceived to be LGBTI or who challenge traditional gender roles simply by their involvement in public life.

It is my strong wish that we will find the political will to do much more about this epidemic of killings of women over the next decade than we have in this past one.

Change is within our hands. Let us work for positive indicators for the next report and let us make sure that next Secretary-General's report will be able to show that we are turning the corner.

Thank you. 🌸

THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DECADE

Theme: Grassroots Approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The idea of a Women's Decade was hatched in 1975 by the United Nations at the First World Conference on Women that was held in Mexico City. Since then, African women have been involved and continue to participate in local and international consultations on women's rights and gender equality. African women's contributions have enriched discussions at the subsequent Women Conferences in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995).

At their Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Ministers of Gender and Women Affairs in Maseru, Lesotho, in December 2008, the African Union (AU) Ministers for Gender and Women's Affairs called on the AU to declare 2010-2020 as African Women's Decade and undertake wide consultations to ensure that the Decade is a success. The Ministers' proposal was adopted by Assembly Dec. 229 (XII), which declared 2010-2020 as African Women's Decade.

The Commission then organised a Brainstorming Roundtable at the premises of the AU Permanent Mission to the UN on 1 March 2009 at the margins of the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which provided an opportunity for the Ministers' meeting in New York and for African Women Leaders to reflect on the Decision on the Women's Decade.

The objective of the Brainstorming Roundtable was to notify Ministers of the Assembly Decision and to brainstorm on the African Women's Decade rollout as proposed by the Maseru meeting. They requested the Commission to hold a meeting of National Gender machineries to develop a Road Map by May 2009.

Subsequently, the Commission convened a meeting of Gender Machineries from 6-8 May 2009, back to back with a meeting on reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), in which a draft Road Map for the rolling out of the Women's Decade was developed.

The Commission finalised the draft Road Map developed in Banjul, for presentation to the Experts and Ministerial meeting of Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs scheduled for 16-21 November 2009 back to back with the 8th African Regional Conference on Beijing +15.

Thereafter, in an effort to kick-start the activities of the Decade, the Women Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) held a one-day Planning Meeting in March 2010 on activities to be carried out in preparation for the launching of the AWD at the margins of the 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which was being held in New York from 1-12 March 2010.

The AU took advantage of the presence and participation of Gender Ministers, Experts and CSOs at the 54th CSW Session to hold the Planning Meeting, as this provided an opportunity for the AU Commission to agree on the rollout activities for the launching of the African Women's Decade. The Meeting therefore discussed activities to be carried out at the local, national, regional and continental levels, agreed on the timelines as well as set up Working Committees while identifying thematic leaders for the 10 themes of the Decade.

The adoption of the AU Gender Policy by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at their February 2009 Session, and its implementation, offers an opportunity for the advancement and achievement of gender equality between men and women, as well as facilitating the inclusion of gender issues in the African agenda.

II. THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DECADE

The Decade would be implemented in two phases. The first phase was from 2010 to 2015 and the second phase is from 2015 to 2020. There were reviews in 2015, back to back with the MDG Review, and at the end of the Decade in 2020.

Aim of the African Women's Decade

The aim of the African Women's Decade is to advance gender equality by accelerating the implementation of the Dakar, Beijing and AU Assembly Decisions on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), through dual top-down and bottom-up approaches inclusive of grassroots participation.

Objective of African Women's Decade

The objective of the African Women's Decade is to re-invigorate commitments to accelerated implementation of agreed global and regional commitments of gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE). Special focus will be on these 10 themes:

1. Fighting Poverty and Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women and Entrepreneurship

- i. Attain decent work for women and equal opportunity in employment, promotion and movement towards parity at the work place
- ii. Create employment and services by supporting women entrepreneurs particularly in informal sectors, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Medium Enterprises (ME) and grow them to big businesses

2. Agriculture and Food Security

- i. Achieving Food Security and Fighting Hunger
- ii. Increased Women access to agricultural land, farm inputs, credit, technology, Extension services, irrigation and access to water through water harvesting, boreholes, etc.
- iii. Link women to markets through value addition of their products, including agro-based supply chain, creating new markets for their produce including organic food stuffs.

3. Women's Health, Maternal Mortality and HIV/AIDS

- i. Improve women's health,
- ii. Reduce maternal mortality
- iii. Address HIV/AIDS
- iv. Address HIV/AIDS inappropriate burden on women and girls on infections, spread and increased workload, as well as unequal access to ARVs, good nutrition and formal medical services.

4. Education, Science and Technology

- i. Achieve parity in education at secondary and tertiary levels and achieve higher retention rates for girls
- ii. Increased literacy levels of women through adult education
- iii. Contribution of women scientists and information, communication and technology

5. Environment and Climate Change

Identify women's role in mitigating climate change, as custodians of the environment, making sure they benefit from the new global packages to fight climate change

6. Peace and Security and Violence Against Women

Work with the African Union Peace and Security Department (PSD), The Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the Panel of the Wise in relation to United Nations Security Council Resolutions: 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889, with particular focus on Violence Against Women (VAW), peace building and reconstruction.

African Women in Dialogue

7. Governance and Legal Protection

Jointly with Political Affairs, Women, Gender and Development Directorate will support women's participation in political and electoral processes in countries undergoing elections during the decade as well as in the implementation of gender issues in African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), national action plans. Jointly with the Office of the Legal Counsel and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (Banjul Commission) achieve universal ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and its domestication.

8. Finance and Gender Budgets

Increased women access to financial resources from government budgets through gender budgeting, financial markets targeting economic stimulus packages and specialised funds from development partners to support women projects aimed at empowering women economically, and mobilise resources through FAWO as well as mobilising resources for the implementation of Decade activities in general and priority areas in particular to achieve Decade targets.

9. Women in Decision-Making Positions

Implement AU parity principle in line with AU gender policy and ensure targets for equal opportunity of women in decision-making positions in the legislative, judicial and the executive are achieved.

10. Mentoring Youth (Men and Women) to be champions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Energising the African women's movement, and mentoring young women and men leaders and professionals, both in Africa and the Diaspora to be champions on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Guiding Principles

1. Sufficient resources for the programmes and activities that will be put in place for the Decade.
2. Safeguarding the gains so far made by women.
3. Funding for gender equality and women empowerment programmes, scaling up and ring-fencing budgets for women programmes from economic crisis.
4. Benchmarking mechanism to ensure the implementation of decisions taken regarding the Decade.
5. Opportunity to link up with the grassroots.
6. Focusing on the implementation of all policy documents that have been adopted by member states. Achieving targets arising out of AU Head of States commitments, as well as at global level, and ensure sustained political will.
7. Working with development partners to complement what Africa wants to do.

Programmes

A variety of programmes are being initiated in line with the AU Gender policy and the Gender Action Plan. The Fund for African Women is the vehicle for mobilising resources for the decade activities, under the AU's Development Pillar in its Strategic Plan.

Methodology

In each member state, it is expected that National Committees would be set up composed of all segments of the society. These Committees will propose one good-practice project for each theme per year. In this case, one project per country will be supported per theme per year from the AU Fund; as a result, 54 projects will be supported for each of the 10 years, leading to 540 projects being supported during the Decade, under the AU Fund for Women. Projects to be supported are those already existing but requiring additional support to boost them for a year.

Committees

The Commission has established criteria for working committees to drive the activities of the Decade. These committees will operate at three levels: national, regional and continental.

1. At the national level: national committees will consist of 10 members representing the 10 themes of the decade.
2. At the regional level: A Ministerial Working Committee of 10 will work closely with the RECs. Each region will choose its core UN agencies.
3. At the Continental/AU level: A working group of 30 has been put in place to process programmatic aspects of the projects submitted under the Decade. It is composed of one person per region drawn from member states, Pan African Parliament (PAP), Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), civil society organisations (CSOs), Pan African Women Organisation (PAWO), African Union Women's Committee (AUWC) and member states. This committee will work hand in hand with the steering committee for the Fund for African Women to appraise financial aspects in line with the Lilongwe Declaration.

III. THE CONTINENTAL LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DECADE: 10-15 OCTOBER, 2010; NAIROBI, KENYA

The continental launch took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 15 October 2010. This launch was preceded by important forums, including:

- NGO Forum and Thematic Caucuses 7-8 October
- Decades Working Committees 9 October
- Experts Meeting 10-11 October
- Ministerial Meeting 14th October

The climax was on 15 October, the International Rural Women's Day, which was chosen for the launch in line with the theme of the Decade, which is "Grassroots Approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" This historical launch coincided with the Silver Jubilee of the United Nations (UN) Decade for Women, which ended in 1985.

The launch was attended by the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government, first ladies, Vice-Presidents, AU Ministers of Women, Gender, Social Development, UN Agencies, men champions for gender equality and women's empowerment, gender activists, grassroots women, development partners, civil society organisations (CSOs), academia and the private sector, among others.

Further Information

For more details on the African Women Decade (AWD), please visit the AWD website at <http://www.africanwomendecade.org> and also on the African Union Website: <http://www.africa-union.org/root/AU/Conferences/2010/april/wgd/wgd.html>

Source:<https://s3.amazonaws.com/ndpc-static/pubication/AU+African+Women's+Decade+2010-2020.pdf>

African Women in Dialogue

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