



PATHWAY DOCUMENT: ENGAGEMENT BY REGIONAL INTER- GOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODIES IN ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SDGS AND AGENDA 2063



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REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE AGENDA 2030
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND
AGENDA 2063

8-9 DECEMBER, 2016; NAIROBI, KENYA



UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

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PREAMBLE

Between 8-9 December 2016, Regional Stakeholders and representatives from Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies namely: the African Union Commission (AUC), the East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and regional Civil Society, came together in Nairobi (Kenya) for regional consultation on Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063 in Nairobi (Kenya).

The goal of the consultation was to provide a forum for discussion and agreement on strategic priorities to strengthen regional efforts towards accelerated action on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), within the framework of the globally adopted Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, and Africa's

Agenda 2063. The latter supports the realization of the AU Vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the world". The consultation, facilitated by UN Women's Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (UN Women ESARO) and supported by the UN SDG Action Campaign, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Governments of Botswana, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe, discussed different initiatives and critical enablers. The consultations reaffirmed the commitment of the collective to the effective implementation of GEWE commitments within the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063 as a means to achieving these two critical global and regional complementary development agendas. Additionally, we recognized our unity of purpose, interdependence and respective roles and responsibilities, in operationalizing the GEWE commitments within the framework of the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063.



Participants at the Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies SDGs meeting in Kenya, 8/9 December, 2016. Photo- UN Women, Patterson Siema

AFFIRMATIONS

Recalling the universal adoption by United Nations (UN) Member States of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, which is the most comprehensive development framework to which Member State governments and other stakeholders have committed with the overall goal of sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Noting that for stakeholders and advocates of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), Agenda 2030 constitutes a critical milestone in global efforts to advance accountability towards GEWE.

Recognizing that persistent gender inequalities still prevail in Africa and that women still face specific and numerous challenges and obstacles that threaten the very vision of Agenda 2030 on sustainable development.

Believing that gender equality and women's empowerment is achievable by 2030.

Affirming that both Agenda 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063 call for African Union Member States, the Africa Union Commission, all Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies and Civil Society Organizations and the United Nations Development System involved in the implementation and realization of these two critical global and regional complementary development agendas must be intentional in targeting women and girls.

Further affirming that partnerships are a key driver for sustainable development and that the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, requires broad based, strengthened and coordinated partnerships with AU Member States, the AU Commission, the Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, Civil Society Organizations, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UN Women, the UN SDG Action Campaign, the United Nations Development Programme and other members of the UN Development System. Further, that these inclusive partnerships – built upon common principles and values, a shared vision and goals that place people and the planet at the centre – are needed at the global, regional, national and local levels.

Recognizing the role of the African Union Commission, the Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, as building blocks for an effective continental integration, and as vital partners for the realization of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, and the role they play in ensuring coherence in strategic planning, policymaking and advancing the accountability of African Union Member States.

Further recognizing the understanding that Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies can support the mobilization of political will, commitment and coordinated action of AU Member States, and further support Member States in navigating the requirements of regional and global development agendas.

Recognizing the need for continued and increased investment in the implementation of SDGs.

Acknowledging the important role of parliaments in the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, specifically GEWE commitments, including their oversight role in ensuring domestication and financing of the two agendas.

Appreciating that the implementation of the SDGs has, at its core, Leave No One Behind to unify programming and advocacy efforts across all UN agendas. Leave No One Behind is underpinned by three other programming principles: human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment; sustainability and resilience; and accountability. These principles are grounded in the norms and standards that the United Nations is tasked to uphold and promote, and that inform all phases of UN programming at the country level. They are the foundation for integrated programming in response to national priorities and plans. They hold true for all country contexts and are applied in an integrated manner. Knowledge of how to meet these norms and standards, consistently and effectively, in policy, advocacy, programming and engagement with national counterparts, is essential for the success of the implementation and localization of the SDGs.

CHALLENGES OF LOCALIZATION OF SDGS

Cognizant of the challenges that currently face efforts in the domestication, implementation and localization of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, which include inter alia:

- AU Member States have made significant progress in the adoption, and ratification of policy and legislative frameworks to advance global and regional GEWE commitments including the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA, 2004), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol, 2003), UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) and other GEWE and human rights instruments. Implementation efforts, however, remain uneven, poorly-resourced and uncoordinated due to inadequate political will, ownership and accountability to the GEWE agenda.
- Coordination between Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies and the African Union Commission in supporting the implementation of the GEWE agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063 also remains a challenge given a lack of tools to facilitate coordinated strategic planning, peer learning and support between Regional Intergovernmental and Economic Communities and the African Union Commission.
- Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies and National Ministries in charge of Regional Integration and/or Coordination, and of Gender (respectively) face financial and human capacity constraints in their abilities to effectively lead and coordinate GEWE initiatives and interventions in regional policies, plans and institutional processes at regional and national levels.
- The lack of robust gender-responsive monitoring evaluation and reporting frameworks and systems, due partly to the limited availability of sex-disaggregated and gender-specific data as well as poor coordination between Regional Intergovernmental and Economic Communities have in turn constrained accountability to the GEWE agenda.

Recognizing that ensuring the effective, and coordinated advancement of GEWE within the framework of the SDGs and Africa's aspirations for 2063 requires concrete and urgent action between the Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, and collaboration with the United Nations, regional civil society, and the private sector.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM MDGS APPLICABLE TO SDG LOCALIZATION

Now agree that the following lessons inter alia have been learned from the MDG implementation and would be useful for building on good and promising practices in the localization and implementation of the SDGs and the realization of Agenda 2063:

- Investing in GEWE is smart economics as it has been proven that countries who are better in human development have invested heavily on GEWE and this would also be the case for the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Buy-in and ownership by Member States, Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, CSOs and other stakeholders is critical to enable successful implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.
- Coordination and harmonization are paramount for accelerating progress towards the implementation of Agendas 2030 and 2063.
- Gender statistics are critical for accountability and accelerated progress towards the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.
- Alignment of institutional frameworks to the SDGs framework and Agenda 2063 is key to accelerated implementation of GEWE commitments in the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Gender-responsive budgeting at different sectoral levels within Member States is requisite for accelerated implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Increased resource allocations for the GEWE initiatives of the Regional Intergovernmental and
- Inter-parliamentary Bodies will guarantee effective support to Member States in realizing their commitments.
- Coordination, collaboration, experience sharing and peer learning among Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, under the guidance of the African Union Commission, can strongly contribute to enhanced and consistent levels of implementation of regional and global GEWE frameworks by the bodies on the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Active participation of national governments, Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, CSOs and other stakeholders in global and regional GEWE platforms including in Beijing review processes, CSW consultations and SDG review and reporting mechanisms and other intergovernmental processes is critical for the achievement of GEWE commitments under SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Civil society engagement facilitates effective advocacy for accountability on GEWE commitments.
- Increased sensitization and awareness creation enhances effective citizen participation and mutual accountability for the realization of GEWE commitments in the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Harnessing Africa's demographic dividend through inclusive national policies and initiatives informed by the SDGs and Agenda 2063 will ensure increased participation of young women in Africa's economic, political and sociocultural transformation efforts.
- Leveraging on traditional justice systems to promote and uphold gender equality and women's rights at the community level is critical for accelerating results regarding the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

DEFINING THE ROLE OF REGIONAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODIES IN THE LOCALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS

Now Conclude that the following, inter alia, are the areas of interventions by the Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies in advancing the SDGs and Agenda 2063:

i. Strengthen coordination between the African Union Commission and Regional Inter-governmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies with key stake-holders such as the United Nations Development System, and in particular the United Nations Economic Commission, UN Women and the UNDP.

- a. Support coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and the building of synergies to advance GEWE and the attainment of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- b. Establish a regional interagency working group on GEWE to facilitate coordinated interventions and to accelerate regional action on GEWE.
- c. Identify and effectively leverage key regional and sub regional coordination frameworks and processes to accelerate the implementation and localization of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

ii. Knowledge generation, management, and innovation to promote the gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063 including through:

- a. Supporting the quality assurance, collection, collation and publication of relevant sex-disaggregated and gender specific data to support evidence-based interventions, knowledge, and accountability on strategic GEWE initiatives.
- b. Promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation and learning, peer-learning, and the sharing of good practices in the implementation of the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063.
- c. Promoting the use of science and technology and supporting innovative models of integrating GEWE in the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- d. Strengthening the availability and use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) as a means for dissemination of information and the exchange of views, to advance social norms, standards, practices and information supportive of GEWE.

iii. Promotion of policy and programming coherence, supportive of the advancement of GEWE within the framework of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, including:

- a. Supporting Member States in operationalizing their GEWE commitments under the SDGs and Agenda 2063 within their National Development Plans and SDG Action Plans through tools, guidance and technical support in the articulation of clear commitments to international and regional norms and standards of equality between women and men as a basis for all actions and investments.
- b. Supporting Member States to integrate a gender perspective in the monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes, using gender-specific and sex-disaggregated data.
- c. Supporting Member States to adapt the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 targets to national circumstances and to advance their implementation. This includes accelerating national efforts to integrate the two agendas into the legislation, policies, plans and programmes of Member States.

iv. Engage in strategic partnerships and networks to support the advancement of GEWE under the SDGs and Agenda 2063 including through advocacy by:

- a. Forging multi-stakeholder partnerships with key stakeholders on the continent to support harmonization of development interventions and the SDGs and Agenda 2063, and to leverage complementary processes, initiatives and available resources, and to strengthen coordinated action.
- a. Engaging in active outreach and advocacy to civil society organizations and especially women's rights organizations, to support effective interventions to advance GEWE and increase Member State accountability in the localization and implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- b. Designing interventions and promoting advocacy campaigns including UN Women's HeForShe

campaign to engage men and boys at national, regional and continental levels as strategic partners and allies in challenging discriminatory social norms and practices and to support social justice, fairness and gender equality.

i. Promoting financing and institutional support for GEWE within the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 including:

- a. Advocating for, and promoting accountability towards, increased financing for GEWE, and to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, with emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, gender-responsive resource allocation and promoting gender-responsive fiscal policies.
- b. Advocating for increased investments in National Ministries in charge of Regional Integration and/or Coordination, and of Gender (respectively) to enable them to effectively implement initiatives that strengthen regional coordination and action on the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- c. In collaboration with National Ministries in charge of gender, advocating for the strengthening of gender focal points in Ministries, Departments and Agencies in terms of positioning and resourcing as well as functioning to enhance their collective capacity to deliver on GEWE and related goals.
- d. Investing in the capacities and institutional responses of the legislative arm of governments, to promote the development of gender-responsive legislation and gender-responsive public financial laws or mechanisms to advance GEWE.

ii. Monitoring, evaluation and measurements on gender responsive SDGs and Agenda 2063:

- a. Establish regional interlinkages and harmonize the monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks on GEWE commitments within the framework of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

- b. In collaboration with other stakeholders, support the capacity development of national statistics institutions and the collection, analyses, collation and dissemination of this data with Member States and other stakeholders working on the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- c. Capacity building of Member States on SDG 5 on GEWE and other gender-specific targets and indicator frameworks, and the development of tools and guidance (including reporting guidelines) to facilitate the improved measurement of outcomes.
- d. Advocacy and lobbying to ensure budgetary allocations to measure the progress in the implementation and localization of the SDGs, specifically SDG 5, and other gender-related targets within Africa to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of functional programmes.

iii. Awareness-raising

- a. Create ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals among Member States and with all relevant stakeholders including leveraging intergovernmental processes to raise awareness targeting all stakeholders to involve them in the

goals and targets, including national and local governments, legislative bodies, the public, civil society and the private sector.

- b. Support knowledge sharing to enhance activism for gender equality in the localization and implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 at the grassroots level.
- c. Support partnerships with diverse stakeholders including interreligious groups, CSOs, the United Nations, media, and Member States to prioritize investments in public awareness creation for the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

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Botswana



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UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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