

Women Working to Promote Sustainable Development in Africa

PROPOSAL – SIDE EVENT: AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(ARFSD) 24-27 February 2020- Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Sustainable development could not be more relevant in Africa where countries' economies and peoples are bearing the brunt of the myriad impacts of the climate crisis. Many countries economic and demographic achievements are being eroded by frequent droughts, floods and other extreme climatic conditions. African women and girls in particular lag behind and disproportionately during and after these climate disasters due to their already disadvantaged positions in society. Women and girls are the majority in many African countries, and they also make the highest percentage of those living in poverty. Climate disasters and the slow pace of implementation of the SDGs have had a negative impact on women and girls. This is compounded by the fact the agriculture is the largest employer of women in many African countries. They are often the main providers of food, energy and water for their households and communities. Their unpaid care work that is backbone of the economy is unrecognized nor compensated especially when they respond to the adverse effects of the climate crises.

In light of the challenges and opportunities, the Women Major Group is proposing to host a side event at the ARFSD in 2020 that will bring together representatives from grassroots organizations and member states to share lessons and knowledge on interlinkages and implementation of programmes to achieve Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 that are multisectoral in nature and inclusive of energy, water, health education, gender equality, means of implementation and collaboration. Best practices from various countries will be showcased. For example, examples of collaboration between member states such as Ghana, Tunisia, Chad, Nigeria and civil society on localizing SDGs will be showcased.

Speakers and panellists at the proposed side event will be drawn from South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Cameroon. These include:

1. Mrs Nozipho Wright, Policy Advisor, ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
2. Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)
3. Olabukunola Williams , Education is Vaccine (EVA) Nigeria
4. Nonhlanhla Sibanda-Moyo, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, South Africa

We intend to also bring in a young generation of African women to share what could be done to help Africa move faster towards achieving the two Agendas, something that would move the continent towards a more positive climate and environment friendly future.

