



# THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AND AFRICA'S AGENDA 2063



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# THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND AFRICA'S AGENDA 2063

Convening Report



**UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Nairobi, April 2017

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BPfA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EAC	East African Community
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NDP	National Development Plan
REC	Regional Economic Community
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC-PF	SADC Parliamentary Forum
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women





## AGENDA 2063



THE AFRICA WE WANT

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In December 8th and 9th, 2016, the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) convened a regional consultation with partners to discuss the domestication and mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union (AU) strategic framework for socioeconomic development in Africa, commonly known as Agenda 2063. The convening was held at the Southern Sun Mayfair Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

The consultation brought together representatives from Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, governments, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies. It provided a platform for them to share lessons learned in advancing GEWE, discuss how to collectively operationalize the GEWE agenda within the SDGs and Agenda 2063, and strategize on how to facilitate greater accountability for GEWE within the development frameworks.

The consultation comprised several interactive presentations, panel discussions and moderated plenaries. On the first day, presenters and participants reflected on the lessons learned in the implementation of the MDGs and discussed enhanced opportunities the SDGs present for the realization of GEWE. The role of RECs in promoting and integrating development agendas

was also discussed. On the second day, panelists and participants deliberated on the role of civil society in implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Country initiatives on integrating the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and GEWE were presented. Participants also learned about UN Women's advocacy efforts in promoting the SDGs.

During the meeting, participants identified various opportunities, strategies and areas of collaboration. They identified good practices in promoting GEWE within the various developmental frameworks as well as gaps in facilitating accountability on GEWE.

The key output of the consultation was a pathway document for strengthened regional collaboration and accelerated action on advancing gender equality gains within the SDGs to support Member States and promote accountability.

# BACKGROUND

In order to localize the SDGs, it is important to ensure multi-stakeholder ownership. State and non-state actors, sub regional Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, are all critical stakeholders in the development agenda. UN Regional Commissions, UN Women and other agencies assist governments to integrate the global sustainable development agenda into their national development agendas.

At the continental level, the AU is implementing Agenda 2063. Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, such as the East Africa Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) are playing a critical role in implementing this agenda. RECs have a specialized role to play in integrating the SDGs and Agenda 2063 due to their universal coverage, convening power, intergovernmental nature and strength, broad-based cross-sectoral mandate, and experience in mobilizing regional consensus on key intergovernmental agreements.

In order to strengthen the implementation of the SDGs, collaboration needs to be enhanced. UN Women,

therefore, organized a consultation to enhance coherence and coordination among partners. The objectives of the consultation were threefold:

- To strengthen collective efforts to operationalize the gender equality agenda within the framework of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in Africa and reinforce the roles and responsibilities of different actors – at global, regional and national levels.
- To discuss key considerations for accelerated action on the gender equality agenda within the SDGs and Agenda 2063, understanding what has worked well and what has not.
- To understand global, regional and national benchmarking and reporting processes and obligations.



*Participants at the RECs SDGs meeting in Kenya, 8/9 December, 2016. Photo- UN Women, Patterson Siema*



# DAY ONE: 8 DECEMBER 2016

## Welcome Remarks

Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs, Regional Director of UN Women ESARO delivered the welcome remarks. She recognized the presence of representatives from the African Union (AU), AU Member States, RECs and inter-parliamentary bodies, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UNDP, civil society organizations (CSOs), and UN Women country offices.

The Regional Director said that strong evidence exists showing that investing in gender equality and women's empowerment is pivotal to reaching the goals of sustainable development, including the aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063, as well as the SDGs (also known as Agenda 2030). Dr. Derex-Briggs noted that Agenda 2063 complements the SDGs and builds on the various international and regional agreements affirming the GEWE agenda. She said that the integration of the SDG indicators and targets in the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 is a significant and critical step towards promoting the monitoring and implementation of a gender-responsive development agenda and will facilitate the building of evidence on gender-responsive implementation for both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Dr. Derex-Briggs highlighted the need to localize development agendas through an inclusive process driven by leadership at the continental, regional and national levels. The agenda should be owned not only by national governments but also by communities and CSOs that should hold governments accountable to their continental and global commitments.

The Regional Director emphasized the great potential that RECs and interparliamentary bodies must facilitate the implementation of the SDGs by leveraging their unique role at the subregional level and ensuring coherence in priority setting, planning and implementation. Their understanding of the needs

of their subregions can help in mobilizing political will, commitment and coordinated actions and help national governments navigate the requirements of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Dr. Derex-Briggs shared an example where the role played by the AU Commission in securing commitment and accelerated action led to significantly reduced maternal mortality. She noted that RECs such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) have developed regional action plans for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and that this has served as a strong impetus for replication at the national level within the region. Inspired by the continental Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) provided the forum for Member States to sustain progressive action on GEWE through the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. These efforts testify to the potential for collaboration between the United Nations system, the African Union Commission and RECs in promoting and supporting the localization and implementation of SDG 5 and the GEWE targets in other SDGs.

Dr. Derex-Briggs noted the importance of having various strategies to ensure that the SDGs and Agenda 2063 are realized. These include enhancing women's participation in decision-making; strengthening research, data, and monitoring for GEWE; and adopting new and invigorating partnerships. She affirmed the commitment of UN Women to support the AU, AU Member States, RECs and interparliamentary bodies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other stakeholders to ensure the gender-responsive implementation and monitoring of the global and regional frameworks. She concluded her welcome remarks by wishing the participants productive deliberations during the consultations.

## Session 1: The 2016 Africa UN Human Development Report: Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa

The objective of this session was to look back at lessons learned from the MDGs in advancing GEWE. The presenter, Wilmot Reeves, Economic Advisor with UNDP Kenya, framed his presentation around the achievements, challenges and enablers in advancing GEWE within the context of the findings of the 2016 Africa UN Human Development Report. The theme of the Report is *“Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa.”*

Mr. Reeves said that the rationale for the focus of Report is the realization that:

- GEWE is essential for human development and meeting the SDGs in Africa.
- Countries investing more on GEWE are doing better on human development and this will be the case for the SDGs.
- Binding structural constraints limit the achievement of the full potential of investment in GEWE, and these will hamper the achievement of the SDGs.

He outlined the key findings and messages of the Report as follows:

- Gender inequality in the labour market alone cost sub-Saharan Africa almost USD 105 billion in 2014 – equal to six per cent of GDP.
- Today, African women achieve only 87 per cent of the human development outcomes of men.
- Gender equality, therefore, makes for good economics and is a development imperative. Consequently, gender equality must be treated as a fundamental macroeconomic variable and given as much priority as inflation, unemployment and budget deficit.

**Message 1: Closing the gender gap would not only set Africa on a double-digit economic growth track, but would also significantly contribute to meeting development goals.**

Significant achievements have been registered. There are many more African women in parliament: four

African countries are in the top 10 globally. In addition, the gender labour gap, although still wide, is closing.

**Message 2: Giant strides have been made, especially in improving women's economic and political participation.**

The achievements in gender equality are positively impacting human development in Africa. In 2015, one out of three African countries have achieved medium to high human development compared to one out of five in 2000.

**“Development, if not engendered, is endangered.”**

Wilmot Reeves, UNDP Kenya, quoting UNDP Human Development Report 2016.

**Message 3: Gender equality is a critical accelerator and enabler of all development.**

Lower levels of discrimination in social institutions lead to lower gender inequality. Lower gender inequality in turn results in higher human development outcomes for women relative to men. Higher human development for women relative to men increases overall human development.

**Message 4: Harmful social norms towards women and girls need to be deconstructed and addressed as they constrain development for all.**

Mr. Reeves recommended strategic pathways to achieving gender equality:

1. Enforcing effective implementation of legal, regulatory and policy frameworks.
2. Building a critical mass of women in decision-making.
3. Going beyond small scale and silo-bound gender initiatives.
4. Guaranteeing greater access for women to assets and resources.

He further suggested the following accelerators:

1. Use gender equality as the organizing policy lens for all development planning and implementation.
2. Deploy strong leadership and accountability to directly tackle destructive norms.
3. Make critical choices and investments to give priority to gender equality.
4. Create adaptive national capacities and representative institutions.
5. Use gender-disaggregated data and gender-responsive analysis for improved decision-making.
6. Promote regional and South-South cooperation in policy design and implementation.

### Plenary Discussion

While it was appreciated that increased political representation of women is a positive development, participants emphasized the need to ensure that greater numbers translate to greater empowerment

for women. Capacity building for women in decision-making positions was recommended. Other issues highlighted were the importance of political will to promote GEWE, and ending sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). A civil society representative said that communities should be mobilized to demand accountability to GEWE commitments from their leaders. There was recognition of the need to include men in GEWE efforts, with a participant emphasizing that gender equality not be regarded as a women's issue, but as a development and human rights issue. The need to strengthen partnerships between governments, RECs, parliamentary bodies, development partners, the private sector and civil society was also discussed. Finally, a participant said that while progress has been made in tackling HIV and AIDS, it is important not to underestimate how easily the pandemic can reverse gains, particularly among girls who are especially vulnerable.

## Session 2: The SDGs in Africa: The Role of the AU in the Implementation of the SDGs within the Framework of Agenda 2063 – Implications for Development thinking and Action Regionally and Nationally in Africa

The objective of this session was to discuss the AU's approach to integrating Agenda 2063 and the SDGs with a focus on the promotion of GEWE. Ms. Tapiwa Moloise, Departmental Planning Expert in the AUC's Strategic Planning Directorate, began by giving an overview of the functions of the AUC, the secretariat of the AU. These functions include implementing AU decisions, assisting Member States to set up AU programmes, managing the AU budget and resources, ensuring gender mainstreaming in all AU programmes and activities, and promoting, coordinating and harmonizing AU programmes and policies with those of RECs. The AUC is currently supporting Member States to localize Agenda 2063 through an inclusive process that involving state and non-state actors.

Ms. Moloise noted that Agenda 2063 and the SDGs have several areas of convergence and are mutually supportive. Both Agendas are comprehensive and underwent an extensive consultation process. They share common aspirations of structural

**“We have enough GEWE and development frameworks. What we need to do now is implement, implement, and implement.”**

Tapiwa Moloise, AUC

transformation and sustainable development. The Common African Position has been accommodated in Agenda 2030. She highlighted the similarity between Goal 17 of Agenda 2063: “full gender equality in all spheres,” and goal 5 of the SDGs: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” Both Agendas recognize that their other goals cannot be realized unless empowerment of women is achieved.

In terms of integrating the two Agendas, Ms. Moloise said that the AUC is collaborating with RECs, the UNECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to develop a roadmap for a single integrated results framework for both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. It

is working with UNECA and AfDB on strengthening economic statistics to support both agendas.

In addition, the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration agreed in April 2016 on a single monitoring and evaluation framework, accommodating both Agendas, and a common reporting architecture that will produce a single periodic performance report. A draft common reporting template has been developed to report on national priorities, Agenda 2063 and the SDGs on the selected 78 core indicators for both Agendas.

Ms. Moloise outlined some lessons learned in integrating the SDGs and Agenda 2063:

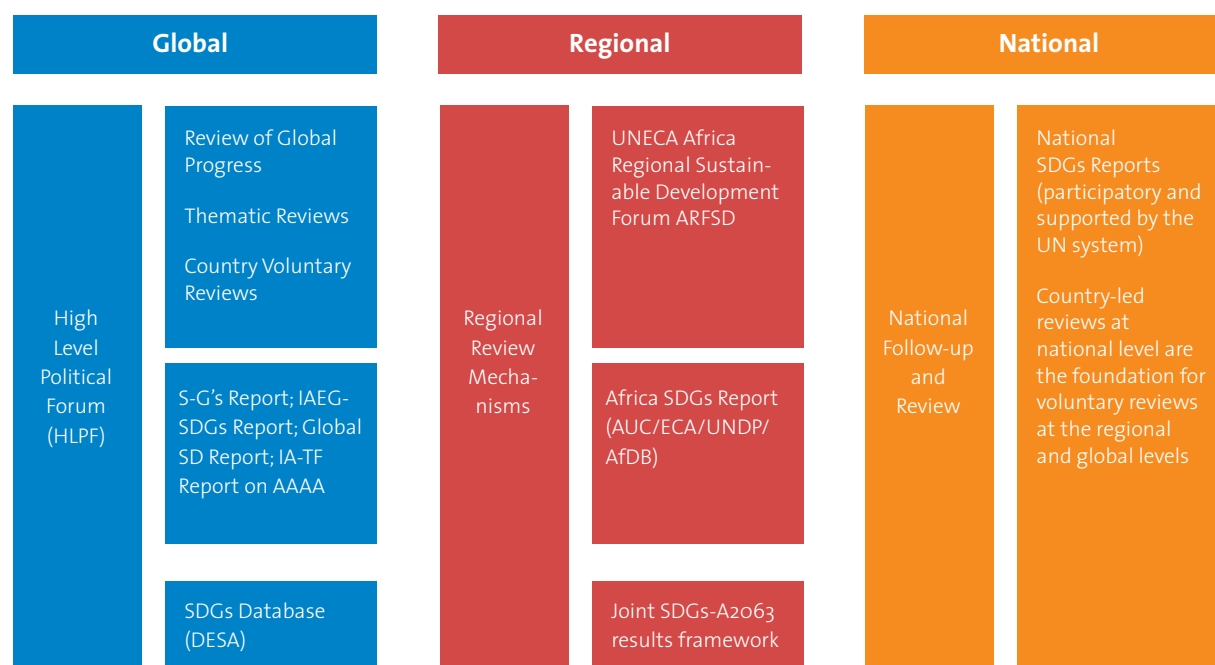
- Ensure targeted follow-up consultations with planning commissions of Member States to facilitate an understanding of the synergies of both Agendas.
- Sustain sensitization and awareness-raising on the two Agendas, particularly at the grassroots level.
- Address the capacity of RECs and Member States to implement both Agendas.

- Continuously engage with Member States and RECs for successful implementation of both Agendas.
- Align and consolidate the numerous existing continental frameworks and rationalize the launching of new ones.
- Establish mechanisms for seamless interaction and institutionalize joint planning and reviewing to strengthen collaboration.
- Strengthen data collection and monitoring.

## Challenges

There have also been challenges integrating the two Agendas and Ms. Moloise noted the following:

- Despite domestication and localisation efforts, more work still needs to be done to ensure visibility and internalization of both Agendas at the grassroots level.
- Delays by Member States in aligning and integrating Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development may affect implementation.





- Lack of budgetary provision hinders implementation at the national level.

The AU has a strong GEWE architecture, which Ms. Moloise outlined:

- *Constitutive Act (2000)*: This is the foundational constitutional framework of the AU. Articles 3 and 4 of the Act underscore the AU commitment to the principles of gender equality and to the effective participation of women in decision-making.
- *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)*: This instrument, which is commonly referred to as the Maputo Protocol, constitutes the AU legal framework on gender equality and women's rights.
- *Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004)*: Reaffirms the continent's commitment to accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels, African leaders made this landmark commitment to report on progress made in gender mainstreaming,
- *AU Gender Policy (2009)*: This policy guides the AU's process of gender mainstreaming and the promotion of women's empowerment.
- *African Women's Decade (2010-2020)*: The aim of the Decade is to advance gender equality by accelerating the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action and the AU Assembly Declaration on GEWE.
- *Fund for African Women (2010)*: This was created to mobilize financial resources to support development programmes and projects for women,
- *African Gender Score Card (2015)*: The score card measures national progress towards GEWE in seven core sectors: health, employment, business sector, access to credit, access to land, women in politics and decision making, and education at secondary and tertiary levels.
- *Women, Gender and Development Directorate*: The Directorate is located within the Bureau of the Chairperson and promotes gender equality within the AU.

- *Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security*: The AU established this Office to amplify the voices of women on peace and security issues within the region.

Ms. Moloise noted that Africa has made remarkable progress in implementing global and regional GEWE commitments. Substantial gains registered in closing the gender gap have generated momentum for implementation of both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. Strong political will on the part of the continent's leaders has accelerated the implementation of women's rights instruments. This political will is exemplified by African heads of state and government having declared 2015 "The Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063," and 2016 as "The Year of Human Rights with particular Focus on the Rights of Women in Africa." Many countries have established mechanisms for enhancing gender equality, and other countries can build on this to sustain the momentum. The lessons learned can be used as building blocks in advancing GEWE.

## Recommendations:

Ms. Moloise concluded her presentation by giving recommendations on strengthening regional collaboration on GEWE:

- Harmonize continental and regional GEWE legal instruments.
- Strengthen the relationship between national GEWE machinery and regional and continental bodies.
- Continue monitoring the implementation of existing institutional commitments on GEWE.

## Plenary Discussion

During the plenary discussion, a participant noted that there is little or no enforcement of States' reporting obligations under instruments and this is a hindrance to the achievement of development goals. A related challenge is the numerous reporting obligations that States have under various frameworks such as Agenda 2063, the SDGs, Beijing +20, the Optional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on

the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) and CEDAW. Harmonization of the multiple frameworks will enhance implementation and reporting and it was noted that the AUC is working to harmonize existing frameworks and minimize the launch of new ones.

It was further noted that there are strong policy pronouncements and commitments at the AU level on sustainable development and GEWE. There is a need to accelerate domestication and it was appreciated that the AUC is currently undertaking domestication missions in several countries. There was

some discussion about a major contributing factor to the low levels of domestication of the development frameworks, namely the absence of budgetary allocations for their implementation. A participant from Uganda said that the country has addressed this issue by mainstreaming gender into its National Development Plan and by implementing mandatory gender budgeting in all sectors. She urged other countries to emulate Uganda. Another participant recommended that the AU and RECs should strengthen their support for national ministries of finance and planning, as well as for national statistics departments.

### Session 3: An Overview of the Gender Equality Agenda within the Framework of the SDGs

During this session Hulda Ouma, Programme Specialist with UN Women ESARO gave an overview of how GEWE is incorporated into the SDG framework. She said that in 2013, the UN carried out a 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). It found that there has been slow and uneven implementation of the GEWE agenda, with serious stagnation and even regression in several areas. Deep-seated discriminatory norms, stereotypes and violence remain pervasive, evidencing gender-based discrimination that continues to be deeply entrenched in the minds of individuals, institutions and societies. Change has not been deep enough, nor comprehensive, and it is not irreversible. Progress is particularly slow for the most marginalized women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The fragile gains towards gender equality continue to be threatened by rising extremism and specifically directed backlash against women's rights in many contexts.

Ms. Ouma discussed how the MDGs approached GEWE. Structurally, the MDGs focused on a limited number of proxies of poverty and gender-related goals, as compared with CEDAW and BPfA. They were skewed towards a narrower, less integrated development agenda and were considered easier to operationalize as they focused mainly on programmatic and legal

solutions. They also stressed opportunities as opposed to equal outcomes.

The MDGs were successful in galvanizing political and financial support. Aid in support of GEWE increased. However, the investments remained vastly insufficient to achieve gender equality, and only a small proportion of aid addressed women's specific needs. Financing for stand-alone projects on gender equality was far below that of programmes in which GEWE was mainstreamed. Achieving gender equality requires a "twin track" approach that combines targeted women specific interventions with gender mainstreaming approaches.

Ms. Ouma said that the focus of the MDGs was on social development: health and education. Violence against women, the economic and productive sectors, and women, peace and security were not addressed. On the other hand, the post-2015 development agenda on the other hand focuses on "transformative shifts" which speak to the GEWE agenda. It commits to:

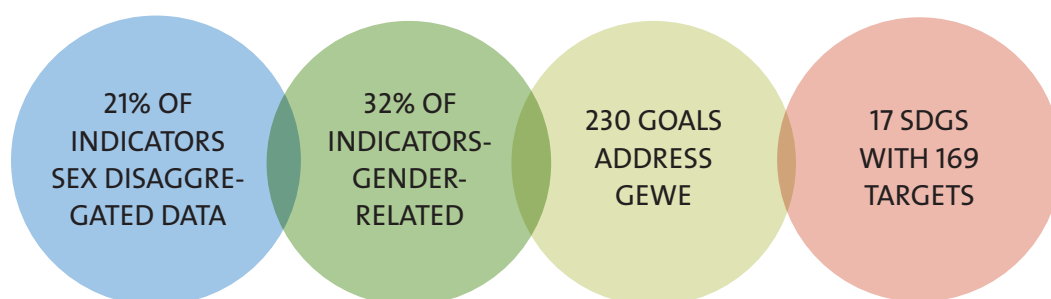
- (i) Leaving No One Behind;
- (ii) Putting sustainable development at the core; and
- (iii) Transforming economies for jobs and inclusive growth.

The post-2015 development agenda emphasizes the indivisibility of the goals. No goal or target should be considered met unless it is met for all social and economic groups.

Further, she noted that Agenda 2030 strongly re-introduces human rights language. It explicitly acknowledges structural issues that affect the transition from opportunity to outcome and acknowledges that substantive equality must apply to all. Gender equality is recognized as having a catalytic effect on the achievement of human development, environmental sustainability, good governance, and sustained peace. It recognizes that the visibility of gender equality in the agenda can ensure that governments are held accountable for advances in this area.

Ms. Ouma said that the SDGs introduce a broader range of socioeconomic and political objectives not previously captured in non-GEWE global normative frameworks e.g. inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, energy, sustainable consumption and production, peace, justice and institutions. They reflect the inter-relatedness of key gender-related developmental challenges with other developmental goals and require stakeholders to adopt an integrated approach. The strong and comprehensive inclusion of GEWE-related goals and indicators means that it becomes an imperative for significantly more diverse set of actors, providing new opportunities to be harnessed for transformative change. The means of implementation are included under each goal, in Goal 17, and are linked to the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action.

*Figure 1*  
*The breadth of GEWE in the SDGs*



The focus of SDG 5 is to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” It addresses discrimination, violence, harmful practices, unpaid care and domestic work, participation in decision-making, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## Plenary discussion

In plenary, participants discussed the importance of including grassroots communities in implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The critical role of civil society in mobilizing communities was discussed. One participant said that there is a need to reinvigorate civil society and strengthen its capacity to perform

its advocacy role. It was agreed that collaboration between communities, civil society, governments, development partners and RECs is critical.

Another issue discussed was the importance of building the capacity of national gender machineries in gender budgeting, data generation and reporting across sectors. The role of the AU and RECs in supporting domestication and prioritization of gender-related goals and targets was reiterated.

**“Local communities should be the face of the SDGs. They wield authentic power to hold governments accountable.”**

Fridah Githuku, GROOTS Kenya

## Session 4: The Role of the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Advancing Gender Equality within the Framework of the SDGs and Agenda 2063

This session provided an overview of the role of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in promoting gender equality within the framework of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. UNECA was represented by Thokozile Ruvidzo, Director of its African Centre for Gender. She began her presentation by saying that equality between men and women is a human right. It should be promoted as a development objective but also for the achievement of economic development.

She said that besides the SDGs and Agenda 2063, most countries have their own development agendas. This calls for the harmonization of global, regional and national development agendas. UNECA assists countries in monitoring and evaluating their development progress. It tracks the progress of countries in implementing the development agendas, designs effective monitoring tools and offers technical support to help countries implement their development goals.

Ms. Ruvidzo said that UNECA has itself, and in conjunction with other organisations, developed regional initiatives to measure progress in promoting GEWE. These include the following:

- *African Gender and Development Index (2004)*: This was developed by UNECA to support Member States to measure the gap in the status of men and women, as well as assess the progress made by governments of African countries in implementing policies aimed at promoting GEWE. It uses national data and is compiled by countries themselves with technical support from UNECA. To date, 35 countries are either undertaking or are in the process of undertaking the African Gender Development Index.
- *Gender Scorecard (2015)*: This was developed by UNECA at the request of the AU Chairperson. It is based on the AU theme of the year. Findings are presented at the Heads of State and Government Summit. Based on the Scorecard, the AU Chairperson presents awards to countries that have made great strides in achieving GEWE.

- *Africa Gender Equality Index (2015)*: This was launched by the AfDB in 2015. It makes use of national data where available. If not available at the national level, data is obtained from international sources. The index is compiled every two years.
- *African Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Index (2017)*: African countries have requested that UNECA and AfDB have a joint gender index. They are now in the process of harmonizing the Africa Gender and Development Index and the Africa Gender Equality Index. In 2017, a harmonized UNECA-AfDB gender index, known as the Africa Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Index, will be introduced.

Ms. Ruvidzo concluded by stating the need for comprehensive data and indicators. Good gender data provides much-needed detail on the disparities that exist between men and women and boys and girls. It identifies the underlying causes of inequality, and measures the impact of policy and programmatic interventions.

**"It is critical for us to have gender disaggregated data and statistics. This is an entry point for us to make visible the gender dimensions of developmental issues and is critical to getting buy-in. Our role is to showcase where things are working and to demonstrate gaps where interventions on GEWE are needed."**

Usu Mallya, UN Women Tanzania

### Plenary Discussion

The plenary discussions centred around the need to improve the collection and use of gender disaggregated data to advance GEWE. It was agreed that there was a huge gap in this area and that this affects the implementation of the SDGs.



## Session 5: Mechanisms for Advancing the SDGs within the UN Development System

The objective of this session was to build participants' understanding of how the UN supports the implementation of the SDGs. The presenter was Sering Falu Njie, Deputy Director, Policy/ Regional Director for Africa a.i. UN Millennium Campaign. He said that unlike the MDGs, the SDGs are a result of a broad consultative process. The development goals are not new, but represent a novel way of thinking outside of silos. There are interlinkages between the SDGs. He noted that the SDGs also differ from the MDGs in the following ways:

- They are wider in scope, moving beyond the predominantly 'social' goals of the MDGs, to incorporate more fully economic, environmental, peace and inclusion aspirations.
- They have a more ambitious agenda: to eliminate rather than reduce poverty, with more demanding targets on health, education, gender equality.
- They represent a universal agenda, applying to all countries and all people, with explicit recognition that international collective action is required.

Mr Njie said that the SDGs are being implemented within a dynamic and complex global environment in which countries are increasingly interlinked. To support SDG implementation within these complexities, the UN has come up an approach known as MAPS which stands for "Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support". It builds on lessons learned in the implementation of the MDGs. The approach is not prescriptive; it is about tools not rules for implementation of the SDGs.

Mr. Njie elaborated on the MAPS approach as follows:

- *Mainstreaming* refers to the critical steps involved in making the SDGs relevant at the national and subnational levels, including:
  - Raising public awareness
  - Applying multi-stakeholder approaches
  - Adapting SDGs to national, subnational, and local contexts



- Creating horizontal policy coherence (i.e. breaking the silos)
- Creating vertical policy coherence (i.e. “localizing” the agenda—reflecting both local and global considerations)
- Budgeting for the future
- Monitoring, reporting and accountability
- Assessing risks and fostering adaptability

**“The SDGs fill the gaps left by the MDGs. They represent new approaches to solving development problems.”**

Sering Falu Njie, UN SDG Action Campaign

- *Acceleration* enables the identification of synergies and trade-offs across possible interventions. Potential “accelerators” that could lead to faster progress across multiple SDGs at the same time are identified. Depending on the context, this could lead to the identification of factors ranging from social protection to energy access, citizen security to girls’ education, from HIV prevention to youth employment.
- *Policy Support* aims to address the need for coordinated, pooled advice from across the United Nations Development System, and will be elaborated more in the coming months.

Mr. Njie concluded by saying that MAPS offers governments modelling tools for sustainable development.

## Session 6: A Reflection by Sub Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies on Lessons Learned in Advancing the Gender-Related MDGs; Showcasing Initiatives on Advancing GEWE in the SDGs, Opportunities and Challenges for SDG Implementation

This session provided an opportunity for sub regional Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies, to share their initiatives to advance GEWE within the framework of the SDGs, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of the SDGs and opportunities and recommendations on strengthening regional collaboration on GEWE.

### A. THE ROLE OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs

Kalunda Irene Banda, Gender and Social Affairs Officer in COMESA listed its Member States as Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Its core mandate is regional integration and the facilitation of intraregional trade in Member States.

Ms. Banda said that COMESA’s initiatives to advance GEWE focus on creating a conducive policy and legal environment; building the capacity of professionals in gender mainstreaming; increasing public awareness of the importance of gender and regional integration; and supporting to small scale cross-border traders. Specifically, COMESA is implementing the following initiatives:

- AfDB 50 Million African Women Speak project which aims to create a networking platform dedicated to sub-Saharan African women entrepreneurs.
- World Bank Great Lakes Region Trade Facilitation Project which supports regional peace and stability through programmes to improve livelihoods in border areas, promote cross-border trade, and strengthen economic interdependence. The project has a strong gender dimension.

- Support to market access initiatives for small-scale farmers, particularly women, in enhancing South-South cooperation.
- The development of a regional gender mainstreaming framework which provides scope and guidance to COMESA Member States in designing gender-responsive national agriculture investment plans.
- COMESA Women Economic Empowerment Fund.
- The collaboration between United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and COMESA on online training on trade and gender.
- Young women and youth employment projects under the COMESA Youth Programme.
- COMESA Health Programme and HIV and AIDS Policy.
- National employment programmes including vocational and technical trainings targeting girls and women.
- Development of a gender mainstreaming training programme for EAC staff.
- Implementation of a regional project aimed at improving the ability of women entrepreneurs to network and share information and access financial services.
- Development of a simplified guide on women cross-border traders.
- Development of a regional gender strategic plan.
- Development of gender and social development outcome indicators for the 4th EAC development strategy (2011-2016).

## Recommendations

Ms. Banda made the following recommendations for collaboratively promoting GEWE:

- Development of gender mainstreaming tools such as checklists, guidelines and indicators.
- Capacity-building for gender mainstreaming.
- GEWE policy development.
- Advocacy for the implementation of regional, continental and global commitments.
- Monitoring and accountability.
- Networking for partnership building.

## B. THE ROLE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS

Generose Minani, Principal Gender and Community Development Officer from the East African Community (EAC) reiterated that the community consists of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It aims to provide a platform for cooperation among Member States in the political, economic and social spheres for their mutual benefit. She outlined GEWE initiatives that the EAC is implementing as follows:

Ms. Minani identified several opportunities and partnerships for advancing GEWE. These include the formulation of the EAC Gender Policy and the Gender Equality and Development Bill. She said that Member States have shown willingness to own and implement the SDGs and some are implementing gender budgeting. In terms of partnerships, the EAC has a Consultative Dialogue Framework for civil society, private sector and other interest groups.

Ms. Minani further said that despite the progress made there remain some challenges to SDG implementation. Gender mainstreaming is still not adequately understood despite the various tools and frameworks available. As gender tends to be included as a cross-cutting issue, it rarely receives priority. Funding for GEWE also remains a challenge.

She said that a lesson learned in the implementation of the SDGs is that partner states should start by closing the gaps left in the implementation of the MDGs. Another lesson is that annual reports and peer-to-peer learning among Member States are mechanisms to improve implementation of the SDGs in the region.

## Recommendations

Ms. Minani made the following recommendations:

- Establish a regional interagency working group to advance GEWE in the RECs.

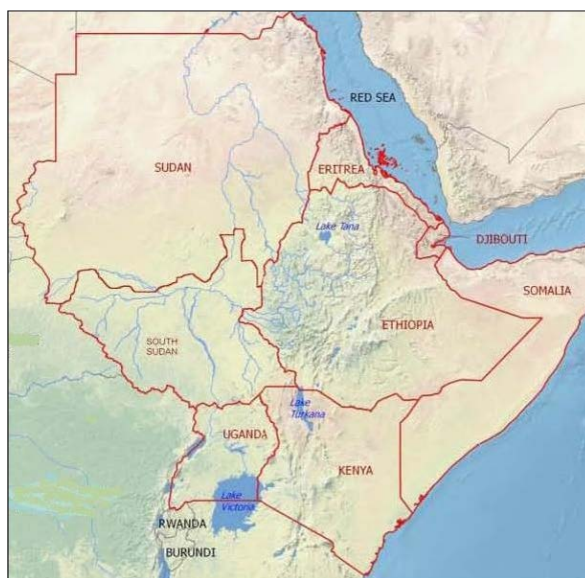
- Develop collaborative frameworks on implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation between the AUC and the RECs.
- Organize regular forums among RECs to share experiences and explore opportunities for collaboration.
- Support gender desks at national and regional levels on issues relating to gender such as technical support in gender mainstreaming, women and leadership, governance, and peace and security.

### C. THE ROLE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs

IGAD's presentation was made by Anthony Awira, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert at the IGAD Secretariat. He said that the mandate of IGAD is to promote regional cooperation and integration and help Member States' efforts in achieving peace, security and prosperity. Its Member States are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

Mr. Awira reported that IGAD is implementing the following GEWE initiatives:

- A regional strategy for higher representation of women in decision-making positions.



- In line with the AU Gender Policy, IGAD is establishing a gender management system.
- Drafting of the gender management system handbook is in progress.
- Alignment of the IGAD Gender Policy Framework to the AU Gender Policy has been completed.
- Gender Analysis of IGAD's Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative.
- Regional Action Plan for Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820.
- Establishment of the IGAD Women and Peace Forum as a mechanism for stepping up women's engagement in peace-building and conflict resolution in the region.
- Capacity enhancement on peacebuilding and reconciliation for women in conflict-affected states.

Mr. Awira said that some of the existing challenges in implementing the GEWE agenda include delays by partners in releasing approved funds for GEWE activities, insufficient staff in the Gender Affairs Programme, and inadequate gender mainstreaming capacity among staff.

### Recommendations

Mr. Awira made the following recommendations:

- AUC, UNECA, AfDB and UN Women should devise a mechanism or establish a forum to strengthen the gender units of the RECs.
- Funds need to be found to implement GEWE and related stand-alone activities; it has been very difficult to draw funds from the respective sectoral programmes.
- Accountability mechanisms need to be developed for implementation of GEWE activities at different levels.

### D. THE ROLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs

Elizabeth Kakukuru, Programme Officer (Gender), said that the community consists of Angola, Botswana,



Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Its mandate is to achieve development, peace and security, and economic growth; alleviate poverty; enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa; and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration, built on democratic principles and equitable and sustainable development. Ms. Kakukuru listed several SADC gender-related frameworks:

- SADC Treaty (1992) Article 5 (1) (k) “to mainstream gender in the process of community building.”
- Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan of 2003 which recognizes gender as a cross-cutting enabler for regional integration.
- 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and its 1998 Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women.
- 2007 SADC Regional Gender Policy.
- 2008 Protocol on Gender and Development which was aligned to the Millennium Development Goals of 2005. It was revised in 2015 to align with the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Ms. Kakukuru said that lessons learned in the implementation of the SDGs include the need to align the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development to the SDGs, and the importance of harmonizing national and regional development frameworks with the international development agenda. It is important to ensure that targets are realistic and to strengthen and harmonize monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

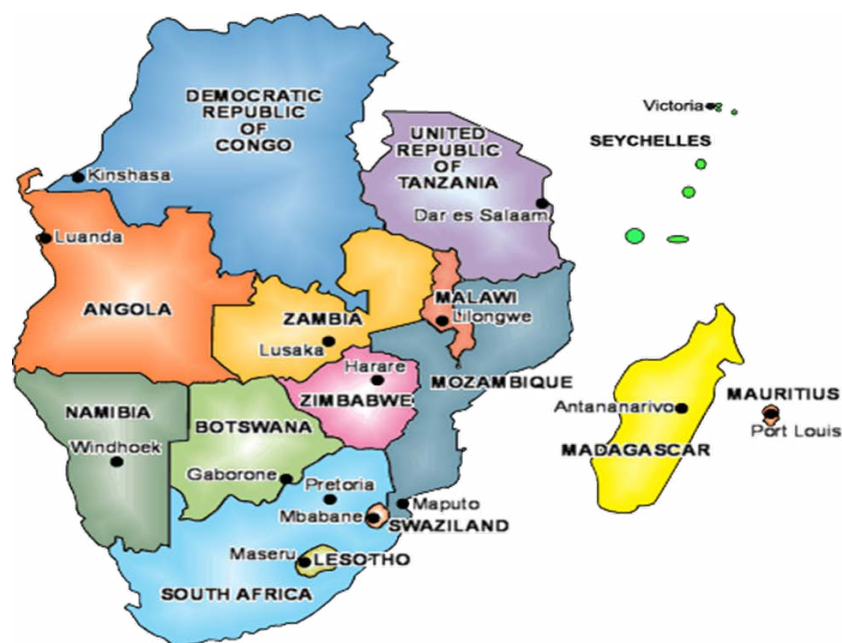
She identified an opportunity for partnership through the creation of interlinkages and harmonized monitoring, evaluation and reporting of progress in implementing GEWE commitments. For example, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development Monitoring Tool was developed for reporting by Member States biennially. There are also opportunities for strategic cooperation and collaboration with UN agencies and civil society for lobbying and advocacy on GEWE.

## Recommendations

Ms. Kakukuru made the following recommendations:

- Strengthen cooperation between RECs and coordination at the continental level to share experiences and strategies on GEWE.

Enhance and streamline monitoring, evaluation and reporting on implementation of GEWE commitments.



# DAY TWO: 9 DECEMBER 2016

## Plenary Discussion

During the plenary discussion, the need for shared learning among Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies and other regional institutions such as the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC- PF), an interparliamentary body, was highlighted. The SADC-PF, for instance, can offer valuable lessons on engaging

parliamentarians on development agendas. Also discussed was the need for RECs to avoid working in silos and better engage with the private sector and civil society. A participant said that since Member States are at different levels of implementation of the SDGs, there is potential for AUC to facilitate the sharing of good practices among states.

## Session 7: Panel Session on the Role of Civil Society in advancing Accountability on GEWE within the Framework of the SDGs

This panel session focused on civil society initiatives to promote accountability on GEWE in the implementation of the SDGs. Ms. Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, Deputy Regional Director of UN Women ESARO moderated the panel discussion. The two panelists were Ms. Hellen Apila, Head of Advocacy of the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) and Ms. Eunice Masiime, Executive Director of Akina Mama wa Africa (AMWA). Both FEMNET and AMWA are on the Civil Society Africa Working Group on the SDGs, as well as engaged in other GEWE and development platforms nationally, regionally and globally.

Ms. Ellis Oluoch-Olunya asked them to explain how the civil society-led African Working Group promotes accountability to GEWE within the SDGs. Ms. Apila said that the Working Group's approach is rooted in Agenda 2063, and it looks at how the targets of the SDGs speak to the aspirations of Agenda 2063. The role of the Africa Working Group is to strengthen the African narrative on national, regional and global platforms. It seeks to influence the policies and practices of governments in integrating the two Agendas, and it does so in the light of the lived realities and aspirations of Africans. She said that the Africa Working Group has volunteer reference and support teams. They work to ensure that there is a connection between national, regional and global issues. They focus on sharing information, building civil society capacity, and ensuring representation of

African voices on global platforms where decisions are made. They fundraise and ensure resources are allocated for the implementation of the Agendas.

Ms. Apila said that the Working Group tries to influence Financing for Development and Aid Effectiveness processes in the achievement of GEWE on the continent. They also engage with the private sector, through platforms such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). At the national level, they focus on building civil society constituencies, through the SDG Forums. In Kenya for instance, the SDG Forum can be considered a best practice by which organizations volunteer to build the advocacy capacities of other organizations. The organizations demystify the SDGs to grassroots communities and build their capacity to contribute to national development plans. They also engage with national statistics offices to advocate for the creation of relevant GEWE indicators, and with civil society organizations to enhance their capacity to collect and manage authentic data that can be used by governments.

**“We need to ensure that civil society plays a critical role in collecting authentic data that is acceptable to governments, so that when we speak to governments with this data, they can see its authenticity because it comes from communities.”**

Hellen Apila, FEMNET

Ms. ellis Oluoch-Olunya asked what lessons can be learned from the implementation of the MDGs, and the SDGs thus far, in terms of their focus, or lack thereof, on GEWE. Ms. Masiime responded that one lesson is that ownership is key. The SDGs enjoy greater ownership than the MDGs did, largely because of the wide consultations prior to their adoption. However, ownership needs to be deepened, particularly at the community level. An example of good practice in this regard is Uganda's Tondeka Mabega (Leave No One Behind) campaign which seeks to cascade the SDG agenda to community level.

Another lesson Ms. Masiime cited is that the MDGs did not address the root causes of underdevelopment. She said that feminist organizations, such as AMwA, perceive disparities to be caused by power imbalances and that to achieve GEWE and development, such power imbalances must be redressed. She also said that the MDG process was too technocratic and did not address political decisions, yet resource allocation for development is usually a political decision making process. She said that going forward, it is important to promote accountability and citizen engagement. Capacities at different levels need to be built, not only on technical skills such as gender mainstreaming, but also on skills such as how to negotiate power. Increasing women's representation in decision-making is not just about increasing numbers, but also about equipping women leaders with leadership skills.

She said that there have not been enough spaces or opportunities for civil society to hold states accountable for their SDG commitments and called for accountability forums at the national level.

Ms. ellis Oluoch-Olunya asked what specific role RECs can play in partnership with CSOs to support governments to localize the SDGs. Ms. Apila said that RECs can formulate model legal and policy frameworks for countries to replicate and spaces such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) can champion model laws. RECs can support CSOs to promote GEWE through accountability platforms such as the East

African Court of Justice. The role of RECs in holding Member States accountable to their commitments should be strengthened. The SADC gender barometer is a good practice that should be replicated by other RECs and the AU. Regional parliaments such as the East African Legislative Assembly should hold national parliaments accountable to provide oversight for the localization of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

## Plenary discussion

A participant stressed the need for CSOs to engage with, and influence, spaces where decisions are made. Sometimes CSOs adopt an "us versus them" approach, which means that decision-making spaces miss out on the expertise and experience of CSOs. It was appreciated, however, that in many cases CSOs do engage in such spaces and Ms. Masiime said that a "dialogue before dissent" strategy is ideal.

Another participant stated that there is a need for a strategy to mobilize grassroots communities on the localization of the SDGs, beyond awareness-raising. It was noted that this should not be the responsibility of CSOs alone, but that governments and RECs should also play a role. A participant from a civil society organization said that it is important to counter the persistent perception that women's CSOs are elitist. Ms. Masiime said that this claim is often used to discredit the efforts of organizations working on issues to promote equality in marriage or property ownership. She agreed, however, that sometimes CSOs are unable to mobilize grassroots communities on a wide scale – but this is due to lack of funds rather than choice. Ms. Apila added that it is important to appreciate that those that do have the capacity to mobilize widely, like FEMNET, do facilitate the participation of diverse constituencies of women in regional and global platforms to which they have access.

A participant suggested that in addition to the formulation of model laws and policies, model programmes should be developed.

## Session 8: National Efforts in Advancing GEWE within the SDGs at Country Level and Linkages with Regional Processes

During this session, government representatives of Botswana, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe had an opportunity to share their approach to the localization and implementation of the SDGs, particularly regarding GEWE.

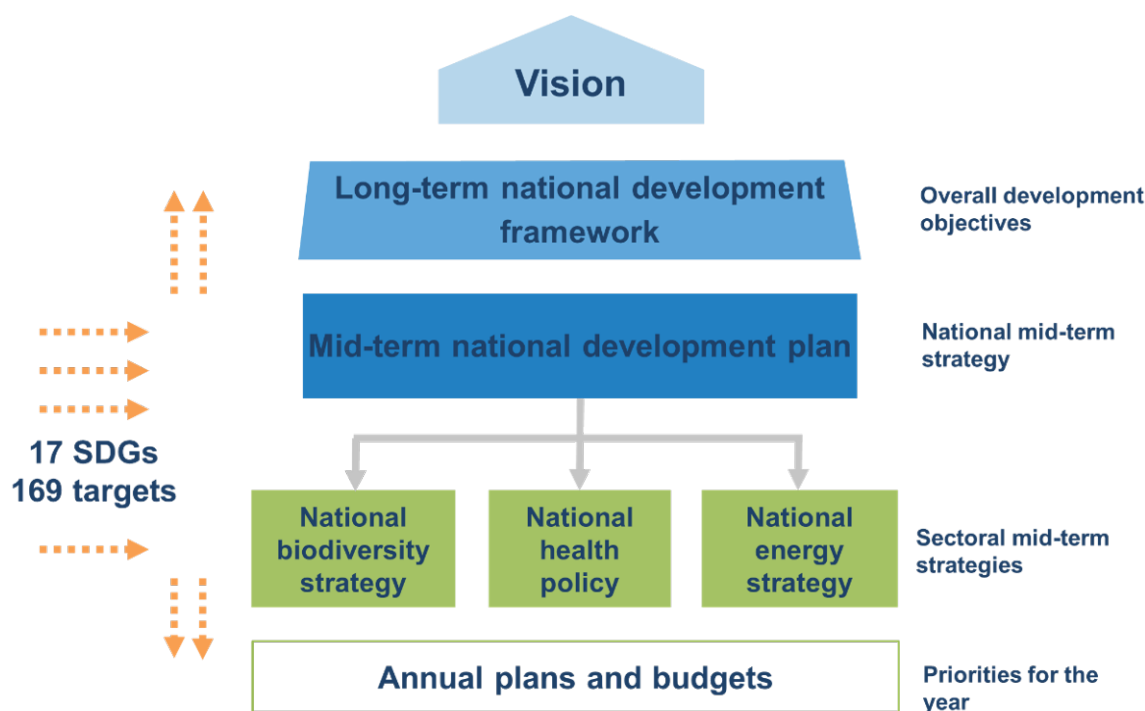
**“The MDGs were a floor, not a ceiling.”**

H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda,  
quoted by Batete Redempter.

### A. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA

Ms. Thapelo Phuthego, Director of the Gender Affairs Department in Botswana’s Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender reported that Botswana has aligned its Vision 2036 and National Development Plan (NDP)<sup>11</sup> with the SDGs. The National Policy on Gender and Development, which is aligned with the SDGs, guides implementation of the SDGs under five priority areas. NDP 11 has embraced the SDG principles of Leave No One Behind and the involvement of non-state actors and the private sector.

She described a political commitment at the highest level to GEWE. Gender has been prioritized within NDP 11 and GEWE machinery has been strengthened by the establishment of a new Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs. The National Gender Commission was established and launched in September 2016 to facilitate effective implementation of gender commitments. Its Chair is the Paramount Chief of the Balete tribe – a woman and a champion of girls’ empowerment. The National Policy on Gender and Development is implemented through the existing local government structures, and all sectors, agencies and units have a gender objective on which they are required to report. The government is engaging traditional leaders on mainstreaming gender into the



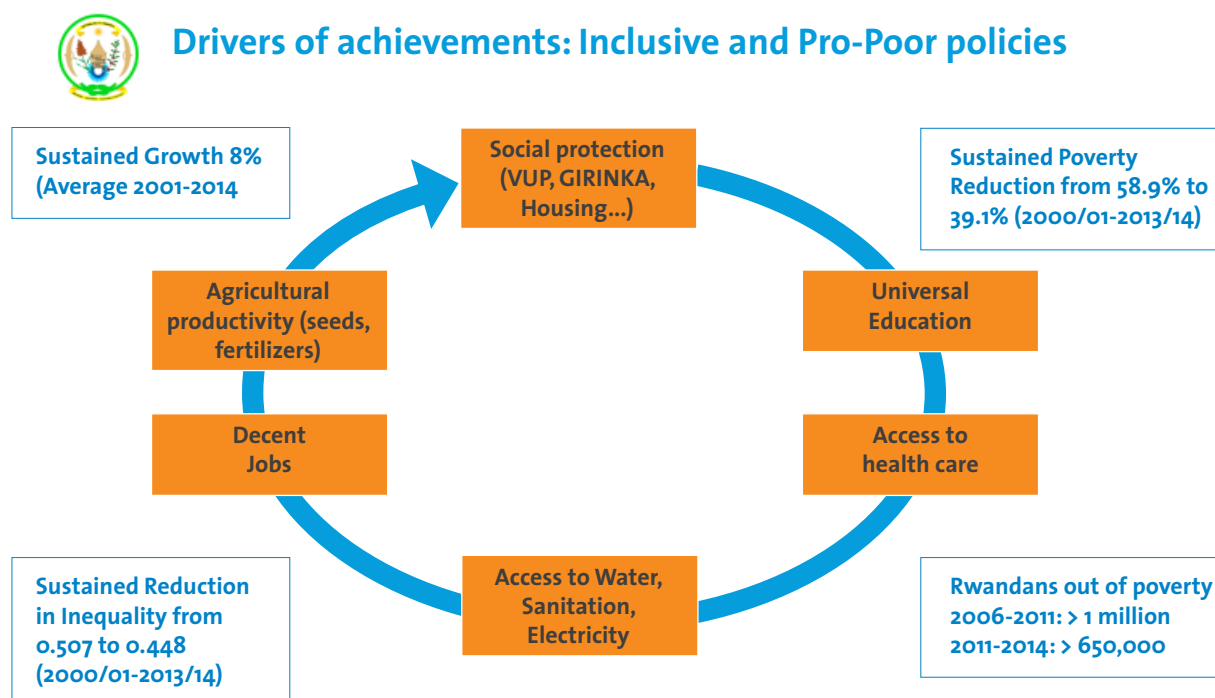
customary justice system, and building the capacity of opinion leaders to promote GEWE. Botswana also has a National Gender-Based Violence Strategy 2015-2020. Ms. Phuthego noted that the country's participation in the review of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and its alignment with the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and Beijing +20. This process included capacity-building of Member States for the implementation of the Protocol. Botswana reports to SADC and the AU on progress made in the implementation of regional gender commitments. In 2016, Botswana also successfully led negotiations on the SADC-sponsored UN Commission on the Status of Women Resolution 60/2 on Women, the Girl Child, HIV and AIDS.

Further, she outlined several good practices in advancing GEWE including: political commitment; the Leave No One Behind campaign; the systematic alignment of the SDGs with the national development agenda; the active engagement of traditional and community leaders; strategic engagement and capacity-building of opinion leaders; an integrated approach to addressing gender-based violence; and active participation in regional commitments.

Ms. Phuthego concluded by mentioning several challenges including limited capacity of the national gender machinery and limited availability of gender-disaggregated data. Finally, she noted that as a middle-income country, Botswana faces the prospect of shrinking donor support, which could stagnate progress on GEWE.

## B. THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA

Ms. Redempter Batete, Director of Gender Promotion in the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion of the government of Rwanda, noted that Rwanda met most MDG targets and even exceeded those on extreme poverty and health. This success was enabled by visionary leadership and mainstreaming gender into the national development agenda. She said that a conducive citizen-driven legal, policy and institutional environment exists for the promotion of GEWE and several gender-related laws have been enacted or amended to facilitate GEWE. Institutions have been





set up to facilitate accountability for GEWE such as the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and the Gender Monitoring Office. There is ownership of the development agenda by a wide range of stakeholders through joint planning and implementation and this includes accountability on delivery by all. Homegrown initiatives on poverty eradication such as *Umuganda*, *Umurenge*, and community health-based insurance all strengthen ownership.

Ms. Batete stated that Rwanda has integrated the SDGs into national development plans. The SDGs have been translated into Kinyarwanda and disseminated across the country. Further impetus for the integration of the SDGs has been provided by Rwanda's selection as the SDGs Regional Centre for Africa, with its chair as His Excellency President Paul Kagame.

Ms. Batete concluded by making the following recommendations for regional support:

- Establish and/or strengthen mechanisms to hold governments accountable for gender budgeting for the SDGs.
- Support innovations and rethink strategies to better achieve the SDGs.
- Enhance statistical capacity to capture all SDG indicators and put in place a harmonized monitoring mechanism.
- Consolidate resources where possible to maximize efficiency.
- Advocate for SDG domestication.
- Seek donor commitment to support the implementation of the SDGs.

## C. THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA

It was reported by Mr. Ssansa Mugenyi, Director of Strategic Coordination and Implementation in the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda, that the country implements the SDGs through existing planning frameworks at national, district and sub county levels. The development of the frameworks was participatory – involving state and non-state actors – coincided with the SDG Global 2015 consultations. This facilitated the mainstreaming of SDGs into the national and sub-national plans.

Mr. Mugenyi noted that Uganda's NDP II emphasizes a commitment to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls nationwide, and to ensure women's full participation and equal opportunities for leadership at every level of decision-making in political, economic and public life. NDP II aims to enhance the use of enabling technologies including ICT to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. It also commits to undertake reforms that give women equal rights to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources in accordance with national laws.

**One good practice is what I call "Beyond Government." We must learn to work with non-state agencies: CSOs, private sector, and the wananchi [citizens] if we are to successfully implement the SDGs.**

Ssansa Mugenyi, Director, Strategic Coordination and Implementation, Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda

Mr. Mugenyi said that Uganda volunteered to participate in the High Level Political Forum to assess its readiness to implement the SDGs, and this process provided valuable lessons. It is important to adopt data driven approaches to developmental interventions and therefore necessary to strengthen data collecting institutions. SDG monitoring should be

anchored in existing structures of government for sustainability. Inclusiveness and joint ownership is also important. Successful implementation of the SDGs requires concerted effort and partnerships among government, parliament, private sector, CSOs and development partners. The oversight role of parliament is critical to ensuring that sector plans and budgets are aligned to the SDGs.

Mr. Mugenyi made the following recommendations to strengthen regional partnerships:

- Share best practices between government, private sector and CSOs.
- Develop a robust coordination framework to integrate alignment of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Harmonize reporting formats and cycles to avoid report writing fatigue.
- Establish High Level Forums in the region similar to the UN High Level Panel in New York, to share experiences at that level.
- Strengthen generation by governments of gender-related statistics to ensure gender-responsive planning, implementation and reporting.

#### D. THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Mr. Stephen Nyaruwata, Acting Director (Gender) in the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development of the Government of Zimbabwe, said the formulation of the SDGs came at a time when Zimbabwe had just recently in 2013 adopted a new Constitution promoting gender equality. Zimbabwe was developing various pieces of legislation in line with the Constitution and was reviewing its national Gender Policy 2004-2014, and had just established the national Gender Commission. The country was also implementing its national economic blueprint, Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Economic Transformation (ZimAsset) 2013-2018, and the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF). All these processes provided an opportunity

to integrate the SDGs into national legislative and policy frameworks.

The process of localizing the SDGs was inclusive, involving the government, private sector, civil society, community and faith-based organizations, development partners including UN Agencies, youth organizations, women's organizations, and local authorities. Although Zimbabwe will implement all the SDGs, the country has prioritized 10 goals which it believes will trigger the realization of all the goals, including SDG 5.

Mr. Nyaruwata said that at a regional level, as a member of SADC, Zimbabwe is engaged in the development of a GEWE monitoring and evaluation framework. It also reports annually on the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The country is part of the COMESA 50,000,000 Women Speak, an online course on trade and gender, and is a member of the SADC Parliamentary Forum HeForShe Campaign.

He concluded his presentation by recommending that stakeholders strengthen current engagement and synchronize regional efforts towards the implementation of the SDGs.

#### Plenary Discussion

In plenary, the need to harmonize agendas was discussed. RECs and countries need to develop a deliberate strategy to integrate the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into their NDPs. There was discussion about whether it is possible to prioritize certain SDGs given that they are regarded as indivisible. On the other hand, funding constraints mean that at a practical level, certain development goals are prioritized over others. Of concern was the fact that several African countries are moving towards middle income status and will become ineligible for donor funding. Since GEWE is largely funded by foreign donors, this development may negatively impact the achievement of GEWE targets. The need for gender budgeting was highlighted; often GEWE goals remain unrealized because governments do not allocate any budget to them.

## Session 9: UN Women's Strategies for advancing Gender Equality and Women's empowerment within the framework of the SDGs

The aim of this session was to give participants an understanding of how UN Women is working to advance GEWE in the implementation of the SDGs. Ms. Fionna Smyth, Advocacy Advisor, Office of the Executive Director, UN Women said that the organization has undertaken a massive advocacy campaign mobilizing women in the Global North and South to work together to create change. It promotes one clear message and narrative: SDGs are the invisible means of realizing your rights. The tactics of the campaign are encapsulated in the slogan "Champion, Catalyze and Count." As UN Women recognizes that young people are the "2030 generation," the campaign has a strong component designed to engage youth.

Ms. Smyth outlined the focus of UN Women's advocacy strategies through "the Nine I's":

- **Implementation:** This involves localization through the adoption and reform of laws, policies and measures including special measures and actions; the removal of discriminatory laws and policies; and ensuring their full, effective and accelerated implementation.
- **Indivisibility of the SDGs and targets:** The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all SDGs must deliver for GEWE. In this regard, the prioritization of SDG 5 and gender-sensitive targets threaded across all SDGs in their implementation is a key task for all governments and will have a multiplier effect on the achievement of all SDGs.
- **Integration of GEWE:** This must be done across all SDGs and the entire 2030 Agenda. Additionally, there must be an all-of-government approach including in development assistance activities and initiatives.
- **Inclusion of all key stakeholders:** Civil society, women's movements, youth, men and boys, faith-based organizations and the private sector must be included for movement building, to transform social norms and to address the needs of all women and girls, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and

marginalization. The 2030 Agenda must mean that the poorest and most vulnerable groups of women, for example disabled and indigenous women and girls, move forward.

- **Institutions:** Create, empower, strengthen and resource gender equality and women's empowerment institutions at global, regional, national and local levels, and ensure that all key institutions – political, economic, judicial, social, cultural, public services, etc. – work in a gender-responsive manner.
- **Investment:** Significantly increase and enhance financial investment and resource mobilization from all sources, including overseas development assistance, to close gender equality gaps at all levels, and take targeted and mainstreamed transformative actions for financing GEWE as committed to in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- **Information:** Generate a comprehensive GEWE-related value chain of data, statistics, indicators, monitoring systems, frameworks, and capacities in SDG implementation.
- **Innovation:** Drive political, economic and social innovation around gender equality through deployment of science, technology and innovation, information and communications technology (ICT).
- **Impact:** These commitments must lead to actual change in the enabling environment and make systemic and substantive impact on the situation of all women and girls.

**"Statistics tell a very important story, but sometimes case studies can tell a richer story that can be used in many ways and can be a real resource to use to start conversations with governments."**

Fionna Smyth, UN Women

Ms. Smyth noted that the campaign has a flagship programme known as *Making Every Woman and Girl Count* which seeks to address the urgent need to increase availability of accurate information on GEWE

to inform investment and policy and decision-making. The multi-year and multi-country programme will invest much-needed resources and expertise in gender data and assist countries in making evidence-based and targeted policies to fully implement and track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The focus will be on three areas:

1. Supportive and well-coordinated policy environment in place to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs.
2. Quality, comparable and regular gender statistics produced to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the SDGs, CEDAW and BPfA.
3. Gender statistics that are accessible to all users and can be analyzed to inform research, advocacy, policies and programmes, and promote accountability.

Ms. Smyth concluded her presentation by speaking about the SDG Data Portal. She said that in unison with the SDG monitoring report, UN Women is developing an interactive online platform that will track progress on all the gender-related SDGs. Using agreed SDG indicators and additional alternative indicators, the new online platform will indicate how far each country has yet to go to achieve SDG targets and where they are likely to end up in 2030 based on current trends. It is anticipated that this new tool will be unveiled in 2017.

## Plenary Discussion

The role of UN Women in offering technical support to governments was highlighted. UN Women has extensive technical expertise in gender mainstreaming, formulation of non-discrimination laws and policies and numerous other areas. The importance of collaboration between national statistics offices, CSOs and development partners for the collection and use of data was emphasized.

## Session 10: Outlining a Pathway Document for Strengthened Regional Collaboration and Accelerated Action on Advancing Gender Equality Gains Within the SDGs (To Support Member States and Promote Accountability)

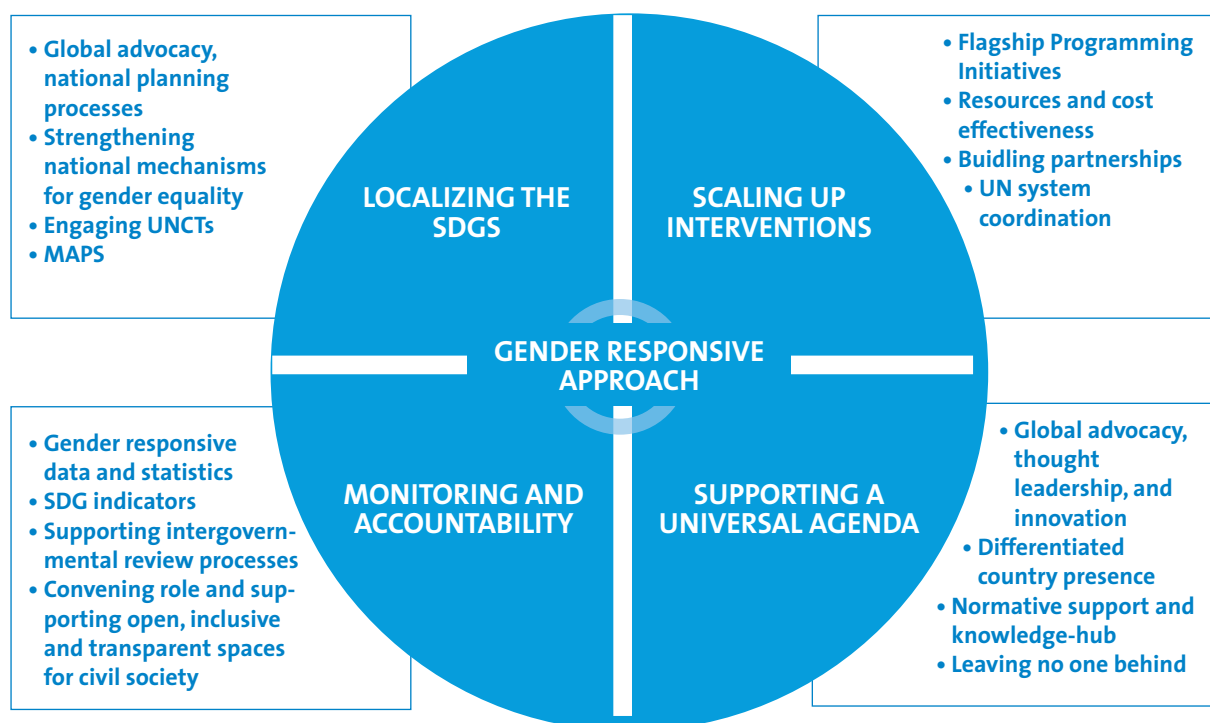
This session was facilitated by Dr. Jack Onyisi Abebe, Regional Knowledge Management and Research Specialist, UN Women ESARO. Key issues, themes and recommendations emerging from the two-day consultation were reviewed for inclusion into a Pathway Document: Engagement by Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) And Africa's Agenda 2063. The pathway was read as follows;

### 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.

## Now:

**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 Bodies and Economic Communities, 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.

**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

Inter-Governmental 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 Bodies and Economic Communities, and collaboration with the United Nations, regional civil society, and the private sector.

**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 Economic Communities and Intergovernmental Agencies, 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 Regional Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary 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.

**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 Intergovernmental and Inter-parliamentary Bodies with key stakeholders 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

**v. 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.

**vi. 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.

**vii. 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.

still much work to be done, the consultation had laid an important foundation and participants could be considered a family of SDG champions. She expressed the hope that the discussions held would continue and be built upon within the various institutions represented at the meeting,

## Concluding Remarks

*Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs, Regional Director, UN Women ESARO*

Dr. Derex-Briggs thanked the participants for contributing to many enriching discussions over the two-day consultation. She recognized that while there was

Dr. Derex-Briggs reiterated the commitment of UN Women to supporting regional partners in the advancement of GEWE within the framework of the Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 respectively, both at regional and national levels. She concluded by urging CSOs to demand that governments make available funding for GEWE, and RECs to mobilize resources to ensure that GEWE is integrated into the development agenda.



# ANNEX 1:

## PARTICIPANT LIST

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	Country
Izeduwa Derex-Briggs	UN Women	Regional Director	Kenya
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Thokozile Ruzvidzo	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	Director, Africa Centre for Gender	Ethiopia
Tapiwa Moloise	AUC	Development Planning Expert	Ethiopia
Florence Ndagire	The National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU)	Regional Civil Society Advisory Group – Chair	Uganda
Itumeleng Komanyane	Sonke Gender Justice	Regional Civil Society Advisory Group- Deputy Chair	South Africa
Emma Kaliya	FEMNET	Regional Civil Society Advisory Group- Member	Malawi
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NAME	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	Country
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Morris Tayebwa	EAC Secretariat	Programme Assistant in Gender Department	Tanzania
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Ssansa Mugenyi	Government of Uganda	Director, Coordination, M&E Office of the Prime Minister- Uganda	Uganda
Norah Madaya	Government of Uganda	Director, Statistical Coordination Services, Uganda Bureau of Statistics	Uganda
Redempter Batete	Government of Rwanda	Director of Gender Promotion	Rwanda
Stephen Nyawurata	Government of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Director Gender (Acting), Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development	Zimbabwe
Nuliat Nambaziira	EASSI	Communications and Networking Programme Officer (Lead on the SDGs)	Uganda
Thapelo Phuthego.	Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender- Botswana	Director, Gender Affairs Department	Botswana
Gabotloge Poloko	Government of Botswana	Population and Development Coordination, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	Botswana
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Schadrack Dusabe	UN Women Rwanda	National Programme Officer	Rwanda
Madibela Magdeline	UN Women Botswana	Programme Manager	Botswana
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# PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS



Botswana



Rwanda



Uganda



Zimbabwe



 United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# **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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