



STATEMENT OF THE AFRICA WOMEN MAJOR GROUPS AT THE AFRICAN REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HELD IN ADDIS ABABA ON THE 19TH MAY 2017 PRESENTED BY CHANTAL UMUHOZA

On behalf of AWMG, we are committed to upholding women's rights as human rights in implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda.

We applaud the seven African member states that have volunteered to report this year. **We particularly commend the leadership demonstrated by the Republic of Togo that has committed to report every year.** We encourage other members' states to replicate this innovation that started on our continent.

As we prepare for the high-level political forum on sustainable development, we would like to draw attention to and call for strategic action by Member States on the following.

2.0 Adoption and Implementation of Gender Responsive Legal and Policy Frameworks.

- **Enact and implement global and regional commitments related to achieving gender equality, eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in all their diversities**, including CEDAW, Maputo Protocol and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and the African Union agenda 2063.
- Repeal all discriminatory laws and practices that violate the human rights of women and girls in accordance with African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

3.0 Financing for gender equality and women and girls empowerment

- Initiate progressive tax systems on wealth, capital and profits of the rich and corporations and strengthen strategies for curbing illicit financial flows including the establishment of an inclusive and resourced global tax body.
- Replicate and scale up best practices from the continent on gender responsive budgeting and increase financing for national gender machineries and women's rights organizations.

- Develop and enforce private sector regulatory guidelines and accountability mechanism to ensure compliance with human rights principles including rights of women and protection of the environment.

4.0 Gender Disaggregated Data

- Disaggregate data collected on all indicators to reflect diversity on the basis of sex, age, disability, geographic location, migration status, marital status, sexual orientation and gender identity and other relevant status.
- [Ensure participation and engagement of women and girls rights organization in the collection, analysis, interpretation and application of data in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and 2063](#); which should also include incorporating independent qualitative and quantitative data from women rights organizations.

5.0 Structural and systematic inequalities experienced by women and girls

- Uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women in all their diversity to free, prior and informed consent on issues relating to land and other natural resources and enable women access to ownership and control over productive resources and guarantee their right to property.
- Cognizant of the major role of women in agriculture, ensure women's right to food and food sovereignty and provide necessary support to ensure women's participation along all value chains and have unrestricted access to markets.
- Ensure safety of environmental and women human rights defenders
- Safeguard bodily autonomy, including by respecting, protecting and fulfilling sexual and reproductive rights, end violence against women, and enhance respect for girls and women in all their diversities
- Ensure women's effective participation and decision making in matters relating to peace and security and address structural causes of conflict
- Adopt and implement gender responsive social protection policies that meets the basic needs, including basic services such as education, healthcare, food, water, energy, housing, employment and pension, for marginalized and excluded including the elderly, people living with disabilities, extreme poor

We call on member states to safeguard and protect the rights of women and girls to freely speak out, organize and take action.

In conclusion we reaffirm the integrality of sustainable development agenda and note that no one goal can be achieved on its own and that gender equality is central to this agenda. We thereby call on member states to work with a multi-stakeholders and interlinkage approach in implementation of Agenda 2030 and 2063 for the benefit of people and the planet.

