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European Development Days
5 and 6 June 2018, Brussels

PROCEEDINGS

EDD 2018



**Women And Girls At The Forefront Of Sustainable Development:
Protect, Empower, Invest**

European Development Days 2018

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Introduction

Welcome to the European Development Days 2018

The European Development Days (EDD), also known as the "Davos of Development", are Europe's leading forum on international cooperation and development organised by the European Commission. Since 2006, they bring together the development community, including key global actors of the development around specific themes and topics, to share ideas and experiences that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

This year, the EDD marked their 12th edition in Brussels, Belgium, on 5 and 6 June. More than 8 500 participants took part various events organised within the framework of the EDD, contributing to shaping the debate, defining the agenda and building the world of tomorrow. They demonstrated their enthusiasm through their participation in more than 120 sessions, including high-level panels, debate labs, project/report labs, brainstorming sessions, as well as special events.

Women and girls at the forefront of sustainable development: Protect, empower, invest!

This theme of EDD 2018, *Women and girls at the forefront of sustainable development: Protect, empower, invest*, was explored, debated and questioned in depth. The spirit of development cooperation was reflected in the Global Village and through the active participation and engagement of young people, who participated in high-level panels, debate labs and brainstorming sessions, within the framework of the EDD Young Leaders Programme. Their hub was the Youth Lounge, where they debated critical issues and contributed to a rich interactive programme.

The EDD Global Village's 91 stands offered participants an interactive experience. Youth organisations gathered in the Youth Lounge, a hub for a range of engaging activities including self-defence classes and story-telling workshops.

EDD 2018's 127 sessions were grouped under the following themes:

- Ensuring the physical and psychological integrity of girls and women
- Promoting economic and social rights and empowerment of girls and women
- Strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation

This report reflects the discussions and debates that took place in the high-level panels and the debate labs. There is also a special feature on the Youth Programme at the end of this report, as young people were a dynamic presence once again this year at European Development Days. They are our future – and the future of our planet. Their input to the discussions and debates was invaluable and brought a fresh perspective to critical development issues, particularly through a gender lens.

For more information, visit: www.eudevdays.eu and for any comments and reflections, contact: community@eudevdays.eu

Opening ceremony

Speakers

Opening

- Juncker Jean-Claude, President, European Commission
- Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians
- Her Majesty the Queen of Spain
- Kagame Paul, President, Rwanda
- Coleiro Preca Marie-Louise, President, Malta
- Kaboré Roch Marc Christian, President, Burkina Faso
- Weah George Manneh, President, Liberia
- Solberg Erna, Prime Minister, Norway
- Mohammed Amina J., Deputy Secretary General, United Nations
- Tajani Antonio, President, European Parliament

Performance

- Kidjo Angélique, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
- N'Dour Youssou, Artist, Composer and Business Leader, Super Etoile, GFM

Spotlight Initiative

- Dukureh Jaha, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for Africa, UN Women
- Issoufou Mahamadou, President, Niger
- Mlambo-Ngcuka Phumzile, Executive Director, UN Women
- Abbas Hakima, Co-Executive Director, Association for Women's Rights in Development
- Das Abhijit, Director, Center For Health and Social Justice

Keynote speech

- Mimica Neven, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

Key Points

- The struggle for gender equality requires new approaches; business as usual is no longer an option.
- The world cannot afford to leave half of its potential unused as it seeks to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Gender equality is not only about rights for women, but enriches entire communities.
- Despite great efforts over decades, women remain the main victims of violence around the world.

Synopsis

Gender equality is by its nature a precondition for meeting all other SDGs. Without it, they will either not be reached, or will remain fragile. Gender equality is an enabler for many other critical development issues, from mental health to education and economic development.

For too long, development policy has treated gender equality either as an issue of human rights or an issue for women and girls who are expected to take leadership. At the policy level, it is still almost exclusively women who are driving the kinds of change required to make societies more equal and equitable, with men frequently sidestepping the issue instead of making change happen.

But just as full gender equality will benefit entire communities and societies, by making them more inclusive and just, so it is entire communities and societies that must work towards it. This includes men and boys, who must be engaged as human beings, as fathers, sons or partners, and as social and political actors. Empowering women is not a zero-sum game. In addition to being a non-negotiable human right, gender equality will make societies better and more inclusive for everyone.

Values and behaviours have to change right across communities if gender equality is to become a reality. The fight against sexual violence and gender inequality has to start with its structural underpinnings – an entire social system of patriarchy. Simply increasing the number of women allowed to participate in inherently unjust systems will do little to make these systems more just. Without equality and empowerment, political and social action will simply perpetuate today's paradigm, which is to address the world's injustices without half of the world's assets.

However, old behaviours and values have shown great tenacity. Despite much attention being paid to gender equality, inequalities persist. Women are still economically disadvantaged in countries that are at very different stages of prosperity. They are still far likelier than men to marry at too young an age and to be denied an education. They are disproportionate victims of violence, especially by partners. Changing these patterns is a generational challenge.

Now, development actors are uniting forces to tackle this challenge. The European Union and the United Nations have developed a joint initiative, Spotlight, to eliminate violence against women and girls, with targeted, large-scale investments. Ensuring the physical safety and security of women and girls is a precondition for any meaningful change.

Insight

While it is critical to understand and address the systemic underpinnings of gender inequality, actions by individuals – both men and women – are also important to create more inclusive and just societies.

1. Ensuring the physical and psychological integrity of girls and women

1.1 Gender-Based Violence

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread human rights violations across the globe. It happens everywhere, in every society and country, regardless of social background, whether at home, at work, at school, in the street or online. It affects women and girls' health and well-being, and it hampers their access to quality education and employment.

One in three women worldwide still suffers physical or sexual violence, often at the hands of an intimate partner. In developing countries, one in every three girls is married before reaching age 18. One in nine is married under age 15. Three out of four women in a professional job have experienced sexual harassment.

A comprehensive approach involving a wide range of stakeholders, including men and boys, is needed to effectively address this scourge. It must cover the development of laws and policies, prevention of violence before it happens and access to a package of essential services for survivors; and include data collection and research.

Free women and girls from violence — and they are free to change the world.

1.1.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Free from Violence – Free to Change the World

Organised by UNFPA and UNICEF

Speakers

- Bonsa Demitu Hambissa, Head of the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Affairs Minister, The FDRE Office of the Prime Minister
- Furtado Catarina, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations / UNFPA
- Kidjo Angélique, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
- Koutaye Morissanda, Executive Director, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices
- Manservisi Stefano, Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Poitier Marie Pierre France Georgette, Regional Director, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
- Tingo Natalie Robi, Young Leader – Kenya

Moderator: Diop Nafissatou, Senior Advisor, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)

Key Points

- The costs to developing economies of violence against women will total US\$ 4 trillion by 2030, but the lifelong effects of female genital mutilation (FGM) on a woman's life cannot be quantified.
- Although the prevalence of violence is going down, the caseload of affected girls is going up due to exploding demographics.
- We need new solutions. Only multilateral action at all levels, from the top down and the bottom up will end these practices.
- It is time leaders and parents are held accountable for supporting or failing to act against FGM and child marriage.

Synopsis

'I'd rather die than live with this pain,' said Malika, a young woman from the Afar nomad community of northern Ethiopia. She was lying in bed with a beautiful baby, telling a UNFPA representative her story. When she was 12 years old, she was tied to a tree. Her clitoris and labia minora were cut. Her labia majora were sewn together, leaving just a small hole for urine to pass. These wounds took three months to heal, but she recovered.

Then at 15 she was married. She had to be cut again – with a razor blade – so her husband could take her virginity. She had so many problems giving birth to their child that she ended up lying in bed unable to do anything. 'Now I am a dead person,' she said.

A recent World Bank report estimated the costs of child marriage to developing countries at US\$ 4 trillion by 2030. But violence against girls and women inflicts a lifetime of effects whose costs cannot be quantified – physical pain, psychological trauma, anxiety, isolation and despair.

Worldwide, there are 650 million girls who married as children – one-in-five of all girls. It used to be one in four – but although the prevalence has fallen, the total number of child marriages is increasing due to population growth. West and Central Africa are worst affected, with 41 % of girls married before they reach 18 years, rising to 70 % in Chad and Central African Republic. But this is not only an African problem – women in Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka also suffer FGM and child marriage.

The data on FGM does not improve. From 1984 to 2000, 32 million girls underwent FGM. From 2000 to 2015, the period when the Millennium Development Goals sought to end FGM, a further 30 million girls suffered from the practice. Now during the latest target period for the Sustainable Development Goals, from 2015 to 2030, experts predict a further 68 million girls will undergo FGM. The established framework for approaching the problem is not working – we need to look at it from a completely new angle.

Multilateral action at all levels is needed, bottom-up as well as top-down, encompassing politicians, UN agencies, the European Union, NGOs, civil society organisations, traditional and religious leaders, youth and women themselves. Cultures that tolerate violence against women must be reformed from the inside to create a climate of zero tolerance and justification for FGM and child marriage. Social norms need confronting village-by-village – and performing music that challenges entrenched attitudes is one innovative approach.

It's time that the European Union and other donors who invest in preventing FGM and child marriage start demanding accountability from leaders. Strong political will from the top does result in progress. In Burkina Faso, where parents can be imprisoned for supporting violence against girls, the prevalence has dropped from over 70 % to 10 %. Ethiopia's government has succeeded in reducing FGM and child marriage through mass engagement at all levels, including the media, traditional leaders, health extension workers and a women's development army.

Insight

Women need to bring men into this discussion, to call on the courage of men to face their responsibilities. The relationship between a man and a woman cannot be about pain.

1.1.2 LAB DEBATE

Making the business case: Preventing violence against women and girls

- *Organised by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)*

Speakers

- Baiardi Quesnel Ana Maria, Minister of Women, Paraguay
- Bartra Manuel, International Bakery S.A.C.
- Brendel Christine, Program Manager of ComVoMujer - Combating Violence against Women in Latin America, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- Vara-Horna Aristides, Research Director, University of San Martín de Porres

- Moderator: Langenkamp Angela, Lead Gender Policy Advisor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

Key Points

- Violence against women in the workplace can have a significant cost to businesses in Latin America.
- A lack of empirical studies in the past made the costs difficult to quantify.
- Businesses that have prevention and support programmes see an improved bottom line, lower staff turnover and lower absenteeism.
- Business reputation is improved through certification and a government-awarded seal of corporate social responsibility.

Synopsis

Gender-based violence against women and girls is sometimes described as a global pandemic. According to the Copenhagen Consensus Center, partner violence against women is by far more costly to society than war or terror.

New studies have revealed that such violence hinders not only social development, but also economic productivity. This impact on businesses represents an opportunity to improve the situation – if companies can be persuaded of the value of tackling violence against women, they can be a big part of the solution.

In Latin America, ComVoMujer – a regional programme commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – has been working to get businesses involved with other social actors, including academia, local authorities, civil society and government in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Paraguay.

Initially, there was no demand and a great deal of resistance from the private sector. Companies showed no interest, refused to set up meetings and reported that violence against women was not an issue in their companies. Direct contact was difficult, as individuals felt accused of ignoring violence.

What was needed was empirical evidence, so academic studies were commissioned to answer two questions: What is the cost of violence against women on businesses? Can businesses help to prevent it? The results were startling.

In Peru, 68.2 % of women who have a partner are affected by violence (ENDES, 2016) and the cost to medium and large enterprises is around US\$6.7 billion dollars per year. In Paraguay, the cost to society was estimated to be 153 times the entire budget of the Women's Ministry.

Recognising that businesses care about their reputation and their bottom line, ComVoMujer changed tactics to focus on the invisible cost to businesses. Although absenteeism and poor punctuality are perceived as being the biggest drains on productivity, presenteeism is even more of a cost. Presenteeism is essentially being in the workplace, but performing at a very low level due to distraction or tiredness. This can include women who have been affected by violence.

Following research, one company, International Bakery, found that it had lost valuable, trained workers because of violence perpetrated by their partners. It also

suffered absenteeism and poor punctuality. Even some workplace accidents that were initially thought to be due to negligence were found to have stemmed from violence perpetrated hours before an employee came to work.

Many companies are working to address the issue. A state accreditation scheme, for example, was introduced in Peru and Paraguay, under which businesses can be certified as being safe and free from violence and discrimination against women. A quality seal is awarded to companies that provide workshop to train staff on the cost of violence against women – both social and economic costs – inform women of their rights, and offer psychological or legal support.

Since being recognised as a safe company, Peruvian-based International Bakery saw an improvement in staff morale. It also reaped benefits financially thanks to less time lost, a decrease in staff turnover and an increase in recruitment. The seal also enhances the image of a company, which leads to more take-up of their products or services.

These examples show that companies benefit, socially, ethically and economically from corporate social responsibility.

Insights

Although Paraguay is a mostly rural country, violence against women is a predominantly urban phenomenon for various complex social reasons.

Additional strategies to combat violence against women are being pursued by ComVoMujer in schools.

LGBTI people and the SDGs

Organised by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Speakers

- Azzi Georges, Executive Director, Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality
- Garcia Perez Mercedes, Head of Human Rights Division, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Grzywnowicz Micah, Board Member, ILGA-Europe (European LGBTI Association)

Moderator: Scharling Christian, Student, Institut d'études politiques de Paris

Key Points

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) issues must not be omitted from international development, EU policies and sustainable development goals.
- Discriminatory laws and negative attitudes in many countries stop LGBTI people enjoying basic human rights, such as education and a decent wage.
- Government and policymakers must work with the media to stop LGBTI violence.
- Films are particularly important, as a creative way to change the perception that homosexuality is wrong.
- Religion also has a role to play in producing a positive image of the LGBTI community.

Synopsis

As 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the need to include the LGBTI community in all development laws and European Union policies is even greater.

The EU's 2030 sustainable development agenda, making sure no one is left behind, with its sustainable development goals (SDGs) is one driver to ensure the rights of LGBTI people. The policy does not tout a human rights violation message but promotes one of creating opportunities.

Progress is being made in law. For example, the European Court of Justice now recognises spouses can be of the same sex. But in many countries, including Uganda, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, being homosexual can mean the death penalty. In Kenya, LGBTI people see employment contracts terminated and are threatened with violence, even death. The situation in Russia, particularly in Chechnya, is critical.

Trans women are especially hard hit. In the Middle East, they are frequent victims of violence; they have to leave school and their access to visas is very limited. Provision for trans people in refugee camps or shelters after crises like the 2004 tsunami is woefully inadequate as accommodation and sanitary facilities are gender based. This leaves them vulnerable and open to attack.

Journalists have a key role in revolutionising traditional views of homosexuality in African and Middle Eastern countries. They can increase the visibility of LGBTI people and help achieve social change. Legislators should also disseminate a positive LGBTI message through all media channels to achieve a positive effect.

The use of films to stop the negative image of LGBTI – if they get past censorship controls – is particularly effective.

Wanuri Kahiu's lesbian love story "Rafiki", screened at this year's European Development Days' Cultural Evening, is the first Kenyan feature ever to screen at the prestigious Cannes film festival. But the film was banned on home turf.

Meanwhile, Africa's recent film festival screened 1 000 films – but none of them tackled LGBTI issues. Defending the programme, the organiser only said one film looked at incest and another at paedophilia.

A more positive message towards LGBTI people is increasingly evident in church or at the mosque. Catholic priests are helping fight bigotry against homosexuals. Many Muslims are taking a stand against LGBTI violence. In short, the discourse that you cannot be religious and LGBTI is being challenged.

Insight

People in some developing countries still believe homosexuality is a western phenomenon and that the LGBTI community is in collusion with the western world – despite the fact that some anti-homosexuality laws date from colonial times.

Addressing intersectionality in GBV retention and response

Organised by Humanity & Inclusion (formerly Handicap International)

Speakers

- De Croo Alexander, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Post Belgium
- Red Axelle, Goodwill Ambassador, Humanity & Inclusion / Humanity & Inclusion Federation
- Schulte-Hillen Catrin, Coordinator, MSF's working group on reproductive health and sexual violence care, Médecins Sans Frontières

Moderator: Wetter Jean Van, Director, Humanity & Inclusion

Key Points

- Poverty, mental health issues, age, disabilities and being a migrant amplify the discrimination and abuse suffered by women across the world.
- Technology and collecting proper data can help empower women and fight gender-based violence.
- Combining medical care for victims of sexual violence with psychological counselling is crucial in dealing with the long-term consequences of abuse.
- The fight against stigmatisation and gender-based violence cannot happen without engaging and working with local communities.

Synopsis

Women and girls with disabilities are four times more likely to be exposed to gender-

based violence. Those who suffer from multiple disadvantages are more likely to be side lined and exploited in societies, and are an easier target for sexual abuse.

Girls with disabilities are drawn into a vicious circle early on. They are often denied education, are less likely to be employed, and they are more likely to become dependent, thus easier to be violated and exploited.

The lack of data on girls at risk of abuse, and specifically on women with disabilities, is hampering efforts to stop gender-based violence. Discrimination and abuse, especially towards people with disabilities, often starts at home, where it is difficult to find out about it.

Technology and smartphones are increasingly being used as a fast and cheap way to register births, and establish basic medical records. Smartphones can also help document human rights violations, and provide an easier and safer way of reporting them.

Treating the long-term psychological consequences of sexual violence is just as important as dealing with the immediate medical care. Training local nurses to provide counselling complements the medical work. The sexual abuse resonates throughout the family and the community, and the victim is often cast out by society.

Counselling for couples after the woman has been abused is one way of dealing with the long-term effects of gender-based violence. The social stigmatisation associated with sexual abuse makes it extremely difficult to provide proper care for the victims. Those who are abused do not have community support, and do not know where to turn for help.

It is vital to decentralise medical care, move into the communities and train nurses on the ground. To gain the trust of the communities it is important to have the right attitude; pushing a political agenda or lecturing local leaders will meet resistance.

Insight

Almost half of victims of sexual abuse (48%), are between the ages of zero and 15, according to the data compiled by Médecins Sans Frontières in its areas of work.

It is vital that victims seek help quickly after the abuse, but only around half of them make it in time to a medical unit to avoid getting pregnant, being infected with HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases.

1.1.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Tackling Gender-Based Violence at work

Organised by ITUC, Actionaid, and ILO

Speakers

- Amenfi Bridget, Young Urban Women's movement
- Gausi Tamara, Editor, Equal Times
- Mannai Khouloud, Medical Intern, Trade Union Tunisia
- Rondelez Fleur, Communication Officer, International Labour Organization

1.1.4 PROJECT LABS

Changing the Game: Tackling Gender-Based Violence through Sport

Organised by the British Council and UK Aid

Speakers

- Esplen Emily, Adviser, United Kingdom Department For International Development (DFID)
- Nyamundhe Richard, Education Coach Kenya
- Wekesa Alice, Programme Manager, British Council
- Wenta Bogdan Brunon, Member of the European Parliament, European Parliament

Moderator: Beall Jo, Director, Education & Society, Executive Board British Council

Violence against women and girls: risks and disables for resilience building

Organised by BRACED, OXFAM, Thomson Reuters Foundation and Association Lead Tchad

Speakers

- Benoudji Colette, Coordinator, LEAD Tchad
- Le Masson Virginia, Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute

- Sotelo Reyes Sandra, Gender Justice in Resilience Advisor, Oxfam Intermon

Moderator: Tabary Zoe, Journalist, Thomson Foundation

Podcast

1.1.5 LARGE DEBATE

Eliminating Gender-Based Violence in and around Schools with other Educational Settings

Organised by VVOB, PLAN International, Education International, FAWE and UNGEI

Speakers

- Albrechtsen Anne-Birgitte, CEO, Plan International
- Doroba Hendrina Chalwe, Executive Director, Forum for African Women Educationalists
- Fyles Nora, Head of the UNGEI Secretariat, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
- Holst Haldis, Deputy General Secretary, Education International
- Murru Anna Carmela, Partnership Manager, VVOB

Moderator: De Rosen-Abedier Yvoire, Journalist

Key Points

- Across the globe, the school environment is not safe and secure.
- Girls are dropping out of school in many developing countries because they do not feel safe.
- The silence on sexual abuse by students and teachers taking place in schools around the world needs to be broken.
- One option to improve the situation would be to link aid money to more efficient policies.
- A more holistic approach that involves everyone is needed.

Synopsis

School-related, gender-based violence poses a direct threat to schoolchildren, particularly teenage girls, preventing them from realising their full potential. Victims of such violence are unable to concentrate, which leads to poor learning, feeling unsafe and a lack of interest in attending school with girls dropping out. According to a 2017 report by UNESCO, 130 million girls around the world do not go to school for various reasons, with sexual abuse being one of them.

Girls (and also to a lesser extent boys) can be victims of sexual abuse on the way to school, at school by other students and teachers, and via Internet. The issue needs to be discussed more broadly, involving a wide range of stakeholders, including men and boys. It must include the development of laws and policies, prevention of violence before it happens and access to a package of essential services for victims. Comprehensive data collection and research would also be a big help in what is an under-reported issue.

Awareness is growing and the issue is climbing up the international agenda. The European Commission, for instance, has stepped up its work on gender-based violence. Everywhere, calls are growing for prevention programmes in educational institutions, improving the educational content and curricula, and gender-responsive pedagogy.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an excellent example of a joint policy agenda and a political commitment to end violence and ensure gender equality around the world. However, good policy is not enough. One of the problems that must be addressed is the issue of accountability, which can sometimes be blurred. Another problem is that conventions and agreements on gender are often non-binding. One way to ensure that efficient action and policies are put in place is to link development aid to the implementation of effective policies to eliminate gender-based violence in schools.

Sexual abuse in schools remains a taboo subject and more needs to be done to bring it into the open. Ultimately, this is a societal problem and we need to establish a society that no longer accepts such behaviour. All stakeholders – governments, civil society, communities, teachers, parents and the media – must send a common message on what is acceptable behaviour.

A holistic, comprehensive approach needs to be taken in all countries. Teachers' unions must be at the forefront of action on this issue and they need to see themselves as the vector for change by developing more gender-neutral attitudes, particularly in developing countries. Codes of conduct must be developed. Governments need to take a long-term approach, co-designed with NGOs, while communities have to ensure that the right mechanisms are in place to make people accountable for what they agreed to change.

Lastly, but not least, children must be given a voice so they can bring their reality to the attention of parents, teachers and community leaders. More also needs to be done to support and fund young activists and feminists.

The agenda of gender equality must become a priority. We need to recognise that sexual abuse is a manifestation of the imbalance of power between men and women. This is the root of the problem. To change the gender dynamics, boys and men must be involved in the process every step of the way and be made more aware of what equality means. They must also be taught that sexual abuse has more serious consequences than they probably realise.

Insight

The taboo about discussing gender-based violence in schools is massive. We all need to be committed to breaking the silence and the media in particular has a big role to play in achieving this. NGOs and governments should also do more to involve the media.

1.1.6 WEBINAR

Hidden Face of Paradise: transforming social norms to end violence in the Pacific

Organised by UN WOMEN, Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and Australian Aid

Speakers

- Ali Shamima, Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
- Amilhat Pierre, Director for Asia, Central Asia, Middle East/Gulf and Pacific, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Guttenbeil-Likiliki 'Ofa, Director, Tonga Women & Children Crisis Centre
- Kautu Anne, Director, Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs - Kiribati
- Lomaloma Sereima, Community Engagement Coordinator, Anglican Diocese of Polynesia
- Tarai Jope, Scholar, University of the South Pacific

Moderator: Chetty Tara, Coordinator, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development
Monras Meritxell Sayos, Junior Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

1.2 Women / Girls in Emergencies

The marginalisation and vulnerability of women living in poverty is worsened in the wake of conflicts, disasters and complex emergencies. Understanding the underlying drivers of the differentiated impacts of crisis and conflicts on women is a prerequisite for identifying ways to leverage the potential of women's leadership for more sustainable and inclusive recovery, peace-building and community resilience. More cooperation among governments, donors, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society, women's organisations and the private sector is needed to do a better job of prioritizing protection and helping survivors.

Improvements will require clear leadership, higher standards, and accountability in cases where girls and women experience rape and other forms of sexual violence.

1.2.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Call to action: Eradicating Gender-based Violence in Emergencies

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Dabbagh Bushra, Young Leader – Syria
- Guarnieri Valerie, Assistant Executive Director, Operations Services
- UNWFP (United Nations World Food Programme)
- McAvan Linda, Chair of the Committee on Development, European Parliament
- Dr Mukwege Denis, Gynaecologist, President and Founder, Panzi Hospital and Foundation
- Srikanthan Sanjayan, SVP Europe International Rescue Committee
- Stylianides Christos, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, European Commission

Moderator: Pantuliano Sara, Managing Director, Overseas Development Institute

Key Points

- Gender-based violence is a critical issue across the spectrum of humanitarian intervention.
- As well as repairing physical damage, victims of sexual violence require mental health treatment.
- Funding needs to be more flexible, as it is less useful when too specific.
- Beyond responding to emergencies, education and the long-term need to be taken into consideration.

Synopsis

Gender-based violence is not an issue just for specialists, but for all humanitarian actors. Responses have to be integrated, not in the silos of women's groups.

Women and girls are not a minority; they are half of any displacement and are particularly at risk in emergencies and conflicts: one in five women in humanitarian crises will face gender-based violence. They are often making difficult daily decisions between their security and finding food, so gender sensitive coordination between food and protection agencies is critical.

Food assistance can even lead to gender-based violence. If there is jostling in queues, men are sometimes so angry to see their women touched that they beat them afterwards.

Female interpreters need to be available for interaction and women and girls must not be put into vulnerable situations with unsegregated sanitation services, especially not badly lit and no locking doors. The safety and dignity of refugee women and girls must be ensured at the same time as their needs are being met.

Gender equity needs to be achieved in organisations from leadership down to field workers. Everyone needs to take gender-based violence seriously. Not just people with “protection” or “women” in their title.

The results of sexual violence need urgent medical treatment, in a matter of a few hours, but making specialist treatment available everywhere is a daunting challenge. Similarly, when a victim arrives in hospital, difficult choices have to be made.

Priority has to be given to repairing the genitals, especially of young girls and babies. Equally important, however, is the mental health of patients. Often neglected, it is only by treating the whole person that a female can hope to battle her way back into a hostile society. Victims also seek the respect of an official apology for what has been allowed to happen to them.

A hospital involves running a number of different services. Funding must not be too prescriptive: it is not helpful to apply money to specific areas in emergency situations. If the UN and EU are seeking sustainable responses to not leaving women and girls behind, they need to recognise that one size does not fit all: Not all crises are the same and all communities differ. Humanitarian agencies must not spend all their time chasing the next year's money: we need to fund longer and fund local, as local organisations will still be there when the crisis is over.

International NGOs tend to respond to emergencies without taking the long term into consideration. Security responses are important, but not sufficient to tackle the main underlying conditions that breed gender-based violence. Without education, a lost generation will only lead to more of the same. The greatest wish of many displaced girls or young mothers is to return to education.

Insight

Many refugees are not asylum seekers; they are just seeking an education and hoping to return to their country as leaders. An online platform could offer learning opportunities to young women everywhere.

1.2.2 LAB DEBATE

Empowerment of women traumatized by severe sexual violence in Northern Iraq

Organised by the Staatsministerium Baden-Wuerttemberg, Platforma, Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology (IPP), University of Dohuk

Speakers

- Bashar Lamyā Haji, Sakharov Prize Luftbrücke Irak e.V.
- Hautala Heidi, Vice-President, European Parliament
- Poth-Moegel Angelina, Executive Director European Affairs, Council of European Municipalities and Regions
- Kizihan Jan Ilhan, Dean of the Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatolog, University of Duhok
- Schopper Theresa, Secretary of State, Staatsministerium Baden-Württemberg

- Moderator: Langenkamp Angela, Lead Gender Policy Advisor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

Key Points

- A German aid initiative for survivors of severe sexual violence in northern Iraq has spurred further humanitarian projects to treat trauma resulting from rape or sexual violence.
- The European Commission is carrying out several projects that address sexual violence in armed conflict.
- Other programmes offer legal protection or provide confidential advice for people wanting assistance after a crisis.
- A pan-European platform has been created to help advance the role of local governments in development policies.

Synopsis

In 2015, the German state government of Baden-Wuerttemberg set up a programme to take in more than 1 100 women and children from northern Iraq. They were mainly Yazidis who were victims of the sex trade and human trafficking. They came to Germany for specialised medical and psychological treatment not available in Iraq.

All were considered for the special quota programme and assessed on the extent to which they were traumatised by their time as hostages and if they could benefit from treatment in Germany. Women with medical emergencies were prioritised and particularly younger women. For those that did not qualify to be treated in Germany, another project set up a trauma therapy centre set up in northern Iraq.

In addition to the Baden-Wuerttemberg initiative, the European Commission is carrying out several projects on how to address sexual violence and how it affects girls, boys and men. ECHO (the Commission's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

Operations) is assessing what forms of sexual violence exist in conflict and disaster situations, looking at what medical and psychosocial services should be offered. I

ECHO has also developed protection guidelines for gender-based violence and a tool to assess which proposals to aid sexual violence victims in war situations should receive funding.

It is also important to create a specific European Union project addressing vulnerable groups whose access to legal protection is limited; many displaced people have lost their legal documents. Centres should also be set up where women can get advice confidentially. The Internationally Displaced Persons (IDP) call centre has been invaluable in this regard.

The Baden-Wurttemberg project shows that aid must not just be seen as something national governments or NGOs should provide. The Council of European Municipalities and Regions has set up PLATFORMA – a pan-European platform of 30 local governments to share experience and knowledge and advocate the role of local governments in development policies.

In 2015, this group representing local and regional international action was involved in 91 projects in 16 countries and had a EUR 4.6 million budget.

Insight

ISIS may have been defeated, but the crisis in Iraq is not over. Aid, structural support and protection must continue. One immediate effect of the northern Iraqi crisis of 2014 was the displacement of large numbers of the population, mainly women and children.

Rape may be seen as a crime under the 1949 Geneva Convention, but “war rape” is very rarely prosecuted as a war crime.

Does shock-sensitive social protection promote gender quality?

Organised by GIZ and Australian Aid

Speakers

- Holmes Rebecca, Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute
- Kukrety Nupur, Programme Specialist - Social Protection in Humanitarian, Fragile and Risk prone contexts, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
- Mtenje Tom, Deputy Team Leader - Malawi Social Protection Programme, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

Moderator: Bastagli Francesca, Head of Social Protection and Social Policy, Overseas Development Institute

Key Points

- Traditionally, shock or crisis situation social protection has not focused on gender.
- Data and analysis are needed to create better programmes.
- Effective crisis response policy and programming is built on sturdy existing social programmes.
- Social workers are a huge part of social protection because cash can only do so much.

Synopsis

The role of social protection in responding to emergencies has grown rapidly over the past few years, but while gender issues are recognized in everyday social protection, they are largely absent during shocks or crises.

Efforts to address gender disparity in shock-sensitive social protection have been missing, leaving a major gap in terms of informing programme design and implementation, with potentially negative effects on outcomes for women and girls.

This is due to a number of reasons, including evidence and data limitations; it is too difficult to include gender in the face of other competing emergency priorities; and limited political support or acceptability of promoting equality and women's empowerment.

Humanitarian emergency support takes place in response to a wide range of crises, such as armed conflicts, seasonal stress, economic crises and health epidemics. Shock or crisis response is often thought of as only the first few days' life-saving response, but there are other stages.

Increasingly innovative and adaptive responses to large-scale emergencies, shock and crises may, in fact, present an opportunity to increase gender equality – but only if the right foundations have been laid.

Social protection targeting women has been relatively well received. Linking beyond the social-protection sector to other programmes of empowerment would increase this.

According to UNICEF, the first part of programming is the analysis; that is the bedrock. But there are challenges. Social protection is a constant; it does not start and stop, so analysis and evidence-gathering can be difficult.

UNICEF takes a life cycle approach, looking at the gap between boys and girls, and how that widens over time leaving women disempowered during a crisis.

Traditionally, the unit of analysis for social protection is the household, but intra-household dynamics are not considered. When programmes are not built on sufficient analysis, they are not designed to empower women. In other words, if you cannot measure it, you cannot change it, and it is very difficult to get analysis of intra-household dynamics. Evidence and data are crucial in moving the discussion from the emotional to factual.

Social protection should start from understanding risks to poverty and risks to shocks from a gender perspective. Social protection programmes often work in clusters, such as shelter, nutrition and water, but gender is not a cluster. Consider how men and women experience poverty differently.

On a practical level, more women than men do not have an official identification. Registration at birth programmes is a start in tackling this. In public works programmes, having a quota for women's participation, childcare facilities and programmes that promote equal wages are all practical positive elements of social-protection design.

Getting social protection right in normal times builds women's and households' resilience. If gender-friendly design is the basis, it is easier to empower women through social protection programmes in a crisis.

Insight

The vast majority of shocks that require some sort of response in Malawi are climate-related. In some cases, climate adaptation funds might be channelled into shock sensitive, social protection programmes.

1.2.3 PROJECT LAB

Education Under Attack: A global call for the protection of education

Organised by the European Commission, Save the Children, UNICEF, Education above all, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack

Speakers

- Al Khulaifi Asma, Education Above All Foundation
- Amy Kapit, Research Director, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
- Blanchet Sandie, Director, UNICEF Office for Relations with EU Institutions, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)

- Bundegaard Anita Bay, International Advocacy Director, Save the Children
- Matoses Javier Gasso, Deputy Director General for United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
- Sidibay Mohamed, Peace Activist, Global Partnership for Education
- Stylianides Christos, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, European Commission

Moderator: Pariat Monique, Director-General, European Commission - DG for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operation (ECHO)

Podcast

The Reality of Intersectional Factors in Gender Inequality

Organised by Islamic Relief Worldwide

Speakers

- Akerkar Supriya, Senior Lecturer, Disaster Risk Reduction, Oxford Brookes University
- AlShaikhAhmed Sherin, Protection and Inclusion Advisor, Islamic Relief
- Cordier Sylvie, Programme Quality Adviser, ADD International
- Dabbagh Bushra, Young Leader - Syria

Moderator: Cheema Affan, Head of Programme Quality, Islamic Relief

Podcast

1.3 Women / Girls in Health

High rates of mortality in pregnancy and child birth, and high neonatal mortality across many countries are almost entirely preventable. Universal access to an affordable essential package of high quality basic services, including universal access to SRHR and comprehensive sexuality education, can improve health and wellbeing of women and men, girls and boys, and close the gaps between rich and poor, towns and the countryside, and between countries and within them.

The availability of skilled health workers and hygienic and well equipped medical facilities will give women and their families the confidence to seek care during pregnancy and child birth, and to make timely decisions on family planning to ensure every pregnancy is wanted.

Nutrition education should be part and parcel of integrated service provision to ensure families are well informed on appropriate diet for mothers, adolescent girls and children to prevent illness and death, including providing exclusive breastfeeding to the infant for the first 6 months.

1.3.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

No health without rights: women and girls decide

Organised by Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), IPPF, UNFPA, Women Deliver, Countdown 2030 Europe, Guttmacher-Lancet Commission

Speakers

- Baehr Renate, Executive Director, DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung)
- Coll-Seck Awa Marie, Minister of State, Government of Senegal
- Furtado Catarina, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations / UNFPA
- Holte Jens Frolich, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Mimica Neven, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
- Ofor Hope Jeremiah, Young Leader – Nigeria
- Verdugo Mirosevic Vlado, Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies of Chile

Moderator: Yunus Zugura, Journalist, British Broadcasting Corporation

Key Points

- In developing countries, 214 million women want to avoid pregnancy but lack access to modern contraception; more than 45 million receive inadequate or no antenatal care.
- Sexual and reproductive health is a rights issue, not just a health or gender issue – empowering women through access to information and services is vital.
- Abortion for under-18s is a contentious issue that needs addressing. Contraception is a very cost-effective policy.
- Just US\$ 9 per person per year is needed to ensure women’s sexual and reproductive health, but currently only half that amount is invested.
- This is not just about money but about commitment. Parliamentarians and leaders at all levels need to commit and to be held accountable.

Synopsis

Each year in developing regions, 214 million women want to avoid pregnancy but cannot access modern contraception, leading to 25 million unsafe abortions worldwide. More than 45 million women a year receive inadequate antenatal care, or none at all. At some point in their lives, about one in three women experiences gender-based violence, usually from an intimate partner.

The Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), in a major report published in May 2018, criticised policymakers for viewing sexual and reproductive health too narrowly as a health or women's issue and argued that improving health depends on advancing rights.

This requires promoting sexual equality and empowering women through access to information and services. Women and girls should make their own decisions on whether and when to have sexual relations, get married, keep a pregnancy and have children – and they should be able to make those decisions free from coercion and violence.

But this is easier said than done. Abortion and contraception are highly contentious, especially in countries dominated by traditional religious values. In Chile, for example, it took 30 years of debate to arrive at legislation that allows abortion simply in emergency cases – when a mother's life is in danger, if the foetus is not viable or in the case of rape or very young pregnancies. This legislation is a small step but it does enable leaders to start a more in-depth discussion around women's sexual and reproductive rights, something that has never happened in Chile.

In Senegal, the government has committed to improving women and girls' access to contraception, a very cost-effective policy. Within three years, coverage has more than doubled from 10 % to 25 %.

Money is part of the solution. Meeting the needs for contraception, abortion, and maternal and newborn healthcare in developing regions would cost just US\$ 9 per person per year – double the amount currently being spent. But money alone will not change attitudes or enshrine women's sexual and reproductive rights. It will take the full-bodied commitment of leaders at all levels – from parliamentarians to religious leaders to civil society and parents.

Chile is an interesting example of how bottom-up and top-down approaches combined to bring a partial legalisation of abortion. While President Michelle Bachelet was personally committed to pushing sexual and reproductive rights, the political classes were less convinced. It took pressure from civil society – fuelled by 70 % to 80 % support among the general population for abortion – to put this issue on the political agenda.

Meanwhile in Senegal, progress is slow. But the country recently passed a law requiring full gender parity in parliament, so as women take their place as decision-makers, they will be able to bring sexual and reproductive rights issues to the table.

Insight

Abortion is going on regardless of whether it is legal or not. But when countries decriminalise the termination of pregnancies, mortality rates as a result of abortion are far lower than in countries where the practice is illegal.

1.3.2 LAB DEBATE

From Stress to Success: Women, girls and the defining power of WASH

Organised by WSSCC, WaterAid, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Speakers

- Berg Louise, Entrepreneur, Sibship
- Hagnaars Carmen, Deputy Director, Inclusive Green Growth Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- Kivutha Nazi, First Lady, Makeny County, Shina Foundation
- Luyendijk Rolf, Executive Director, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
- Shetty Trisha, UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goal 5, Founder & CEO, SheSays

Moderator: Chatterjee-Martinsen Cecilia, Chief Executive, WaterAid Sweden

Key Points

- Improved hygiene is key to women's empowerment.
- Menstrual bleedings are a particular challenge where sanitation is lacking.
- Women should be able to make an informed choice on how to handle their personal hygiene.
- Breaking the taboos regarding menstruation would significantly improve women's health and enable full participation in society and the workplace.

Synopsis

Insufficient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are major obstacles to women's health worldwide. For women to have a genuine choice in how to handle their

personal hygiene and their menstrual cycle there must be an offer of sanitary products available.

In many low-income countries, that is a real challenge – whether it is for economic reasons or because of a cultural bias that restricts the choice of products. However, so-called period poverty is not only a problem in developing countries; statistics show that young women and teenage girls in European countries are sometimes faced with not having enough money to buy the supplies of their choice.

In rural areas in India, for example, women use whatever material is available for absorption, even dried leaves, ashes or sand, partly because industrially produced sanitary products are unaffordable on a regular basis. Even the most basic protection, such as towels held together by rubber straps, can alleviate the situation. The lack of hygiene is directly linked to genital infections and a major cause of cervical cancer, which is exceptionally high in countries lacking basic sanitation.

Any change requires a focus on solutions and tackling discrimination; only by providing women with information of their biological cycles and their own bodies can they choose for themselves.

In Sweden, videos are used to demonstrate the changes to a woman's body during menstruation, but period blood is still much of a taboo even in northern Europe. Sanitary products should be considered essential commodities and should not be taxed. In India, campaigners have been advocating for an abolition of VAT on sanitary pads; “no tax on blood” is a thought-provoking slogan that campaigners use to highlight the fact that women should not be taxed for the most basic necessities.

There is a stigma to bodily functions and fluids that restrict women from going about their daily lives. In some traditional communities, women are often excluded from the community for the time of their bleeding. Even in today's world, a menstrual bleeding may be perceived as a limitation in the workplace with women often forced to take days off for the duration of their period, and girls lagging behind in school if they are not able to attend due to a lack of sanitary facilities.

Any effort to provide girls with information on healthcare must take into account cultural sensitivities regarding physiological functions and genuinely contribute to young women's personal development by reinforcing them as actors that choose how to handle their own menstruation.

Insight

Better sanitation takes big investments. Improved hygiene is not only about hand-washing. Personal and menstrual hygiene is of utmost importance to women's health and social integration. Improved water sanitation worldwide is key to women's empowerment.

What support do adolescents need to make informed decisions about their SRHR?

Organised by the World Health Organization and Human Reproduction Programme

Speakers

- Drejza Michelina, Co-Founder, Polish Doctors for Women
- Nilsson Karin, Technical Specialist, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- Papp Susan, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Women Deliver
- Reeuwijk Miranda, Senior Researcher International Programs, Rutgers
- Zelaya Daniela, Young Women Engagement Associate, World Young Women Christian Association

Key Points

- An efficient comprehensive sexual education (CSE) must be based on science.
- Education and information are necessary, but they are insufficient on their own.
- Creating an enabling environment and a meaningful engagement by young people are vital.
- Building bridges between the education and health sectors is essential for teenagers.

Synopsis

Every year in developing regions, an estimated 21 million girls aged 15 to 19 become pregnant. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death for this age group globally. Almost 4 million girls aged 15 to 19 undergo unsafe abortions, and 12 million girls of under 18 years get married. About 20 % of girls around the world experience sexual abuse.

These sobering statistics about adolescent health are often swept under the carpet, which explains why life is difficult for so many girls around the world and why it is so important to find a collective way forward.

These girls and young women need access to education and information to help them make informed decisions to avoid sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV, unintended pregnancies, and child marriages. School is an effective way of reaching youngsters, and the international community has made various commitments to invest more in education and to provide comprehensive sexual education (CSE).

The issue, however, is how to translate the knowledge acquired in CSE into practice, because of structural barriers such as poverty or the availability of condoms. It was

pointed out that if young people are to be told to use condoms, they must be supplied with them. It was agreed that even though education brings significant benefits (fewer sexual partners, more use of condoms and other forms of contraception, a later start in sexual activity), it must be accompanied by efficient social and health services.

Education should not only be provided to teenage girls. Social service officials and teachers also need to be educated to resolve the growing problem of misinformation. There is an education programme in Poland, where abortion policy is one of the strictest in the western world and contraception is on prescription only. But it is not “comprehensive” and reinforces gender stereotypes.

Poland is the perfect example that education is not all. It is important to take a step back and look at the legislation and the cultural context as well before evaluating whether a sexual education policy is effective.

Although ideally CSE should go hand in hand with services, even on its own a good CSE can do wonders. It helps build life skills in young people, allowing them to make the right decisions, take control of their body, and teach them about their rights. Even if not comprehensive, offering some basic information has been shown to reduce anxiety among young girls.

For these reasons sexuality, as well as ideas and behaviours surrounding it need to be discussed before young people start a sex life. In practice, many challenges are ahead, ranging from enhancing teachers' skills to countering opposition from parents and communities. Social media as a provider of accurate and false information also needs to be taken into account, and demonstrates that the guidance of trained teachers is more important than ever.

Insight

A global UNICEF study showed that 40 % of girls around the world think it is all right for their partner to hit them if they do not want to have sex. This perception is higher than among adult women. Much also needs to be done for young people with disabilities, who tend to be considered as asexual. The ideal CSE should also not be disease-focused, and should include pleasure and living to the full and not be restricted to avoiding disease and pregnancy. All of this will take time.

Innovative approaches to adolescent girls' health

Organised by Gavi, The ONE Campaign, Girl Effect, and Devex

Speakers

- Butler Gayathri, Country Director (Ethiopia), Girl Effect
- Grosso Guillaume, Director, International Business Development and European Strategy Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
- McNair David, Executive Director Global Policy, The ONE Campaign
- Vullings Wieneke, Deputy Head of Health and AIDS Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Moderator: Midden Katherine, Engagement Editor, Devex

Key Points

- Preventing disease through vaccination sets off a positive cycle almost immediately in a child's life.
- When girls can make informed decisions about their health and bodies, they become agents of change.
- Vaccines are one of the most successful and cost-effective health investments to reach the poorest.
- Decisions about the EU's future will also determine the future of Africa.

Synopsis

We do not normally think of vaccination as an investment, at least not beyond its role in protecting people against infectious disease. But vaccination is in every sense an investment, with wide economic benefits that accrue across a lifetime.

Good health is an essential building block to empowerment, well-being and economic development. For a girl, it can mean the ability to attend school, access healthcare and improve economic outcomes that last for generations. Immunised, healthy children are more likely to go to school and they tend to perform better once they are there.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is a global partnership, representing among others the World Health Organization and UNICEF, bringing together the private and public sectors. Since it was created in 2000, Gavi has delivered 700 million child vaccines, which are estimated to have saved the lives of 10 million children.

Innovative approaches that combine private-sector expertise with access to critical health interventions can create opportunities for adolescent girls to open the door to health systems. One prime example is Gavi's pioneering partnership with Girl Effect, a not-for-profit group that aims to empower teenage girls to change their lives for the better.

The four-year link-up between the two organisations focuses on tackling cervical cancer, which poses a particular threat to the health of adolescent girls in the developing world.

The human papillomavirus (HPV) virus is the primary cause of cervical cancer, which currently kills 226 000 women a year. Up to 90 % of cervical cancer cases can be prevented by the HPV vaccine, which is given to girls between eight and 14 years of age.

However, reaching this target audience with vaccines in developing countries is not easy. Adolescent girls are not usually served by existing health services and, on top of this, many women and girls are unaware of the importance of the HPV vaccine.

Gavi and Girl Effect want to encourage greater take-up of the HPV vaccine while promoting broader health-seeking behaviour. At the same time, Girl Effect has also partnered with the DREAMS project in an ambitious partnership to reduce HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women in 10 sub-Saharan African countries.

However, these efforts all take place against a backdrop of declining national budgets for development aid and with the population of the African continent expected to double by 2050.

With the 2020 global target of vaccinating 30 million girls against HPV infection is in jeopardy, it is vital that national governments add HPV immunisation to their routine programmes.

Investing in the long-term development of Sub-Saharan Africa can also be a “win-win” option for Europe. It is estimated that Africa will soon have the world’s youngest population and, therefore, has the potential to provide the economic growth and labour that Europe needs.

The leap from the health benefits of administering vaccines to teenage girls in countries such as Rwanda and Malawi to geopolitics may be a long one but the potential gains are clear to see.

Insight

While there are many reasons to be afraid, the good news is that many teenage girls are benefiting from increased efforts to roll out HPV vaccination programmes across Africa. The challenge now is to reach even more adolescent girls so that more lives can be saved.

1.3.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Impact of Gender and Health Education through Entertainment

Organised by the AFD (Agence Française de Développement), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, EQAUI POP_ORG, RAES

Speakers

- Benedetti Fanny, Head of Gender / Education / Population / Youth Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France
- Lambert Aurore, Health and Social Protection Task Team Leader, Agence Française de Développement
- Ofor Hope Jeremiah, Young Leader – Nigeria
- Petitpas Elise, Innovation and Advocacy Expert, Equilibres et Populations
- Seydou Diop Thierno, Associate, Schuman associates
- Tuttle Andrew, Donor Government Relations, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Moderator: Rideau Alexandre, Director, Keewu Production

1.3.4 PROJECT LAB

Move to improve! How sport contributes to gender equality, education and health

Organised by BMZ, German Sport University Cologne / Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln, Terre des Hommes International Federation, Namibia Football Association, National Organisation for Women in Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation

Speakers

- Hatzenberg Lydia, Technical Assistant Manager, Galz&Goals Namibia Football Association
- Kaercher Friederike, Head of Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
- Meier Marianne, Researcher, University of Berne

- Mwambwa Lombe, International Adviser & Board Member, National Organisation for Women in Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation

Moderator: Petry Karen, Researcher, German Sport University Cologne / Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln

Podcast

1.4 Adolescent Girls and the Girl Child

Adolescence is a pivotal decade, not only a time of vulnerabilities for girls but mainly of opportunities. Investing in them can accelerate the fight against poverty, inequity and gender discrimination. Unlocking their full potential will enable girls to be tomorrow's political leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists or heads of households and so much more, contributing to stronger and brighter societies.

Enabling girls to acquire the education, skills and self-confidence to take leadership roles and make their voices heard at all levels of society requires a concerted effort across all age groups.

Gender stereotypes must be challenged and perceptions in the norm that girls are less valuable than boys tackled.

Governments can remove additional obstacles by making long-term commitment for girls education, ending harmful practices (early and child marriage, female genital

mutilation/cutting, son's preference at birth), curbing transmission of diseases like HIV and ensuring girls' full promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

1.4.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Adolescents' access to SRHR: what can we do?

Organised by the Belgian Federal Public Service - Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Cooperation, and Because Health

Speakers

- Askew Ian, Director, Reproductive Health and Research, Human Reproduction Program, World Health Organization
- De Croo Alexander, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Post Belgium
- Ebankoli Archane Phonsina, Young Leader - Republic of Congo
- Galati Alanna, Senior Policy Manager, Guttmacher Institute
- Jager Marjeta, Deputy Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Meda Nicolas, Minister of Health, Burkina Faso

Moderator: Shields Laura, Managing Director, Red Thread EU

Key Points

- Poverty is sexist – delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is linked to progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Sexual rights and family planning are taboo subjects in many societies, leading to unsafe abortions; new ways to change attitudes and champion rights are needed.
- It is not just about money – adolescents need access to information and services that allow them to take decisions free of stigma and coercion.
- Lawmakers must lead in advocating sexual rights and framing laws to prevent gender-based violence.

Synopsis

One in three women will experience gender-based violence at some point during their lives. Complications around childbirth are the leading cause of death among 15 to 19 year olds worldwide. Better access to contraception could prevent 2 million unplanned births and 3 million unsafe abortions.

Adolescents need access to comprehensive sexual education and counselling, and most importantly to family planning services, so they can take their own decisions free from stigma and coercion.

Poverty is a direct consequence of inadequate sexual and reproductive health and rights – in that sense poverty is sexist. Progress on delivering the SDGs is directly linked to progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Beyond simply the absence of poverty, there is also a direct link between reproductive rights and life and career opportunities. A question for the women attending this conference proves the point: If you had not had access to family planning as a teenager, would you be where you are today?

In many traditional or religious societies, conversations on reproductive health and family planning are almost impossible to have; such is the stigma around the subject. In the Republic of Congo, women would rather seek an unsafe abortion than dare even raise the subject of contraception.

In Burkina Faso, talk about menstruation – let alone women’s sexual rights – is simply taboo. With such religious and cultural barriers to communication, activists need to find new ways to convey vital information on sexual and reproductive health.

In Senegal, a youth project has set up a call centre where adolescents can simply call up, select a subject from a numbered menu – for example ‘press 1 for where you can buy condoms’ – and listen to a recorded message.

Meanwhile, civil society and community leaders must work with governments to lift the stigma around sexual rights. Appointing more women to leadership roles in government and decision-making bodies would be a good place to start.

Clearly solutions – and conversations – need to be tailored to local conditions. Starting a conversation on abortion is fine in Scandinavia, but you are more likely to enjoy a longer discussion around family planning with a faith leader in Sub-Saharan Africa if you open with the health risks of having children too close together.

Development institutions need to find more open-minded, less ideological approaches to working with partners on this issue – leveraging the credibility of local champions is one proven route to success.

Lawmakers can help change attitudes. In Burkina Faso, the national assembly voted to criminalise child marriages, at a stroke rendering any kind of marriage involving under-18 year olds illegal. Political leaders who stand up and call themselves feminists and speak out against gender-based violence can make a huge difference, especially if they are men.

Many developing countries have a law requiring one or more doctors to rule on whether a pregnant woman's life is in jeopardy and therefore whether she qualifies for a legal abortion. But doctors are mainly found in cities, while many women at risk are in rural areas. Changing this law to allow midwives or paramedics to make the judgement could reduce the pain and danger of illegal abortions.

US President Donald Trump's reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule – a law that prohibits allocation of US funding to NGOs that offer abortion services or even information about the procedure – is a retrograde step. It has led to US\$ 650 million of funding cuts to reproductive health causes. However, the EU has raised about two-thirds of this sum through the She Decides platform, foundations and private donors.

It is worrying that sexual and reproductive rights are once again a political football and shows that history sometimes moves in circles.

Insight

In Sub-Saharan Africa, nearly half of all pregnancies among 15 to 19 year olds are unwanted and half of these end in dangerous terminations.

1.4.2 LAB DEBATE

Make it Count: Investing in Girls and Boys for a Sustainable Future

Organised by World Vision, Child Fund, SOS Children's Village, Save the Children, and European Union External Action

Speakers

- Akter Meghla, Young Leader, World Vision
- Garcia Gabriela, Partnership Portfolio and Programs Manager, ChildFund Alliance
- Rongong Arpanah, Technical Advisor - Child Protection and Participation, World Vision International
- Ceriani Sebregondi Filiberto, Head of Division, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Williams Lisa, Head of GenderNET Unit, OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

Moderator: Martinez Ester Asin, Director & EU Representative, Save the Children

Key Points

- Despite development and humanitarian policies to protect children, figures on child sexual abuse, labour exploitation, child marriage and girls receiving fewer years of schooling than boys show that policies are not being put into practice effectively.
- The biggest barriers to basic protections for children are poverty, religious and social norms, poor law enforcement and inadequate prioritisation of children in aid policies.
- There is evidence of a growing gap between stated ambitions to improve protection of children's rights and the experience of millions of girls and boys worldwide.
- The European Union (EU) will consult aid charities as it sets priorities for development spending in the 2021-2027 budget period, with the European Commission noting that parity of access to education for girls and boys has been an objective for EU policies for years.

Synopsis

While analysis of overseas aid figures by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) can demonstrate a growing commitment among donors to gender equality in their development programmes, equivalent data on child protection are not compiled. This points to the need for more targeted child protection programmes, including higher spending and more effective action on the ground.

Priorities include an end to child marriage and attendant early pregnancies, which compound problems of poverty and mother and child health. Equal access to education for girls and boys – a long-term goal for donors and charities which is far from being achieved is critical as is action to combat child migration, child labour and violence against children, including sexual abuse.

Child protection charities are calling on the EU and the OECD to track both overseas development aid and humanitarian assistance to identify spending on programmes to safeguard children's rights, and to build a body of evidence about whether this money is being used effectively. They are also requesting that child protection be integrated into all external aid policies and sectors, as the EU has done with issues of gender equality.

The European Commission and child protection charities see gender equality and the problem of girls' access to education as closely linked. Sadly, there is plenty of evidence of the yawning gap between stated ambitions to improve protection of children's rights and the experience of millions of girls (and boys) worldwide.

The scale of the problems faced by both girls and boys in developing countries is immense. In Guatemala, for example, 85 % of the indigenous population live in

poverty. Local customs mean that girls from these communities receive three years less schooling on average than boys, with even that level of education viewed by traditionalists as too much.

Mothers are often still children themselves when they bring their babies to clinics. Many harbour deep mental health issues due to the harshness of their lives, which may well include an abusive partner in addition to the heavy burden of feeding their families.

In Nepal, 49 % of girls are married by their 18th birthday, with religious leaders and parents still largely supporting this traditional practice. In Bangladesh, community committees have been set up by Meghla Akter, who ran away from home, aged 13, on the night before her wedding to a 30-year-old man whom neither she nor her mother had ever met.

The aim of these committees, which include parents, local students, police and community leaders, is to persuade everyone involved that child marriages are a bad idea. If parents disagree, and force their daughter to be a child bride anyway, local youths bring in the police to stop it.

Insight

One billion children between two and 17 years old experience violence every year, while worldwide one-in-seven adolescent girls are married by the age of 18.

Panellists welcomed news that this year's G7 host nation, Canada, is making gender equality and better access to education for girls priorities at the June summit of G7 leaders in Charlevoix, Quebec.

1.4.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Resilience is born of self-confidence. Art unblocks Girls inner power!

Organised by Open Earth Foundation

Speakers

- Clemency Carro Walpole Isabel, The Open Earth Foundation
- Deirue Luc, Secretary-General, Flanders Department of Culture, Youth & Media
- Ibens Robin, Strategic and creative director, Shaved Monkey
- Lowyck Isabel, Managing Director, Shaved Monkey

Moderator: Fransen Godelieve, Senior Policy Advisor, European Policy Centre

1.4.4 PROJECT LAB

Building Bridges between regions and people to end FGM

Organised by end FGM and GIZ

Speakers

- Badrou Bah Mohamed, First Imam of the region Labé and Inspector of the Regional Islamic League, General Secretariat of Religious Affairs of Guinea
- Caldera Clara, Program Officer, Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo
- Keira Namory, African Gynaecologist & Obstetrician
- Muruli Angela, FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development)

Moderator: Naib Fatma, End FGM European Network

Podcast

1.5 Women / Girls, Peace and Security

Women help bring opposing factions to the negotiating table and make post-conflict reconstruction durable.

They also are critical to identifying community members vulnerable to radicalization and extremism.

Nearly two decades ago the changing nature of war led the Security Council to adopt United Nations resolution 1325, making women a focal point of peacebuilding.

Yet the gap between aspiration and reality remains wide.

Much still needs to be done to stop rape in combat zones. Efforts also need to be stepped up to give women, and local women in particular, the self-confidence and training needed to become members of the security services and to participate in peace missions.

1.5.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Time to act! – High-level panel on Women, Peace, and Security

Organised by The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

Speakers

- Gottemoeller Rose, Deputy Secretary General, NATO
- Patten Pramila, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, United Nations
- Schmid Helga Maria, Secretary General, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Taha Taffan Ako, Young Leader – Sweden
- Tötterman Andorff Petra, Secretary General, The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

Moderator: Maxwell Simon, Chair, European Think Tanks Group

Key Points

- Women's rights organisations are first-responders when the crisis happens and are still there when the conflict is over. International organisations should listen to them for early-warning signs.
- Where civil society is shrinking, this can prevent women from being political actors in many countries.
- Leaders need to meet visibly with women civil society representatives, when possible with the press in attendance.
- Prevention will be served through removing impunity for crimes of sexual violence through specific prosecution of these cases.

Synopsis

The world has lost sight of some key demands of the women's movement: the promoting non-violent forms of conflict resolution, reducing military expenditure, controlling arms supplies, and fostering a culture of peace. This requires stronger recognition of the depth of gender norms. If women are involved from the outset in official negotiations, particularly in post-conflict situations, peace agreements are more likely to succeed.

Women are the first affected and first to indicate what is happening. Local women's organisations should be heeded as they offer important insights. Early warning indicators are crucial to helping prevent conflict. Training missions need to train trainers to recognise signs, down to the level of municipal police forces. In a recently launched joint project with the EU, NATO is working to develop early warning indicators. There is a need for visibility at the top level and a top-down approach with more countries engaged.

It has become harder and harder for women's rights organisations to work in some countries. This shrinking civic space results from growing nationalism and fundamentalism. It is a global phenomenon, undermining the critical role played by women and women's rights organisations in social progress. More than 60 % of the women interviewed for the Kvinna till Kvinna report, "Suffocating the Movement", said their space to act as activists over the last few years had shrunk.

Laws limiting the ability of civil society organisations to receive foreign funding, and extra administrative burdens to register and implement projects have hit small women's organisations already struggling for survival.

Meanwhile, slander and smear campaigns targeting women's rights activists are on the rise. They seek to isolate them by attacking their reputation, accusing them of being traitors who cooperate with foreign powers, witches, lesbians, or "not real women". Finally, threats of violence, often sexualised, are also used regularly to scare women from being vocal.

Funding for civil society is not enough. Leaders need to meet with women civil society representatives when travelling in a visible, media-friendly setting where appropriate. There is a need for a top-down approach, with more visibility at the top level, and for women for being involved in mediation and not sidelined when it comes to post-conflict reconciliation and stabilisation.

Despite universal condemnation of conflict-related sexual violence, it continues unabated. If our priority is prevention, then we need to reverse the culture of impunity through deterrence. Yazidi women ask for justice, but are rarely ready to stand up in a court of law in Iraq. Meanwhile, Iraqi prosecutors focus on terrorist acts by Isis not their crimes against women. The UN seeks to support cases on behalf of women to ensure there is no impunity in cases involving sexual violence.

Insight

The EU is operating a policy of zero tolerance and has Gender Focal Points advising missions to avoid issues of sexual malpractice.

1.5.2 LAB DEBATE

Kimberley Process- Building Sustainable Conditions for Peace and Prosperity

Organised by the European Commission and GIZ

Speakers

- Goeske Joachim, Head of Division Global Policy & Governance, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- Gronwald Victoria, Gender Consultant, Levin Sources
- Hardeman Hilde, European Commission - Service for Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI)
- Jiekak Sabine, Deputy Chief of Party PRADD II, Tetra Tech ARD
- Kaninda Marie Chantal, Executive Director, World Diamond Council

Moderator: Kaiser-Tedesco Janne, Advisor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

Key Points

- The diamond industry worldwide, with the support of the Kimberly Process, is just beginning to address the systemic gender inequalities in mining communities.
- Positive change has stemmed from promoting fair and equal treatment and going beyond gender quotas in projects. Teaching women skills for advocacy and implementing change is essential.
- Policy recommendations in a forthcoming report range from adding gender to the definition of conflict diamonds in order to giving women access to licensing and land titles.
- In the Ivory Coast, traditional attitudes are starting to change, but progress is slow.

Synopsis

The Kimberley Process is a certification scheme established in 2000 to eliminate trade in conflict diamonds, or rough diamonds used to finance wars against governments, that fuels violence and political instability worldwide. The United-Nations mandated Process brings together administrations, civil societies and industry in 81 countries. Although it has helped to improve global peace and security, it has only recently begun to address systematic inequalities in the industry.

Women are essential to the artisanal mines that the Kimberly Process targets, and are involved in a number of roles that range from planning and processing to trading goods and services.

Among the 10 million people worldwide who earn their living directly or indirectly from diamonds, many women need this income to support themselves and their families. But in many communities, they are systematically denied access to and control over the financial benefits from mining. Instead, compensation and royalties are often in the hands of men, traditional rulers and local authorities. Women are also particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and exposure to environmental pollution through their work in the industry.

In a project in the Ivory Coast funded by the European Union (EU), progress has been achieved from making the business case for fair and equal treatment, rather than

moral arguments. While the culture is starting to shift in pilot communities, it is still extremely difficult to change attitudes and beliefs.

The German Development Agency, GIZ, strives to go beyond gender quotas in their projects, and encourages its partners to do the same. Having women in the room is not enough; they need to acquire advocacy skills and the ability to introduce change. Empowerment is crucial, and more investment is needed to build the capacity of women from basic literacy to project management.

As the voice of the diamond industry, the World Diamond Council acknowledges that women's rights and interests need far better representation in the Kimberly Process. This should begin with the Kimberly Process organisation itself where there are almost no female representatives from member countries.

A forthcoming report on gender equity in the Kimberly Process from the consultancy, Levin Sources, should offer concrete policy recommendations for policymakers. Some early recommendations include formally including gender in the definition of conflict diamonds and asking member countries to report on gender-related targets.

Other proposals are for women to be given access to land licensing and titles, subsidising the cost of mining equipment to improve working conditions, and providing financial support with microcredits.

Insight

Too many people have a condescending attitude about women in the mining industry. Many think women need to be protected, when actually more want in, not out. Women want a safe, secure and legal way to make a living for themselves and their families from diamonds.

African women in the prevention, management and resolution of African conflicts

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Arradon Isabelle, Director of Research, International Crisis Group
- Di Ruocco Formisano Sara, Gender Advisor, Ceasefire Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring Mechanism
- Maranga Stella, Gender Officer, African Union

Moderator: Joof Amie, Journalist, Gender, Media and Conflict Prevention, Women's Rights and Elections, Inter Africa Network for Women, Media, Gender and Development

Key Points

- Women's role in peacekeeping must be promoted and increased.
- Women demand the right to meaningful positions in the police force.
- Peacebuilding by women is happening and is important at grass-roots level.
- Gender conflict analysis and proper data and monitoring are still lacking; more work on this would improve peace operations.

Synopsis

The importance of including women in peace-making in Africa is supported by the European Union (EU) politically and financially. The African Peace Facility (APF), the main organisation to implement the Africa-EU Peace and Security Cooperation, has supported more than 14 peace support operations since its creation in 2004.

Work to boost a gender component in peace operations has been spearheaded by AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia) and CTSAMM (Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism) in South Sudan. A third key organisation is the Pan-African Network of African Women in Mediation (FemWise), set up by the African Union.

But figures are still very low as far as women peace builders are concerned, particularly in formal peace processes. Only 3.5 % of Somalia's police force are women – and this is still seen as one of the best records in the world. Existing laws on women's participation must be implemented and awareness raised about gender inequality in the peace and security sector. More work is also needed to sensitise the community on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

A key solution would be mainstreaming gender in all peace operations and mediation efforts. This brings results. In a positive move, women were asked to be a part of South Sudan's 2013 peace agreement from day one. The agreement notably includes a clause banning gender-based violence.

In addition, efforts must be made to stop gender roles and stereotypes at home being reproduced in the armed forces. There is no point training women to become peacekeepers – police officers, for example – if they end up making the tea or cleaning.

Women can also be peacebuilders at grass-roots level. Kenya has several female leaders in civil society groups and schools where they have a role in building trust. The European Commission is working to ensure that money is invested in peacebuilding actions, such as workshops and training, at grass-roots level.

The University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium, offers the Leymah Gbowee scholarship fund, named after the Liberian peace activist and winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, for leadership to allow African women from conflict-ridden areas take bachelor's degrees at West African universities or to continue them at master's level in Leuven.

Education aside, young women everywhere can help make a change in peacebuilding by volunteering with a local organisation at home or in Africa. But interventions in developing countries should not be made without a proper understanding of the local dynamics.

More analysis, monitoring and better data are needed on gender-based violence and about how women are resolving African conflicts. We should know more about what it actually means when we say we are progressing in increasing women's inclusion in peace making in Africa.

Advances are being seen – the CTSAMM South Sudan recently published reports on sex and gender based violations. But there needs to be more accountability mechanisms to enable the perpetrators of war crimes to be brought to justice.

The continuing domination of the patriarchal society is another issue. Africa has only one female head of state: Ameenah Gurib-Fakim of Mauritius.

Insight

Gender stereotypes must be changed at every level. For instance, women are not always “peaceful”; they can also be fighters – such as those joining vigilante groups in northeast Nigeria.

Young Mediterranean Voices: Women, dialogue and digitally-enabled peacebuilding

Organised by the Anna Lindh Foundation and the British Council

Speakers

- Benaissa Aissam, Alumni, Young Mediterranean Voices
- Grichi Hella, Assistant, Embassy of Germany in Tunis
- Newbery Rory, Intercultural Exchange Coordinator / EU-MENA Researcher, Young Mediterranean Voices
- Romans i Torrent Ariadna, Debater, deba-t.org

Moderator: Hussein Saga, Trainer, YMV+

Key Points

- Both the existing and emerging digital spaces offer platforms for political dialogue, but social media has its dangers and limitations.
- Traditional community-based dialogue offers a way of reaching out and bridging over differences.
- African women tend to use the Internet less than men, limiting the potential for outreach activities through digital tools.
- As Internet-based tools are exploited by extremist groups, teaching young people to think critically is crucial for safety online.

Synopsis

The Young Mediterranean Voices project arose in response to the Arab Spring. Through the initiative by the Swedish Anna Lindh Foundation, the British Council and the European Commission, young people are encouraged to contribute to the democratic transition in the southern Mediterranean by taking part in political debate. The project feeds into the UN's Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

Digitally-enabled communication is a given for those who have grown up using Internet-based tools. Even though digital initiatives are important, they do not represent the only way of mobilising young people, as traditional rallying still creates political spaces.

Low-income groups are lagging behind in access to the Internet, as are women who go online less than men in African countries.

The digitalisation of local communities is progressing, but is still limited by gender and income. However, change is very fast with the number of Internet users picking up, thus furthering social inclusion. The digital tools have evolved to allow refugee camps, for example, to rely solely on digital for communication.

The digital spaces are vast, carrying a lot of potential but also risks. Replicating human interaction by using social media has its limits and does not replace the common space a local community creates. Global networks develop a sense of community among their members, but the question is whether they can replace their real world equivalents.

Not only is there the challenge of online hate speech by extremist groups, but average Internet users are also subject to increased surveillance and risk having their data exploited for different purposes.

Access to information on large numbers of users can be misused for political purposes. Digital tools are not only deployed to advance democratic transition, but could be used to imperil democratisation. Therefore, real social interaction and traditional political engagement are still important ways of engaging women in peacebuilding.

Insight

Innovative technologies provide new opportunities to connect young women and promote their political participation. However, social media is not necessarily the best tool for peacebuilding, as women have been threatened and bullied for content they upload online. Although the Internet is a useful tool, its dangers should not be underestimated.

Security for development; development for security?

Organised by the European External Action Service (EEAS)

Speakers

- Cohn Carol, Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights
- Hutchinson Clare, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women Peace and Security, NATO
- Kouvo Sari, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Gothenburg University
- Marinaki Mara, Advisor on Gender, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Moderator: Henriksson Kirsi, Director, Crisis Management Centre Finland

Key Points

- Women should be seen as key agents for security.
- To ensure women's security, conflict resolution needs to focus on human rather than state security.
- Integrating the gender perspective in security policy and implementation in a holistic way is vital.
- Simple representation of women is insufficient, since not all women can be expected to be women's rights activists.

Synopsis

The experience in Afghanistan has taught military officials and policymakers that conflict resolution cannot be achieved by purely military means and that the international community needs to take hearts and minds into account when devising its strategy.

Politicians and policymakers need to reach out to women. Women need to be heard not only on issues that are traditionally associated with them, such as education, but on security as well. If 50 % of the population is ignored, conflict resolution cannot succeed. NATO eventually recognised the need to include civil society and women into the conflict resolution process.

In Afghanistan, military planners began to reach out to civil society to understand people's security needs better in order to achieve sustainable peace. But security means different things for men and women. Military checkpoints, guns on the street represent deterrent force and power for men and make them feel secure. On the other hand, these very same things mean insecurity to women.

The understanding of security also needs to be redefined. States should not be the focus of understanding security. Human security should be at the forefront, which requires a holistic approach from policymakers. It not only means physical safety but economic safety, such as having access to safe employment, and a sustainable physical environment.

Nation states cannot secure this alone; good governance and peace agreements are not enough. Transnational political and economic actors are able to undermine any national work on women's security. The international community needs to stand up to those companies and transnational actors that trample on women's rights.

Women need to be part of the peacebuilding effort to achieve sustainable peace. That means not only having women in missions and policymaking, but also including the gender perspective from the onset of a conflict, its management, and its resolution.

The silo mentality regarding gender issues need to be broken down. Gender has to be relevant for the political, strategic, and operational planning. A European Union (EU) study concluded that although EU leaders think equality is important, the actual work of promoting equality is in the hands of gender advisors. Gender knowledge or methodologies have not yet been integrated into the work on the ground.

Women's representation in policymaking as well as in security and development missions is important, but is insufficient. Not all women are competent gender advisors, and not all have the required knowledge on gender structures and how relations of power work.

Insights

Infrastructure suited for gender needs is often a key tool for protecting women's rights and security. Safe transportation enables women to travel independently, while adequate road access to markets could empower women to be economically self-sufficient.

One idea to make Afghan women's voices heard by western politicians and policymakers would be for them to accompany their colleagues throughout a visit, rather than just being given a courtesy meeting at the end of lunch.

1.5.3 PROJECT LAB

Fostering gender equality via the radio: Radio Ndeke Luka in Central African Rep

Organised by the European Commission and Fondation Hironnelle

Speakers

- Di Mauro Francesca, Head of Central Africa, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Giraud Caroline, Freedom of Expression and Media Advocacy Specialist, Media4Democracy.EU
- Pana Aline Gisèle, Minister for Promotion of Women, Family and Protection of Children, Central African Republic
- Panika Sylvie, Journalist, Radio Ndeke Luka

Moderator: Godignon Julie, Program Manager, Fondation Hironnelle

Podcast

1.5.4 WEBINAR

No peace without women

Organised by the Delegation of the European Union to Colombia and Universidad de los Andes

Speakers

- Duque Claudia Maria Mejia, Director, Corporación Sisma Mujer
- Millan Juanita, Representative - Gender Sub-Commission – Government of Colombia
- Pineda Rocío, Member of the Special commission for the implementation of the agreements, Colombia
- Sandino Victoria, Representative - Gender Sub-Commission – FARC

Moderators: O'Rourke Catherine, Senior Lecturer in Human Rights and International Law, Ulster University

Villamizar Maria Alejandra, Journalist, Caracol

2. Promoting Economic and Social Rights and Empowerment of Girls and Women

2.1 Gender Equality in Education

Tackling global challenges like climate change and healthcare in sustainable and inclusive ways requires the active involvement of educated women as well as educated men.

Yet greater numbers of girls than boys remain out of school worldwide and the overwhelming majority of adults who lack basic literacy skills are women. The gender imbalance is particularly stark in the critical areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Girls also face greater challenges than boys in gaining qualifications and experience in vocational education and training (VET). However, boys face also gender inequality, including in contexts where they are more likely to drop out of school for work, or for other reasons.

Addressing the challenges of gender inequality in education is complex and requires the involvement of men and boys, women and girls throughout society and its institutions. Ensuring that girls and boys are equally engaged in learning will give everyone a better stake in a safer future.

2.1.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Advancing gender equality in and through education: the way forward

Organised by the AFD (Agence Française de Développement), Plan International, Global Partnership for Education, and UNICEF

Speakers

- Albright Alice, CEO, Global Partnership for Education
- Manservisi Stefano, Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Marthe Daouda Mamadou, Minister of Primary Education, Literacy, Promotion of National Languages and Civic Education, Niger
- Hernandez Otero Ernesto, Young Leader - El Salvador
- Poirier Marie Pierre France Georgette, Regional Director, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
- Rioux Remy, Chief Executive Officer, Agence Française de Développement

Moderator: Djossaya Rotimy, West and Central Africa Regional Director, Plan International

Key Points

- The gender imbalance is especially prevalent in education, with boys much, much more likely to go to school than girls.
- It is not just about the quantity of education. We also need to invest in quality education.
- If we do not educate and empower women, we are leaving half the world's talent on the table.
- The education development sector is fragmented. It is well meaning, but needs coordination to work behind the national government.

Synopsis

The session looked at the role education can play in driving gender equality in developing countries. Education can also help transform children and communities, helping to support gender equality.

The issue of gender equality in education is not new – it was part of the Millennium Development Goals. Development specialists recognise that girls are the most vulnerable members of society. When the quality of education is low, girls are sent back to the house, back to early marriage.

There are many reasons why girls get less schooling. For example, many turn away because of a lack of safety and hygiene facilities, such as girls' toilets. There are heavy societal mores and expectations, so boys are more likely to be sent to school than girls.

Only 60 % of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education and 38 % in secondary education.

But there are huge benefits to communities from education. A child born to a mother who can read is 50 % more likely to survive past age five. UNICEF estimates what would happen if all women completed secondary education. Their answer:

- Maternal mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa would drop by 70%;
- Three million lives of children under five would be saved every year;
- Child marriage would fall by 64 %;
- There would be 49 % fewer child deaths.

One young speaker said education was not just about learning, but also about becoming a citizen. When you become a citizen, you become more ambitious, not just for yourself but for your community and your country.

But the education development sector is fragmented, one development leader said. It is well meaning but needs coordination to work behind the national government programme. The totality of the challenges the sector faces exceeds the wingspan of the individual actors involved in this.

Niger was discussed as an example of a country facing particular challenges in this area:

- 52 % of population are women;
- The birth rate is seven children per women, one of the highest rates in the world;
- There are security threats sucking up resources, with Boko Haram in the south, and IS in the west;
- Many Muslims believe school turns girls into Christians;
- Girls can marry as early 13 (becoming grandmothers before they are 30);
- Sex education is so poor that many girls have no idea what is happening when they have their first periods.

French President Emmanuel Macron has made female education a priority for French development policy, and the new French approach was also discussed. The new approach calls for more sustained efforts in projects, as they often need long-term solutions.

Insight

If we want to find answers to the world's problems, we need to empower women to be part of the conversation.

2.1.2 LAB DEBATE

Female Teachers and Gender Equality in Education

Organised by Teachers for Education 2030, Humana People to People

Speakers

- Birungi Mayanja Teopista, Regional Coordinator, Africa Network Campaign for Education for All
- Gloria Sozinho Conceicao, Director at Chimoio in Teacher Training College, Humana People to People

Moderator: Sinyolo Dennis, Senior Coordinator, Education, Employment and Research Education International

Key Points

- Shortages of female teachers, in particular in secondary education, is a key challenge.
- Governments are urged to put in place a legislative framework, a national gender policy and labour laws to protect against discrimination.

- Teachers have a key role in shaping societal norms, such as attitudes towards women and gender.
- Gender equality can be promoted in teacher training colleges.
- Social marketing can be used to break down cultural and religious barriers, creating the space in which equal opportunities can thrive.

Synopsis

Participants explored policy, funding and civil society best practices in empowering women to enter and remain in the teaching profession and their role in providing gender-responsive education to children.

In Zimbabwe, most female teachers are to be found at the primary levels of the education system, with a severe shortage of female teachers in the secondary education system. There are also shortages in the sciences, engineering, information and communications technology, agriculture, mathematics, financial literacy and entrepreneurship/business studies. School heads, education inspectors and managers tend to be men.

Zimbabwe's government has implemented a legislative framework to promote gender equality, with a national gender policy covering governance, education and training, employment and gender-based violence. Labour laws protect employees' rights, including against any form of discrimination. In addition, efforts are being made to improve working conditions. In rural areas, for example, efforts are made to ensure that all new schools are built with optimal infrastructure, including electricity and water supply.

Teachers have a key role in shaping societal norms such as attitudes towards women and gender. The barriers to gender equality in Mozambique, for instance, include inflexible traditional gender roles, poverty and the affordability of and access to secondary and vocational education.

Effective ways to promote gender equality in teacher training colleges include supporting female students through mentoring, actively challenging students' preconceptions and offering specific modules on gender, gender issues and girls' and women's rights. This can be done by creating space for critical debate and reflection as well as by seeking to empower women as strong role models.

Discrimination in training colleges, a lack of career advancement options and inadequate remuneration, working conditions, support mechanisms and supervision were identified as being among the key challenges facing female teachers. One recommendation was to develop comprehensive national teacher policies with a gender lens addressing issues such as teacher development, teacher management, professional autonomy and social dialogue (between trade unions, governments and other stakeholders). The idea is that developing a systematic approach can attract national funding.

Insight

One recommendation is to encourage gender sensitivity via a kind of “social marketing” campaign that emphasises the advantages of gender equality and explains what society misses out on if it does not provide equal opportunities. Social marketing can be used to break down cultural and religious barriers and, as a result, create the space in which equal opportunities can thrive.

Empowering Women to be Change-Makers

Organised by WISE - World Innovation Summit for Education

Speakers

- Alfadala Asmaa, Director of Research and Content Development, WISE - World Innovation Summit for Education
- Cotton Ann, Founder, Camfed International
- Musunka Noella Coursaris, Founder/CEO, Malaika
- Saleh Asif, Senior Director, BRAC Bangladesh

Moderator: Yiannouka Stavros N., CEO, WISE - World Innovation Summit for Education)

Key points

- Education leads to economic empowerment.
- Role models start with mother, then teacher.
- Women and girls still undervalue their skill sets.
- Female political leadership is needed at a senior level in Africa.
- A universal basic income could give financial value to caregiving.

Synopsis

Female emancipation begins with female education, turning on its head the assumption that a poverty of culture holds girls back. Instead, it is a culture of poverty.

Parental power is one of the greatest resources we have. Largely gone are the days when parents had no expectation for their daughters to go to school. A generation ago, parents in Bangladesh would spend more on their daughter’s wedding than her education. That has changed. Across the country, in one generation, the gender-balance in schools has shifted, and now more girls than boys are enrolled.

In Africa, 300 students have completed their secondary education in a school in a rural town in the Democratic Republic of Congo. But just as important is the community

centre in the school complex, where parents – often illiterate – are involved in their children’s’ education. Also important is the role model of women as teachers. Many of the girls go on to become teachers themselves, creating a virtuous circle of education and female emancipation.

But there are problems. Women and girls often undervalue the skill sets they already have. When asked what they do, they reply “sit at home”, not realising they are balancing household budgets, caring for children and elderly relatives, cooking, cleaning and multitasking with flexibility.

Across Africa, women are absent from the most senior positions of power as president or prime minister. But as members of parliament they outnumber their counterparts in Western donor countries because of quota systems.

In Bangladesh, 95 % of girls going through apprenticeships schemes, where shops or businesses take on two girls for a six-month period, obtain a job or set up their own business. Also, their rate of child marriage is 70 % lower than the average.

While most mothers are de facto skilled negotiators, there is still a stigma that unpaid “caring” work in the home is valueless. A universal basic income may fix this some day. But it will also need a change in male attitudes to allow fathers stay at home to care for children as well.

Supportive workplaces in the developing world can actually produce better workers, when women know they could take time off to care for sick children or elderly relatives without fear of losing their jobs.

Sometimes technology has unintended side effects. In one pilot scheme in Bangladesh women preferred to be paid in cash rather than the new cashless mobile phone payments. This is because their husbands would see the text message and spend the money immediately, whereas in the past the women would stash away the cash for household needs.

Automation is shrinking the number of jobs – 80 % of them held by women – in Bangladesh’s garment industry jobs. This plus increased urbanisation means growth areas are mobile phone repairs, tourism and services.

Insight

In Bangladesh, driving or chauffeuring is a major industry, but still employs few females. This is not because of old-fashioned attitudes, but because of a lack of public toilets for women.

SHciEnce: Vocations for girls and young women in STEM

Organised by OEI and SciDev.Net

Speakers

- Oniango Ruth, Board Member, CABI
- Osama Bothina, Regional Coordinator, MENA region, SciDev.Net
- Segura Carmen, Science Dissemination Technician, Fundación Descubre
- Speller Paulo, Secretary General, Organización De Estados Iberoamericanos Para La Educación, La Ciencia Y La Cultura
- Tripepi Chiara, Policy Officer, European Commission - DG for Research and Innovation (RTD)

Moderator: Fernandez de Lis Patricia, Chief Editor, El País

Key Points

- There is a lack of women studying science, and far too few continue to pursue a career in the field after graduation.
- Women who do go on to find jobs in the field of science should serve as role models for the younger generation.
- The European Commission supports research organisations in bringing about changes to close the gender gap.
- To encourage girls in secondary schools to study science, the EC has launched a campaign to fight gender stereotypes.

Synopsis

According to UNESCO, women only make up 28 % of scientific researchers around the world. This raises two issues: How to encourage girls and young women to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)? How to encourage those who have studied it to pursue careers in these fields?

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, for example, 40 % of women who go to university choose to study STEM subjects, yet few continue to go into the field after graduation. It is crucial to identify the qualitative factors that deter women from pursuing STEM careers so that something can be done about this loss of women in scientific careers.

To address the issue, the European Commission is supporting research organisations to bring about changes to close the gender gap. While there appears to be parity at the PhD level between men and women, the ratio declines abruptly after that. For example, in terms of professorship, the ratio is 9 to 1. Incentives are needed to improve the ratio.

The European Commission is also trying to encourage girls in secondary schools to study science. The Commission recently launched a campaign, "Science is a girl thing", which fights stereotypes and encourages role models to come forward.

The lack of powerful role models is an important issue. Across the world, women who go into the scientific field at university get equal and even better grades than men. These women should be encouraged to go back to the schools where they studied to share their experience and talk about their academic choice to encourage others to follow suit. The problem is that women are often not aware that they could act as role models; they do not know how influential or inspirational they could be.

Fighting stereotypes is another issue that needs to be addressed. Even teachers have been found to have an implicit bias against women in science without even realising it.

In El Salvador, a young science teacher in a girls' school helped his students develop an app that connects people with hospitals and clinics to donate blood. Although the app was a great success, it did not get funding for commercialisation because of an aversion to fund science for women. It is important to change this mind-set.

Insight

According to a recent survey, 66 % of Spaniards do not believe that women would make good scientists and are not being encouraged to study STEM subjects.

2.1.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Inspired by EntreComp: The European Entrepreneurship Competence Framework

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Abagun Olaoluwa Halimat, Young Leader – Nigeria
- McCallum Elin, Director, Bantani Education asbl
- Ratto-Nielsen Juan, Trainer & Instructional Designer, INTER-TRAINING

2.1.4 PROJECT LAB

Award Winning film on gender equality and education inspires social action

Organised by Baha'i International Community

Speakers

- Bowman Alan, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Mission of Canada to the European Union
- De Regt Marina, Assistant Professor, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- Hautala Heidi, Vice-President, European Parliament
- Ram Tala Katarina, Policy Officer, Baha'i International Community
- Taherzadeh May, Director, Mayflower Creations

Moderator: Bayani Rachel, Representative, Baha'i International Community

Podcast

2.2 Women / Girls and the Economy

Women are participating in the economy in greater numbers and they hold an enormous economic potential, but they continue to lag their male counterparts when it comes to opportunities for economic empowerment, equal salaries or leadership positions; this hurts the wider economy.

Investing in women it is not only matter of human rights and social justice but also one of 'smart economy', that allows to benefit from their talent and resourcefulness. Women's equal participation in the economy, in the value chains and trade bring back benefits to the entire society.

There is a need to support comprehensive strategies to address the main barriers for women's economic empowerment. Studies show how women economic empowerment and gender equality result, among others, in political and social stability, increased labour productivity, higher returns and catalyse wider social and financial inclusion.

Hindrances to women's advancement and their economic empowerment takes many forms and expressions; persisting limitations in access to finance, education, property rights, gender stereotyping, limited access to affordable childcare of good quality, lack of social protection and last but not least intimidation, coercion and sexual violence at the workplace.

2.2.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Empowering Women in Sustainable Investment and Business through the EIP

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Apooore Dorcas Asige, Young Leader – Ghana
- Danielsson Christian, Director General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
- Fayolle Ambroise, Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Georgieva Kristalina, CEO, The World Bank Group
- Langenbucher Anja, Director Europe and Middle East, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Mimica Neven, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
- Nelson Betsy, Vice-President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Perez Beatriz, Senior Vice President and Chief Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Officer, The Coca-Cola Company
- Sands Peter, Executive Director, The Global Fund

Moderator: Tejada Luis, CEO, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)

Key Points

- The EU's External Investment Plan (EIP) and other programmes should cover not just economic empowerment through loans, but also through other gender-equality measures.
- Women in Africa have a huge untapped potential.
- Banks and other businesses need to overcome their in-built prejudice against women.
- Programmes aiming to close the gender gap need comprehensive approaches covering education, health, access to finance and social protection.

Synopsis

Panellists examined how the EU's new development tool, the External Investment Plan (EIP), could help boost sustainable investment and create decent jobs for women in Africa and the European Neighbourhood.

Christian Danielsson, Director General of the European Commission's DG NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), admitted that the situation was not very positive for women in many of the countries he dealt with, as the wage differentials are substantial and there are not the same opportunities.

World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva pointed out that her institution invested between EUR 60-70 billion in investment projects, and one of the key lessons was that action has to be evidence based. She estimated that there was around US\$ 160 trillion left on the table in the world economy as women were unused, underused or underpaid.

Elizabeth Egharevba, Director in Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning, said that when governments link up with programmes such as the EIP, it can empower women at various levels. She felt it was time women were seen as employers and as powers running nations.

Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), spoke of particular programmes to promote female entrepreneurship. He urged Europe to appreciate that there is a lot of dynamism in Africa.

Dorcas Asige Apoore, a young leader from Ghana, explained how a loan of US\$ 1 000 helped her hire hundreds of women to build her basket weaving business, which now exports to the UK, the US and Australia. She plans to reach out to 500 000 women over the next decade with the help of the EIP.

Anja Langenbacher, Europe Director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said it was not surprising that most of money flowing into Africa goes to cash-generating areas, but what the continent really needs is funding for essential areas such as health, education and sanitation.

Peter Sands, Executive Director for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, said the best way to help women fulfil their potential is to protect them, in particular from disease. He noted that in the worst affected countries, women are five to eight times more likely to be infected by AIDS – and it is all down to gender inequalities.

Betsy Nelson, Vice-President Risk and Compliance and Chief Risk Officer at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), said that women were a vast untapped resource for banks, especially since they are very loyal and they repay.

Beatriz Perez, Senior Vice-President and Chief Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Officer at The Coca-Cola Company, explained the drink giant's support programmes helping women in Africa and said women want training tools and not handouts so they can thrive.

Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, said there was a clear business case for programmes empowering women, which he described as both right and smart.

Insight

There are many ways that institutions, agencies and businesses can help unleash female potential in Africa, and it all helps.

Accelerating women's economic empowerment

Organised by ITC (International Trade Center) and SEGIB (Secretaría General Iberoamericana)

Speakers

- Abdalla Salma Elshaikh Idris Ali, Young Leader - Sudan
- De Saint-Malo de Alvarado Isabel, Vice President, Minister of External Relations, Government of Panamá Panamá
- Gynspan Rebeca, Secretary General, SEGIB (Secretaría General Iberoamericana)
- Gonzalez Arancha, Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Malmstrom Cecilia, European Commissioner for Trade, European Commission
- Mlambo-Ngcuka Phumzile, Executive Director, UN Women

Moderator: Manzano Cristina, Director, Esglobal/Pensamiento Iberoamericano

Key Points

- The economic empowerment of women can be viewed as a development issue.
- The global economy loses trillions of dollars due to the wage differential between men and women.
- Discriminatory legislation and customs must be eliminated, but that is only a start.
- Unpaid work and issues such as maternity leave remain high on the agenda.
- If women are treated fairly and put on equal footing, they probably do not need special assistance.

Synopsis

The economic empowerment of women can be viewed as a development issue. Poverty reduction will fail if half of the population lags behind. In addition, when women rise out of poverty, they pull their families up along with them.

Discriminatory legislation and customs must be eliminated. A dozen countries in Latin America have laws that ban women from certain professions under the guise of “protecting” them. In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, 18 countries require that women obtain permission from a male “guardian” to undertake certain activities. Women need to be free to make their own choices.

Advocates for change should pressure policymakers to implement “good” laws, such as those dictating equal pay for equal work. If women are treated fairly and put on equal footing, they probably do not need special assistance.

Women account for half of the population but closer to one-third of global GDP. A World Bank study showed that the global economy loses trillions of dollars due to wage differentials between men and women. The arguments in favour of gender parity can be made in terms of a cost-benefit analysis. It can be promoted as a key element in broader national development plans that would benefit the entire population. Women’s empowerment is not a zero-sum game.

These efforts can tap into changing attitudes, including parts of the private sector, where social and environmental responsibilities are increasingly included along with profits as core objectives.

The largest group of people in poverty is women between the ages of 24 and 34. This of course coincides with their peak reproductive years. Many women end up leaving their jobs or work in the informal sector so that they can care for their children. Women should not be penalised professionally as a result, which also raises the issue of unpaid domestic work and the family-work balance. In the end, women need to be allowed to decide how many children they want and when they want to have them.

Evidence shows that women face obstacles to participating in and benefiting from increased trade. Many women run small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which tend to have a harder time taking advantage of trade opportunities. Trade agreements are beginning to include specific provisions on SMEs. Some add gender-related clauses. Negotiations between the European Union and Chile are one example. Elements can include access to public procurement, ease in starting businesses, education and training.

The Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) is a multi-stakeholder coalition that aims to eliminate the gender pay gap by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process. The EPIC is led by the International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Women, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. One obstacle in many countries is the lack of good data about the true extent of the problem.

Insight

In Spain many women address the work-life balance by focusing on their careers and not having children. But this is not an entirely free choice.

2.2.2 LAB DEBATE

Do you know where your clothes come from

Organised by the European Commission, UNECE, and ITC

Speakers

- Allio Chloé, Policy Officer, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Moreau Pascale, Public Affairs Manager, Sustainable Apparel Coalition
- Pisani Maria Teresa, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Vanpeperstraete Ben, Lobby and Advocacy Coordinator, Clean Clothes Campaign
- Wozniak Joseph, Head, Trade for Sustainable Development, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Moderator: Karhunen Antti, Head of Unit, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

Key Points

- Worldwide, women and girls account for 75 % of employees in the textile and garment industries, of which 90 % are estimated to be paid less than a living wage.
- The global debate about introducing safer working practices and fairer pay for these workers is edging towards a more mature phase as companies accept that being secretive about their suppliers implies they have something to hide.
- Policy-makers and activists face multiple challenges when mapping ways to a more sustainable future for garment workers, including questions about how much consumers care about ethically sourced clothing.
- There is also an ongoing debate about whether the EU's regulatory and legislative framework for food labelling by retailers could be a model for garments.
- There is broad agreement that transparency and traceability are key concepts when seeking concrete ways to improve the lot of vulnerable workers.

Synopsis

Low pay and dangerous working conditions continue to dominate the global garment industry, with nine out of 10 women and girls who make up 75 % of its workforce paid less than a living wage.

Since the collapse in 2013 of a Bangladeshi building housing five clothing factories supplying global brands, including Benetton, which killed 1 135 workers and injured thousands more, the culture of corporate secrecy about conditions in overseas factories is shifting as more and more businesses accept the need for transparency.

Among policy-makers and activists, work continues on technical issues regarding the traceability of textiles through the industry's complex supply chains.

Some experts calculate there are up to 15 distinct stages between the production of raw materials such as wool or cotton – through yarn-making, weaving, fabric-cutting and finishing etc. – and the consumer buying a finished garment, each of which step has its own environmental impacts and labour rights issues.

The global clothing industry is also characterized by webs of small processors and manufacturers, linked by international agents and middlemen, all feeding the big named global brands and retailers.

In addition, governments in developing countries are often unwilling or unable to enforce building standards or fire safety regulations in small and medium-sized factories, adding to the labour rights violations of their badly paid workers.

Current efforts to map these intricate value chains, in an attempt to improve working conditions, include the International Trade Centre's Sustainability Map and the Higgs Index, a holistic yardstick developed by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition.

The Clean Clothes Campaign is taking an alternative approach, pressuring businesses to sign a Transparency Pledge to disclose a standard range of information about every factory involved in manufacturing their products. The campaign hopes this pledge will establish a minimum, common standard of transparency and build on good practices within the industry.

How far consumers care about the intricacies of such efforts is another matter. Panellists agreed that clothes buyers tend to be uninterested in the details of traceability and that only certain demographics – such as EU millennials – are likely to be willing to pay more for ethically sourced clothing.

National governments, too, are demonstrating different levels of commitment to these issues, with Germany leading the way with its own label for sustainable textiles.

There is also disagreement among garment trade experts about the role of legislation and regulation in future policies and whether the labelling of foods – which in the EU is a legal requirement placed on retailers – might be a model for the clothing industry.

Such ongoing debates are expected to slow the pace of any global agreement on effective new rules regarding transparency and traceability.

Insight

The dry jargon of this debate will, no doubt, leave most clothes buyers shrugging their shoulders, just as the panellists predicted, but it would be unforgivable if we waited for yet another tragedy like the building collapse in Bangladesh before a fairer way of stocking the world's garment shops is agreed.

Women entrepreneurs- spearheading implementation of Agenda 2030

Organised by Friends of Europe, the AFD (Agence Française de Développement), GIZ, jica, The World Bank, Europeans Investment Bank, The Coca-Cola Company, and UNIDO

Speakers

- Apoore Dorcas Asige, Young Leader – Ghana
- Collin Catherine, Head of EIB Regional Representation for East Africa, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Odile Conchou, Head of Social Cohesion and Gender Unit, Agence Française de Développement
- Rozas Angela, Social Impact, The Coca-Cola Company

Moderator: Islam Shada, Director Europe & Geopolitics, Friends of Europe

Key Points

- Women need role models to be encouraged to set up their own businesses.
- Furthering women's businesses requires a comprehensive approach that tackles social policy and infrastructure.
- Involving the local community in supporting women entrepreneurs guarantees better results.
- There has been a change in attitude towards women taking loans that carry a financial risk, but they may still be faced with a lack of funding.

Synopsis

There are a great number of impediments to women's entrepreneurship, although small businesses run by women are crucial to the economy. A comprehensive approach is needed to tackle those hurdles. The European Union, as the world's largest development donor, is working to ensure gender-sensitivity of its policies, for example, by looking at how women benefit.

Women's enhanced labour market participation would substantially expand global GDP. However, amending the situation requires a broad approach that considers social factors, such as childcare availability and even basic infrastructure, as women depend on transport and road conditions to be able to sell their goods.

Entrepreneurial skills are key to more women starting up as entrepreneurs. There should be support for available for women, such as business incubators, as soon as they finish their education. Support should include loans and grants and also technical assistance to build up entrepreneurial skills. Women often have to justify their role as entrepreneurs and could be faced with obstacles such as not being entitled to take up loans or sign contracts without the agreement of their husband.

Both public and private funds are needed to bring about change and the best results tend to be achieved when local communities are involved in the investment decisions. Any future success for local entrepreneurship depends on answering to the needs of the local community.

Although there seems to have been a shift in attitudes to access to funding, allowing women to take more loans and dealing with the risk, funding may still be scarce for women's businesses.

Digitalisation offers women new business opportunities; the digital economy holds huge potential, but scaling up a business to match the demands of the digital economy is yet another challenge for new entrepreneurs. Key to women's future success is developing partnerships with other women entrepreneurs, as partnerships guarantee sustainable businesses.

Insight

The world of business as a "male bastion" of power is being stormed by women. However, they still face institutional barriers both to starting a business and then growing it. The real challenge for women running their own business is to achieve financial parity with male entrepreneurs over time.

Investing in ACP Women's Graduation from the Informal Economy

Organised by TradeComm II Programme, CTA, ACP

Speakers

- Gnassounou Viwanou, Assistant Secretary General, Sustainable Economic Development and Trade Department
- Kawawa Emma, Founder & Chairperson, Tanzania Women CEOs Roundtable
- Mizzi Leonard, Director for Planet and Prosperity, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Muchoki Lucy, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Agri-business and Agro Industry Alliance
- Stewart Gillian, Program Manager, Women in Business Development Incorporated

Moderator: De La Maisonneuve Axel, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

Key Points

- For women, the formal economy opens doors to new financing possibilities.
- The public sector can scale-up access to finance, technology and knowledge.
- Partnerships are needed at all levels to help lift women out of poverty.
- Capacity building is helping rural women move their businesses up the value chain.

Synopsis

The International Monetary Fund's latest statistics confirm that the majority of the fastest-growing economies in the world through 2020 will be in Africa. Trade within the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries is also growing. Yet, at the same time, the number of women still operating within informal economies is staggering. So what can be done to help women out of the precarious informal economy?

While the ingenuity and dynamism of the informal sector is a real strength, becoming part of the formal economy allows the government to protect and respond to the needs of its citizens better, for example, via social security schemes and to provide better services such as childcare and education. For entrepreneurs and women, in particular, the formal economy opens doors to new financing possibilities.

Partnership is needed at all levels to help lift women out of the poverty trap. Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the European Union and ACP nations and regions aim at promoting ACP-EU trade – and ultimately contribute, through trade and investment, to sustainable development and poverty reduction. The EU is the main destination for agricultural and transformed goods from ACP partners.

Many types partnership are needed and there are many successful examples to learn from. Building capacity – from basic education to financial literacy through to meeting established and emerging standards on, for example, traceability – requires much more dialogue and facilitators are needed to provide technical assistance.

Partnerships help local producers scale up and access new markets. Likewise, incubators for new agribusiness ideas are being developed in conjunction with private-sector actors to ensure that the ideas that emerge can be funded once they are market-ready.

Government is also a critical partner in securing the access to finance and technology that women entrepreneurs want. Those with a real commitment to consultation will increase the likelihood of delivering the right infrastructure and ancillary support services that are needed to help businesses thrive, especially those that are women-led.

Mobility remains a problematic issue for women working in agriculture in ACP countries and regions. Participants heard from some great decentralisation initiatives that are helping women who want to improve their situation and grow their businesses. Through partnership, mobile training facilities have been developed. This allows women to train and get the necessary approvals, such as licensing, bank, tax and standards, from the various licensing agencies without having to travel to the capital city.

Empowerment results from giving women access to training, new financing possibilities and to better services. Other capacity building initiatives to help inspire women to try and move their business up the value chain included a CEO roundtable where women leaders share their lessons learned with young aspiring rural women entrepreneurs.

Insight

Mainstreaming gender can only work if it seeks to tackle the social and cultural norms that underlie gender discrimination, such as denying a woman's right to own land or child marriage.

Trade and Women's economic empowerment

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Caballero Sosa Lila, Acting Head of Research and Programme Policy, ActionAid UK
- Hardeman Hilde, Head, European Commission - Service for Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI)

- Palmer Denese, Manager, Southside Distributors LTD
- Tauqir Shah Syed, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the World Trade Organisation
- Zaimis Nikolaos, Adviser, European Commission - DG for Trade (TRADE)
- Zarrilli Simonetta, Chief, Trade, Gender and Development Programme, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

Moderator: Jansen Marion, Chief Economist, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Key Points

- Gender inequality damages the economic competitiveness of a country, resulting in massive losses of revenue for the state.
- Trade deals affect women in particular by price changes and restructuring of the workforce.
- Trade agreements can reduce government revenues, and result in the underfunding of public services, which is crucial for women.
- The European Commission aims to inspire girls and young women by promoting role models.

Synopsis

The European Commission has stepped up efforts to negotiate trade deals around the world on behalf of the 28-Member State bloc as fears grow for the global multilateral free trade system. One of its goals is to maintain the competitiveness of Member States in an increasingly tough global arena.

Gender inequality harms the economic competitiveness of countries. Billions of euros are lost to the economy because of the wage gap between men and women, and because women do not have the same opportunities as men.

The Commission is not only pushing gender equality on the basis of shared values within the EU, but also in trade talks. Besides promoting female role models, it is raising awareness in third countries to promote concrete action for women. It also aims to include the gender issue in its development projects around the world.

However, stakeholders argue that trade goes beyond the economy and that one gender chapter in trade agreements will not suffice. There is a strong argument for the gender perspective to be mainstreamed in trade deals, and to be reflected throughout such agreements. It is also important to assess the impact of different segments of society and the economy once a trade deal comes into force.

It took some time for the Commission to include environmental concerns in trade negotiations, and it is clear that adding the gender perspective might also take some time.

Women's rights need to be taken into account whenever trade agreements are negotiated as the deals can affect women differently and more seriously than men. Trade and women's rights experts argue that changes in employment caused by liberalisation of particular sectors mean that some industries become bigger and others smaller. The workforce needs to adjust, which is more difficult for women as social norms attribute particular jobs to them. Changes in the prices of goods and services affect women not only as consumers but producers as well.

A change in government revenues due to lower tariffs can affect the quality and funding of public services. Women rely more on public services than men, including public transportation, health and childcare. Increasing privatisation also threatens these public services. Trade policy can therefore no longer be developed in isolation from social policies.

Insight

Trade is not only about job creation. It is also about governments being able to stick to their policy, and choose and reinforce the sectors where women's potential has the greatest opportunities.

Innovation & Sustainable agriculture- tools to bridge the gender gap

Organised by OCP and Women in Africa

Speakers

- Apea Agnes Atim, Founder and CEO, Hope Co-ops
- Belrhiti Imane, Vice-President, Sales and Marketing for Africa, OCP Group
- Geiger Henriette, Director for People and Peace, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Libog Charlotte, Founder Afrique Grenier du Monde
- Smires Otmane Bennani, General Counsel, OCP Group
- Owona Kono Joseph Hyacinthe, President, Afruibana

Moderator: Tambwe Mujinga, Communication Officer, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Key Points

- African agriculture is feminised. Women account for around 80 % of farm workers.
- Land ownership is still largely in men's hands and this prevents women from having access to capital and the inputs they need to increase production.
- Education is essential so that farmers can make the most efficient use of seeds, fertilisers and other technologies to boost output.

- New technologies, especially digital ones, offer a chance for African agriculture to enjoy a major leap forward in productivity.

Synopsis

Agriculture in Africa is feminised. The automatic image that the general public has of an African farmer as a man should be replaced as women carry out about 80 % of work on the land.

Without data differentiating between men and women, women's interests are not taken into account when deciding policy.

Women face major obstacles in the farming sector. The biggest of these is the system of land ownership as most land belongs to men. Without ownership rights, women get financing for seeds and other inputs. While women are heavily present in production, men take over in areas such as processing, distribution and marketing as they own the land.

Without access to capital, it is very difficult for African agriculture to move from subsistence farming to commercial production. In some communities, women do not own mobile phones as these are seen as assets belonging to men. Women need access to the latest information available via mobile devices to boost productivity.

Africa has potential as an agricultural producer and has to meet the challenge of feeding a global population that is expected to reach nine billion by 2050. Africa possesses more than 50 % of the world's arable land and offers a new model for sustainable production that can avoid the problems encountered by regions with intensive production on other continents. For now, Africa is a net importer of foodstuffs.

Technology, in particular digital innovation, offers a way for African farmers to make a leap in output. Inexpensive mobile devices can provide information such as market prices, weather and other data to help farmers for planting decisions while drones can be used to report on crops and growing conditions.

Apps have been developed that can link farmers to alternative sources of financing such as crowdfunding initiatives. Efforts must be made to ensure that these technologies are gender-friendly so they can be used by women farmers.

Initiatives are planned to raise education about the use of inputs and to give farmers basic training in running small businesses. Platforms are needed to bring farmers, financiers, processors and distributors together to improve the marketing of farm products. Farmers' biggest problem is the issue of risk. No one would lend to farmers because the perceived risks were too high.

Panellists stressed the role of the public sector in creating the right environment for farming to expand.

The transformation of the system of land ownership is the main priority for unleashing the potential of African agriculture and for giving women the economic control they need.

Insight

Access to financing is a major issue. Where credit is available lenders charge interest rates of 25 % to 30 %.

2.2.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

How are social entrepreneurs advancing the SDGs?

Organised by UNIDO

Speakers

- Candelari Francesco, Social Entrepreneurship Expert, UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)
- Santi Emanuele, Founder and President, Afrilanthropy asbl

Empowering African women through leadership development

Organised by the African Business Club – Solvay Brussels School

Speakers

- Mbazomo Carole, Secrétaire Générale, African Business Club
- Mendy Joelle, Strategy & Content Manager, Africa Business Club
- Mukendy Cynthia, African Gist
- Tirop Susan, Investment Manager, Bamboo Capital Partners

Moderator: Madu Uzoamaka, EU-Africa Political Commentator, What's in it for Africa?

2.2.4 PROJECT LAB

Forests and Farms – Women's Business

Organised by Agricord, Forest and Farm Faculty and FAO

Speakers

- Crabbé Bernard, Team leader Environment and Mainstreaming, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Handoondo Jennipher, Tree Nursery Choma Association, Zambia
- Kathambi Chepkwony Charity, Member of Parliament, National Assembly, Kenya
- Ntungwa Januario, Country Coordinator, Trias
- Partanen Kati, Board Member, The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)

Moderator: Campbell Jeffrey, Manager, Forest and Farm Facility, FAO Forest and Farm Facility

Podcast

Digital Transformation: an opportunity for women in Africa

Organised by Orange, the AFD (Agence Française de Développement), and GSMA

Speakers

- Diagne Nafy, Founder, AWALEBIZ
- Koelbl Pauline, Managing Director, African Innovation Foundation
- Schaart Afke, Vice President and Head of Europe GSMA
- Wald Tidhar, Head of Government Relations & Public Policy - Better Than Cash Alliance, United Nations Capital Development Fund

Moderator: Nietsch Julia, ICT4D Partnerships - Group Strategy Orange

Podcast

3 Lessons for economically empowering women with digital financial services

Organised by Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and Women's World Banking

Speakers

- Badang Elisabeth Medou, Senior Vice-President Africa and Indian Ocean and Spokesperson, Orange Middle East & Africa, Orange
- Bull Greta, CEO, Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP)
- Lopez Yrenilsa, Investment Officer, Women's World Banking
- Phiri Lelemba, Group Chief Marketing Officer, Zoon

Podcast

Empowerment of Women workers in the garment industry in Myanmar

Organised by sequa gGmbH

Speakers

- Lehmann Simone, Project Director, sequa gGmbH
- Lwin Wai Wai, Garment Worker, Business Kind Myanmar
- Ko Than Dar, Director Thone Pan Hla Local NGO, Business Kind Myanmar
- Thair Su Mon, Project Manager, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association
- Wigerhäll Jonah, Sustainability Expert, Hennes & Mauritz

Moderator: Charalambous Alexander, Team leader, SWITCH to Green Facility

Podcast

2.3 Women / Girls in the Urban Space (Sustainable Cities)

The continuous rapid rate of urbanisation in developing countries we are currently experiencing is changing the social fabric in fundamental ways, from the organisation of work to the social interactions, including opportunities, or lack thereof, for advancing gender equality and women empowerment.

On one side, women are generally harder affected by living in inadequate housing and in conditions of poor delivery of basic municipal services. On the other, women may also constitute a core vector for positive changes, constituting an essential element for moving towards sustainable urban development. Under this perspective, it is needed to better understand gender dynamics and gender impacts of rapid urbanisation, rural-urban migration, international migration and slum growth to both counter inequalities and to harness gender as an active force for sustainable urbanisation.

2.3.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Cities for girls and young women = cities for all

Organised by PLATFORMA, PLAN international, UN-Habitat, and The United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

Speakers

- Albrechtsen Anne-Birgitte, CEO, Plan International
- Courtès Célestine Ketcha Epse, Mayor of Bangangté, United Cities and Local Governments
- Leao Lais Rocha, Young Leader - Brazil
- Sharif Maimunah Mohd, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Vallier Frederic, Secretary-General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Moderator: Chadwick Vince, Brussels Correspondent, Devex

Key Points

- Women and girls face unique challenges in public spaces and public transport in many cities.
- Women are constantly excluded from economic activities. Women have an enormous contribution to make. The city is an engine of growth and it must be planned in a gender-responsive manner.
- More advocacy is needed for women at the local level. In Africa women represent 52 % of population and they are at the heart of development.
- Men and leaders must be taught to understand the importance of women. Urban planners and architects are mostly males. They rarely think about issues like the disabled and the safety and mobility of women.

Synopsis

Cities will be sustainable only when women's and girls' perspectives are taken into account. Women are constantly excluded from economic activities. Women have an enormous contribution to make. Cities are the engine of growth. They must be planned in a gender-responsive manner.

Women face challenges in the public space and transport services in cities. For example, using public toilets is a dangerous experience for young girls in Kampala, Uganda, during the day; 95 % of girls feel unsafe in public premises.

The reality of living in cities has to be taken into account when planning and designing cities. The Safer City programmes are working with girls to bring their stories to national and local authorities, so that relevant measures addressing safety issues can be taken.

The local leaders on the ground are the mayors. They need to do management by walking – seeing the city with those feeling insecurity every day. Then they will see what needs to be fixed. Inclusive cities have to be holistic, taking into account the physical, the economic, the social and the psychological.

In northern Europe, more women are engaged in local government than men. Some 1 700 cities are engaged with the gender equality charter and are following its commitments.

Efficiency in city management comes from the sharing of responsibilities and exchange of perspectives. Policy should take into account all social dimensions in the way cities are built and planned through parity in institutions and organisations.

More advocacy is needed for women at the local level. In Africa women make up 52 % of the population and they are at the heart of development, while only 6 % of mayors in the world are women. This shows the discrepancy in sustainable development.

Women at the decision-making level need to bring other women into the loop and United Cities and Local Governments Africa is one of the rare organisations to link women mayors together, contributing to address challenges related to Sustainable Development Goals.

Gender mainstreaming and youth will be reflected in UN-Habitat's new strategic plan 2025. There is a critical need for key actors to work in teams to design cities for all, and to give women a voice and investment.

Men and leaders must be educated to appreciate that women are important. Cities are not planned in a gender responsive manner. Cities were built by men for men. Urban planners and architects are mostly males. The last things they think about traditionally are issues like the disabled or the safety and mobility of women.

Women and men experience cities differently. Problems of safety and inclusiveness exist in all cities. If we plan a city for women we plan it for all. It is essential to build a policy conceived by all, involving a consultation process.

City planning will never be resilient without empowering women and girls from local communities. Urban problems will not be solved without women leadership, motivation and empathy leading to connection.

Insight

Safety and security in cities are a crucial concern of women and young girls. This restricts their movement and employment opportunities.

2.3.2 LAB DEBATE

Leaders of change in the Maghreb

Organised by AIMF, Policy Forum on Development, and Réseau des Femmes Leaders du Maghreb

Speakers

- Amehri Fatima, President, Cooperative des Femmes "Argan Ida Oumtate"
- Bochra Bel Haj Hmida Ep Sahli, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Tunisia
- Freehill Mary, Dublin City councillor, European Committee of the Regions
- Mlouka Cyrine Ben, President, Réseau des Femmes Leaders du Maghreb

Moderator: Kebri Farida, Programme analyst, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Key Points

- International Labour Organization (ILO) statistics show that women represent 24 % of employers worldwide, but only 6 % in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Equality of inheritance for women, long a taboo subject in Tunisia, is now being debated and may well be voted into law soon.
- Many women are unaware of their potential. Mentoring programmes and associations open the way for them.
- Farming cooperatives need support to help them compete with industrial interests able to invest in more sophisticated production technology.

Synopsis

This session examined how promoting the leadership of women is changing the social fabric of the Maghreb. There was a particular focus on the importance of women's

participation in the political system. Even though there has been much progress in access to education, the economy and political representation, many obstacles still hold back women and girls from reaching their full potential in the Maghreb region.

Women needing their own careers is a major topic in the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) report that was published in February by the Committee of the Regions. The report examines how regional and local government can empower women and how the EU can facilitate that process.

Access to information and education are vital. This is particularly problematic in rural areas, although digital technologies can potentially give a maximum number of women and girls access to content. Regional and local authorities have a central role in education and should integrate professional training for women into local employment development strategies. Microcredits should also be explored as a way of empowering women.

A further issue is a lack of affordable child and elder care. Such support services, along with those for women suffering from violence, must be resourced at local government level.

In the 1990s, women in Tunisia were still not allowed to get anywhere near Parliament, let alone ask elected politicians awkward questions. But this has changed. Political will is in tune with civil society, a prime example being legislation regarding violence against women.

A network across the region of leading women is not just about building their businesses, but also about enhancing their private and cultural lives. Being actively involved in local government underpins private-public partnerships, while the perspective of the whole region enhances prospects for urban development projects. One Tunisian initiative to bring young people together for a digital festival is being taken up by Tripoli in Libya.

A women's farming cooperative managed to overcome tremendous prejudice to start making food and cosmetic products from the oil of the argan tree, or Moroccan ironwood. It was hard to make a case for the project when initial discussions were held among the men and women in separate rooms. But with aid from organisations, including the EU, literacy classes and training in the relevant production standards, the cooperative managed to dominate the market for several years.

Insight

Greater access to education in Ireland helped change attitudes over the 35 years since the first referendum on abortion. Many people are now less under the influence of the Church and in May voted to legalise abortion. Although this has been legal in

Tunisia for the past 45 years, the country's long struggle against traditions for other reforms continues.

Equal(c)ity

Organised by UNOPS, UNIDO and Cities Alliance

Speakers

- Belcher-Taylor Pam, Mayor, Paynesville City Corporation
- Mohamed Fatin Ali, Industrial Development Officer UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)
- Schmidt Werner, Director, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Muruli Angela, FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development)
- O'Regan Nick, Director, Infrastructure and Project Management Group, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- Ciccarelli Paolo, Head of Cities, Local Authorities, Digitalisation, Infrastructures European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

Moderator: Lima Laura, Cities Alliance - UNOPS

Key Points

- Women need to be represented on municipalities to ensure that their concerns are reflected in infrastructure projects.
- Having more women in leadership positions improves the equality balance and gives young women role models to emulate.
- It is important to have women take part in project design because only women fully understand women's concerns.
- Ensuring gender equality is a human right and an economic imperative.
- The narrative needs to be about the transformative power of employing women and about helping them develop skills.

Synopsis

Panellists discussed a multisector approach to making communities more sustainable and accessible for women from infrastructure, governance and economic points of view. This is particularly important given that two-thirds of the global population are expected to live in cities by 2050.

Ensuring that needs are taken care of is just as important for women as men. Everyone should be aware that these needs are often different and that there is a need for gender equality and women's empowerment. Women should be represented more in municipalities, either as decision-makers or as technical support staff doing the work on the ground. This helps ensure that women's concerns are reflected in infrastructure projects.

In general, there needs to be a change in mindset about gender equality. Women and girls need to be understood as primary clients of infrastructure and not as add-ons. Infrastructure is generally built to last a long time. So making wrong choices can lead to a form of discrimination against women and girls for decades.

In Liberia more and more women hold leadership positions, which means young women seek to emulate them. This is positive as it gives young women role models. Women's involvement in the political process helped ensure adoption of an anti-rape law that protects victims.

Women's empowerment should become an integral element in all types of urban development projects, whether they concern governance or economic, social and environmental sustainability. It is important for women to participate in the design of projects because only women fully understand women's concerns.

Ensuring gender equality is a human right and an economic imperative. For example, limited access to infrastructure can create a situation where violence is more likely to occur. If transport systems are designed to reduce women's exposure to violence and abuse, then women will be more likely to travel and will be in a stronger position to contribute to the economy.

The narrative about employing women should not be, as was the case in the automobile sector, that they were recruited because they had smaller hands and could handle small tools more easily, and because they accepted lower wages. The narrative needs to be about the transformative power of employing women and about helping them to develop skills. There also need to be policies guaranteeing the rights of women and others who are less included and less empowered.

Insight

A key challenge is how to bring women out of the informal economy. One idea being explored in Liberia is to set up a vocational school. Another idea is to help women organise themselves in associations so they can negotiate and improve their working conditions. Foreign investors may be interested in funding projects, but need to know that national policies will guarantee that projects will not be interrupted.

Building Solid Ground for Women: Land Rights as Foundation for Sustainable Cities

Organised by Habitat for Humanity

Speakers

- Courtès Célestine Ketcha Epse, Mayor of Bangangté, United Cities and Local Governments
- Gronvald Lars, Team Leader for Urban Development and Cities, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Kyrrou Eleni, Lead Gender Specialist, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Makuta Susan Mathabo, National Director Habitat for Humanity International

Moderator: Anyangwe Eliza, Founder, Nzinga Effect

Key Points

- Women in developing African countries comprise more than half of all urban dwellers, but generally enjoy far fewer legal protections for land tenure and ownership.
- This lack of property ownership makes eviction an omnipresent threat for many women.
- Better-targeted sources of financing are needed to help build 'solid ground' for women.
- Participation, safety, housing and violence were named as top concerns.

Synopsis

Through society and laws, or the lack of them, home ownership or inheritance is frequently put out of reach and fail to safeguard women's right to legally own and shelter on property they inhabit or should have a right to inherit. This also fails to recognise the historically cohesive role women play in both the home and immediate neighbourhoods in urban areas.

Women tend to regularly stay closer and longer to the base and their children than men do. However, critics say this fact is not clearly recognised when it comes to provision of guaranteed urban services.

Insecure land tenure rights have left land occupants living in perpetual fear of eviction. Habitat for Humanity cited the example of an 82-year-old woman who was raising five orphaned great-grandchildren; suddenly ownership of the land they were living on changed hands without any clear legal documentation. Working closely with community leaders, the NGO was able to retain legal certainty of access to the land for the great-grandmother, and she was soon able to gain leverage to acquire a new home of her own.

Stories like this are not common. There remains great frustration with official gender insensitivity regarding property rights.

Prioritising the dignity of women needs to be at the heart of all urban initiatives. Investment in the Global South especially needs to be seen through a gender lens. The urban space, already targeted historically with more than EUR 150 billion in investment, has become the gender space, according to the European Investment Bank (EIB). This immediately affects a number of gender roles concerning access issues such as infrastructure and water.

Access to land and secure home tenure is land that accommodates multiple uses, not just livelihood or shelter. This can make or break many women's ability to be productive and fulfilled members of society.

Land rights are not an easy subject and local community pressure is often not enough to effect change in women's land rights status. The European External Investment Plan, launched in 2016, encourages investment in partner countries in Africa to help facilitate housing finance directly to citizens and is meant to help redress homelessness, which at its extreme has significantly helped contribute to mass migration.

EU and non-government organisations need to be less tone-deaf in helping women put down or maintain legally protected housing roots, which helps break the downward spiral of poverty and improves cities' sustainability.

Insight

By 2030, it is expected that a majority of populations once predominantly rural will move into cities; in Africa, a majority will live in urban housing.

Encouraging women's "rootedness" through legally protected shelter, regardless of a man's presence in the equation, is just as important an issue as male unemployment in reversing mass socio-economic migration; the cause of much social, cultural and finally political upheaval in both Africa and Europe.

Tenure security is vitally important to ensure that people are protected and feel safe from threats to their property and from evictions. Tenure security creates enabling environments in which to encourage private and public investment, and build a tax base and advance land-value-capture mechanisms.

2.3.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Culture for development: Women as agents of change

Organised by Culture et Développement, British Council, Africalia, UCLG, culture21, CISAC, ICOMOS, International Music Council, Bozar, ACP, Interarts, Arterial Network, Territoires Associés and CEDC

Speakers

- Daulne Marie, Artist
- Giovinazzo Mercedes, Director, Interarts Foundation
- Marcolin Valeria, Co-Director, Culture et Développement

2.3.4 PROJECT LAB

Shaping Inclusive Public Spaces: a Gender Perspective to Territorial Planning

Organised by Fundación Avina, UN-Habitat, UNDP, and Cities Alliance

Speakers

- Assan Justina Marigold, Mayor, Agona West Municipal Assembly
- De Acevedo Yague Eulalia Elena Moreno, Director Of Urbanism, Regional Government of Extremadura
- Lujan Lucinda Terrazas, Communitarian Leader, Fundación Avina
- Mennetrier Gwendoline, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat

Moderator: Lima Laura, Cities Alliance – UNOPS

Podcast

Driving towards equality? Women, ride-hailing and the sharing economy

Organised by IFC and the World Bank

Speakers

- Hunt Abigail, Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute
- Kolb Henriette, Head of Gender Secretariat, IFC
- Kubba Joanne, Director of Public Policy, Uber

Podcast**2.4 Women / Girls and Migration**

Women and girls represent almost half of the world's 258 million international migrants and every sixth domestic worker in the world is a migrant, with women making up more than 70 per cent of international migrant domestic workers.

Too many migrant women are often victims of discrimination and gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons, and migrant domestic workers often face abusive labour practices: this must end.

Special vulnerabilities of migrant women and girls need to be recognised, by incorporating a gender perspective into policies, national laws and programmes, so that human rights and dignity of all migrants are respected at every stage of migration, across countries of origin, transit and destination.

However migrant women are not only victims: they make important contributions to sustainable development and social change in home countries as well as countries of destination. A broad international effort should promote their empowerment and leadership. Only in this way development can be truly sustainable and inclusive.

2.4.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Women and girls on the Move: Towards Safer Work and Migration for Women

Organised by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UN WOMEN, IOM, ILO, Adept, and Migrant Forum in Asia

Speakers

- Le Guével Audrey, Director Brussels Office, International Labour Organization
- Mlambo-Ngcuka Phumzile, Executive Director, UN Women
- Nakajjigo Esther, Young Leader – Uganda
- Thompson Laura, Deputy Director General, Ambassador, International Organisation for Migration
- Touray Isatu Jarra, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Republic of The Gambia
- Vassiliadou Myria, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission

Moderator: Gass Thomas, Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Key Points

- The human and civil rights of migrants must be guaranteed in all circumstances.
- Women represent half of all migrants.
- Women send home half of all remittances, even though they generally earn less than men. Ending the gender wage gap would likely boost remittances.

- Many migrant women help fulfil growing demand in healthcare and domestic services. This helps free European women from these chores so they can pursue professional careers.
- The entire value chain of human trafficking must be criminalised.
- Poor governance is a leading “push factor” for people who end up in refugee camps or seek greener pastures elsewhere.

Synopsis

Europe and the world should take a positive view of migration. As goods and services move across borders, it makes sense that people will do the same. Destination countries must respect the human and civil rights of migrants in all circumstances. For women, this would include access to reproductive services.

The feminisation of migration has been a hot topic for many years. Women now make up half of all migrants. They often work in healthcare and domestic services. Both fields are experiencing growing demand in Europe and other parts of the world. When migrants take over such chores, it takes the burden off European women who can more easily pursue professional careers.

Healthcare and domestic work tend to rank on the low end of the pay scale. Domestic work is particularly hard to regulate; often it is informal. Since it is diffuse and takes place in family homes, it is hard for labour inspectors to track. Meanwhile, only 39 countries have ratified Convention 189 of the International Labour Organization that covers the sector.

Women migrants contribute to their country of origin by sending half of all remittances home – even though they earn less, on average, than men due the gender wage gap. Eliminating that would probably boost remittances, which in most countries are significantly more important than foreign aid. Many South Asian countries have become highly dependent on remittances from women working abroad, many in the Persian Gulf region. By contributing to development, remittances may stave off future waves of migration.

Most human trafficking involves women and girls. Generally, these individuals are looking for new opportunities abroad and end up being exploited by criminal gangs. Because people make money, it is important to look at the business model. The entire value chain should be criminalised. This would include people who help transport, feed and house the victims, as well as those who knowingly use the services provided by and goods produced by trafficked individuals. Law enforcement should follow the money trail.

The Migrant Forum in Asia, a coalition of non-governmental organisations, provides orientation for prospective migrants before they leave their countries of origin and

helps them establish peer-to-peer social networks that can provide support once they move abroad. It advocates for migrant rights on the national and international levels.

Bad governance represents an important “push factor” for migrants who leave their home countries. They are forced out by violence or enticed by better opportunities elsewhere. Good governance might encourage more people to try to make a go of it at home.

Insight

Better data collection and analysis is needed. Results should be disaggregated to help better understand the specific realities of particular groups, including women.

2.4.2 LAB DEBATE

Women on The Move: Stories of Resilience and Reintegration

Organised by the European Commission, IOM UN Migration and ITC

Speakers

- Hagi Yussuf Mariam Yassin, Special Envoy for Migrants and Children's Rights, Government of Somalia
- Mbenga Jallow Fatou, Project Coordinator & Senior Technical Adviser, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Schinina Guglielmo, Head of Global Mental Health, Psychosocial Response and Intercultural Communication (MHPSS) section, IOM
- Sompore Idrissa, Programme Manager, EU-IOM Joint Initiative on Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Guinea, IOM

Moderator: Versé Didier, Head of Unit Western Africa, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

Key Points

- Women returnees from irregular migration should be seen as an asset for their home countries because their experiences have made them resourceful.
- Reintegration strategies should be designed to help them re-establish themselves in their communities, often in the face of cultural and social resistance.

- With the right help and environment, these women can create jobs and contribute to local economic development.
- Training should be offered in sectors that people find attractive and where there are genuine opportunities in the private sector.

Synopsis

Women who voluntarily return to their home countries following irregular migration need support with their reintegration. While women are a minority among irregular migrants, only accounting for 15 % of the total, they are especially vulnerable to sexual violence and abuse on their journeys. They often face difficulties being accepted back into their local communities because of social and cultural assumptions about their experiences.

The EU and the United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM) runs programmes offering migrants who have ended up in detention centres in countries such as Libya the opportunity to return to their home countries.

Those people who return voluntarily are offered immediate assistance by specialist teams as soon as they arrive back. This includes medical and financial aid. The approach is tailored to women's specific needs with experts on hand. The EU and the IOM have helped around 30 000 people who have decided to return voluntarily.

When it comes to reintegrating these women there are a number of factors to take into account. It is important to help women overcome cultural or social hostility following their experiences of migration. Returning women can be seen as no longer suitable for family life or marriage. Working with spiritual and religious leaders can help these women be accepted back into their communities.

Returning women are often the most resourceful members of their communities because they have taken the decision to pursue the path of irregular migration as a way of realising their dreams for a better life. They should be seen as a resource for their communities because of the resilience they have shown. These women should be given the skills and opportunities they need to make an active contribution to economic development.

For example, a young woman from Guinea who returned from a job working as a domestic servant for a family in Libya completed her studies to become a midwife when she arrived home and was able to re-establish herself in her community.

In other cases, women returning have been given training in management and running businesses. Empowering women in this way can help reduce the incentive for irregular migration because their income can lessen the pressure on male family members to try to make it to Europe.

Ensuring that there are sustainable jobs is one way of tackling one of the drivers of irregular migration. Most of the people who decided to make their way to Europe via

irregular channels had jobs rather than being unemployed. What motivated their decision to leave was the quality of jobs that were available.

It is important to offer training in sectors that are expanding and that interest young people such as information and communications technology or fashion and design. Training should also be closely linked to labour market demands to ensure that there are genuine opportunities in the private sector.

Insight

There was a surge in irregular migration from the Gambia when the mobile phone market there was liberalised and people in remote villages were able to contact friends and relatives who had made it to Europe.

Investing in migrant women

Organised by the Council of Europe Development Bank

Speakers

- Benmohammed Inesse, Director of Entrepreneurship Programmes, SINGA
- Brun Isabelle, Technical Advisor, Council of Europe Development Bank
- Diez Guardia Nuria, Policy Officer, European Commission - DG for Migration and Home Affairs (HOME)
- Limone Andrea, CEO, PerMicro

Moderator: Islam Shada, Director Europe & Geopolitics, Friends of Europe

Key points

- Society can do more to benefit from migration.
- The migration narrative needs to concentrate on the positive impacts.
- Migrant women are an untapped entrepreneurship resource.
- Access to childcare, education and financing services empowers migrant women.

Synopsis

Migration is a pressing concern in many countries. In Europe, migratory pressures are expected to increase over the coming decades. The complex challenge of long-term integration is being tackled by many societies. As lessons are learned, some societies are now better equipped to seize the opportunities that migration brings.

European initiatives and projects that support migrants throughout the integration process were debated. The first step in the process is to help migrants face some of the challenges that they find on arrival. These include the language barrier, negotiating different social and culture norms and, for highly skilled migrants, the non-recognition of qualifications.

Some inspiring projects at local level are helping to change the narrative around migration. They do so by presenting positive role models. For example, connecting people – locals and newly arrived migrants – around a shared interest, such as cuisine or the hosting of refugees in locals' homes, and work placements are helping to develop social cohesion.

Likewise, mentoring projects led by migrant women who have settled for new arrivals helps smooth integration. In these ways, the perception of migration changes for the positive, its wider benefits are better understood and migrants are not seen as a homogenous mass.

Labour market participation is crucial to speed up integration. However, research shows that, while migrant women are more likely than men to want to integrate fully and set up home in their host country, they are often marginalised, facing double discrimination in access to employment, due to status and gender.

Facilitating economic empowerment and financial inclusion of migrant women could deliver significant economic benefits for an untapped resource. This would help to challenge the negative populist migration narrative.

Positive stories were told of successful entrepreneurial initiatives led by migrant women who have settled in Europe – often financed by microcredit agencies and supported by EU financing institutions. The various examples demonstrate how resilient migrants – and especially women – can be in getting on with their lives in new surroundings.

Gender equality is key to making the most of migrant women's entrepreneurial skills. Big gaps remain in employment rates for migrant women, when compared to other groups. They are more likely to be in part-time employment, receive lower wages.

Those with higher education who have jobs are more likely to be underemployed. Support programmes at all levels need to ensure that migrant women get greater access to language classes, quicker access to social employment services, access to financing, access to childcare – with the added benefit of integrating children as well. In this way women can participate fully in their new society and accelerate their long-term integration.

Insight

In seeking to support migrants, overly targeted approaches serve to exclude rather than include – projects should encourage social cohesion by embracing diversity.

SheMigrant and Sustainable Development

Organised by ADNE, UNIDO, Association of Kenyan Diaspora in Belgium and Luxembourg, Women in Africa and YABS Network

Speakers

- Akpo Christiane, CEO, Ochola ASBL
- Kara Amina, Co-founder, International Talents Network
- Ngonze Caroline, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Signore Stefano, Head of Migration, Employment, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Uwitonze Marie Chantal, President, African Diaspora Network in Europe (ADNE)
- Yvetot Christophe, Head of Liaison office to the EU, the ACP Secretariat, Belgium and Luxembourg, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

Moderator: Diboma Marina, Deputy Managing Director, the Netherlands-African Business Council

Key Points

- Economic security, either through a job or by starting a business, is usually the first priority for migrants.
- Solidarity networks are important for the women of the African diaspora who face job discrimination or may find it hard to finance their own small businesses.
- These groups can help promote the interests of migrant women in their destination countries.
- They can also help forge partnerships in Africa and Europe to promote development back home.

Synopsis

Economic opportunity usually takes precedence at an early stage for women of the African diaspora in Europe. If they want to enter the job market, they must overcome discrimination to land a decent position and begin to forge a career path. If they choose the entrepreneurial route, they will need support, notably financing. Economic security engenders “agency,” which may well lead people to get involved politically and attempt to influence policymaking.

Sympathetic European policymakers often focus on the protection of vulnerable migrants, but many people also need support to find employment or build their businesses. The European Commission has several projects that strive to meet these demands. Another approach taken by some international agencies is to improve the

skills of people in their home countries, preparing them to thrive no matter where they end up.

Solidarity networks can help the women of the African diaspora advance their interests in their adopted countries and to contribute to development back home. Several such networks have cropped up, including the Africa Diaspora Network-Europe. In Brussels, Ochola promotes African art, design and other creative activities.

Such organisations lobby local and national authorities and the European Union (EU), create links with European women`s organizations, build bridges with relevant organizations in Africa, and help people find jobs and entrepreneurs grow their businesses. They can help individuals navigate the labyrinth of the European Commission and other agencies to find programmes that might be useful.

The specific needs of diaspora women can sometimes differ from those of their allies. For example, European women tend to be more concerned with equal pay, while diaspora groups spend more time helping people break down barriers to find decent employment. Having often enjoyed better educational and training opportunities, women of the diaspora can help their sisters back home by teaching skills that might be scarce there.

Food processing looms as a promising target for partners who want to help improve the lives and skills of people in Africa. It adds value to raw agricultural products, improves nutrition, and can provide new skills and jobs for local people. In Europe, agriculture and agribusiness are one of the leading sectors of the economy. In Africa, it is all too often relegated to the realm of subsistence, making little contribution to gross domestic product (GDP).

Another interesting sector is known as development minerals. Often overlooked, they include industrial minerals, construction materials, clay and more. They are mined from the earth and used to construct buildings and produce a long list of products from toothpaste to paints. They are mined locally, processed locally, and used locally.

When diaspora groups and their European partners undertake these and similar efforts, they need to ensure that they jive with the national development plans of the countries of origin. Migrant groups can help their European partners because they understand their home countries and their cultures, problems and policies.

Insight

The women of the diaspora are “less visible”. This is partly because many of them are domestic workers.

2.4.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Understanding and preventing trafficking of women and girls

Organised by IOM and LUMOS

Speakers

- Jacques Mathieu, Programme Manager, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Mann Lori, Consultant – Facilitator, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Mueller Chissey, Specialist, Counter Trafficking in Humanitarian Settings, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Papancheva Irina, EU Advocacy Manager, Lumos

Girls on the move – Protecting Girls in Migration and Displacement

Organised by Save the Children, Danish Refugee Council and IOM

Speakers

- Cano Natalia Alonso, Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
- Newth Hannah, Child Protection Adviser, Save the Children
- Signore Stefano, Head of Migration, Employment, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Starup Kathrine, Global Specialist Lead on Protection, Danish Refugee Council - Dansk Flygtningehaelp
- Todorova Irina, Senior Regional Migrant Assistance Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Moderator: Martinez Ester Asin, Director & EU Representative, Save the Children

2.4.4 PROJECT LAB

Gender in migration policy-making: between protection and empowerment

Organised by ICMPD, the European Commission and MIEUX

Speakers

- Garcia Ana Isabel, Executive Director, Fundación Género y Sociedad

- Hagstrom Camilla, Deputy Head of Migration, Employment, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Rahajarizafy Lanto, Director in charge of the Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Madagascar
- Teye Joseph, Director, University of Ghana

Moderator: Frankenhaeuser Malin Elisabeth, Head of Policy, International Centre for Migration Policy Development

Podcast

World Bank-UNHCR partnership in 2018. Forced Displacement through a gender lens

Organised by UNHCR and The World Bank

Speakers

- Macleod Ewen, Senior Advisor On Development, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
- Sergeant Caroline, The World Bank

Moderator: Signore Stefano, Head of Migration, Employment, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

Podcast

2.5 Gender Responsive Budgeting

The notion of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) refers to policies and to particular Public Financial Management techniques for promoting gender equality. GRB implicitly acknowledges that there is no gender-neutral government budget: reducing the budget allocation for water and sanitation will affect women (who traditionally collect water for the household) more than men; reducing tax credits for healthcare will place the burden on women who tend to stay home and take care of children. Although this is a general problem government policies, implemented through a budget, should aim at eliminating all sorts of harmful disparities.

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals paved the way for a wider use of 'Gender Responsive Budgeting', i.e. public finance management, fiscal policy and administration to promote gender equality in partner countries.

Gender budgeting already exists in a large number of countries but at various degrees of intensity and scope and all government agencies can potentially play a role in the implementation of gender oriented policies through the implementation of their budget.

2.5.1 LAB DEBATE

Making tax work for women's rights

Organised by ActionAid and Eurodad

Speakers

- Amenfi Bridget, Young Urban Women's movement
- Gerretsen Erica, Head of Budget support, Public Finance Management, Domestic Revenue Mobilisation, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Ryding Tove Maria, Policy and Advocacy Manager, European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)
- Sharpe Rachel, Policy Adviser, ActionAid UK

Moderator: Tranberg Hannah Morrison Brejnholt, Tax Policy and Programme Manager, AADK (ActionAid Denmark)

Key Points

- Tax policy has a major impact on gender inequality.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) tax advice is gender-blind and has disproportionate negative effects on women.
- The IMF and the governments it advises should de-emphasise VAT and focus on progressive income tax instead.

Synopsis

Tax policies have a major impact on gender inequality and disproportionate effects on women. Women are over-represented in the informal sector and in the most vulnerable types of work. They have less ownership and control over assets than men and undertake three times as much unpaid care and domestic work.

The advice provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on tax policies, and its macroeconomic advice more generally, has a major impact on the realisation of women's rights. However, the IMF advice is gender-blind and where it does address

gender specifically, it is by seeking to increase the labour market participation of women and to close the gender wage gap. The gender dimension of its tax policy advice is largely unexplored.

These issues are coming to the fore as developing countries will have to improve their revenue/GDP ratio to fund measures required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

A feminist tax system would be progressive because women are over-represented among the poor and men among the rich. This is not the route taken by the IMF in its advice to developing countries. The IMF's standard advice on raising tax revenue is to introduce a value-added tax (VAT) and raise the rate. Yet VAT is regressive and as a tax on consumption, hits the poorest, and hence women, hardest. In addition, the IMF tax advice is being provided without proper preceding gender analysis.

Exemptions could, in principle, mitigate some of the most harmful regressive effects of VAT, but the political economy of getting such exemptions enacted works to the advantage of the powerful, and, as a result, perpetuates gender inequalities. More generally, tax codes tend to reflect the balance of economic and political power in a given country at a given time, further cementing, or deepening, various inequalities.

There is insufficient focus by the IMF on direct income and wealth tax as a means to raise public revenue and on increasing compliance with existing personal income tax (with non-compliance high among the wealthier segments of the population). Instead, the IMF offers the introduction or raising of VAT as a standard approach for governments to increase revenue.

Before advocating any tax policy change, the IMF should undertake a gender and distributional analysis of its proposals to ensure that basic human rights are not being infringed. It has begun, in a limited manner, doing so in some countries. The IMF should not advise countries to raise public revenue by raising VAT rates but focus instead on wealth and income tax and on compliance with the existing tax code.

Insight

Eliminating the harmful effects of taxation on gender equality could have a second positive gender effect by providing sufficient revenue for the provision of gender-responsive public services.

La coopération européenne au service de la budgétisation sensible au genre
(European cooperation in the service of gender-sensitive budgeting)

Organised by Expertise France

Speakers

- Daulny Paul, Responsible for Local Communities and Trade Unions, Centre Hubertine Auclert
- Gautier-Budai Anne-Elisabeth, Director of the Representative office in Brussels, Expertise France
- Gibb Yolanda, Gender Expert, DAI, Societal Innovation & Enterprise Forum
- Sacaze Jean-Pierre, Head of the Governance Section, Delegation of the European Commission to Morocco

Moderator: Dapogny Alice, Responsible for Twinning Division, Expertise France

Key Points

- Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is gradually gaining ground.
- The concept is still in its infancy at national level in EU Member States but is picking up speed at regional level.
- GRB is increasingly part of Official Development Assistance (ODA).
- It's should produce a win-win situation but is totally dependent on political will.

Synopsis

GRB is a relatively new concept first aired during the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing. It aims to achieve equality between women and men by focusing on how public resources are collected and spent. It is not about a separate budget or even an additional budget but rather a more balanced budget.

In the EU, the concept is still in the early stages with only Belgium and Spain having passed a law on GRB. In other EU countries most of the actions on GRB take place at regional level. Vienna, for example, is considered a model city for gender mainstreaming having integrated gender budgeting in its budget proposals since 2006.

At EU level, Official Development Assistance (ODA) increasingly includes the gender dimension when developing programmes abroad. The goal is that by 2020, 80 % of its funding will go to projects which have gender as an integral part of their action plan.

To date, the GRB pioneer is Morocco. Its first gender-neutral budget was launched in collaboration with the EU in 2012 and results are already impressive. In the mining and industrial sectors, for example, much work has been done to involve more women

in the workforce by introducing incentives such as better childcare and transport options.

Morocco has realised there are only benefits to gain from GRB. Helping women enter the workforce or set up their own business is a good return on investment because it means more taxes and more revenues for the government.

In Morocco, the initiative came from the government itself but in other countries making governments accept that equality is a game changer demands more effort. Some governments are not even aware that their budget favours men over women, often convinced that public spending is gender neutral. In that case, statistics can be used to show that this is not the case and that much can be done to improve the situation.

Now that the EU is mainstreaming gender in its ODA, it is perhaps time to include GRB in the EU budget itself.

Insight

GRB is a universal concept that will benefit all of society though it requires a major commitment from politicians because it means new mindsets and ways of working. Raising awareness on its benefits is part of the dialogue between the European Commission and development aid beneficiaries.

2.5.2 PROJECT LAB

Gender budgeting: what is it good for?

Organised by ODI

Speakers

- Gerretsen Erica, Head of Budget support, Public Finance Management, Domestic Revenue Mobilisation, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

- Kuteesa Florence, Former Budget Director, Ministry of Finance, Uganda, Council for Economic Empowerment of Women in Africa-Uganda
- Welham Bryn, Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute

Moderator: Maxwell Simon, Chair, European Think Tanks Group

Podcast

2.5.3 LARGE DEBATE

Financing for gender equality

Organised by UN WOMEN

Speakers

- Curristine Teresa, Deputy Division Chief, IMF
- Fernandez-Shaw Felix, Director for International Cooperation and Development Policy, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Jaku Ardiana, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Policy, Albania
- Kakande Margaret, Head of the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and economic Development, Uganda

Moderator: Lubani Ermira, Regional Proejct Manager, UN Women

Key Points

- Gender-responsive budgeting is about men as well as women. It provides a direct link between government policies on gender equity and the resources needed to implement those policies.
- Governments and multilateral organisations such as the European Commission need to enshrine gender budgeting in law as part of a larger reform of public finance management at all levels.
- Gender budgeting builds bridges within government departments and between governments and civil society.

- Data and indicators on the effects of gender budgeting are in short supply – but they are vital to changing attitudes and priorities, especially in ministries of finance.

Synopsis

Countries with greater gender equity enjoy significant macroeconomic gains. Having equal participation of men and women in the US workforce could boost GDP by 5 %, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Ensuring budgets reflect gender equity affects men as much as women. It provides a direct link between government policies and the resources needed to implement those policies. It's also about leaving no one behind. Gender-responsive budgeting is one of the tools that can help deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Governments need to enshrine gender-responsive budgeting in law as part of a larger reform of public finance management at all levels from municipal to national. The same goes for multilateral institutions such as the European Commission.

Countries such as Albania and Uganda are leading the way in demanding that government departments must identify how the funding they seek will be targeted towards gender inequities in their sectors. Cities such as Berlin and states within Spain and India are already practising gender budgeting at the local level. Tangible results include more girls attending primary schools in India. Meanwhile, the European Commission is grappling with the concept as part of the latest discussions around its seven-year budgeting process.

Gender-responsive budgeting is a tool that builds bridges both within government departments as well as between governments and civil society. In Uganda, the process has led to the Ministry of Finance collaborating with the Equal Opportunities Commission and other sectorial ministries, including a gender task force chaired by the finance minister, which draws in civil society groups.

The governments of Mexico, Guatemala and India have set up gender units within their ministries of finance, leading to a mainstreaming of gender goals in government programming.

But finance ministers make decisions based on evidence, not emotion. Data on the effects of gender-responsive budgeting are in short supply – as are gender-disaggregated indicators that show us where the inequalities are. Researching and presenting these data is vital to change attitudes and priorities at government level.

The International Monetary Fund is doing valuable work in this area and has started to include gender indicators in its annual country assessments as well as in some of its country programmes, for example in Egypt, Jordan and Niger.

Data can change the way we see things – which in turn changes the way we spend money and create impacts. Gender budgeting is not about spending new money; it is about reprioritising what we do to make more of a difference.

Insight

We also need to talk about gender-responsive taxation. For example, tax credits for single parents and childcare could boost women's participation in the workforce.

3. Strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation

3.1 Women / Girls in Power and Decision Making

Women have increased their visibility as heads of state and government and as members of parliament in many parts of the world.

But in some socioeconomic groups, sectors and countries, women may be unable to take advantage of new opportunities for political power because of factors like insufficient opportunities offered by political parties, threats of violence and harassment, or because of time-consuming domestic commitments.

This makes it important for donors, governments and activists to continue to promote equal opportunities within political parties and other actors, the fight against stereotyped and gender-blind political programmes, as well as their support for independent women's organisations including those with strong local bases.

Women leaders could improve the legislation to promote more gender sensitive initiatives, for instance improving the number, quality of and access to childcare facilities, punishing perpetrators of gender-based violence and challenging stereotyping and gender based discrimination.

That, in turn, can foster an environment more amenable to female participation in economy, public life and decision-making.

3.1.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Raising women's participation in decision-making: engaging men as change agents

Organised by the European Commission and ADEPT

Speakers

- Croise Michel, President, Sodexo Benelux
- Jamtin Carin, Director-General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Timmermans Frans, First Vice-President of the European Commission and European Commissioner for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter for Fundamental Rights, European Commission
- Touray Isatou Jarra, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Republic of The Gambia

Moderator: Maycock Joanna, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby

Key Points

- Gender equality is not just a moral issue; it is vital for economic development.
- Greater gender equality will require transforming our vision of power, leadership and authority.
- Women need to mobilize, network and connect to promote gender equality, not only with other women but also with men.
- Fairer distribution of time between women and men would generate a better life/work balance and allow more women to participate in decision-making.

Synopsis

Gender equality should be a political and business priority, whether viewed from a moral or an economic standpoint. It makes no sense to leave half of humanity's brainpower – the part represented by women – in a secondary role. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, which is already well under way, will demand creativity and invention and it would be foolish to ignore the benefits that gender diversity can bring.

But men are not going to easily surrender the economic and political benefits they currently enjoy because people always struggle to preserve their privileges. And the gender equality that favours men is a form of privilege. There will be resistance to change. For this reason, it is necessary that women encourage men to speak out on gender equality because many men feel uncomfortable with the status quo.

Gender equality needs men to champion the cause. The challenges that the world faces need new types of leadership and a new vision of power and authority, one which challenges the old male-dominated concept. Men are the gatekeepers of power, so the issue is how to get the keys.

In many countries, particularly in the developing world, fighting for equality for women means fighting against entrenched cultural and social mores and traditions. Too often, it is women themselves who are a source of the kind of patriarchal ideas that hinder women's development. This is the case in many parts of Africa. It is also true in Afghanistan, where cultural stereotyping is very strong. But the under-representation of women is a reality in all societies, with women making up less than 24 % of parliamentarians globally.

Women, particularly in Africa and developing countries, need to belong to movements. They need to work closely together to develop feminist groups and forge international links. The media can also play an important role.

But women face similar challenges everywhere; they have less access to work, more responsibility for domestic chores and are exposed to more violence in the home. There is no country where men face more discrimination than women. Women have 30 % less time for things that are also important like reading and cultural activities.

Education is fundamental. Gender equality needs to begin in schools, with the recognition that boys and girls have an equal right to education. The struggle for gender equality is a permanent one; it is a long battle. Quotas for women participation in decision-making can be valuable by setting targets to strive for and to provide a way to measure progress.

Sodexo is an example of a company that has made gender equality central to its corporate philosophy, with the declared objective of achieving gender balance wherever it operates. Internal surveys show that gender balance improves profitability.

Insight

A quick poll of the participants showed a significantly higher percentage backing quotas for political representation (73 %) than for representation in corporate decision-making (52 %). But the difference could simply reflect that fact that the corporate poll was taken first, and participants took a bolder line the second time.

3.1.2 LAB DEBATE

Breaking the glass ceiling: achieving gender equality in private sector

Organised by Secretaria General Iberoamericana and Fundación Avina

Speakers

- Abreu Fabricia, Talent and Executive management Director, Iberdrola
- Baracatt Gabriel, Executive Director, Fundación Avina
- Davis Randi, Director for Gender, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Díaz-Lladó Arancha, Director of Sustainable Innovation and Diversity, Telefonica
- Grynspan Rebeca, Secretary General, SEGIB (Secretaría General Iberoamericana)

Moderator: Manzano Cristina, Director, esglobal/Pensamiento Iberoamericano

Key Points

- Reconciling work and family life is at the heart of gender equality.
- The private sector has a leadership role to play in boosting gender equality.
- Companies are making progress towards improving gender balance with initiatives to boost female representation in management and technical ranks.
- Successful companies need to keep in step with their customers' values.

Synopsis

Companies in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries in the developing world have taken initiatives to improve gender equality in the workplace.

Gender equality depends on achieving a better balance between work and family life so that women do not have to choose between one or the other. This would benefit women and men. It would also help other sections of society such as children and the elderly. Workplaces should also be free of sexual harassment to give women a comfortable working environment.

A number of initiatives have been taken to increase the proportion of women in companies and especially in jobs requiring science, technical and mathematics skills. The United Nations Development Programme runs a certification scheme for companies that assesses their gender equality policies and awards them a gold, silver or bronze seal depending on the level of equality they achieve. Around 600 companies in Latin America have signed up for the scheme.

Representatives of the private sector highlighted schemes to address gender imbalances. One example was including a candidate from the under-represented gender in the final shortlist for executive appointments. Another uses gender-blind techniques during the selection process to eliminate traditional biases. One company operating in Latin America has a diversity council, which includes senior executives looking at gender-balance issues within the company.

Companies in Latin America have introduced initiatives to encourage women to pursue careers in technical areas that have traditionally been male-dominated. One company representative gave the example of a mentoring programme with engineers and technicians for young women and girls. A technology company runs a special programme for the daughters of employees to encourage them to take up technical careers.

These initiatives are important because young women and girls are often reluctant to pursue such courses of study because they have internalised the idea that they were not for women.

Gender equality should not be pursued only in the interests of social justice. Research shows that companies with more diverse workforces have better results. Women have a better understanding of female customers' needs so companies risk losing out if they do not have diverse workforces. Panellists pointed out that companies have to reflect the social values of their customers as part of long-term strategies.

Some of the panellists noted that although there has been impressive progress in gender equality within companies in Latin America, women are under-represented at the highest level of politics.

There has been a backlash against the focus on gender equality. There should be a greater effort to change thinking about sharing of family responsibilities. Women in very successful positions sometimes feel greater responsibility to sacrifice their careers to devote more time to their families and this needs to change.

Insight

The World Economic Forum reports that it will take 200 years to achieve gender equality.

Gender, Corruption and SDG 16

Organised by Transparency International

Speakers

- Leiva Sindy, Project Assistant, Acción Ciudadana (Transparency International Guatemala)
- Ndabarushimana Colette, Regional Coordinator, Transparency International Rwanda
- Sadki Ali, Project Manager, Transparency Maroc
- Safaraliyeva Rana, Executive Director, National Chapter in Azerbaijan, Transparency International

Moderator: Nanayakkar Rukshana, SDG Advocacy Manager, Transparency International

Key Points

- Gender based corruption remains pervasive because implementation of counter-measures lags far behind fine-sounding policy pronouncements.
- Poverty hits women hardest when seeking public services because they have little if any leverage over often male providers.
- So-called “sextortion”, which involves the illicit trading of services for sexual favours by people in power, remains one of the most common forms of corruption victimising women.
- Greater gender equality is closely correlated to lower levels of corruption, but the gap remains wider the further from Europe one travels.

Synopsis

Public awareness is growing slowly but steadily throughout many countries that gender-related corruption requires a far more robust response from national and local authorities. But raising public awareness is one thing; social and cultural stigmas attached to reporting individual, explicit acts of gender based corruption remain strong.

The withering shame to admit an indiscretion to get ahead remains a powerful disincentive. This is especially true of the practice of “sextortion”, which involves using power to leverage sex as a form of currency. In Morocco, Rwanda, Azerbaijan, Guatemala and elsewhere, stories of this kind of abuse show the devastating effects on women’s empowerment in the workplace and classroom.

There often remains a predictable divide between urban and rural society in getting to grips with gender based corrupt practices. Newly made widows and their children fleeced of their rights and left destitute by the dead husband’s paternal side of the family and some well-placed bribes of local gatekeepers, as one heart-rending video from Ghana recently revealed.

In Rwanda, especially in the private sector, the problem has been described as “hellish” relative to the public sector. Still, no one seems to have the gumption, without credible and enforced whistle-blower regulations, to blow the proverbial whistle on it. And in Azerbaijan, while anonymity is largely respected when complaining about private sphere grievances, it clearly does not hold when taking on the public sector or government officials.

Women themselves are sometimes criticised as being too passive or too intimidated to take up voting (as in Azerbaijan, which has had suffrage for a century now). As a result, influential women do not rise above the parapet to be identified as “visible” public leaders, not only at the social and cultural level but also the elected political level.

Pervasive “old boy” networks offer up some of the reason, but some feel women should be pushed harder as well to get their message out. The good news is that when they do manage to do so, many regions report a significant fall in gender-related biasness when women are enabled with the political or medial power to affect change.

Tragically, the corruption starts early. The use of school grades by teachers to exert power over students in their early to mid-teens, particularly those from poorer backgrounds, by seeking or outright demanding sexual favours, remains prevalent. One school in Rwanda reported that a teacher had impregnated dozens of his young students.

Moreover, domestic workers – where women are in the majority (and where the horror stories coming of Middle Eastern emirates are only the tip of the iceberg) – are also strongly exploited because they often have so little power to speak out.

Insight

NGOs alone are not going to solve this issue. It will also require more courage by those disadvantaged by the system to speak simple truth to power, even at the risk of the shame of a wider public knowing the terrible intimate compromises they were forced to make to get a bit ahead in life, or with the poor and minority groups, to just keep treading water.

Women contribution to raising development cooperation efficiency in Africa

Organised by IDAY, The World Bank, Forum for African Women Educationalists and the European Parliament

Speakers

- Doroba Hendrina Chalwe, Executive Director, Forum for African Women Educationalists
- Hautala Heidi, Vice-President, European Parliament
- Heider Caroline, Director General and Senior Vice President, Evaluation, The World Bank Group
- Ibrahim Hauwa, Lawyer, Sakharov Prize laureate 2005, The Peace Institute
- Kanko Assita, Writer and Founder of Polin, Political Incubator for Women, International Day of the African Child and Youth

Moderator: Schul Jean-Jacques, Chairman, International Day of the African Child and Youth

Key Points

- Issues relating to women's rights have been under formal discussion at EU and international level since the 1970s but, it is argued, they are still no nearer being resolved.
- Foreign aid is supposed to help alleviate poverty in some of the poorest nations on earth but there are some who say it is contributing to it.
- Data suggests that, in some cases, the more a country receives in foreign aid the less it grows economically.
- Women's potential in making foreign aid more efficient is often overlooked.

Synopsis

Poverty remains entrenched in many parts of the world, including Africa, even though these nations have received substantial sums in foreign aid.

It is often argued that foreign aid can cause more harm than good because instead of helping those who need it most, the money goes to corrupt governments. It has been estimated that for every US\$ 1 in Overseas Development Aid (ODA) aid going to Africa, another US\$ 2 leave the continent in illicit financial flows instead of improving access to health, education and other priority sectors.

The irony is that aid could be actually contributing to the poverty of aid recipient countries. It is difficult to explain the apparent mismatch between increasing foreign aid and declining economic growth in these countries.

African countries are not the only ones where the effectiveness of foreign aid is perceived as a problem. Afghanistan also receives foreign aid designed to help it become more self-sufficient, despite its being a conflict zone.

The danger is that countries like Afghanistan can become dependent on such aid and that recipients can be perceived as not wishing to do anything to help themselves. On the donor side, foreign aid can be viewed as a never-ending burden.

These are among the reasons why public and private foreign aid are now recognized as failing to alleviate poverty in recipient countries. Processes in donor and recipient countries are equally responsible, and women are often among the main victims.

Protecting women's rights, therefore, depends on their capacity to improve foreign aid efficiency. By wielding more influence over aid policy and operations, women would enhance their capacity to alleviate poverty in Africa and elsewhere.

IDAY-International, which represents some 600 African organisations, has submitted a series of proposals in this direction. These include what is functional education, better access to finance for women and increased female participation on bodies controlling the way foreign aid is spent and at the policy decision-making level.

A country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) should not be measured only by personal welfare and wellbeing. Improved transparency, accountability and integrity in the way foreign aid is disseminated to countries in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world are also important. Also, recipient countries should no longer be looked on with pity but on the contrary for their economic potential.

Insight

There is room for optimism. For example, the EU's Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 calls on donors to take gender equality into account when distributing foreign aid. The

World Bank hopes to add clarity to a slightly confused situation after it completes a major assessment on the extent to which people in Africa and elsewhere benefit from foreign aid.

Catch up with #HerNarrative! A new role for media in women's empowerment

Organised by Africa Communications Week and ROOTS

Speakers

- Balonwu Nkiru, Managing Partner, RDF Strategies
- Diby Peggy, Senior Communications and Corporate Affairs Professional
- Joppart Catherine, Consultant Communication for Development
- Salvare Aurelie, Founder, Shiftbalance

Moderator: Madu Uzoamaka, EU-Africa Political Commentator, What's in it for Africa?

Key Points

- Education is necessary from a young age to counter discrimination.
- Seek advice and seize opportunity whenever it arises.
- Create your own channel.
- Identify and promote role models to blunt divisions.

Synopsis

Women are dramatically under-represented in the media in Africa. In a male-dominated media landscape, very few women's stories make it through the newsworthiness filter and those that do often perpetuate sexist tropes.

The move towards equality begins from the youngest age and should be considered at every juncture. Being more mindful of the stories we share with children is a first step. In the home and in school more effort is needed to avoid gender stereotypes. Both boys and girls need to be taught. A lack of female teachers at secondary and tertiary level was identified as a problem in this regard.

By increasing female participation and representation – young girls must feel free to speak up when they have something to say – over time this will lead to better gender balance in the media and better political representation too.

Innovative ways of bringing forward the voices of African women are needed. Storytelling workshops allow women to reshape their own personal narrative. While fear of public speaking is natural, women must seize the opportunity to influence the narrative whenever it occurs. This inspires and normalises the woman's voice. Networks and initiatives can provide the training needed to engage with the media.

A higher diversity of stories is needed. Where media is too pale, male or stale, a solution is to create your own channel and tell the story that interests you. Podcasts or community radio are a good starting point and over time it can link to media with a larger reach. Media organisations have considerable power to shape societal perceptions by reporting on the realities of women and girls' lives and providing them with a platform.

For example, a community radio station in Niger broadcasts radio plays focused on contentious social issues. While the media may not shape behaviour directly, it prompts conversations and gives credibility to a discussion. Collective initiatives are also combatting prejudice, such as, for example, that of the Lallab media to give French Muslim women a voice.

Production of and access to reliable information is a major, yet overlooked, precondition for women to play their full part in society. Role models – both male and female – are powerful in helping blunt arbitrary divisions between the sexes.

Innovative approaches can help the media to report in a more gender-neutral way such as a North African database of Arab-speaking women professionals working as scientists, doctors, lawyers and so on. The uptake depends upon the mainstream media's willingness to see women and girls as newsworthy. It's time for African media to start better telling their story.

Insight

Women need to enact the change they want to see in the world. This is the premise of the <https://www.myreadingchallenge54.com> initiative that encourages women to own their stories by reading 54 books by African women, from the 54 countries of Africa in 54 weeks.

3.1.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Who defines our identity? Advocating for women leaders in the culture sector

Organised by Med Culture Technical Assistance

Speakers

- Dabdoub Christiane Nasser, Med Culture Technical Assistance

Moderator: Arteil Zeinab, Facilitator, Med Culture Technical Assistance

Youth as key actors of change

Organised by Cooperatives Europe

Speakers

- Corbalan Sergi, Executive Director, Fair Trade Advocacy Office
- Mannai Khouloud, Medical Intern, Trade Union Tunisia
- Saadah Anis, Coordinator, Indonesian Youth Cooperatives Federation
- Williams Yentyl, ACP Young Professionals Network

Moderator: Novaro Lorenzo, Representative of the Youth European Cooperators Network, Cooperatives Europe

Ensuring Women Participation and Empowerment for Water and Development

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Dhot Neil, Executive Director, AquaFed
- Fatch Joanna, Project Manager, AU/NEPAD Southern African Network for Water Centres of Excellence
- Fauconnier Isabelle, Water Policy and Sustainability Advisor, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- Jenniskens Annemiek, Executive Director, Women for Water Partnership
- Marijnissen Chantal, Head of Environment, Natural Resources, Water, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Miletto Michela, Deputy Coordinator, WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO)
- Niang Awa, Scientific Secretary, Doctorate School on Water, Water Quality and Water Uses
- Wintermayr Irene, Policy Officer, International Labour Organization
- Witmer Boleslawa, Steering Committee Member, Women for Water Partnership

Moderators: Biedler Murray, Coordinator, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Ronco Paolo, Scientific Officer, European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC)

3.1.4 PROJECT LAB

Women in politics: get involved!

Organised by ENOP

Speakers

- Adamou Barkatou Sabi Boun, General Director of Digital Economy and Post, Government of Benin
- Bouchareb Nouzha, President, ConnectinGroup International
- Kopp Gudrun, ENoP Board Member
- Laabidy Touria, Project Manager, KAS (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung)

Moderator: Woelkner Sabina, Programme Director, KAS (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung)

Hidden hunger: Produce more or empower more?

Organised by CIRAD, the European Commission and the Committee on World Food Security, High Level Panel of Experts

Speakers

- Banda Grace Kata, Young Leader – Malawi
- Lourme-Ruiz Alissia, Post-PhD, Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
- Onclin Madeleine, Team Leader for Nutrition, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Sanou Mazouma, Animatrice, Union Provinciale des Professionnels Agricole du Houet

Moderator: Caron Patrick, Chairman, Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement

Podcast

Empowerment of Women: the case of the National Commission for Lebanese Women

Organised by Eurecna

Speakers

- Benhadid-Messaoudi Faiza, International expert on Gender & Human Rights, Center of Arab Woman for Training and Research
- Grabundzija Maggy, Consultant, Eurecna SpA
- Joedicke Anne-Laure, Coordinator for the Mediterranean Area, European Association for Local Democracy
- Santi Giulia, Project Manager, Eurecna SpA
- Yassir Randa, Senior International Consultant, Eurecna SpA

3.2 Women / Girls and the Environment

In a hotter world, land degradation, deforestation leading to water scarcity, crop failure, fuel shortages and instability are increasingly common concerns. Women's key social and economic roles make them more susceptible to these phenomena. Increased natural resource scarcity, makes them more vulnerable and may ultimately force them to migrate.

There can be no sustainable economic development or peaceful societies without a healthy planet. Enabling women to take more decisions on land, water and biodiversity management empowers them. Women are actors of change in the transition to a green and low emissions' economy respectful of our rich biodiversity.

3.2.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of Conservation and Climate Action

Organised by IUCN, the European Investment Bank, UNDP and UN environment

Speakers

- Afriyieh Nana Akua Owusu, Member of Parliament, Parliament House of Ghana
- Aguilar Lorena, Global Director Governance and Rights, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- Chowdhury Shah Meem Rafayat, Young Leader – Bangladesh
- Davis Randi, Director for Gender, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Ferroukhi Rabia, Deputy Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance, International Renewable Energy Agency
- Taylor Jonathan, Vice President, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Moderator: Itkonen Anna-Kaisa, European Commission Spokesperson for Climate Action and Energy, European Commission

Key Points

- Some 70 % of decisions about consumption are made by women. They should be seen as agents of change.
- Half the world's population cannot be left out of climate change solutions.
- Greater women's participation can increase the pace and sustainability of energy transition.
- All international environmental agreements now have gender action plans. The challenge is to implement them.
- Solutions to tackle the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through one single policy action are needed.

Synopsis

Half the world's population – women – cannot be left out of the solutions to climate change. Indeed, 70 % of decisions about consumption are made by women. They should be seen as agents of change.

There are 10 million people working on renewable energy. This could rise to 30 million by 2050, a huge pool of labour requirements, and we need to prepare for this. Introducing women supports the sector and improves incomes and jobs.

All international environmental agreements now have gender action plans. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was the pioneer in bringing gender into the debate on climate change. There are now very clear mandates. These are in place and are being put into practice at country level.

There is a direct link between women's economic empowerment and climate change. Women are on the front line in implementing climate action activities in many

countries. It is thus very important to take their interests into account. This must be built into the planning.

Institutions need to be more coherent. We must try to tackle as many SDGs through one policy action as possible.

There is no silver bullet approach to addressing gender equality and generating empowerment. We need to shift from a sectoral to a holistic approach and large-scale vision. Gender equality is also about the right to own land, the right to participate; it is a human right.

Grassroots organisations are key to gender empowerment action plans and to shifting the mentality of local communities. Getting finance to support action at the local level is a major challenge. Access to finance from international bodies is often a complex process that requires bureaucratic time and effort.

There is a clear link between women's economic empowerment and climate change. Women are on the front line in implementation actions; 43 % of the agricultural workforce are women. We must take account of the role of women in these important sectors.

Women tend to be more sensitive to social inclusiveness and are better environmental managers. They are more collaborative. Gender diverse companies tend to outperform those who are less diverse.

Since the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate there has been a change in the financial world with general funds now taking account of climate issues that were formerly the preserve of ethical funds.

The European Investment Bank has developed a gender strategy and factors it into its policy decisions. Women's interests must be taken into account and built into planning.

Insight

The challenge now is at the local level where the participation of women will be crucial to successful implementation of climate actions.

3.2.2 LAB DEBATE

Gender gains as an integral benefit from investment

Organised by the European Investment Bank and EcoEnterprise Fund

Speakers

- Busingye Annicent, Operation and Maintenance Director, Frontier Energy
- Hautala Heidi, Vice-President, European Parliament
- Newmark Tammy, CEO & Managing Partner, EcoEnterprises Fund
- Touchard le Drian Aglaé, Senior Investment Manager, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Moderator: Slingenberg Yvon, Director for International, Mainstreaming and Policy Coordination, European Commission - DG for Climate Action (CLIMA)

Key Points

- Evidence is building that investment using gender equality and eco criteria can be profitable and socially beneficial.
- Better data collection and use of metrics are needed to demonstrate progress to both communities and investors.
- Communities must be involved at all levels to make such projects succeed and be sustainable.
- Helping educate female adolescents is key.
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) is leading the way to expand gender-equality and eco-friendly projects.

Synopsis

Progress over 20 years by specialist investors focused on gender-equality and environment goals alongside good financial returns, is showing a success rate that is attracting more investors.

The pioneering EcoEnterprises Fund has created a model which demonstrates that investing with eco- and gender-supporting investment can make a good return.

The fund encourages the inclusion of women in senior management. It promotes community involvement. All parties must be part of the venture to create the product and ensure access to the markets.

EcoEnterprises is now raising its third investment fund. Its first fund focused on seed investments that formed the credibility base for launching a larger second fund, which has recorded a net internal rate of return (IRR) close to 10 per cent. This rate of return is impressive to investors. Its third fund is looking to invest in larger projects with turnover of more than USD 1 million.

Frontier Energy, the leading investor in energy markets in Africa, includes gender-inclusiveness in its projects. In these long-term projects, the company particularly focuses on targeting women for the jobs in the longest phase of the operations and maintenance, where there will be the greatest impact.

The company is also demonstrating that women can do traditional manual jobs, many involving night shifts, where families provide support to make this possible.

To engage with the private investment sector, more impact reporting is needed to show the social value being created. It is important to collect data that show progress over time and to design metrics on elements such as gender, training and locally collected taxes to underline the social value.

Firms are increasingly integrating impact assessments in their working methods. Their clients now demand evidence of this.

Alongside proving the concept to investors, such projects have to involve local communities at all levels to help them succeed. This leads to community-led projects and greater numbers of local entrepreneurs.

It is necessary to start with basic elements to bring skills to women – many of whom have little education; and also to give them confidence to take a stronger position in male-dominated communities. Often the women, though competent at what they do, are not involved in decisions.

Women are encouraged to form investment clubs. They are trained in personal finance management. This is bringing change in local communities. It is helping them start income-generating activities. They can save their money and see how it can benefit them and their families.

Remote areas where traditional male-dominated values are strong remain a challenge. During consultations it is generally men who attend and women do not speak up. Separate consultations are organised to get their input.

The EIB is leading the way to expand the whole sector. The External Investment Plan (EIP) is proving useful to bring in private capital. The guarantee instrument, in particular, is an important tool for promoting seed capital investments.

The EIB-managed GEEREF (Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy) fund of funds is seeking to integrate the gender dimension and promote equality. It aims to give equal voice to women and men in its projects.

At EU level, work is under way to develop due diligence instruments to improve reporting and transparency about environmental and social impacts.

Insight

Momentum is building to prove that investment with gender-equality and eco-friendly criteria can be profitable and sustainable.

Stronger women for a better climate

Organised by the European Commission, ACP and GCCA +

Speakers

- Barre Anne, Coordinator Gender and Climate Policy, Women Engage for a Common Future
- Uphie Chinje Melo Florence, President, University of Ngaoundere
- Monteith Sheila Sealy, Ambassador of Jamaica to Belgium and Head of Mission to the EU, Embassy of Jamaica
- Neelormi Sharmind, Panelist, GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice
- Newman Fleur, Gender Affairs Officer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Singh Nidhendra, Counsellor, Embassy of Fiji in Belgium
- Slingenberg Yvon, Director for International, Mainstreaming and Policy Coordination, European Commission - DG for Climate Action (CLIMA)
- Zaccheo Felice, Head of Sustainable Energy, Climate Change, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

Moderator: Biloa Marie-Roger, Founding Chair, Club Millenium

Key Points

- Women are often disproportionately affected by climate change because they usually find themselves in the frontline of its impact.
- They should have more say in tackling global warming, such as more equal representation in international climate mitigation negotiations.
- The EU is at the forefront of such efforts, introducing targeted measures that are designed to give women more equal participation.
- The Paris climate change agreement is unlikely to realise its full potential without mainstreaming gender issues into climate action.

Synopsis

Despite claims to the contrary, climate change is happening and it affects everyone, be they male or female, young and old. But women can often be disproportionately vulnerable to the impact of climate change, particularly in poorer countries in Africa and elsewhere, where they are often responsible for feeding and providing water for their children and families.

When ecosystems are degraded from climate-related floods and droughts, this can impact disproportionately on women. This is compounded by the fact that the rights and socio-economic status of women are generally not equal to those of men. Women often have less of a voice and influence than men in shaping policies and prioritising how climate finance is used.

Empowerment of women is an important ingredient in fighting climate change and building climate resilience as women are primary agents of change. Their role is fundamental to create a solid basis for a climate-proofed development.

In recent years, there has been some progress in ensuring that women have a bigger say on climate issues. One good example is the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Initiative – a EUR 350 million initiative funded by the EU and other sources – whose aim is to empower women, particularly in the world’s most vulnerable countries, to cope more effectively with the consequences of climate change.

The initiative comprises more than 100 projects in countries in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Funding in the first phase (2011-2016) supported capacity building, training and water management. The second phase (2017-2021) aims to seek out new initiatives directly involving women.

Despite continuing gender inequalities, women's voices and actions are being heard, as illustrated by the example of a female farmer in Malawi. Due to the impact of climate change in her country she has had to drastically diversify her activities, which now range from growing crops to raising livestock and producing honey. It means, for example, that in the event of a drought she can now rely on other revenue streams for herself and her family.

In Fiji, efforts are being taken to tackle gender issues with the government’s climate mitigation unit now staffed entirely by women. While such initiatives are welcome, much more still needs to be done to ensure that women – who make up approximately 50 % of the population – enjoy more of an influence on climate policy. Allocating more places to women on national delegations taking part in climate mitigation negotiations is but one example of how this might be achieved.

Looking ahead, the fear is that the Paris Agreement on climate change may not fulfil its full potential unless women, and the invaluable contribution they can make, are more fully taken into consideration.

Insight

Despite the example of a woman farmer from Malawi who has commendably succeeded in diversifying her activities in the face of climate change, it is clear that much more is still needed to ensure that women generally influence climate change policymaking at all levels.

WATER TALK: Women, water and wetlands!

Organised by Wetlands International, Cordaid, Rode Kruis, Care and Partners for Resilience

Speakers

- Bacigalupi Claudio, Team Leader for Water, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Banda Grace Kata, Young Leader - Malawi
- Griffin Alexander, European Programme Manager, Wetlands International
- Hagenars Carmen, Deputy Director Inclusive Green Growth Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- Kandole Annet, Programme Manager, CARE International
- Marques Ruiz Carmen, Policy Coordinator Environment & Water Diplomacy, Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Key Points

- Given that global water use is increasing dramatically, there is an urgent need to restore lost wetlands and to safeguard sources of water.
- Water scarcity can lead to conflicts.
- Women are key drivers of change in terms of peace and security, and should be involved in decision making processes.
- Water needs to be tackled in diplomatic and not just environmental circles, as water cooperation between countries fosters peace and security.
- Encouraging dialogue between national ministries for water, energy and agriculture can help create synergies between these sectors, and improve efficiency in the use of water and greater regional stability.

Synopsis

Wetlands are critical infrastructures that regulate and provide water to society and have a direct impact on sustaining livelihoods. Large swathes of wetlands have been lost since the start of the 21st century. Given that global water use is increasing dramatically, there is an urgent need to restore the wetlands and to safeguard sources of water.

Water scarcity can lead to problems and conflicts. For example, women in many developing countries are often the primary collectors of water. In dry periods, they may have to walk long distances, exposing themselves to the risk of violence. Women are often the hardest hit by water-related problems and can drive change by addressing the problems. There is evidence that solutions last longer when women are involved in defusing conflicts and helping to find peaceful solutions.

Another reason why water needs proper management is that incoming investors may be using and contaminating the water. In Uganda, efforts are being made to include

women in decision-making by mobilising them, engaging young people to develop participatory wetland management plans and recognising the positive role of women in wetland governance structures. In this context, it is important to draw up bylaws that have been agreed by all stakeholders to ensure legal certainty.

Another major issue is international cooperation and the importance of seeing water not just as an environmental issue but also in a wider context, including security. Structuring processes of dialogue and of conflict resolution are a key part of a water, peace and security initiative begun by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017.

Since 2013, the European Union has seen water as a foreign policy issue and is developing its own water diplomacy. It promotes cooperation and discussion between different countries in key river basins around the world, such as the Nile basin, to help prevent conflicts.

There are links between water, agriculture and energy as agriculture and energy are major users of water. The European Commission is working with five regions around the world to encourage dialogue among national ministries for water, energy and agriculture. This establishes connections between the three sectors so they can create synergies for better water usage. Increased efficiency in the use of water also creates greater security stability.

Insight

Given that people in charge of water resources have power, there is a need for more discussion and better cooperation between parties competing for water. This would lead to a healthier democratic environment for this issue.

3.2.3 PROJECT LAB

Women Empowerment Through Green Business Development

Organised by Switch to Green Facility, Stockholm Environment Institute, Switch-Asia and One planet

Speakers

- Ayugi Eunice, Chairperson Alebere Child Mothers Farmers Group, SAG (SWITCH-Africa Green Network Facility)
- Marijnissen Chantal, Head of Environment, Natural Resources, Water, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Mokhtari Nardjes, Entrepreneur Verté, UNEP Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Repinski Peter, Senior Expert, Co-lead 10 YFP Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme, Stockholm Environment Institute
- Thair Su Mon, Project Manager, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association

Moderator: Khojayan Gohar, Communication Specialist, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment

Podcast

3.2.4 LARGE DEBATE

Proud to be ranger at Virunga National Park

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- De Merode Emmanuel, Director, Virunga National Park
- Hautala Heidi, Vice-President, European Parliament
- Jamtin Carin, Director-General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Kavugho Jolie, Ranger, Virunga National Park
- Manservisi Stefano, Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Wilungula Cosma, Director General, Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)

Moderator: Paviot Bénédicte, Journalist, France 24

Key Points

- Virunga's courageous women rangers and their male colleagues are literally on the front line, defending against murderous armed rebels.

- Virunga represents the unstable division in eastern Congo between sustainable wealth generated through biodiversity and attempted violent extraction.
- The government and Virunga Park leaders use rangers to provide security to its diverse wildlife and resources.
- The struggle is to secure Virunga as a durable example of sustainable conservation and smart economic policies triumphing over human greed.

Synopsis

Fighting to keep Virunga National Park free from rebel violence, 725 park rangers face a daunting challenge to keep its rich diversity of wildlife safe from traffickers and poachers and its biodiversity intact.

Two years ago Jolie Kavugho, a proud and intense woman, decided to become a ranger. She had heard over the local radio about positions opening up for women. Her father was also a ranger until he was killed some years ago by rebels.

Kavugho, one of 26 women rangers at Virunga, or about 5 % of the total, lost three of her male colleagues who were killed in April. Their widows sat nearby as she spoke.

As the largest and oldest national park in eastern Congo, Virunga offers its natural riches to visitors: tourists, conservationists and others hoping to protect its hidden and fragile exposed wealth for the 4 million people who live there and nearby and the estimated 20 000 who are directly employed.

The rebels and their paymasters, gas companies and others, come to visit too, at times shutting down or taking over vast swathes of the park by force. Their only interest is in plundering the handsome profits to be stolen from illegal logging, rare wildlife and ivory poaching, and illegal fishing. This accounts for an estimated US\$ 170 million in annual illegal earnings, of which the rebels take about a quarter.

Emmanuel de Merode, the director of Virunga who was himself shot in an assassination attempt in 2014, knows the value of the women who work to keep the park safe. Although his predecessor was a woman and the previous commanding officer as well, he and Jolie know the culture is generally not welcoming to women working as rangers.

Kavugho and the other rangers escort tourists for their safety and file regular reports on the number of gorillas and other species. The rangers are uniquely attuned to even small movement and change at the park.

The rangers have become a front line of defence. More are needed to protect the forests and all that try to live at peace there. Peace for her country and her park, Kavugho said, is all she wants.

The odds are sadly working against her hope. Tourists were recently barred from the park because of the ongoing threats from armed rebel groups. That puts Jolie and

other rangers in their gun sights every day. Some never come back from their patrols: Some 175 rangers have been murdered at Virunga over the past 20 years.

Insight

Women rangers lead by example in securing new sources of opportunities, inspiration and pride for women not only in eastern Congo, but everywhere.

Achieving gender equality through universal access to energy: a roadmap towards 2030

Organised by UNDESA and the European Commission

Speakers

- Abdalla Salma Elshaikh Idris Ali, Young Leader – Sudan
- Alers Marcel, Head of Energy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Ghebreyesus Tedros Adhanom, Director-General, World Health Organisation
- Jager Marjeta, Deputy Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Rehma Ibrahim, Director India Operations, Flemish Institute for Technological Research
- Zaccheo Felice, Head of Sustainable Energy, Climate Change, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

Moderator: Oparaocha Sheila, Executive Director, Energia International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy

Key Points

- Cooking with open fires or traditional cook stoves causes serious health and environmental harm that disproportionately affects the lives and livelihoods of women and children.
- Clean cooking solutions can dramatically reduce exposure to harmful cook stove smoke, but delivering this technology and changing behaviour has proved difficult in many developing countries.
- The lack of political will at the national level and the billions of euros required to deliver clean cook stove technology has slowed down progress.
- The global community needs to treat traditional cook stoves as a life-threatening public health issue that demands the serious engagement of governments, the private sector and civil society.

Synopsis

What is one way to empower women and save lives? Clean cook stoves. This session explored the potential of clean household power to transform communities and the lives of women and girls.

A short film produced by the World Health Organization (WHO) presented the facts. Globally, 3 billion people cook over open fires or traditional cook stoves that burn heavily polluting fuels such as charcoal, kerosene, wood and animal dung. Cooking this way causes serious health and environmental harm that disproportionately affects the lives and livelihoods of women and children.

As a leading cause of air pollution, traditional cooking methods contribute to the preventable death of 2.6 million people each year and sicken millions more. Yet, clean cooking solutions exist that can dramatically reduce exposure to harmful cook stove smoke and lessen climate and environmental impacts.

The use of clean cook stoves and fuels can minimise the amount of time women and girls spend gathering wood fuel, while also providing much needed economic opportunities.

Given the high stakes, WHO called for a global campaign for clean cooking similar to the campaign against tobacco. However, cooking is deeply cultural and changing behaviour has proved difficult for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Despite more than a decade of focused advocacy and investment, UNDP and the European Commission have been frustrated by the lack of progress globally. The major barrier is the lack of political will at the national level. Governments are often more interested in big renewable energy and infrastructure projects than clean cook stoves.

This itself could be a gendered response because dirty cook stoves disproportionately affect women who are a less influential political constituency. Gendered or not, the costs involved are significant.

Billions of euros are needed to bring clean cook stove technology to the households that need it. The budgets involved are far beyond what developing country governments can afford.

According to the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (TERI), the best way to bring down costs is to invest in innovation that can improve existing technology and more efficiently extend the energy value chain to rural households.

Governments clearly cannot solve this challenge alone. The private sector is needed to develop better technology solutions and a more efficient supply chain. With the right incentives, governments could help to attract more private-sector investment.

The results achieved with government incentives for solar panel technology offer a useful case study to explore.

The European Development Days Youth Ambassador said young women can play an important leadership role in this energy transformation. They can set generations of households on a new path given the right education and opportunity.

A new path, and a clean way of cooking, is definitely needed.

Insight

Doctors should prescribe clean cook stoves just like they prescribe malaria nets or antibiotics. This is a massive public health problem with millions of lives at stake. We need fresh thinking and new strategies to dramatically speed up progress.

3.3 Women / Girl' Human Rights

Women fighting discrimination are particularly vulnerable to gender based harassment, stigmatisation and violence (including sexual violence, rape and death), whether from the State or from their own families and communities.

These women may be protecting land from expropriation by mining and agricultural projects, calling out injustices, corruption and social exclusion, demanding clean water, or standing up for the full enjoyment of women's and girls' rights in the face of religious fundamentalism. Whatever their cause, the work of women human rights defenders challenges discriminatory legal frameworks, social norms and gender stereotypes and puts them at risk. Providing the much-needed medical assistance, psycho-social support, legal counselling, urgent relocation or financial help to their family members are key to survive emergencies.

3.3.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Amplifying girls' and women's voices in the global movement for gender equality

Organised by PLAN International, UN WOMEN and FRIDA

Speakers

- Abagun Olaoluwa Halimat, Young Leader - Nigeria
- Albrechtsen Anne-Birgitte, CEO, Plan International
- Lambrinidis Stavros, Special Representative for Human Rights, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Mlambo-Ngcuka Phumzile, Executive Director, UN Women
- Pierre-Antoine Sophia, Board Co-Chair, FRIDA Young Feminist Fund

Moderator: Maxwell Simon, Chair, European Think Tanks Group

Key Points

- Lack of gender data for some Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) makes it difficult to monitor what is happening to women and girls.
- Even when laws and policies to promote gender equality are in place, people's mindsets have yet to change.
- Half of young feminist groups are operating with a budget of less than US\$ 5 000 and a quarter of less than EUR 500.
- The bottom-up theory: Victims of inequality need to be trained to raise awareness and inspire others.

Synopsis

Thousands of interviews conducted for the film *Woman* indicate that giving access to education is the key to empowering women from a young age. Despite progress, with levels of primary education for girls beginning to approach those for boys, it should not be forgotten that terrorists see young girls in education as a prime target: Smart girls prevent them from filling empty voids in society with their hate.

There have been steps forward, but also some steps backward. The needle on the SDGs will not move without a deep commitment to dismantling patriarchal structures, to shifting norms. Stereotypes are more resilient than laws. Though the Nigerian Supreme Court struck down laws denying inheritance to girls, the practice continues in local communities.

The media has to follow education in the fight against stereotyping, shifting the mindset to match the laws in place. In Pakistan, tentative signs of this shift can be seen in discussions with soap opera directors and actors. The media also needs to be interested in girls before they become victims of sexual violence.

Movement-building is important because women need to speak for themselves. Women need platforms and it has to become normal that girls are speaking in the room. Putting the girls front and centre means building them up, paving the way for them to be heard and protecting those who dare speak truth to power. Local community watchdogs can put pressure on local authorities.

Young feminists need to be mentored at the grass-roots level. A community of girls in Lagos, aged between 10 and 16, were able to draft an action plan on sexual violence that led to the supervision of children in religious contexts by both men and women. When hundreds of young girls were able to tell explicit stories about safety in visiting toilet facilities to the entire city council of Kampala, beliefs and mindsets were shifted.

Cultural immovability is not a given; it is the lack of visibility that holds back change. The lived reality of the girl child and young women is overlooked. Also, the global legislative framework is gender-blind. Quiet diplomacy is needed, seeking change from within, not without. There is also a need to open doors to all voices, including to women who do not fully agree with this agenda for different reasons, so we can avoid the danger of talking in an echo-chamber.

Insight

A participant suggested that as we have been discussing the same problems for 40 years and nothing changes, we need to face the fact that African women are in socio-economic slavery, state this clearly and recognise that only local civil society, not international organisations, can change things.

3.3.2 LAB DEBATE

Innovative approaches and partnerships to amplify women and girls' voices

Organised by the Mission of Canada to the European Union

Speakers

- Byanyima Winnie, Executive Director, Oxfam International, Member of Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency

- Manservisi Stefano, Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Pierre-Antoine Sophia, Board Co-Chair, Frida Young Feminist Fund

Moderator: Golberg Elissa, Assistant Deputy Minister - Strategic Policy, Global Affairs Canada

Key Points

- When women are part of decision-making, everyone benefits.
- Feminist development puts gender front and centre of all policy areas in the developing world.
- Structures for inclusion matter – that is how universal women’s rights developed.
- Developing indicators to measure progress and gather data about the success of grassroots projects remain a challenge.

Synopsis

Despite reduced global poverty, women and girls continue to face significant barriers and remain underrepresented in leadership positions and decision-making processes.

Too often women’s voices are not heard. This is shortsighted because research shows that when women and girls are recognised as decision-makers and given control over resources, everyone benefits.

Innovative approaches are required to overcome barriers to women’s and girls’ participation and to making themselves heard, so they can become powerful agents of change in sustainable and inclusive societies.

There has been some success. Women’s voices are now at the centre of the Group of Seven Industrialized Nations’ agenda. As host of the 44th G7 Summit in June 2018, Justin Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, introduced a feminist advisory group, while in June 2017, Canadian International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau launched the Women’s Voice and Leadership Program.

As part of this initiative, the Canadian government will allocate US\$ 150 million over five years to respond to the needs of women’s organisations in developing countries. This goes hand in hand with Canada’s feminist development policy that mainstreams gender in all aspects of policy.

Feminist policy must tackle the structural causes of gender inequality such as laws, as well as cultural norms that, for example, tolerate violence against women or exacerbate the unpaid care burden.

Currently there are more than 155 countries with at least one law that discriminates against women in the economy. There are 18 countries that allow husbands to prevent their wives working.

The EU supports both top-down and bottom-up approaches. Top-down, because leaders must take responsibility; bottom-up, because if you don't support grassroots organisations, the movement will not succeed.

Canada is focusing investment on initiatives that will have the biggest impact on closing the gender gap as quickly as possible.

Canada also launched a call for action to mobilise resources in support of gender empowerment in developing countries. It is anticipated this will come about mainly through private philanthropic investment.

One funding organisation, Frida, the multinational Young Feminist Fund, has awarded about EUR 2 million to 200 groups globally to support women's rights. But all those who apply for funding vote on who gets the money, helping to create support networks.

It is important to understand the local context of feminist groups. As many as 46 % of them are unregistered, but this can put them at risk. Funders and supporters have a responsibility to those they fund to make sure they are safe. The EU's emergency fund can come to the aid of human rights defenders at risk - including those that are unregistered.

Only 2 % of humanitarian funding globally goes to local organisations. Too often international organisations walk away after overcoming an initial crisis. Innovative approaches and effective partnerships are needed to amplify women and girls' voices from the most vulnerable and marginalised levels of society. Long-term funding should also be more readily available.

Making people the defenders of their own rights should be the aim, but developing indicators to measure progress and gather data remains a challenge. Women have a right to be represented – in parliament, in local government, or on boards. They shouldn't be held to a higher standard, or subjected to more accountability than men.

Insight

Although two leaders of the G7 are women, the seven countries' finance ministers and central bank governors are all men.

Women and Girls with Disability

Organised by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

Speakers

- Fernandez Luis Mora, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
- Mulas Carmen Ruiz, Secretary, COCEMFE
- Ramirez Amalia Dieguez, CERMI Director, CERMI Women Foundation
- Rios Beatriz Martinez, International Relations, ONCE Foundation

Moderator: Antona Mayte, Editor-in-chief, Section Society, Servimedia

Women on the Frontlines

Organised by The Fund for Global Human Rights, Protection International, Urgent Action Fund, Mama Cash and Just Associates

Speakers

- De Marco Coenen Liliana, Executive Director, Protection International
- Ilyas Meerim, Senior Programme Officer, Urgent Action Fund
- Lopez Marusia, Senior Associate, Power & Protection of Women Activists, Just Associates
- Moosa Zohra, Executive Director, Mama Cash
- Savage James, Program Officer, Enabling Environment for Human Rights Defenders the Fund for Global Human Rights

Moderator: Pierro Robin, Communications Manager, the Fund for Global Human Rights

Key Points

- Attacks on women's rights activists frequently include sexual violence and social shaming, with accusations that women who speak out are transgressing their society's norms.
- The single most important factor in a country making progress towards protecting women against violence is the presence of an autonomous feminist movement with sufficient funding to set its own agenda.
- The current backlash against 20 years of global progress on women's rights and sustainable development – evidenced by the recent surge in restrictive legislation, limitations on access to funding and direct action against women – can only be

countered by a collaborative pushback by a wide range of civil society organisations.

- Current EU budget discussions about absorbing funding earmarked for women's rights groups into a wider, non-specific fund risk serious, negative impact on the ability of some smaller women's groups to survive.

Synopsis

The recent crackdown on organisations defending women's rights and promoting their role in sustainable development goes well beyond restrictive legislation and official control of aid spending. At root, it is a backlash against progress by powerful vested interests and a manipulation of public debate about women's and girls' right to speak out.

For 20 years, a worldwide consensus had been building that a free and open civil society is part and parcel of sustainable development, and that development by definition includes the right of women and girls to education, paid work, healthcare and control over childbirth.

This consensus is now under threat from political interference in development decisions, anti-civil society legislation, funding limits for human rights organisations, vilification of activists, and violence and intimidation of defenders of the rights of women and girls.

At the grassroots, attacks on female activists systematically include sexual violence, stigmatisation and shaming based on gender stereotypes.

Survey work identified sexual violence as a standard form of attack on women rights activists in countries as far apart as Turkey, Uganda and Russia, while local state and religious institutions also seek to silence women through intimidation.

To push back, civil society needs to work collaboratively, uniting development and human rights sectors and supporting efforts within women's rights organisations to defend themselves and their families.

In Latin America, for example, women's groups are documenting and reporting male violence against them, building self-protection networks, and providing safe spaces for women experiencing high levels of stress and exhaustion due to their fight for their rights in a region where state institutions remain riddled with sexism.

But the pushback must go further. Governments that make statements of intent about upholding women's rights but fail to enforce legislation to protect them must be held to account. Efforts to portray women activists as bad mothers, communists or even anti-development terrorists need to be countered in public debates. Progressive

actors at all levels – local, regional and international – need to align their policies to take the initiative back from increasingly repressive and patriarchal opponents.

Insight

Some women’s rights groups are finding it increasingly tough to get official recognition in the developing countries where they work, and with it access to international development finance. Ending their access to specific funds or imposing rules that require them to get government approval to apply for EU assistance could prove to be an existential threat and put them out of business.

3.3.3 PROJECT LAB

Fighting violence against women from a multistakeholder approach

Organised by Alianza por la Solidaridad, Barcelona Institute for Global Health, EuroNGOs, Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation

Speakers

- Calle Suarez José Ángel, Director, Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation
- Chávez Victoria Adela Villanueva, Director, Movimiento Manuela Ramos
- Maleno Helena Garzón, Researcher, Independent Consultant
- Moreno De Acevedo Yague Eulalia Elena, Director Of Urbanism, Regional Government of Extremadura
- Zacharenko Elena, Researcher, Independent Consultant

Moderator: Iraola Leire Pajin, Director for Global Development, Barcelona Institute for Global Health

Podcast

Gender equality is at the heart of social cohesion

Organised by EuroSocial, Expertise France, FIIAPP and Organizzazione Internazionale Italo-Latino Americana

Speakers

- Aramburu María Marcela Eternod, Executive Secretary, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES), Mexico

- Butkeviciene Jolita, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Denis Mirta, Executive Director, Social Cabinet of Presidency of Paraguay
- Garcia Ana Isabel, Executive Director, Fundación Género y Sociedad
- Touraine Marisol, State Councillor, France, EUROsociAL

Moderator: De Suremain Marie-Dominique, Gender Coordinator, EUROsociAL

Podcast

Designing protection mechanisms that work for Women Human Rights Defenders

Organised by ProtectDefenders and Urgent Action Fund

Speakers

- De Wolf, Emilie Equipo de Proteccion Integral, Consorcio Oaxaca
- Kamidola Aigerim, Human Rights Defender, FEMINITA
- Mardrossian Christine Astrig, Programme Manager, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Youssef Weaam, Human Rights Officer, Gulf Center for Human Rights

Moderator: Ilyas Meerim, Senior Programme Officer, Urgent Action Fund

Podcast

3.4 Women / Girls in Digitalisation

Digitalisation offers women and girls new pathways for social and economic progress, contributing to their financial empowerment and independence, ensuring a better work-life balance, and amplifying their voices in the world.

Mobile devices and information technology are enablers for sustainable development and job creation as they lower barriers to mobility, provide direct access to agricultural markets, and are likely to be sources of future employment as work turns increasingly automated. Digital solutions are key in addressing local challenges and needs, and can

be an opportunity for new entrepreneurial and innovative approaches with women being highly involved.

The lack of connectivity and skills, and the high costs, are only some of the factors, especially in Africa, making these technologies too hard to access for a majority of girls and women.

Yet digitalisation also presents new threats.

Social media, for example, often reinforces discriminatory norms and frameworks that undermine the goal of gender equality. Safety and security in the cyberspace are therefore of mounting importance.

3.4.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Women and Girls in Digitalisation

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Bogdan-Martin Doreen, ITU Chief of Strategic Planning and Membership Department & Co-Chair of EQUALS Steering Committee, EQUALS
- De Croo Alexander, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Post Belgium
- Gabriel Mariya, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission
- Hassane Latifa Salissou, CEO of InnovElle, Miss Geek Africa 2008
- Jamtin Carin, Director-General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Khan Anusha Rahman Ahmad, Federal Minister, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan
- Reiter Joakim, Group External Affairs Director, Vodafone
- Shah Shwetal Sunil, Young Leader – India

Moderator: Rubel Sasha, Programme Specialist, Universal Access and Preservation, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Key Points

- Digitalisation is transforming the world, but women play a diminishing role in information technology development.
- Bridging the gender divide will require a multi-sector approach; neither the public nor private sector can do it alone.
- Education is crucial. More girls must be encouraged to study information technology.

- The Internet needs to shed its male bias. Women need to become more involved in content development.

Synopsis

Digitalisation is transforming the world, but despite the ever-increasing importance of information and communications technology (ICT), women globally are playing a diminishing role in its development. Bridging the gender digital gap calls for change at all levels – of policies, of programmes and of development cooperation.

It is estimated that the boost to the European Union (EU) economy alone from women's full participation in information technology would be around EUR 16 billion a year.

Yet within the EU, for every 1 000 women completing tertiary education, only 24 graduate in ICT-related subjects and just six take up jobs in the area. The result is a mass of untapped potential that threatens to exclude women from the increasingly digitally dominated world economy.

The irony is that figures show that women-led digital start-ups are more likely to succeed than male-led ones, yet investors are still reluctant to invest in women ICT entrepreneurs.

One area in which action is urgently needed is education. More girls must be encouraged to study information technology to fight the stereotype that projects ICT as a male preserve. Part of the problem is a lack of female role models.

There have been too few women winners of Nobel prizes in technical areas and there are too few role models. Companies could play a part in this by taking on the role of mentoring girls interested in developing careers in ICT.

In many parts of the developing world, women have less access to the Internet than men. In least developed countries (LDCs), for example, only one woman in seven has access to the Internet whereas the figure is one in five for men.

But one thing that all countries have in common is a growing need for people skilled in digital technology. Globally, it is estimated that there are only some 20 million people who know how to code. The shortage makes it even more absurd in that half the population is largely excluded from the job market in ICT.

It will be difficult for the United Nations to achieve its 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without achieving significant progress on closing the gender digital divide.

Many initiatives have been taken. Belgium launched a digital development platform to build a bridge between the Belgian private sector and the development sector for

achieving the SDGs and creating new partnerships. Pakistan has invested some US\$ 600 million in increasing digital connectivity, and hopes to attract 150 000 girls a year into the ICT sector.

Other cultural barriers to be addressed include reducing the male bias of much Internet development, and adding more local language content. But closing the gender gap will require a multi-sectoral approach because neither the public nor the private sector is able to do it alone.

Insight

As a sign of commitment to the cause, the audience rose at the end to chant: 'She is digital, we are empowered' to huge applause.

3.4.2 LAB DEBATE

Digital skills - A girl's superpower

Organised by the Diplomatic Institute to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, European Commission Digital National Alliance

Speakers

- Koleva Martina, Project Manager, ATHLON
- Navas-Sabater, Juan Lead ICT Policy Specialist, The World Bank Group
- Prikrylova Dita, CEO and Founder, Czechitas
- Schaart Afke, Vice-President and Head of Europe, GSMA

Moderator: Van Uffelen Saskia, CEO, Ericsson Belgium & Luxembourg

Key Points

- Digitalisation offers both a challenge to and an opportunity for the economic empowerment of women.
- Mobile technology use is rising fast, but the increase is not evenly spread.
- Even in developed economies, women are less likely than men to be working in information technology industries.
- Girls must be encouraged at school to take up the study of information technology (IT) and then motivated to make it a career.

Synopsis

Increasing digitalisation offers a challenge to and an opportunity for the economic empowerment of women. In the next few years, 65 % of jobs will be changed by developments in robotics and artificial intelligence. The result will be increased demand for new skills, many of them in information technology.

Mobile technology use is rising fast, with global mobile subscriptions standing at about 5 000 million. But the development is not evenly spread, either between men and women or geographically. Around the world, 184 million fewer women have access to mobile technology than men. In South Asia, women are 70 % less likely to have access to mobile technology than men.

Access to mobile technology means better access to health services, education, job opportunities and finance. It also makes women feel safer.

Women lag behind men in their involvement in information technology industries in the developed world. In the European Union, women make up just 9 % of programme developers. Without digital skills, women could be at a significant disadvantage in the job markets of tomorrow.

In many countries, information technology is still perceived as a masculine preserve. Women often believe – erroneously – that men are better at mathematics.

Girls must be encouraged to study information technology at school and then to stick with it because many abandon it when they get to the age of about 15. School programmes must be designed with girls in mind. Good teachers are important, but so too are role models for girls to emulate.

Examples of successful projects were presented from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Kosovo.

Czechitas is a platform that allows children and women to become interested in and pursue careers in information technology. It has worked with thousands of students. According to the EU, the Czech Republic is the European country in which companies face the greatest difficulties in finding IT specialists. Czech women account for little over 11 % of such specialists.

While there are many factors influencing career decisions, studies in the Czech Republic point to the importance of role models, particularly parents. But the studies also show that parents provide girls with little encouragement to go into IT.

Rails Girls in Sofia is another project that aims to draw female students to the sector. The World Bank has developed an IT toolkit, which stresses gender equality.

Financing can be a problem for projects to encourage IT involvement among girls. The private sector, working with non-profit organisations, may provide faster and more efficient solutions than official aid agencies.

Insight

There are many effective international programmes to promote knowledge of information technology, particularly among young girls and women. But there is too little coordination between them.

Going Digital: Sustainable development in agriculture for women

Organised by CTA, TradeComm II Programme, ACP, European Union, PAF and Technology Tradition Trade

Speakers

- Addison Christopher, Senior Expert on Data4Ag, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
- Funja Rose, Managing Director, Agrinfo Company Limited
- Gnassounou Viwanou, Assistant Secretary General, Sustainable Economic Development and Trade Department
- Hailu Michael, Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
- Magowe Naledi, Co-Founder CMO, Brastorne Enterprises
- McAvan Linda, Chair of the Committee on Development, European Parliament
- Stewart Gillian, Program Manager, Women in Business Development Incorporated

Key Points

- Women have significantly less access to effective mobile technology to be more efficient farmers, mainly due to lack of available funds and lack of sharing by men.
- Bridging the digital gender gap in agriculture means greater emphasis on financial and logistical literacy requirements for rural-based women.
- Big money decisions relevant to women and agriculture will need to be made soon for the next seven-year EU budgetary period.
- Helping women in agriculture has been too piecemeal while organisations such as the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) need to focus more programmes on addressing women's needs and skills.

Synopsis

There is a temptation to use high-tech possibilities like drones and big data to “connect the unconnected.” Yet many basic small business computer skills such as creating a financial spreadsheet and doing basic no-cost internet searches that tap websites for local market opportunities should also not be overlooked.

Getting it right could pay off massively: some estimates say 100-150 million people could be lifted out of poverty through a 20 % to 30 % greater productivity. Greater women’s empowerment, not needing to take one’s father to prove a woman’s creditworthiness to the local male bank manager, will need to help lead that charge.

Over EUR 50 billion have been spent on development as part of the current EU budget period. Ensuring that support is given to farmers, particularly women farmers, as part of the investments are key.

Case in point: the 79 countries that make up ACP need to do more to show they are truly gender sensitive and according to its critics, do more to get public-private partnerships to focus on women’s specific needs. It is not easy when going into rural areas is not particularly profitable because supply chains remain stretched. Not even the occasional story about rural coconut farmers getting The Body Shop to buy their oil does more than put a band-aid on the overall challenge.

One bright spot though is that as digital technologies improve, so too does the information it yields up. In Botswana, for example, the western telco Orange has played a key regional infrastructure role, enlivening commercial possibilities. Still, there needs to be more of them and more private investment because local communities and their governments are not in a position to carry the financial burden to scale up.

One sees the challenges with “Rose”, a local woman entrepreneur in Tanzania. Where on average around 43 % of the agricultural workforce are women, in Tanzania the figure is closer to 60 %. Outdated farming techniques may yield five bags of maize an acre where the average in the fully developed world is estimated as 10 times that. Rose’s model uses drone technology to better map the landscape and then uses special computer-enhanced imagery to more easily grasp where resources can be better allocated, or are simply a waste of planting space.

The precision of the drone’s return feed imagery on the Tanzanian savannah is an apt metaphor for the refined focus project managers will need to keep the development financing coming in and with it, firing the agricultural aspirations of rural women trying to hold it together with latter day technology in some very tough neighbourhoods.

Insight

Knowledge is power, but for millions of rural women in poorer areas of the world it is often marked by restricted or complete lack of access to reliable, affordable internet infrastructure and smartphones.

More needs to be done to awaken rural women's latent interest in information technology and the potent female economic force that efficiently harnessing that interest would unleash. Greater and more targeted buy-in by the ACP group of nations would help.

Golden or Rotten Egg? Questioning Digital Finance's ability to Empower Women

Organised by UNCDF, CARE, Women's World Banking and ZOONA

Speakers

- Fredriksson Torbjörn, Chief, ICT Policy Section, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
- Kibombo Grace Majara, Senior Adviser - Financial Inclusion, CARE International
- Mendes-Lowney Angelika, Manager, Bilateral and Multilateral Partnerships Women's World Banking
- Phiri Lelemba, Group Chief Marketing Officer, Zoon

Moderator: Ogba Uloma, Project & Knowledge Manager, United Nations Capital Development Fund

Key Points

- Accessing access to finance and financial products can be crucial for empowering women, particularly in low- and middle-income nations.
- Digital finance services can work for women and help close the gender inclusiveness gap, for example, by making it easier to open a bank account.
- Underlying socioeconomic norms and gender inequalities between men and women make it difficult for women to be fully empowered.
- It is hard to discern if digital finance services can make a difference and help change the lives of women in places such as Sub-Saharan Africa.

Synopsis

Digital finance services (DFS) are supposed to give women, especially those living in low- and middle-income countries, the ability and means to access finance. But while the intentions may be laudable, it is questionable if DFS actually does what it sets out to achieve.

It is argued that DFS does afford empowerment opportunities to women clients, employees and agents, but there is a school of thought that says DFS is just a set of false promises.

The pro-digital finance side insists that in developing financial products that meet the specific needs of women and the way they manage money, there has been a great improvement in the financial inclusion of women and the livelihood opportunities available to them. This argument, championed by such organisations as Women's World Banking, says there is clear evidence of how DFS is succeeding, pointing, for example, to increased female ownership of bank accounts and mobile money wallets.

In Nigeria, for example, Women's World Banking has 500 000 women clients, less than five years after rolling out a package of "female-friendly" financial products.

The benefits of DFS are also underlined by Zoono, a mobile technology company developing financial products for women such as money transfers and electronic voucher payments. Accessing these products have helped women overcome hurdles such as accessing finance and have created 5 000 jobs, 60 % of them for women, in Sub-Saharan Africa.

However, there is a counterargument – put by Care International and others – that digital solutions jump the gun and do not resolve systemic issues such as literacy, numeracy, technology literacy and cultural issues, which tend to exclude women from having equal access to technology. Such recurring barriers mitigate against the advantages of, say, having a bank account or mobile phone where one can access financial information.

The statistics from the "no" camp appear compelling: 14 % of women in Sub-Saharan Africa and 38 % in Asia are less likely than men to own a mobile phone while 23 % of females are less likely to have access to the Internet. This appears to show that women have less control over their money and remain financially excluded.

This is compounded by the fact that many African countries, such as Kenya, still tend to be cash-based societies. As a result, digital solutions offer a poor investment and are unlikely to yield substantial gains.

Globally, some 2 billion people do not have access to a bank account; of these, 1.2 billion are women. So, a big question remains about the real value of DFS. In theory, it can offer a quick and easy access to finance and saving money, but if it really is the silver bullet to empowering women why don't more women have access to finance?

Insight

Digital finance services claim to be empower women and there is some evidence that it is doing just that. But there is also a strong argument to the contrary – that it is not living up to its promise. So, for now, the jury is probably still out on the real effectiveness of DFS.

Technologies that transform healthcare and empower people

Organised by PharmAccess Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Speakers

- Agyei Bonifacia, Country Manager, SafeCare, PharmAccess Group
- Castellaz Christoph, Business Leader Primary/Community Care, Royal Philips
- De Roos Aaltje, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- Hesp Cees, Director, Health Research Labs, PharmAccess Group
- Winter Veronica, Director General, Kwara State Hospitals Management Bureau

Key Points

- Digitalisation is a driving force for innovation in health delivery.
- Mobile technology helps to gather data about health needs and practices.
- Africa has made huge technological progress, but 800 women die every day from preventable complications related to pregnancy.
- Insurance schemes have proved successful in strengthening health services.

Synopsis

Mobil phone technology can transform health systems, helping to extend and strengthen services where they already exist and provide new services to areas that have been denied them. Mobile technology helps to gather data about health needs and practices, cut costs in health provision, build business cases for further investment and track spending to improve efficiency.

Sub-Saharan Africa has witnessed tremendous technical progress. Some 90 % of people have access to mobile phone technology. Mobile technology accounts for 7.7 % of gross domestic product (GDP) and provides 3.5 million jobs. Around one-third of Internet connections are via mobile broadband and nearly 40 African countries already have 4G mobile networks. Yet, 800 women die every day from preventable complications related to birth and pregnancy.

Better primary healthcare, particularly for poorer communities, is crucial to improving overall health services and outcomes. Health insurance is one approach that has been successfully adopted in Nigeria and Ghana.

In Nigeria's Kwara state, healthcare used to centre mainly on hospitals, where people seeking treatment had to pay. Treatment was curative, not preventive, and it was expensive. Where poor people had to make a choice between eating and paying for a doctor, they chose to eat. Mortality rates were high.

But since 2016, Kwara state, with the help of the Dutch government, has been operating a health insurance fund covering community-based healthcare. The system aims to reach out to the rural poor, who previously had little access to health services. For a token amount, people get access to basic health services. The scheme has proven so successful that it is being introduced elsewhere.

People are proud of having a health insurance card. It empowers them and makes them feel entitled to demand quality care, which in turn drives improvements in health systems. Mobile technology is playing a part in the implementation of insurance schemes. The authorities can pay the money for healthcare into special mobile phone accounts – sometimes known as “mobile wallets”. Such innovations give women greater control over how this money is spent.

Mobile technology can help in the development of so-called “spoke and hub” approaches to health services. Remoter areas, where there are no hospital services, can be linked via technology to centres where there are. Midwives, for example, can be linked to a hospital with an obstetrician for advice or referral in case of need.

Digitalisation generates data, which can be used to improve both the quality and the quantity of health services, allowing health authorities to better monitor performance against national and international standards. When a patient is registered digitally, this information can be shared across national health services, reducing costs and improving treatments.

Data collection also helps with advocating for health funds. Governments may be more willing to spend where they can see and measure the benefits. But the sustainability of financing for health services is a global challenge.

Insight

When women are healthy, they can support their families better and earn more. When children are healthy, they learn better. It is a virtuous circle.

How digital is a pathway for inclusive education and empowerment of women ?

Organised by FRS Consulting

Speakers

- Apoore Dorcas Asige, Young Leader – Ghana
- Fofang Janet Bih Epse, Co-Founder, Tassah Academy

- Gichinga Njoki, Senior Strategic Partnerships & Business Development Specialist, Safaricom Innovation Centre – Alpha
- Laryea Guggi, Partnership Specialist, The World Bank Group
- Solange Rokhaya NDIR, Vice-President, Association des Femmes Sénégalaises dans les TIC

Moderator: Samb Abdou, President, FRS Consulting

Key Points

- Six hundred million jobs are needed in the next 10 years in Africa just to maintain current employment rates.
- With increased connectivity and the widespread use of smartphones, the information and communication technology (ICT) sector holds a huge potential for the continent.
- African women are traditionally enterprising and use more ICT skills than men.
- Stereotypes have to be tackled, family planning is needed and the fight against gender-based violence is crucial for girls to get ICT training.
- While there is great curiosity from investors for supporting start-ups and business incubators in Africa, often they remain hesitant, which creates a lack of funding.

Synopsis

Women entrepreneurship in Africa holds huge potential. Out of the 1.2 billion Africans, about half are women, and 60 % of them are below the age of 25. According to a study by the World Bank, 70 % of youth not in education, training or employment are women.

However, women run more than 50 % of African small and medium-sized businesses, which usually means farming and taking their products to the local market. But women are also using more ICT skills in low-income countries than men, who are nevertheless likely to have more advanced skills.

The digital age can empower women. Cloud computing can bring down physical barriers; online freelancing and online job matching help women find jobs. Online business outreach gives female entrepreneurs the opportunity to integrate their companies into a global creative and business process. The on-demand economy, such as car sharing or delivery services, also gives women new employment options.

Educators, entrepreneurs and businesses in Africa are keen to teach women ICT skills so they can cope with today's challenges and changes. However, there is a need to change how African communities perceive what is an acceptable job for a woman. Girls interested in engineering, for instance, are sent by their families to become

nurses rather than train in ICT. Family planning should give girls the opportunity to finish their education as they often drop out of school because they marry or become pregnant. African women also need to learn financing, accounting and other business skills to live up to their full potential as ICT entrepreneurs.

African businesswomen argue that it is time to make the next step. The private sector is helping with IT training and funding for African firms and incubators, but often there is a lack of trust that prevents further investment.

African women entrepreneurs in the sector say they can help rebalance the 35 % to 65 % disparity between female and male IT engineers in large companies such as Google or Apple. They also argue that the female approach is missing from the entire IT sector and point out that girls build different apps, design different solutions, and they do not make digital guns.

Online platforms now enable African women to sell their handmade products to customers from the United Kingdom or Australia, giving businesses started by women entrepreneurs an unprecedented opportunity to grow.

Insights

African girls learn IT skills by assembling robots from used bottles, cans and scrap metal – essentially, rubbish. Educators argue this adds an extra skill to the African IT workforce. They can create anything with few resources.

3.4.3 BRAINSTORMING LAB

Women in tech salon - connecting women entrepreneurs from Mediterranean countries

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Ayadi Rym, Founding President and Professor, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association
- Natali Francesca, Fund director, Meta Ventures
- Porrino Fabrizio, SVP Global Public Affairs, FacilityLive OPCO Srl
- Rharrasse Zineb, Co-founder & Managing Director, Startup Maroc
- Shaltout Nayerah, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
- Ward Julie, Member of the European Parliament, European Parliament

Moderator: Burns Chris, Journalist, Burnstorm

Women and girls in digitalisation: Big Data for gender

Organised by UN Global Pulse

Speakers

- Nkalubo Maria Anthony Nansasi, Principal Operations Officer, Ministry of Health, Uganda
- Sanchis Paula Hidalgo, Manager, Pulse Lab Kampala, United Nations
- Senfuma William, MTN Uganda
- Vaitla Bapu, Fellow, Data2X

3.4.4 PROJECT LAB

See differently: How to tell engaging yet dignified stories about women & girls

Organised by Nzinga Effect, British Council

Speakers

- Masipa Sophie, Head of Communications and Media Relations, Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- Tambwe Mujinga, Communication Officer, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Thiam Selly, Executive Director, None on Record
- Owono Julie, Lawyer and Executive Director, Internet Without Borders

Moderator: Anyangwe Eliza, Founder, Nzinga Effect

Podcast

English and Digital for Girls Education in South Asia – at the cutting EDGE?

Organised by British Council, BRAC, VSO and Naandi

Speakers

- Gauchan Anamica, Project Coordinator, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Nepal
- Hil Baki Mohammed Abdullah, BRAC Bangladesh
- Maynard David, Director English & Education, Bangladesh British Council
- Mukherjee Rohini, Chief Policy Officer, Naandi Foundation

Moderator: Stellmacher Helga, Regional Director English, South Asia, British Council

Podcast

3.5 Rural Women / Girls and Development

Household welfare often improves when women hold land rights. They also gain bargaining power within their marriages.

Yet rural women are too often relegated to unpaid agricultural and domestic work. An array of religious beliefs and social practices influence gender-differentiated land rights. The result is that women's ability to own, control, and access land is too often severely restricted.

Introducing laws that actively promote equal land rights for women, including for widows, could help them become agents of change and social progress in tandem with community leaders like tribal elders to alleviate rural poverty.

3.5.1 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Leading the change: Empowering women and girls for a thriving rural economy

Organised by the African Union Commission, CTA, the European Commission and UNIDO

Speakers

- Arnold Tom, Chairman, DG AGRI/DEVCO Task for Rural Africa
- Banda Grace Kata, Young Leader – Malawi
- Hogan Phil, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- Li Yong, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
- Rejeb Fatma Ben, CEO, Panafrican Farmers Organisation (PAFO)
- Sacko Josefa Leonel Correia, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission

Moderator: Frewen Mella, Director-General, FoodDrinkEurope

Key Points

- The linkage between agriculture and agro-business is essential to address food insecurity and Africa's economic transformation.
- Promoting access to land, promoting financial inclusions as well as private instruments, are essential in rural areas.
- Successful development of the untapped employment and production potential requires a focused job strategy, in particular for women and girls across the continent.
- An approach is needed that aims to support value-chain development, skills development and the improvement overall business climate.
- Partnerships with government and the private sector and international organisations are essential to ensure the right business regulatory conditions for investment

Synopsis

The European Commission (EC) has plenty of plans and it is time to see action. Financial resources are needed to make it happen. Technical assistance has to be part of these programmes to ensure continuity.

The key areas for action to bridge the gap between the theory and practice are:

- Investing in skills and productive capacity – giving women the necessary experience to build careers in the sector. We also need to facilitate access to new technologies and access to new capital.
- Policies and agendas that tackle particular gender constraints, vocational training in agriculture and the food and drinks sector, could have a particularly major impact on women's economic activity and food security.

A key area for action is agribusiness. The EC is supporting a project which aims to establish the EU-Africa Agribusiness Platform. This will strengthen links between the food and drinks industry in Africa and Europe. It will also help African entrepreneurs, both women and men, smallholders and family farmers by providing better access to markets.

Quality standards are important for market access. There has been a very successful programme in the European Union. African farms have a huge potential but must be able to demonstrate product quality.

African businesses must be prepared for digital transformation. New technologies can bring important productivity improvements and expand the market. eServices must be extended to Africa.

Research should be enhanced to promote more collaboration in research activities. This will provide the technological know-how to help both Africa and Europe as well as the environment.

The European Commission has set up a Rural Africa Task Force to bring all these ideas together and provide recommendations by the end of the year. The task force will look at how rural Africa should be transformed, particularly in terms of employment and the role women will play within that. The first meeting was held in May 2018.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been involved in setting up four industrial parks to bring in the technology on practical areas such as textiles, as well as the training, some money and access to the market. The parks are developed according to the local situation in terms of size and focus.

UNIDO has started to organise other support, particularly training for entrepreneurs. The majority are young women. Women should be encouraged and enabled to start up businesses. They are closely connected to the food sector, in growing, processing and selling. Part of the answer is to increase productivity at the farm level by improving the added value up the chain.

A major challenge is that women do not have access to land. The African Union is addressing the issue with a land policy initiative. Its aim is that 30 % of women should have access to land by 2025. Another initiative, the African Women Fund, has been set up. It is providing funds to women in countries such as Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania and Namibia in the order of US\$ 25 000 to US\$ 30 000 per project.

Integration is the future for Africa. Otherwise it will not be possible for farmers, big and small, to be successful.

Insight

The plans are all in place. The challenge and urgency is now to implement them in a timely fashion.

3.5.2 LAB DEBATE

Towards Optimal Nutrition for all Women and Adolescent girls

Organised by the European Commission

Speakers

- Bernhardt Sarah, Attachée, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Makhoulouf Himeda, Director of Nutrition and Food Technologies, Ministry of Public Health, Chad
- Onclin Madeleine, Team Leader for Nutrition, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Rosa Annkathrin, Advisor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- Tuazon Maria Antonia, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Moderator: Custodio Estefania, Scientific Officer, European Commission - DG Joint Research Center (JRC)

Key points

- Improving the quality of women's diet is the best way to stop the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition.
- The Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDDW) is a tool to address this problem.
- MDDW has been rolled out with success in various countries, and it is welcomed by local authorities.

- It needs to be implemented with care. There is no single MDDW and people have to be trained to use it.

Synopsis

Maternal micronutrient malnutrition is a widespread challenge faced by women living in resource-poor settings, the consequences of which affect not only their health and survival but also that of their children. The Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDDW), produced with EU backing in 2014, is an indicator that could help address this problem. Panellists shared ideas on how MDDW can help women in need, and how it is implemented in the field.

MDDW reflects the view that women consuming foods from five or more out of 10 defined food groups are more likely to meet their micronutrient requirements than women consuming foods from fewer food groups. The food groups are: grains, white roots and tubers, and plantains; pulses; nuts and seeds; dairy; meat, poultry and fish; eggs; green leafy vegetables; and other vitamin A-rich fruit and vegetables; other vegetables and fruit.

Indicators help in the fight against stunted children and obesity. The European Commission is trying to keep nutrition high on the political agenda and is working with women of reproductive age out of the belief that dietary diversity helps prevent children's malnutrition by preventing foetal micronutrient deficiencies during pregnancy.

The MDDW was praised as a standardised and reliable indicator that is easy to communicate, for both beneficiaries and programme workers. Criteria differ from country to country. Capacity building is essential with a five-day training needed for practitioners, and local recipes must be sampled before inclusion in the programme.

The MDDW in Chad was singled out, with its value underlined for a country with a largely rural population and a significant nomadic community.

The European Commission is working on nutrition through the EU-funded Action on Food Security and Nutrition, billed as a multisector approach to reduce stunting with a EUR 156 million budget.

Insight

Improving women's diets not only boosts their health and ability to work and care for their families, but also has a positive effect during pregnancy and on the health of future children.

My community, my land, my rights!

Organised by the International Land Coalition, OXFAM, Transparency International and Land Rights Now

Speakers

- Carling Joan, Co-convener, Indigenous Peoples Major Group
- Cangelosi Elisabetta, Consultant, International Land Coalition
- Jaitner Annette, Land Programme Lead, Transparency International

Moderator: Greven Imke, Land Rights Policy Advisor, Oxfam Novib

Key Points

- Women's right to land should be secured as a guarantee for food security.
- Existing discriminatory practices must be identified and norms remodelled in a gender-sensitive fashion.
- Customary practices may perpetuate gender injustice and discriminatory norms
- Corruption linked to formalized land registries form a major challenge to women's landownership.

Synopsis

When customary norms limit women's participation in decision-making over the right to the use of land, those norms should evolve. Women risk being left without a voice if they do not possess rights to their land. Currently, more work is done by indigenous groups to secure women's formal rights to their land. In general, customary norms limit women's participation in decision-making over their land as women tend to have lesser representation in communities that apply customary systems to land management. As a result, women face a struggle, but that also applies to systems where public land registers have been introduced.

In fact, the allocation of land titles can form an even bigger obstacle to women as the granting of titles opens up competition that involves coercive practices and extortion. The latter can take the form of sexual abuse, affecting women almost exclusively. Research indicates that every second African has had to pay bribes in connection with land-registry procedures. And this applies both to customary systems involving traditional community leaders receiving bribes as well as public administration officials requesting bribes. Land grabs and forced evictions are big problems, as even the threat thereof is a cause of insecurity that affects food production.

It seems that granting land titles is not the way to build women's legal rights to their land. Instead, a wider approach could be helpful, whereby women's participation in traditional administration should be recognized as legally valid. Customary norms could be rejuvenated by raising awareness in local communities and by bargaining for the right to land between families and within a collective.

Paradoxically, land-rights recognition based on individual land rights causes a lot of problems for women, as the registration often is allocated to men only. Formalized landownership then becomes a way of disempowering women. Hence strengthened communitarianism, whereby the community decides collectively over the use of land, tends to give women a better position, though special attention must be paid to women's land rights.

Women should fight for the benefits of land use. In indigenous communities, women are often custodians and stewards both of land and other resources, which guarantees a livelihood for future generations as well as greater biodiversity. Collective land rights seem to provide more food security and knowledge transfer between generations. In that regard, indigenous people form more resilient communities.

Insight

Both individual land titles and systems based on collective rights should be geared to granting women land rights. Community-based land rights should expressly include women to ensure individual land use within the collective. Women are crucial for the longevity of farms; men tend to have greater opportunities for livelihood elsewhere, whereas food security is assured by women.

From Whispers to Voices: Empowering Rural Women through Networks and Finance for Entrepreneurship

Organised by The World Bank and Women's World Banking

Speakers

- Ijjasz Ede Vasquez, Senior Director for Social, Urban, Resilience and Rural Global Practice, The World Bank Group
- Von Lipsey Roderick, Managing Director, UBS
- Lopez Yrenilisa, Investment Officer, Women's World Banking
- Makela Susanna, Senior Director EU Government Affairs, Microsoft

Moderator: McAvan Linda, Chair of the Committee on Development, European Parliament

Key Points

- Women are disproportionately disadvantaged in lagging rural areas.
- Rural women entrepreneurs are an untapped, unrecognised resource.
- Funders and banks need data to understand that women represent a sound investment.
- Connectivity is hugely important in lifting rural areas out of poverty.

Synopsis

The contributions of women are critical to a thriving rural economy, but their potential is often not realised due to structural and social constraints.

Lagging rural areas are usually underserved with infrastructure, services, and economic opportunities. In rural areas there are multiple sources of exclusion and discrimination. In developing countries, rural areas are often where ethnic minorities or indigenous people live.

The World Bank believes this generation has a unique opportunity to eradicate poverty. If inequality grows it dampens overall prosperity.

The traditional approach is for government to provide access to infrastructure, water education and so on. The challenge is to develop innovative approaches and partnerships to empower rural women. It is essential that institutions understand the specific services needed by women in these areas.

According to the World Bank, this is not only right; it is the most economically viable thing to do. More than US\$ 100 billion a year in entrepreneurship could be brought into the global economy by lifting rural barriers.

Women's World Bank and Capital Partners look at women as a business and investment case, and relies on data to prove that women tend to be less risky clients. It makes sense to invest in women not just from a development perspective, but also an investment one.

Through market research, the organisation has tried to work out why women do not go to banks to seek a loan. If you can work out why, you can structure a product that will overcome those barriers. For example, women may be uncomfortable dealing with a male representative. By training women to be agents, much hesitation can be overcome – a pilot scheme in Pakistan is proving successful in this.

As an investor, Women's World Bank also looks at rural development practically. In the traditional agricultural market, women tend to look after the byproducts of the household. They sell eggs and milk, as well as manage small livestock, while the men

look after the main crops. But these crops only yield twice a year, and over the course of 12 months sometimes the side businesses of the women are more profitable. They also overcome issues like seasonal risk and are often a sounder investment for banks.

Capacity building is also important. Although rural women might be able to access microfinance, taking the step up to creating a small or medium enterprise (SME) is still out of reach for many.

Connectivity is hugely important in lifting rural areas out of poverty, but programmes to help lagging rural areas must be designed with women in mind. In the world today there are 4 billion people disconnected and this digital gap disproportionately harms women.

Big banks such as UBS are waking up to the idea of investing for the common good. UBS tries to find opportunities for clients to support sustainable investment goals. In the past, socially responsible investors would rule out certain investments and there was an acceptance that would result in sub-market returns. But now the data show that businesses that are concerned with environmental, social and governance issues are actually more profitable.

Insight

Empowering every person on the planet requires a focus on everyday actions.

Women's empowerment in pastoralist societies

Organised by CELEP and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nation

Speakers

- Ahmed Sadia, Country Director for Somaliland, Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA)
- Aparicio Roberto, Policy Officer, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Gonzalez-Gonzalez Veronica, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

- Watson Cathy (Catharine), LEGS Project Coordinator, Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)

Moderator: Maru Natasha, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Key Points

- Women pastoralists experience double marginalisation, as pastoralists in the wider society and as women within their communities.
- Climate change and desertification are building pressure on pastoralists.
- Intervention focus has been on crisis response and is now shifting toward longer-term development of resilience.
- Their local knowledge should be taken into account in policymaking.

Synopsis

Up to 500 million people worldwide are believed to engage in the nomadic, semi-nomadic or transhumant rearing of livestock for milk or meat production. They occupy some of the world's harshest environments – for example in the Horn of Africa or the Arctic – and are disproportionately affected by climate change and extreme weather conditions, as well as by conflict and adverse policies. Industrialised agriculture and eco-tourism are encroaching on their traditional grazing lands. Many of these pressures have increased in recent years.

Women are suffering particularly acutely from these pressures. They are doubly marginalised, as pastoralists within their wider societies and as women in their pastoralist communities. Conflict and climate change are having a different impact on men and women, who often also have different priorities in managing their livestock –milk production as against meat production or sale in the market – and different assessments of threats to their way of life.

Men and women also often have different resources and coping mechanisms, as well as different rights over and responsibilities for livestock, which in a context of changing gender roles can lead to tensions.

Yet the contribution of women to the pastoralist economy is critical, as is their role in economic activity overall. In certain harsh environments, pastoralism is the most sustainable and economically viable food production system. Moreover, pastoralists – and especially women – hold invaluable local knowledge about weather conditions, enabling them to predict the availability of firewood and similar issues. This local knowledge should be used to inform climate-change policies and interventions.

A particular challenge, due to the nomadic or semi-nomadic way of life of pastoralist communities, is education. Boarding school is one way to meet the challenge, but is not always the best or most viable solution. There is also a need for government-to-government cooperation to ensure that people who regularly cross international

boundaries are included in policies affecting them. In general, pastoralists tend to lose out on development interventions unless specifically addressed.

The European Commission is currently undertaking a state-of-play exercise to understand better the situation of pastoralists and the specific pressures they are facing. Its interventions to date have focused on access to water, especially in the context of climate change; on animal health, through the support of veterinary services; and on rights, from issues of land tenure and access to increase female participation in national decision-making. In 2014 to 2017, the Commission portfolio of programmes relevant for pastoralist communities amounted to around EUR 500 million.

Insight

Pastoralists are among the first and main victims of climate change, yet they also have a crucial role to play in mitigating its effects.

3.5.3 PROJECT LAB

Changing Women's Lives in the Rural World

Organised by the European Commission, BMZ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Speakers

- Jager Marjeta, Deputy Director-General European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Khan Shoab Sultan, Chairman, Rural Support Programmes Network – Pakistan
- Malapit Hazel, Senior Research Coordinator, International Food Policy Research Institute

- Mbia Marguerite Belobo, Country Program Coordinator, SNV Cameroon
- Meskanen Anne, Ambassador for global women issues and gender equality, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Owitti Philip, Executive Director, Men for Gender Equality Now
- Re'em Shachar, Deputy Director MASHAV Carmel Training Center, Israel's Agency of International Development Cooperation
- White Pamela, Senior Manager, FCG International Ltd

Moderator: Schmitz Stefan, Deputy Director-General, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)

Podcast

Women's leadership in African farmers' and rural producers' organizations

Organised by the International Fund for Agricultural Development

Speakers

- Nakpergou Noumpoa, Woman Farmer Representative, ROPPA (Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa)
- Rejeb Fatma Ben, CEO, Panafrican Farmers Organisation (PAFO)
- Longo Roberto, Senior technical Specialist, IFAD
- Sezibera Annick, CEO Confédération des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement

Moderator: Meritan Regis, Head of Sector Agricultural Growth, European Commission
- DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

Podcast

EDD 2018 Special Events

1. Beyond Cotonou: A turning point for the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

Speakers

- Doens Koen, Deputy Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Dussey Robert, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration, Togo
- Ignatius Gomes Patrick, Secretary-General, ACP Group of States
- Manservisi Stefano, Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Pato Rimbink, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Papua New Guinea
- Sealy Monteith Sheila, Ambassador of Jamaica to Belgium and Head of Mission to the EU, Embassy of Jamaica

Moderator: Islam Shada, Friends of Europe, Director Europe & Geopolitics

- The collaboration between the European Union and 78 nations of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) is at a cross-roads and needs to be updated to account for a changing global context.
- The Cotonou agreement, ruling the EU-ACP relations, will expire in 2020.
- Climate change, peace and security, economic vitality and poverty eradication are everyone's business. Multilateralism is the only way to effectively address these global challenges.
- Important changes are in the pipeline as partners aim to give their relationship a more political role.
- The future agreement is expected to be tailor-made to deal with each region's needs and challenges specifically.

Synopsis

Dating from the 1950s, the EU-ACP cooperation brings together over 1.5 billion people from one hundred countries in the European Union, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. With the pact due to run out in 2020, negotiations to renew and modernize the partnership are expected to start in the coming months.

The alliance formed by the EU and the ACP Group of States aspire to become more active at a global level, particularly within the United Nations institutions. The impact could be significant, especially given the fact that these countries account for more than half the seats in the United Nations.

High on the agenda are issues such as inclusive growth, employment, digital technology, climate change, sustainable development (including the attainment of SDGs) and youth education.

What became clear over the years is that each region of the ACP faces its own special challenges and the objective of the future agreement is to address them specifically.

Africa needs to industrialize, among other things. That not only means attracting investments and improving the business environment, but also developing more energy resources. Access to better education and training is also crucial in that respect. What appears evident is that Africans themselves must take prime responsibility for fueling their development. Achieving peace and stability, managing migration and mobility as well as consolidating democracy and good governance will also play an important role in driving private sector development.

In the Caribbean, reducing natural disasters effects is a priority - especially in the era of climate change, as hurricanes can wipe out decades of progress in a few days. The region's vulnerability extends beyond natural disasters to the economy and society. The region needs to build resilience. Progress in that area is vital to human development. Since most nations of the Caribbean are classified as "middle income," many lack access to international aid on the most favourable terms.

In the Pacific, security looms large. The region, comprised of a number of islands, is counting on maritime cooperation to help reduce its vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. The challenges ahead also include environmental sustainability, along with good governance and growth.

Partners trust their future agreement will be as innovative as its predecessors were. It is interesting to recall that the EU-ACP cooperation broke new ground four decades ago because it recognized that imbalances in the international trading system, especially for commodities, put poor countries at a disadvantage. The EU-ACP partnership was also one of the first aid programmes that allowed recipient countries to largely determine where and how the assistance would be used. Over the years, the group has had some success through the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Insight

The Cotonou agreement took the lead in allowing participation and input from civil society organisations, both from Europe and from ACP nations, from the very start.

2. Towards a sustainable garment sector: Ethical is fabulous

Speakers

- Ditty Sarah, Head of Policy, Fashion Revolution
- Hoffer Frank, Executive Director, Action Collaboration Transformation
- Lietz Arne, Member of the European Parliament, European Parliament
- Wigerhäll Jonah, Sustainability Expert, Hennes & Mauritz

Moderators: Gonzalez Arancha, Executive Director International Trade Centre (ITC)
Jager Marjeta, Deputy Director-General European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)

- There is broad consensus in the garment industry that workers are not earning a living wage.
- Collective bargaining is one route towards achieving sustainable and continuous wage growth in the garment industry.
- A signed collective bargaining agreement can trigger the commitment of international brands and open up a space for trade unions.
- Educating consumers about how their clothes are produced is important.
- New rules might include mandatory due diligence and reporting at the EU level by brands.

Synopsis

The panel debated how to create jobs and growth and enhance social and environmental sustainability in garment value chains. The global garment industry generates about EUR 1.3 trillion of business each year and employs 75 million people around the world, a large proportion of which are women.

There is a broad consensus in the garment industry that workers are not earning a living wage, and many factory owners take an authoritarian approach. As a result, a considerable cultural shift is needed in industrial relations.

One potential mechanism to help ensure sustainable and continuous wage growth is industry-wide collective bargaining. This is a route that Action Global Transformation is pursuing by holding discussions with national actors in countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar and Turkey. A signed collective bargaining agreement can trigger the commitment of international brands and open up a space for trade unions.

Fashion Revolution is a volunteer-led, consumer-focused global movement calling for a fairer, safer and more transparent fashion industry. It was set up in the aftermath of a factory collapse in Bangladesh in 2013 when more than 1 000 garment workers were killed. Within months of being set up it had volunteers in 58 countries. The organisation wants to see people buying clothes that have been produced by people

working in safe conditions, paid a living wage and for production to be environmentally sustainable.

To give an idea of its scale, on its fifth anniversary in April 2018, Fashion Revolution held 1 200 grassroots awareness-raising events in 100 countries. It informs and educates consumers about the core issues via magazines and podcasts.

Another idea that was discussed is to set a legal framework with binding rules; rules that then need to be properly enforced. These rules might include mandatory due diligence and reporting at the EU level by brands.

Insight

One interesting idea that is already being used is to draft pre-written letters that consumers can send to brands urging them to be transparent and asking them what they do to support decent wages and collective bargaining. This practice exerts pressure on brands directly from consumers.

3. #All4SDG5: Young leaders driving gender equality

Speakers

- Ba Ousmane, Founder and President, Girl Child Project
- Giannini Stefania, Assistant Director-General for Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- Hlophe Nondumiso, Founding Curator & Director, Global Shapers Community: Mbabane Hub
- Ilwad Elman, Director of Programs and Development, Elman Peace Centre
- Khalifeh Lina, Founder, SheFighter
- Mogherini Federica, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President, European Commission
- N'Dour Youssou, Artist, Composer and Business Leader, Super Etoile, GFM
- Scharling Christian, Student, Institut d'études politiques de Paris

Key Points

- Education must be put at the heart of the political agenda worldwide.
- Women should have equal access to economic opportunities.
- The idea that gender-based violence is wrong must become mainstream thinking.
- Stereotypes that women, especially young women, should not become political leaders must be eradicated.

Synopsis

Gender equality must start with education, a fundamental human right. The priority is to find actions and policies to accomplish this goal.

For example, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is aiming to promote education in and outside schools. One specific UNESCO project in 25 countries, “Better Life, Better Future”, aims to increase girls’ access to primary schools and help them continue into secondary education. Another key future goal is to prioritise the right for education in emergency situations.

It is also essential to change a culture where it is not seen as important for women to go to school as men – as their role is to get married – instead of hiding behind cultural differences in developing countries. In addition, girls should be educated to support their local community.

Women must be treated equally at work instead of being paid less for doing an identical job. Social initiatives, such as one in Afghanistan that provides women with poultry farms, can help. The money earned will allow their children to go to school. Such schemes combat social exclusion at a grassroots level.

The European Commission is aiming to create more social businesses for women in developing countries. Some 4 000 firms have been set up with EU funding in Afghanistan. Funding has also been given to micro-enterprises in Jordan, online businesses in Tunisia, and to help Egyptian farmers.

Action to combat gender-based violence should be more proactive and start with solutions. For example, the SheFighter project in the Middle East has trained more than 15 000 women in 27 countries to empower them mentally and physically through self-defence.

Stopping gender-based violence must become second nature. Legislation is key, but the role of young models, singers and footballers to promote the message of respect and that gender-based violence is unthinkable is the most powerful for the young.

In politics, women must be seen not only running for office but also getting into power. Political parties play an important role here, for example, a democratic alliance in South Africa that engages with local communities.

Women must be seen as just as capable as men when it comes to politics. A lesson can be taken from the LGBTI (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/intersex) community. Gender does not define people; they need to be valued on their own merit.

Infrastructure is also essential. Women need places to go to be heard – be they local libraries, cultural centres or youth groups – not just cafés, which can be only for men.

There is progress. For the first time ever, the Group of Seven summit of industrialised countries, taking place in Canada, will put female empowerment and women’s politics

at the forefront of the agenda. If you put women around the table to discuss insoluble issues such as those in Syria, there is more focus on solutions than on the problems.

Insight

Men must be seen as part of the solution to solving gender equality. For, ultimately, they too will benefit.

4. Lorenzo Natali Media Prize

Key Points

- Journalists representing different world regions were awarded the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize 2018 for their exceptional coverage of development issues.
- The grand prize went to "Blood Sisters", a piece on how the lack of sanitary pads affects schoolgirls in Africa.
- The thematic prize on the elimination of violence against women and girls went to a story on female genital mutilation in Benin.
- The prize's jury commended the winners and called for more fact-based journalism in a world of 'fake news'.

Synopsis

The Lorenzo Natalia Media Prize – the “Oscars” of the development world – were awarded to journalists from different regions of world for their exceptional coverage of development issues, including a special prize on eliminating violence against women and girls.

The jury stressed the importance of the journalists' work, especially in a world of “fake news” and shrinking editorial budgets in the West. So high were the editorial standards, with an emphasis on deep investigative work, that some categories awarded no prizes, despite some 620-plus entries.

This year's European Development Days theme of women and girls saw the two main overall prizes go to journalism focusing on gender issues. The Thematic Prize went to a piece on the ongoing prevalence of female genital mutilation in Benin, where a new law banning the practice has still to be fully implemented on the ground. The radio piece for Radio France International by Achille Fatondji was described as a “cry from the heart” for zero tolerance of the practice, and dedicated to its female victims.

The Grand Prize went to a piece entitled “Blood Sisters” by German journalists Verena Toepper and Maria Feck, highlighting the lack of availability of such simple items as sanitary pads for schoolgirls – taken for granted in the West, but hindering the girls' concentration in class, and thus their further prospects in life. Some are even forced to resort to using sand as a substitute.

The geographical prizes were divided into two categories – “Junior” for those reporters under 26 years old and “Senior”.

The Europe (Senior) prize was won by “Blood Sisters”, in addition to its Grand Prize award. The Europe (Junior) prize was won by Ahmer Khan for “A School Under the Metro Bridge Teaches Children”, an account of how a school dropout set up an educational establishment under the railway bridges of New Delhi, which has now seen some 250 slum children graduate. The piece was picked up by Radio France International.

Ridwan Karim Dini Osman won the Africa (Junior) prize for “The Price of Thirst”, looking at the lack of clean drinking water in the hinterlands of Ghana, a piece of journalism picked up by campaigning NGOs, and now making a difference.

Parth Nikhil’s “Cutting Cain for 2 000 Hours” won him the Asia-Pacific (Junior) prize, for his in-depth account of the lives of migrant sugar cane workers in rural India. Chitragada Choudhury was awarded the senior prize in the same category for “Guardians of Grain”, which looked at how a so-called underdeveloped region in east India had actually safeguarded knowledge of some 1 300 varieties of rice in the face of corporate pressure.

Andrew Mambondiyani took home the Middle East and Arab World (Senior) prize for “Beira – Mozambique’s Second City is Shrinking”, a story of how climate change and rising sea levels are affecting the African city, and which was picked up by Al Jazeera.

Insight

As well as a cash prize of EUR 5 000, winners take away a globe, mounted with a hand and pen – symbolising the power of journalism to improve the world. The trophies were produced by Congolese artist Serge Diakota.

5. EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) follow-up dialogue 2018: Women in Business – The African perspective

- Diagne Nafy, Founder, AWALEBIZ
- Doens Koen, Deputy Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Faye Yvonne, General Manager, Énergie R

- Kalibata Agnes, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- Leonel Correia Sacko Josefa, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- Leurquin Christine, VP Institutional Relations and Communications, SES - Société Européenne des Satellites
- Muchoki Lucy, Chief Executive Office, Kenya Agri-business and Agro Industry Alliance
- Shaw-Barragan Maria, Director, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Zulu Lindiwe, Minister of the Department of Small Business Development, South Africa

Moderator: Luisa Santos, Director, BusinessEurope

Key Points

- Gender, jobs and investment are at the top of the EU-Africa political agenda.
- African women are resilient and entrepreneurial.
- Societal mindset change will drive inclusive growth and job creation.
- Poor infrastructure and connectivity are holding African businesses back.

Synopsis

A key takeaway from the sixth EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) – held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast on 27 November 2017 – was that gender, jobs and investment are firmly at the top of the development policy agenda. Another key takeaway is that creating businesses and new value chains are at the core of what Africa and the EU want to do together.

The role of women entrepreneurs in key economic sectors for the African continent, including agriculture, the digital economy and renewable energy, has been identified as a priority in meeting this shared ambition.

Women entrepreneurs in Africa are typically associated with positive traits such as resilience, especially as they have faced more obstacles to succeed in business than their male counterparts. Investment in women yields a bigger return on investment; women entrepreneurs also seek to invest more in the next generation.

There is a need to push back against societal norms, to believe in possibilities and to have self-confidence. Gender rather than the quality of a business plan has, at times, prevented women from access financing. Men in decision-making structures need to change their attitudes towards women and the enabling environment.

This includes improving access to education, financial literacy, healthcare and other services, which will boost the confidence of new, would-be businesswomen. Government-led programmes that set targets – for example, 50 % support for women entrepreneurs – were also highlighted as positive ways to make change happen.

The EU's External Investment Plan (EIP) provides opportunities for women-led businesses and employment in five key sectors: Agriculture, energy and connectivity, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), digitalisation and sustainable cities. The EIP is helping to establish financially viable business models, improve access to finance and financial/business advisory services, vocational training, and much more.

Likewise, the African Union Commission's Continental Agribusiness Strategy is about creating a dynamic, inclusive agribusiness sector that adds value to primary produce, generates employment and income, and contributes to economic growth and reducing food dependency in Africa.

Africa entrepreneurs are not looking for aid; they want financing. Europe supports this and is looking to create networks based on equal partnership. The Sustainable Business for Africa platform (SB4A), for example, enables the scaling up of structured dialogue with the private sector and other key players to improve the investment climate to accelerate job creation. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is also looking to encourage long-term financing solutions for African entrepreneurs.

Basic infrastructure in African townships and rural areas is often of poor quality; the lack of connectivity holds businesses back. The empowerment of local populations, therefore, requires investment in basic infrastructure. Digitisation can fast track the provision of services such as e-health and support smart agribusiness in remote areas.

The EU wants to boost women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship and supports initiatives in the sustainable energy sector energy initiative. Private sector engagement in women equality and empowerment will also be essential to fill the gender gap.

Insight

Empowerment of women is needed because women are marginalised in society. The ultimate aim is for women to become equal partners with men, not to create a matriarchal hegemony.

6. What's religion got to do with it?

- Ahmed Rumei, Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Associate Professor of Islamic Law, The University of British Columbia
- Figel Jan, Special Envoy for Promotion of Freedom of Religion Outside the EU, European Commission
- Ghanea Nazila, Associate Professor in International Human Rights Law, University of Oxford
- Greyling Christo, Senior Director, Faith - Advocacy and External Engagement, World Vision

- Hadebe Nontando, Lecturer, Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
- Karam Azza, Senior Advisor, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
- Kitatani Ken, Director of the Forum 21 Institute, ordained minister of Sukyo Mahikari
- Manservisi Stefano, Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Paradis Evelyne, Executive Director, ILGA-Europe (European LGBTI Association)

Key points

- Religion matters to most people in the world, for good and bad influencing how gender roles and relations are understood and practiced. Religious actors play a key role in shaping popular perceptions of gender equality.
- Advocates argued that cooperation with religious leaders, organisations and communities can encourage gender-sensitive interpretations of religious scripture and empower marginalized voices.
- Critics point to the danger of legitimizing patriarchal structures and practices through enhanced cooperation with religious actors. Religious language is powerful and religious leadership is often male-dominated, and even the inclusion of female voices is no guarantee against patriarchal interpretations.
- Development agencies need faith literacy in order to navigate this complex field, to be able to speak to – and challenge – religious actors, and to ensure religious diversity in cooperation.

Synopsis

Religion matters. A Pew Research Center Poll in 2012 showed that 8 out of 10 people worldwide considered themselves religious. Religion influences the ways in which people understand and practice gender roles and relations. For that single reason, policy makers and practitioners in development agencies need to take religion seriously when working to promote gender equality. To try to speak to people in a language that does not take religion into account is to not speak to them at all.

The nexus between religion and gender equality is contentious and complex. Religion can be – and has historically been – a source of motivation for engagement in struggles for justice and social welfare. All over the world, religious leaders, organisations and individuals find inspiration in religion to fight for women’s empowerment and gender equality. At the same time, religion is also a source of strong and persistent resistance to gender equality. Religious practices and structures are often highly patriarchal, dominated by male leadership, and coined in a language that legitimizes discrimination, exclusion, and even violence against women, LGBTQI people and other marginalized groups and individuals.

Religious actors play a key role in shaping and influencing perceptions and practices of gender relations. As such, some argue that cooperation with these actors presents great potential. Cooperation with religious leaders can encourage gender-sensitive re-

interpretations of religious scripture. Through a gradual approach, faith-based organisations such as World Vision and Islamic Relief have facilitated substantial shifts in (male) religious leaders' conceptions of e.g. gender-based violence. Others – such as Circle of Concerned African Theologians – engage with female theologians and laypeople, encouraging experience-based interpretations of scripture. Through this, they not only point to the existence of alternative religious interpretations of gender relations; they also contribute more broadly to creating awareness of the historical specificity and contextuality of "male-dominated" religious dogma.

While acknowledging the importance of engaging with religion in efforts to promote gender equality, others point to the inherent risks in cooperation. Gender equality does not give itself to compromise, thus making no room for gradual approaches. In the long run, they argue, cooperation with (male) religious leaders risks legitimizing deep-seated patriarchal structures and practices. This is not necessarily prevented by the inclusion of female religious leaders: women are not a homogeneous group, and there are many women who actively promote patriarchal structures and practices. Furthermore, religious leadership and scripture may not be the most relevant entry point to changing popular perceptions and practices. Religiosities come in a multitude of different ways, and lived religion may be something very different from formal religious institutions.

Insight

Is religion good or bad for gender equality? There is no easy answer: Religion can be both a force for good and bad in the promotion of gender equality, and there are both potentials and risks involved in cooperating with religious actors. Regardless of one's stand on the question, however, there can be little doubt that religion must be taken into consideration in development agencies' efforts to promote gender equality. Today this is an "obligation" for policy makers.

This obligation to engage requires faith literacy on the part of development practitioners and policy makers, encouraging a better understanding of how, when and why religion matters to people's lives and facilitating meaningful cooperation with religious actors. But it also requires literacy on the part of religious actors in terms of knowledge of human rights, and a willingness on the part of development agencies to uphold these principles when challenged by patriarchal discourses.

Cooperation with religious actors cannot be narrowed down to conventional religious leaders. As important as they might be, they are not the only – or even most legitimate or representative – spokespersons of religious individuals, communities, traditions and values. Reflecting the multitude of different religious actors, development agencies must support efforts and initiatives that bring diverse voices to the table, including – but not limited to – faith-based organisations, representatives of the LGBTQI community and women theologians.

7. Cultural heritage and creativity through a women's lens

- Daulne Marie, Artist
- Manservisi Stefano, Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
- Matoko Firmin Edouard, Assistant Director-General – Africa Department, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- Prieto Jimenez, Abel Enrique, Minister of Culture, Cuba

Moderator: Macdonald Fleur, Freelancer

Key Points

- Gender inequalities have long persisted in the cultural sphere, determining who participates in, contributes to and benefits from culture.
- Transforming harmful cultural norms requires more people in the arts to raise their voice and challenge the status quo.
- We need a shift from viewing culture as an obstacle to women’s rights to one of ensuring women’s equal enjoyment of cultural rights.
- The European Commission and other international institutions should put greater pressure on governments to let women’s voices be heard, no matter how tough or difficult the message.

Synopsis

How can we harness culture to empower women? This was the central question posed to representatives from the arts, leading cultural institutions and national ministries of culture.

Cultural heritage shapes our identities and everyday lives. It is not only found in art and objects but also in the stories we tell, the food we enjoy, and more. Gender inequalities have long persisted in the cultural sphere, determining who participates in, contributes to and benefits from culture.

A Belgian-Congolese singer, Marie Daulne, has been at the forefront of the global movement to celebrate African culture and heritage. She described how, growing up in Brussels, African art was often referred to as primitive and racism prevented people from appreciating African traditions.

Her music has helped bring the sounds of Africa to the world, encouraging African women to become “queens” who embrace and defend their blackness, celebrated by supportive men. For her, transforming harmful cultural norms requires more people in the arts to raise their voice and challenge the status quo.

The European Commission was proud to share its own brand of cultural transformation through female entrepreneurship. In Burkina Faso, a project

supporting the production of ethnic textiles for international export is expected to generate thousands of jobs for women artisans. With independent incomes, these artisans are becoming inspirational champions for other women in the arts and business. Ministers from Burkina Faso acknowledged the European Commission's contributions on behalf of all the women beneficiaries.

UNESCO has long recognised the role of culture in promoting inclusive social development. A UNESCO representative said we need a shift from viewing culture as an obstacle to women's rights to one of ensuring women's equal enjoyment of cultural rights.

These rights include the right not to participate in any ritual, custom or practice that contravenes the human dignity of girls and women, regardless of cultural justifications.

Investing in art and culture may appear to be a luxury for many developing countries. But not for Cuba. The Minister of Culture believes that maintaining Cuban heritage is a necessity and invests in artistic programmes with a positive message for women, in contrast to the aggressive sexism and objectification of women in pop culture.

Culture is also about freedom of expression. Films with a controversial gender message are banned in certain countries. The European Commission and other international institutions were urged to put greater pressure on governments to let women's voices be heard – no matter how tough or difficult the message.

Insight

Women in Africa need to take back control of their cultural narratives. Too many stories are told by outsiders or men with their own agendas. Women can be Africa's storytellers with empowering pro-women messages that can uplift and inspire the continent.

8. Defining the building blocks for an EU strategy to end child marriage

Speakers

- McAvan Linda, Chair of the Committee on Development, European Parliament
- Djossaya Rotimy, West and Central Africa Regional Director, Plan International
- Akter Meghla, Young Leader, World Vision
- de Silva de Alwis Rangita, Associate Dean, University of Pennsylvania
- van Oranje Mabel, Chair, Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage
- Boulama Kane Aichatou, Minister of Planning, Niger

Key Points

- The European Parliament is calling on the European Commission to make ending child marriage a priority for its development policy.
- Early marriage and childbirth prevents progress for girls in a range of development areas.
- Parents think they are doing the best for their daughters by marrying them early to prevent pregnancy outside marriage.
- Working with local communities and civil society is essential for effective strategies; governments also have to take responsibility.

Synopsis

Child marriage is an issue that affects all areas of development. In some countries, 40 % of girls between ten and 16 get married while some three-quarters of girls are married before they are 18. Forty per cent of girls have had their first child before the age of 19. The European Parliament is calling on the European Commission to make ending child marriage a key objective in its development policy and creating a year against child marriage.

Participants heard from a campaigner who avoided an early marriage by running away from home. She said that she would have had to give up her studies if she had married the man her parents had chosen but had never met. She now works to explain to local communities and parents to convince them to abandon marriage plans for their daughters.

Poverty is a major motivation behind child marriages. Parents think they are doing the best thing by marrying their daughters because they fear the consequences of them getting pregnant outside marriage, or not being able to support them through education.

Speakers stressed that effective strategies to combat child marriages has to engage with local communities and leaders. It is important to listen to local people and ensure that strategies take their thinking into account. Convincing parents and the local community that forcing children into early marriages is the most effective means to address the problem.

A multifaceted approach to tackling the problem of child marriage is needed. Investment in girls' education is essential as well as providing basic education about reproductive health.

Although there has been progress in banning child marriage, many local authorities find loopholes to get around these laws. In some countries, for example, judges or political leaders can overrule bans on child marriages. A greater effort is needed to ensure that the spirit of the law is enforced.

Progress, though, has been made in some countries, such as in Niger where the birth rate – one of the highest in the world – has been reduced over the last five years, thanks in part to special programmes designed to reduce child marriage. Successful programmes should be scaled, but for this additional funding is needed.

Speakers agreed that it would make a major difference if the EU was to make ending child marriage a priority in development policy and would allocate resources to this goal in its forthcoming budget-setting negotiations.

Insight

Ending child marriage has a major effect on economic development and could increase a country's GDP.

9. A tribute to Nelson Mandela

Keynote speech

- Zulu Lindiwe, Minister of the Department of Small Business Development, South Africa

Testimony

- Mlambo-Ngcuka Phumzile, Executive Director, UN Women

Performance

- N'Dour Youssou, Artist, Composer and Business Leader, Super Etoile, GFM

Key Points

- Even during the armed struggle against Apartheid, Nelson Mandela was focused on the need to rebuild South Africa through reconciliation.
- He was one of a generation of freedom fighters such as Walter and Albertina Sisulu or Steve Biko who showed unwavering commitment to justice in the face of brutal violence.
- His legacy lives on in South Africa and beyond as Mandela has inspired generations of people fighting injustice.
- The fight for gender equality accompanied armed struggle.

Synopsis

Apartheid was a cruel and vicious regime not simply because of the indiscriminate and brutal violence it used against its enemies, of whom there were many, but because it was a model for how to organise society by excluding a majority of its people from political, economic and social life.

Justice, equality and dignity, including equality between genders, therefore become the main means of resistance, alongside the armed struggle. Nelson Mandela understood the crucial importance of values in fighting an unjust regime, which is one of the reasons – together with his tenacity and unbreakable will – why he continues to inspire people 100 years after his birth.

The end of Apartheid was followed by a difficult but exhilarating period of rebuilding society and politics. With Nelson Mandela as its first president, democratic South Africa took great strides toward gender equality and more generally, reconciliation. In 1996, it adopted one of the world's most progressive constitutions, which enshrined the principle of gender equality as a guiding value for all of South Africa.

This reflected the struggle against Apartheid, which was fought by men and women together. This legacy of a just, inclusive, democratic, free and non-sexist South Africa continues to inspire men and women in the country and beyond.

One of the many women whose tireless dedication to the struggle against Apartheid was critical in bringing down the hated regime was Albertina Sisulu, who was a hero in her own right. When the regime strangled political life in the country it took women such as Sisulu to keep the struggle going. They never wavered when it came to confronting the power of the gun.

Mandela's personal qualities – his self-effacement, his dedication to the cause and to the values he believed in, and his commitment to equality between men and women – made him uniquely placed to lead the liberation struggle. This was the case even from prison, but continued later when he led the country on its democratic transition. He understood the importance of reaching out to the enemy and of forming alliances with friends abroad.

This served the country well when Apartheid was defeated and many feared large-scale violence and retribution against the former regime. From the earliest stages of the armed struggle, Mandela understood that the question was not simply to win at all costs but to win in a way that would make reconciliation possible, and would ensure a better future for his country.

Insight

Mandela believed that resistance to Apartheid had to remain principled and focused on values if there was to be a chance of reconciliation after its defeat.

10. Transparency and accountability in addressing misconduct cases

Speakers

- Byanyima Winnie, Executive Director, Member of Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency, Oxfam International
- Lindvall Mikael, PSC Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union
- Pariat Monique, Director-General, European Commission - DG for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operation (ECHO),
- Shetty Trisha, UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goal 5, Founder & CEO, SheSays

Moderator: Wald Tidhar, Head of Government Relations & Public Policy - Better Than Cash Alliance United Nations Capital Development Fund

Key Points

- The development sector is not immune to sexual misconduct and abuse, and it is naïve to think otherwise.
- Clear reporting and safeguarding systems are almost as important as preventing abuse in the first place.
- Justice must be transparent and public to give strength to other victims.
- NGOs reporting zero cases of sexual misconduct can be suspicious.
- Cutting or suspending aid is a powerful tool – but can ultimately create more female victims to punish one or more bad apples.

Synopsis

The development sector had its #metoo moment in 2018, as Oxfam and other NGOs were accused of tolerating sexual abuse and misconduct in their ranks following revelations of sexual harassment and assault in Hollywood.

The European Commission has launched discussions on this elephant in the room, which is considered even more shocking than the film industry case since its victims are some of the most vulnerable and poorest women in the world. It was acknowledged that it would be naïve to think the development sector would be immune to a problem that affects every community, every business sector, and every country in the world.

While a zero tolerance policy has long been essential, the impossibility of preventing every case of sexual misconduct means that it is almost as important to have secure and well-resourced whistle-blower and safeguarding systems in place. Subsequent actions against offenders should be transparent and public wherever possible to encourage other victims to come forward. The latter must feel it is safe to report abuse.

One silver lining of the crisis hitting Oxfam and other NGOs is that where previously requests for more money for such organisations might have been met with a ‘nice idea, but no resources’ response, now money is easier to find for allocation to the safeguarding process.

One idea floated to combat the problem of abusive aid workers was a register, or form of humanitarian passport, similar to the checks made on people who work with young children in the developed world.

Although being investigated, it is recognised to pose problems. If an abuser has been convicted of another criminal offence, it would be simple to flag their name to other aid outfits. But this would be more difficult when dealing with unproven accusations or allegations due to the principle of innocent until proven guilty, and data privacy laws.

Breaking an internal Code of Conduct may be a sackable offence, but it is not necessarily a crime. However, referencing procedures for employees accused of misconduct can be and are being improved.

The ultimate sanction – of stopping or suspending aid money to partners where abuse has been reported – is a very powerful tool, but also one to be wielded carefully. Cutting off all support could lead to a situation where more women in the developing world ultimately suffer in order to punish one bad apple.

From the donors’ perspective, if an NGO or charity swiftly reports it has found zero cases of sexual misconduct in its organisation, this is sometimes a signal for further investigation rather than being reassuring.

Such abuse is so widespread in society as a whole, that NGOs are urged to be upfront and open with donors about the problem, rather than assuming it was only something that happened elsewhere. It is better to hear “we found X number of cases, and this is what we are doing about it”, than a blanket “not a problem in our organisation.”

Insight

In cases of serious sexual abuse--not merely misconduct--simply ‘resigning’ is not enough – victims deserve that culprits receive punitive justice.

Closing ceremony

Women and girls at the forefront of sustainable development: The next steps

Keynote speech

Her Royal Highness The Crown Princess Mary of Denmark

Open Dialogue

Wickramanayake Jayathma, UN SG Envoy on Youth

Goyal Nidhi, Disability and Gender Rights Activist and Comedian, Light for the World,

Dr Mukwege Denis, Gynaecologist, President and Founder, Panzi Hospital and Foundation

Closing Remarks

Mimica Neven, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

Key Points

- Progress on sustainable development is only possible with the Five Ps – partnership, peace, people, planet and prosperity.
- Gender equality is not just a moral, but also an economic imperative.
- Education empowers women and girls.
- Diversity in leadership is essential for a better functioning democracy.
- The global economy is losing trillions of dollars without full female participation.

Synopsis

Putting women and girls at the forefront of sustainable development should be a given if we want to ensure the planet's future. Gender equality is one of the most essential issues we must address to ensure the future of the planet.

Unfortunately, women's voices are still too often silent, or not heard. More than half of women's groups within the NGO sector survive on funding of less than US\$ 5 000 a year, and a quarter on less than US\$ 500 annually.

This is a bad situation for two reasons. Women on the ground often give the first signal that a conflict is brewing. The loss of not having full female participation in the economies of the developing world is estimated at trillions of dollars.

More than 200 million women in the developing world still do not have proper access to family planning – yet it would only cost US\$ 9 per person. Each year extra spent in secondary education can increase earning potential by 20 %, as educated women postpone childbirth until later.

At the same time, women make 70 % of the decisions on household budgets, despite losing out on US\$ 1 trillion through the gender pay gap.

They are also – as often those responsible for food and for gathering firewood – the vanguard of the early signs of climate change in their societies. They must not be denied the opportunity of education, which is a human right, not a privilege, and which also emancipates them to enter the workforce.

Young women, in particular, have dispelled the cliché of the young as lazy and constantly on their smartphones – instead, they are the mobilised “hashtag generation”.

But “women and girls” is still a big label, which includes rural women, disabled women and LGBTI women. Sometimes these women slip between the cracks of the larger women’s movement.

Women still bear the brunt of wars started by men. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one hospital has treated 90 000 survivors of sexual violence, spanning two generations.

The digital and online world can emancipate women, through giving voices to unheard rural women via so-called “barefoot journalism,” or through cashless payment systems, since women still rule the household budget in most homes.

But the digital divide must still be conquered, and that starts in schools and education, even as early as primary education. But a connected, digital participatory world for girls and women first needs money and resources.

This year’s European Development Days has played its part, reaching up to 300 million people online worldwide, with its focus on women and girls capturing hearts and minds, and celebrating the power of women to change the world.

Insight

With more than 60 % of women panellists, men were in a minority on platforms for the first time in the 12-year history of European Development Days.

Explore the vibrancy of development in action

1. EDD gives young people a voice

This year young people played a central role in the two days, with another successful Young Leaders Programme. Run by the European Commission, the project sees 16 young experts from around the world selected to participate in high-level panels.

Angélique Kidjo, world famous Beninese songwriter and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador had a very inspiring exchange with the EDD Young Leaders on how to promote gender equality.

‘Education can transform everything,’ she said. ‘You can’t build society if men and women are not equally educated.’ As a Goodwill Ambassador she supports women who fight to change male attitudes: ‘A woman shouldn’t be a man’s slave. Patriarchy is based on fear,’ she said. ‘Every second you live, make it worth it. Be different, be unique,’ she urged her audience.

Her emphasis on education is in tune with the European Union’s International Women’s Day message this past March 8: ‘We are also consistent in all aspects of all our policies, both inside the EU and in our external action by promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Worldwide, more than 15 million girls of primary school age do not go to school. The EU is helping boost access to education from Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, to South East Asia.’

The meeting with Angélique Kidjo was the start of a busy two days for the 16 Young Leaders invited by the European Commission to lead the youth cohort pressing for gender equality. This year’s Young Leaders came from Bangladesh, Brazil, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, and Uganda. In keeping with this year’s theme, 12 were women, and four were men. Over the last four years, 39 girls and 24 boys have been chosen from more than 40 countries.

Startling figures on the depth of gender inequality

The figures on the situation of young people, particularly girls, are startling. Gender inequality starts from an early age. Globally, 66 million girls do not go to school, and 33 million fewer girls than boys are in primary school. It is calculated that just one extra year of education would increase a girl's earning power by 20 %.

As young people enter the labour market, 28.3 % of those living in the Middle East and 23.7 % in North Africa cannot find work. For young women in the Middle East, only 13.2 % of them participate in the labour market, compared to 46.5 % of young men.

In North Africa, the female youth participation rate stands at 19.7 % compared to 46.8 % for young males. Figures like these resulted in designating the EDD 2018 theme, Women and girls at the centre of sustainable development.

Young Leaders driving gender equality

One of the key events focusing on youth was the High-Level Panel "Young Leaders Driving Gender Equality," where leading political figures were paired with the young leaders who described personal initiatives to push forward gender equality in education (Guinea), gender-based violence (Jordan), politics (Denmark) and youth inclusion (Swaziland).

Speaker Nondumiso Hlohe (Swaziland) again stressed education as the key: 'It has a multiplier effect as we hold up more than half the sky.'

At a packed session on Youth as Key Actors for Change on the second day, the participants, 80 % of whom were under 30, insisted that young people are certainly the key to change, as they bring new ideas and perspectives, as well as an ability to think outside the box and reflect future needs. With their modern education and access to and embracing of new technology they are very good at networking, and are the ones to create intergenerational dialogue.

'Is development dead?' They asked provocatively. No, but it needs to be restructured, and young people are the ones to do this, they concluded.

Meeting Her Majesty the Queen Letizia of Spain

One high point for the Young Leaders was meeting Queen Letizia of Spain. As a former journalist, Queen Letizia quickly developed a rapport, and youth leaders were enthusiastic and inspired.

'She has a presence and gave helpful advice – telling us that we should keep up our work, and as EDD Young Leaders it is our responsibility to bring about change,' said one. 'In my country I don't get to speak to people about what I'm doing, but here I get to speak to the Queen of an important European country. She has an amazing vision for young people,' said another.

'Stay committed to the long haul': Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Denmark

A visit by the Crown Princess of Denmark, to meet the Young Leaders in the Youth Lounge at the end of the conference, summed up the emphasis on young people as the engine of change. Having listened to their stories, Crown Princess Mary was asked for her advice, and she responded that one had to 'stay committed' as change takes a long time, and one needs to prove one's credibility.

She also stressed the importance of building coalitions. 'You can't do it alone, you need to take people with you,' she advised. This is perhaps the main message Young Leaders will take from EDD 2018.

EDD Youth Lounge: The beating heart of the forum

EDD18 gave young people more space than ever before, with a new Youth Lounge with interactive activities and workshops. The Lounge hosted 5 youth organisations alongside the EDD Young Leaders – including: One Young World, ACP YPN, Alliance of Youth Empowerment, the Young Mediterranean Voices and Faces2Hearts. It provided a meeting place for young people, a catalyst for networking, and created links to move from thoughts to action.

The lounge was buzzing with activity during the two days to the background music of 'War on Drugs' and 'Eye of the Tiger'. Earnest conversations took place, cards and email addresses were exchanged, and promises made to follow up.

Watching a youth leader and activist from Turkmenistan trying to get out of a back choke from a youth leader and activist from Spain to the music of Rachel Patten's Fightsong was a seminal moment during the Shefighter Self-defence workshop led by Lina Khalifeh, founder of Shefighter, led a successful self-defence workshop. Shefighter is the first self-defence studio for women in Jordan and the Middle East. Khalifeh explained that she was motivated to found the studio when she saw a friend being attacked by her brother and mother. Since she started she has trained more than 1 500 women and 350 trainers. As she finished this workshop, Khalifeh said: 'To learn self-defence you need to take a risk and get out of your comfort zone to get it to work. This is the same way that we have to change society.'

The self-defence workshop was just one of the interactive events in the Youth Lounge, coordinated by One Young World (OYW) and the European Commission. Erik Parigger

from One Youth World explained that they had been impressed with the speeches and events at EDD 2017, but would wish more involvement of young voices, often a shortcoming of global forums.

This year OYW wanted to make sure young people played a central role, particularly given the impressive 16 EDD Young Leaders.

The Youth Lounge's role was to provide a meeting place for young people, to provide a catalyst for networking and making connections, 'moving people out of their silos' and creating links to move from thoughts to action. It certainly fulfilled this role, as it was buzzing with activity during the two days to the background music of 'War on Drugs' and 'Eye of the Tiger'. Earnest conversations took place, cards and email addresses were exchanged, and promises made to follow up.

Where are babies conceived – find out at the Sexual Education Jeopardy quiz

Where have more babies been conceived in Europe – in the open air, in the back of a car, or in an IKEA bed? This was one of the questions posed in the Sexual Education Jeopardy quiz, organised by YSAFE. The aim of the quiz, which pits two teams against each other to answer questions on Pleasure (where the above question featured), Sexual Violation, Gender and Sexual Rights, is to raise awareness about the state of sexuality around Europe.

The responses from the team demonstrated how little people know about issues such as gender and sexual legislation. As well as providing an amusing 30 minutes, it succeeded in its aim of raising awareness. There were other, more serious events at the Youth Lounge, such as 'How to Pitch Your Organisation'.

Her Majesty the Queen Mathilde of the Belgians urges young people to listen to women to empower society

One very high-profile visitor to the Youth Lounge was Her Majesty the Queen Mathilde of the Belgians. She sat down and engaged with the 16 Young Leaders to answer their questions. In her responses she stressed her commitment to women's empowerment, and her belief in quality education, particularly for young girls. 'If you educate a girl, you educate a family, so women's empowerment helps all society,' she said. Following on one of the questions, she emphasised: 'For sustainable development, you have to listen to women and give them a chance to speak.'

'Dignified', 'Down to earth', 'She listened to what we had to say', to the more mundane 'She was beautiful' with 'kind eyes', were how the Young Leaders, who were clearly impressed by Mathilde, described her afterwards.

Faces2Hearts – reaching 30 million young people

Faces2Hearts was another of the Youth Lounge events, and it told the story of how digital media, in particular blogging, can open people's minds to what is happening round the world. Four young bloggers travelled the world and documented the countries where the European Union has invested in development projects.

Ariel Contreras, one of the bloggers, explained how, by using a powerful image to illustrate a story, blogging can show directly how people's lives have been changed. For example, in Bolivia a street vendor had moved up to selling goods in her own shop; in Tanzania attitudes had changed, so women are no longer classified as 'witches'. The project has been seen on Facebook by 30 million young people in five months.

Other activities

The second morning kicked off with an energetic Zumba class to get people going. Zumba is a cross between dance and fitness, based on the Colombian dance Zumba. The Lounge finished its programme on Wednesday with a lively interactive public speaking workshop, in which participants were asked to speak for a minute without repetition or hesitation, along the lines of a much-loved BBC radio panel game.

Next editions

As attendance at the Lounge testifies, it has provided a focus and meeting place for young leaders and activists, and its activities have helped to raise the youth voice at EDD 2018. As the EDD came to a close, OYW's Matthew Belshaw is hoping the Lounge will be back for EDD 2019 to ensure that the youth focus retains this central role, to organise more events and to help to keep the conversation going.

2. The EDD Global Village

Alongside the interactive sessions, the 2018 edition of the European Development Days hosted the EDD Global Village, an area of showcasing and exchanging of ideas and best practices. Interest of the exhibitors and visitors is increasingly strong and the fourth edition of the Global Village has been the biggest since its introduction. As a result, this year the Village increased to 91 stands, each showcasing interesting projects and attracting visitors with interactive and engaging presentations.

Situated at the heart of EDD 2018, the EDD Global Village showcased ground breaking development projects, reports and initiatives from around the world, as well as serving as a place for interaction, innovation and networking.

It included:

- **6** Cluster stands
- **32** Large stands
- **1** United Nations special stand
- **1** European Investment Bank special stand
- **51** Regular stands, including 16 European institutions and bodies, among which:
 - **8** DG DEVCO/DG NEAR stands
- **1** Youth lounge
- **6** Public lounges with 4 coffee corners

A tour of the Global Village clearly showcased the focus on women and girls. Some organisations were advocates for women and the environment, such as ‘Women engage for a common future’, which has been built up by a youth group to work on fulfilling the Paris Agreement on cutting emissions, while in Latin America women are working for sustainable development and water conservation. A stand advocating gender-sensitive coffee explained that in Uganda women do 90 % of the work picking the coffee, while men, who own the land reap the financial rewards.

While many of the European Development Days stands emphasised the importance of ensuring that women as agricultural entrepreneurs get a fair deal, one could see a growing emphasis on women in the digital economy. This reflects back to the point made in the session on Young People as Agents for Change. New technology can be an important aid for change, so it is important that girls as well as boys are introduced to it as early as possible.

3. EDD Cultural Programme

Following the success of last year, a cultural programme was organised for the third time during the two-day event but also the day before and the day after. These activities consisted in cultural exhibitions, live performances, concerts and EDD cinema. The objective of these collections and artworks was to reflect on some of the world’s most pressing issues by highlighting the importance of culture. The cultural programme included:

At Tour & Taxis:

- **8** photo and painting exhibitions (5 both in 2017 and 2016)
- **1** live painting performance
- **1** Special event during Large Debate Lab dedicated to Culture and Special Heritage
- **1** Large stand “Coin culture” dedicated to the role of culture in development

Exhibitions:

- "Nothing for Granted - Celebrating the Everyday Contributions of Ethiopian Women"
- "#MyBodyMyPower photo exhibition"
- "On Air With Rural Women"
- Travel around the world with the photo exhibition "Inspiring change through your lens"
- "Climate Heroines from around the World"
- "Gender Equality: Picture it!"

EDD Cultural evenings:

- **2** movies screened at Cinema Galleries including 1 Q/A session with a film director (ca. 600 participants total)
- **3** musical concerts in Molenbeek (ca. 250 participants)
- **1** photography exhibition
- **2** live art performances (ca. 300 participants in BOZAR)
- **1** "Meet the Neighbours" event including art workshops for children and a joint Iftar meal with neighbours and EDD participants

Opening Gala with the Ethical Fashion Initiative

Figure Studies: A Performative Installation between Art, Identity and Fashion

"Figure Studies", a performative exhibition joining art with fashion conceived by the theatre artist Andrew Ondrejcek, was conceived in collaboration with the Ethical Fashion Initiative, an ITC programme supported by the European Union that connects artisans from developing countries to the international fashion and lifestyle market.

Featuring the work of designers, artisans and women cooperatives from the initiative's network in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti and Mali, "Figure Studies" explores themes like Gender, War, Love or Folly and examines how these archetypes manifest themselves in our interconnected, global economy.

This activity has been realised in cooperation of ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative, the European Commission DG DEVCO and BOZAR, with the support of MAD.

Photography Exhibition and Movie Projection

"Vernissage" of the Photography Exhibition "Karimeh Abbud - The First Arab Woman Photographer (Palestine 1893-1940)"

Screening of "The Reports on Sarah and Saleem" by the Palestinian film director Muayad Alayan, winner of the Hubert Bals Audience Award at the 2018 Rotterdam Film Festival

Closing Evening: Musical and Art Performances in Molenbeek

"Bonjour Voisin, Beste Buurman" - Open air participatory art painting and urban installation

Blowing Away Boundaries Performance: live performance with the collective Antonello Ghezzi

Open-Air Musical Concert: featuring NAWARIS, group created by Iraqi refugees musicians

Musical Concert, Featuring Kristel, rock band from Madagascar

Special Avant-première Movie Projection at the presence of the Director, Rafiki de Wanuri Kahiu

Projection of the movie "Rafiki" and discussion with Kenyan director Wanuri Kahiu. The film was the first Kenyan feature film ever to be selected for the Cannes Festival and it has been supported through the EU funded Programme ACPcultures+

Annexes

Annex I

List of speakers

SPEAKERS LIST – EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2018		
Last Name	First Name	SPEAKERS TITLES & ORGANISATION
	HRH Mary	Crown Princess Of Denmark
	HM Letizia	Queen of Spain
	HM Mathilde	Queen of the Belgians
Abbas	Hakima	Co-Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development, Association for Women's Rights in Development
Abdullah Hil Baki	Mohammed	Manager - Adolescent Development Programme(Projects), BRAC Bangladesh
Abreu	Fabricia	Talent and Executive management Director, Iberdrola
Adela Villanueva Chávez	Victoria	Director, Movimiento Manuela Ramos
Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Tedros	Director-General, World Health Organisation
Aguilar	Lorena	Global Director Governance and Rights, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Agyei	Bonifacia	Country Manager, SafeCare, PharmAccess Group
Ahmed	Rumee	Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Associate Professor of Islamic
Ahmed	Sadia	Country Director for Somaliland, Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA)
Akerkar	Supriya	Senior Lecturer, Disaster Risk Reduction, Oxford Brookes University
Ako Taha	Taffan	Young Leader - Sweden
Akpo	Christiane	CEO, Ochola ASBL
Akter	Meghla	Young Leader to End Violence Against Children in Bangladesh, World Vision
Akua Owusu Afriyieh	Nana	Member of Parliament, Ablekuma North Constituency, Republic of Ghana
Al Khulaifi	Asma	Education Above All Foundation
Al-Fadala	Asmaa	Director of Research and Content Development, WISE - World Innovation Summit for Education
Albrechtsen	Anne-Birgitte	CEO, Plan International
Albright	Alice	CEO, Global Partnership for Education

Alejandra Villamizar	Maria	Journalist - Caracol
Alers	Marcel	Head of Energy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Ali	Shamima	Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
Ali Mohamed	Fatin	Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)
Allio	Chloé	Policy Officer - European Commission, DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Alonso Cano	Natalia	Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
Alshaikhahmed	Sherin	Protection and Inclusion Advisor, Islamic Relief
Amehri	Fatima	President, Cooperative des Femmes "Argan Ida Oumtate"
Amenfi	Bridget	Young Urban Women's movement
Amilhat	Pierre	Director F, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Amuzu	Esenam	Young Leaders for Development
Anthony Nansasi Nkalubo	Maria	Principal Operations Officer, Ministry of Health, Uganda
Antona	Mayte	Editor-in-chief, Section Society, Servimedia
Anyangwe	Eliza	Founder, Nzinga Effect
Aparicio	Roberto	Policy Officer, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Archane	Phonsina	Program Coordinator MAMA Network - EDD Young Leader,
Arnold	Tom	Chairman, DG AGRI/DEVCO Task for Rural Africa
Arradon	Isabelle	Director of Research, International Crisis Group
Arteil	Zeinab	Facilitator, Med Culture Technical Assistance
Asige Apoore	Dorcas	EDD 2018 Young Leader, Ghana
Asin Martinez	Ester	Director & EU Representative, Save the Children
Askew	Ian	Director, Reproductive Health and Research, Human Reproduction Program, World Health Organization
Astrig Mardirossian	Christine	Programme Manager, European Commission DG DEVCO
Atim Apea	Agnes	Founder and CEO, Hope Co-ops
Ayadi	Rym	Founding President and Professor, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association
Ayugi	Eunice	Chairperson Alebere Child Mothers Farmers Group, SAG (SWITCH-Africa Green Network Facility)
Azzi	Georges	Executive Director, Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality

Ba	Ousmane	One Young World Ambassador, Founder and President of Girl Child Project, Girl Child Project
Bacigalupi	Claudio	Team Leader for Water, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Baehr	Renate	Executive Director, DSW, DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung)
Baracatt	Gabriel	Executive Director, Fundación Avina
Barre	Anne	Coordinator Gender and Climate Policy, Women Engage for a Common Future
Bartra	Manuel	International Bakery S.A.C.
Bastagli	Francesca	Head of Social Protection and Social Policy, Overseas Development Institute
Bay Bundegaard	Anita	International Advocacy Director, Save the Children
Bayani	Rachel	Representative, Baha'i International Community, Brussels Office
Beall	Jo	Director Education & Society Executive Board, British Council
Beerlandt	Hannelore	CEO, AgriCord
Bel Haj Hmida Ep Sahli	Bochra	Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Tunisia
Belcher-Taylor	Pam	Mayor, Paynesville City Corporation
Belobo Mbia	Marguerite	Country Program Coordinator, SNV Cameroon
Belrhiti	Imane	VP Sales and Marketing for Africa, OCP Group
Ben Mlouka	Cyrine	Présidente, Réseau des Femmes Leaders du Maghreb
Ben Rejeb	Fatma	CEO, Panafrican Farmers Organisation (PAFO)
Benaissa	Aissam	Alumni, Young Mediterranean Voices
Benedetti	Fanny	Head of Gender / Education / Population / Youth Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France
Benhadid-Messaoudi	Faiza	International expert on Gender & Human Rights, Center of Arab Woman for Training and Research
Benmohammed	Inesse	Director of Entrepreneurship Programmes, SINGA
Bennani Smires	Otmane	General Counsel, OCP Group
Benoudji	Colette	Coordinator, LEAD Tchad
Berg	Louise	Entrepreneur, Sibship
Bernhardt	Sarah	Attachée, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Biedler	Murray	Coordinator, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Bih Epse Fofang	Janet	Co-Founder, Tassah Academy

Biloa	Marie-Roger	Founding Chair, Club Millenium, Africa international Media Group
Birungi Mayanja	Teopista	Regional Coordinator, Africa Network Campaign for Education for All
Blanchet	Sandie	Director, UNICEF Office for Relations with EU Institutions, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
Bogdan-Martin	Doreen	ITU Chief of Strategic Planning and Membership Department & Co-Chair of EQUALS Steering Committee, EQUALS
Bouchareb	Nouzha	President, ConnectinGroup International
Boulama Kane	Aichatou	Minister of Planning, Niger
Bowman	Alan	Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Mission of Canada to the European Union
Brendel	Christine	Program Manager of ComVoMujer - Combating Violence against Women in Latin America, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Brun	Isabelle	Technical Advisor, Council of Europe Development Bank
Brunon Wenta	Bogdan	Member of the European Parliament, European Parliament
Bull	Greta	CEO, Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP)
Burns	Chris	Journalist, Burnstorm
Busingye	Annicient	Frontier Energy
Butkeviciene	Jolita	European Commission
Butler	Gayathri	Country Director (Ethiopia), Girl Effect
Byanyima	Winnie	Executive Director Oxfam International and Member of Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency
Caballero Sosa	Lila	CONCORD Europe (Acting Head of Research and Programme Policy, ActionAid UK)
Caldera	Clara	Program Officer, Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo
Calle Suarez	José Ángel	Director, Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation
Campbell	Jeffrey	Manager, Forest and Farm Facility, FAO Forest and Farm Facility
Candelari	Francesco	Social Entrepreneurship Expert
Cangelosi	Elisabetta	Consultant, International Land Coalition
Carling	Joan	Co-convener, Indigenous Peoples Major Group
Caron	Patrick	Chairman, Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
Castellaz	Christoph	Business Leader Primary/ Community Care, Royal Philips

Ceriani Sebregondi	Filiberto	Head of Division, European External Action Service (EEAS)
Chadwick	Vince	Brussels Correspondent, Devex
Chalwe Doroba	Hendrina	Executive Director, Forum for African Women Educationalists
Chantal Kaninda	Marie	Executive Director, World Diamond Council
Chantal Uwitonze	Marie	President, African Diaspora Network in Europe (ADNE)
Charalambous	Alexander	Team leader, SWITCH to Green Facility
Charity Kathambi	Chepkwony	Member of Parliament, National Assembly, Kenya
Chatterjee-Martinsen	Cecilia	Chief Executive, WaterAid Sweden, WaterAid
Cheema	Affan	Head of Programme Quality, Islamic Relief
Chetty	Tara	Coordinator, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development
Chowdhury	Shah	Young Leader - Bangladesh
Ciccarelli	Paolo	European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Clemency Carro Walpole	Isabel	The Open Earth Foundation
Cohn	Carol	Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights
Coleiro Preca	Marie-Louise	President, Malta
Collin	Catherine	Head of EIB Regional Representation for East Africa, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Corbalan	Sergi	Executive Director, Fair Trade Advocacy Office
Cordier	Sylvie	Programme Quality Adviser, ADD International
Corsini	Alessia	European Commission, DG ECHO
Cotton	Ann	Founder, Camfed International
Coursaris Musunka	Noella	Founder/CEO, Malaika
Crabbé	Bernard	Team leader Environment and Mainstreaming European Commission, DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Croisé	Michel	President, Sodexo Benelux
Curristine	Teresa	Deputy Division Chief, IMF
Custodio	Estefania	Scientific Officer, European Commission - DG Joint Research Center (JRC)
Dabbagh	Bushra	EDD Young Leader - Syria
Dabbagh	Bushra	Young Leader - Syria
Dabdoub Nasser	Christiane	Med Culture Technical Assistance+B143
Danielsson	Christian	Director General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission

Daouda Mamadou Marthe	S.E	Minister of Primary Education, Literacy, Promotion of National Languages and Civic Education, Niger
Dar Ko	Than	Director Thone Pan Hla Local NGO, Business Kind Myanmar
Das	Abhijit	Co-Chair, MenEngage Global Alliance/Director - Center for Health and Social Justice, Center for Health and Social Justice, India
Daulne	Marie	Artist, independent
Daulny	Paul	Chargé de l'accompagnement de collectivités territoriales et des syndicats, Centre Hubertine Auclert
Davis	Randi	Director for Gender, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
De Croo	Alexander	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Post, Belgium
De La Maisonneuve	Axel	Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
De Marco Coenen	Liliana	Executive Director, Protection International
De Merode	Emmanuel	Director, Virunga Park
De Putter	Marie-Alix	
De Regt	Marina	Assistant Professor, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
De Roos	Aaltje	Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
De Rosen	Yvoire	Moderator - Journalist / Anthro-p-sociologist,
De Silva De Alwis	Rangita	Associate Dean, University of Pennsylvania
De Suremain	Marie-Dominique	Gender Coordinator, EUROsociAL
De Wolf	Emilie	Equipo de Proteccion Integral, Consorcio Oaxaca
Del Carmen Martin Calvarro	Maria	Head of Sustainable Innovation and Diversity Strategy, Telefonica
Delrue	Luc	Secretary-General, Flanders Department of Culture, Youth & Media
Demitu Hambissa Bonga	H.E	Head of the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Affairs Minister, Ethiopia, The FDRE Office of the Prime Minister
Denis	Mirta	Executive Director, Social Cabinet of Presidency of Paraguay
Dhot	Neil	Executive Director, AquaFed
Di Mauro	Francesca	Head of Unit, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Di Ruocco Formisano	Sara	Gender Advisor, Ceasefire Transtional Securiry Arrangement Moniotring Mechanism
Diagne	Nafy	Founder, AWALEBIZ

Diboma	Marina	Deputy Managing Director, Netherlands African Business Council
Diby	Peggy	Senior Communications and Corporate Affairs Professional, Professional
Dieguez Ramirez	Amalia	CERMI Director, CERMI Women Foundation
Diez Guardia	Nuria	Policy Officer, European Commission - DG for Migration and Home Affairs (HOME)
Diop	Nafissatou	Senior Advisor, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
Ditty	Sarah	Head of Policy, Fashion Revolution
Djossaya	Rotimy	West and Central Africa Regional Director, Plan International
Doens	Koen	Deputy Director General, Directorate- General for International Cooperation and Development
Drejza	Michalina	Co-Founder, Polish Doctors for Women
Dussey	Robert	Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration, Togo
Egharevba	Elizabeth	Director for International Cooperation, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Nigeria, Government of Nigeria
Elena Moreno De Acevedo Yague	Eulalia	Director Of Urbanism, Regional Government of Extremadura
Elisabeth Frankenhaeuser	Malin	Head of Policy, International Centre for Migration Policy Development
Elshaikh Idris Ali Abdalla	Salma	Young Leader - Sudan
Enrique Prieto Jimenez	Abel	Minister of Culture, Cuba
Esplen	Emily	Adviser, United Kingdom Department For International Development (DFID)
Fatch	Joanna	Project Manager, AU/NEPAD Southern African Network for Water Centres of Excellence
Fauconnier	Isabelle	Water Policy and Sustainability Advisor, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Faye	Yvonne	General Manager, Énergie R
Fayolle	Ambroise	Vice President, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Fernandez De Lis	Patricia	Redactora Jefe de Materia, El País
Ferroukhi	Rabia	Deputy Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance, International Renewable Energy Agency
Figel	Jan	Special Envoy for Promotion of Freedom of Religion Outside the EU, European Commission
Fransen	Godelieve	Senior Policy Advisor, European Policy Centre

Fredriksson	Torbjörn	Chief, ICT Policy Section, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
Freehill	Mary	Dublin City councillor, European Committee of the Regions
Frewen	Mella	Director-General, FoodDrinkEurope
Frølich Holte	Jens	State Secretary of Norway, MFA
Funja	Rose	Managing Director, Agrinfo Company Limited
Furtado	Catarina	UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, UNFPA
Fyles	Nora	Head of the UNGEI Secretariat, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
Gabriel	Mariya	European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Galati	Alanna	Senior Policy Manager Guttmacher Institute, Guttmacher Institute
Garcia	Gabriela	Partnership Portfolio and Programs Manager, ChildFund Alliance
Garcia Perez	Mercedes	Head of Human Rights Division, European External Action Service (EEAS)
Gassó Matoses	Javier	Deputy Director General for United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
Gauchan	Anamica	Project Coordinator, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Nepal
Gausi	Tamara	Editor, Equal Times
Gautier-Budai	Anne-Elisabeth	Expertise France
Gehle	Courtney	Young Leaders for Development
Geiger	Henriette	Director People and Peace, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Georgieva	Dr. Kristalina	CEO, The World Bank Group
Gerretsen	Erica	Head of Unit DEVCO A4 - Budget support, PFM & DRM, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Ghanea	Nazila	Associate Professor in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford
Giannini	Stefania	Assistant Director-General for Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
Gibb	Yolanda	Gender Expert, DAI, Societal Innovation & Enterprise Forum
Gichinga	Njoki	Sr. Strategic Partnerships & Business Development Specialist, Safaricom Innovation Centre - Alpha
Giovinazzo	Mercedes	Director of Interarts Foundation

Giraud	Caroline	(M) Freedom of Expression and Media Advocacy Specialist, Media4Democracy.EU
Gisèle Pana	Aline	Minister for Promotion of Women, Family and Protection of Children, Central African Republic
Gizaw	Tiruwork	Cooperation Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia
Gloria Sozinho	Conceicao	Director at Chimoio in Teacher Training College, Humana People to People
Gnassounou	Viwanou	Assistant Secretary-General, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Godignon	Julie	Program Manager, Fondation Hironnelle
Goerens	Charles	Member of the European Parliament, European Parliament
Goeske	Joachim	Head of Division Global Policy & Governance, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Gois	William	Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia
Golberg	Elissa	Assistant Deputy Minister - Strategic Policy, Global Affairs Canada
Gonzalez	Arancha	Executive Director, International Trade Centre
Gonzalez-Gonzalez	Veronica	Project Coordinator, UNESCO
Gottemoeller	Rose	Deputy Secretary General, NATO
Goyal	Nidhi	Disability and gender rights activist, Founder and Director Rising Flame, Rising Flame
Grabundzija	Maggy	Consultant, Eurecna SpA
Greven	Imke	Land Rights Policy Advisor, Oxfam Novib
Greyling	Christo	Senior Director: Faith - Advocacy and External Engagement, World Vision
Grichi	Hella	Assistant, Embassy of Germany in Tunis
Griffin	Cy	Programme Manager Europe, Wetlands International
Gronvald	Lars	Team Leader for Urban Development and Cities, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Gronwald	Victoria	Gender Consultant, Levin Sources
Grosso	Guillaume	Director, International Business Development and European Strategy, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
Grynspan	Rebeca	Secretary General, SEGIB (Secretaría General Iberoamericana)
Grzywnowicz	Micah	Board Member, ILGA-Europe (European LGBTI Association)
Guarnieri	Valerie	Assistant Executive Director, Operations Services - World Food Programme (WFP), UNWFP (United Nations World Food Programme)

Guttenbeil-Likiliki	Ofa	Director, Tonga Women & Children Crisis Centre
Hadebe	Nontando	Lecturer, Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
Hagenaars	Carmen	Deputy Director Inclusive Green Growth Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Hagstrom	Camilla	Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Hailu	Michael	Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Haji Bashar	Lamya	Sakharov Prize, Luftbrücke Irak e.V.
Halimat Abagun	Olaoluwa	Young Leader - Nigeria
Handoondo	Jennipher	Tree Nursery Choma Association, Zambia
Hardeman	Hilde	Head of Service for Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI) - European Commission
Hatzenberg	Lydia	Technical Assistant Manager Galz&Goals, Namibia Football Association
Hautala	Heidi	Vice-President, European Parliament
Heider	Caroline	Director-General Evaluation and Sr. Vice President, The World Bank Group
Henriksson	Kirsi	Director, Crisis Management Centre Finland
Hernandez Otero	Ernesto	Young Leader - El Salvador
Hesp	Cees	Director mHealth Research Labs, PharmAccess Group
Hidalgo Sanchis	Paula	Manager Pulse Lab Kampala, United Nations
Hlophe	Nondumiso	One Young World Ambassador and Founding Curator & Director of Global Shapers Community - Mbabane Hub, Global Shapers Community: Mbabane Hub
Hoffer	Frank	Executive Director, ACT
Hogan	Phil	European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
Holmes	Rebecca	Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute
Holst	Haldis	Deputy General Secretary, Education International
Hun	Sreynak	Program Liaison Officer, Light For the World
Hunt	Abigail	Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute
Hussein	Saga	Trainer, YMV+
Hutchinson	Clare	NATO Secretary Generals Special Representative for Women Peace and Security, NATO HQ
Hyacinthe Owona Kono	Joseph	President, Afruibana
Ibens	Robin	Strategic and creative director, Shaved Monkey
Ibrahim	Hauwa	Lawyer, Sakharov Prize laureate 2005, The Peace Institute

Ignatius Gomes	Patrick	Secretary General, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Ijjasz Vasquez	Ede	Senior Director for Social, Urban, Resilience and Rural Global Practice, The World Bank Group
Ilhan Kizilhan	Jan	Dean of the Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology, University of Duhok
Ilwad	Elman	Moderator, Director of Programs and Development, Elman Peace Centre, Elman Peace Centre
Ilyas	Meerim	Senior Programme Officer, Urgent Action Fund
Isabel Garcia	Ana	Executive Director, Fundación Género y Sociedad
Islam	Shada	Director Europe & Geopolitics, Friends of Europe
Issoufou	Mahamadou	President, Niger, Niger
Itkonen	Anna-Kaisa	Commission Spokesperson for Climate Action and Energy, European Commission
Jacques	Mathieu	Programme Manager, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Jager	Marjeta	Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation and Development - DEVCO, European Commission, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Jaitner	Annette	Land Programme Lead, Transparency International
Jamtin	Carin	Director-General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Janosev	Ana	Impact Award Project Coordinator
Jansen	Marion	Chief Economist, International Trade Centre (ITC)
Jarra Touray	Isatou	Minister of Trade, Regional Integration and Employment of the Republic of The Gambia, The Republic of the Gambia
Jenniskens	Annemiek	Executive Director, Women for Water Partnership
Jeremiah Offor	Hope	EDD Young Leader
Jiekak	Sabine	Deputy Chief of Party PRADD II, Tetra Tech ARD
Joedicke	Anne-Laure	Coordinator for the Mediterranean Area, European Association for Local Democracy
Johnson	Ebony	Public Health, Gender & Policy, Independent Consultant
Joppart	Catherine	Consultant, Communication for Development
Juncker	Jean-Claude	President of the European Commission, European Commission
Kaercher	Friederike	Head of Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
Kagame	Paul	President, Rwanda
Kahiu	Wanuri	

Kaiser-Tedesco	Janne	Advisor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Kakande	Margaret	Head, Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and economic Development- Uganda
Kalibata	Agnes	President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
Kamidola	Aigerim	Human Rights Defender, FEMINITA
Kandole	Annet	Programme Manager, CARE International
Kanko	Assita	Writer and Founder of Polin, Political Incubator for Women, International Day of the African Child and Youth
Kapit	Amy	Research Director, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
Kara	Amina	Co-founder, International Talents Network
Karam	Azza	Senior Advisor, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
Karhunen	Antti	Head of Unit Private Sector and Trade - European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Kata Banda	Grace	Young Leader - Malawi
Katarina Ram	Tala	Policy Officer, Baha'i International Community, Brussels Office
Katsui	Hisayo	Researcher, University of Helsinki
Kautu	Anne	Director, Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs - Kiribati
Kavugho	Jolie	Ranger, Virunga National Park
Kawawa	Emma	CEO, Entango Investments LTD
Kebri	Farida	Programme Analyst, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Keira	Namory	African Gynecologist & Obstetrician
Ketcha Epse Courtès	Célestine	Mayor of Bangangté, United Cities and Local Governments (CEMR)- PLATFORMA
Khalifeh	Lina	One young world Ambassador and Founder of SheFighter, SheFighter
Khojayan	Gohar	Communication Specialist, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
Kidjo	Angélique	UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
Kihungi	Jane	Coordinator, Women Challenged to Challenge
Kitatani	Ken	Director of the Forum 21 Institute, ordained minister of Sukyo Mahikari, Forum 21 Institute
Koelbl	Pauline	Managing Director, African Innovation Foundation

Kolb	Henriette	Head, Gender Secretariat, International Finance Corporation
Koleva	Martina	Project Manager, ATHLON
Kopp	Gudrun	ENoP Board Member, ENoP
Kouvo	Sari	Associate Professor, Department of Law, Gothenburg University
Kouyaté	Morissanda	Executive Director of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices
Kukrety	Nupur	Programme Specialist - Social Protection in Humanitarian, Fragile and Risk prone contexts, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
Kuteesa	Florence	Former Budget Director, Ministry of Finance, Uganda, Council for Economic Empowerment of Women in Africa-Uganda
Kyrou	Eleni	Lead Gender Specialist, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Laabidy	Touria	Project Manager, KAS (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung)
Lambert	Aurore	Health and Social Protection Task Team Leader, Agence Française de Développement
Lambrinidis	Stavros	EU Special Representative for Human Rights, European External Action Service (EEAS)
Langenbucher	Anja	Director Europe and Middle East, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Langenkamp	Angela	Lead Gender Policy Advisor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Laryea	Guggi	Partnership Specialist, The World Bank Group
Le Guével	Audrey	Director Brussels Office, International Labour Organization
Le Masson	Virginie	Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute
Lehmann	Simone	Project Director, sequa gGmbH
Leonel Correia Sacko	Josefa	Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
Leurquin	Christine	VP Institutional Relations and Communications, SES - Société Européenne des Satellites
Libog	Charlotte	Founder, Afrique Grenier du Monde
Liboz Thomas	Marine	Managing director Women in Africa
Lietz	Arne	Member of the European Parliament, European Parliament
Lima	Laura	Cities Alliance - UNOPS
Limone	Andrea	CEO, PerMicro
Lindvall	Mikael	PSC Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union

Lomaloma	Sereima	Community Engagement Coordinator, Anglican Diocese of Polynesia
Longo	Roberto	Senior technical Specialist, International Fund for Agricultural Development
Lopez	Marusia	Senior Associate, Power & Protection of Women Activists, Just Associates
Lopez	Yrenilsa	Investment Officer, Women's World Banking
Lourme-Ruiz	Alissia	Post-PhD, Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
Lowyck	Isabel	Managing Director, Shaved Monkey
Lubani	Ermira	Regional Proejct Manager, UN Women
Luyendijk	Rolf	Executive Director, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
Macdonald	Fleur	Moderator, Freelance
Macleod	Ewen	Senior Advisor On Development, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
Madu	Uzoamaka	EU-Africa Political Commentator, What's in it for Africa?
Magowe	Naledi	Co-Founder CMO, Brastorne Enterprises
Majara Kibombo	Grace	Senior Adviser - Financial Inclusion, CARE International
Makela	Susanna	Senior Director EU Government Affairs, Microsoft
Makhlouf	Himeda	Directeur - Direction de la Nutrition et technologies Alimentaires - Minsitère de la Santé Publique, Ministry of Public Health
Malapit	Hazel	Senior Research Coordinator, International Food Policy Research Institute
Maleno Garzón	Helena	Researcher, Independent Consultant
Malmstrom	Cecilia	European Commissioner for Trade, European Commission
Manastirliu	Ogerta	Minister of Health and Social Protection, Albania
Mann	Lori	Consultant - Facilitator, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Mannai	Khouloud	Medical Intern, Trade Union Tunisia
Manneh Weah	George	President, Liberia, Liberia
Manservisi	Stefano	Director-General, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Manzano	Cristina	Director, Esglobal/Pensamiento Iberoamericano
Mapenzi Dukureh	Jaha	Goodwill Ambassador for Africa, UN Women
Maranga	Stella	Gender Officer, African Union
Marc Christian Kaboré	Roch	President, Burkina Faso

Marcela Eternod Aramburu	María	Executive Secretary, Mexico, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES)
Marcolin	Valeria	Co-director, Culture et Développement
Maria Baiardi Quesnel	Ana	Minister of Women's Affairs, Paraguay
Maria Mejia Duque	Claudia	Directora, Corporación Sisma Mujer
Maria Ryding	Tove	Policy and Advocacy Manager, European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)
Maria Schmid	Helga	Secretary General European External Action Service (EEAS), European External Action Service (EEAS)
Marie Coll Seck	Awa	Minister of State, Senegal, Government of Senegal
Marigold Assan	Justina	Mayor, Agona West Municipal Assembly
Marijnissen	Chantal	Head of Environment, Natural Resources, Water, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Marinaki	Mara	European External Action Service (EEAS)
Marques Ruiz	Carmen	Policy Coordinator Environment & Water Diplomacy, Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS)
Martineau	Timothy	Deputy Executive Director, Programme a.i., The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
Martinez Rios	Beatriz	ONCE Foundation
Maru	Natasha	Communication and Information Manager, The Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, FAO
Masipa	Sophie	Head of Communications and Media Relations, Mo Ibrahim Foundation
Mathabo Makuta	Susan	National Director, Habitat for Humanity International
Mavima	Paul	Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Zimbabwe,
Maximilien	Eva	Global Specialist - Mental Health – HI
Maxwell	Simon	Chair, European Think Tanks Group
Maycock	Joanna	Secretary General, European Women's Lobby
Maynard	David	Director English & Education, Bangladesh British Council
Mbazomo	Carole	Secrétaire Générale, African Business Club
Mbenga Jallow	Fatou	Project Coordinator & Senior Technical Adviser, International Trade Centre (ITC)
Mc Avan	Linda	Chair of the Committee on Development, European Parliament
Mccallum	Elin	Director, Bantani Education asbl
Mcnair	David	Executive Director Global Policy, The ONE Campaign

Meda	Nicolas	Minister of Health, Burkina Faso
Medou Badang	Elisabeth	Senior Vice-President Africa and Indian Ocean and Spokesperson, Orange Middle East & Africa, Orange
Meier	Marianne	Researcher, University of Berne
Mendes-Lowney	Angelika	Manager, Bilateral and Multilateral Partnerships, Women's World Banking
Mendy	Joelle	Strategy & Content Manager, Africa Business Club
Mennetrier	Gwendoline	Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat
Meritan	Regis	Head of Sector Agricultural Growth, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Mesfin	Roman	Director, Ethiopian National Association of the Deaf Blind
Meskanen	Anne	Ambassador fir global women issues and gender equality, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Midden	Kate	Engagement Editor, Devex
Miletto	Michela	Deputy Coordinator, WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO)
Millan	Juanita	Representative - Gender Sub-Commission – Government
Mimica	Neven	European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
Mirosevic Verdugo	Vlado	Member of Parliament, Chile, Chamber of Deputies of Chile
Mizzi	Leonard	Acting Director Sustainable Growth and Develoment, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Mlambo-Ngcuka	Phumzile	Executive Director, UN Women
Mogherini	Federica	High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President European Commission, European Commission
Mohamed	Houda	Oxfam GB
Mohamed Badrou Bah	Elhadj	1st Imam of the region Labé and Inspector of the Regional Islamic League, General Secretariat of Religious Affairs of Guinea
Mohammed	Amina J.	Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations
Mohd Sharif	Maimunah	Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Mokhtari	Nardjes	Entrepreneuse Verte, UNEP Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production
Mon Thair	Su	Project Manager, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association
Moosa	Zohra	Executive Director, Mama Cash

Mora Fernandez	Luis	UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
Moreau	Pascale	Public Affairs Manager, Sustainable Apparel Coalition
Morrison Brejnholt Tranberg	Hannah	Tax Policy and Programme Manager, AADK (ActionAid Denmark)
Msengezi	Chipo	Project Coordinator, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Mtenje	Tom	Deputy Team Leader - Malawi Social Protection Programme, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Muchoki	Lucy	Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Agri-business and Agro Industry Alliance
Mueller	Chissey	Specialist, Counter Trafficking in Humanitarian Settings, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Mukendy	Cynthia	African Gist
Mukherjee	Rohini	Chief Policy Officer, Naandi Foundation
Mukwege	Denis	Gynaecologist, President and Founder, Panzi Hospital and Foundation
Mulonga	Julie	Programme Manager - East Africa, Wetlands International Africa
Murru	Anna Carmela	Partnership Manager, VVOB
Muruli	Angela	FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development)
Mwambwa	Lombe	International Adviser & Board Member, National Organisation for Women in Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation
Myamba	Flora	Social Protection and Gender Specialist, Women and Social Protection Tanzania Limited
N'Dour	Youssou	Artist, Composer and Business Leader, Super Etoile, GFM, Super Etoile, GFM
Naib	Fatma	Moderator, End FGM European Network
Nakajjigo	Esther	Young Leader - Uganda
Nakpergou	Noumpoa	Woman Farmer Representative, ROPPA (Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa)
Nanayakkara	Rukshana	SDG Advocacy Manager, Transparency International
Natali	Francesca	fund director, META VENTURES
Navas-Sabater	Juan	Lead ICT Policy Specialist, The World Bank Group
Ndabarushimana	Colette	Project Coordinator, Transparency International Rwanda
Neelormi	Sharmind	Panelist, GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice

Nelson	Betsy	Vice President, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
Newbery	Rory	Intercultural Exchange Coordinator / EU-MENA Researcher, Young Mediterranean Voices
Newman	Fleur	Gender Affairs Officer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Newmark	Tammy	CEO & Managing Partner, EcoEnterprises Fund
Newth	Hannah	Child Protection Adviser, Save the Children
Ngonze	Caroline	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Niang	Awa	Scientific Secretary, Doctorate School on Water, Water Quality and Water Uses
Nietsch	Julia	ICT4D Partnerships - Group Strategy, Orange
Nilsson	Karin	Technical Specialist, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Norgaard	Jens	Moderator
Novaro	Lorenzo	Representative of the Youth European Cooperators <u>Network</u> , Cooperatives Europe
Ntambwe	Modi	Chair of RVDAGE-SVAV Federation of African Associations of Flanders
Ntungwa	Januario	Country Coordinator, Trias
Nyamundhe	Richard	Education Coach, Kenya
O'Regan	Nick	Director, Infrastructure and Project Management Group, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
O'Rourke	Catherine	Senior Lecturer in Human Rights and International Law, Ulster University
Odile	Conchou	Head of Social Cohesion and Gender Unit, Agence Française de Développement
Ogba	Uloma	Project & Knowledge Manager, United Nations Capital Development Fund
Omar Ava	Tasneem	Co-founder and COO, Synergy Global.co
Omer	Akhyar	Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Association - Gadarif State
Onclin	Madeleine	Team Leader for Nutrition, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Oniango	Ruth	Member of the Board, CABI
Oparaocha	Sheila	Executive Director, Energia International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
Osama	Bothina	Regional Coordinator, MENA region, SciDev.Net
Owitti	Philip	Executive Director, Men for Gender Equality Now

Owono	Julie	Lawyer and Executive director, Internet Without Borders
Pajin Iraola	Leire	Director Global Development, Barcelona Institute for Global Health
Palmer	Denese	Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Southside Distributors LTD
Panika	Sylvie	Journalist, Radio Ndeke Luka
Pantuliano	Sara	Managing Director - Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Overseas Development Institute
Papancheva	Irina	EU Advocacy Manager, Lumos
Papp	Susan	Director of Policy and Advocacy, Women Deliver
Paradis	Evelyne	Executive Director, ILGA-Europe (European LGBTI Association)
Pariat	Monique	Director-General, European Commission - DG for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operation (ECHO)
Partanen	Kati	Member of the Board, The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)
Pato	Rimbink	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Papua New Guinea
Patten	Pramila	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict United Nations, United Nations
Paviot	Bénédicte	Journalist, France 24
Perez	Beatriz	Senior Vice President and Chief Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Officer, The Coca-Cola Company
Petitpas	Elise	Innovation and Advocacy Expert, Equilibres et Populations
Petry	Karen	Researcher, German Sport University Cologne / Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln
Phiri	Lelemba	Group Chief Marketing Officer, Zoona
Pierre Poirier	Marie	Regional Director for West and Central Africa - UNICEF, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
Pierre-Antoine	Sophia	Board Co-Chair, FRIDA Young Feminist Fund
Pierro	Robin	Communications Manager, the Fund for Global Human Rights
Pineda	Rocío	Member of the Special commission for the implementation of the agreements
Porrino	Fabrizio	SVP Global Public Affairs, FacilityLive OPCO Srl
Poth-Moegele	Angelika	Executive Director European Affairs, Council of European Municipalities and Regions
Prikrylova	Dita	CEO and Founder, Czechitas
Rahajarizafy	Lanto	Director in charge of the Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Madagascar

Rahman Ahmad Khan	Anusha	Federal Minister, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan
Ratto-Nielsen	Juan	Trainer & Instructional Designer, INTER-TRAINING
Re'Em	Shachar	Deputy Director MASHAV Golda Meir Carmel Training Center, Israel's Agency of International Development Cooperation
Red	Axelle	Goodwill Ambassador, Humanity & Inclusion / Handicap International Federation
Rehma	Ibrahim	Director India Operations, Flemish Institute for Technological Research
Reiter	Joakim	Group External Affairs Director, Vodafone
Repinski	Peter	Senior Expert, Co-lead 10 YFP Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme, Stockholm Environment Institute
Rharrasse	Zineb	Co-founder & Managing Director, STARTUP MAROC
Rideau	Alexandre	Director, Keewu Production
Rioux	Remy	Chief Executive Officer, Agence Française de Développement
Robi Tingo	Natalie	EDD Young Leader
Rocha Leao	Lais	Young Leader - Brazil
Romans I Torrent	Ariadna	Debater, deba-t.org
Ronco	Paolo	Scientific Officer, European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC)
Rondelez	Fleur	Communication Officer, International Labour Organization
Rongong	Arpanah	Technical Advisor - Child Protection and Participation, World Vision International
Rosa	Annekathrin	GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Rozas	Angela	Social Impact, The Coca-Cola Company
Rubel	Sasha	Programme Specialist, Universal Access and Preservation, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Rughetti	Roberta	Head of Programs, Amref Health Africa
Ruiz Mulas	Carmen	COCEMFE
Saadah	Anis	Coordinator, Indonesian Youth Cooperatives Federation
Sabi Boun Adamou	Barkatou	General Director of Digital Economy and Post, Government of Benin
Sacaze	Jean-Pierre	Head of the Governance Section - EU Delegation in Morocco, European Commission - DG for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)
Sadki	Ali	Project Manager, Transparency Maroc

Safaraliyeva	Rana	Executive Director, National Chapter in Azerbaijan, Transparency International
Saint-Malo De Alvarado	Isabel	Vice President, Minister of External Relations, Government of Panamá
Saleh	Asif	Senior Director of Strategy, Communications and Empowerment, BRAC Bangladesh
Salissou Hassane	Latifa	CEO of InnovELLE, Miss Geek Africa 2008,
Salvaire	Aurelie	Founder, Shiftbalance
Samb	Abdou	President, FRS Consulting
Sandino	Victoria	Representative - Gender Sub-Commission - FARC,
Sands	Peter	Executive Director, The Global Fund, Switzerland
Sanou	Mazouma	Animatrice, Union Provinciale des Professionnels Agricole du Houet
Santi	Emanuele	Afrilanthropy Founder and President
Santi	Giulia	Project Manager, Eurecna SpA
Santos	Luisa	Director, BusinessEurope
Savage	James	Program Officer - Enabling Environment for Human Rights Defenders, the Fund for Global Human Rights
Sayos Monras	Meritxell	Junior Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
Schaart	Afke	Vice President and Head of Europe, GSMA
Scharling	Christian	Student, Institut d'études politiques de Paris, Institut d'études politiques de Paris
Schinina	Guglielmo	Head of Global Mental Health, Psychosocial Response and Intercultural Communication (MHPSS) section, IOM
Schmidt	Werner	Director, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Schmitz	Stefan	Deputy Director-General, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
Schopper	Theresa	Secretary of State, Staatsministerium Baden-Württemberg
Schul	Jean-Jacques	Chairman, International Day of the African Child and Youth
Schulte-Hillen	Catrin	Coordinator, MSF's working group on reproductive health and sexual violence care, Médecins Sans Frontières
Sealy Monteith	Sheila	Ambassador, Embassy of Jamaica
Segura	Carmen	Science Dissemination Technician, Fundación Descubre
Senfuma	William	MFS, MTN Uganda
Sergeant	Caroline	The World Bank
Seydou Diop	Thierno	Associate, Schuman associates
Sezibera	Annick	CEO, Confédération des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement

Shaltout	Nayerah	National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
Sharpe	Rachel	Policy Adviser, ActionAid UK
Shaw-Barragan	Maria	Director, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Shetty	Trisha	UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goal 5, Founder & CEO, SheSays
Shields	Laura	Managing Director, Red Thread EU, Red Thread EU
Sidibay	Mohamed	Peace Activist, Global Partnership for Education
Signore	Stefano	European Commission DG DEVCO
Singh	Nidhendra	Counsellor, Embassy of Fiji in Belgium
Sinyolo	Dennis	Senior Coordinator, Education, Employment and Research, Education International
Slingenberg	Yvon	Director, Directorate A, European Commission - DG for Climate Action
Solange Ndir	Rokhaya	Vice-Présidente, Association des Femmes Sénégalaises dans les TIC
Solberg	Erna	Prime Minister, Norway
Sompare	Idrissa	Programme Manager, EU-IOM Joint Initiative on Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Guinea, IOM
Sotelo Reyes	Sandra	Gender Justice in Resilience Advisor, Oxfam Intermon
Speller	Paulo	Secretary General, Organización De Estados Iberoamericanos Para La Educación, La Ciencia Y La Cultura (OEI)
Srikanthan	Sanjayan	Acting Senior Vice President Europe and Executive Director - International Rescue Committee (IRC), International Rescue Committee
Starup	Kathrine	Global Specialist Lead on Protection, Danish Refugee Council - Dansk Flygtningehaelp
Stellmacher	Helga	Regional Director English, South Asia, British Council
Sterk	Yuri	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs - Republic of Bulgaria
Stewart	Gillian	Program Manager, Women in Business Development Incorporated
Stylianides	Christos	European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, European Commission
Sultan Khan	Shoaib	Chairman, Rural Support Programmes Network; Pakistan
Sunil Shah	Shwetal	Young Leader - India
Tabary	Zoe	Journalist, Thomson Foundation
Taherzadeh	May	Film Director, Mayflower Creations
Tajani	Antonio	President, European Parliament

Tamarzians	Melodi	Youth Ambassador SRHR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Tambwe	Mujinga	Communication Officer, International Trade Centre (ITC)
Tarai	Jope	Scholar, University of the South Pacific
Tari Bako Elback	Zeinabou	Minister for the Advancement of Women and Child Protection, Niger
Taylor	Jonathan	Vice President, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Tejada	Luis	CEO, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) on behalf of AECID, AFD, KfW, CDP and EDFIs
Teresa Pisani	Maria	Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Terrazas Lujan	Lucinda	Communitarian Leader, Fundación Avina
Teye	Joseph	Director, University of Ghana
Thiam	Selly	Executive Director, None on Record
Thomas	Gass	Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Thompson	Laura	Deputy Director General, Ambassador, International Organisation for Migration
Timmermans	Frans	First Vice-President of the European Commission and European Commissioner for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter for Fundamental Rights, European Commission
Tirop	Susan	Investment Manager, Bamboo Capital Partners
Todorova	Irina	Senior Regional Migrant Assistance Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Tötterman Andorff	Petra	Secretary General, The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
Touchard Le Drian	Aglaé	Senior Investment Manager, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Touraine	Marisol	State Councillor, France, EUROsociAL
Touray	Isatou	Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, the Republic of The Gambia
Tripepi	Chiara	Policy Officer, European Commission - DG for Research and Innovation (RTD)
Tuazon	Maria Antonia	Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)
Tuttle	Andrew	Donor Government Relations, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Uphie Chinje Melo	Florence	President of the University, University of Ngaoundere
Vaitla	Bapu	Fellow, Data2X

Vallier	Frederic	Secretary-General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions
Van Esch	Susan	Global Programmes Manager, Dance4Life Foundation
Van Oranje	Mabel	Chair, Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage
Van Reeuwijk	Miranda	Senior Researcher International Programs, Rutgers
Van Uffelen	Saskia	CEO, Ericsson, Belgium and Luxembourg
Van Wetter	Jean	Director, Humanity and Inclusion
Vanpeperstraete	Ben	Lobby and Advocacy Coordinator, Clean Clothes Campaign
Vara-Horna	Aristides	Research Director, University of San Martín de Porres
Vassiliadou	Myria	EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission
Verjee	Zain	Moderator, Journalist, CEO Verjee Group
Versé	Didier	Head of Unit Western Africa, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Von Lipsey	Roderick	Managing Director, UBS
Vullings	Wieneke	Deputy Head of Health and AIDS Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Wai Lwin	Wai	Garment Worker, Business Kind Myanmar
Wald	Tidhar	Head of Government Relations & Public Policy - Better Than Cash Alliance, United Nations Capital Development Fund
Wanjiku Njenga	Lucy	UNAIDS Session, Positive Young Women Voices
Ward	Julie	Member of the European Parliament, European Parliament
Watson	Cathy	LEGS Project Coordinator, Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)
Watts	Esther	Country Director, CARE Ethiopia
Wekesa	Alice	Programme Manager, British Council
Welham	Bryn	Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute
White	Pamela	Senior Manager, FCG International Ltd
Wickramanayake	Jayathma	UN Secretary-General Envoy on Youth, United Nations
Widen	Sofia	Advocacy Officer PharmAccess Group
Wigerhäll	Johan	Sustainability Expert, Hennes&Mauritz
Williams	Lisa	Head of GenderNET Unit, OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)
Williams	Yentyl	ACP Young Professionals Network
Wilungula	Cosma	Director General, Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)
Winter	Veronica	Director General, Kwara State Hospitals Management Bureau

Wintermayr	Irene	Policy Officer, International Labour Organization
Witmer	Boleslawa	Steering Committee Member, Women for Water Partnership
Woelkner	Sabina	Programme Director, KAS (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung)
Wozniak	Joseph	Head, Trade for Sustainable Development, International Trade Centre (ITC)
Yassin Hagi Yussuf	Mariam	Special Envoy for Migrants and Children's Rights, Government of Somalia
Yassir	Randa	Senior International Consultant, Eurecna SpA
Yiannouka	Stavros	CEO, WISE - World Innovation Summit for Education
Yong	Li	Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
Youssef	Weaam	Human Rights Officer, Gulf Center for Human Rights
Yunus	Zuhura	Journalist
Yvetot	Christophe	Head of Liaison office to the EU, the ACP Secretariat, Belgium and Luxembourg, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
Zaccheo	Felice	Head of Unit, European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
Zacharenko	Elena	Researcher, Independent Consultant
Zaimis	Nikolaos	Adviser, European Commission - DG for Trade (TRADE)
Zarrilli	Simonetta	Chief, Trade, Gender and Development Programme, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
Zelaya	Daniela	Young Women Engagement Associate, World Young Women Christian Association
Zulu	Lindiwe	Minister of the Department of Small Business Development, South Africa

Annex 2

List of Partner Organisations

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS – EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2018
10YFP - UN Environment
Access Agriculture
Acción Ciudadana (Transparency International Guatemala)
ACP Group
ACP Secretariat
ACP Young Professionals Network
ACT Alliance Advocacy to the European Union
ActionAid International
Adelante
Advancing Learning and Innovation on Gender Norms
AECOM
AFECTI
Africa Business Club
Africa Business Club - Solvay Brussels School
Africa Communications Forum
Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform
Africa Network Campaign for Education for All
Africa Paid (Partenaire Africain pour l'Investissement et le Développement)
Africalia
African Development Bank
African Diaspora Network-Europe
African Union Commission
Afriqinsights
Afruibana
Aga Khan University
Agence Française de Développement
Agence Nationale pour la Promotion de l'Emploi des Jeunes, Senegal
Agencia Andaluza de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
AGRECO
Agricord vzw
Agrinatura
AIMF (Association Internationale des Maires Francophones)
Alianza por la Solidaridad
Amref Health Africa
Anna Lindh Foundation
Arterial Network
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
Associacao do Meio Ambiente
Association de Lutte contre le Sida
Association Marocaine Pour La Solidarité Et Le Développement

Association Marocaine pour un Avenir Meilleur
Association of Kenyan Diaspora in Belgium and Luxembourg
Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo
Australian Aid
Austrian Development Agency
AVSI Foundation
Baha'i International Community, Brussels Office
Barcelona Institute for Global Health
Bayer AG
Be-cause health platform
Belgian Development Agency
Belgian Federal Public Service - Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Cooperation
Bengkkel APPEK (Advokasi Pengembangan dan Pemberdayaan Kampung)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Bolt International Consulting
BOZAR (Centre for Fine Arts Brussels)
BRAC Bangladesh
BRACED
Bridging the Gap
British Council
CABI
CAF-Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina
CAINCO
Camões Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, IP
Canadian Mission to the EU
Canon Europe Ltd
Capacity4Dev
CARE - Nederland
CARE International
CARE Österreich
CBM
CEDA (Caribbean Export Development Agency)
Center for the Promotion and Defense of Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Centre d'excellence sur la Budgétisation Sensible au Genre du Ministère marocain des Finances
Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
Centre Hubertine Auclert
Centre International de communication pour le développement
CERMI Women Foundation
ChildFund Alliance
Children of Mindanao
CIDSE
CISAC
Cities Alliance - UNOPS

CLAC
Climate Action Network Europe
Coalition of European Lobbies on Eastern African Pastoralism
Coastal Oceans Research and Development - Indian Ocean
COCEMFE
Colombia Diversa
Commonwealth Local Government Forum
Compagnie Fruitière
CONCORD - Europe
Consultative Group to Assist the Poor
Cooperatives Europe
Cordaid
Council of Europe Development Bank
Countdown Europe 2030
CPDE (CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness)
Culture 21
Culture and Media Agency Europe aisbl (CUMEDIAE)
Culture et Développement
Czech Development Agency
Dance4Life Foundation
Danish Refugee Council - Dansk Flygtningehaelp
Data2X
De 11 Lijnen
Delegation of the European Union in the Pacific
Delegation of the European Union to Colombia
Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia
DEVCO Academy
Development Alternatives, Inc
Devex
Digital National Alliance
Diplomacy SRL
Diplomatic Institute to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
Dove/Unilever - The Dove Self-Esteem Project
DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung)
EcoEnterprises Fund
Ecorys
Education Above All
Education International
Embassy of Senegal in Belgium
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Belgium
Enabel - Belgian development agency
End FGM European Network
Engagement Global gGmbH
Equilibres et Populations
Ernst & Young
EU Sakharov Prize

EU Social Protection Systems Programme (EU-SPS) @ THL, Government of Finland's National Institute of Health and Welfare
Eurecna SpA
EUROCLIMA+
EuroNGOs
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
European Centre for Electoral Support
European Coalitions for Cultural Diversity
European Commission
European Commission - DG for Budget (BUDG)
European Commission - DG for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operation (ECHO)
European Commission - DG for Climate Action
European Commission - DG for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (CONNECT)
European Commission - DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC)
European Commission - DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)
European Commission - DG for Interpretation (SCIC)
European Commission - DG for Justice and Consumers (JUST)
European Commission - DG for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)
European Commission - DG for Trade (TRADE)
European Commission - DG Health & Food Safety (SANTE)
European Commission - DG Joint Research Center (JRC)
European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC)
European Commission - Service for Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI)
European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
European Committee of the Regions
European Environmental Bureau
European External Action Service (EEAS)
European Investment Bank (EIB)
European Network of Migrant Women
European Network of Political Foundations
European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)
European Parliament
European Partnership for Democracy
European Union
European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)
European Women Lawyers Association
European Women's Lobby
EUROsociAL
Expertise France
Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation
Fair Trade Advocacy Office

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)
FAO Forest and Farm Facility
FAO Pastoralist Knowledge Hub
FCA (Finn Church Aid)
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
Fédération des Professionnels Agricoles du Burkina
Fiera Roma Srl
Fondation Hironnelle
Forum for African Women Educationalists
FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development)
Frankfurt School of Finance and Management
FRIDA Young Feminist Fund
Friends of Europe
FRS Consulting
Fundación
Fundación Alfredo Zolezzi
Fundación Avina
Fundación Descubre
Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas
Fundación Triángulo
GAMS Belgium (Group for the Abolition of Female Genital Mutilation)
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
Gender & Adolescence Global Evidence
Gender and Water Alliance
Gender Education Research and Technologies foundation
GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice
German Sport University Cologne / Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln
Ghana Integrity Initiative
Girl Effect
GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Global Call to Action Against Poverty
Global Climate Change Alliance + (GCCA+)
Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
Global Forest Coalition
Global Partnership for Education
Government of Belgium
Government of France
Groupe Futures Medias
GSMA
Gutmacher Institute
Habitat for Humanity International
Handicap International
Harvard Business School
High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition
Human Reproduction Programme
Humana People to People

Ikea Foundation
ILGA
IMC (International Music Council)
Imkaan
Impact Hub Berlin
Inclusive Business Action Network
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology (IPP), University of Dohuk
Instituto Italo-latinoamericano
Inter-American Institute for Agriculture and Agriculture
Inter-Parliamentary Union
Interarts Foundation
International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
International Centre for Migration Policy Development
International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific
International Council on Monuments and Sites
International Day of the African Child
International Day of the African Child and Youth
International Finance Corporation
International Fund for Agricultural Development
International Labour Organization
International Land Coalition
International Monetary Fund
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network
International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030
International Trade Centre (ITC)
International Trade Union Confederation
International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Islamic Relief
Istanbul Bilgi University
Istituto Affari Internazionali
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
J&J (Johnson&Johnson)
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
Just Associates
KfW Entwicklungsbank
la Caixa Banking Foundation
La Libre Belgique
Land Rights Now Campaign
LEAD Tchad
Light For the World
Lumos
Lux-Development
Mama Cash

Maroc Solidarité Médico-Sociale
Med Culture Technical Assistance
Médecins Du Monde - Belgique
Médecins Sans Frontières - Belgium
Meeting Point International
Meridia Partners
Microsoft
Migrant Forum in Asia
Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX) Programme
Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
Ministère des Solidarités et de la Santé
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Ministry of National Education
Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
Ministry of women, of family and childhood of Senegal
Mission of Canada to the European Union
MKS Programme
Movement of Homosexual Integration and Liberation, Chile
Naandi Foundation
Namibia Football Association
National Centre of Public Health and Analyses
National Organisation for Women in Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation
National Summit of Women and Peace
New Partnership for Africa's Development
Nzinga Effect
OCP Group
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
ONCE Foundation
One Young World
Orange
Organización De Estados Iberoamericanos Para La Educación, La Ciencia Y La Cultura
Overseas Development Institute
Oxfam Intermon
Oxfam International
Oxfam Novib
Pacific Community
Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
Pallottine Foundation of Mission Salvatti.pl
Pan African Masters Consortium In Interpretation Of Translation
Panafrican Farmers Organisation (PAFO)
Partners for Resilience
Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union
Permanent Representation of Germany to the European Union

PharmAccess Group
PIFS (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)
Plan International
Plan International Finland
PLATFORMA
Practitioners' Network for European development cooperation
Premier League
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Programa de Rehabilitación de Parálisis Cerebral
Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ProtectDefenders
Protection International
Provincial Department of Agricultura and Food Security , Maputo Provincial Government
Provincial Department of Economy and Finance, Maputo Provincial Government
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
Regional Rights Resource Team
Réseau Africain Education à la santé
Réseau des Femmes Leaders du Maghreb
Roots Events
Rotary International
Royal Philips
Rural Support Programmes Network - Pakistan
SafetyPin
SAG (SWITCH-Africa Green Network Facility)
Save the Children
Save the Children Fund
Save the Children Italy
Save the Children Spain
SciDev.Net
SDG Watch Europe
Secretariat of the Central American Economic Integration
SEEK Development
SEGIB (Secretaría General Iberoamericana)
sequa gGmbH
SEZ Kompetenzzentrum Burundi
Slovak Aid Agency
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
Social Progress Imperative
Solar Networks sp. z o.o.
Solidar
SOS-Kinderdorf International
Southbank Centre
Spain For UNHCR
Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
Staatsministerium Baden-Württemberg

Stiftung Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Baden-Württemberg
Stockholm Environment Institute
Südwind
Swedish International Development Agency
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SWITCH to Green Facility
SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility
SwitchMed Programme Networking Facility
Synergy Global.co
Tassah Academy
Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Terre des Hommes International Federation
Territoires Associes
The Alliance of Youth Empowerment
The Coca-Cola Company
The Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee
the Fund for Global Human Rights
The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition
The International Institute for Youth Development PETRI– Sofia
The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
The Netherlands Red Cross
The ONE Campaign
The Open Earth Foundation
The Policy Forum on Development
The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs
Thomson Reuters
TradeCom II Programme
TradeMark East Africa
Transparency International
Transparency International Morocco
Trias
UBS
Ujjivan Financial Services
UKAid
UN Global Pulse
UN Women
UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)
UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
UNDESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)
UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels
UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)
UniLurio
Union for the Mediterranean
UNISDR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)
United Cities and Local Governments
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
United Nations
United Nations Capital Development Fund
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Development Programme in Azerbaijan
United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Universidad de los Andes
Universidade de Aveiro
Universidade Nova de Lisboa
University of Berne
UNRWA (United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)
UNWFP (United Nations World Food Programme)
Urgent Action Fund
Virunga Foundation
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Nepal
VVOB
WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts-Europe Region)
Warsaw School of Economics
Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
WaterAid
Wetlands International
Wetlands International European Association
WISE - World Innovation Summit for Education
Women Against Violence in Europe
Women Challenged to Challenge
Women Deliver
Women Environmental Programme
Women in Africa Initiative
Women in Business Development Incorporated
Women in Europe for a Common Future
Women of Uganda Network
Women's Association for Rational Development - Azerbaijan
Women's National Network
Women's World Banking
World Bank Group

World Health Organization
World Savings and Retail Banking Institute
World Transforming Technologies
World Vision
World Vision Brussels
WOW - Women of the World
WWF European Policy Office
YABs Network
Yada Foundation
Yayasan Plan International Indonesia
Yayasan Sanggar Suara Perempuan
Young Leaders for Development
Young Mediterranean Voices
Youth Sexual Awareness for Europe
Zoological Society of London
Zoona
Zoona Zambia