



WOMEN ADVANCING AFRICA

DRIVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

WAA 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qr3rGnqZHgk&feature=youtu.be>

A group of women are seated in a room, likely attending a meeting or conference. They are dressed in professional attire, and some are holding papers and pens, suggesting they are taking notes. The room has large windows in the background, and the overall atmosphere is one of focused participation. At the top of the page, there is a decorative pattern of overlapping circles and lines.

“ Through Women Advancing Africa we want to enable women to take centre stage in the economic advancement of Africa. We want women to claim their right to sit at the table where the decisions are made and to shape the policies, plans and strategies for our futures and those of the generations to come. ”

Graça Machel

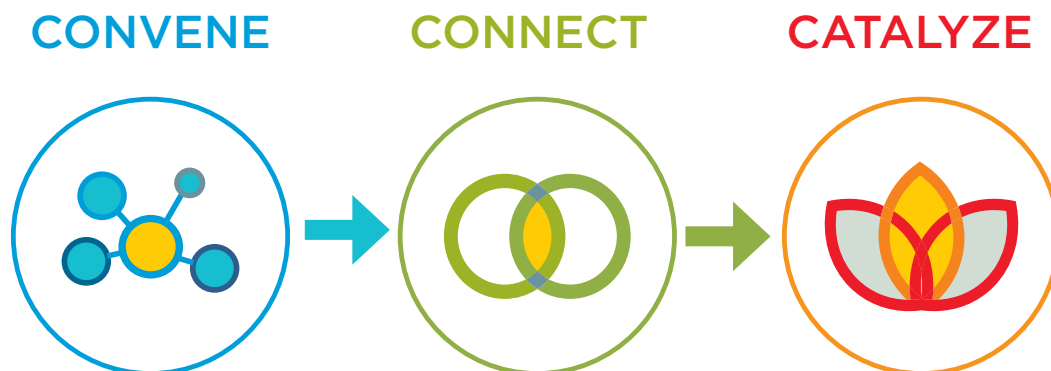


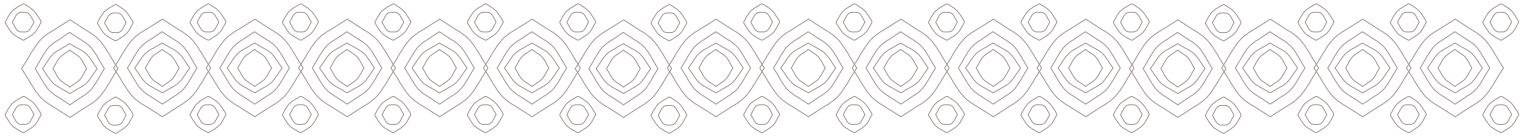
CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	3
THE WAA ROADMAP TO SUCCESS	7
Creating a Common Agenda	14
A Feminist Liberation	18
REDESIGNING THE TABLE: An Intergenerational Dialogue	24
Intergenerational Conversations: The Second Liberation	25
Young Female Leaders	29
CASE STUDIES OF SMART PARTNERSHIPS	34
Eduardo Martinez - President, UPS Foundation	35
Hoddan Addou - Representative OIC, UN Women	36
Seema Kumar - Vice President Innovation, Global Health & Policy Communication	37
WAA TRACK TO SUCCESS	
Track 1: Aggregating Agribusiness Opportunities	39
Track 2: Energy, Extractives and Infrastructure	43
Track 3: Services and Trade	48
Track 4: Technology	52
Track 5: Financial Inclusion	56
Track 6: #ChangingTheNarrative	60
THE END OF THE CEREMONY: THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND LIBERATION	65
APPENDIX	68
Creating awareness of food systems and its effects on nutrition	68
The African Mining Legislation Atlas (AMLA)	69
Women in Cross-Border Trade in Sub-Saharan Africa	70
Gender Lens Investigating: Finance as A Tool for Social Change...	72
The Business of Writing and Publishing: A Conversation with African Women...	73

INTRODUCTION

There is a clear call to action for women to take centre-stage in designing solutions for the Africa they want to inherit, inhabit and pass on to the future generation. The Graça Machel Trust established a pan-African Forum called Women Advancing Africa (WAA) to acknowledge and highlight the critical role women have been playing in shaping Africa's development agenda and driving social and economic transformation. This unique platform seeks to be a constructive challenger and enabler that convenes, connects and catalyzes an extensive network of African women who are actively engaged in designing solutions for a reimagined reality. The Trust is confident that by changing the perceptions of women's values and their portrayal on the continent, greater social change and justice will be realised. It is through this conviction that we hope WAA becomes an agent to drive the change needed to bring about an inclusive and transformed society that works for the collective good.





Held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from the 9th - 12th August 2017, the WAA Forum convened and connected 300 women from different backgrounds, giving them each an opportunity to chart a new roadmap in advancing Africa and the place of women on the continent. Participants were immersed in a rich, multi-dimensional experience celebrating women's achievements and artistic expression and confronted some of the dreadful realities still faced by many of their counterparts. Together, they explored a fuse of both the emotional and spiritual dimensions of being an intergenerational force of women with the urgent task of building a common vision for driving Africa's social and economic transformation.

The WAA Forum also drew on the immense contributions of liberation stalwarts who carried profound wisdom and their hard-won achievements. This demonstrated the value of intergenerational leadership that is required to connect women leaders of different generations.

This report is a snapshot of the vibrant and prolific conversations that ensued over the three days and highlights the concrete outcomes that emerged from the deliberations. It provides insight into the catalytic response and agency of the women in attendance to move beyond contemplation into clear areas of investment that can bring forth the advancement of an Africa that is representative of what women in the continent seek to realise. The ideas shared are a glimpse into the conversations that ensued and the tangible outcomes that emerged from our deliberations.



This report is a snapshot of the vibrant and prolific conversations that ensued over the three days and highlights the concrete outcomes that emerged from the deliberations.



OBJECTIVES OF WOMEN ADVANCING AFRICA (WAA)

- 1 Celebrate women's achievements
- 2 Challenge structural barriers to gender equality
- 3 Strengthen the participation of women in key sectors
- 4 Advance social change and social justice
- 5 Facilitate networking and engagement opportunities
- 6 Change the ways in which women are portrayed
- 7 Change the perceptions of women's value
- 8 Track and measure progress of empowerment initiatives

OUTCOMES OF THE WAA FORUM

- 1 Demonstrated the power of an intergenerational engagement
- 2 Showcased women's creativity and potential to drive women-led innovations and inclusive business models in sectors that are critical for Africa's growth
- 3 Unveiled ground-breaking research on the status of the female economy which will prove invaluable in creating informed policy interventions at national and regional levels
- 4 Highlighted the critical role of government and the private sector in fostering smart partnerships and collaborations to solve complex problems and drive inclusive growth
- 5 Compiled a repository of case studies on best practices for empowering women
- 6 Created a growing database of businesswomen, entrepreneurs, thought-leaders, influencers, and innovators in Africa that can, and want to drive change
- 7 Developed concrete action plans that can have impact and scale beyond the WAA Forum



THE WAA ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

The objectives of the WAA Forum were to dissect the structural problems currently facing women in Africa and find clear solutions to overcome them. The outcomes of the conference surpassed this and revealed concrete, practical solutions that can be readily implemented leading to the creation of best practice models to drive the empowerment of women. The key outcome of the forum was to bring together different levels of experience and participation from significant economic sectors in Africa, to collectively shape and create sector-specific agendas to drive social and economic transformation. Participants from agribusiness, extractives and energy, services and trade, finance, technology and media engaged in rigorous discussions and debates to trigger “big ideas” that would be sustainable but equally measurable, to ensure the required transformation agenda. The following is a summary of the action plans for each sector that emanated from the relevant tracks:





1 AGRIBUSINESS

- ✓ **Increase agricultural productivity:**
Focus on indigenous crops; there is a need to lobby for a policy alignment which will encourage not only the growing of these crops but education programmes on the benefits of this policy.
- ✓ **Boost Agribusiness:**
Select ten young agribusiness entrepreneurs with scalable businesses, providing them with opportunities to access markets and encourage youth to contribute to agriculture, map agribusiness activities to increase data collection and data management. An inference is placed on data and research as it will help monitor the productivity of rural-based economies.
- ✓ **Enterprise development:**
Develop curriculum and training for female entrepreneurs in agribusiness.

2

EXTRACTIVES, ENERGY, AND AGRICULTURE

✓ **Increase women participation:**

Establish a multi-national team of experts in energy, extractives, and infrastructure to identify opportunities and deploy technical skills and resources, where necessary.

✓ **Increase access to Artisanal Mining:**

Create a Pan-African forum for artisanal mining and increase opportunities for women through the artisanal value chain, expand women's economic empowerment in supply chain procurement, mining and other sectors.

✓ **Increase funding:**

Establish a funding model for women in energy, extractives, and infrastructure.

3

SERVICES AND TRADE

- ✓ **Increase local procurement:** Promote locally sourced goods and enhance trade by developing strategies for value addition of products and find new uses for products through innovation and research.
- ✓ **Capacity building:** Promote and encourage sector specific training and map training implementers to boost women in services and trade.
- ✓ **Digital solutions to boost trade:** Create a disruptive e-commerce platform that facilitates intra-regional trade by women.



4 FINANCIAL INCLUSION

✓ **Influence national policy:**

Leverage the influence of the Trust and Central Banks to persuade African countries to commit to National Financial Inclusion Policies/Strategies, which focus on women's financial inclusion and aim to half the gender access gap across Africa by 2021.

✓ **Support grassroots solutions:**

Boost the efficacy of women's savings groups through the introduction of appropriate digital financial services, with the aim that 30% of savings groups should be using a digital solution by 2021.

✓ **Increase access to funding:**

Create an innovative women's investment fund that attracts savings from professional women, women's collectives and institutional investors to invest in women-owned businesses.

5 TECHNOLOGY

✓ **Capacity building:**

Support digital skills training for women entrepreneurs and develop school curriculums and scholarships for young women in technology.

✓ **Support Innovation:**

Scale digital and science led innovations that support Agribusiness enterprises, Fintech, Renewable Energy, Bio-Science and the other industry tracks.

✓ **Increase access to funding:**

Establish an entrepreneurship fund to provide seed funding and technical assistance to high-growth women entrepreneurs and young innovators in technology to scale their enterprises.

6 CHANGING THE NARRATIVE OF WOMEN

✓ **Media monitoring:**

Develop media monitoring tools which provide insight into media coverage of women in Africa.

✓ **Influence Policy:**

Drive a 50-50 legislative and policy campaign to address the gender pay gap in the media, representation of women in newsrooms, commentary pages, and in management structures.

✓ **Capacity building of journalists:**

Train and mentor journalists to promote balanced story-telling that can positively impact the depiction of women in the media. Create a database of female sector experts who can act as reliable sources.



WAA aims to bring together women leaders to collectively shape and drive a development agenda that is measurable and sustainable.

CREATING A COMMON AGENDA

The Women Advancing Africa Forum was officially opened and inaugurated by Her Excellency, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu.

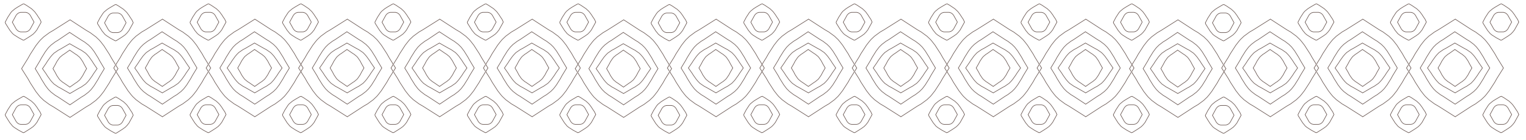


H.E. Vice President Samia Suluhu

The WAA Forum was officially opened and inaugurated by **Her Excellency, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E Samia Suluhu**. H.E Suluhu also serves as a Member of the UN High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, and in her opening remarks welcomed delegates to Tanzania and commended the distinctive way this platform focused on sectors crucial for the economic advancement of women in Africa. She also emphasised the importance of creating a common agenda that is based on addressing policy bottlenecks, scaling up of interventions that are working and creating databases of technical experts, professionals, and social pioneers.



Some of the key participants at the WAA Forum



H.E. Samia Suluhu encouraged delegates to remember women at a grassroots level and note that,

“ While we rejoice in the political rise of some women in social and economic ranks (myself included), we must not forget the women who are still living in abject poverty. Women form a large part of the agricultural labour force and are providers of food, yet still live in poverty. They bear the labour burden, suffer from wage gaps, poor access to wealth, credit, health, education and have no political voice, while they experience discrimination and exploitation. This is a manifestation of entrenched societal norms which hold women ransom while social economic imbalances exacerbate their situation. These imbalances are worsened by stereotypes which assert that women are meant to be seen and not heard. ”

In her opening remarks, Founder of the Trust, Mrs. Machel revealed why Tanzania was especially chosen to be the location for the inaugural event. Capturing the imaginations of all the attendees, Mrs. Machel stated and explained that Tanzania was the second home of many liberation leaders during the struggle against colonisation in Africa. It was for this reason that it would also serve as the ideal home for the ‘Second Liberation of Africa’- a liberation that would be led by women. This set the tone for the invaluable intergenerational dialogue that commenced.



H.E. Samia Suluhu encouraged delegates to remember women at a grassroots level and noted that policy interventions have aided the reduction of gender inequality both on the continent and in Tanzania, citing the Land Act, 1999 (No. 4 of 1999) which allows women to hold, acquire and use land. Other policy interventions include the Tanzania Women's Bank Limited, which specialises in providing financial services to women, as well as, development funds, village community banks, facilitating savings and credit cooperative societies which provide soft loans and entrepreneurial training to women.

The Vice President urged the participants to hold their governments accountable to their commitments on gender equality, emphatically stating that governments should create an environment that promotes gender parity. Finally, she made a personal commitment to support Tanzanian women's participation at the WAA Forum and its outcomes.

“ Governments should provide an enabling environment which seeks to promote gender parity. ”

A FEMINIST LIBERATION

Plenary sessions set the tone for the entire WAA Forum and explored broad themes; starting with: 'What Will Africa's Second Liberation Mean for Women?'



(From left to right) *Sangu Delle, Founder, and CEO of Golden Palm Investments Corporation; Graça Machel, Founder, Graça Machel Trust; Reneé Ngamau, Moderator; Hadeel Ibrahim, Executive Director of Mo Ibrahim Foundation and Dr Renosi Mokate, Executive Director of UNISA Graduate School of Business Leadership.*

Speakers at the opening session led by **Reneé Ngamau** shared perspectives on the need for a 'Second Liberation' struggle for women and its defining characteristics. The panellists included **Sangu Delle, Founder, and CEO of Golden Palm Investments; Hadeel Ibrahim, Executive Director of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation; Renosi Mokate, Executive Director of the UNISA Graduate School of Business Leadership** and **Graça Machel**. In response to this question, Mama Graça stated that:

“We believe we are in the second liberation of Africa which is economic, social and cultural. People with clarity and strong focus can remove entrenched systems of oppression rapidly. The first liberation was led by men and since women are the ones who have been marginalized in the first liberation, they are better equipped to drive the second liberation. In the Second Liberation, women will not be second-class citizens. African women will be profoundly conscious of who they are, of their value and rights; they will take center-stage by driving economic, social and cultural transformation and have the agency to drive traditions, as well as, ensure human dignity for all through liberation from exclusory social norms.”

Hadeel Ibrahim added that,

“The second liberation is a feminist liberation that is concerned with the inclusion of all marginalized groups... the first liberation was about power and the second one will be about empowerment... It will be underpinned by good governance and a paradigm that represents everyone, unlike the first which was leadership driven. We need to create a feminist coalition including all the groups that have been left out in the past such as women, youth, disabled people, LGBTQ and civil society.”

Dr. Renosi Mokate, Executive Director of the UNISA Graduate Center of Business Leadership, echoed these sentiments. Highlighting the importance of youth and civil society engagement:

“Civil society organizations have a critical role to play in the second liberation as they did in the first liberation. We need to work very closely with the youth. Youth are doing a great job trying to be self-employed and thus should be supported. Having high positions as women does not mean our dignity as women has been restored. We need to measure this by seeing if all women on the continent have attained the level of dignity we want.”

The final plenary speaker, **Mr. Sangu Dele**, Founder and CEO of Golden Palm Investments, stressed the need to build inclusive societies and harness the economic power of women:

“Studies have shown that investing in women has economic benefits that would expand the global GDP by \$12 trillion. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, the GDP can expand by \$300 billion which is three times the amount of foreign aid to the continent. The empowerment of women is not a social and moral issue - it is an economic imperative.”

Hadeel introduced an often-overlooked topic in an African context – the power of imagination to drive real growth and development. She explained that articulated the importance of engaging with those in creative industries such as writers, poets, and musicians to create a cultural vision. Hadeel drew from lessons in history to illustrate how innovations have always begun with a strong cultural vision, which propelled and inspired people towards development. Put simply, there needs to be a re-imagination of the African future, for Africa to progress.

She went further to explain how we can reimagine our future:

“First, we must define our values. What we measure is loaded with values. GDP is loaded with values which are patriarchal and serve only some people in the society. Secondly, we are the heirs of all the worlds’ revolutions and need to draw inspiration from all things that have happened before us.”

She pointed out that the Swedish Foreign Minister has created a Feminist Foreign Policy and this approach of inviting governments to develop feminist policies in all sectors would impact on gender equality.

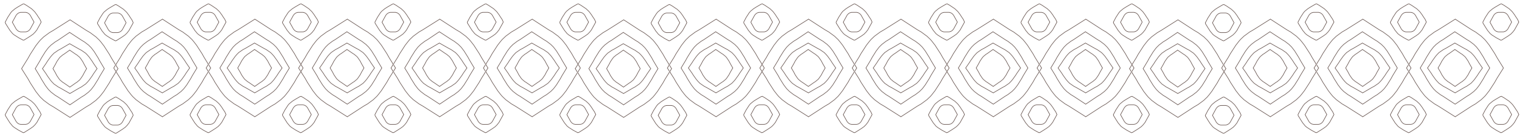
In response to a question on how we can bring women's issues to the table, **Graça Machel** said:

“ We shouldn't think of bringing women to the table - we should redesign the table because the former implies accepting the status quo. The table as it is will not serve the purpose of reimagining our societies. ”

She further recommended that defining what participants wanted to emerge from the discussions in the tracks, and tackling each problem with clear priorities and an action plan would lead to a more fulfilling experience which would translate to real change.

In her closing comments, **Dr. Mokate** also touched on the issue of reimagining education:

“ We need to rethink research and think of it as what everyone does. Go back to the education system and embed that in children so that they grow up with a culture of being inquisitive. ”



Sangu Delle, Founder and Graça Machel

Sangu expanded on this by adding that we need to have a feminist curriculum in schools so that it changes the way we think. He also stated that,

“The economy of tomorrow will be driven by technology. Women need to be empowered with the tools to lead. Having recognized that colonization was done in our minds... the second liberation must deal with de-colonizing our minds and enable women to recognize that they have a great role to play towards achieving the second liberation.”

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 To ensure dignity for all in Africa. The second liberation of the continent must first prioritize women's welfare and the welfare of previously marginalized groups;
- 2 Women must embrace technology to achieve economic transformation;
- 3 The status quo should be overturned by women redesigning the table where decisions are made;
- 4 We also need to liberate our imaginations to redefine the Africa we want to see.

REDESIGNING THE TABLE: an intergenerational dialogue

During a Preliminary event, '**The History of Women as Social Change Agents in Africa's Development Agenda**' on August 11th, 2017, organised in partnership with the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, the Women Advancing Africa Forum honoured five legends of the African Women's Movement for their pioneering role in Africa's struggle for liberation and gender equality. The five women were:

Aïcha Bah Diallo,

a Founding Member of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and former Minister of Education in Guinea.

Graça Machel,

Founder of the Graça Machel Trust and the Foundation of Community Development in Mozambique. She also served as Minister of Education in Mozambique.

Dr. Penina Mlama,

Executive Director of the Forum for African Women Educationalists, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Gertrude Mongella,

Former Secretary-General and Chair of the Beijing World Conference on Women and first President of the Pan-African Parliament.



Gennet Zewide, Mamphela Ramphele, Graça Machel and Gertrude Mongella

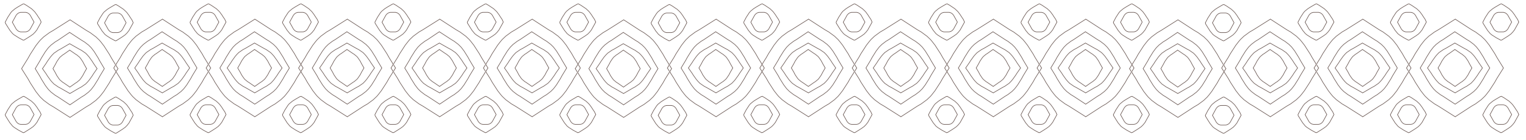
INTER-GENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Panellists noted the tension between patriarchy and progress; the notion that women are incapable, disenfranchises women and the entire society. However, re-shaping this perception will alter how women and girls understand their self-worth and capabilities and translate to positive leadership and investment opportunities in the future. Girls should be raised to recognize themselves as worthy so that they are able to negotiate with the world around them. Similarly, boys must be raised to view girls as capable leaders. Perception and leadership are critical areas that will result in women's social and economic advancement. The Honourees acknowledged the importance of supporting responsible and value congruent women leaders who speak to the continent's advancement agenda and can act as positive examples of leadership.

This event proved to be an unparalleled opportunity for reflecting on the progress made by African women in their struggle for gender equality, whilst simultaneously paving a way forward for younger women to decide and define the future of the continent.

The 'Mothers and Daughters: Intergenerational Dialogue on the Changing Role of Women in Activism' navigated the challenges of balancing expectations with aspirations. The inference was drawn particularly from families of well-known public figures. The mother and daughter pairs featured Mama Sheila Sisulu and Tumi Sisulu, as well as, Mama Evelyn Warioba and June Warioba. Their vibrant panel discussion brought to life the challenges of two generations of women who experience life in the spotlight from different vantage points.





In '**Lessons from the History of the Women's Movement**' the dialogue between **Dr. Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing and the first President of the Pan-African Parliament**, and **Dr. Mamphele Ramphele, a South African politician, former Anti-Apartheid Activist, academic and businesswoman**, yielded many valuable lessons and insights. In this session, two of Africa's most prominent liberation heroes shared their experiences and perspectives on how women can navigate the modern-day challenges on the African continent. When asked how women can drive Africa's second liberation, Dr Gertrude Mongella emphasized that frank and honest dialogue is crucial in achieving Africa's second liberation. She explained that dialogue would enable African women to communicate in the same language across different nationalities and used this example to illustrate her point:

“In the first liberation, there was unity across the borders, unity between nations, and that unity is what saved Africa. I know so many women from South Africa, Mozambique and all over the continent because of the liberation struggle. We didn't have the same language to speak but we used signs to communicate because our language was the same: Freedom!”

Mama Mongella spoke of the challenges faced by women, such as oppression through misinterpreted traditional and religious practices. She added that women are still lagging in the political arena and there are few, to no political systems that are friendly to women.

“The struggle to liberate the African woman from traditional political systems is unfinished. The biggest problem in Africa is that many are supporting men to get to power which they end up abusing. We have not been liberated; we have just been accommodated for people to look right.”

Dr Mamphela Ramphele agreed with this observation and highlighted the shortcomings of the liberation struggle by stating that the success of women fighting against imperialism and colonialism was not acknowledged. She emphasized that healing the wound requires acknowledging the pain and she cautioned against the misnomer that women should be strong. What is needed is for African women to re-connect with themselves, because, as Dr Ramphele stressed, such reconnection will lead to emotional freedom which will necessarily lead to political and socio-economic freedom as well. Dr Ramphele advocated for Africans to achieve this holistic liberation, they need to have a clear vision of the values that women attribute to the definition of gender equality. This, combined with investments in education (especially civic education) and technology, would allow for the re-imagination and actualization of Africa's second liberation.

YOUNG FEMALE LEADERS

Young women made their voices heard in the session ‘New Visions: The Africa We Want’ featuring **Chikondi Mandala, Senior Resident Magistrate;** **Nicole Chesoni, Program Manager, Young Women’s Leadership Institute;** and **Mona Lisa Mungure, Attorney at Law, Badasu & Associate.** Speakers touched on the need for young women to have opportunities to thrive, highlighting the need to harmonise laws and policies to create a new Africa where women and girls have an even playing field.

“Africans would only advance if the power of young women, who have been largely left behind, both socially and economically, is recognised. We need to start having real conversions that show girls as capable, powerful individuals who have the capacity to transform the continent.”



New Vision: The Africa we want panel discussion

Under the same theme of youth advancing Africa, a side event, 'Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investment in Youth' was hosted. This discussion was led by eight dynamic youth advocates from Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia, who are members of the Graça Machel Trust Mentorship Programme. They acknowledged that in the last decade, policy pronouncements and commitments by decision-makers at the African Union show a growing realisation that the region's social and economic transformation lies in investing in young people between the ages of 10-24. One area where investment is needed is in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), education and economic planning, particularly for adolescent girls. The youth advocates shared their experiences and explored the relationships between the advancement of adolescent girls to contribute to the socio- economic progression of women in Africa.

Interspersed between the plenary sessions were a series of powerful talks under the theme: 'Unleashing Our Power for Social Change'. Two speakers shared deeply personal and moving stories of how they overcame their personal circumstances leading them to speak out about harmful traditional practices such as widow cleansing and violence against women. Their stories moved the audience to tears.

Nana Wanjau, CEO of Branding Beyond Borders described a traditional practice in Western Kenya which requires women to go through a cleansing process after the death of a husband.

“ Before a widow is inherited (remarried to someone else), she must go through a cleansing process. It is believed that if your husband dies before you, then you must have had something to do with it and you possess a death omen within you which must be cleansed. Cleansing is an unprotected sexual act. It is done by a madman or a cleanser who is picked for that sole job and moves from village to village cleansing widows. In western Nyanza (Kenya), the high prevalence of HIV is also attributed to this tradition. This practice is still happening today in our societies. ”




Nana encouraged women to speak out against injustices which affect vulnerable women in our societies, saying that women need to learn to firmly demand the change they want because failing to do so has disastrous consequences.

The second speaker, **Josina Machel, Founder of The Kuhluka Movement** courageously narrated a painful experience and how she found the power to heal herself.

“ On October 17, 2015, the day my mother turned 70 years old, I was savagely beaten by a man who professed that he loved me. I was inside a car and I was given blows to my face by my boyfriend at the time, which rendered me blind for the rest of my life. My right eye has never been the same. Certain things happen that change one’s existence forever and this was one of them. Four weeks later when I was ready to pursue the case, I found out that my documents had completely disappeared. There was no evidence that I was in the hospital. There was no evidence that I had spoken to the police. When I decided to go public about what happened, people were critical that I spoke out.. ”

Josina used this personal experience to show that many women in Africa go through abusive relationships and are forced to stay silent. She also talked about her initiative, which provides space for women to speak out, heal and get legal help.



“ Through Kuhluka, women have access to medical care, police, counselling and get advice from legal experts if they want to take cases further. They have time to heal and to start dreaming again. I am here today to request and invite you to join me and millions of women who have survived this and in doing so giving honour and respect to those whose last moments on this earth were filled with panic, despair, and immense solitude. ”

Other speakers also shared personal stories and described how their journeys of transformation led them to advocate for social change. The consistent message was relayed throughout the talks was that women have immense power which they carry within themselves; power to transform themselves, as well as, others around them. Participants and speakers resolved to encourage women to strive for self-awareness and personal mastery and cultivate their emotional and spiritual intelligence as essential tools that will help them achieve their goals and cope with challenges.

Scholastica Kimaryo, Founder & CEO, Maadili Leadership Solutions & Self-Care Mentoring noted that we often focus on physical fitness and neglect mental, and emotional health. Women encouraged each other not to be ashamed in seeking professional help to resolve traumatic experiences which, if unattended, could impact their long-term growth.

Reverend Lunga Songca, Minister of the Methodist Church unpacked the meaning of power from a spiritual perspective, how women can embrace their inherent power and use this for social change. She stated that inner power is vital as it gives us a centre to draw on when we find ourselves in taxing situations. Overall, there was a strong consensus on the efficacy of seeking help from mentors in our communities and beyond. Hannalie Barao, Director Expert Tech International & Leadership Practice urged participants to invest in knowing themselves, their purpose in life and think about how they are going to leave a legacy.

In conclusion, by drawing lessons from the past and using those lessons to co-create a common vision for the second liberation of Africa, delegates unanimously agreed that platforms like Women Advancing Africa are integral to mapping out the future of Africa. What is needed is for there to be a reconnection with the essence of what it means to be an African woman. African women were challenged with using this vision of themselves to define their spaces and from that stepping stone, discover their destiny. The acceleration of women's progress must include the exploitation of technological advancements and the disruption of the status quo by redesigning the table to suit our own needs.

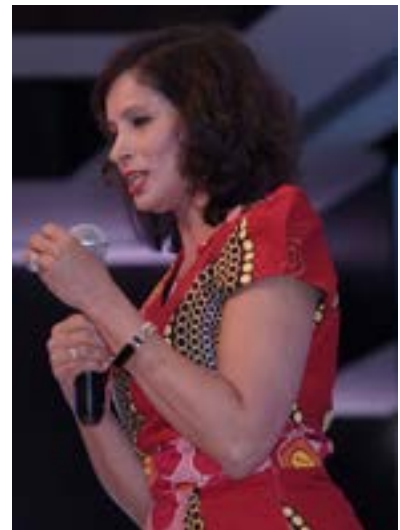


Chikondi Mandala, Senior Resident Magistrate

4

CASE STUDIES OF SMART PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

The WAA Forum would not have been possible without the support and commitment of partners and sponsors. A cross-section of the sponsors provided their contributions on how smart partnership and collaborations can advance women's social and economic transformation.



Eduardo Martinez, Hodan Addou and, Seema Kumar

EDUARDO MARTINEZ PRESIDENT, UPS FOUNDATION

Eduardo Martinez shared how the UPS Foundation has successfully partnered with civil society organizations (CSOs) and governments in Rwanda and Uganda to test innovative solutions in helping communities. Mr. Martinez described UPS as a community-centred company which believes that women are the pillars of every society. He highlighted that it is a problem that most private sector companies do not know how to approach and connect with CSOs and provide meaningful assistance and support. He found a way to navigate through this problem. UPS demonstrates that if you serve in resilient and inclusive communities, your company will thrive. Mr Martinez advised CSOs to translate their passion for community needs in a way that translates to the expertise of the corporate entities they wish to partner with. He left the audience with a favourite quote from Muhammad Yunus:



“When you educate a boy, you educate an individual but when you educate a girl you educate a community.”

HODAN ADDOU REPRESENTATIVE OIC, UN WOMEN

Hodan added that UN Women believes in the importance of multiple partnerships as critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focusing on SDG 17, she noted that,

“A successful and sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society. These inclusive partnerships should be built on principles, values, a shared vision and goals that place people at the centre.”

Hodan mentioned critical stakeholders for CSOs to engage with, namely: governments, thought leaders, media, as well as, the United Nations family and multilateral organizations. She encouraged CSOs to partner with homegrown foundations and philanthropists to decrease the reliance on external sources of funding emphasizing that African philanthropists also need to contribute to the development of the Africa they want.



SEEMA KUMAR

VICE PRESIDENT INNOVATION, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND POLICY COMMUNICATION, JOHNSON & JOHNSON INNOVATION

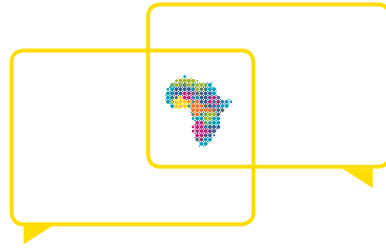
Johnson & Johnson's work in Africa has expanded to support entrepreneurs who can solve some of the most pressing healthcare challenges on the continent. Kumar cited two programs which are focused on unleashing the potential of young people and women across the continent: Women in Innovation (WiN) in partnership with the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa, is a mentoring program which selected 1,000 female college graduates in Rwanda and provided them with communication and leadership skills and encouraged them to pursue a career in the sciences.



The second program was Africa Innovation Challenge - an initiative created as part of Johnson & Johnson's commitment to helping strengthen public health programs and systems in Africa. Two recent award- winners were women: one had created an innovative solution to disposable sanitary towels, while the other created a system for safe water usage.

Kumar ended her talk with lessons learned as a corporate representative partnering with CSOs and NGOs:

“ *Firstly, always have a strategy that is global, ambitious and has buy-in from local partners - multi-stakeholder engagement is important to give people what they want and not what the company wants. Secondly, do not forget to measure outcomes, this is the only way you can show progress.* **”**



WAA TRACKS TO SUCCESS

The in-depth discussions held at the WAA Forum were divided into six tracks, which brought together leading experts from key sectors to identify structural barriers limiting women's participation, as well as, to define solutions, showcase innovative ways of empowering women and pitch new ideas for how women could play a more meaningful role in each sector. Participants in each track were tasked with coming up with three big ideas that would unlock opportunities for women with the aim that they would be implemented after the WAA Forum.

The tracks were:

TRACK **1** *Agribusiness*

TRACK **2** *Energy, Extractives, and Infrastructure*

TRACK **3** *Services and Trade*

TRACK **4** *Technology*

TRACK **5** *Financial Inclusion*

TRACK **6** *Changing the Narrative:
Media and Creative Industries*

Each track incorporated WAA's pillar of social change in the discussions, ensuring that economic transformation was not an end in and of itself, but was a means for achieving social justice, inclusive growth and an Africa in which no one is left behind.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT AGRI-BUSINESS

Agriculture is Africa's largest economic sector, representing 15% of the continent's total GDP - more than US\$100 billion annually. Women make up almost 50% of the agricultural labour force in Sub-Saharan Africa. Most of these women are subsistence farmers working for their families at the lower end of the value chain. The WAA agribusiness track attracted several participants who work in, or have an interest in this sector - given its strategic value to Africa's development and the economic empowerment of women.

Sheila Sisulu, a former Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Program and a food security advocate noted that a big challenge in agribusiness is information asymmetry. Farmers usually charge below market prices because they do not have access to information on fair market prices. Another speaker stressed that policymakers need to review land ownership laws to ensure that women smallholder farmers have the right to own and are not disadvantaged by traditional practices which favour men. An example of the land insecurity suffered by women is how, under some traditional systems women often lose rights to their land after their husbands pass away. Several participants commented on the need for agribusiness entrepreneurs to find ways to keep the land in the hands of women. Agribusiness innovators must protect the dignity of women in the production process during and after farming.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT AGRI-BUSINESS

Overall, speakers called for the government to have strong support mechanisms including financial incentives which award farmers based on their output and reliable extension services which can provide valuable inputs and information to farmers through technology, advisory, and facilitation services. Ndidi Nwuneli, Co-Founder of Sahel Capital in Nigeria stated that African governments need to tap into the trade opportunities available on the continent. She illustrated this by citing a United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) study she conducted that revealed that while Niger and Nigeria had serious food shortages, there was an abundance of produce in Burkina Faso and Ghana which was not being exported out of the country, even though these countries are in the same region. Nwuneli also raised an important point on conflicts in policy measures implemented by the government, which often work against each other.

“The Minister of Agriculture, in a bid to empower local rice farmers, created support schemes. At the same time, the Minister of Trade and Investment gave five powerful families quotas to import a lot of rice. This, hurt the local producers who could not compete with the low prices offered by imports.”

Supporting infrastructure must be put in place such as irrigation systems which are often lacking and are needed to support commercial farming. Africa also needs to create regional value chains which will stimulate exports. An important structural measure to support these endeavours would be the provision of certification standards for their traders – this would ensure quality and efficiency within the supply chain.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT AGRI-BUSINESS

In offering examples of successful programs, Sisulu gave an example of a programme implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP) called Purchasing for Progress. Through this programme, the WFP educates smallholder farmers about the market and provides infrastructure for storage, processing, and transportation of produce. Additionally, WFP provides food aid to areas with shortages through the produce they buy from these smallholder farmers. Farmers are paid upfront and have collateral to show to banks in the form of receipts of transactions with the WFP. She encouraged the participants to go back to their communities and try to set up similar arrangements with the WFP or even improve on this model.

One of the key topics highlighted was the need to protect the agricultural sector from the scourge of climate change by implementing sustainable farming practices. It has been widely reported that women suffer disproportionately from the negative consequences of climate change. Interventions of how this can be remedied were discussed and a notable outcome was the use of mobile technology, given the high rates of mobile penetration on the continent. It is important to first assess how women currently utilise mobile services and come up with solutions on how they can leverage this technology to combat the difficulties in this sector. A strong appeal was made by Mrs Machel to replace the hoe with more modern technology and equipment to relieve African women from their back-breaking labour.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT AGRI-BUSINESS

A complimentary event on 'Creating awareness of food systems and its effects on nutrition' was held and sheds more light on this discussion. For more information, refer to the annexures.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Provide women with the tools to increase productivity and focus on improving value chains in agriculture that solve both malnutrition and stunting.
- 2 Utilise policy measures to support and incentivise smallholder farming as a viable commercial activity.
- 3 Use existing resources to enable farmers to access information, the market, and financing in low-cost ways.
- 4 Lobby policymakers to amend laws which restrict women from controlling, owning and profiting from land.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ENERGY, EXTRACTIVES & INFRASTRUCTURE

McKinsey reports the following on the state of the extractives industry in Africa:

“Africa’s extractive sector presents a paradox: although the continent is strongly endowed with mineral resources, mining has not been the consistent engine of economic development that people in many countries have hoped for. Nor, to date, has Africa attracted a share of global mining investment.”

Similarly, the potential in the energy sector is yet to be fully unlocked. The heavy reliance on non-renewable resources and the sub-optimal performance of state-run energy parastatals has left many Africans on the continent in the dark.

Adele Boadzo, Director of Hope Rises Africa, distributes solar products to women in rural areas and is on a mission to electrify Africa. She touched on the continent’s energy challenges:

“Over 600 million Africans do not have access to electricity. This means that Africa’s GDP goes down 2 -4 % annually because of not having energy access. What this also means is that for the poorest Africans on the continent, 80% of primary schools do not have access to electricity and many mothers die during childbirth in health centers that lack electricity.”

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ENERGY, EXTRACTIVES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy and infrastructure development have been identified as two of the most critical drivers of growth and development across the continent. The Energy, Extractives, and Infrastructure (EEI) sectors present an opportunity for African governments to continuously innovate and create opportunities for more women to participate.

**WHAT ROLE DO WOMEN PLAY IN THESE GIANT INDUSTRIES?
DO THESE SECTORS ALLOW WOMEN TO ADVANCE ECONOMICALLY?**

Sheila Khama, Practice Manager for the Energy and Extractive Industries

Global Practice at the World Bank, cited research that has shown an inextricable link between a lack of engagement with women in the business and professional world and stunted economic growth. Based on this data, the World Bank has developed a gender framework in the energy and extractive sectors.

“With women having access to energy,” Khama continued, “they can run their business, they can help children with school exercises. Gender is an untapped potential which must be unleashed, and if we unleash it, poverty reduction is more likely to be achieved than if we ignored the role of women.”

Maida Waziri the CEO of IBRA Holdings added that currently, Tanzanian women make up only 6% of the workforce in the energy, extractives and construction sectors. She added that what is needed is for bold women to take on these male-dominated industries and only then will they become stakeholders in the wealth Africa has to offer.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ENERGY, EXTRACTIVES & INFRASTRUCTURE

African women contribute tremendously to the mining sector through Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM). Reports indicate that in Africa, the ASM workforce comprises no less than 40-50% women; however, they rarely reap the full benefits of their labour. Maria Anne Camara, who leads a mining association in Mali illustrated the challenges faced by women in ASM:

“ I have seen women who spend all their days extracting gold. Even though they spend more time in the mines, they receive lower returns and experience considerable discrimination. When I moved from village to village, I only saw women working in the mines. The men had migrated in search of greener pastures. Mining was the only economic activity these women were exploring and when it rained they had no other alternative streams of income to rely on. ”

The panel also highlighted many key gender-related challenges that women face in the EEI sectors. These include:

- A lack of capital and financing options for from mainstream financial facilities;
- Lack of appropriate machinery, technology and access to information;
- Lack of technical know-how of the sector due to unavailability of capacity building opportunities;
- Lack of gender-sensitive policies in uncharted fields such as renewable energy;
- Detrimental patriarchal attitudes which insist that these sectors are meant for men only;
- Labour-intensive and unpaid care work in the home that takes up time that women could have otherwise utilized in productive activities.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ENERGY, EXTRACTIVES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Khosi Sibisi, CEO of WaterBearer Sustainable Development successfully started three mines in Mpumalanga, South Africa. Using her own entrepreneurial experience, she explained that investors have highly stringent requirements and that women in these sectors need to study their fields and develop a deep understanding of their markets. Through access to information and capacity building, women-led businesses can get a better understanding of opportunities which lie in the EEI value chains and structure their ventures in line with existing opportunities. Khosi also emphasized the importance of developing financing initiatives such as women-focused funds.

Collaborative partnerships amongst women, and with other stakeholders were also mentioned as effective in helping women drive their own economic agenda. Maria used the example of her Women in Mining Association which now boasts of two thousand female members who not only dig but refine stones which they export to countries like China and Thailand. They have launched projects with both the World Bank and UN Women which are worth 1.5 million USD and 200,000 USD, respectively. These projects have also helped them enhance their internal capacity.

Taciana Peão Lopes, Legal Expert Energy, Natural Resources, Infrastructures argued that partnerships with academia and multilateral organizations are crucial since they can undertake gender assessments in EEI and provide support through the production of in-depth sectoral reports. Her initiative, WAZA, based in Mozambique, is a think and do tank which focuses on infrastructure, namely transport and logistics, power, water as well as land management issues.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ENERGY, EXTRACTIVES & INFRASTRUCTURE

In addressing the systemic challenges posed in the EEI sectors, the participants agreed that women must be prioritized in structuring agreements and in their critical implementation as service providers and preferred vendors. Extractive sector profits should also be directed towards encouraging women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to study and service the industry.

A complimentary event on 'The African Mining Legislation Atlas (AMLA)' was held, which is a free online platform that provides comparative data on mining laws and regulations which has been developed by the African Legal Support Facility and the World Bank.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Establish a pan-African team of experts in energy, extractives, and infrastructure to identify opportunities for women and the deployment of technical skills and resources to increase the participation of women in these sectors.
- 2 Establish a funding model for women in energy, extractives, and infrastructure.
- 3 Create a pan-African forum for artisanal mining and increase opportunities for women through the artisanal value chain.
- 4 Expand women's economic empowerment through the supply chain and procurement opportunities for women in mining and other extractive sectors.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SERVICES AND TRADE

Unlocking cross-border trade opportunities remains one of the critical growth areas on the continent. Women dominate the informal trade sector, a potentially major contributor to job creation in Africa. The sector provides between 20% and 75% of total employment in most countries, according to the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. For example, within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, informal cross-border trade, mostly in processed and unprocessed food, constitutes between 30% and 40% of the total trade volume annually. TradeMark East Africa, an organization that promotes cross-border trade in the sub-region, reports that women conduct up to 74% of the informal trade along Rwanda's borders with its neighbours, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Uganda. During the track discussions, participants provided some insights on the nature of cross-border trading on the continent. **Dr Jane Nalunga, Country Director, Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute** shared the following observation:

“ We engage in policy formulation to enhance women's participation in Trade, but women's voices are rarely represented, and if they are there, they are minimal. Economic policies are made and negotiated outside, in Geneva, Addis Ababa and in turn, affect our economy and women. In the UN, UNDP, and MDGs, the role of a woman is recognized but when it comes down to national laws, our roles are ignored. Thus, we must sit at the table and make sure our rights are being implemented, not just being discussed. ”

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SERVICES AND TRADE

Nalunga's sentiments were echoed by **Tsitsi Choruma, CEO of Fair Trade Africa:**

“Free trade has existed for 25 years globally but it has only been in Africa in the past 10 years. There is a need for women to engage in trade negotiations so that what they produce and how they can scale beyond their borders can be reflected in decisions that will affect their livelihood and prosperity.”

In addressing the question of how women can sit at the decision-making table and be heard, Nalunga responded by stating that women's capacity needed to be enhanced, so that they can articulate their demands at high-level platforms, as well as, understand and advocate for their rights.

Furthermore, it was noted that some women engaging in cross-border trade lack knowledge of their rights under trade treaties and protocols e.g. in the SADC region (STP SADC Trade Protocol) or the Simplified Trade regime in COMESA. Due in part to this lack of knowledge, women in this industry end up being subjected to undue 'informal' taxes or demands for bribes, sexual abuse, and confiscation of good.

Panellist, **Daniella Mastracci from Trade+Impact (T+I)** gave an example of capacity building in her trade association:

“We are a trade association and collaborative global community of members from the craft and natural cosmetic sectors with a focus on women-led social enterprises in Africa and the Middle East. We deal with business mentoring; we add value to branding together with training.”

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SERVICES AND TRADE

T+I have also allowed women to access skills development through an online digital platform, resources, and articles, live video webinars, a monthly video series featuring leading exporting businesses and top international buyers. The company further creates opportunities to bring social impact investors together with social enterprises looking to access capital.

The key solutions were centered on supporting women to conduct product and market research, understand the certification processes of different countries and bodies and be aware of the incentive policies that cross-border trading blocs have for them. Matching traders with investors and mentors/mentees is also critical for advancing women, as is the mapping of partners who can provide sector-specific market-driven training in trade issues.

Trade associations must also coalesce and collaborate on increasing their power in advocacy with both governments and international organizations. Seun Omobo, Advisor to the Foreign Minister in Nigeria, emphasized the need to develop strategies which enhance trade. One such strategy is the use of research and innovation to develop value-adding techniques. She went on to give the example of cocoa. Three countries in Africa produce 90% of the world's cocoa and if these countries were to join forces and develop value-added products it would lead to greater bargaining power.

The participants also suggested that there be more government representatives at the WAA Forum henceforth. The engagement of governments is crucial in the following policy issues:

- 1 formalizing cross-border trading
- 2 aligning trade, economic and immigration policies
- 3 advocating on behalf of cross-border traders at international forums

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SERVICES AND TRADE

The increasing number of young people engaging in cross-border trade, as well as, the number of young graduates on the continent, makes the sector an attractive space for facilitating Africa's growth. They will be able to apply innovative approaches to cross-border trading as well as advocate for the rights of traders using powerful and affordable tools such as social media. This discussion was enhanced by a previous co-create session on Women in Cross-Border Trade in Sub-Saharan Africa, which focused on regional trade integration. **Esther Ndichu of United Parcel Service (UPS)** contextualized the problem of cross-border trade by reminding the audience that trade in sub-Saharan Africa is hampered by high trade barriers, increasing the cost and difficulty of doing intra-Africa business.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 More domestication and harmonization of policies which relate to women in cross-border trade.
- 2 Increased sensitization and knowledge sharing of the trade agreements that relate to cross-border trade and involve women. Moreover, women must actively participate in the drafting of such agreements.
- 3 Tackling specific challenges for women that affect the movement of goods such as personal security, valid travel documents and knowledge of foreign markets is critical and must be prioritized.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

Technology forms an integral part of our daily lives. It is essential to how we communicate, move and work; and products such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Uber are facilitating a much more affordable and convenient way for people to connect across the globe. Furthermore, technology has become such a crucial driver of economic empowerment that it is estimated that Africa will be able to accelerate its development through technological innovations. A great example is MPESA, an innovation initially created to serve Kenya's unbanked population that allows customers to store and send money on their mobile phone anywhere affordably. Hence, most WAA sessions revealed the importance of technology in advancing Africa through agribusiness, trade, finance, media, extractive, and infrastructure sectors as well as in driving the second liberation of Africa.

Participants described what technology meant to them and the opportunities presented by this booming sector. Faraja Nyalandu, Founder of Shule Direct stated frankly, that technology must be used to solve glaring problems in education, health, business and other sectors before it can be admired for its own sake.

WAA set the stage for participants in this track to assess the relationship between technology - its use and production - and the African woman. In discussing the opportunities, it was established that technology could provide an even playing field for women. Technological skills once imparted to women, could be used to accelerate the progress wheel for women. Rachel Sibande, Founder of Malawi's first technology hub, spoke of the unlocked potential that is in the digital gender gap. She highlighted an example of girls in her program who built a robot which separates clean water from unsafe water and subsequently competed in a Silicon Valley competition.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

Participants also discussed how despite these innovations, a lot of women still cannot access technology (software or hardware). For example, a report by the Alliance for Affordable Internet reveals the longstanding gender digital gap that is the result of barriers such as illiteracy, income disparities and various forms of discrimination which affect women more than men. It was noted that Africa has the largest digital gender gap in the world at 23%.

Technology investor, Sangu Delle, illustrated another important obstacle for women in technology noting that if people were asked to describe a technologist, they would come up with examples like Steve Jobs or Mark Zuckerberg, highlighting how problematic it was that the definition of a technologist is already gendered.



A CONVERSATION ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

Other participants supported this point by using their own experiences to illustrate the statistics. Faraja, a self-taught technologist enrolled in a local innovation hub where there were only two other women. She lacked many support systems until she proactively pursued mentors from seasoned tech entrepreneurs in Tanzania. Several participants raised the issue that technology is not considered an option for women to pursue from the time they begin their educational journeys up to the time they must choose a career. When they eventually break into the tech-industry they are faced with many challenges such as gender-based discrimination.

One of the solutions proposed on how women could best access technology included bringing engineers, scientists, academics together with CSOs. It is important that CSOs familiarize themselves with their country ICT policies to identify areas of intervention, support, and continuous monitoring.

On how Africa could solve its technological challenges, participants emphasized that we must identify the pressing needs, to see which solutions exist on the continent or elsewhere. In some cases, we can transfer pre-existing technology from countries such as China at a lower cost than reinventing the wheel. Additionally, we need to identify centers of excellence on the continent with respect to technology. Ghana and Kenya are ahead of other African countries in telecommunications and mobile systems and many countries can learn from them.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

Through its networks and partnerships, the Trust could help to identify resources and partner with actors to increase the level of confidence in investing in women's technological ventures. It is also worth noting that women-owned or led technology solutions do not need to cater for women alone and should benefit society as a whole.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Support digital skills training for women entrepreneurs and develop a dynamic school curriculum and scholarships for young women in tech.
- 2 Scale digital or science-led innovations that support Agribusiness enterprises, Fintech, Renewable Energy, Bio-Science and other industry tracks.
- 3 Establish an entrepreneurship fund to provide seed funding and technical assistance to high-growth women entrepreneurs and young innovators in technology to scale their enterprises.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT FINANCIAL INCLUSION

In 2014, a staggering 66% of Sub-Saharan Africans did not have a bank account; this within the context of a persistent gender gap between men and women's access to said accounts. The small size of national markets, a lack of financial literacy, low-income levels, political instability and weak financial systems have constrained African financial systems in most African countries. Financial inclusion efforts seek to ensure that all households and businesses, regardless of income level, have access to, and can effectively use the appropriate financial services they need to improve their lives. Financial inclusion is linked to a country's economic and social development and plays a role in reducing extreme poverty. On the continent, different strategies have been used to reduce the levels of financial exclusion of men and women in accessing credit, savings, insurance and mobile money. The financial inclusion track gave the participants a chance to analyse and interrogate various approaches.

Irene Mlola from Financial Services Deepening Trust Tanzania shared insights from their financial report stating that financial inclusion has grown from 16% in 2009 to 58% in 2013, which reflects a healthy level of growth. Nevertheless, 70% of the informal sector are women and connecting these women to financial services is critical for advancing women in Africa. Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Governor, National Bank of Rwanda (BNR), acknowledged the importance of data in monitoring the presence and efficiency of financial services providers and regulatory bodies. She said that BNR partnered with a technology company to develop an electronic data warehouse system to automate and streamline the reporting processes that inform and facilitate supervision. Women would be able to access information from one source as a critical solution for accelerating financial inclusion. For now, this solution covers eight banks, three microfinance institutions, two money transfer operators, and one mobile network operator. She further stated that women must participate in decision making and be a part of decision-making bodies in the financial sector. This would lead to diversity in banking services and create a system that caters to women.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Anne Njambi Kabugi, Africa Gender Lead, International Finance

Corporation spoke of embedding financial literacy in national educational programs to ensure equal training and subsequent access for all. In addition, it is important to have laws and policies that enable women to claim and own land and that the collection and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data is critical in showcasing the gender disparities in financial inclusion. Participants emphasized the need for products in the financial services sector to be designed to reflect the needs and reality of women who access financial services, not just for the profit, but also for the social function it serves in their lives.

“Financial inclusion on the continent must be based on the cultural systems of existing organizations and perform a multi-purpose service. The existing local institutions such as savings groups must be respected and developed further.”

Maureen Kwilasa, the Financial Inclusion Program Officer in Southern

Africa for CARE International Tanzania, shared an example of CARE introducing women to saving groups. These savings groups attract women to financial services and are used to impart financial literacy and help them access capital for businesses. She also called upon banking sectors to invite women to join saving groups.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT FINANCIAL INCLUSION

It was suggested that traditional financial institutions should implement initiatives which can accelerate the level of financial inclusion. Since the central banks set banking policies, e.g. loans limits and borrowing rates for other banks, they could collaborate with financial services providers to create financial products which cater for the unbanked. A few commercial banks have taken this route e.g. Kenya's Equity Group. Even though they operate in different economic environments, it was suggested that Central Banks share best practices and lessons learned in improving financial inclusion for women. Participants also debated whether banks are still relevant and it was agreed that they are still essential to driving economies, but certain banking services were susceptible to disruption.

Participants also highlighted the crucial role and impact of technology in advancing financial inclusion. Africa currently boasts a great number of mobile money innovations which have proved too difficult to introduce in heavily regulated economies such as those in the EU. For example, EcoCash is a perfect response to Zimbabwe's consistent money shortages and enables customers to complete financial transactions directly from their mobile phone.

A co-create session led by **Andia Chakava, Investment Consultant for the Trust and the NFNV Kenya Country Director**, on 'Gender Lens Investing' talked about finance as a tool for social and economic change. Gender lens investing gives an opportunity to deploy capital meaningfully in search of better outcomes for women and girls. It incorporates gender analysis within the financial analysis process and is about how gender informs what we value, how we balance power dynamics and how we invest.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT FINANCIAL INCLUSION

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Leverage the influence of the Graça Machel Trust and governors of central banks to get African countries to commit to having National Financial Inclusion Policies/ Strategies, which focus on advancing women's financial inclusion, with clear strategies and targets that aim to halve the gender access gap in each African country by 2021.
- 2 Harness the power of women's savings groups to introduce appropriate digital financial solutions and ensure that 30% of savings groups are using a digital solution by 2021.
- 3 Create an innovative women's investment fund that would attract savings from professional women, women's collectives and institutional investors to invest in women-owned businesses by 2020.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT #CHANGINGTHENARRATIVE

Women are least represented in the print media and constitute only 22% of those who write news stories. They are also under-represented in the critical images, cartoons, opinion and commentary categories.

The Changing the Narrative Media track highlighted how African women are portrayed in media and broadened the discussion on the usage of media by women to influence and give shape to the way their stories are portrayed. The participants were unanimous in the conviction that media needs to improve the quality of stories and increase the number of stories about women on the continent. Most importantly, media must graduate from perpetuating the notion that women are victims rather than victors.

A participant said the following:

“ Women were asked, were you worried about the election violence in Kenya? I realised that women were asked questions about what their anxieties are while men are asked what they think. ”

Narratives often dictate which value systems we should hold dear. In so doing, they can also hinder progress and perpetuate stereotypes. The prevailing narrative currently labels women as homemakers and caretakers who are not fit for science and technology. The reality is that women make up nearly half of the world's population (49,6%), and as such manage resources, occupy strategic and influential spaces e.g. politicians, doctors, finance experts and mining gurus. Moreover, the idea and image of the African woman is simple, lacking any complexities, with very limited dreams and goals. Hence this track was initiated to start challenging the stories of African women in the media.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT #CHANGINGTHENARRATIVE

Hodan Addou, UN Women Representative (OIC), Tanzania, said it is important that women recognise their power and exercise it economically, noting that when you share the story of your life it is important that you hold the pen. Africa's creative spaces now hold important narratives about women, for women, and by women. Authors such as Tsitsi Dangarembga, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Ayobami Adebayo, No Violet Bulawayo and Sisonke Msimang and artists like Lupita Nyong'o and Danai Gurira are all telling stories of the African woman in a beautifully authentic, complex and unapologetic way. This creates a refreshing image of women on the continent thus dismantling the biased narratives which were built around them.

Seema Kumar, Vice President Innovation, Global Health and Policy Communication, Johnson & Johnson spoke of the societal basis on the narratives crafted about women,

“ We cannot give the media full accountability and full blame. Sometimes the reasons are social. Our beliefs are crafted from previous generations and storytelling from those who shape our value systems. People keep telling the same stories over and over which form our perceptions. Perception is king. ”

How can women shape their own narratives and tell their own stories? According to research presented, women in South Africa speak more about climate change (41%), social issues (33%), health and HIV/AIDS (31%), and celebrity art and media (30%). They are barely heard in sport (9%), politics (17%) and economics (17%), compared to their male counterparts. Between odd limitations and preconceived ideas of women or their work; the woman in media and art in Africa is still secondary compared to her male counterpart.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT #CHANGINGTHENARRATIVE

Sisonke Msimang, Author of 'Always Another Country: A Memoir of Exile and Home', emphatically stated that women in media need to stop and consider how they organise themselves – are they the newsmakers? She outlined that the growing stereotypical images of women would not change until women themselves took the reins and expressed their opinions on politics and economics – outside the stereotypical prism.

Margery Kraus, Founder of APCO Worldwide, independent global public affairs, and strategic communications consultancy, with more than 600 employees in 35 locations shared her professional journey:

“ I started this firm 30 years ago... I grew up in this space that I was never really comfortable with. I didn't even know if I was an entrepreneur or if I was good at it. After helping my son do his homework, I read a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt and it said: 'No one can make you feel inferior unless you allow them to.' I found that going around the world, in every society, there are incredible women and they are driving their communities. That is a story that deserves to be told that is not told. We have to get off this idea that we are victims. ”

Many participants identified technology as a powerful tool for women to take ownership of their voices and space. One participant went further to call it: the technological empowerment of women.

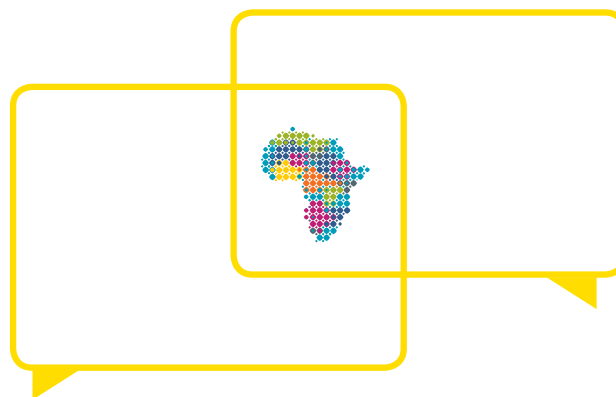
“ If women want to reach more people they need to start looking at storytelling. Changing the narrative will only happen if women use all the tools such as images, videos, and podcasts. Women need to get the conversation going by creating multi-dynamic packaging of material and media to create a powerful impact. ”

A CONVERSATION ABOUT #CHANGINGTHENARRATIVE

Maria Sarungi Tsehai, Director of Compass Communication added,

“ Women should not buy into the narrative that women in social media are not real people. 70-80% of Twitter users are passive, they read but don't write. That means that from 1,000 followers you have access to 10,000 followers. In short, by having 300,000 twitter followers, one has a reach of 1 million people which means she is more powerful' than all newspapers in Tanzania combined. A good example is Mange Kimambi, who is an active woman on social media and has influence in generating conversations; that is the beginning of their engagement. ”

It was the social media generated #MeToo campaign that shed light on the plight of women working in the film industry who must constantly normalize sexual harassment as a means to an end. Similarly, a few years ago, the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls spread like wildfire globally as an advocacy message to Boko Haram rebels who had kidnapped 276 girls from their school in northern Nigeria. Hence, the technological empowerment of women has allowed them to advocate for their space and they are more than ready to craft their own beautifully authentic, complex and unapologetic narratives.



A CONVERSATION ABOUT #CHANGINGTHENARRATIVE

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Monitor media in Africa to keep track of how women are being portrayed and develop a set of media monitoring tools for individuals and institutions.
- 2 Drive a 50-50 legislative and policy campaign to address the gender pay gap in the media, the representation of women in newsrooms, commentary pages and in management structures.
- 3 Conduct training of journalists geared towards changing the narrative on how women are depicted and promote balanced storytelling. This also includes mentorship and changing curriculums.
- 4 Create a database of women sector experts that can be used as sources for news by women journalists.



THE END OF THE CEREMONY: THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND LIBERATION

The closing ceremony was a moving celebration of the festival of ideas and inspiring messages that had been shared by the participants and organisers which had resulted in a common advocacy and action-driven agenda to guide the work of the forum. Final guest speakers took us back to the first day of the WAA Forum when the overarching question asked was – what is the Africa that we want? Activists, leaders, young women present were challenged to reflect on this once again.

In a passionate call to action, **Jay Naidoo, the Trust's Global Advisory Board, former Minister, and anti-apartheid activist** offered some hard truths; that 70% of our forests have disappeared, 50% of the world's species are extinct and of the ones left, 70% are being monitored as they are at risk of following suit. He pointed out that what is needed is to redesign the entire system the world is built on. He further added that it is women who would have to lead in this second chance for our planet.



Jay Naidoo



In her rousing closing speech, Mrs Machel also implored the participants to do things differently saying,

“ I want you to re-imagine a society we are to build, because without the vision, then we cannot even re-design to build. I want each one of you... to re-imagine the society you want to leave as a legacy for your children and your children’s children. Dream big - allow your mind and heart to beat like the rhythm of the African drum. We are not being asked to do a small thing or a small job. It is big, very big. ”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG3uVC2tBsY&feature=youtu.be>

Mrs. Machel also encouraged the participants to not give away their power to become agents of change, not to accept that they have to adjust to paradigms that were designed for others but to re-invent and re-connect with the essence of who they are as Africans and design the space and ways of doing things in their own ways. She commended the forum for coming together to be part of the movement and for bringing together brilliant ideas that now need to be put into action.

She continued by giving three guiding questions that would help facilitate the big thoughts needed for the success of the Second Liberation:

**WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO
BETTER THAN
BEFORE I CAME
HERE?**

**WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO
DIFFERENTLY?**

**WHAT AM I
GOING TO KEEP
ON DOING?**

The CEO of the Graça Machel Trust, Nomsa Daniels, gave a vote of thanks to all the sponsors, speakers, staff, Trustees and organisers who were involved in planning and executing the first Women Advancing Africa Forum, which had exceeded the Trust's expectations. She indicated that the next WAA Forum would be held in 2019 allowing time in the interim to make tangible progress to be made on the ideas discussed.

SIDE EVENT

CREATING AWARENESS OF FOOD SYSTEMS AND ITS EFFECTS ON NUTRITION.

This case study of the Trust's Food Basket Project was discussed at length by a panel consisting of Tumaini Mikindo, the Executive Director, Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), Rachel Toku-Appiah the Nutrition Program Manager at the Trust, Clotilde Radebe the head of African Women in Agribusiness Mozambique and Esther Leah Achandi from African Women in Agricultural Research and Development in Tanzania, who were the main speakers.

To address Africa's nutritional challenge, speakers emphasized the need to address what we eat and what variety of food is consumed in our daily diets in terms of starch, protein, vegetables, and fruits. Attendees agreed that the staple diet in Tanzania and across Africa is maize and carbohydrates, food that is not providing the right nutritional balance. Statistics show that 842 million people in the world do not eat a balanced diet which results in undernutrition and stunting. Lack of sufficient nutrition can also result in children and adults being underweight. Worldwide, 159 million children are stunted, with Africa having the largest share, and 794 million people are calorie deficient.

Poor nutrition can result in dullness in the early days of a child's life due to slower brain development and statistically leads to poor school performance. Nutrition results in impaired productivity which has a huge economic impact. Specific to Africa and Asia, poor nutrition hinders economic development by 11%.

The Food Basket Project focuses on increasing the supply of good quality seed in what is traditionally viewed as women's crops such as pigeon peas, cowpeas, soya, etc. Women-owned seed companies identify small out growers, supply them with high-yielding and drought-resistant seed and other inputs and provide them with training in climate-smart agricultural practices. At harvest time, they buy back the seed to establish seed banks and export the surplus seed in the region. There are now efforts to expand the model into other countries to improve nutrition on the continent.

COMPLIMENTARY EVENT

THE AFRICAN MINING LEGISLATION ATLAS (AMLA)

An information session was held on the African Mining Legislation Atlas (AMLA) which is a free online platform for Africa's mining sector, with comparative data on mining laws and regulations, which has been developed by the African Legal Support Facility and the World Bank. Women in the mining sector are often left out of the equation when policies and laws are deliberated and enacted, making it difficult for them to benefit, and so deliberate efforts to ensure women's empowerment from resources and engagement in the value chain is critical. **Sheila Khama, Practice Manager, Energy and Extractive Industries Global Practice, The World Bank, Entesh Malaisho, AMLA Legal Research Team Alumni and Naomi Kichuki**, a doctoral candidate from the University of Dar es Salaam were the main speakers.

AMLAs' main focus in Africa is to maximize mineral resource benefits by promoting transparency, accessibility and comparison of Africa's mining laws; facilitating the preparation, revision and implementation of mining laws; providing a living database that will catalyze research and policy debates on legal and regulatory issues; and promote the development of local legal expertise in the mining sector. The discussions focused on answering four key questions: How do we ensure that these laws are followed? Do women know the laws that are set with regards to minerals? And are they satisfied with these laws? If these laws are not good enough, what do we do?

The discussion led to identifying the areas where the sector disenfranchises women. Mining laws are missing links with gender issues and must, therefore, be reviewed with a gender lens. When we look at our countries' different laws we should also look at related laws, like environmental laws, safety laws, license laws, land laws and other laws that are included in or affected by mining laws.

The sector is associated with human trafficking where most women are forced, labourers. This also applies to children. There is also a negative perception that women working in the sector should not be exposed to minerals. Fundamentally, they are exposed to dangerous practices and quite often, have less educated children because they encourage them to work in the same sector. There are no deliberate policies to address gender issues, yet 30 percent of the sector is made up of women.

COMPLIMENTARY EVENT

WOMEN IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Esther Ndichu of United Parcel Service (UPS) contextualized the problem of cross-border trade by reminding the audience that trade in sub-Saharan Africa is hampered by high trade barriers, increasing the cost and difficulty of doing intra-Africa business. Expanding cross-border trade in Africa is key to accelerating economic growth on the continent; it is especially important for the continent's many small land-locked countries that face tremendous challenges trading internationally.

The continent's percentage of cross-border trade is only 25% of total exports by UPS. UPS has a footing in 200 countries and understanding trade and customs issues is a key factor for UPS. Success for UPS is working with small companies and making them successful in exporting internationally or trading regionally. UPS is actively trying to create institutional change by being part of trade facilitation agreements and encouraging customs modernization. UPS believes that systems with modernized customs will reduce bribery. Using technology reduces opportunities for customs officers to ask for bribes or sexual favours. UPS is building capacity to tackle bottleneck issues in their priority countries of Kenya, Morocco, and Nigeria. The Southern Africa Cross Border Trading (SACBT) organization operates in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Swaziland. SACBT has had great challenges penetrating these countries, especially in building relationships with government. SACBT has established multiple forums to discuss challenges women traders are facing. Some of the challenges highlighted by women through these forums are trade structures, personal safety, border controls, language barriers and the lack of infrastructure at border posts. Women have also reported sexual harassment at the borders in exchange for services mainly because they don't know their rights. A recommended solution for language barriers was to translate the customs documents into local languages. High tariffs at the borders and the lack of regional markets are also a problem for women cross-border traders (WCBT).

SACBT have established participation and representation channels in member countries to tackle the lack of information on trade and the lack of credit facilitation. Efficiency is affected when member states do not actively update and train officials on newly implemented trade policies, making the movement of goods more difficult. Patricia emphasized the need to create various visa regimes which will help facilitate cross-border trade by women. It is necessary to create links between women traders and governments to assist in CBT.

Aisha Aminu, Country Director of NFNV NIGERIA spoke of their work in West Africa where they have embarked on a process to formalize activities around this age-long trade. NFNV-NIGERIA has successfully completed the first phase of mapping individual women, associations, groups and cooperatives involved in cross-border trade. The assessment procedure has taken place, to understand needs and aspirations of stakeholders. Now the formalization process is attracting graduates - giving the sector an upgraded identity and attractiveness to a younger generation. This new generation of WCBT are changing the notion that CBT is only informal. To further accelerate this sector, the implementation of regional trading agreements and protocols have started, with some bilateral trade agreements signed with governments. The law enforcement agents at the borders also require training and need to be informed about the role and contributions of WCBTs, and how to handle women traders in an acceptable manner.

Garnering of insurance policies for both health and goods for traders has already begun. A sensitization workshop to address clearly defined facilitation on access to finance, transportation of goods, is underway. The program has also begun liaising with agencies mandated with transportation of goods, i.e., NiPost, Nigeria Shippers Council and courier companies has also begun. There is still a great need for recognizing WCBT contribute to a sustainable source of livelihood and are an important component of Africa's economy - contributing immensely to economic upliftment, particularly of women, food security, regional economy, trade and social integration. WCBT also contribute to market/product diversification, increased outlets for goods produced and manufactured in the ECOWAS Sub-region. The West African WCBT have also held two successful West African Trade Fairs 2008 and 2009 before drafting the project under NFNV-NIGERIA.

CO-CREATE SESSION

GENDER LENS INVESTING: FINANCE AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

As one of the key discussion areas, the financial inclusion team invited interested individuals to join in a discussion on Gender Lens Investing: Finance as a tool for social and economic change. 'Gender lens investing' is the use of finance as a tool for social and economic change. It gives an opportunity to deploy capital meaningfully in search of better outcomes for women and girls. It incorporates gender analysis within the financial analysis process and is about how gender informs what we value, how we balance power dynamics and therefore, how we invest.

Mamboi Chege from KPMG, one of the main speakers said:

“The reasons why women self-fund is because it is too expensive to borrow. Without sufficient capital to build businesses women’s companies become smaller. Younger women experience more discrimination based on age and marital status which contributes to the micro-level business structures. Women being entrepreneurs and business owners should open discussions on how capital can be deployed meaningfully and deliberately deliver outcomes. It is how we invest and what due diligence is assessed at the pre-screening stage. It is crucial to assess the possible business outcomes at both the pre-screening and post-screening stages.”

Women were encouraged to become asset owners and to fund other women initiatives where they can earn a dividend. It is also critical that financial institutions start to recognize that investing in women is profitable. This is why KPMG has a one-billion-dollar fund which focuses on investment and governance. A cross-cutting theme was protecting women as consumers of financial products and ensuring access to land ownership which is a critical part of women’s access to collateral for capital financing.

CO-CREATE SESSION

THE BUSINESS OF WRITING AND PUBLISHING - A CONVERSATION WITH AFRICAN WOMEN WRITERS

In the Women in Publishing Co-create Session, **Demere Kitunga, an established editor from E&D publishers**, the only female-owned publishing house in Tanzania, **Hilda Twongyeirwe from FEMRITE**, a feminist writers group from Uganda and **Ngasuma Kanyeka, a poet and writer** from Tanzania spoke about the need for more spaces where female narratives can feature and open up inaccessible spaces such as curriculums where young people first encounter literature. To produce literature, female writers need to be afforded residencies and workshops to sharpen their writing skills and allow more women to publish. Twongyeirwe remarked, 'Curriculums are a critical space for a healthy gender lens'. Ms Kanyekas' poetry piece titled, 'Dear fingers' spoke to women's need to heed their own voice, 'I love my spirit for showing me in the dark, what I would not have seen in the light'. Ms Kitunga spoke of E&D efforts to bring together female writers in their social responsibility space called SOMA. SOMA which is Kiswahili for 'read' is a dedicated space that has a book cafe, a bookshop and an events space where a readership and writing culture is encouraged through programs and competitions..