The declaration from the International Forum on Women and Sustainable Development in Africa
La déclaration du Forum international sur les femmes et le développement durable en Afrique

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1 Introduction

The International. The Forum was organized by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) in collaboration Forum on Women and Sustainable Development in Africa was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 8-10 March 2018 and was hosted by the Tanzanian Academy of Sciences (TAAS) at the Julius Nyerere Convention Centrewith the French Academy of Sciences and in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Sanofi Espoir Foundation, the French Development Agency, French Institute of Research for Sustainable Development, the Inter Academy Partnership, the French Embassy in Tanzania and Acacia Company in Tanzania. The forum made it possible for the science community in Africa to mark the International Women's Day celebrated annually on 8 March. The main focus of the event was the contribution by women to social and economic progress in African countries towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The challenges encountered by women in their pursuit to care for the family, educate, improve access to water, energy, healthy food, combat negative effects of climate change, sustain a growing, young and under-employed population and develop their economic and commercial activity were highlighted. Not forgetting the achievements already made in the continent on these matters, emphasis was further placed on accelerating the realization of the SDGs through input by African women in various

sectors. Ultimately, for this to happen, a collective effort is required and absolutely critical with *all-hands-on-deck*; with the participation of both male and female genders of the African population. The forum was interactive and balanced in representation of the delegates, who were drawn from academia (young and senior scientists), media, the private and public sectors as well as from non-governmental and community based organizations.

2 The Sessions

Session 1: The opening ceremony accorded the conference organizers and hosts an opportunity to highlight their expectations and supplemental roles in adding value to the theme. This session culminated with an Opening Keynote Address on the topic "*Development and Women: What can Africa do differently by 2030?*"

H.E. Aïcha Bah Diallo*, Former Chair, Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and Former Minister of Education in Guinea Conakry*

Session 2: The topic on Contribution by Science enabled speakers to discuss the economic implications of development with a focus on the demographic dividend question for Africa. This session also included a panel discussion on the topic '*The generation that could transform Africa has already been born*', where civil society champions of Demographic Dividend launched a new and rebranded narrative that aimed to demystify the concept and leverage it to increase political and civil society support for key advocacy asks.

Session 3: The role of research institutes, foundations, funding agencies and industry was discussed by conference partners stating relevant aspects of their work that support women in realizing developmental goals. This session enabled various organizations identify synergies and networking opportunities that would continue to spur both involvement and inclusion of women in matters of development.

Session 4: Education and Advocacy was tackled through the lens of social empowerment. It was agreed by session speakers and panelists that imparting appropriate knowledge and skills on SDGs accountability and advocacy would enhance the contribution of women and community-based organizations in SDG-realization.

Session 5: Examples of Successful Actions were discussed *via* a talk-show where panelist engaged with the media on how to demystify myths and stereotypical notions around the value of educating and including women in Africa's development agenda. The session concluded with two parallel sessions. Parallel Session 1 on ***Local and National Roles of Women in Development***, illuminated the need to uphold and improve women's rights by taking into account international conventions, the need to encourage balance between genders at all levels of administrative and political structures, as well as in the private and public sector. Local initiatives that promote empowerment of women in local economic development (e.g. professional training, access to credit, etc.) were also highlighted, as well as the crucial role played by men. Parallel Session 2 on ***Reproductive Health and Development*** tackled various aspects of health infrastructure that needed to be improved, the training of personnel dealing with questions of reproductive health and sexuality and provided recommen-

dations on how to reduce infant and mother mortality. The speakers also discussed how access to contraception had a direct link to sustainable development.

Session 6: Conclusions and Closing included a Closing Keynote Address on "*Mainstreaming gender in Africa's policymaking to deliver Agenda 2030*" by **Prof. Akiça Bahri** (National Agricultural Institute, Tunisia and Former Coordinator of the African Water Facility at the African Development Bank). It was agreed that Africa must address *Agenda 5 on Gender Equality* as a crucial and cross-cutting component of all the other SDGs. Lessons learnt and valuable experiences to this end were discussed. The Forum concluded by discussing the synopsis of the deliberations after which the International Forum's Declaration was presented, discussed, amended and adopted by participants. The content of the Dar es Salaam Declaration is documented below.

3 The Declaration

Women and Sustainable Development in Africa

Dar es Salaam Declaration, 10th March 2018

A call for action

Concluding the International Forum on "*Women and Sustainable Development in Africa*", held from the 8th to 10th of March 2018, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which was organised by the **Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)**, we, the participants, make the following declaration and call for action to enhance the role of women in sustainable development in Africa:

Observing:

- Africa's assets in the form of natural resources, particularly agricultural resources, energy and mining resources, human potential, and progress in primary and higher education,
- the rapid demographic and varying economic growth on the African continent,
- the persistence of political instability in some regions,
- the risks associated with climate change,
- the increase in the number of young people,
- the persistence of gender inequalities in various sectors,
- the persistence of poverty and inequality in the absence of good governance.

Considering that:

- the African scientific community must play its part in the development of expertise to implement economic growth,
- equality of rights between women and men implies free access to comprehensive education about sexuality, health care, employment, economic and financial resources, political, and economic responsibilities,
- the role of women in social and economic life is vital, and that their involvement in the process of economic, social, and environmental development of nations is obvious and necessary,
- the massive demographic growth in sub-Saharan Africa raises concerns among the states of how to avoid mass unemployment of the upcoming generation,
- violence and discrimination against women persist despite numerous initiatives.

Call on policymakers and international institutions to:

- provide better access to water and energy resources to alleviate the burden on women,
- foster efforts of appropriate education and empowerment for all, especially girls, in pre-primary, primary, secondary, technical schools, universities and research centres, as well as in vocational training and life-long learning,
- include age-appropriate gender, sexual and reproductive health education in school curricula and in public information programmes,
- improve the training and employability of young people, in particular that of girls and women,
- provide an enabling environment for industry and employers to provide resources and determine mechanisms that promote education, training and research capacities of women in Africa,
- ensure access to quality gender responsive family planning services,
- ensure equal pay and equal employment, and put in place, especially in rural areas, innovative credit systems to ensure financial empowerment of women and access to land and water,
- take all necessary measures to strengthen local initiatives already in existence and implement all measures to allow women to participate in economic, social and environmental development, improve their legal status by adopting effective legislative and policy reforms, and encourage their participation in democratic, egalitarian, and inclusive policy development, and
- put in place mechanisms to establish and support good governance.

Signed on behalf of NASAC by:

President: Prof. Mostapha Bousmina

Secretary General: Prof. Barney Pityana



Femmes et Développement Durable en Afrique

Déclaration de Dar es Salaam, 10 Mars 2018

Un appel à l'action

À l'issue du Forum international « *Femmes et développement durable en Afrique* » organisé du 8 au 10 mars 2018 à Dar es Salaam (Tanzanie) par le **Réseau des académies scientifiques africaines (NASAC),** les participantes et les participants ont tenu à présenter la déclaration suivante et lancer un appel à l'action afin de renforcer le rôle des femmes pour le développement durable en Afrique:

Constatant:

- les atouts dont dispose l'Afrique sous forme de ressources naturelles, particulièrement agricoles, énergétiques et minières, de capital humain et d'avancement en éducation primaire et supérieure,
- la croissance démographique rapide et les croissances économiques différenciées du continent africain,
- la persistance de foyers d'instabilité politique dans certaines régions,
- les risques liés aux changements climatiques,
- l'augmentation du nombre de jeunes,
- la persistance d'inégalités de genre dans différents secteurs,
- qu'en l'absence de bonnes gouvernances, la pauvreté et les inégalités vont se maintenir.

Considérant que:

- la communauté scientifique africaine doit s'engager dans l'élaboration d'expertises pour favoriser la croissance économique,
- l'égalité des droits entre les femmes et les hommes implique un libre accès à une éducation globale de la sexualité, aux soins médicaux, à l'emploi, aux ressources économiques et financières, ainsi qu'aux responsabilités politiques et économiques,
- le rôle des femmes dans la vie sociale et économique étant vital, leur implication dans le processus de développement économique, social et environnemental des Nations est une évidence et une nécessité,
- la forte croissance démographique en Afrique subsaharienne génère des questionnements des États sur les meilleures options pour éviter le chômage de masse des générations montantes,
- les violences et les discriminations envers les femmes persistent malgré de nombreuses initiatives.

En appellent aux responsables politiques et aux institutions internationales à:

- fournir un meilleur accès à l'eau et aux ressources énergétiques pour alléger le fardeau qui pèse sur les femmes,
- favoriser les efforts d'éducation et d'autonomisation appropriées pour tous, en particulier les filles, à l'école maternelle, au primaire, au secondaire, dans les écoles techniques, dans les universités et les centres de recherches, ainsi que dans l'apprentissage professionnel et la formation permanente,
- inscrire, aux âges appropriés, le genre, l'éducation sexuelle et la santé de la reproduction dans les cursus scolaires et dans les programmes d'information du public,
- améliorer la formation et l'employabilité des jeunes, en particulier celles des filles et des femmes,
- offrir un environnement favorable à l'industrie et aux employeurs pour fournir des ressources et déterminer des mécanismes de nature à promouvoir les capacités d'éducation, de formation et de recherche pour les femmes en Afrique,
- assurer l'accès à des services de planification familiale dédiés au genre,
- assurer l'égalité des salaires et de l'emploi et mettre en place, particulièrement dans les zones rurales, des systèmes de crédit innovants pour garantir l'autonomisation financière des femmes et l'accès à la terre et à l'eau,
- prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour renforcer les initiatives locales déjà existantes permettant l'insertion des femmes dans le développement économique, social et environnemental, améliorer leur statut légal, par des mesures législatives efficaces, des réformes politiques et encourager leur participation à l'élaboration de politiques démocratiques, paritaires, ouvertes à toutes et tous, et
- mettre en place des mécanismes pour établir et soutenir de bonnes gouvernances.

Signé au nom de la NASAC par:

Président: Prof. Mostapha Bousmina

Secrétaire général: Prof. Barney Pityana

