

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Nairobi, Kenya: The Network of Women Leaders in the United Nations, Nairobi duty station, held a meeting with women working in the UN in Nairobi interested in advancing their careers and men who are advocates for gender equality. The event dubbed **“Breaking the Glass Ceiling”** was held on 9 December 2015 at the UN complex. The meeting provided an opportunity for UN staff in Nairobi to interact with the Network members and listen to the guest speaker, Ms. Elizabeth Lwanga on career advancement within the UN.

The Network of Women Leaders in the United Nations in Nairobi was launched on the 27th of November 2013, with the agenda of supporting the advancement of women within the UN in Nairobi and especially within the senior management level. This Network brings together senior women leaders committed to



Network co-chairs Ambassador Sahle-Work Zewde and Ms. Christine Musisi during the event.

Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment within the UN, and in their areas of work.

The Network is co-chaired by UN Under-Secretary General and Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Ambassador Sahle-Work Zewde, and Ms. Christine Musisi, UN Women’s Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Sahle-Work Zewde advised that women do not have to wait to get to the top jobs, but need to figure out what to do and make it work. On her part, UNDP Resident Representative, Ms Nardos Bekele Thomas, who is also a member of the Network, noted that “there are so many obstacles, deep entrenched obstacles and we can only do it if we are together.”

Breaking the Glass Ceiling



The Guest speaker at the event, Ms. Elizabeth Lwanga, addressing staff at the UN in Nairobi.

Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

Ms. Christine Musisi pointed out that in recognition of the complexities and challenges many professional women face, in their day-to-day lives and in efforts towards advancing their careers, the Network will establish a mentorship program through which women within the UN Nairobi duty station, will have access to women leaders in the UN who have made significant professional strides, and benefit from their knowledge and skills, towards building their own professional

competencies.

In her key note address, the Guest Speaker Ms. Elizabeth Lwanga, former UNDP Resident Representative pointed out that commitment to development, loving your work, respect, leadership, integrity, risk taking and professionalism are among the key elements to a successful career. She also advised all women within the UN to be willing to compete for positions in order to have opportunities to lead as women.

Since its launch, the Network has over 20 members and looks forward to adding to this number, as the mentorship programme is established.

The Government of Japan supports Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in South Sudan

Juba, South Sudan: The Government of South Sudan, represented by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management officially launched the UN Women Humanitarian Assistance Programme on 4 December 2015 at Landmark Hotel in Juba. The Government of Japan provided US\$ 3.5 million to UN Women as funding for the programme which aims to build resilience of over 6,000 women and girls affected by conflict.

The two year programme will be implemented in Central Equatorial State (Juba County), Lakes State (Awerial County) and Eastern Equatorial State (Pageri Administrative Area).

The UN Women Humanitarian Assis-



Participants at the launch. Photo credit: York Wani

tance Programme will contribute to filling critical gender gaps in the ongoing humanitarian response in South Sudan. The programme will also provide technical and capacity building support to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster

Management and other international and national humanitarian actors, to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment needs and rights are adequately and sustainably integrated into all future humanitarian response and recovery strategic plans.

In his welcome statement, Mr. Lansana Woneh, UN Women Deputy Country Representative said that the programme will complement the work of other humanitarian actors in South Sudan, particularly the hard hit and most vulnerable population of women, girls and children affected by conflict.



H.E. Kiya Masahiko, Japanese Ambassador to South Sudan making his remarks at the launch

Photo credit: York Wani

The Government of Japan supports Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in South Sudan

In his key note statement, His Excellency, Kiya Masahiko, the Japanese Ambassador to South Sudan affirmed Japanese Government's commitment to continue supporting gender equality and women's empowerment. He also revealed his Government's contribution of US\$ 3 billion to the UN General Assembly in 2013 to address the issues of gender equality and women empowerment.



UN Women Deputy Country Representative, Mr. Lansana Wonneh (right) with the Japanese Ambassador to South Sudan, H.E Kiya Masahiko (center) during the launch
Photo credit: York Wani

Sue Lautze, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, speaking on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator, reiterated the suffering of women and girls and the risky coping mechanisms such as transactional sex which further exposed them to sexual and gender-based violence. She encouraged stakeholders to remove the phrase **“Building Resilience among Women and Girls affected by Conflict in South Sudan”** written at the back of their t-shirts and imprint it on their hearts.

The programme was launched by Professor Lokulenge Lole, Chairperson of the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission who also represented the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. “This programme comes at a critical time when our women and girls are still the most affected and marginalized group in our community,” said Prof Lokulenge. He also commended the programme for taking into account the needs of the host community who normally bear the burden associated with settlements of Internally Displaced People .

Professor Lokulenge thanked the Government and People of Japan for their commitment to support South Sudan. In closing, Prof Lokulenge reiterated the commitment of the Government of South Sudan to ensuring success of the Humanitarian Assistance Programme.

Ethiopia commemorates the International Human Rights Day and marks the close of the 16 Days of Activism campaign against Gender-Based Violence

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: The United Nations in Ethiopia commemorated the International Human Rights Day and the end of the [16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender-based Violence](#) on 10 December 2015 by holding a Press Conference at the ECA building. Those present at the event included Mme. Letty Chiwara, UN Women Ethiopia Country Representative, Ms. Takiwaa Manuh, Director of the Social Development Policy Division at ECA, Ms. Eden Taye, Human Rights Officer at UNOHCHR and a Representative from Africa Union.

This event was marked by unprecedented mobilization of the entire United Nations team in Ethiopia with strong support from UNECA, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and UN Women Ethiopia in order to light up in orange the ECA building for the first time since the launch of the **"Orange the world"** movement, under the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to end violence against Women campaign in 2008. The lighting took place on the 25th November to commemorate the [International Day for the Elimination of Gender Based Violence](#) against Women and Girls in



*Ms. Takiwaa Manuh, Mme Letty and Ms Eden Taye during the press conference.
Photo Credits: UN Women/Paula Mata*

the country in the presence of UN Resident Coordinator for Ethiopia, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, Mr. Faustin Yao, Representative of UNFPA in Ethiopia and UN Women staff.

Mme. Letty Chiwara, Ms. Takiwaa Manuh and Ms. Eden Taye who spoke during the press conference emphasized the importance of the adoption of the new development framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 in order to provide the international community with a golden opportunity to position gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment at the center of the global agenda.

"If we are to step it up, to reach our target of a Violence free Ethiopia by 2030, we need to adopt a multi-sectoral approach which brings together all sectors including education, health, justice, security, finance and economic empowerment. We also need to strengthen partnerships across all actors including the Civil Society Organizations, religious institutions, community based organizations, men, women, girls and boys. Greater investment in monitoring mechanisms through the collection of gender and regional disaggregated data is a priority," stated Mme. Letty Chiwara.

Ethiopia commemorates the International Human Rights Day and marks the close of the 16 Days of Activism campaign against Gender-Based Violence

In addition, Ms. Takiywaa Manuh referred to the importance of implementing legal frameworks and called for governments to continue mobilizing the population and raising awareness in all public institutions and the private sector on women's fundamental human rights. "Governments must galvanize national level actions to enforce the rule of law, and to criminalize VAW as one of the key entry points to end gender based violence in the continent," she said.

On her part, Ms. Eden Taye, on behalf of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights for Eastern Africa, highlighted that "The International Human Rights Day is celebrated across the world today under the theme 'our rights, our freedoms. Always'. Gender equality is at the very heart of human rights and United Nations' values. Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world."



ECA Building light up in orange. Photo credits: UN Women/Paula Mata

Speaking about the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, Mme. Letty Chiwara indicated that for her and UN Women Ethiopia, "this is not the end of a campaign – but rather the beginning of the actions for us to live in an Ethiopia where women and girls enjoy freedom, security and their full human rights. This country is on the rise and we can only sustain this growth if 51% of the population have the opportunity and freedom to equally and actively contribute to the country's development."



Mme Letty Chiwara, Mme Thoko Rudvidzo, Ms. Takiywaa Manuh, Ms. Eden Taye, UN Women Ethiopia staff members and journalists group picture. Photo Credits: UN Women/Paula Mata

Africa's first democratically elected female head of state visits the United Nations complex in Nairobi

Nairobi, Kenya: H.E. Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, visited the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) on 15 December 2015. During her time in the UN Complex, she addressed UN staff members and planted a tree as well as toured part of the compound.

President Johnson-Sirleaf is Africa's first democratically elected female Head of State. She was first elected in 2005 and is currently serving her second term as President. She previously worked for the United Nations, serving as Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of its Regional Bureau for Africa, with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General. She also co-authored the first **Pro-**



H.E. Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia addressing the UN staff members at the UN complex in Nairobi. Photo credit: UN Women/ Martha Wanjala

gress of the World's Women Report.

While addressing UN staff members, President Johnson-Sirleaf pointed out that 2015 was a defining year for UN and the global community—end of the MDGs and beginning of the SDGs. She also com-

and help us make the world a better place.”

President Johnson-Sirleaf was in Kenya for the 10th World Trade Organization (WTO) conference, which was being held for the first time in Africa. She noted that Liberia was being admitted as a member state of the WTO.

Ms. Josephine Odera, UN Women's Advisor on Leadership and Governance-Eastern and Southern Africa Region presented a gift to President Johnson-Sirleaf on behalf of the UN fraternity in recognition of her contribution to Gender Equality and Women Empowerment throughout her career.



Ms. Josephine Odera presents a gift to President Johnson-Sirleaf. Photo credit: UN Women/ Martha Wanjala

mended the work done by UN agencies globally and encouraged staff members to “Go out as agents of change

Uganda marks 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

Kampala, Uganda: As part of the [16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign](#) that runs from 25 November – 10 December, UN Women Uganda partnered with Touch Base Africa media house to hold a CEO evening engagement event on 28 November 2015. The event ***Engaging Business Leaders to Eliminate Violence against Women***, aimed to create awareness and secure commitments from business leaders to work towards eliminating violence against women in the workplace.

The event created an opportunity for sensitization on issues of violence against women and practical recommendations as to how businesses may address this vice at the workplace, including under the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs).

With remarks from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Center for Domestic Violence Prevention, Federation of Uganda Employers, White Ribbon Campaign, and Let Girls Lead; business leaders present were sensitized on the prevalence and socio-economic effects of violence against women.



Participants at event. Photo credit: UN Women/Nadine Kamolleh

In a passionate plea for all to take action on ending violence against women, 18 year old Let Girls Lead representative Rebecca Nabbosa stated that “Each individual has the power to eradicate violence against girls. It is time to eradicate this outrage and create a society where our sisters are not viewed as someone’s property, where their potential is considered to their own agency, where opportunities are made available to girls on an equal basis and they have a right to make a choice about their sexual health. This is the moment!”

In her welcome remarks, UN Women Country Representative Ms Hodan Addou said that all companies

have the responsibility to “ensure that work places are violence-free for all women and girls by taking steps such as enforcing zero-tolerance policies against verbal and/or physical abuse, sexual harassment and any other form of violence.” Ms Addou called upon all CEOs to take up the issue of eliminating violence against women and suggested that the WEPs offer guidance on measures businesses can take. “I call upon all CEOs and business leaders present to take serious the issue of violence against women and recognize the key role that you can play towards eliminating this vice. The Women's Empowerment Principles offer guidance on

Uganda marks 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

measures one can take towards eliminating violence against women in the workplace.”

In her address Ms Fatmah Nsereko of the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) informed participants that FUE has embraced the Female Future Program; an idea developed by and borrowed from the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO), and adapted to the Ugandan situation to address the gender gap in leadership positions. “Through our gender equality trainings of the

Female Future Program that contributes to women getting into higher positions in the workplace and the networks we organize, we at the Federation of Uganda Employers are committed to continuously increasing awareness of the WEP’s, to support end violence against women in the workplace and follow up with the companies that signed the CEO’s statement to ensure progress.” said Ms. Nsereko.

The event concluded with a call for CEOs to make personal pledges to take action on ending violence against women. UN Women Uganda plans to continue engaging the private sector in the fight to end violence against women and the broader goal of achieving gender equality.



*UN Women Country Representative Ms Hodan Addou makes a personal commitment to take action on ending violence against women
Photo credit: UN Women/Nadine Kamolleh*



*Various CEOs sign personal commitments to take action on ending violence against women.
Photo credit: UN Women/Heleen Annemans and Nadine Kamolleh*

Gender perspectives on climate change

Paris: UN Women and the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) shared their working paper on [Empowering Women for Sustainable Energy Solutions to address Climate Change](#) at the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) in Paris on December 6 2015. In addition, UN Women and PEI joined the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in hosting a gender pavillion at the forum which brought together several organizations working on the gender-environment nexus. The gender pavillion, which was well visited, offered an opportunity for UN Women and PEI to share their experiences of working on the gender-environment nexus with civil society organizations, academia and policy makers.

The working paper draws on the experiences by UN Women and the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) and aims to present potential solutions to the implementation challenge of gender-sensitive environment and climate change policies and development programming.

The paper was produced on the



Participants at the gender pavillion during the Global Landscape Forum in Paris.

Photo credit: UN Women/ Asa Torkelsson

realization that renewable clean energy and gender equality are pre-conditions for sustainable development and for tackling climate change. Women's knowledge, empowerment and collective action are central to finding and building more environmentally sustainable pathways to manage the environment, adapt to climate change and secure access to sustainable energy.

It is clear that gender, environment and climate change are cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed simultaneously to achieve sustainable development goals and to address existing inequalities. Although positive changes are emerg-

ing, several challenges remain in integrating gender issues more comprehensively into climate and energy policies in Africa, and to linking such policies more closely to programming and budgeting to ensure implementation of those activities.

Arafa Mwamba Halfani is a Solar Engineer from Mtwara, Tanzania. During a side session at the GLF on 'Transforming Climate Change Mitigation – Sharing lessons and best practices from gender integration' Arafa shared her experience of becoming a solar engineer. Arafa explained how with the support of UN Women, she participated in a six

Gender perspectives on climate change

month training course on how to install and maintain solar energy panels at the Barefoot College in India. Following the training, Arafa returned to Mtwara and installed solar lighting units in households providing a new clean source of energy, which served as her source of income.



Arafa Mwamba Halfani shares her experiences as a solar engineer from Tanzania during a side session at the Global Landscape Forum.

Photo credit: UN Women/Asa Torkelsson

The lighting project has increased women's voice and independence. The solar engineers and other women members of the village solar energy committees are now active participants in village meetings and strong role models for their peers, their daughters and other young girls. "I was not able to talk in public with confidence before but now I can do it with complete confidence," says Arafa. The men recognize that women can have skills, earn money and be productive community members – a recognition that opens the door for women to pursue other income-generating activities as well.

UN Women and UNDP-UNEP PEI showcased various materials at the gender pavilion such as the report on [The cost of the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda](#), policy brief on Technologies for Rural Women, publications on [Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty reduction and Sustainable Development - A Handbook to strengthen Planning and Budgeting Processes](#), as well as videos such as [Women in Power, Tanzania](#), [Rubaya sustainable village where women are taking the lead on sustainable and climate smart development](#) and [L'Union de Yanta ou la personnification féminine du Développement Durable](#)

He for She Movement launched in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia under the leadership of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), in collaboration and partnership with the UN Women Ethiopia Country Office and the UN Gender Theme Group, officially launched the HeforShe Movement in Ethiopia at the Capital Hotel in Addis Ababa on the eve of 28th December 2015.



The colorful event was attended by Senior Government officials, Diplomats, the UN Resident Coordinator, UN Country Team Heads of agencies, as well as representatives from Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Universities, Academia, Religious and Community Leaders and the Media. The Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn officially launched the HeforShe via a video message. In his message, the Prime Minister called all Ethiopian men to stand up for gender equality and shield and protect women from violence. “Ethiopian Women’s issue is our issue. I call upon everyone to stand up for the respect of Wom-

From left: Dr. Mulugeta Debebe and his daughter, Mr. Admasu Nebebe, Mme Letty, Minister H.E Mr. Abdulfatah Abdullahi, H.E Mme. Alemitu Oumt applauding the Video Message address by the Prime Minister of the FDR of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn officially launching the HeForShe Movement in Ethiopia.

Photo credit by: Amanuel Girmay .

en’s rights and interests, to collaborate and work with women to ensure that they have equal opportunities and put in place efforts to safeguard and promote women empowerment,” said Mr. Desalegn.

H.E Mme. Alemitu Oumt, the state Minister, opened the ceremony with a clear and strong message stating that “boys and men involvement is essential for gender equality. We can show progress and advancement in many sectors, but unless we end gender-based discrimination and violence, we can never become a great nation.” She was

speaking on behalf of the Minister of Women and Children Affairs, H.E Mme Zenebu Tadesse.

In her speech, Mme Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, AU and UNECA, introduced the HeforShe Campaign and its objectives. She emphasized that the launch was only the beginning of a social movement which will change the landscape of gender equality in Ethiopia. “We still have a lot of work to accomplish. Through the HeforShe movement, we will work together with the Government and the private sector, as well as

He for She Movement launched in Ethiopia



State Minister of the FDR of Ethiopia, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, H.E Mme. Alemitu Oumt giving her welcoming remarks during the launch of the HeForShe Movement in Ethiopia. Photo credit by: Amanuel Girmay .

religious councils and the youth to bring men and boys to the table and bring this movement to all the Regions of Ethiopia. We will engage the youth and particularly young men and communities to create a generation where Gender inequality will be history," she pledged.

Several artists also heeded to the HeForShe call and contributed their time and talent to the call. Monica Manaker wrote a theme song entitled "HeforShe, SheforHim" which she performed during the launch. "it's time to build, It's time to begin to unify our dreams, to raise the voice of equality, move your soul into the lead, Only together can we shape the path , Only together can we share love," she says in her song. Wassi and Woah, two young HeforShe male artist also performed a song dedicated to women. The song, entitled "Kena Beyi" meaning keep your head up called for women to stand up for themselves and not despair during hard times. The event concluded by a performance from Melaku Belay, a well-known Ethiopian traditional dancer and the EthioColor band who performed in honor of women.

For more information on Ethiopia HeforShe Movement, visit
<http://www.heforshe.org/>



Melaku Belay and the EthioColor band dancing in honor of women during the launch of the HeForShe Movement in Ethiopia. Photo credit by: Amanuel Girmay .

Ugandan men ‘Walk a Mile in her Shoes’

Kampala, Uganda: UN Women Uganda in collaboration with the Uganda Police Force, White Ribbon Campaign, Shelter for Women and Children, Makerere University HeforShe Club, Uganda Youth Network, International Justice Mission and other civil society organisations marked the end of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign on 5 December 2015, with a HeforShe male solidarity march aimed at increasing participation of men in ending violence against women and girls.

Led by the Uganda Police Force marching band and Chief Walker, Hon. Justice David Batema, a High Court judge and well-known gender equality advocate, 250 participants hailing from Uganda Police Force, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, UN agencies and civil society organisations marched one mile through central Kampala passing symbolic locations such as the Parliament of Uganda, the Independence Memorial, the Freedom Square, Central Police Station, the High Court, and the State House Nakasero. A substantial number of participants walked in women's high



Men walking in women's high heeled shoes to indicate their commitment to ending violence against women. Photo credit: UN Women/Sarah Parle

heeled shoes while others carried messages to indicate their commitment to ending violence against women.

The event [Walk a Mile in Her Shoes](#) is the first of its kind in Uganda and aims to increase male participation in the fight for gender equality and ending violence against women and girls. It is an initiative of Venture Humanity Inc., a U.S.-based non-profit, which held the first march in 2001. It has since become a worldwide movement with tens of thousands of men marching to raise awareness and funds for violence

against women.

Participants gathered at the Kampala Railways Grounds for a number of speeches and entertainment after the march. Remarks were given by Chief Walker Hon. Justice Batema, AIGP Uganda Police Force Mr Asuman Mugenyi, UN Women Country Representative Ms Hodan Addou and civil society representatives.

In her address, Ms Addou called upon all men present to tackle the issue of violence against women, "I call upon all men and boys present to take serious the issue violence against women and recognize the

Ugandan men ‘Walk a Mile in her Shoes’

key role that you can play towards eliminating this vice. I believe that if we all work together — governments, civil society organizations, the United Nations system, businesses, schools, men and women—we will eventually achieve a more equal Uganda, where women and girls can and will live free from violence.”

Assistant Inspector General of Police Mr. Asumani Mugenyi who spoke on behalf of Inspector General of Police Gen. Kale Kayihura reiterated that the Uganda Police Force is committed to address violence against girls and women. Chief Walker Hon. Justice Batema reminded participants



Participants carry a ‘walk a mile in her shoes’ banner to indicate their commitment to ending violence against women. Photo credit: The Community Agenda/Umar Weswala,

that the term ‘violence against women’ denotes various forms and that all forms such as physical, sexual, emotional/ psychological and economical violence, must be taken seriously.

It is envisaged that the ‘Walk a Mile in Her Shoes’ HeforShe male solidarity march will become an annual event of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign in Uganda.



Uganda Police Force ‘walk a mile in her shoes’ Photo credit: UN Women/Sarah Parle

Regional Technical Experts Workshop on Gender and Macroeconomic Policies in Africa

Nairobi, Kenya: UN Women, ESARO in collaboration with the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) held a 2-day Regional Technical Experts Workshop on Gender and Macroeconomic Policies in Africa from 7 -8 December 2015 at the Jacaranda Hotel in Nairobi.

The workshop brought together regional experts on gender, finance and macro-economics to discuss the progress that has been made to mainstream gender in fiscal and macro-economic policies in Africa. Participants also discussed the findings of a study on assessing gender-responsive macroeconomic policies in Africa and proposed strategies for the development of a gender responsive alternative macro-economic framework.

The workshop, which convened more than 20 participants across the region, was held on the background that inclusion of women's voices in fiscal and economic policy formulation and the opportunities women have to effectively engage with and actively participate in formal financing and economic processes is often dependent on their

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Zenebework Tedasse, Awino Oketch and Gisele Yitamben during one of the experts panel discussions. Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

capacity as well political mobilization prior to the process itself.

While making a presentation on UN Women's Flagship report – [Progress of the world's women report 2015-2016](#), Ms. Christine Musisi, UN Women Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa noted that 40 per cent of women from poor households do not work compared to 4 per cent of men from similar households. "We need to look at this issue of 'the care penalty' where the presence of children in the household is associated with gender pay gap" she said. She also noted that "We need to not only redistribute roles and responsibilities between men and women but

also between the household and the state. Gender equality needs to be seen not as a burden to be addressed but as a solution to sustainable economic growth"

On her part, Ms. Dinah Musindarwezo, FEMNET Executive Director pointed out that "We need to develop our own narratives as African CSOs when it comes to debates around the care economy and women's unpaid care worker."

Prof. Kathleen Lahey from Queens University advised that people need to move from 'gender sensitive' or 'gender responsive' to parity. "Let's stop talking about add on concepts and start talking gender," said Prof. Lahey.

Regional Technical Experts Workshop on Gender and Macroeconomic Policies in Africa

During the workshop, participants had group discussions to analyse various issues such as development of alternative frameworks, capacity building, research and advocacy with an aim of defining a strategy and a roadmap of key initiatives.



Various group discussion during the workshop. Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

At the end of the workshop, it was agreed that the strategy towards alternative macro-economic framework which addresses gender biases in existing frameworks should be seen as an entry point and not an ending itself in the push towards structural transformation of gender relations.

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women needs worldwide.

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South Sudan

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