



INVITATION FOR INITIATIVES/ INNOVATIONS

Guidelines for Development and Submission of Initiatives/ Innovations on Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in Africa for [THE INNOVATIVE MARKET PLACE PLATFORM](#) at the Timeless Women's Conference, 2016.

February 8th – 10th 2016- Royal Orchid Hotel, Nairobi- Kenya

Introduction

In 2015 Timeless Conference focused on “HEALING HEELS” ... transforming mindsets, attitudes and destroying limiting belief patterns to move into a limitless thought pattern with a positive mindset and attitude for optimization of potential and resources for women.

In 2016, Timeless Conference will take the conversation higher as it dialogues on what we must now DO if Africa is going to achieve exponential socio-economic growth. The theme “TAKING THE STEP” will challenge the women of Africa to take a step to shift the status quo and begin to realize tangible impact in all areas pertinent to social and economic transformation of Africa. The conference will look at the key drivers of social and economic changes and discuss the roles of various stakeholders in building sustainable change.

2016 Timeless Women's Conference shall be used as an opportunity to share great initiatives/ innovations/ interventions and programmes that create social and economic impacts in the lives of women in Africa. These initiatives should be replicable and shared on a wider scale. These will be shared in a market place at the conference with global participants who shall include business leaders, development partners, governments, civil society, the private sector players and other players in the economy. They shall be initiatives with evidenced impact in the countries of operations. The market place shall provide a space for all selected interventions to be profiled by way of a knowledge product and a booth to share what has worked or what is working and why. Three best initiatives shall be selected for awards and oral presentation at the market place. This is an opportunity for the region to link to potential partners, governments, donors and development agencies and convince them that we do real initiatives that are replicable in certain contexts.

Purpose of the Market Place

The main purpose of the market place is to create a culture of innovative business models & initiatives that guarantee wealth and job creation while implementing ideas that create socio-economic transformation in the lives of women in Africa.



Objectives of the Market Place

- ✓ To showcase one key country and regional initiatives, best practices and/ or innovation in socio-economic interventions in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- ✓ The market place seeks to showcase programmes on social and economic empowerment as well as provide evidence information on the impact of these programmes at various levels including policies, institutions and in the lives of women.
- ✓ To document the best practices/innovations and produce a knowledge product of Socio-economic empowerment of women Market Place and share with development partners who could contact organizations showcasing at their own levels.

Each organization/ agency is expected to present only one best practice/innovation but they are encouraged to share various knowledge products that they have produced through their booths at the market place.

Eligibility Criteria

Who can apply?

- ✓ African-based based public or private, governmental or non-governmental, research and development organizations and academic institutions.
- ✓ Individuals representing an African-based public or private, governmental or non-governmental, research and development organizations and academic institutions.
- ✓ Organizations/ Individuals must possess the required competencies to support innovation within the institution.
- ✓ Initiatives shall sponsor themselves to the event but UN Women will sponsor the booths for showcasing the initiatives and award the top three best rated innovations.

Initiative/ Innovation General Guidelines

- ✓ The initiatives/ innovations must be related to socio-economic interventions only.
- ✓ Initiatives/ innovations must be implemented in Africa or other areas but to the benefit of African women.
- ✓ Initiatives/ innovations addressing highly sensitive issues such as tests involving human subjects will undergo additional scrutiny.
- ✓ Initiatives/ innovations must be written in English and in accordance with these guidelines in order to receive full consideration.



- ✓ The initiatives/ innovations must be submitted in word or pdf and accompanying photos submitted in JPG, TIF, PNG, or GIF submitted both within the document and as separate attachments- an application form is available for this purpose.

Assessment Criteria

The initiatives/ innovations will be assessed according to the preliminary criteria outlined below. Please note that the assessment criteria might be modified by the Market Place Screening Committee if they find an additional element that need to be included in the criteria.

- ✓ *Initiatives/ Innovations Definition*- Clearly describe the project rationale and the specific problem that it has addressed.
- ✓ *Objectives*- Clearly and specifically state the initiatives/ innovations objective(s). It should be linked to the socio-economic empowerment and indicate the primary targeted beneficiary group for which the initiatives/ innovations target.
- ✓ *Methodology*- Describe clearly and in detail the methods used to achieve the initiatives/ innovations objectives, including measurements and indicators. Provide an estimate of the number of women reached during initiatives/ innovations implementation.
- ✓ *Innovation and replicability*- Innovation is a major differentiating element for the Market Place. Innovation includes new technologies, new products, new arrangements or services, among others. The initiatives/ innovations will be assessed according to how it differs from existing approaches and its replicability.
- ✓ *Results*- Describe the results of the initiatives/ innovations including qualitative and quantitative information.
- ✓ *Socio-Economic Development Impact*- Describe the development impact of the initiatives/ innovations so far. Include the number of women beneficiaries if possible. Indicators should be clear, discrete and measurable.

Selection Process

This call for initiatives/ innovations is a 2-step competitive process. Applicants are requested to submit an initiative/ innovation for evaluation and, if selected, will be requested to showcase it at the Timeless Women's conference in February 2016. Only top three rated initiatives/ innovations shall be awarded at the conference while up to 20 initiatives/ innovations shall be showcased at a



designated market place through allocated booths for the agencies and corporate organizations selected.

- ✓ Step 1. All submitted initiatives/ innovations will be screened by the Market Place Screening Committee (SC) for eligibility based on an assessment criteria. If necessary, external expert advice will be requested by the SC.
- ✓ Step 2. Further screening will be done to select top three initiatives/ innovations by the delegates of the conference which will be awarded for their outstanding social- economic impact in the lives of women. The awardees will be given a chance to present their initiatives/ innovations to the conference participants during the conference.

Exhibition Booth at the Market Place

Up to 20 initiatives/ innovations selected will be packaged in a publication by UN Women and Timeless Women of Wonder and will be showcased at the market place. Organizations/ Agencies selected are encouraged to prepare any knowledge products for display relating to the best practices/innovations and initiatives in their areas for the market place. These could include publications, video clips, charts, photos, newspaper clips, slide shows, reports, etc.

Combined Knowledge Product

All organizations/ agencies should send to UN Women their innovation/ initiative to be shared in the publication/ knowledge product of not more two pages for each best practice and/ or innovation/ initiative. This should be accompanied with relevant photographs and contacts of the organizations. This should be sent to Jack Abebe- jack.abebe@unwomen.org and copied to June Nyakan- nyakan@twowafrika.com, nyakanmunyeki@gmail.com or delivered to UN Women Eastern and Southern Regional Office- UN Complex, Gigiri- Block M, Ground Floor and addressed to Jack Abebe, Box 30218-00100, Nairobi- Kenya. For briefings that are heavy or have heavy and high resolution photos, please share them through drop box or WeTransfer and ensure they are accessible.

UN Women will produce a publication of the best practices/innovations to be circulated during the event. Note that information received later than 30th January 2015 may not be published in this booklet due to strict printing deadlines.



Expected Outputs of the Market Place

- ✓ Shared analysis of the state of Women's Social and Economic Empowerment in Africa, highlighting achievements and challenges
- ✓ A collation of case studies, best practices and innovations by diverse organizations/ agencies demonstrating good practices in operationalizing normative framework on Women's Economic Empowerment
- ✓ Evidence on how organizations/ agencies' work on women's economic empowerment has contributed to improving women's social and economic empowerment in Africa
- ✓ Examples of agencies' sector specific interventions and their impact on women's lives in Africa
- ✓ Information on Innovative and cutting edge examples of interventions/ programmes that could be replicated elsewhere and scaled up for impact

For any queries please contact – Jack Abebe, Knowledge Management and Research Specialist, UN Women- Eastern and Southern Africa, jack.abebe@unwomen.org and June Nyakan- Founder & Chief Executive Officer- Timeless Women of Wonder nyakan@twowafrica.com, twowafrica@gmail.com