**International Women’s Day 2022 - Concept Note**

**Theme:** Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow

**What:**

According to the African Development Bank Group, Africa is the most vulnerable continent to the Climate Change impacts. Even though Africa has contributed the least to global warming and has had the lowest emissions, climate change remains a growing threat to the continent that can jeopardise the modest development efforts that have been undertaken by the African countries over the last few decades. Climate change can have grave repercussions on the continent such as poverty, population displacement, food and water insecurity, flooding, drought and many more.

Although climate change affects everyone, women are disproportionately impacted since they represent the majority of the world’s poor and are more dependent on threatened natural resources. This disparity is called Climate Justice. Climate injustice is one of the least understood and socialised policy themes in contemporary African development. The root cause of this issue is the strained relationship between policy formation and contextualisation, and the actual realities of local communities, most vulnerable and impacted by climate change. Top-down climate action campaigns and advocacy efforts fail to communicate how climate change links to and amplifies other social injustices such as gender inequality in a way that is understandable, accessible, and palatable to vulnerable groups, particularly young people and women.

It is against this backdrop that the Youth Division within the Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate of the African Union Commission in collaboration with the UN Women, IPPF and UNICEF Liaison Offices to the AU and UNECA along with Crtve Development will jointly coordinate the continental celebration of the International Women’s Day, through a Campaign which runs throughout the month of March, 2022, under the theme ***“Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”.***

This campaign consists of a number of activities that aim at raising the awareness of Africa’s Youth on the Climate Crisis, its impact on the African Continent and its women.

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| **International Women’s Day 2022 Activities** |
| **Dates** | **Activity** |
| 4th- 11th- 18th- 25th March | Profiling Young Women and Girls (Climate Activists) |
| 3 times per week | Unpacking Climate Change and its impact on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights of African Women and Girls  |
| 7th - 14th - 21st- 28th March | Egumeni Session: Podcast Series |
| 31st of March | Egumeni Session: Youth-Led Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue |

**Objectives:**

1. To raise the awareness of African youth on the Climate Crisis and its impact on women and girls in Africa
2. To spark conversations amongst African youth around the importance of Climate Action.
3. To showcase the work being done by women climate activists in Africa.
4. To take stock of the barriers, challenges and opportunities towards enhanced role and contribution of African youth, particularly young women, in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
5. To promote multi-stakeholder consultations and commitments to address the gendered and age-based vulnerabilities to climate change and environmental disasters.

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Awareness on the key youth, GEWE and climate change issues created.
2. Youth-driven proposals to advance gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies identified.
3. Multi-stakeholder space for dialogue to coherently advance the youth, GEWE and climate change agenda on the continent created.
4. Innovative solutions to the climate crisis and the role of African women as change makers for climate change adaptation and mitigation promoted.

**Modality:**

The youth centred IWD 2022 Africa regional celebrations will be conducted virtually.

**Key Thematic Areas**

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| **Week 1** | **Women, Climate Change and Gender Equality** |
| **Week 2** | **Climate Change and Women’s Economic Empowerment** |
| **Week 3** | **Climate Change and Food Security** |
| **Week 4** | **Climate Change and Health** |