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UN WOMEN

WOMEN COUNT

IWD 2024

Invest in Women: *Accelerate Progress*

A PRE-INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GENDER STATISTICS VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE

6 March 2024 | 11h00 - 13h30 (EAT)

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Watch the roundtable on YouTube
bit.ly/GenderDataIWD2024Stream.



OVERVIEW OF EVENT AND KEY PARTNERS

Background and Context: International Women's Day 2024

One of the key challenges in achieving gender equality by 2030 is an alarming lack of financing with a staggering USD 360 billion annual deficit in spending on gender-equality measures.

The 2024 International Women's Day (IWD) theme, "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress", recognizes the crucial role of financing in closing the gender gap both for sustainable development and in keeping with Africa's development priorities as articulated in Agenda 2063. The IWD 2023 theme aligns with the 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) theme on "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective".

About the event

In this pre-IWD2024 roundtable event, Making Every Woman and Girl Count (Women Count), UN Women's global gender data and statistics programme, convened sector actors to call for investing in women to accelerate progress through expertly-moderated discussions on three topics:

1. Investing in gender data as a vehicle for driving change
2. Prioritizing gender-responsive budgeting
3. Shifting to a care society and implementing gender-responsive financing

The virtual roundtable event aimed to explore opportunities for diverse sector players to invest in women in their respective spheres of influence to accelerate progress towards both Africa's Agenda 2063 and the Global Agenda 2030. The virtual roundtable was further aimed at: highlighting the importance of the above three aspects of investing in women; and showcasing various actors' successes in investing in their capacities in the respective areas.

KEY PARTNERS

AfDB

AfDB is a multilateral institution whose objective is to contribute to the sustainable economic development and social progress of African countries. The AfDB Group comprises: AfDB; the African Development Fund (ADF); and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF). The Group's development agenda is five-pronged to: feed Africa; light up and power Africa; industrialize Africa; integrate Africa; and improve the quality of life for the people of Africa

Data2X

Data2X is a civil society organization and gender data alliance, working with partners to improve the production and use of gender data through strategic partnerships, research, advocacy, and communications. The organization's focus is to improve the quality, availability, and use of gender data to make a practical difference in the lives of women and girls worldwide. Over the past decade, Data2X has evolved from a small start-up to a recognized global CSO with the networks and expertise to drive progress on gender data.

ECA

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is made up of 54 member States and plays a dual role as a regional arm of the UN and as a key component of the African institutional landscape making it well positioned to make unique contributions to address the Continent's development challenges. ECA collects, analyzes, and disseminates data on various economic and social indicators including population, national accounts, prices, trade, and health provides data and statistics to support evidence-based policymaking and decision-making in Africa. Through its African Centre for Statistics, ECA works with national statistical offices in African countries to improve the availability and quality of data. The Centre also provides technical assistance to African countries to help them develop their statistical systems and capacities and promotes the use of data and statistics to monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs in Africa.

UN Women | Women Count ESA, WCA and Arab States

Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, UN Women works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action, and peace and security.



MODERATOR

Yvonne Okwara is a Kenyan media personality with 17 years experience in radio and television. She has moderated several local and international panels comprising world leaders both in government and private sector including Melinda Gates, Governor Central Bank of Kenya Dr. Patrick Njoroge, Bishop TD Jakes, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, Dr. Ngozi Iweala, Director General WTO among others. She moderated the Presidential Debates in Kenya in 2017 and 2022. Yvonne is currently a Senior News Anchor and Business Editor at Citizen TV. She is a media consultant for Kenya's National Defence College, and Chairs the ENACTUS Business Advisory Council that works to upskill youth in universities. In addition, Yvonne also chairs the Advisory Board of Africa Uncensored, an independent media house set up by Kenya's finest investigative journalists. Yvonne is a Bloomberg Africa Leadership Initiative Media Fellow.



KEYNOTE REMARKS



**Krista Jones
Baptista**

Data2X

Welcome remarks

Krista Jones Baptista is the Executive Director of Data2X. She is a data and digital inclusion specialist with 20 years of experience in the international development sector. Previously, as Global Director of DAI Global LLC, she led the organization's Center for Digital Acceleration (CDA). In that role, she led DAI's work in data initiatives and digital development and oversaw a portfolio of digital projects and offerings across verticals and clients, including donors, private sector customers, and foundations. Krista serves on the UN Foundation Digital Impact Alliance's Advisory Committee for the Principles for Digital Development supporting industry and sector engagement and capacity building related to the Principles for Digital Development. A regular speaker on topics including women in tech, digital for development, the Principles for Digital Development, and leading technology teams, Krista has served as a mentor and judge for innovation challenges and competitions. Krista is also an adjunct professor at SAIS where she teaches graduate students on Digital Development: Innovative Uses of Technology in Emerging Markets. Previously, Krista worked in management consulting where she worked with organizations on data driven leadership and management competency projects. She holds a Master of Arts in international economics from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and an undergraduate degree in cultural geography from Clark University.





Dominique Kanobana

UN Women Regional
Office for the Arab States

Framing the event

Dominique Kanobana is a Statistics Specialist at UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States where he joined mid-2023. Since joining he has contributed to the research work of UN Women including the 2 assessments on the impact of the war in Gaza on women and girls. Previously he worked with UN Women Rwanda CO since September 2012. Before that, he worked with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda from 2008 to 2012. He has 15 years of experience in large scale surveys and censuses implementation, gender data production and use as well as project management. He is currently leading the implementation of *Making Every Woman and Girl Count*—UN Women’s flagship gender data and statistics programme in the Arab States region.



Antonia Ngabala-Sodonon

UN Women Liaison
Office to the African
Union Commission and
Economic Commission for
Africa

*Keynote address and
introduction to Community
of Practice*

Antonia Ngabala-Sodonon is currently UN Women Special Representative and interim Head of UN Women Liaison office to the African Union (AU) and the Economic Commission for Africa ECA).

With over 30 years experience in international development, Antonia also serves as UN Women Resident Representative in Cote d’Ivoire. She is based in Addis Ababa.



TOPIC 1:
INVESTING IN GENDER
DATA AS A VEHICLE
FOR DRIVING CHANGE



Dr. Isabella Schmidt
UN Women East
and Southern Africa

*Introduction by ESA and
the media: gender data
as a vehicle for progress
for all*

Dr. Isabella Schmidt is the Regional Gender Statistics Advisor for East and Southern Africa for UN Women where she leads on supporting countries in creating an enabling policy environment for gender data and statistics including technical. Support and capacity building for regional and national institutions, and increasing the availability, uptake, and use of quality gender statistics in the region. Prior to joining UN Women, Isabella served as the Chief Director, Social Statistics, at Statistics South Africa for 10 years where she oversaw the production and promoted the use of social statistics in South Africa. Isabella previously worked for 14 years as an international consultant specializing in monitoring and evaluation in various countries in Africa, the Middle East, and South America in diverse sectors including food security and rural development.



John-Allan Namu
Africa Uncensored

*Introduction by ESA and
the media: gender data
as a vehicle for progress
for all*

John-Allan Namu is an award-winning investigative journalist (CNN/Multichoice African Journalist of the Year 2009, TRACE Prize winner 2019, Kenya Human Rights Defender of the Year 2022), and Founder/CEO of Africa Uncensored, Africa's only indigenous dedicated investigative journalism media house. The Human Rights Defender of the Year Award recognized John Allan's extraordinary and outstanding contribution towards the promotion and protection of human rights by defending freedom of the media, access to information and main streaming the protection of journalists as human rights defenders. Watch some his work here: [Vows to Victims: Exploring the Cultural Perceptions and Legal Ambiguities that Enable Marital Rape in Kenya](#) and here on this award winning exposé on conflict in Africa: [The Profiteers: Money, Plunder and War](#).



Christine Mungai
CNN, Aljazeera, and
Baraza Media Lab

*Introduction by ESA and
the media: gender data as a
vehicle for progress for all*

Christine Mungai is an experienced writer, journalist, curator, 2018 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and Senior producer, CNN As Equals. A data storytelling enthusiast, Christine has been published on Al Jazeera English, in the Boston Globe, CNN Opinions, the New Internationalist, and Popula.com, among other renown outlets. She is skilled in African studies and newswriting and is currently Lead Curator at Baraza Media Lab, a co-creation space that supports public-interest storytelling. Read some of her work on use of data in storytelling here: [Disinformation, mudslinging induce voter apathy in Kenyan youth](#)



Rurihose Florien
Rwanda Gender
Monitoring Office

*Rwanda case: How
gender data is being
used to invest in women
for progress*

Rurihose Florien is the Deputy Head (Deputy Chief Gender Monitor) of the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), a government institution mandated to ensure accountability for the respect of the principle of Gender Equality at all levels in Rwanda, and service delivery to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) victims. Before joining the Gender Monitoring Office, Mr. Florien grew up working with community youth organizations and worked for 10 years with DUTERIMBERE, a local women's nonprofit organization that promotes the entrepreneurship of smallholder women across Rwanda. His main goal is to promote an integrated approach to Women's Economic Empowerment, with a specific focus on rural development, and education, as well as innovative strategies to eliminate violence against women in all segments of society. Mr. Florien holds a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, as well as a post-graduate degree in Project Management from the National Institute of Business Management in India, and is pursuing a Master's degree in Gender and Development at the University of Rwanda.

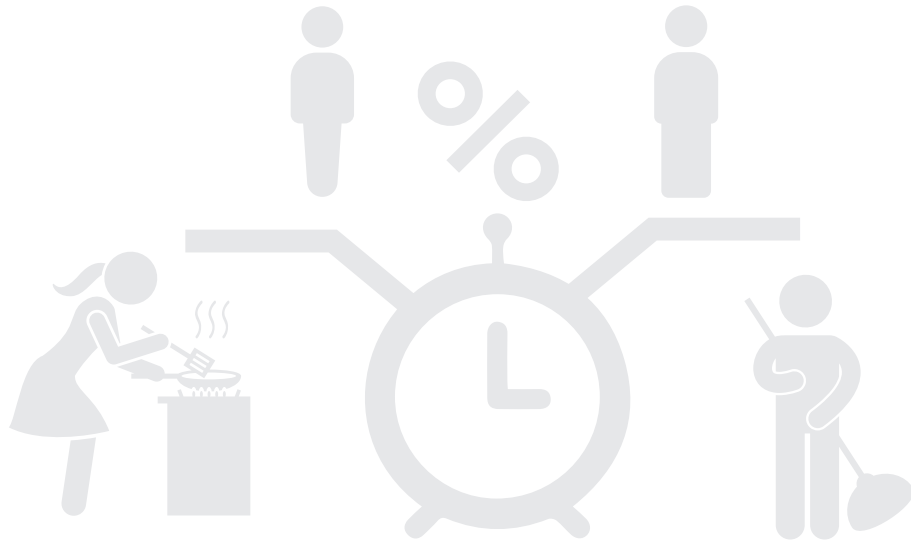


Pamela Kakande Nabukhonzo is a statistician in the field of Demographic and Social Statistics at the African Centre for Statistics of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Prior to joining ECA she worked with a national statistical office. In her current capacity, she has the core functions of supporting countries in the collection, production, analyses, and use of demographic and social data collected through censuses, civil registration and vital statistics. She is part of the ECA core team implementing the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics.

**Pamela Kakande
Nabukhonzo**

Economic Commission
for Africa

*ECA: Continental
perspective*



TOPIC 2:
PRIORITIZING
GENDER-RESPONSIVE
BUDGETING (GRB)



Monsieur Ben-Nasar Boularbah

Ministry of Finance,
Center of Excellence
for GRB, Morocco

*Introduction by Morocco:
gender-responsive
budgeting*

Monsieur Ben-Nasar Boularbah est Chef de la Division de la Budgétisation Sensible au Genre au Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances chargée de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie du Centre de l'Excellence pour la BSG. Il a occupé auparavant le poste de chef de la Division du Secteur Agricole, de la Pêche Maritime, et du Soutien des prix à la Direction du Budget et a contribué à la préparation de stratégies et des dispositifs juridiques y afférents liés aux secteurs agricoles et productifs. Ingénieur en chef principal en agroéconomie, M. Boularbah accumule un riche parcours professionnel de plus de 30 ans dans des postes de responsabilité au niveau du Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances, lui permettant d'acquérir un savoir-faire confirmé en matière de programmation budgétaire et du suivi de la performance sensible au genre.



Ms. Imane Lakchiri

Ministry of Finance,
Center of Excellence
for GRB, Morocco

*Introduction by Morocco:
gender-responsive
budgeting*

Ms. Imane Lakchiri holds the position of head of the Knowledge Management department responsible for capacity building in gender-sensitive budgeting, implementation of the BSG communication and advocacy plan and the deployment of the digital knowledge management platform. As a trainer in the field of budgetary reform, she had the opportunity to implement the LOF communication plan and the training system by adopting a participatory and pragmatic approach aimed at transferring skills to public managers. Ms. Lackchiri also has experience as a management controller responsible for implementing the contractualization process and monitoring and evaluating investment projects using State land.





Monsieur Ben-Nasar Boularbah

UN Women, Cameroun

*Cameroon case:
understanding and
appropriating budget
preparation for gender
mainstreaming*

Tiobo'o Papou Sédric Edmond est le responsable du projet Women Count au Cameroun, au Bureau National d'ONU Femmes. Statisticien de formation, il a travaillé près de 15 années à l'Institut National de la Statistique (INS) du Cameroun, notamment à la coordination du système statistique national (SSN), où il a contribué à créer les conditions et à mettre en place les capacités nécessaires pour mettre les statistiques officielles au service des politiques de développement. Il le faisait à travers la Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique (SNDS), dont il était un maillon essentiel de l'élaboration, du suivi de la mise en œuvre et de l'évaluation.



Ms. Imane Lakchiri

Ministry of Finance,
Planning and Economic
Development, Uganda

*Uganda case: linking
public spending to gender-
sensitive results & gender
and equity budgeting in
Uganda*

Margaret Kakande is the head of the budget monitoring and accountability unit in the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development in Uganda. She holds an MD in Development Economics from the University of East Anglia in the UK; a Bachelor of Statistics from Makerere University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Feminist Development Economics from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands. Kakande has lectured at Makerere University and served the government as a Social Infrastructure Economist and Social Policy Advisor. Her strengths pivot on poverty analysis; monitoring and evaluation; national budget processing and mainstreaming gender and equity issues into development projects.



Linet Miriti-Otieno
African Development
Bank

*African Development
Bank: Continental
perspective*

Linet Miriti-Otieno is an international gender and social development professional with over 20 years of experience with various organizations including Multilateral Development Banks, United Nations, NGOs and bilateral donors. She is an advocate for institutional transformation and evidence-based programming that promotes equality for men, women, girls, and boys. Currently, she works as a Chief Gender Officer for the African Development Bank where she coordinates the Bank's gender equality work in East and Southern Africa. Her role includes oversight for mainstreaming gender equality across the various investments of the African Development Bank. Ms. Miriti led the development of a Gender Marker System for the Bank, which systematizes gender mainstreaming and ensures measurement of gender results. Before joining the Bank, Ms Miriti worked with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UNWOMEN) and its predecessor UNIFEM for nine years in the East African Regional Office as well as its Headquarters in New York.



TOPIC 3:
SHIFTING TO
A CARE SOCIETY
AND IMPLEMENTING
GENDER-RESPONSIVE
FINANCING



Mehjabeen Alarakhia

UN Women, East and Southern Africa

*Introduction by ESA:
Shifting to a care society
and implementing gender-responsive financing*

Mehjabeen Alarakhia is Policy Advisor for Women Economic Empowerment for UN Women East and Southern Africa. A passionate advocate for gender justice and just transitions, Mehjabeen is a visionary leader, and can see opportunities in places where many often cannot. Mehjabeen is keen on building effective teams that achieve sustainable results in a collaborative and harmonious manner.



Ms. Sadio Kanouté

Ministry of Women, Family and Child Protection, Senegal

Senegal case: Time use, care economy & implementing gender-responsive financing

Ms. Sadio Kanouté is Head of the Gender Statistics Management Unit at the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Protection (MFFPE) in Senegal.

Sadio is an advocate for recognizing women's work and creating change using data for evidence-based laws that draw stakeholders attention to the plight of women and girls.





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