



REGIONAL SHAREFAIR ON GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

13-15 October 2015

Building on Good Practices



Regional Sharefair 2015: Gender Equality in the Extractive Industries: Building on Good Practices

13-15 October 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

Outcome Document/ Call to Action: Women in the Extractive Industries

The 2015 Regional Sharefair on *Gender Equality in the Extractive Industries* was organized by UN Women, in collaboration with the following categories of partners;

Convening Partners- UN Women, African Union Commission and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Funding Partners- International Mining for Development Centre, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, United Nations Development Programme/ the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Secretariat/ the European Union, UNECA/African Minerals Development Center, The Australian High Commission, German Development Cooperation (GDC)/ the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), The World Bank, Action Aid Kenya, Aga Khan University, Cordaid, GROOTS, Gulf African Bank, International Alert, Kenya Airways and Oxfam

Collaborating Partners- International Organization for Migration, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Global Compact, African Women in Mining Association, Econews Africa, Equity Bank Group, Friends of Lake Turkana, Gemological Institute of America, Institute of Economic Affairs Kenya, Institute for Human Rights and Business, Kenya Chamber of Mines, Publish What You Pay, Strathmore Extractives Industries Centre and Tullow Oil.

Background

The Regional Sharefair was held between 13 to 15 October, 2015 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (Kenya) with approximately 430 women and men in different strategic roles and functions from within the extractive industries (EI) sector across Africa.



Through a series of plenary and interactive group discussions challenges, solutions and opportunities were identified for gender equality and women's empowerment in the EI.

The Regional Sharefair was solution-oriented and therefore aimed at sharing knowledge, promoting innovation, good practices, legal frameworks and policies, and exploring opportunities for networking, advocacy and capacity building in support of women in the EI. The Sharefair provided a platform to interact and dialogue with women directly engaged in the EI, as well as governments, private sector, civil society and communities impacted by the EI. Extractive industries products and services were also exhibited by participants at the Sharefair.

Issues and Call to Action

Recalling the commitments in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the vision and targets of the *newly approved* Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

Recalling also the Africa Mining Vision, adopted in 2009, in which the African Union member states committed to making progress towards gender equality, equity and women's empowerment, including by integrating gender dimensions in mining policies, laws, regulations, standards and codes

Convinced that the recently approved Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5 on "Achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls", and the over 40 gender-specific targets, have opened up new opportunities to reconnect, recommit, mobilize political will and public support for women's economic empowerment within the EI sector

Recognizing the importance of natural resources, particularly those in the extractive industries, it is understood that natural resources are drivers of conflicts causing devastation of lives of women. However, there are some existing frameworks including the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework of the Democratic Republic of Congo, addressing the causes of poverty and natural resource driven conflicts. The implementation of such frameworks can enable sustainable natural resource management as a catalyst of economic development

Aware that women as full economic actors and key economic drivers in the EI sector and beyond could present remarkable potential for the achievement of the sustainable development goals and growth for Africa

Appreciative of the courage of all the women who have broken gender barriers in the extractive industries sector and now serve as role models for other women, as well as all the champions who support the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in the EI sector

Concerned about serious issues in relation to women's health and exposure to HIV and AIDS, sexual and gender-based violence, natural resource conflicts and environmental impacts

Noting that women still face numerous challenges and obstacles in their engagement in the EI and persistent gender inequalities prevail including, inter alia:

- The lack of robust gender-responsive regional and national EI legislation, regulations and policies

- The challenges to entry such as access to viable and sustainable mineral resource deposits and limited market access for women due to existing monopolies of large scale companies and limited bilateral agreements that respond to the specific needs of women
- Unresponsive and unrealistic environmental management demands on artisanal and small scale miners (ASM) that are at the same level with those placed on large scale mining operators who understand the issues (as compared to those in ASM)
- Limited publicly available and/or inadequate EI content, information and learning opportunities, in particular on licensing, the value chain and operations, that prevents the effective facilitation of women's transition from livelihood-level operations to the wealth creation opportunities possible in small, medium and large scale operations
- Financial exclusion and obstacles such as limited access to financial products and services, unrealistic collateral requirements, unsustainably high-interest rates, and inflexible lending rules and requirements
- Women's access to information on, and opportunities for decision-making in the EI sector
- Poor coordination mechanisms within the EI sector

Call on Governments, the United Nations Family, the African Union, Regional Economic Commissions and Bodies, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector To Action As Follows:

On National, Regional Policy and Legal Considerations;

- Revise and adopt the Africa Mining Vision Action Plan to ensure that gender equality perspectives are fully integrated before domestication, and monitor its implementation at national level.
- Ensure inclusive planning and cost-benefit analysis of the risks, impacts and benefits of extractive industries activities from a gender perspective.
- Ensure that the extractive industries incorporate gender equality and a human rights based approach in poverty reduction strategies
- Develop and implement gender-responsive peace and security frameworks to address resource-based conflicts and violence against women in the EI sector.
- Facilitate inter-ministerial collaboration among line ministries, such as the ministries of gender, mining, oil, gas, public works, housing and agriculture
- Facilitate regional integration of a gender responsive EI sector and south-south linkages with the regional economic communities and bodies, including the African Union Commission (AUC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). These regional communities and bodies should take the lead in facilitating bilateral agreements to open up new opportunities for women in the EI sector

- Facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships on legal and policy reforms by - and for the people, including public-private-people-partnerships to support development of gender-sensitive EI legal and policy frameworks, transparency and accountability frameworks
- Enforce the principles of gender parity, equality and equity as provided for in national, regional, continental and global gender and women's empowerment norms and standards such as CEDAW, SADC Gender and Development Protocol, COMESA Gender Protocol, SADC Mining Protocol, national constitutions with respect to access to mineral deposits rights, funding, participation in decision making within the EI sector and benefits from EI sales
- Grant women in the extractive industries rights for at least 10 years in recognition of the long gestation period of extraction, and legalize, formalize and strengthen ASM where women are the majority players. This would include putting in place the requisite health and safety procedures for the extractive industries.
- Develop and implement medium and long-term gender-responsive national action plans within the relevant extractive industries departments and ministries in Africa

On Advocacy, Capacity and Communication;

- Ensure vibrant and visible ongoing collective advocacy to promote gender responsive EI sector
- Develop and strengthen systems with timely training for and information sharing with community members, particularly women, prior to extraction, particularly in relation to potential health hazards, resettlement, compensation and rehabilitation of mining sites after closure.
- Establish harmonization and e-governance platforms in areas such as e-registration, e-licensing and procurement to facilitate content and information sharing that is also accessible to rural communities.
- Develop tailored capacity-building, training and information targeting women at different levels within the EI sector, including formal and informal companies, in areas such as enterprise development (e.g. product development, value addition, marketing), business registration, EI licensing, bilateral and multilateral agreements, as well as in technical areas (e.g. gemology, engineering and mineral geology)
- Facilitate women's agency and organizing, including through women's cooperatives to enable their entrance and access to markets and finance.

On Research, Knowledge Management and Capacity-building;

- Set up a virtual and innovative platform "Global EI Platform for Women" to close information gaps, nurture talents and skills, and facilitate women's networking, training, mentoring, information sharing and incubation, as well as capacity-building and advocacy to promote a gender-responsive EI sector.
- Encourage affirmative action, transformational leadership, mobilize the media to give voice to women in EI, promote women role models, and match mentors and mentees under UN Women's mentoring approach in the EI sector.
- Collect sex-disaggregated data from institutions, such as ministries of minerals, oil and gas, extractive companies, financial institutions, establish benchmarks for results, carry out research

and institutional mapping within institutions and ensure strong management of knowledge within the EI sector

On Private Sector Development;

- Encourage private sector to adopt good corporate governance and human rights principles including the adoption of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and request the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region to advocate for the adoption of the WEPs by private sector in the EI in the Great Lakes region.
- Implement effective strategies to strengthen community-company relations including gender-sensitive benefit-sharing and compensation plans.
- Encourage the private sector to build the capacity of women entrepreneurs so that they can competitively supply the services and goods within and for the extractives companies.

On Business Development and Innovation;

- Facilitate regional integration and trade by establishing trading and information platforms for women in the EI.
- Promote access to relevant business development services and suitable financial services to enable women grow their business enterprises in the EI sector
- Develop and adapt innovative technologies that are responsive to women's needs in the EI sector.
- Develop opportunities for business incubation and mentoring for women entrepreneurs in the EI sector.

National Sharefairs

- Consider replicating the Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractive Industries at the national and local levels.

In Conclusion;

We express our appreciation to UN Women and its *partners* for hosting the Sharefair for Gender Equality in the Extractive Industries, and all the participants from governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, communities and the private sector for productive and enriching discussions which resulted in concrete business linkages and partnerships, solutions and recommendations.

Documented in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 October in English (to be translated to French).

SHAREFAIR PARTNERS

