



Women and Sustainable Development in Africa

Dar es Salaam Declaration, 10 March 2018

A call for action

Concluding the International Forum on "Women and Sustainable Development in Africa", held from 8 to 10 March 2018, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which was organised by the **Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)**, we, the participants, make the following declaration and call for action to enhance the role of women in sustainable development in Africa:

Observing:

- Africa's assets in the form of natural resources, particularly agricultural resources, energy and mining resources, human potential, and progress in primary and higher education,
- the rapid demographic and varying economic growth on the African continent,
- the persistence of political instability in some regions,
- the risks associated with climate change,
- the increase in the number of young people,
- the persistence of gender inequalities in various sectors,
- the persistence of poverty and inequality in the absence of good governance.

Considering that:

- the African scientific community must play its part in the development of expertise to implement economic growth,
- equality of rights between women and men implies free access to comprehensive education about sexuality, health care, employment and economic and financial resources, political and economic responsibilities,
- the role of women in social and economic life is vital, and that their involvement in the process of economic, social and environmental development of nations is obvious and necessary,
- the massive demographic growth in sub-Saharan Africa raises concerns among the states of how to avoid mass unemployment of the upcoming generation,
- violence and discrimination against women persist despite numerous initiatives.

Call on policymakers and international institutions to:

- provide better access to water and energy resources to alleviate the burden on women,
- foster efforts of appropriate education and empowerment for all, especially girls, in pre-primary, primary, secondary, and technical schools, universities and research centres as well as in vocational training and life-long learning,
- include age-appropriate gender, sexual and reproductive health education in school curricula and in public information programmes,
- improve the training and employability of young people, in particular that of girls and women,
- to provide an enabling environment for industry and employers to provide resources and determine mechanisms that promote education, training and research capacities of women in Africa,
- ensure access to quality gender responsive family planning services,
- ensure equal pay and equal employment, and put in place, especially in rural areas, innovative credit systems to ensure financial empowerment of women and access to land and water,
- take all necessary measures to strengthen local initiatives already in existence and implement all measures to allow women to participate in economic, social and environmental development, improve their legal status by adopting effective legislative and policy reforms and encourage their participation in democratic, egalitarian and inclusive policy development, and
- put in place mechanisms to establish and support good governance.



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