

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



### **THE 8TH STC ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.**

**What:** The Ministerial Session of the 8th Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (STC on GEWE) attended by the AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs

**When:** 13th November 2023, 11AM EAT.

**WHERE:** African Union Headquarters, Nelson Mandela Hall.

**Who:** The meeting will be addressed by Ministers of Gender and the African Union Commission senior officials.

### **Background information:**

The Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (STC- GEWE) is a Ministerial gathering mandated to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. The STC leads, among other things, the formulation of decisions, policies and African Common Positions; advocacy for the ratification, implementation and domestication of the African Union legal and policy instruments; advocacy at national, continental and global levels; fund raising in support of the African Union's gender agenda; advocacy for the protection, promotion

and respect of women's human rights; and promotion of sharing and learning of best practices among Member States.

The 8th STC on GEWE will consider among others;

1. The 2022 Reports of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) with focus on measures taken to implement the principles of gender equality and gender mainstreaming per the articles of the SDGEA.
2. The Presidential Initiative on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls with focus on effective strategies to mobilize support for the development, negotiation, adoption and ratification of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG).
3. Draft Regional Action Plan for Africa with a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, recognizing its negative impact not only on the lives of women and girls but also for communities and societies at large. The RAP is designed based on best practices and lessons learned from the development and implementation of diverse strategies, national action plans and interventions on EVAWG. The
4. AU Women and Youth Financial Mechanisms. The STC will consider the progress of the implementation of the Trust Fund for African Women's and the finalization of the disbursement of the Fund for African Women.
5. Brief on the achievements made in Africa in the promotion and protection of women's human rights over the 20 years since the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, commonly known as the Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights. The discussions will reflect on key challenges and some of the emerging women's rights concerns and agree on impactful solutions and strategies to accelerate better action and outcomes for the African women's human rights system.
6. Pre- Commission on the Status of Women 2021: The STC will consider the areas of focus from the Africa Pre-Commission on the Status of Women 68 Consultation (CSW68) that carves a Common African Position on the theme of the year to influence the global Agreed conclusions at the upcoming sixty-Eight session of the CSW (CSW68) in March 2024.
7. Gender and Youth Statistics: The STC will discuss the use of evidence for policy advocacy and policy formulation. This will be a great platform to advocate for greater gender production and data use but will also be an opportunity to share evidence-based policy advocacy tips with the Member States. The aim is to ensure that all African Union's decision-making processes on gender and youth are evidence-based and finely attuned to the unique needs and challenges confronted by African women and youth, ultimately fostering more equitable and inclusive policies.

For more information about the STC, visit [8th Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. "Scaling up actions on commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment." | African Union \(au.int\)](#)

The [Women, Gender and Youth Directorate](#) of the African Union Commission is responsible for leading, guiding, defending and coordinating the AU's efforts on gender equality and development and promoting women and youth empowerment.

Learn More about the African Unions' strategies and guiding legal instruments that focus on the attainment of gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres of life in Africa including developing and implementing policies and programmes that address issues related to women and girls rights, advocate for their protection and prohibit violence and harmful practices and other social norms that disempower women and girls. These include, the [AU Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment](#), the [Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa](#) (Maputo Protocol), the [Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa](#) (SDGEA) and the [African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child](#).

**For further information, please contact:**

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