

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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Date: 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



### **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 68-Africa Pre-Consultations**

**What:** Official opening Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 68 - Africa Consultations convened under the theme “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.”

**When:** 14th November 2023 (11:00am – 4:00pm EAT)

**Where:** UNECA Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Conference Room 3)

**Who:** The meeting will be addressed by among others

- **H.E Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- **Honorable Amongi Betty Ongom**, Chairperson of the Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- **Dr. Matthias Naab, Director**, UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa
- **H.E. Amb. Claver Gatete**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- **Dr. Maxime Houinato**, Regional Director, East and Southern Africa as well as West and Central Africa Region (a.i.), UN Women

- **Ms. Prudence Ngwenya**, Director, Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD)

### **Background information:**

With the overall objective of accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the Africa Pre-Consultations will review current policies and practices, as well as make action-oriented recommendations on addressing women's poverty and the gender financing gap in Africa. The discussions will reflect on the normative frameworks that address gender and poverty at the institutional and societal levels. Furthermore, they will identify the main challenges and obstacles and agree on the Africa regional key messages and priority actions.

The Ministerial Meeting will adopt the Common Africa Position (CAP) for CSW68 as prepared and presented by the Technical Experts while also discussing and agreeing on modalities for CSW68 including reaching an agreement on how Africa will be organized to speak with one voice at the Global CSW68. The Ministerial meeting will be preceded by the Technical Experts meeting on the 10th & 11th November 2023.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- To analyze the links between poverty and gender as a process of deprivation and depletion shaped by structural inequalities in the household, labor market, and state institutions, and exacerbated by women's experience of intersectional discrimination.
- To examine how public, financial, and social institutions can be 'bearers' of gender bias, perpetuate gender stereotypes, and highlight good, scalable policy and programmatic practices to transform institutions.
- Reach consensus on key messages and discuss to inform discussions before and during the CSW68 in New York.
- To prepare AU Member states to participate in CSW68 and contribute to negotiations towards a CSW68 Agreed Conclusions.
- A common stand on progress made to address women's participation and empowerment in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.
- To agree upon a Common Africa Position and Key Messages on CSW68.

The African Union (AU) has a strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) which is grounded around six pillars of which one focuses on the economic empowerment of women. Intending to address some of the challenges faced by women in Africa, the AU has also adopted several instruments including the African Union [Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa](#); the African Union [Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#) (2018-2028); the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the [Rights of Women in Africa](#); and [Agenda 2063](#). The AU is committed to integrating and implementing gender dimensions into its flagship projects, transformational initiatives, and protocols on economic empowerment, financial inclusion, and social protection.

The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) will be held in New York from 11 to 22 March 2024. CSW68 will convene as intersecting crises and governance failures intensify pervasive, systemic inequalities between and within countries. Developing countries are facing bleak debt realities, further limiting their

ability to counter macroeconomic shocks and provide critical support to poor households and people. While many households in Africa remain matriarchal, and women continue to face unique adversities, which leave them more vulnerable to shocks.

**For further information, please contact:**

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