

## AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN)

# Inter-Generational Retreat on Leadership in Africa

Building the Africa We Want Together



16-18  
AUGUST 2019



Nairobi, Kenya



In Partnership with:

## **The African Woman Leaders Network Pledged to**

“We commit together with; Office of the AUC Chairperson, of Commissioner for HRST, and the Youth Envoy, an AWLN Intergenerational Retreat focused on the ‘E’ of Engagement for the 1 Million By 2021 Initiative. Bringing together a pool of 80 young African Youth and senior leaders to build capacities on civic leadership at community and continental level rewarded by Certificate of Leadership.”

### **1 Million by 2021**



## Background

The African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) and the AWWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus, in partnership with the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy (OYE), have organized the first **“African Women Leaders Network Intergenerational Retreat on Leadership in Africa”** as part of the “1 Million by 2021 Initiative: Africa unite for youth: Bridging the gap and reaching out to African youth.” The AWWLN intergenerational leadership retreat was convened by **H.E. Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of the Republic of Liberia and Patron of the AWWLN**, and hosted by **H.E. Mr. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Global Champion for Youth Empowerment**, with the support of AWWLN Champions H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and of H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The retreat took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 16 – 18 August 2019.

## Rationale

With technical support from the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and UN Women, in partnership with UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and the African Union Commission, the intergenerational retreat built on the objective of the AWWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus to enhance intergenerational partnerships and young women’s agency and leadership to guide Africa’s transformation.

The intergenerational retreat also built on AWWLN’s June 2017 vision and Call to Action, which sought to harness the wealth of African women’s experiences of leadership to enhance their contributions to the transformation and stability of the continent, towards the effective realization of Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The retreat addressed and developed an innovative action agenda for Africa’s transformation by looking at two key pillars:

- 1) advancing women’s leadership and the inclusion of young women leaders; and
- 2) facilitating intergenerational dialogue through youth leadership and empowerment. It enabled participants to conceptualize specific pathways to tap into intergenerational partnerships to engage effectively the existing and emerging mechanisms that are established to deliver on commitments made in both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

The intergenerational retreat was designed to encourage participants to develop concrete and actionable responses to Africa’s development opportunities, with a focus on creating pan-African models that tap into the vast leadership capacity of African women, across generations.

## Objectives & Key outcomes

The main objective of the retreat was to continue strengthening African women's leadership across generations, driven by principles and values that advance the delivery of commitments made for Africa's transformation. The retreat further guided the design and delivery of a solution-oriented "Plan of Action 2020-2022" as part of the African Women Leaders Network's young women leadership pillar, to be implemented by emerging and senior AWLN women leaders, and with the support of the guiding institutions – the African Union and the United Nations.

The AWLN intergenerational leadership retreat sought to

1. Transform the current power structures in Africa and identify avenues to reinforce more intentional, inclusive and transitional leadership of women;
2. Build a sustainable, innovative and cross-generational mentorship structure that will propel emerging and current African women to lead with a network of support in their diverse constituencies;
3. Solidify the AWLN membership criteria and AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus Call to Action; and
4. Pave the way towards the development of the Young Women Leaders Caucus Plan of Action for the period 2020-2022.

The retreat provided an opportunity for long-term collaboration of the Young Women Leaders Caucus with the larger AWLN Forum, AWLN National Chapters, the African Union and with the United Nations on women's leadership on strategic frameworks, including Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.

The young women's call for action was shared with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary

General of the United Nations. The anticipated outcomes of the intergenerational retreat included:

- Sustainable mentorship structures and intergenerational dialogues;
- Increased and strengthened participation of young women across political, public-private and policy spaces;
- AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus "Plan of Action 2020-2022";
- An outcome document amplifying the voices of both emerging and senior African women leaders; and

An engaging and innovative online platform for intergenerational dialogues in Africa.





**H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta**  
*The President of the Republic of Kenya and  
 Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces*

The primary role of the Presidency is the organization and coordination of Government business. The effectiveness and efficiency of this office, given its technical leadership role and mandate in policy formulation, review and decision-making, impacts decisively on the performance of all other public sector entities. In view of that fact therefore, the performance of the Presidency being central to all government functions, ultimately transcends all facets of public sector management. The Presidency is central in ensuring the president achieve his objectives.



**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**  
*First Female President of Liberia and Nobel Peace  
 Laureate – Patron of AWLN*

H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is the first Female President of Liberia & Nobel Peace Laureate. Known as “Africa’s Iron Lady,” Nobel Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is a promoter of freedom, peace, justice, women’s empowerment and democratic rule. As Africa’s first democratically-elected female head of state, she has led Liberia through reconciliation and recovery following the nation’s decade-long civil war, as well as the Ebola Crisis, winning international acclaim for achieving economic, social, and political change. Prior to the election, she had served in the transitional government, where she chaired the Governance Reform Commission and led the country’s anti-corruption reform.

Recognized as a global leader for women’s empowerment, she received various awards including the prestigious Nobel Prize for Peace, the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the United States’ highest civilian award—for her personal courage and unwavering commitment to expanding freedom and improving the lives of Africans and the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, which celebrates excellence in African leadership.

Twitter: @MaEllenSirleaf



**Amina J. Mohammed**  
*Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations*

H.E. Amina J. Mohammed was Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, where she steered the country’s efforts on climate action, protecting the natural environment and conserving resources for sustainable development. Prior to this, she served as Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning.

Nigeria, serving as Special Advisor on the Millennium Development Goals, providing advice on issues including poverty, public sector reform and sustainable development.

She is also an Adjunct Professor in Development Practice at Columbia University, and served on numerous international advisory boards and panels, including the UN Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the African Women’s Millennium Initiative, Girl Effect, 2016 African Union Reform and the ActionAid International Right to Education Project. Ms. Mohammed began her 35-year career in the private sector with architects and engineers responsible for the project management of health, education and public sector buildings.

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## **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women*

Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She was sworn into office on 19 August 2013 and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position, having devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government and civil society, and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa.

From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa, overseeing programmes to combat poverty and bring the advantages of a growing economy to the poor, with a particular focus on women. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry from 1996 to 1999. She was a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa's first democratic government.

Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global programme for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education. A longtime champion of women's rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women's empowerment and gender equality.

She has completed her PhD in education and technology at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

Twitter: [@phumzileunwomen](https://twitter.com/phumzileunwomen)



## **Bineta Diop**

*Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to the African Union Commission*

H.E. Mme Bineta Diop is currently the African Union Commission's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Formerly, she co-chaired the civil society advisory group to the UN on Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Her commitment to this agenda and the overall women human rights and empowerment of women goes four decades back. She started her endeavor in 1996 when she established Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS).

Through her organization which focused on women protection, participation and empowerment, she participated in the development of the African Charter on human and people's rights - the Maputo Protocol. She was a member of the African Union Commission of Enquiry on South Sudan and served on many international executive and advisory boards such as the ICRC and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, she co-chaired the 2014 World Economic Forum on Africa.

She is a recipient of numerous awards including the Knighted of the French Legion d' Honneur (2013), the Jacques Chirac Foundation award (2013). She was recognized as one of 100 of the most influential people in the world on Time Magazine in 2011 and a Doctor Honoris Causa from the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica and Middlesex University in the UK.

Twitter: [@AUBinetaDiop](https://twitter.com/AUBinetaDiop)



## **Abosede Alimi**

*Founder/Chief Facilitator of Womeninpoliticsng*

Abosede Alimi is the Founder/Chief Facilitator of Womeninpoliticsng, duly registered as Women in Leadership Advancement Network (WiLAN). A non-profit she set up in 2017 to encourage, engage, equip and empower young women to get involved and participate in politics in Nigeria. Now a community of over 3,000 young women across all its platforms, Womeninpolitics has become the platform young women go to for information and inspiration to nurture their interest in politics.

Ms. Alimi also serves as the current Director Strategy, Funding and Stakeholder Management at the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF). LSETF was set up by the Government of Lagos in 2016 to create jobs and address youth unemployment in Africa's largest city, Lagos. She is a tri-sector leader with over 15 years' experience working across the non-profit, private and public sectors as a development professional. She began her career with ActionAid International Nigeria and moved on to coordinate CSR and Corporate Citizenship for Keystone Bank, FirstBank and Samsung Electronics West Africa.

Ms. Alimi has a degree in Political Science/Public Administration from Igbinedion University and an MSc in Communication for Innovation and Development from the University of Reading.

"I expect an opportunity to meet and interact with fellow young women leaders and the senior women who will be at the retreat- to learn about their work, interests and contribution to common agendas like the 'SDGs' and 'Africa we want'. I also envision to be an opportunity to learn from the experiences and career journeys of the senior women leaders especially those who have sought elective office and pursued a development career. This retreat is also an occasion to establish partnerships and identify learning/funding opportunities to move the work we are doing in Womeninpoliticsng/WiLAN forward and build long term peer to peer and senior leadership mentoring relationships.

For me, a leader is one who serves and makes decisions for the greater good of the people he/she leads."



## **Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie**

*Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

On 6 June 2018 United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Ahunna Eziakonwa of Nigeria as Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Ms. Eziakonwa will succeed Abdoulaye Mar Dieye of Senegal, who has assumed the role of Director for UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. The Secretary-General is grateful to Mr. Mar Dieye for his dedication and commitment to the Organization during his term as Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa at UNDP.

Ms. Eziakonwa has many years of distinguished service with the United Nations, most recently as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Ethiopia since 2015. Before that, she served as Resident Coordinator in Uganda and Lesotho, and held several posts with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as Chief of the Africa Section in New York and in a number of field duty stations (Liberia, Sierra Leone). She also worked for the UN Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Public Information in New York. Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Eziakonwa held a series of senior positions with civil society organisations in Africa.

She holds a Masters degree in international affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, with a focus on Economic and Political Development, as well as a Bachelor's of Education degree, English and Literary Studies from the University of Benin, Nigeria. Born in Nigeria, Ms. Eziakonwa is married and has a daughter.

Twitter: @ahunnaeziakonwa





### **Ademola Adesina**

*Youth Development Expert at the Youth Division of the African Union Commission*

Ademola Adesina is an expert in youth development issues. He currently works at the African Union Commission's Youth Division where he guides on work involving; youth employment and entrepreneurship development, access to finance and financial inclusion and providing innovative solutions to the problems faced by youth on the continent. He was on the team which conceptualized the Initiative of AUC

Chairperson H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat and continues to advise on that work.

He also serves as Advisor on the African German Youth Initiative, where there is a focus to provide opportunities to help young people expand their personal horizons and acquire life and employment skills through exchange and volunteer services. Before delving into continental policy work he co-founded and served as Country Manager for Jumia Group, which is Africa's leading internet group, with already over 3,000 employees in more than 20 African countries and huge successes such as Jumia Mall, Jumia Travel, Jumia Food, Jumia Deals, Jumia House, Jumia Jobs and Jumia Services.

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### **Alima Dramé**

*currently Vice President of Youth Ambassadors for Production and Family Planning*

Alima Dramé, born January 07, 1994 is currently Vice President of Youth Ambassadors for Production and Family Planning (JASR / PF) Senegal. She started at her college's Reproductive Health Club when she was 14 years old.

She is also Secretary General of AfriYAN / Girls, whose main objective is not the autonomist, but the actions you undertake in the process of sustainable development.

Alima has been involved with a variety of people related to youth and gender, women's empowerment, demographic sharing and digital communication. She has participated in various workshops and conferences on the theme of demography and related topics.

At the age of 25, Alima holds a degree in Logistics and is currently enrolled in the Master's Program in Project Management.

Follow Alima on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. She can be reached on +221 77 667 7579



### **H.E. Amira El Fadil**

*Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission*

H.E. Amira El Fadil, born on 15 January 1967, a Sudanese woman was elected Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission. She was Minister of Social Welfare and Social Insurance for the Government of Sudan. H.E. El Fadil has worked with the Association of Women for Rural Development and Immigration, Women, Children and Family. H.E. El Fadil participated in the Women's Rally for Peace and conducted workshops and seminars on peacebuilding and conflict resolution.





### **Amanda Chukwudozie**

*Policy and Advocacy Officer at the Youth Division of the African Union Commission*

Amanda Chukwudozie is a youth development specialist with a primary focus on youth engagement and meaningful participation. She currently works at the African Union Commission's Youth Division, where she leads programmes and projects on youth engagement in Africa, as a Policy and Advocacy Officer. She was on the team which conceptualized the Initiative of AUC Chairperson H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, and continues to advise on that work. She was previously leading the Knowledge Management and Research work of the Youth Division and coordinated the African Young Researchers Programme to produce the 2019 Status of African Youth Report. Before joining the African Union Commission, she was a Strategist for youth employment and engagement, a radiodiagnosis expert and a socio-political writer and commentator. Her current portfolio includes leadership programmes, exchange programmes and platforms for youth participation. She has a Masters Degree in Public Health.

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### **Ariane Tumukunde**

*refugee from Eastern*

Ariane is a 20 years-old refugee from Eastern DRC. She has been a refugee in Ethiopia since 2010. She lives in Addis Ababa together with her mother and siblings. Ariane is fluent in Both English and French. Ariane finished high school in 2016 in Addis Ababa. However, she could not go to university because of financial and other challenges. She has the ambition of going to college and becoming a known jewelry designer. In her leisure time she played basketball and read books.

Other than her regular responsibilities at home, she is keen support the refugees from the Great Lakes communities in Addis Ababa. She has been supporting UNHCR and urban Partners as a refugee outreach volunteer, where she is engaged under the health program run by UNHCR's Partner DICAC. Mainly, she works with the |Great Lakes communities to identify refugees who can't reach UNHCR and/or partners / services due to disability or serious illness and helps them to get to the service providers as is required. In addition, she accompanies them to the hospitals and works as well as a translator. Ariane is also committed in making sure new information's from UNHCR and partners reached to refugees.

Ariane has also been active in the refugee Youth Association in Addis Ababa and has been supporting UNHCR to organize community events that bring together youth from the DRC and other nationals together. She is also supporting UNHCR/ JRS and DICAC as a translator on call basis as well as on volunteer basis. Ariane's role model is her mother, who is a single mother, yet in addition to her own children, has fostered five unaccompanied children, regardless of her limited economic situation in the country of asylum.



## **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**

*First female President of the Republic of Mauritius*

standards.

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim is a chemist trained in the UK who earned a BSc and PhD from the Universities of Surrey and Exeter in the UK in 1983 and 1987 respectively. She joined the University of Mauritius and started a career as an academic. Her passion has always been chemistry and followed it until she discovered the beauty of phytochemistry and the world of medicinal plants. She developed the first ever database on herbal medicine and traditional knowledge for her country and the region of the south west Indian Ocean. She eventually co-authored the very first African Herbal Pharmacopoeia focusing on Trading

She ended her academic career as deputy Vice Chancellor and became an entrepreneur by translating her academic research finding into a business thus crossing the infamous valley of death. She was sworn in as the first female President of the Republic of Mauritius (2015-2018). A lifelong scientist, she advocates for the promotion of STEM among the youth, especially girls, she has started her foundation where she is focusing her time on the promotion of entrepreneurship, science and sustainable development. She lectures around the world on science, biodiversity and sustainability issues. She is also a proud mother of two adult children.

“My expectations from this retreat is to create this wider network of dedicated women who have similar mindsets and disposition on critical issues.

Great leadership is determined by a blend of personal humility, compassion and unparalleled will to lead others in service of a cause bigger than themselves. Great leaders can be ambitious, but never for themselves. They surround themselves with talented people, listen to them and cultivate into a team of competent, confident individuals. Ultimately, a great leader creates and nurtures other leaders.”

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## **Amina Alaoui Soulimani**

*Social Media Manager and Communication Associate  
at the Office of the AU Youth Envoy (OYE)*

Amina is Arab-African. She is the Author of Beyond America, a collection of chronicles that reflect on her spiritual and inner exploratory journey as an Exchange student in the United States at the age of 16. Recently a graduate from the African Leadership University in Mauritius, Amina holds a B.A in Social Sciences, and will submerge in the field of social anthropology at the London School of Economics this upcoming September. She is the Africa and Middle East regional Editor for The METRIC, a student-led news organization, aiming at

amplifying youth voices and truthful opinions to the world. As an aspiring scholar, Amina believes in the importance of amplifying African voices in academia just as much as we seek to do it in other spaces. She is part of the team of Office of the African Union Youth Envoy serving as a communications co-lead for the 2019 AWLN Intergenerational Retreat.

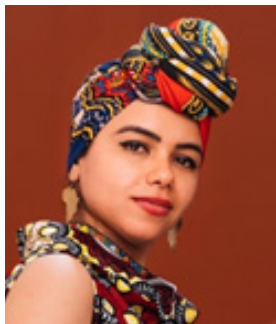
“I believe that that this intergenerational retreat will be a space where I can listen and expand my creative wings, regain my voice, and learn from the resilience of inspiring women leaders, I hope to get exposure to different dimensions of political activism.

For me, a leader is a listener — a woman who speaks in tongues and takes actions, wisely, slowly but steadily! A leader is patient, selfless, and empathetic. A leader rises by uplifting others.»

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**Aya Chebbi**  
*Special Envoy on Youth at the African Union Commission*

Aya Chebbi, an award-winning Pan-African feminist. She is the first African Union Youth Envoy and the youngest diplomat at the African Union Commission Chairperson's Cabinet. She is the founder of multiple platforms such as Youth Programme of Holistic Empowerment Mentoring (YPHEM) coaching the next generation to be positive change agents, Afrika Youth Movement (AYM), one of Africa's largest Pan-African youth-led movements and Afresist, a youth leadership program and multimedia platform documenting youth work in Africa.

She served on the Board of Directors of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the World Refugee Council and Oxfam Independent Commission on Sexual Misconduct. Chebbi became a world-renowned blogger during 2010/2011 Tunisia's Revolution running Proudly Tunisian. Her blogs were published at Open Democracy and Al-Jazeera among others. Since then, she has been travelling across the African continent to support and train thousands of social movement leaders and activists on mobilization, blogging, leadership and non-violence and continues to travel the world as a scholar, mentor, speaker (including TEDx) and activist. She was recognized in 2018 Apolitical List of The World's 100 Most Influential Young People in Government and 2016 List 100 Under 40 Most Influential Africans in the World.

She received Inspirational Woman of the Year by Women4Africa Awards, Pan-African Humanitarian Award by Pahawards and Young Talent of the year by UNLEASH Festival. Chebbi's extensive experience over the past decade made her an influential political voice known for rebranding Africa and commitment to youth empowerment, Peacebuilding and Africa's integration.

"To be coherent with oneself; coherence between what you believe, say and do, is what makes one a true leader and changemaker"

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**Amb. Catherine B. Onyoni-Mogaka**  
*Senior policy adviser at the Office of the Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, African Union Commission.*

Ambassador Catherine B. Onyoni - Mogaka Mogaka is a seasoned diplomat who has served in Kenya's Foreign Service with distinction in various directorates including as a Special Policy Advisor for Foreign Service in the Africa and the AU Directorate and the Europe and Commonwealth Directorate as Deputy Director.

She also served in different Kenyan missions to the United Nations in Geneva, New York and UN-HABITAT as well as in Kigali and as Head of Chancery in Lusaka. She has in her previous roles demonstrated leadership experience and strategic vision as well as skills in managing complex organizations.

Ambassador Mogaka was also Kenya's sole negotiator at the Conference on Disarmament during the negotiations of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The versatility of her skills are also demonstrated in her steering discussions in the Third Committee as Chair of the African Group leading to the development of Africa's position at the negotiations for the establishment of the Human Rights Council and coordinating Kenya's delegation to the negotiations for international agreements such as the Rights of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities.

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### **Christ Mitonini**

*Lead Graphic Designer at the Youth Division,  
African Union Commission*

Christ is passionate communicator, engaging on media works on print and digital media. He is also a mobile application developer with Thunkable. Currently working for African Union Commission, youth division. He was the lead graphic designer behind the 1Million by 2021 initiative.

Focusing on graphic design and visual communication, since 2011, he had worked as a motion designer, multi-media animator and web master.

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### **Chantal Solange TOUABENA**

*General Secretariat in the Steering Committee of AWLN/RCA*

Chantal S. TOUABENA, ensures the General Secretariat in the Steering Committee of AWLN/RCA, Coordinator of one of the civil society platforms of the Central African Republic (SCRCA), she is also Coordinator of Planete Femmes Centrafrique (PFC) for Peace and Solidarity. Opinion leader, activist and monitor of human rights violations. Committed to the cause of women and girls, she is a delegate in charge of social cohesion in the Caucus of Women

Leaders for the Promotion of Parity. Being a leader is pulling others from the bottom up to act for change in society. She is also an entrepreneur.

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### **Dianne Dusaidi**

*Program Manager at the Mastercard Foundation*

Dianne Dusaidi is a Program Manager at the Mastercard Foundation. She is Rwandan and dedicated to the development of her country and the continent of Africa. She has an MBA in International Business and has personally invested in various sectors such as media, health and financial technology. She previously worked with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and interned at the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and City Hall of Toronto. Dianne is also a recipient of the «Celebrating Young Rwandan Achievers Award» (Cyrwa) from the First Lady of Rwanda's Imbutu Foundation.

“I expect to have open and honest dialogue amongst youth and the youthful! I hope we are able to come together and develop tangible call to actions that will have tangible results by next year's summit.

A leader to me, is someone to look up to. Someone tackles the tough situations with grace, intelligence and empathy.”

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### **Doreen Apollos**

*Media Expert, currently working at the African Union*

Doreen Apollos is an exemplary media expert, currently working at the African Union. She has over 12 years of extensive experience in broadcast journalism, digital media and brand management. She has served as a Communication Advisor to two Deputy Chairpersons of the African Union Commission during which she managed and led various activities on communication, stakeholder engagement and relations and shaped conversations about Africa and the African Union. She is a speech writer, an editor, content creator and manages social media and webpage content AU officials. She is part of the Editorial team for the Union's monthly and

annual publications.

She has served in several committees on the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 such as the Financing of the Union; the African Economic Platform; the Mjadala Africa leadership debates and the Administrative and Financial Reforms.

Doreen previously worked as a senior News TV Anchor at the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation. She also hosted several pioneer TV shows such as "Business Defined", the first daily TV show that analyzed the business environment globally and the "Goodmorning Kenya" show, another first-to-be established morning TV show in Kenya that focused on topical issues of public interest. Further, she has worked as a Radio News Editor, producer and director.

@ApollosDoreen



### **Edda Zekarias**

*Strategic Communications and Public Information Officer,  
United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)*

has vast experience in development communications across a variety of spectrums and is a Strategic Communication Officer at the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU). She is a strong advocate for women's rights which led her to found Berchi Africa at her alma mater, Addis Ababa University. Berchi Africa is peer support/mentorship initiative that brings young women together to explore personal growth and career mapping. She is also co-founder of the Ethiopian Girl Guides Association and she is a writer on an Afro-feminist blog that

builds awareness on gender and women related issues around Africa. She is a 2014 Mandela Washington Fellow who also partook in US and Africa based mid-career development opportunities with The Boeing Company and Microsoft for Africa respectively. Back in Ethiopia, she has supported US government-led initiatives including the creation of a summer Girls Can Code project with the US Embassy for underprivileged but promising young female high school students. Edda holds an M.A in Peace and Security from the United Nations University for Peace. She is serving as a communications co-lead for the 2019 AWLN Intergenerational Retreat.

"I expect to connect with amazing women from all walks of life to see how we can work together for a better Africa. A leader is someone who sees the big picture and helps others see it; and take action."

Twitter: @Edie\_Zachs



### **Esther Agbarakwe**

*Responsible for Public Mobilization for Climate Action*

Esther Agbarakwe is the Climate Focal Point for the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, responsible for public mobilization for climate action. From December 2015 to June 2018 she worked as the Special Adviser on Strategic Communication to the Minister of Environment of Nigeria. In her role as Special Advisor she supported the Ministry's efforts in mobilizing stakeholders for climate action, protecting the environment and conservation of natural resources. Prior to this, she served as the co-founder of the International Climate Change Development Initiative, popularly known as Climate Wednesday, a prominent youth-led orga-

nization that aims to build a climate-smart generation across Africa. She has over a decade of experience working on youth and public mobilization across various development sectors.



**Elizabeth Chatuwa**  
*Co-Founder of Wecare Youth organisation*

Energetic Gender activist with very High sense of ethics and integrity, performance driven and commitment to continuous improvement and Impacting in the women and girls globally. Elizabeth is an advocate of human rights pervasive human rights focusing on Voicing and actioning on gender-based violence. Elizabeth is a Youth commissioner for Malawi Girl Guides Association where they shape girls and young woman to realise their fullest potential and become responsible citizen of their respective country. With her enthusiastic and zealous in empowering girls and women she was voted and saves a board member of Malawi Girl Guide

Association.

Elizabeth is a co-founder of Wecare Youth organisation where they provide and link vulnerable children and adolescents to quality education and health services to enable them to be champion of change and development agents of their communities. She runs different project i.e. Educational and mentorship support for orphans and other vulnerable children, Orphan headed household housing, Micro-finance support to care givers, Adolescent HIV support, Emergency response, water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

To earn a living, Elizabeth is a woman in STEM working as Information System analyst. She is technical professional with 9 years hands on experience bringing innovative solutions to solve business and social challenges.

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**Facia Boyenoh Harris**  
*Liberian/African Feminist Activist*

Facia Boyenoh Harris is a Liberian/African Feminist Activist. A public servant currently working as Director for Outreach and Sensitization at the Independent Information Commission in Liberia. She is an experienced journalist and currently, with Master in Public Public Sector Management from the Cuttington University Graduate School, studying Law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia.

She is called a feminist activist for women's rights, gender equality and social justice. And have worked over the last decade building institutions that support my politics and agency. She envisioned an equal space for women leadership, and continued to work to help make that a reality. For this purpose, in 2005 she joined strength with five young women to setup a progressive young women's and girls' focused organization Paramount Young Women Initiative in Liberia that promotes young women education empowerment, she is a member of a number of other related organizations and networks.

Facia believes that 'people are different and those differences must be acknowledged and respected- giving every person equal opportunity and space to exist', out of the intergenerational partnership, she expects to renew and build new partnership to sharpen the individual and collective agency as women leaders.

"A leader is a servant. An Influencer. People First. A Leader is a Woman!"

Twitter: [@Fbh828](https://twitter.com/Fbh828)



## **Fatima Kyari Mohammed (Ambassador)** *Permanent Observer of the African Union Commission to the United Nations*

Ambassador Fatima Kyari Mohammed is the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations. Up until her appointment, she was Senior Special Advisor to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission.

Her over two decades of service includes Executive Director at West Africa Conflict and Security Consulting, a family of regional consulting companies that work at the intersection of security, research, development and investment in conflict-affected and fragile areas. She has also previously worked as a Programme Manager for regional cooperation in West Africa at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS and as Regional Project Manager for security policy projects in West Africa with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. Her thematic expertise includes peace and security, conflict prevention and transformation, gender, regional integration, and socio-economic development. Fatima holds two Masters in Peace, Security, Development and Conflict Transformation, and Sustainable Economic Development.

She also holds an MBA in Business Communication from the European University in Switzerland and a BA in Environmental Design from Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria. In addition to English, she speaks fluent French, Hausa, and Kanuri and has a basic knowledge of Arabic and Spanish.

Twitter: @FKMohammed1



## **Fatima Bukar Biri** *Project Manager & State Coordinator of the LikeMinds Project*

Fatima Bukar Biri holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. She is the Project Manager and acting State Coordinator of the LikeMinds Project, a not for profit, non-governmental organization with a focus on supporting Vulnerable Communities based in the North East of Nigeria. Her work focuses on supporting Women and youth empowerment as well as supporting humanitarian efforts to displaced populations affected by the Boko Haram crisis in the North East. She currently manages a project titled "Creation of alternatives to migration through sensitization, socio-economic development and conflict prevention in Borno State." where 1,500 vulnerable women and youths are trained and empowered with livelihood equipment and seed grants, to reduce vulnerability, encourage self-reliance and boost socio-economic activities within trainees' Communities. She also coordinates the activities of the Likeminds Project in Borno State which also supports a number of orphanages that cater for unaccompanied children under the 'For the Children's Initiative (FCTI) and Widows under the Women's Empowerment, Rehabilitation and Inclusion Scheme' (WE RISE).

"To have an insight on past experiences of Senior women leaders, and learn from it, as well as creates space for young women leaders to take up leadership roles.

A leader is a person who serves humanity selflessly with the intention of positively impacting lives."

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### **Hannah S. Tetteh**

*Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)*

H.E. Hanna Serwaa Tetteh of Ghana assumed her functions as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) in January 2019, succeeding H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde of Ethiopia.

Ms. Tetteh brings to this position decades of progressively responsible experience at the national, regional and international levels, including well-honed skills in building consensus among stakeholders and knowledge of the Organization, in order to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security.

She was formerly the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Ms. Tetteh served previously in the cabinet of the Government of Ghana as Minister for Foreign Affairs and a member of the National Security Council and the Armed Forces Council (2013-2017), as well as Minister for Trade and Industry (2009-2013). From 2014 to 2015 she was the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers as well as Chairperson of the Mediation & Security Council of the Economic Community of West African States. During her term as Minister for Trade and Industry, she was also a member of the Government's economic management team, the board of the Millennium Development Authority and the National Development Planning Commission and was also the Chairperson of the Ghana Free Zones Board. From January to February 2009 she served as Spokesperson for President John Evans Atta Mills' Administration transition team.

A National Democratic Congress (NDC) Member of Parliament for the Awutu Senya Constituency (2000-2005), she later returned to Parliament as the NDC Member of Parliament for the Awutu Senya West Constituency (2013-2017). She was appointed Co-Facilitator in the High-Level Forum for the Revitalisation of the Agreement for the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan (2017-2018).

Ms. Tetteh holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Ghana, Legon. After completing her law studies at the University of Ghana, Ms. Tetteh attended the Ghana School of Law for her professional legal training. She was called to the Ghana Bar in October 1992.

Twitter: [@HannaTetteh](https://twitter.com/HannaTetteh)



### **Ingrid Munch**

*Passionate Feminist*

Ingrid Munch is a passionate feminist with an academic background in Gender, Peace and Security. She has been working for two years at the United Nations on mainstreaming gender in peace and security programming, and on women's empowerment and participation in peace processes. She is also a gender trainer dedicated to shifting mindsets and behaviors in favor of enhanced social and gender justice, through innovative pedagogical approaches and methodological tools.





## **Immaculate Amoiti**

*Founder and Executive Director WETEC and Women Rights Activist*

Since 2014 Immaculate is working to support young women in enterprise development through her grassroots non profit WETEC in Kenya and other platforms through collaboration & partnerships.

She advocates for access to services and information for adolescent girls/young women in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.

Ms Amoiti has a Bachelor's Degree in Education, Arts from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. She is a certified Empowerment Workshop Master Trainer accredited

by the Empowerment Institute in New York. Every year facilitates empowerment workshops in Kenya and Uganda. Over the next months this will expand to other parts of the continent.

Immaculate is a recipient of the World Pulse Impact Leader Award and holds the position of World Pulse Ambassador an online platform connecting women leaders from 190 countries in the world. She is Policy Advocacy Enthusiast who believes governments should develop engendered budgets, and allow meaningful engagement of women and youth to reduce poverty and promote prosperity.

She lobbies for access to equal opportunities for youth and women in marginalized areas across the continent. She strongly believes there should be collective and deliberate effort to increase safe spaces that allow women and girls to thrive.

AWLN Intergenerational Retreat is that safe space for African Women where they can forge partnerships and define the best practices in leadership that will effect change.



## **Jaha Dukureh**

*Founder and Executive Director of Safe Hands for Girls*

Jaha Dukureh is the Founder and Executive Director of Safe Hands for Girls, a nonprofit organization working to protect young women and girls who are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). For her outstanding work as a global campaigner to end FGM and promote women's rights, she was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People for 2016.

Ms. Dukureh's work directly led to the ban on FGM in The Gambia in 2015. Her efforts also helped create a law in the U.S. that made it illegal to transport girls out of the U.S. for the purpose of FGM. She successfully advocated with the Obama administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to take the essential first step of commissioning a report on the prevalence of FGM in the U.S. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, the Guardian, New York Daily News, Cosmopolitan, and other media outlets. She was featured in the L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth campaign.

Twitter: @JahaENDFGM



## **Jean Bosco Butera**

*Chief of Staff and special advisor to the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission*

Dr Butera is currently the Chief of Staff and special advisor to the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security. Prior to this, he served as Director of the African Programme of the United Nations affiliated University for peace. During this period he led the establishment of the United Nations affiliated University for Peace, and led the establishment of graduate teaching and research programs on peace and Conflict studies in a number of African universities. Before joining UPEACE he served as vice-President for academic Affairs at National University of Rwanda, where he co-founded the Center for Conflict Management (CCM).

Dr Butera is a committed peace- builder and serves as patron of "Never Again Rwanda", a peace-building and social justice initiative started by his students and that has grown into a solid civil society organization working with grass-root communities to identify and solve root causes of conflict through dialogue, learning, truth-telling, restorative justice, healing and forgiveness.



**Jane Marie Ong'olo**  
*Head of Division for Social Welfare, Vulnerable Groups  
and Drug Control at the African Union Commission*

Dr Jane Marie Ong'olo (PhD) is a social development specialist with substantial cross-functional skills in representation and liaison, advocacy, strategic management and organizational development. This includes technical leadership and support to governments, regional bodies and civil society organisations in a wide variety of themes and sectors such as health and development with regards to drug demand reduction and harm reduction; social protection, vulnerable groups and key populations; transnational organised crime, in particular drugs and human trafficking, governance and rights issues.

She currently heads the Division for Social Welfare, Vulnerable Groups and Drug Control at the African Union Commission. Her work includes coordinating policy action with African Union member states in the development and implementation of social development policies and programmes. Dr Ong'olo previously worked for the Government of Kenya, the British Council, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

“She looks forward to mutual exchange and sharing with both peers and the younger leaders. Her particular interest is both to listen to the voices of the younger leaders, as well as to learn creative and innovative ways to harness demographic dividend for Africa's development. She considers leadership not as a privilege but a call to service-working towards impacting the lived realities of a majority in our continent.”

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**Ms. Joyce Mends-Cole**  
*the UNHCR Senior a Coordinator for Project 2019*

Ms. Joyce Mends-Cole is currently the UNHCR Senior a Coordinator for Project 2019. Project 2019 is the shorthand name for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention and the 10th of the Kampala Convention on Internally Displaced Persons. Prior to this undertaking she retired from UNHCR, after being a Representative in several countries and serving as the UNHCR Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women/Gender Equality.

When she was Representative, she focused on finding solutions for refugees who had been living in protracted situations. She was able to initiate local integration for Angolan refugees in Namibia and Zambia and gained citizenship for almost 200,000 former refugees in Tanzania.

Ms. Mends-Cole worked in the United Nations for 22 years, gaining experience in both development and humanitarian processes and issues. She is a lawyer, a Liberian and an activist for equality for women.



**Jumoke Adekeye**  
*Founder, Young Business Agency*

Jumoke Adekeye is the Founder of the Young Business Agency, a youth employment accelerator designing tailored content to help youth bridge 21st century workforce skills gaps. Trained as a biochemist and statistician, she has a unique background in data science, impact investing, and public health, enabling her dexterity in collaborating across public, private, and social sectors. Jumoke's work experience spans three continents and involves major operational roles, including managing a team of 300 people on a US\$50 million social marketing programme in Nigeria. Jumoke is also currently Program Manager, Supply Chain Logistics at the Clinton Health Access Initiative. She earned a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Biochemistry and French from Grinnell College and dual Masters Degrees in Public Health from the University of Sheffield and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique in France.

Jumoke is a member of the Global Shaper Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum.



### **Jebbeh Forster**

*Adviser on Governance, Peace, Security & Humanitarian Action at UN Women, Kenya*

Jebbeh Forster is an adviser on Governance, Peace, Security & Humanitarian Action at UN Women, East and Southern Africa Regional Office in Kenya.

She is a lawyer, with long term experience on gender inclusive peace building. She has worked extensively on promoting women's rights in peacebuilding with UN WOMEN (former UNIFEM) since 2002. Some of her notable work includes supporting integration of gender and women's rights in the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commissions, women's access to justice in the informal justice system in post conflict Sierra Leone; women's heightened visibility and participation in the Northern Uganda peace process. She was Gender Advisor for H.E. Joachim Chissano (former President of Mozambique), the UN facilitator for the Northern Uganda Peace process (2007 – 2008), UNIFEM Country Programme Manager in Uganda (2008-2012) and UN Women Country Representative for Sudan (2012-2014).

She was one of two global recipients of the UNIFEM Executive Director's award.



### **Jessie Kalepa**

*Political scientist, Mandela Institute of Development studies alumnus and Learn Africa scholar*

Jessie Kalepa is a political scientist who holds a Masters degree in dynamics of cooperation, conflict and negotiation in international relations and diplomacy from Alfonso X el Sabio in Spain. She has more than 3 years' experience in research, governance and women empowerment. She also has experience in the advocacy of human rights. Jessie is also a Mandela Institute of Development studies alumnus and Learn Africa scholar.

Jessie is passionate about girl's education, women's economic empowerment and human rights of which she founded and directs an organization called Unveiling Diamonds Foundation with the sole purpose of promoting women empowerment, advocating for human rights and also providing capacity building to the underprivileged.

"This Inter-generational retreat will provide me with a platform to learn from our senior leaders and also an opportunity to be mentored by them in my leadership and career path. I will also be able to network and learn from other young women leaders across the African region."

I believe that leadership is about serving and implementing the change we want to see in our societies."

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### **Joannie Marlene Bewa**

*Multi-award winning physician, researcher and advocate for the SDGs*

Dr Joannie Marlene Bewa is a multi-award winning physician from the Benin Republic, a researcher, a globally well-known advocate for the SDGs. Her SDG advocacy work focuses on health, education and gender equality. As a child, she almost died from an asthma attack. As a teenager, her best friend died from the complications of an unsafe abortion. In 2010, she decided to establish the Young Beninese Leaders Association (YBLA), reached 10,000 youth on HIV awareness, sexual reproductive health, and trained 3,000 women with the First lady Michelle Obama Young African Women Leaders' Grant.

Dr Joannie was a Youth Focal Point for Oxfam Quebec in Benin, a founding member of the United Nations Fund for Population youth panel (UNFPA), led the "Benin Post 2015 campaign" and reached more than 2000 youth virtually on SDGs. She was awarded the "Youth Oscar Awards" by the Ministry of Youth Affairs in Benin and selected by her Government in 2015 as a youth representative for the 48th Commission on Population and Development in New York. Joannie holds a degree in Medicine from Benin and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of South Florida (USA) where she is also pursuing a PhD in Public Health.

Twitter: [@BEWAJ](#)



## **Josephine Kulea, HSC**

*Founding director of Samburu Girls Foundation (SGF)*

Dr Josephine Kulea HSC, is the founding director of Samburu Girls Foundation (SGF), a Kenya-based organization focusing on rescuing young girls from harmful cultural practices in pastoralist communities in northern Kenya.

Her boldness and defiance to century old traditions has been recognized widely receiving numerous awards including: Unsung Hero 2011, Head of State Commendation 2012, COVAW champion 2013, Acumen East Africa Fellow 2013, UN Person of the Year 2013, Inspiring Woman by Gender commission Kenya 2014, YALI Washington Fellow 2014, Spark Change maker 2015, Vital Voices Lead Program 2015, African Union Youth Hero 2015, Egerton university gender award 2015, Gender Equality City University of New York award 2016, Top 40 under 40 women award 2016, Humanitarian Award 2017 by Kenya Women, Children Wellness Center, Voice for Girls award 2018 and Top 100 Global Gender champion 2019.

“To get a political mentor, as she aspires to go into political leadership. She hopes to get the skill to go against all odds and make it to the top. Leader/Leadership is servanthood, and it takes a gift that one is born with to lead.”

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## **Hilina Berhanu**

*Founder, Yellow Movement at Addis Ababa University*

Hilina Berhanu is a feminist academic and activist, responsible for the founding of the Yellow Movement AAU, a youth-led feminist movement based in higher educational institutions of Ethiopia. She is currently working as a researcher and lecturer engaged in teaching gender and law, gender and development and feminist theories among others. Hilina started activism as a third year Law school student in Addis Ababa University, where she received her first degree in LL.B. in Law. Hilina then went to become a lecturer and an advocate for women's rights and gender planning within the same university.

Hilina has represented Yellow Movement and her work in many international platforms, including as the youngest Ethiopian Mandela Washington 2015 Fellow. She earned a master's degree in LL.M in Law and Gender from SOAS, University of London (the School of Oriental and African Studies), as a recipient of the prestigious Mo Ibrahim Scholarship on Governance for Development in Africa.

When not working, she enjoys attending to her love for food, collecting profiles of feminist fore-mothers and traveling for pleasure. Hilina currently sits in the UN Youth Advisory Board of Ethiopia and is also deputy chair of the UN Women ECO advisory group for two years.

«I expect to network with like-minded young women, growing our collective ambition while simultaneously learning from the experiences of those who managed to excel before us. A leader is a person who is capable of connecting passion and will with service. While this requires a consistent effort towards growing oneself, nurturing the ability of those who work and live around is an integral quality too.»

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## **Kelly Cynthia Kaze**

*Human rights activist and social entrepreneur*

Kelly Cynthia Kaze graduated in economic sciences and international trade. She is a human rights activist passionate about promoting women's rights, especially women's leadership and empowerment. She works as a women's rights and campaign fellow at ActionAid Burundi. She is also a social entrepreneur who is doing her best to create a world of effective gender equity. Kelly Cynthia Kaze has dedicated her life to giving women access to economic and social power and is a volunteer in the Association pour la Promotion de la Fille Burundaise (APFB) and Action for Peace and Development. She is expecting to contribute to establish and support local efforts from youth that support gender equality for inclusive development and youth mobilization campaigns.

"This AWLN retreat will be a great opportunity for me since the UN considers us to be able to contribute to gender equality, I hope to take advantage of this occasion to have an exchange of experiences with other vibrant women and to acquire new knowledge. I would like to thank AWLN and all partners for their support that they have provided us with. Let us continue to support ourselves in building a world of gender equity. TOGETHER FOR GENDER EQUITY!" My understanding of an effective leader is a person who does the following: creates an inspiring vision of the future, motivates and inspires people to engage with that vision, manages delivery of the vision, coaches and builds a team, so that it is more effective at achieving the vision. A leader must be practical, and a realist yet must talk the language of the visionary and the idealist. Leadership brings together the skills needed to do these things.

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## **Ambassador Liberata Mulamula**

*Associate Director, Institute for African Studies*

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula is the Associate Director for the Institute for African Studies and a career diplomat with 35 years of experience having served in various capacities at the Tanzania Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Diplomatic missions in New York (Permanent Mission to the UN), Canada and the USA. She also served as the first Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa for Peace, Stability and Development with headquarters in Bujumbura, Burundi. In this position, she oversaw 11 countries from 2006 to 2011. Before retirement in April 2016, her other senior posts included the executive ministerial post of Permanent Secretary of the Tanzania Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She provided managerial and administrative leadership to the Ministry's staff and Tanzania Diplomatic Envoys abroad. She was also the Tanzania Ambassador to the United States of America and Mexico, and served as Special Advisor to His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania on all Diplomatic matters.

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## **Lehau Victoria Maloka**

*Acting Director, Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) at African Union Commission*

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula is the Associate Director for the Institute for African Studies and a career diplomat with 35 years of experience having served in various capacities at the Tanzania Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Diplomatic missions in New York (Permanent Mission to the UN), Canada and the USA. She also served as the first Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa for Peace, Stability and Development with headquarters in Bujumbura, Burundi. In this position, she oversaw 11 countries from 2006 to 2011.

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**Liz Grossman**  
*Co-founder, Baobab Consulting*

Liz Grossman is an American entrepreneur, educator and communications specialist with over 12 years of experience living and working across Africa. Collaborating with some of Africa's most powerful leaders in politics, development, education and business, Liz forges strategic partnerships to drive resources to influencers across Africa. An expert in women's leadership, education, development policy, workforce development and communications holding her Bachelors in Communications and International Studies from Northwestern University and her Masters in International Education Policy at Harvard. Liz is renowned for her ability to convene powerful communities and build bridges.

She co-founded Baobab Consulting in April 2016 to provide solutions to world leaders, companies, nonprofits and academic institutions to share their successes, build partnerships and expand their social and financial impact. She currently serves as Managing Director, leading a remote team based across the United States and Africa. She has also taught high school in Dakar Senegal, held a leadership role in communications and innovative business development at West African NGO Tostan, and consulted with governments and UN agencies across the continent. Liz serves on the Resolution Project Leadership Council, the Host Committee for FACE Africa, and advises nonprofits on their communications and impact strategies.

"I expect to see concrete connections made between emerging and established leaders that will expand impact for all parties.

Leaders are people who use their social influence to inspire others to act towards the achievement of a greater good. Leaders are humble, but confident, and know that real power comes when others around them are uplifted and empowered."

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**Liz Muange**  
*Program Manager for Aceli Africa*

Liz Muange is the Program Manager for Aceli Africa, a blended finance offering financial incentives to increase lending to agri-SMEs which is co-developed by the Council of Smallholder Finance Alliance and the Global Development Incubator. She previously was the Deputy Director for Investment at the USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub. She was responsible for developing solutions to facilitate investments in local and export companies and building a vibrant ecosystem for early and growth stage financing. Prior to working at the USAID Hub, she worked in the financial advisory space, supporting companies with fundraising and accessing new international markets. She has worked in institutions such as the African Guarantee Fund, Lattice Consulting and Deloitte. She has over 10 years of experience in entrepreneurship development, investment facilitation, trade facilitation, project management, financial advisory and risk management.

She has an Executive Education from the University of Oxford on Impact Measurement, a Master in International Relations from the Catholic University of Milan and a B. Comm (Hons.) from the University of Nairobi. She is a member of the Global Shapers Community Nairobi Hub of the World Economic Forum and a Fellow of the Young and Emerging Leaders Program of the LEO Africa Institute.

"This retreat will allow me to create networks at different generation level - to find older more established women who can mentor me at a professional and personal level and likewise to support younger women who I can mentor and support in navigating life based on my own personal experiences. I also expect that the conversations will be real, in that we create opportunities for each other and not just focus on the gender inequalities. I haven't been part of the AWLN but keen to join and be a part of this very important network and so also keen to know how it works, and the expectations for me as an individual and towards my society.

I believe that a leader is someone who can influence others - both positive (good leaders) or negative (bad leaders). Beyond influence it has to be someone who gives themselves to a cause they believe in. I would love all leaders to have integrity but that sometimes is not the case."

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### **Lina Ekomo**

*Deputy Coordinator, AWLN Central Africa Republic*

Lina Ekomo is currently Deputy Coordinator of the AWLN branch in Central Africa Republic (CAR). She is also the President of the Network for Women's Leadership in Central Africa (RELEFCA), Coordinator of the Women Leaders for Peace Group and member of the Network of Peace Mediators (FemWise Africa) of the African Union. She is active in advocating before national authorities, regional and international institutions for the participation of women in peacebuilding and development process in her country.

Ms. EKOMO Lina, a sociologist, had a long international career at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) before serving her country as Minister Advisor to the Head of State in charge of the partnership during the political transition in CAR. She speaks French, English and Spanish.

Expectations in relation to the intergenerational dialogue:

- Learn more about young women's expectations regarding mentoring from women leaders
- How to build an efficient collaboration between women leaders and young women for sustainable transformations.

A leader is somebody who has the ability to drive others toward achieving the desired change.

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### **Lorato Modongo**

*Social Psychologist and lecturer on Research Methodology in Public Health*

Lorato Modongo is a Social Psychologist and currently lecturers on Research Methodology in Public Health at the Institute of Development Management (Botswana). Lorato has over 9 years' experience in activism work on education, young women leadership, and research on gendered violence, African intersectional feminism, and SRHR. She is also experienced in Psychometric testing and analysis, & qualitative research (Discourse analysis). Ms Modongo also run a project, TeenLead, which offers training to a group of junior school students on Gendered violence,

Consent, and Leadership. She serves as an Executive Committee member of the Women Deliver Young Leaders Alumni program.

Lorato's primary areas of interest include Social Psychology, African feminist thought, and knowledge creation around education, language, politics of identity and decoloniality. She is a Psychology graduate from Stellenbosch University, and University of Botswana. Lorato is a 2014 Mandela Rhodes Scholar, 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow under Civic Leadership, 2013 Women Deliver Fellow, 2012 One Young World Ambassador, and 2011 MILEAD Fellow.

"I expect the intergenerational partnership to be a safe space to have authentic dialogue about women and leadership in Africa, dismantling patriarchy, and celebrating this partnership.

"Leadership to me is serving and progressively transforming our communities."



## **Loice Erambo** *Head, Nairobi Hub of the Global Shapers Community*

Loice Erambo is the Head of the Nairobi Hub of the Global Shapers Community. The latter is a youth led initiative involved in community and social work in the areas of entrepreneurship, education, sustainable cities and the environment. In all their projects, gender inclusion and advancement is a big priority. As they seek to transform society, they are also building a movement of passionate young leaders capable of transforming Kenya and Africa. Loice is also an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. She is currently practicing in Nairobi Kenya as a Commercial Lawyer. Besides legal practice, Loice is a fierce advocate for vulnerable persons including women, refugees, indigenous communities and poor and underserved persons living in informal, rural and remote settlements. She is also passionate about youth empowerment and the potential of youthful leadership. Ultimately, Loice believes that nurturing leadership is critical to harnessing young Africans' talents and abilities towards attaining a transformed Africa.

"The Intergenerational Leadership retreat is an opportunity for young women leaders to learn vital lessons in leadership from our elders. As a young leader, I am also interested in learning of opportunities for collaboration with the African Women Leaders Network."

"For me, a leader is someone who is able to see opportunity in challenging circumstances and can rally critical numbers to achieve strategic goals."

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## **Medina Wesseh** *Ambassador*

A highly focused individual who works effectively in teams, building socio political networks and dedicated to public service with a career in law and politics, with more than 30 years work in the cause of humanity generally through contributions toward the enhancement of women's participation in the socio-economic development of society, politics, law, promotion of women leadership, strengthening of regional cooperation and integration, for peace, security and development the new Secretary General is committed to ensuring effective state collaboration and people's participation within the MRU framework

Prior to taking up her career in the legal field, Mrs. Medina A. Wesseh worked in the Office of the President as the Director General of the Cabinet and as Executive Assistant to the President of Liberia. Managing Partners of the Internal Law Group and had worked as a communications strategist Specialist during the 2005 and 2011 elections in Liberia.

Development communication, Women in Politics, Gender mainstreaming, organizational management skills have been the path to a rich International Public Service background as she has worked within the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, (Ethiopia) USAID Liberia Transition Initiative, (Liberia USAID) the Open Society of West Africa, (Abidjan and Dakar) United Nations Fund for Women/UNHCR (UNIFEM-Sierra Leone) the Consultant Management Enterprise, (Ghana) the United Nations Development Program, (Liberia) Served as a Tokten Consultant her (Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals) to the Liberia News Agency where actual career path in journalism begun. Served as Lecturer in communications Studies at both the state and faith-based Universities on a pro bono basis since 2004 (schedule and time permitting)





### **Mika Ndayiziga**

*Activist for human rights from Burundi*

Mika Ndayiziga is a 29 years old activist for human rights from Burundi who is passionate about advocating and finding durable solutions for communities in need. She has been working for nonprofit organizations at the local and international level since 2014.

She has a bachelor's degree in Social Work and a minor degree in Intercultural Communication from St Cloud State University, Minnesota. While undergoing her university years, she dedicated part of her time to working with vulnerable communities, especially South Sudanese and Somali families which had relocated to Minnesota. Additionally, she took the lead in organizing

fundraising events for cultural awareness within and outside of her university.

During her time in Burundi, Ms. Ndayiziga focused her professional career on building bridges between donors and communities in need through her work with different non-profit organizations and agencies. Currently, she serves as an Executive Assistant at the UNHCR Representation to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa.



### **Marie Louise Mwange**

*Politician and Honorary Minister of Gender, Child and Family*

Ms. Marie Louise Mwange is a politician and Honorary Minister of Gender, Child and Family. She is an advisor to the presidency and Deputy Secretary General of the Network of African Ministers and Parliamentarians (REFAMP). She fights for the emergence of women in all fields.

@MwangeMarie



### **Ambassador Monica Juma**

*Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Kenya*

Ambassador Monica Juma, DPhil, CBS, is the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. She has been the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from January 12, 2016. Prior to this, she was the Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.

Formerly, she served as Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Defence. Prior to these two portfolios, Dr Juma served as Ambassador Extra-Ordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the African Union, Inter-Government Authority on Development (IGAD) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), based out of Addis Ababa.

Amb Juma's career spans a wide range of posts and responsibilities within the country, continentally and internationally. She has served with numerous Governments and Inter-Governmental Organisations, on the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on resourcing for the United Nations Security Council's mandated Africa Union peacekeeping operations; (2008) and led teams that developed seminal peace and security policy documents in Africa. She continues to serve on many boards, including on the International Advisory Board for the United Nations University for Peace headquartered in Costa Rica, the Training for Peace Programme, and the African Governance Institute.

Amb Juma holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Oxford, Master of Arts (MA) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the University of Nairobi, and Certificate in Refugees Studies from Oxford. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Pretoria (South Africa); and an Adjunct Faculty member at the African Center for Strategic Studies of the National Defence University, Washington D.C. (United States of America).

She is an author to numerous publications including the Compendium on Peace and Security, articles in refereed journals, chapters in edited books, commissioned reports, monographs and opinion pieces on issues of peace, security and governance. Ambassador Juma is married and mother of two children.



## **Maryan Sheikh Ali**

### *Young Professional*

Maryan Sheikh Ali is a young professional who is enthusiastic and passionate about creating awareness on issues affecting her community such as FGM, Early marriage and Climate change. Currently she's the founder of a grassroots initiative called Bute Youth initiative. She's also working with UNICEF and a former Youth advocate.

She's eager to learn more and have experiences to build her Career.

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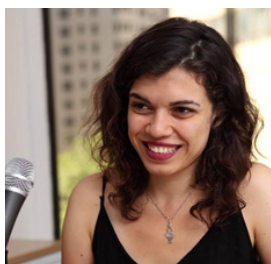


## **Nadine Angel Cloete**

### *Filmmaker, Team of the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy (OYE)*

Nadine Angel Cloete is a filmmaker based in Cape Town, South Africa. Her work focuses on history, human rights and social inequalities.

Her short documentary 'Miseducation' premiered on the New York Times Op-Doc site and at IDFA. Nadine's first feature length documentary called 'Action Kommandant' won the Audience Award at the Encounters South African International Documentary Festival in 2016 and Best Documentary at Africa in Motion, Scotland. It was nominated for Best Documentary at the Black Star Film Festival, USA in 2017 and received a Best Achievement in Directing in a Documentary Feature nomination at the SAFTAs. Nadine moves into fiction with short films focusing on apartheid era forced removals and indigenous coming of age traditions. She is part of the team of the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy.



## **Nana Abuelsoud**

### *Pan-African Feminist researcher and Fellow at the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)*

Nana is a pan-African Arabic speaking feminist researcher, who advocates passionately for bodily rights. Her background is in Linguistics, which she uses in her advocacy in semantics for sexual and reproductive rights. She is a member of Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ) and is also a Fulbright alumna. Nana is a fellow at the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER). Nana enjoys reading memoirs and zines by women authors.

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## **Nontobeko Tshabalala**

### *Communications Associate, Youth Division at African Union Commission*

Nontobeko Tshabalala leads on Communications in the Youth Division. Her work focuses on popularizing and ensuring the visibility of the 1 Million By 2021 Initiative of the Chairperson of the AUC, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat. In April at the launch she was on the team which popularised the 1 Million By 2021 Initiative at the Pan African Youth Forum. She has worked at the African Union Commission in the Bureau of the Chairperson, in the office of former Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and in the Department of Political Affairs as a Communications Associate. She is an alumna of the prestigious African Union Youth Volunteer (AUYV)

and International Visitors Leadership Programme. Further she has worked in her country, Eswatini, as an editor and communications specialist to sensitise youth on using their voices to speak out more on global issues. Her work on women, youth and their development saw her being chosen as one of the Media Institute of Southern Africa's (MISA) Women to Watch in 2014.

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## **Nomso Kana**

### *Nuclear Scientist and Entrepreneur*

Nomso Kana is a Nuclear scientist by trade and working as an entrepreneur in the broadband infrastructure sector, she founded Sun n Shield 84 Tech, a broadband infrastructure solutions company that is designing connectivity networks and distributing passive fibre optic products. In the near future it will erupt a passive fibre optic plant that will produce fibre optic cables and equipment required for Fibre-to-the-home/business. In 2014 she was appointed as a South African Delegation leader for the World sustainability energy forum based in Vienna, Austria, contributing towards sustainable solutions in mobility, energy, environment, waste management and community for cities around the globe. In 2017 She was recently named as one of the top inspiring women in ICT by the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the SA embassy and CoCreateSA.

Apart from her professional work, she was elected as one of the top 80 emerging leaders in science and technology in Africa and the Middle East and participated in TechWomen in 2013, an exchange program for women in STEM initiated by the former secretary of State Ms Hillary Clinton. Recently, Ms Kana was selected as the Power of 40 women to look out for in South Africa by Destiny magazine and has received numerous awards including Stanford University (USA) for the work in girl child empowerment using ICT in Africa.

In October 2018 Nomso received the Young Entrepreneur award by the African Women Innovation, Entrepreneurship forum (AWIEF). She has been recently appointed to serve as a Commissioner for the fourth industrial revolution, an initiative by incumbent South African President. She is serving as a Programme director for Taungana Africa, a non-profit movement that provides high school girls from rural and extremely underexposed sub-Saharan communities with world-class access platform and exposure to education and career options in STEM (science, technology, engineering/entrepreneurship and mathematics). Founded in 2013, the movement contributes to equal representation in STEM fields by developing programs that address socio-economic and gender barriers to engagement in these fields. In addition, Nomso has been a Regional Director for the Technovation challenge programme in South Africa for 3 years, where she works with approximately 50 girls annually where she teaches programming and mobile application development skills.

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## **Nyamugabo Nsimire Déborah**

### *Human Rights Activist*

Nyamugabo Nsimire Déborah est une jeune activiste de droits humains en général et de droits des femmes en particulier. Elle est née à Kinshasa, le 19 avril 1995, soit âgée de 24 ans. Nyamugabo Nsimire Déborah est étudiante à la faculté des sciences économiques, à l'Université protestante au Congo. Elle commence ses tâches au sein de son université où elle occupait le poste de ministre du genre en suite de la présidente du forum des jeunes de l'Université protestante au Congo. Dans le souci de promouvoir la jeune femme dans la participation politique et dans les instances de prise de décision, elle s'est investie aussi dans la politique, elle fut présidente de la ligue de femme et maintenant elle est secrétaire générale adjointe charge genre et des associations féminine du parti de la nouvelle énergie du Congo (PNEC) où elle exerce ses fonctions de politicienne. Elle est actuellement assistante de direction de l'ONG AFIA MAMA. Slogan: "l'avenir est ce que vous faites maintenant."

Twitter : [@Dnyamugabo](https://twitter.com/Dnyamugabo) / IG: Déborah Nyamugabo





## **Nothabo Ncube**

*Medical Director, inspirational TEDx speaker, coach and mentor*

Dr. Nothabo Ncube is an Inspirational TEDx Speaker, A Coach and A Millennial Mentor. Having overcome her own personal and professional obstacles, her powerful story encourages this generation to face their challenges and conquer them. Her story led her to meet the media mogul, Oprah Winfrey and just recently she shared her life journey on the TEDx platform. Through a whirlwind of inspirational lectures, round table discussions and media appearances on stages such as Global News TV, she positively influences, challenges and reconnects youth with their passions. She uses incredible wit and candor to empower young girls and women. Dr. Thabo envisions a world where all millennials are given the opportunity to become the best versions of themselves, not only to dream bigger dreams, but to create and shape the world they have always desired. Having lost her mother at the tender age of 14, at her mother's death bed, she made a promise to her to be a doctor in Zimbabwe. Destiny led her to Canada where she and her family found themselves living in Community Housing in Toronto, subjected to social ills that could have deterred her from her path, despite these circumstances she rose from the ashes. Her journey leading to the fulfillment of the promise has been one filled with loss, pain, failures, mistakes, resilience, courage, faith, hope, grace and overcoming adversity. Through her dedication to make global impact, she was nominated by MIPAD for the Under 40, Global 100 List 2019 and was also selected as Top 4 Immigrant Women of Inspiration in Canada. She is now on a mission to empower, to educate, to encourage, to enlighten, to inspire, to uplift and to motivate this generation to use pain as a pedestal toward the pinnacle of purpose.

"I expect to find a space to learn from those who have gone before me and paved the road so young women leaders like me can rise. I also wish to establish solid partnerships moving forward so we can work together in shifting the Africa narrative forward, and to be given the opportunity to make our voices, stories, visions heard, creating room for growth and change."

"A Leader/Leadership is someone whose work is connected to serving the community and the world at large – someone whose life is centered on helping people lead purpose driven lives."

Facebook: Dr.Thabo / Facebook Personal: Nothabo Ncube Instagram: @drthabo Twitter: @drthabo



## **Nkoyo Toyo**

*Chairperson, AWLN Nigeria*

Nkoyo Toyo is the chairperson of the African Women's Leaders Network in Nigeria. She has worked on issues of gender equality and human rights for over 3 decades. A former ambassador to Ethiopia and a permanent representative to the AU, Nkoyo has served on many international bodies including the board of Oxfam GB, Advisory Committee of the Commonwealth Foundation and is a trustee of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. She was a Member of the House of Representatives in Nigeria and has held several other positions. She works mostly as a consultant for several international development partners.

"From this intergenerational partnership, I expect that as a young African organization, the mandate of AWLN will become clearer to me; and the context of intergenerational leadership better articulated. Secondly, that we are able to present intergenerational leadership not as an end, but as a means to something and what is that something?"

A leader is one who bring various interests individual or groups together in order to work out with them a path for action."

Twitter @AmbToyo





## **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda** *Trained Human Rights Lawyer*

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda is a trained human rights lawyer with extensive experience in conflict resolution and mediation. For some twenty years, she has been working on issues of women and children's human rights, with a special focus on crisis countries. Active in the women's movement, she has more specifically focused on issues of violence against women, peace with justice, property rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV and AIDS. She is current chair of CIVICUS, and Rozaria Memorial Trust, and serves on the Advisory Committee for Girls Not Brides. She is the first President from the global south to serve on the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She was appointed a member of the High Level Group on HIV Prevention and Sexual Health for Young People in Eastern and Southern Africa by the United Nations; following her service as a member of the UN Commission on Information and Accountability on Women and Children's Health.

In May 2014 she was named Goodwill Ambassador of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, further consolidating the World YWCA's important work on ending child, early and forced marriage in a single generation



## **Ms. Ouriatou Danfakha** *Senior Policy Officer in the Bureau of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission since 2015*

Senior Policy Officer in the Bureau of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission since 2015, and the focal person for the Department of HRST, Social Affairs and Gender. Native of the Republic of Mali, Ouriatou M. Danfakha is an international development practitioner, strategic thinker, and policy expert with over 15 year expertise in socio-economic diversity and leadership training, gender equality and women's empowerment, and resource mobilization, particularly in Africa.

A recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious James R. Washington Award for extensive work with the Community of Hope and Technology Center's Child Survival Project in Senegal, funded by USAID. Ms. Danfakha is a graduate of Economics of the University of Massachusetts, Boston.



## **Onyinye Okaah** *Executive Secretary, Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC)*

Onyinye Okaah holds an MBA (Masters in Business Administration) from the University of Nigeria Enugu Campus. She is the Executive Secretary of the Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) and has headed the women's rights program of the organisation for over ten years. She has successfully implemented programs that promote and protect women's rights. In particular, she has worked with women living with HIV in a United Nations Trust Fund project that seeks to build bridges to end violence against women as a strategy for HIV prevention and stigma reduction. She also headed the team that implemented a UN Women project: "Promoting Respect for the Rights of Women to Property and Inheritance in the Context of HIV/AIDS". She is the Program Officer on UNFPA projects on "Increased Access to and Quality Utilization of Family Planning Services" and on the "Accelerating the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation". She is also the Program Officer in charge of an Ipas project on "Popularising the Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act and Sensitising Communities on Sexual and Reproductive Health Right". She is the National Program Officer of Affirmative Action Initiative for Women (NCAA) a coalition of more than 300 NGOs in Nigeria and a steering committee member of AWLN Nigeria chapter.

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## **Paivi Kannisto**

*UN Women, Chief Peace and Security*

I have worked for 10 years in Africa (Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Kenya) and another 10+ years in Europe (Geneva, Helsinki) with issues related to development cooperation, economics and management, gender equality. I have a MSc degree in business administration and economics. I have knowledge and experience in peace and security, especially related to the UN Security Council res. 1325, working experience in the field of environment, especially climate change, biodiversity and issues related to funding these as well as in private public partnerships, and with donor relations - all related to developing countries.

I look forward to continuing working in this field. I continue to be excited by new innovative ideas and new innovative partnerships and possibilities that these offer everywhere. Specialties: development, economics, trade, gender equality, public private partnerships, Africa, peace and security, negotiations.



## **Pascale Gabriella Serra**

*Filmmaker and photographer*

Pascale is a filmmaker and photographer from Central African Republic. Her first short film entitled Zone-3 is a careful and succinct painting of the story of the people who found refuge near the Bangui airport during the tragic events that blew up in her country in 2013. This is a four-time international award winning documentary in the United States, Cameroon, France and Congo DRC. It was finalized with the support of the Alliance Française de Bangui as well as Voice of America in Washington DC. This was done within the framework of an internship carried out in 2017, following her selection in the Mandela Washington Fellowship, a program

for young African Leaders. Pascale's documentary is used today as a tool to raise awareness on issues related to subjects such as resilience, reconciliation, and reconstruction. Convinced that Arts and Culture are factors of social cohesion and development, she has founded the Remembrance House which is a cultural and psycho-social center that aims at being a crossroad between the collective memories, artistic creations and a sense of living together in order to contribute to the process of reconciliation in the Central African Republic.

"It will be such a great opportunity to listen to or to meet great women leaders during the AWLN intergenerational Leadership Retreat. I do also expect to extend my network in order to find out what could be possible to be done together and to highlight what we do in my country in order to gain more knowledge and ideas.

According to me, a good leader is someone who has a clear vision, integrity and humility; who understands that having privileges is a way to lift up people and to push them to be their best."

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## **Prudence Ngwenya**

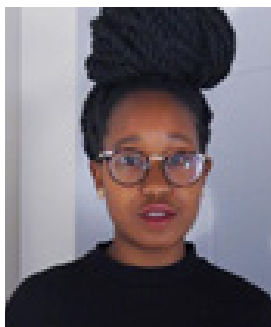
*Head of Division, Human Resource and Youth Development at the Africa Union Commission*

Ms. Prudence Ngwenya is the current Head of the Division of Human Resource and Youth Development at the Africa Union Commission. Her main responsibilities include leading and providing strategic guidance on the AUC's mandate on Youth Development. Her areas of focus include; developing frameworks for use by AU Ministries in charge of youth to align AU frameworks at country and regional levels, developing institutional linkages and policy mechanisms to promote regional collaboration and integration in the implementation of the relevant

AU frameworks. She led the team which conceptualized and continues to execute the Initiative of AUC Chairperson H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, 1Million by 2021.

Prior to joining the AUC, she worked with Southern African AIDS Trust as the Strategic Advisor to the Regional Director, the UNFPA Eswatini country office. She provided technical support to the development, implementation, management and monitoring of country strategies for HIV prevention, providing particular guidance on UNFPA's mandate on Youth Development and providing policy guidance and technical support to help the country office focus HIV planning and programming so as to deliver results on sexual and reproductive health for all population groups especially youth.

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### **Pumla Maswanganyi**

*Chief Strategy Officer at Jara, Head of Strategy & Operations at Baobab Consulting*

Pumla Maswanganyi is a South African development strategist, mentor, entrepreneur, and innovator; working at the intersection of strategy, design, and global development. As a global citizen having lived and worked on 5 continents, she is committed to disrupting conventional development approaches, such as traditional education and employment norms.

Pumla pioneers context-based solutions for marginalised populations: from creating a program that seeks to alleviate child marriage by merging education and entrepreneurship for young women; to forging global partnerships to empower youth from low-income backgrounds through non-traditional learning; to creating accessible low-cost education technology.

She serves as the youngest executive in 2 establishments. She is the Chief Strategy Officer at Jara: an organisation providing emergency education to children in post disaster zones, through a portable low-cost crank & solar powered education technology device. She is also the Head of Strategy & Operations at Baobab Consulting, through which she supports leaders and organisations creating an impact on the African continent.

Amongst many accolades, Pumla's work has earned her the Forbes Fellowship; Resolution Project Fellowship; and inclusion to the UNLEASH Sustainable Development Innovation Lab, as a talent creating solutions in SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure for 2019.



### **Rethabile Sereba**

*Youth activist*

Youth activist from Lesotho born and living with HIV. She is a speaker who specializes in advocacy and training on SRHR, HIV Awareness and youth empowerment.

"I am attending the retreat to meet other youth, share my story and to learn from others."



### **Rose Wachuka**

*Advisor on Policy Affairs and Chief of Staff in charge of the office of the Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Sports, Culture and Heritage, Kenya*

Rose Wachuka is a scholar and public policy practitioner serving as an Advisor on Policy Affairs and Chief of Staff in charge of the office of the Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Sports, Culture and Heritage, a position she previously held at the Ministry of Education. Passionate about the law, healthcare, education, women and girls; Rose's mission is to enrich these three fields to protect the dignity of all. As one of the youngest employees in senior positions within the Kenyan Government, Rose has dedicated herself to the public service and is proud to have led the Cabinet team in realising some of the greatest breakthroughs such as 100% transition from primary to secondary education making Kenya, one of the few countries in Africa that have achieved this milestone enabling millions of girls to access post-primary education.

She is also proud to have co-created an innovative and first of its-kind project in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation under the "Young Africa Works" model to train and transition 5 million young Kenyans into decent and fulfilling work within the next 5 years. Previously, Rose served as the youngest member of the Kenyan Supreme Court's Technical Team working with the Justices to settle electoral law and chart a philosophy of constitutional interpretation in Kenya.

Twitter: @RWachuka / IG: Rose Wachuka





**Riya Williams Yuyada**  
*Women's human rights and peace activist*

Riya has been part of the 2019 European Parliament Sakharov fellowship, Intense course on, committee on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and women's human Rights at the Women's Human Rights Institute at the University of Toronto, Canada, She has a Bachelor's degree in Development economics from Makerere University in Kampala, Kings College Budo, St. Lawrence Citizens High School, Sir Apollo Kaggwa Primary School. Her Achievements include: lead founder of Crown The Woman- SS, Co-founder of PLAY FOR PEACE SOUTH SUDAN, Technical support to the South Sudan High Level Revi-

talisation (HLRF) forum peace talks and a TedX Kakuma refugee camp 2018 speaker and recently initiated a campaign #BornToLead/women at the frontlines/NuswanGidaam, which is advocating for women's inclusion at all levels of leadership.

She is passionate about peace and women's human rights. She is best known for her role in peace building in schools and communities. Having worked as a Civic Education Officer, she recalled an experience where an elderly woman of about 80 years told her that she was too young to preach about peace. Riya then started working with children teaching them peaceful co-existence through games. The war in her country makes schools to be closing and reopening which makes her work difficult. She then realised the only way to reach the children was through empowering their mothers and the girl child socially, politically and economically given the fact that women are still not given opportunities especially in education, decision making and representation hence initiating the birth of Crown The Woman-South Sudan, a women founded and led national grassroots organisation that aims at addressing women's issues and harness their potential to contribute to nation building.

"I expect A 2 way kind of mentorship from the intergenerational partnership. For me, a leader is someone who sacrifices their lives to serve others passionately."

Twitter: @theonlyriya1



**Ruvarashe W. Miti**  
*Innovator, Youth advocate and founder of Youth Vibes AfriKa*

Ruvarashe W. Miti is a young innovator, youth advocate and founder of Youth Vibes AfriKa. She is a renowned volunteer with lots of experience in youth issues specifically [SRHR] Sexual Reproductive Health Rights /HIV & AIDS/ Gender Equality & Education. Ruvarashe is an influential individual who has taken the extra mile to utilize mass media as a tool for advocacy as a radio and TV personality. She can be reached via the following platforms.

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**Sefora Kodjo Kouassi**  
*Gender activist*

Gender activist, Sefora Kodjo Kouassi in the last 10 years has led a youth organization called SEPHIS, which is dedicated to highlighting young women's views and perspectives on women's issues, leadership and empowerment across 7 African countries where her initiative is represented. She holds a Masters in Development Studies and has 3 years of experience as a Research Officer at the Ministry of Youth and is Director at the Ministry of Communication in Ivory Coast. Sefora is MWF YALI Alumna and part of the 200 Obama Leaders of 2018.





## **Samah Jamous** *young Sudanese advocate for peace and security*

Samah Jamous is a young Sudanese advocate for peace and security, particularly for women and young people in conflict areas. She is a Program Advisor at Hope of Peoples of Sudan, and recently was nominated to be a member of the African Women Leaders Network. Ms. Jamous is a creative thinker who has worked with many Sudanese youth initiatives and NGOs on socio-political change. While studying dentistry at the University of Khartoum in 2011, she co-founded the Sharwarea initiative, a young activist group that used street art as an avenue for social and political change. In 2014 Ms. Jamous also led a campaign to support IDP victims of rape and war crimes which was coordinated across 14 countries. More recently she co-founded an initiative called 'Women for Peace Initiative', a youth led movement aimed at ensuring spaces for young community leaders from conflict areas in different levels of peace and security decision making processes (in line with UNSCR 2250).

Ms. Jamous is an alumna of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's Young Leaders Programme. She was involved with the Gesr Center from 2016 to 2018, an organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights through empowering and supporting youth centered initiatives. She has transferred her skills to over 500 Sudanese youth as part of her work with the Gesr Center. Ms. Jamous is a member of MANSAM, a women's coalition that formed during the revolution to ensure women's meaningful inclusion in any transition process. In addition, she has presented lectures on GBV with Amnesty International in Slovenia at The University of Ljubljana, is an alumni of FES Generation One Young Leaders' program and is a UNDP 4th generation SDGs advocate. Samah is a trained dentist from the University of Khartoum.



## **Sahle-Work Zewde** *President, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*

H.E Sahle-Work Zewde is the current President of Ethiopia and the first woman to hold the office.

President Zewde was previously Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) at the level of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

She was the Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) and served as Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as well as Director-General for African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

President Zewde has served as the Ethiopian Ambassador to France, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and accredited to Tunisia and Morocco (2002-2006). From 1993 to 2002, she served as Ambassador to Djibouti and Permanent Representative to the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), and to Senegal, with accreditation to Mali, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Guinea (1989-1993).

Ms. Zewde is a natural sciences graduate of the University of Montpellier, France.

Twitter: @SahleWorkZewde



## **Sindy Zemura-Bernard** *Founder and Executive Director, Southern Africa Embrace Foundation*

Sindy is the Founder and Executive Director at the Southern Africa Embrace Foundation, an International Development charity registered in Canada. She is a humanitarian, entrepreneur, speaker and specialist on youth empowerment, gender equality, ending GBV and HIV awareness. Sindy serves on various global committees and boards including UNAIDS, CANFAR, UNFPA, CSW NGO NY, IAS, Canadian Voices of Women for Peace, UNICEF and WIIS.

She also volunteers at the African Union Office of the Special Youth Envoy (OYE) as Project Coordinator and Lead - Intergenerational Dialogues Action Plan. Sindy aspires to work as an ambassador in the near future.

Twitter: @sindyzg / IG: sindygz



### **Samrawit Tasew**

*Communication and Advocacy officer, Office of Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security at African Union Commission*

Currently working as the Communication and Advocacy Officer of the Office of Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security at African Union Commission, came a long way through various fields of study and experience. Her journey started as a lawyer, served as public prosecutor of the anti-corruption commission. Widening her perspective, she studied global studies with special emphasis on peace and security in Africa.

The power and impact of media/communication in shaping discourse, society and bringing transformation was the right position she decided to be. For almost a decade now, she is engaged in media, communication. She led Ethiopia's largest English weekly newspaper as Editor in Chief before starting her own endeavours taking up consultancies and trainings with various media houses. As a daughter of a strong gender equality advocate, and a mother, the issue of women's empowerment is close to her heart and she aspires to take a leading role in groundbreaking initiatives to bring CHANGE.



### **Simiso Shabangu**

*2019 MILEAD fellow*

Simiso Shabangu, from the Kingdom of Eswatini is a 2019 MILEAD fellow. She was selected as 1 amongst 28 of Africa's Most Outstanding Emerging Women Leaders by the Moremi Initiative for Women Leadership in Africa. She is a recent graduate from the African Leadership University in Mauritius. She believes that women should be able to own their voices and effectively communicate their beliefs, hence she has invested her time in growing herself and others through debate. As such Simiso was honored as the 2016 Best Debater in Mauritius and 2018 Best Debater in East Africa by the Pan African University Debate Championship. She was also

selected as the only African scholar in the 2019 Munster International Model United Nations. As a member of the diverse founding class of the African Leadership University and the Inaugural Graduation Class Speaker, she appreciates the diversity that exists in the African continent.

"I want to learn from those who have gone before me about the challenges of being a female leader in Africa and how we can improve that in our time. I also hope to hear the stories of other young women across Africa.

A leader is anybody who uses her talents and skills to influence, serve and make life better for others."

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### **Syeda Re'em Hussain**

*Pan-African feminist and team member in the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy (OYE)*

Syeda Re'em Hussain is a Pan-African feminist. She is an Art of Hosting practitioner and early career International Relations scholar. She is passionate about cultivating safe spaces for learning, reflection and empowerment. She has served as a committee member of Friends of City Park, Nairobi, Kenya; and has sat on the National Council for the Kenya Girl Guides Association. She has worked in Egypt and Kenya. She holds a M.A in International Human Rights Law and a B.A in International Relations. She is currently a PhD candidate in International Relations

doing research on public space and protest.

She has published a book section titled "Reclaiming the City: Guerrilla Gardening in Nairobi." An article published with Goyei Guy Fineman titled "Sustainable Transitional Justice Policies in Africa: A Searchlight on Pan African Youth Organizations"; as well as a book titled "Hip-Hop: Lessons From The Frontline. The Disenchantment of Liberal Legal Discourse" which is a development of her M.A. thesis.

"My expectations for the intergenerational partnership are for us to have honesty and heartfelt conversations around the reality of being a woman and leader; and for both generations to connect and organize around issues they are passionate about. A leader for me is someone that acts a conduit to organize communities around issues while always being aware not to take agency from the communities they organize around."

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### **Shuvai Busuman Nyoni**

*Executive Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC)*

Shuvai Busuman Nyoni is a gender, peace and security practitioner who currently serves as the Executive Director of the African Leadership Centre (ALC), Nairobi, Kenya. The ALC is a research and training initiative that focuses on raising the next generation African leaders, thinkers and practitioners within the peace, security and development sector. The ALC seeks to contribute to Africa's long term social and economic security and development terrain by training and mentoring the next generation of young African leaders as well as through rigorous research and knowledge generation.

Prior to joining the Centre, Shuvai worked as the Director of Interventions for the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) in Johannesburg, South Africa where she led the Centre's policy engagement with the African Union. She has worked extensively with a range of regional and national policy makers, civil society actors and academics in post-conflict and transitional countries on the African continent. Through her work Shuvai has engaged with issues pertaining to post-conflict reconstruction, governance, social and economic justice, transitional justice, reconciliation, and national and community healing. Shuvai also works as a gender advisor undertaking documentation of sexual and gender based violence in conflict settings.



### **Susan Grace Duku**

*Social Development Certificate, Uganda Martyrs University*

Susan is a South Sudanese refugee for the second time in Uganda since 1992 and 2016, settled in the West Nile district of Arua (Rhino Camp settlement). She is a woman representative in the refugee settlement and an elected representative of refugees at the CRRF steering group. She was elected as one of 2 refugee representatives to the CRRF Steering Group in October 2018, and she has represented refugees along with her male counterpart at three Steering Group meetings. She gave a speech at the launch of Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan launch in January 2019, was a panelist at the IGAD regional meeting in March 2019 and delivered the

statement of Refugee and Returnee Women to the African Union continental consultative meeting on the 1969 OAU convention in June 2019.



### **Thelma Awori**

*Member, Steering Committee of the African Women's Leadership Network (AWLN)*

Dr. Thelma Awori is a thought leader and innovator in the creation of partnerships between academia and communities. She has an Ed.D in Leadership and Learning from Columbia University Teachers College in New York, a Masters Degree in Adult Education from the University of California Berkeley and a Bachelor's degree in Social Relations from Harvard University. She has served in many senior roles within the United Nations including Assistant Secretary General responsible for all of UNDP work in Africa.

Dr. Awori is one of the leading champions of increasing women's leadership at all levels and is currently a member of the Steering Committee of the African Women's Leadership Network. In that initiative, she coordinates the Empowering Women in Agriculture programme where she seeks to bring new scientific knowledge into the agricultural work that women do. She is the initiator of an Africa wide program that supports women market vendors. As part of her civic responsibility, Dr. Awori serves on a number of intergovernmental, private sector and civil society groups.





### **Tolulope Lewis Tamoka**

*Advisor of the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) on secondment from UN Women*

Ms. Tolulope Lewis Tamoka currently serves as the Development Coordination Post Conflict, Advisor of the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) on secondment from UN Women where she was the Africa Programme Advisor at UN Women headquarters in New York until September 2019. Before returning to UN Women, Tolu was Gender Affairs Officer with the UN Mission Libya (UNSMIL) up until June 2014. Tolu also served as Programme Manager of the Women Peace and Security Institute Programme at the Kofi Anan International Peace Keeping Centre (KAIPTC) under UNDP Ghana and was previously Programme Specialist with the UNWOMEN Africa Division in New York from 2009 -2011. From 2007 - 2009 she was Officer in Charge for UNIFEM (now UNWOMEN) Nigeria.

Prior to joining the UN in 2006, Tolu was Governance Manager for the British Council Nigeria. Tolu has 18 years of experience in development management, women's human rights, peace and security. Tolu is a lawyer and an International Fellow at the Human Rights Institute of Columbia University in New York.

Tolu was recognized by InStyle's second Badass 50 Women list for her role in incorporating the SDGs in the animated children's television series Thomas & Friends.



### **Unami Jeremiah**

*Writer, speaker, convenor and grassroots advocate for gender equality*

Unami is highly motivated to deliver for women and girls' empowerment as a writer, speaker, convenor and has been a grassroots advocate for Gender equality for the past decade. She holds an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) through the Chevening scholarship. She has advocacy experience in education, adolescent health and leadership of young people.

Ms Jeremiah is a founding member of the African Women Leaders Network and serves on the steering committee. Unami is passionate about advancing female participation, inclusiveness and representation in political leadership and economic decision-making. Unami is exploring job opportunities to engage the intersection of Gender, education and labour within the DC area. In the interim she created Afroversations, a blog platform to highlight African excellence in the diaspora. Unami is intentional about becoming a shrewd policy maker for the government of Botswana in her future.



### **Upendo Furaha Peneza**

*Member of Parliament in the United Republic of Tanzania*

I am currently a Member of Parliament in the United Republic of Tanzania through the opposition party, Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA). I do serve as a chairperson of the Tanzania Youth Parliamentarians Forum (TYPF), which is the youth caucus in the parliament. I'm also a member the technical team of the women caucus in the parliament. I'm an advocate of women and girl rights in and out of the parliament. I run women empowerment programs in my constituency where I have mobilized women to form women savings and credit groups. In the groups women are educated about their rights and entrepreneurial skills. On the other hand, I hold a Bachelor degree in Sociology through the Open University of Tanzania.





### **Verlaine-Diane Soobroydoo**

*Policy Adviser on Women, Peace and Security  
and Coordinator of the African Women's Network (AWLN)*

Ms. Verlaine-Diane Soobroydoo is the Policy Adviser on Women, Peace and Security and Focal Person of the African Women's Network (AWLN), a joint AU-UN initiative led by the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and UN Women. She focuses her work and engagements on gender, peace, security, women and youth empowerment.

Verlaine was recognized in 2018 in the "Global List of 100 Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD)." On the occasion of International Women's Day 2019, Onlytica included her in its list "Top 100 Most Influential Individuals" leading the discussion around equality and diversity.

Expectations: "The Intergenerational Leadership Retreat of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) was convened in the spirit of partnership to build, together – young and senior women leaders from all walks of life – the Africa and the world we want. My aspiration is to help build the platforms and avenues to bolster intergenerational partnership. Through AWLN I have learned that we really can create this powerful space of mutual exchange, mindful enrichment and learning – a space in which young and senior women can form impactful relations to drive transformative change for sustainable peace and development.

Leader/Leadership "I will quote a ground-breaking and inspiring AWLN Leader, Dr. Joyce Banda, "Leadership is about falling in love with the people you serve and the people falling in love with you." A leader is a person who selflessly gives back to the world the gifts that have been offered within them and who receives the gifts of others."

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### **Vanessa Metou**

*Member, African Union Youth Advisory Council*

Vanessa Metou is a young legal expert in international criminal law and a youth activist.

A lecturer assistant at University and Consultant, she started her involvement 10 years ago where she worked to promote Child's Rights; she progressively joined various NGOs and Youth-led Organizations. She joined the National Youth Council and the Pan-African Youth Union in 2014. She is a member of Francophone Leaders International Network and a YALI Alumna. She affirms her leadership by volunteering activities with youth and inactive girls in her community. For the past 7 years, she has worked to promote socio-cultural, economic and political rights of young people and advocates for youth aspirations.

In 2016 she created LONA NGO framework for the development and transfer of knowledge for the benefit of young people, focusing on leadership and civic engagement, education, entrepreneurship and women's empowerment. Her Leadership style is about inspiring people and helps them to realize their full potential as actors of change in community. She sows the seeds of hope by inspiring generations to be agents of change that Africa needs.

Vanessa Metou was recently appointed to the African Union Youth Advisory Council.

Twitter: [@Vanessa\\_Metou](https://twitter.com/Vanessa_Metou)



## **Vera Songwe**

### *Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa*

Vera Songwe took up her role as the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on 3 August 2017 at the level of Under Secretary-General.

She brings to ECA and the position of Executive Secretary, a long-standing track record of providing policy advice on development and a wealth of experience in delivering development results for Africa, as well as a demonstrated strong and clear strategic vision for the continent.

Prior to joining the ECA, she was Regional Director of the International Finance Corporation, covering West and Central Africa. In addition, she continues to serve as a non-resident Senior

Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Africa Growth Initiative. She is also a member of the African Union institutional reform team under the direction of the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, and a board member of the African Leadership Network and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

Previously, she was Country Director for the World Bank, covering Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. She was also Adviser to the Managing Director of the World Bank for Africa, Europe and Central and South Asia and a lead Country Sector Coordinator for the organization. She had earlier served as the World Bank's Senior Economist in the Philippines.

Prior to joining the World Bank, she was a Visiting Researcher at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota and at the University of Southern California.

She holds a PhD in Mathematical Economics from the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics and a Master of Arts in Law and Economics and a Diplôme d'études approfondies in Economic Science and Politics from the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Michigan and is a graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes College in Cameroon. Ms. Songwe has published widely on development and economic issues.



## **Vivian Onano**

### *Social Entrepreneur and humanitarian*

Vivian Onano is a social entrepreneur and seasoned humanitarian who is recognized as an emerging woman leader with the courage to lead change on the African continent. She has a strong commitment to education, women's economic empowerment, and leadership. Vivian has a deep interest in re-defining Africa's growth and development and creating an inclusive world where women and youth can play an important role. She is a graduate of Carthage College and a strategic development consultant on education, youth empowerment and employment, and women's economic empowerment. Vivian is a youth advisor to Global Education Monitoring

Report, UNESCO and the Founder/Director at Leading Light Initiative.

New African Woman Magazine featured her in 2016 as one of the "30 under 30: Faces Changing Africa Now" and Forbes Woman Africa profiled her as "One to Watch". Vivian is a recipient of the 2017 New African Woman on the Rise Award and 2016 MTV "Africa Re-Imagined" Award. In 2015 she was honored with Mrs. Obama's "Let Girls Learn" award by MORE Magazine for her advocacy work on girls' education. Vivian is a respected speaker who often speaks on global education, gender equality, youth empowerment, and international development. She has presented at the United Nations General Assembly, World Innovation Summit for Education, The Global Education and Skills Forum, Concordia Summit and the Clinton Global Initiative, among others.

Twitter: [@vivianonano](https://twitter.com/vivianonano)



## **Wanjuhi Njoroge**

*Founder of Nelig Group and Corporate Communications Consultant*

Wanjuhi Njoroge is the founder of Nelig Group, a conglomerate involved in Media & ICT, Sustainability and Inclusive Development. She is a Corporate Communications Consultant in areas of Strategic Management, Media Relations, Government Relations, Crisis Communications, Social Media and Brand Management, Political Communications and Association Management and an advocate for adoption of Sustainability & Inclusion.

She is also a social media consultant, a twitter chat host and a panel moderator on African Affairs, Youth, Women, Energy, Climate Change, trade, Entrepreneurship and Rural Development. She is passionate about inclusive development that incorporates rural communities which constitute 70% of Africa's population. She has setup two ICT centers and a library worth \$10,000/- in rural Kenya which have greatly improved access to education and increased the quality of education for children who had previously lacked access to education beyond the primary school level. In January 2018, Wanjuhi started the #SaveOurForestsKe online campaign following the widespread destruction of Forests in Kenya. This created a platform for Kenyans to share evidence of destruction of other forests which attracted media attention that led to a nation-wide public outcry that has since provoked a 9-month ban by the government on forest tree logging and led to policy change in Kenya.

Due to her community development pursuits, Wanjuhi was named 2016's top 40 under 40 woman by the leading newspaper in Kenya, the Daily Nation. This is a prestigious award that celebrates exceptional young Kenyan women. Wanjuhi is also a member of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance's Gender & Youth and the Environment Board.

Wanjuhi is the former Curator of the Nairobi Hub of the Global Shapers.

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## **Winnie Byanyima**

*Executive Director, Oxfam International and Incoming Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS*

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of Oxfam International, is a global women's rights leader human rights defender and a global authority on economic inequality. At Oxfam she leads a confederation working in more than 90 countries worldwide to fight inequality and poverty. Winnie currently chairs the World Economic Forum's Regional Strategy Group for Africa and sits on the World Bank Group's Advisory Council on Gender and Development and the Global

Commission on Adaptation. She has recently served on the International Labour Organization's Global Commission on the Future of Work and on the Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency.

Prior to Oxfam, Winnie was the director of gender and development at the United Nations Development Programme and earlier had held the same position at the African Union Commission. A Ugandan national, she served eleven years in the Ugandan Parliament after having participated in Uganda's liberation struggle against dictatorship.

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## **Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs**

*Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa - UN Women*

Izeduwa (Zed) has been appointed as UN Women's new Regional Director for East and Southern Africa (office in Kenya).

Zed transitions to the role of Regional Director having served as UN Women Representative in South Sudan since June 2012 and prior to this Representative in Liberia for just over three years. Prior to joining UN Women/ former-UNIFEM, she served with UNFPA as Gender Adviser in Ethiopia and HIV Programme Specialist in Malawi. She worked with Actionaid International as Regional HIV Coordinator, based in Nairobi and as Policy Officer/ International

HIV Campaigns Coordinator in Brussels. She had her first UN experience with the former-UNIFEM in her home country of Nigeria subsequent to several years of work for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as a Medical Officer.

A national of Nigeria, Zed holds Master's degree in Public health from the University of London and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She received her MB ChB from the University of Jos in Nigeria.





- DECLARATION -

**AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN)**

**INTERGENERATIONAL RETREAT ON WOMEN  
LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA:**

**“African Women Leaders Network: All Generations  
Achieving Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063”**

**August 16 - 18, 2019 - Nairobi, Kenya**

We, **African Women Leaders**, meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on the occasion of the first African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Intergenerational Retreat on Women Leadership in Africa: “building the Africa we want together”, held from 16 – 18 August, 2019, organized by the African Women Leaders Network, the AWWN Young Women Leaders Caucus and the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy, and convened by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of the Republic of Liberia and Patron of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN); and hosted by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and the Global Youth Champion;

**Thanking** the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya for their hospitality and support for the Intergenerational retreat and the commitment of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya to convene a Youth Conference and convey its conclusions to his peers;

**Expressing** gratitude to former Heads of State, **H.E. Joyce Banda**, Former President of the Republic of Malawi; **H.E. Catherine Samba - Panza**, Former President of the Central African Republic and **H.E. Ameen Gurib-Fakim**, Former President of the Republic of Mauritius; as well as the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, **H.E. Amina J. Mohammed**, the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, **H.E. Mme Bineta Diop**, and the Executive Director of UN Women, **H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, for their leadership and insightful guidance during the retreat;

**Recognising** the global, continental and regional legal instruments, protocols, declarations and political decisions that have been adopted to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth, especially young women, including Agenda 2063; Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals; African Union (AU) decision on Gender Parity and Youth Quota 2025; the African Youth Charter, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) program of action, and the AU Commission Chairperson’s initiative on “1 million by 2021”, that puts human capital, particularly women and youth, at the center of the AU development agenda;



**Acknowledging** the support of the African Union Commission and the United Nations to the African Women Leaders Network, under the leadership of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and H.E. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations through the AU Commission Departments of Human Resources Science and Technology; the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security; the Directorate of Information and Communication; UN Women; UNDP; UNFPA; UNICEF and UNHCR, as well as of the Federal Republic of Germany for its continued support to the African women Leaders Network (AWLN).

**Recalling** the call to action made during the AWLN 2017 High Level Women Leaders Forum for Africa's Transformation and the AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus 2018 declaration;

**Commending** the UN-AU High level solidarity missions to strengthen women's participation and leadership in peace, security and development; the establishment of the African Women Leadership Fund (AWLF); as well as the launch of the AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus, AWLN National Chapters in AU Member States and AWLN Groups of Friends to the UN in New York and to the AU Addis Ababa;

**Acknowledging** the commendable progress and efforts made towards the participation of women, especially young women in political, economic and social spheres in Africa;

**Noting** with concern that this progress, is still far below the levels required for impactful transformation, and the continued fragile situation of women and girls in situations of conflicts and the need to protect young women activists in democratic processes;

**Reaffirming** the imperative need for intergenerational mentorship, dialogue and partnerships, to ensure strong women's leadership across generations, driven by principles and values that advance the delivery of commitments for Africa's transformation;

**Inspired** by the untapped potential, innovation, creativity, resilience and commitment of African women leaders to building the Africa we want together;

We do hereby commit to:

1. **Develop** sustainable, innovative and inter-generational mentorship framework with offline and online intergenerational dialogue platforms and structures that will propel current and emerging African women to lead in various sectors of life;



2. **Design** and implement a Roadmap 2020 – 2022 as part of the AWLN Young Women's leadership pillar for meaningful young women's engagement and participation in governance, peace and security and in leadership positions, with the support of Senior Women Leaders, as well as across the Network's pillars;
3. **Mobilize** technical and financial resources to support the implementation of the Roadmap including the establishment of an AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus Fund to support impactful young women led initiatives;
4. **Accelerate** the establishment of AWLN National Chapters to at least 25 chapters by 2020, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +25) and ensure young women's effective, equal and full participation in their leadership;
5. **Organize** an annual AWLN inter-generational retreat to assess, monitor progress and scale up strategies with the support of the African Union Commission, the United Nations, UN Women and other partners;
6. **Include** young women in AWLN solidarity missions to support women in their peace, security and development agenda;
7. **Urge** Member States and other partners to support the implementation of AWLN initiatives to enhance women leadership in Africa's transformation and kindly submit to H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, to convey the request to the African Union Assembly and to the United Nations General Assembly.

Done in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18 August, 2019



## AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN)

### INTERGENERATIONAL RETREAT

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2020-2022

#### Background

The Intergenerational retreat seeks to reinforce more intentional, inclusive and transitional leadership of women; build a sustainable, innovative and cross-generational mentorship structure that will propel emerging and current African women to lead as well as solidify the AWLN membership criteria and AWLN young women's caucus call to action. The retreat guides the design and delivery of a solution-oriented "Plan of Action 2020-2022" as part of the African Women Leaders Network's young women leadership pillar, to be implemented by both emerging and senior AWLN women leaders and with the support of the guiding institutions – the African Union and the United Nations. It also provides an opportunity for joint long-term collaboration with the larger AWLN Forum, the AWLN National Chapter, the African Union and the United Nations on Women's Leadership on strategic frameworks, including Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, as well as the 1 million by 2021 Initiative.

#### What are the key strategic areas the Plan of Action 2020-2022" will address?







## Suggested Areas of Focus 2020-2022

### **Sustainable mentorship structures and intergenerational dialogues;**

- Formal and structured mentoring process through an engaging, innovative and interactive online platform for mentoring and intergenerational dialogues in Africa
- Formal and structured mentoring process shadowing senior women leaders for professional and personal development opportunities
- Reverse mentoring through a specific need oriented mentoring framework
- Webinars and e-courses, Toolkits, Knowledge and skills transfer
- Unformal and unstructured mentorships
- At least 30-50 young women every year
- Launch by December 2020

### **Increased and strengthened engagement and participation of young women across political, public-private and policy spaces;**

- National chapters
- Across AWLN pillars
- Intergovernmental processes
- AU (Youth forums, AU meetings)
- UN decision making spaces (ICPD+25, UNGA, SDG summit, HLPF, CSW, Beijing+25, Youth ECOSOC, UNGA, etc)
- Other technical partners (World Bank, EU, etc)
- Engagement in at least 3 policy spaces annually, at least 9 by 2022

### **AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus Fund**

- Support young women leaders' initiatives and skills building which could build on an AWLN young women engagement strategy
- Launch by Mid 2021

### **Jointly led solidarity missions by emerging and seniors' women in country in political transitions, humanitarian and fragile settings**

- At least 3 missions by December 2022

### **Membership and Partnerships**

- Strengthened membership and regional representation
- At least 1 additional partner / year i.e. at least 3 additional partners by December 2022

# African Women Leaders Network Intergenerational Partnership



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office



## Evaluation and scale up

- Track progress and assess impact before and at annual intergenerational retreats (30-50 additional women/ year with multiplying effect and reach in countries)
- Scale up through young and senior women engagement in AWLN National Chapters



AFRICAN WOMEN  
LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN)

## Inter-Generational Retreat on Leadership in Africa

Building the Africa We Want Together

#women4Africawewant  
#IGD\_AWLN2019  
#womenshapingAfrica

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