

# **Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Africa Common Position on Post 2015: Recommendations by African Women's Rights Organizations**

*'The Post 2015 Agenda is a critical issue for African citizens and civil society organizations at every level and more so, for African women, youth and other marginalized groups. As a result, it is critical that women organizations across Africa ensure that the Post 2015 consultations are driven, influenced and shaped by the voices and experiences of the millions of African citizens who often go unheard.'*<sup>1</sup>

## **Introduction**

Since 2012, women's organizations in Africa have organized consultations at various levels to identify the gender gaps in the MDGs and ensure that the next set of proposed goals after 2015 will be gender sensitive and articulate the needs and priorities of women and girls. The most recent consultation was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on November 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> 2013, where 40 participants from across Africa representing a diverse group of women including young women, grassroots women, sexual minorities, women academia etc working on different gender thematic areas deliberated and agreed on the key targets and indicators for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and gender mainstreaming throughout the priority areas identified in the Africa Common Position on the post 2015 development framework (ACP)

## **Standalone Goal on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

The participants of the African Women's rights organizations strategy meeting strongly recommend that the African Common Position should have a standalone goal/pillar on gender equality and women's empowerment. The eradication of poverty and sustainable development cannot be achieved without a focus on social transformations that empower the most marginalized. Social transformation on its own cannot be achieved without tackling the

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<sup>1</sup> FEMNET, [The Africa We Want: A Call to Action for African Women's Organizations and Activists on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)

underlying causes of gender inequality and removing barriers to women’s empowerment.<sup>2</sup> In addition, despite having MDG 3 and other targets under MDG 5, no single country can claim to have achieved gender equality.

A transformative goal on gender equality needs to focus on women’s voice and agency. Therefore, it needs to include targets that aim to: eradicate violence against women; enhance women’s economic empowerment and promote women’s leadership and empowerment. The UN Women Report calls for three target areas to address core elements of gender equality and women’s empowerment: Freedom from violence; Gender equality in capabilities and resources; Gender equality in decision-making power and voice in public and private institutions.<sup>3</sup>

### Targets and Indicators for Gender Standalone Goal:

The table below shows the targets and indicators proposed for a standalone goal on gender women’s empowerment.

	Target	Indicators
<b>Achieving gender equality and the realization of women’s rights</b>	End all forms of sexual and gender-based violence faced by all women and girls by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 0% prevalence of child, early and forced marriage and FGM/C and all harmful traditional practices by 2030.</li> <li>b. Universal access to quality services, justice and reparations to survivors/victims of GBV.</li> <li>c. Shift in social norms and power dynamics that perpetuate violence through community sensitization, media campaigns and engagement of men and boys and traditional and religious leaders</li> <li>d. 0% prevalence of intimate partner violence by 2030</li> </ul>
	Ensure women and girls have access to, control over and ownership of resources, including land, credit, energy, information and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Men, boys, women and girls have equal access and control over land.</li> <li>b. Universal access of women and girls to mobile, labor-saving, innovative technologies</li> <li>c. Universal access of women and girls to alternative, sustainable forms of energy</li> <li>d. Measures put in place to remove financial, legal, policy, social and other constraints to accessing information</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> GADN, [Achieving Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Post -2015 Framework](#)

<sup>3</sup> UN WOMEN, [A transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment: imperatives and key component](#)

	<p>Ensure 50% representation of women in decision-making across all sectors by 2030</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. At least 50% of party lists, parliament, local/county government, ministerial positions, executive, judicial and legislative branches of government are made up of women.</li> <li>b. Executive and managerial positions in all sectors including the private sector exercise gender parity.</li> </ul>
	<p>Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Access to quality and integrated Sexual Reproductive Health services including information, contraception, maternity care, safe abortion services, post abortion care, prevention and treatment of STIs and HIV</li> <li>b. Eliminate legal, policy, financial, social and other barriers that promote discrimination against women and girls and violates their sexual and reproductive rights</li> <li>c. Non-discriminatory, rights-based, comprehensive sexuality education taught at primary and secondary levels for both in and out of school youth</li> </ul>
	<p>A human rights approach to development processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Enhanced recognition of state obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill women’s human rights and gender equality</li> <li>b. Implementation of clear regulations that ensure economic interests are not allowed to override the greater aim of respecting human rights and promoting sustainable development.</li> </ul>

## Gender Mainstreaming throughout the Priority Areas for the African Common Position (ACP)

Failure to address the structural and root causes of poverty which include gender inequalities contributes highly to the failure to achieve the MDGs. With this as a lesson learned, the Post 2015 framework must endeavor to mainstream gender equality and promote women’s empowerment through all the proposed goals. Specific gender targets under each proposed priority area would ensure that barriers that women and girls face are eliminated while gender sensitive indicators disaggregated by sex would curb the persistence of gender inequalities, discrimination and unequal development progress between women and men, girls and boys. (UN System Task Force on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, June 2012)

### Pillar 1: Structural Economic Transformation and Inclusive Growth

Sub-theme	Targets	Indicators
<b>Inclusive Growth that reduces poverty and inequality</b>	Increase the number of marginal poor, including women, benefiting from Africa’s rising economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equal percentage of men and women earning their own income disaggregated by sex</li> <li>• Equal ownership of property by men and women and data disaggregated by sex</li> <li>• Equal percentage of men and women accessing and owning Land</li> <li>• Equal percentage of women and men who hold a bank account with a financial institution</li> <li>• Share of income accrued by top 10% of population vs bottom 10%, disaggregated by sex</li> <li>• Equal number of women and men engaging in income generating activities in agriculture and other sectors</li> </ul>
	Recognize unpaid care work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average weekly number of hours spent on unpaid domestic work by men and women, boys and girls</li> <li>• State sponsored programs taking care of the sick and elderly and children (e.g. free and quality health care, homes for the elderly and Public daycares for</li> </ul>

Sub-theme	Targets	Indicators
	Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for women	children) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Equal sharing of household unpaid care work by men and women, boys and girls</li> <li>● Equal share of women and men in employment, both wage and self-employment by type</li> <li>● Proportion of contributing family workers in total employment</li> <li>● No. of women with access to adequate social protection</li> <li>● No. of women receiving a living wage</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable agriculture, food self-sufficiency and nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased investment in agriculture, food sovereignty, and nutrition programs targeting small-scale farmers especially women<sup>4</sup></li> <li>● Increase in investment in research, services, extension agents and infrastructure for small-scale farmers – disaggregated by sex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Percentage of population undernourished by age and sex</li> <li>● Proportion of resources allocated to agriculture going to small-scale farmers disaggregated by sex</li> <li>● Percentage of women in wage employment in the agricultural sector</li> <li>● Percentage of women who access land and other means of production</li> </ul>
<b>Diversification industrialization and value addition</b>	Optimal use of the African population (especially youth, the informal sector, and local knowledge and resources) for diversification, industrialization, and value addition; sustainable utilization of natural resources in Africa benefits the poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proportion of women and youth benefitting from the industrial sector</li> <li>● Proportion of women in industrial sector with access to social protection and labour rights</li> <li>● Proportion of employment among youth</li> <li>● Proportion of women in management and leadership positions in industrial and natural resources sector</li> <li>● Percentage of women and young people in the</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Implementation of World Committee on Food Security (CFS) voluntary guidelines for responsible governance of land, fisheries and forests, and CFS principles of responsible investment (these have specific mention of women's issues with regards to land rights and investment)

Sub-theme	Targets	Indicators
		processing and marketing of value added commodities
<b>Infrastructure development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure development is matched with quality service delivery for the poor</li> <li>• Increased transparency and accountability in use of resources for infrastructure development</li> <li>• Free prior informed consent, participatory decision-making &amp; adequate compensation for displacement</li> <li>• Universal access to sustainable and affordable modern energy services</li> <li>• Universal access to sustainable modern telecommunications and internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of poor people accessing quality and adequate basic services including healthcare</li> <li>• 100% of resources allocated to infrastructure is used for that purpose (zero tolerance for corruption)</li> <li>• Proportion of the public actively involved in designing and implementation of infrastructure and development in Africa</li> <li>• Percentage of population access to sustainable energy, disaggregated by sex</li> <li>• Percentage of population with access to affordable mobile technology and internet access, disaggregated by sex, socio-economic and geographic demographics</li> </ul>

## Pillar 2: Science, Technology and Innovation

Sub-theme	Targets	Indicators
<b>Enhanced technological capacities for structural transformation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equal number of girls and boys enrolling and completing Science and Technology subjects in Secondary and Tertiary training</li> <li>• Support African women innovators through capacity building and investment to enhance their innovations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ratios of girls and boys enrolled in Science and Technology (S&amp;T) subjects</li> <li>• No. of women and girls graduating in S&amp;T courses</li> <li>• Percentage of women employed in the ICT sector and creating jobs for themselves and for others</li> <li>• Percentage of women ICT innovators</li> <li>• Percentage of women engineers and scientists</li> </ul>
<b>Enabling environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure accessibility, affordability and ownership of ICT including energy saving technologies for girls and women in &amp; out of school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of women and girls who own mobile phones.</li> <li>• No. of solar powered mobile phones</li> <li>• No. of women who conduct financial transactions</li> </ul>

Sub-theme	Targets	Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to capital in form of loans, grants, including financial services for low-income groups</li> </ul>	<p>through their mobile phones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of women with access to loans and credit</li> </ul>
<b>Accelerating ICT Development and Deployment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and enact policies, laws, strategies and mechanisms that enable women to participate in ICT development</li> <li>• Improved women's health through the use of ICT to access prevention and treatment health information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of Government Policies that offer subsidization on ICT tools (computers, mobile phones) and services (internet, cost of making phone calls, making formal and informal education on ICT affordable)</li> <li>• No. of platforms created to share information on women's health</li> <li>• Number of women reporting access to health information through mobile phones</li> </ul>
<b>Increased support for Research and Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased intake of students in research and development courses</li> <li>• Adherence to copyright and patenting laws</li> <li>• Increased research on agro-ecological farming practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ratio of national governments budget allocated to women's research and development</li> <li>• No. of Government sponsored programs for women in research and development</li> <li>• Number of cases filed</li> </ul>

### Pillar 3: People Centered Development

Sub-theme	Targets	Indicators
<b>Education and human capital development</b>	<p>Universal access to quality and livelihood enhancing education at primary and secondary level</p> <p>Universal literacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary and secondary school enrolment, retention and completion rates disaggregated by sex, disability, socio-economic and geographic demographics</li> <li>• Literacy rates, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, socio-economic and geographic demographics</li> </ul>
<b>Universal and equitable access to</b>	Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights including information, contraception, maternity care, safe abortion services, post abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contraceptive Prevalence Rate</li> <li>• Adolescent birth rate</li> <li>• Reduced incidence of unsafe abortion</li> </ul>

<b>Sub-theme</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>quality healthcare</b>	care, prevention and treatment of STIs and HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased access to safe abortion services</li> <li>• Maternal Mortality Ratio</li> <li>• Available emergency obstetric care facilities per 100,000 population</li> <li>• Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</li> <li>• Unmet need for family planning</li> <li>• Antenatal care coverage</li> <li>• No. of adolescents and youth friendly SRH services</li> <li>• Proportion of women and girls with greater decision making power on their sexual and reproductive choices</li> </ul>

#### **Pillar 4: Environmental Sustainability and Natural Disaster Management**

<b>Sub-theme</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>Natural disaster risk reduction and management</b>	All states are fully equipped with functional early warning and disaster management systems that enable them to mitigate effects of disaster by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of women who suffer from the impact of natural disasters</li> <li>• Number of women with access to early warning systems, insurance and social protection</li> </ul>
<b>Water access for all</b>	Universal access to clean water by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of households with access to safe, drinking water</li> <li>• Rates of communicable and non-communicable disease</li> <li>• No. of girls dropping out of school due to the burden of water collecting chores</li> <li>• Average weekly time spent in water collection disaggregated by sex</li> </ul>



Sub-theme	Targets	Indicators
<b>Climate change adaptation and mitigation</b>	<p>By 2020 states have conducted extensive research on the impact of climate change on livelihoods, and provided gender-responsive climate financing needed for national mitigation and adaptation initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Percentage of women who depend on natural resources as means of livelihood</li> <li>● Number of women with secure land tenure in areas prone to climate risk</li> <li>● Number of women with access to basic services in high-risk areas</li> <li>● Percentage of mitigation climate finance directly benefiting women</li> <li>● Percentage of adaptation climate finance directly benefiting women</li> <li>● No. of policies and operational frameworks on adaptation on climate change and mitigation adopted</li> <li>● Proportion of women developing climate change adaptation and mitigation policies</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity environmental sustainability and natural disaster management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All states set targets for thresholds on planetary boundaries, including biodiversity, at national level</li> <li>● By 2025 all state parties develop policy and institutional frameworks which detail how women's role in bio-diversity and preserving the eco-system will be acknowledged and strengthened</li> <li>● Clear legal recognition of access to natural resource rights for women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Percentage of women economically benefiting by participating in maintaining bio-diversity</li> <li>● Percentage of women in decision making in institutional frameworks on biodiversity and natural disaster management</li> <li>● Percentage of women benefiting from established bio-diversity institutions and frameworks.</li> <li>● No. of women who have access to land and other economic resources.</li> <li>● No. of women who play a role in community-managed natural resource management</li> </ul>

## Pillar 5: Financing and Partnerships

Sub-theme	Targets	Indicators
<b>Domestic Resource Mobilization</b>	Reduce by 50% dependence on external funding for development efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of national budgets allocated to support entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Earmark revenue from extractive industries for investment in pro-poor spending, and particularly in communities impacted by these operations and for women</li> <li>• Types of systems that track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment</li> <li>• Percentage of tax collected from corporations, including in extractive industry, allocated to women's venture schemes</li> <li>• Internal taxation systems guided by right policies that protect the marginalized</li> <li>• Increase the tax to GDP ratio</li> <li>• Increase progressive tax measures and reverse regressive ones</li> <li>• Globally agreed target on reduction in illicit financial flows from Africa</li> <li>• No. of financed small scale businesses owned and managed by women</li> <li>• No. of women and girls who receive skills in business development</li> <li>• Percentage of increased tax expenditure that is reaching women through implementation of gender-sensitive budgeting</li> </ul>

<b>Sub-theme</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>Innovative Financing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative financing mechanisms such as the Financial Transaction Tax, carbon pricing as a source of resources for development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of revenue from innovative financing mechanisms benefiting women</li> </ul>
<b>Quality and predictability of external financing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed countries meet the 0.7% of GNI as ODA aid targets, and commit to maintain this for the full period of the post-2015 framework. All countries, including emerging economies, should agree to respect commitments on Effective Development Co-operation agreed in Accra and Busan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of aid expenditure dedicated to women's rights and other gender-based programmes</li> </ul>
<b>Mutually beneficial partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnerships between women organizations and related institutions in African countries</li> <li>• Develop more interaction with African women groups in the diaspora</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage increase of budget allocation to reproductive health</li> <li>• Investment in research development, technology and technical know-how to boost production</li> </ul>
<b>Trade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's cross border traders are protected from Sexual violence, harassment and exploitation including bribes</li> <li>• Women are part of the Regional integration discussions and are equally benefiting from it</li> <li>• Targets on fair trade, including duties and tariffs on imports and exports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate and country-specific indicators on changes to tariffs, including subsidies in Northern regions</li> <li>• Increase in GDP from local, national, regional trade, disaggregated by gender</li> <li>• No. of laws on protection of women in cross border trade</li> <li>• No. of financial and trade tractions between African countries benefiting women cross border traders</li> </ul>