



**Ninth Session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development  
“Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full  
implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063”**

**Side Event Proposal**

**Housing and Sanitation: Impact on Sexual and Gender Minority Inclusion**

**Organisers:**

UNDP Regional Team for HIV, Health and Development, Africa Key Population Expert Group (AKPEG), and Pan Africa ILGA (PAI).

**Format / Proposed Speakers**

The co-sponsors propose to host a 90-minute Zoom event. The event will be moderated by Robert Akoto Amofo (Ghana) – PAN Africa ILGA Advocacy Manager. The event will begin with a forty-minute facilitated discussion between three people with different kinds of experience integrating sexual and gender minorities into efforts to advance the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in Africa. Tentatively, the speakers will be;

Mesfin Getahun (Ethiopia), Daughtie Ogutu (Kenya) and Anthony Oluoch (South Africa)

Following the facilitated discussion, the last 45 minutes of the side event will be open to discussion with the audience (in Portuguese, French and English). Focusing on the inclusive goals and indicators of **Goal 11** and broadly linking them with Goal 5 on gender equality which also affect access to clean water and sanitation **Goal 6**. Speakers will be officially invited and confirmed after UNECA confirms that the side event has been authorized, along with the date and the time.

**Thematic Focus of the event and contribution to the forum**

Sexual and gender minorities and HIV-related key populations in Africa have particular and dramatic housing related challenges: as young people, they are frequently kicked out of their family households, and whether young or older, they often encounter discrimination from landlords and neighbors. These populations are also much more likely than the general population to migrate from rural to urban areas, due to discrimination in more conservative rural settings and the opportunities for relative safety, anonymity, and community in larger urban areas.

Universal access to water and sanitation (Targets 6.1 and 6.2) is a prerequisite to reducing multidimensional poverty, and to meeting Goal 5. Our Side Event will address discrimination, violence, sexual and reproductive health, rights to economic resources and multiple dimensions of inequality. Vulnerable groups such as people of different gender identities, the level of inequality is even greater. To reach substantive equality, water governance regimes and institutions must take affirmative action. They must be conscious of the existing inequalities in all societies, and they must bear in mind that decisions about water allocation and access to services can either challenge, or further embed, these inequalities.

Safe, open, and enabling civic spaces form the foundation of societies in which all people can participate and engage in all aspects of public life, and particularly in shaping democratic governance, reducing inequalities, and promoting inclusion and peace. The SDGs recognize this, committing Member States to creating the conditions to promote gender equality (Goal 5), linking Goal 5 with access to **water and sanitation (Goal 6) and Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11)** particularly 11.1 (housing) and 11.3 (sustainable and inclusive urbanization).

Drawing on the lived realities of activists on the ground and sharing the need for inclusion and the increasing need to reduce the shrinking of civic spaces, this side event’s main goal will be to discuss strategies from civil society to address the intersections of housing, sanitation and gender for young key populations and sexual and gender minorities.