

## **10<sup>th</sup> African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)**

**Venue: Cairo, Egypt., Dates: 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024**

**Proposed Side Event Title: EcoHERizons: Nurturing Resilience in African Education - Unveiling the Climate Challenges Faced by Girls and Young Women**

### **Introduction**

#### **1. The African Women's Development and Communication Network- FEMNET**

The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) is a pan-African, feminist and membership-based network based in Nairobi, Kenya with over 800 individual and institutional members across 50 African countries and in the diaspora. FEMNET envisions a society where African women and girls thrive in dignity and well-being, free from patriarchal and neoliberal oppression and injustices. FEMNET recognizes that the commitment to alter relations of power, structural injustices, and systemic oppression lies at the heart of feminism. FEMNET is therefore committed to altering power structures that perpetuate gender inequality by nurturing the African women's movement to enable women and girls in their diversity to effectively claim, affirm, and use their collective power to end all forms of exclusion, oppression, exploitation, and injustices against them. Founded in 1988, FEMNET exists to facilitate and coordinate the sharing of experiences, information, and strategies for human rights promotion among feminists, activists, and women's rights organizations as a strategy for collective organizing; policy influencing & advocacy; strategic communication; capacity strengthening as well as feminist solidarity and movement building.

#### **1.2. Contribution to ARFSD objectives:**

**This side event topic is Climate Justice and education for Girls and young women in Africa.** FEMNET is implementing the climate justice work under the Africa Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) project in partnership with Oxfam NOVIB, Natural Justice, PACJA and the Africa Youth Commission. The project is based on the premise that women, young people, and indigenous peoples are most exposed to climate hazards and less able to adapt and/or recover. FEMNET has also partnered with women's rights organizations and girls' and young women-led organizations to Influence Inclusive Access to Girls' Education in East Africa (IIAGE) particularly in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) using gender lens.

Africa is at the forefront of climate change impacts, affecting diverse sectors, with education being a critical focal point. Girls and young women, constituting a vulnerable demographic, face unique challenges in the education system due to climate-related disruptions. EcoHERizons, with a special focus on the intersection between climate issues and young women in education, aims to shed light on these challenges, fostering resilience and promoting equitable opportunities.

## Sessions Objective:

This session on EcoHERizons seeks to spotlight the specific climate challenges young women encounter within the African education system. The event aims to unravel intersecting issues between climate change and its disproportionate impact on the educational journey of girls and young women. The objective is to raise awareness, inspire dialogue, and advocate for policy solutions that empower young women to navigate and thrive in the face of these challenges.

## Topics/themes to be covered during the session

- **Climate-Induced Barriers to Education:** Analyse the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the educational access and attainment of Girls and young women, considering socio-economic, cultural, and geographical factors.
- **Gender Dynamics in Climate Resilience:** Explore the unique ways in which climate challenges intersect with gender dynamics, focusing on the resilience strategies employed by young women in the pursuit of education.
- **Empowerment Through Education:** Showcase stories of young women who have overcome climate-related obstacles to education, emphasizing the transformative power of education in building resilience.
- **Youth-led Climate Action:** Highlight initiatives and projects led by young women that contribute to climate resilience within the education sector, emphasizing the role of youth in driving positive change.
- **Advocacy for change in policy:** actively promote and influence governmental decisions to implement measures that address the impact of climate change on the educational sector, fostering resilience and sustainable practices for the benefit of present and future generations.
- **Networking Sessions:** Facilitate networking opportunities for participants to connect, collaborate, and form partnerships for future initiatives addressing climate-resilient education for young women.

## Session Moderator:

### List of speakers/ Panelists

1. **Moses Isooba-Executive Director-Uganda NGO Forum**
2. **Dr. Roselyter Rianga-Aga Khan University**
3. **Toyin Chikwudozie- Executive Director EVA Nigeria**
4. **Hellen Apilla – SDG forum Kenya**

## Target Audience:

- Young Women and Girls
- Educators and School Administrators
- Youth Advocates and Activists



- NGOs and Development Organizations
- Researchers and Academia
- Policymakers and Government Representatives

**Outcome:**

EcoHERizons aims to generate a youth-informed report outlining key findings, recommendations, and proposed actions to address the intersection between climate issues and girls and young women in the African education system.

The report will be shared widely with stakeholders to inspire actionable change and foster a supportive environment for the education of young women in the face of climate challenges.