

Africa Pavilion at COP27

27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 6 -18 November 2022.

Side Event Request Form

Name of Applicant Organisation:	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Gender Poverty and Social Policy Division		
Contact person for Side Event:	Edlam Yemeru <i>Gender Responsive Climate Action in Africa</i>		
Address:	7th Floor Niger Building UN ECA Compound		
E-mail:	yemeru@un.org	Telephone:	+251 11 544 3975
Title of Proposed Side Event: <i>Gender Responsive Climate Action in Africa</i>			
Preferred date / time (You can indicate more than one option)			
* COP 27 Thematic Priority	Date		Time
	<i>First week</i>	<i>Second week</i>	<i>Morning</i> <i>Afternoon/Evening</i>
Tick preferred time	X		X
Equipment and services (please note – a laptop is provided). Please tick as appropriate			
Projector		Catering	
Hybrid facilities (virtual panellist)		Interpretation	
The costs related to catering services will be covered by (<i>If food and drinks is to be provided</i>):			
(Name of the Organisation) ECA- Gender Poverty and Social Policy Division			
Signed by:			
(Please print name or use electronic signature)	Edlam Abera Yemeru		

* **Thematic Priorities:** *Finance, Science, Youth and Future Generations, Decarbonization, Adaptation, Agriculture and Food Systems, ACE and Civil Society, Gender, Energy, Biodiversity, Solutions, Human Settlements*

Concept notes shall not exceed 2 pages and be prepared based on the following outline:

Nature of the event: Technical meeting/High level event (underline relevant one)

Date: 14th November 2022

Proposed time: 17:00 -18:00

Organisers

Lead Partner: ECA Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division

Contributing partners:

**African Union Commission,
African Development Bank and
UN Women**

Background and Context

Climate change presents one of the biggest threats to inclusive and sustainable development in Africa. Its impacts have especially detrimental effects on individuals and communities dependent on natural resources, climate-sensitive sectors, land use, and food production systems. While climate change affects everyone, those who have contributed the least to the crisis- children, those in poverty, and future generations—are the most affected. 90% of diseases resulting from the climate crisis are likely to affect children under the age of five. By 2050, a further 24 million children are projected to be undernourished as a result of the climate crisis, and Almost 160 million children are exposed to high severe and prolonged droughts. The education of around 38 million children is disrupted each year by the climate crisis according to Save the children statistics¹.

Women and girls, also tend to be the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Their high vulnerability is a symptom of a global challenge of widening social inequality, persistent gender inequalities, and unequal gender relations, which especially puts an increasing burden of climate change on women and girls. . Yet at the same time, younger generations around the world are raising their concerns about the impact of climate change on their future. Youth are more concerned about their physical and mental health disrupted by the climate change crises, and lack of actions from older generations. The burden and scale of the climate crisis is often overwhelming for youth as their fight against climate crises can be very often feel just as lonely and full of despair and anxiety.

The climate crisis is not “gender neutral²”.At the national and community level, Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities. Women and girls’ vulnerability is most attributable to the cultural roles and responsibilities which they assume both at home and in society. Climate change affects multiply the economic, political and social - where women fell victims to gender-based-violence. Their health is is endangered by climate change and disasters by limiting access to services and health care, as well as increasing risks related to maternal and child health. In many African communities, gender roles position women as primary food producers and providers of water and fuel for their families. Women, girls and Youth roles place greater responsibility for family and community welfare on women and girls yet often fail to give them sufficient political and economic rights and tools. Through their active role, they can play a critical role in the climate change response due to their local knowledge, level of engagement, and Leadership. Concerted efforts to enhance the economic and political empowerment of women have resulted in

¹ Effects of Climate Change on Future Generations | Save the Children

² Explainer: How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected | UN Women – Headquarters

noticeable changes, and through the adoption of relevant international, regional and national frameworks. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 for the 'Africa We Want' and 'Leaving No One Behind' are some of the drivers of these international efforts. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically goals 1, 5, and 13 with related targets 1.4, 5. a, and 13. b, are particularly important to address in the context of women and girls' response to the impacts of climate change. Pillar two of the African Union (AU) Strategy for gender equality and women's empowerment emphasizes commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action, migration, and the Conference of the Parties (COP) Plan of Action for women to achieve higher levels of implementation. The African Youth charter addresses in its Article 19 the role of young people in ensuring the Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment in Africa through sustainable methods to improve the lives of young people such that measures instituted do not jeopardise opportunities for future generations.

Objectives of the event

The specific objectives are to:

- **Identify the challenges, opportunities** and strategic actions to be employed by multi stakeholders to enhance effective gender responsive action in Africa;
- **Map out the adequacy of existing policies** on gender, youth, and climate change in response to identified underlying causes and varying impacts of climate change on women, girls and young people in Africa;
- **Propose policy messages on gender, youth engagement and climate change** actions to inform programme and policy priorities within the context of achieving Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063; and
- **Explore effective gender responsive adaptation** and resilience-building mechanisms as concrete contributions for reduction of gender related vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

Draft Programme

Moderator: **Ms Edlam Abera Yemeru**, Director a.i Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division

Opening remarks

Speaker 1 **Ms Monia Braham**, Advisor to Minister of Family, Woman, Childhood and elderly Tunisia

Speaker 2 **Ms Awa Ndiaye Seck**, UNWomen Special Representative to the AU and UN ECA (TBC)

Speaker 3 **Dr Malado Kaba**, Director of Gender, Women and Civil Society

Speaker 4 **Ms Prudence Ngwenya**, Director a.i Directorate of Women, Gender and Youth, AUC (TBC)

Speaker 5 **Ms Vanessa Nakate**

Questions to be addressed during the panel discussion:

- *What Strategic actions need to be put in place by broad based stakeholders reduce gender-based vulnerabilities? What are further actions needed to empower women, and young people to lead in climate finance initiatives and other strategies that amplify a gender-responsive response to climate change?*
- *How do we strategically align actions for accelerating the achievement of Agendas 2030 and AU 2063 with those outlined in the COP documents for an integrated gender approach to mitigating the impact of climate change on women and girls?*
- *Will the actions we take today be enough to forestall the direct impacts of climate change? Or is it too little too late? What are the best practices of youth action addressing climate change?*

Key messages

- Broad based, inclusive, strengthened and coordinated partnerships are key drivers a cohesive gender responsive climate action in Africa;
- An effective gender responsive host of actions are needed for achievement of sustainable development and the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. This requires the strategic engagement of Member States, AU, Regional Economic Communities, Civil Society Organizations, youth-led-initiatives, traditional and community leaders as well as the UN Development System to leverage the complementary of processes, initiatives and available resources, and to strengthen coordinated action for the implementation of the gender equality and women's empowerment priorities in Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Links to background documentation:

To be completed later (please add the links here to complete)

Contact event organisers:

Please send completed form to:

kwamea@nepad.org; mofor@un.org; paulos.uneca@un.org; rehema.khimulu@un.org; b.osman-elasha@afdb.org; Wanambwal@africa-union.org; hkumwenda@afreximbank.com

no later than **23 September 2021** with the **Subject:** Side event at Africa Pavilion - COP27.