



Consultative Continental Dialogue on the Impact of Climate Change on Women – Preparing for Durban and Beyond

19-20 November 2011



Building Experience on the Link between Gender and Climate Change
Presentation of Supporting Partners and GIMAC Participants



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1. Message from Madame Diop, FAS Executive Director and FAS/GIMAC Coordinator

I am very happy that the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) network, coordinated by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), has been invited to participate in the Consultative Continental Dialogue on the Impact of Climate Change on Women. I welcome the initiative of the Honorable Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, President of COP17 and South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, and Honorable Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa, to involve the GIMAC network and ensure that African women are an integral part of dialogue on climate change.

The GIMAC is a network of 55 women's groups, supported by international and African organizations and coordinated by FAS. On behalf of both FAS and the GIMAC network, I would like to extend my appreciation for the strong support of our many and varied partners, including the Women In Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) and the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC), among others. Both the WILDAF and the AYICC have demonstrated their commitment and made important contributions toward ensuring the integration of women's issues in relation to climate change and climate justice, and have been key collaborators with FAS initiatives.

FAS and the GIMAC network would also like to thank the Mary Robinson Foundation on Climate Justice, which has contributed tremendously to GIMAC's work in the last few years and continues to be a strong ally for African women. In fact, the issues of Climate Change and Climate Justice were introduced to the GIMAC by Ms. Mary Robinson at the 17th Pre-Summit, held in January 2011 in Addis Ababa.

Traditionally, FAS and the GIMAC focused more on issues affecting African women such as violence and conflict, peace and security, education and health, among others. It is thus particularly important that the GIMAC engages in this dialogue, because climate change significantly impacts women in gender-specific ways, and GIMAC is committed to advocating for gender equality and women's effective participation in measures addressing climate change. To that end, at the 17th GIMAC Pre-Summit, the GIMAC urged the African Union Commission (AUC) to ensure that women's issues related to climate change and climate justice were integrated in the African Union (AU) position to COP17 in Durban.

Furthermore, the 18th GIMAC Pre-Summit held in June 2011 in Malabo hosted the High Level Panel on Climate Change. The Panel emphasized the strong link between gender and climate change, and urged the African Union Commission (AUC) to "ensure that the AU position in the upcoming Durban Conference on Climate Change (COP17) integrate the effects of climate change on the livelihoods of women and youth and [to] push for concrete actions to address these challenges".

This year, FAS celebrates its 15th anniversary. In celebration of this landmark, we will hold our FAS Conference in December 2011, under the theme “The Global 3 F (Food, Fuel and Finance) Crisis in Africa: Women at the Forefront.” In Africa, where economies are highly dependent on the climate, any discussion of sustainable development requires inquiry into climate change. This will thus be an ideal opportunity to come together to support initiatives and develop strategies for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and its impact on women.

The challenges presented by climate change are many, but so are its opportunities and solutions. I hope that our results here will be brought to the COP17 and beyond, where with strong cooperation and open, consultative dialogues integrating gender perspectives, we can devise sustainable solutions for a bright future for generations to come.

2. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF / FEDDAF) is a network for women's rights that aims to promote and strengthen strategies that increase the participation and influence of women at local, national and international levels. WILDAF / FEDDAF seeks to support organizations and individuals who share this goal and are operational at local, national and regional levels, to make this goal achievable in several countries on the African continent.

WILDAF / FEDDAF has been involved in the launch of programs for groups advocating for women's rights at national, regional and sub-regional levels at various forums. They have further provided organizations and individual members with information on trends and strategies concerning women's rights in Africa and elsewhere. The members have then acquired a variety of skills needed to increase the effectiveness of their programs.

Moreover, WILDAF is active in adopting standards, policies and programs that promote women's rights on the continent. As such, since the beginning of the adoption of the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women, it has helped to mobilize women's organizations and human rights in West Africa so as to develop and support the adoption of this continental instrument.

WILDAF likewise works to strengthen the capacity of different stakeholders, including women themselves, so as to contribute to the implementation of women's human rights. In one of their programs, they use legal frameworks tools to empower rural women. Since 2009, WILDAF networks in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Togo, in partnership with the ROPPA (*Réseau des Organisations des Paysans et des Producteurs Agricoles en Afrique de l'Ouest* /West African Farmers and Agricultural Producer Organization Network), have collaborated in a Sub-Regional Office initiative. Through its national platforms, the initiative allows woman farmers from their respective countries to know and assert their rights, in order to enjoy the same advantages as men in their family, community, and professional life, and to have them applied for the benefit of women and their respective backgrounds. Within this initiative, woman members of farmers' organizations collaborate with male and traditional leaders living in their respective environments, participating fully and voluntarily in a legal service in a rural environment, thereby facilitating effective access to the legal assistance that is a vehicle for the empowerment of rural women.

In this initiative, 237 out of 250 women members of farmers' committees in 145 villages have been trained as paralegals. From the very first training session, they engage in legal education and support for women whose rights have been violated. After 6 months of operation, these paralegals have helped to set up a project in each village community committee, with the aim of combating violence against women. Each committee is composed of area paralegals, leaders of organized groups such as Village Development Committees (CVDs), parents' associations and opinion leaders, and frequently, traditional chiefs. The committee further welcomes the victims

of violence and helps them to reinstate their rights by respecting the recognized rights of women. In accordance with universally accepted legal principles, it also seeks to challenge the perpetrators of violence and raise awareness so as to promote a society free of violence against women.

Paralegals and committees likewise work with educational campaigns on gender equality and advocacy for women's access and full ownership of land. In June 2011, the 237 paralegals held several campaigns with the aim of raising awareness on various topics such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, the right to education, health, participation in decision-making and public life, and violence against women. These talks managed to reach out to 168,349 people, of which 60,189 were men. The community committees working to fight against violence further received 1859 cases of violations regarding issues of forced marriage, wife inheritance, family abandonment, denial of paternity, land conflict, deprivation of rights education, sexual abuse, and moral accusations of witchcraft, among others. Of the 1859 cases received, 1447 were resolved in accordance with the fundamental rights of women. In overall, 243 women were able to obtain land plots and many women perceived that their economic power increased through their acquisition of farmland or by the fact that the income of family farms was more fairly distributed.

215 women likewise gained access to decision-making bodies in their communities and at different levels of decision-making. The implementation of the project also led to social change in relation to certain traditional practices of the communities, such as the change of attitudes in the relationship between men and women. Many men in the beneficiary communities no longer consider their participation in domestic work to be unacceptable, and many supported the pioneering role of women in public affairs. Customary authorities further welcomed the right of women to access land and it was noted that certain behaviors such as forced marriage and different types of violence significantly decreased. Overall, the project clearly helped to increase the respect for women's rights in practice, hence ensuring that women gain financial independence and enjoy their rights.



3. African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)

African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) is a loose youth network that was conceived in 2006 in Nairobi (Kenya) during the 2nd International Climate Conference of Youth (COY). AYICC aims to ensure the participation and involvement of African youth in the international climate change and sustainable development policy processes, which later guides the implementation of youth related projects at the national level.

The network comprises of 38 country chapters and memberships consisting of, but not limited to, youth organizations working on climate change and sustainability development issues. The members of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) address the bigger picture of climate change by appreciating its links with sustainable development. In this regard, the AYICC will link climate change and poverty reduction targets, especially in terms of utilizing appropriate and ecologically viable strategies, thus ensuring positive developments and avoiding the negative impacts of climate change. This initiative has continued to link and share knowledge, ideas, experiences, skills and strategies on youth action across the continent on climate change, mitigation and adaptation. Since the inception of AYICC, the organization has cooperated with various international youth movements and has played a great role in the establishment of the International Youth Climate Movement, whose youth member organizations are now officially acknowledged by the UNFCCC as the YOUNGO (Youth NGOs).

Our Core Objectives

1. To provide a platform for young people in African countries to engage in dialogue and share experiences regarding youth participation in climate change.
2. To advocate and lobby for active representation and participation of youth in particularly climate change activities, but also sustainable development in general.
3. To build partnerships and mobilize resources that will build the capacities of youth and youth organizations to play an active role in the implementation of climate change agreements and projects in regions within Africa.
4. To play a leading role in promoting and implementing climate change education and research, adaptation and mitigation in Africa.
5. Initiate youth leadership processes by creating a platform for transfer of leadership skills and principles of transparent governance.

THEMATIC**FOCAL****POINTS:**

ACCORD
ACDHRS
ALF
ANCEFA
AWDF
EBWA
FAS
FAWE
IPAS
SAHARA
SWAA
WILDAF

REGIONAL FOCAL**POINTS:**

ACOLVF
AWA
FDC
OTM
WAWA

OBSERVERS:

Ministry of
Gender of
Senegal, of South
Africa and of
Zimbabwe

COORDINATOR:

FEMMES AFRICA
SOLIDARITE (FAS)

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4. Background Paper on Climate Change



By Ibrahim Ceesay
Social Justice Activist

UNESCO Youth Ambassador and Peace Champion

African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)

Commended by FAS on behalf of the GIMAC Network

Origin

Rising fossil fuel burning and land use changes have emitted, and are continuing to emit, increasing quantities of greenhouse gases into the Earth's atmosphere. These greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrogen dioxide (N₂O), and a rise in these gases has caused a rise in the amount of heat from the sun withheld in the Earth's atmosphere, heat that would normally be radiated back into space. This increase in heat has led to the greenhouse effect, resulting in climate change. The main characteristics of climate change are increases in average global temperature (global warming); changes in cloud cover and precipitation particularly over land; melting of ice caps and glaciers and reduced snow cover; and increases in ocean temperatures and ocean acidity – due to seawater absorbing heat and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (Figure 1) (UNFCCC 2007).

It is now clear that global warming is mostly due to man-made emissions of greenhouse gases (mostly CO₂). Over the last century, atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide increased from a pre-industrial value of 278 parts per million to 379 parts per million in 2005, and the average global Temperature rose by 0.74° C. According to scientists, this is the largest and fastest warming trend that they have been able to discern in the history of the Earth. An increasing rate of warming has particularly taken place over the last 25 years, and 11 of the 12 warmest years on record have occurred in the past 12 years (Agerup et al. 2004; UNFCCC 2007).

PARTNERS:

ACHPR
AU
ECOSOCC
Government
of Finland
Government
of Norway
Government
of Sweden
ILO
International
Criminal Court
MRFCJ
NEPAD
Nobel
Women's
Initiative
OSI
PAP
RBM
UAF
UNDP
UNECA
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNOWA
UN Women

OTHERS:

AAWORD
ABANTU
Akina Mama
ANSEDI
CAFCO
CAFQB
CGE
CHR
CONAFED
Equality Now
FEMNET
FIDA
IAC
ISIS-WICCE
MARWOPNET
NPI
Pan African
Movement
ProFemmes
REPERES
SSWC
Women's

As a result of global warming, the type, frequency and intensity of extreme events, such as tropical cyclones (including hurricanes and typhoons), floods, droughts and heavy precipitation events, are expected to rise even with relatively small average temperature increases. Changes in some types of extreme events have already been observed, for example, increases in the frequency and intensity of heat waves and heavy precipitation events (Meehl et al. 2007).

Scientists tell us that in order to prevent the worst ravages of climate change, the level of CO₂ emissions must peak by 2015 and start to fall rapidly afterwards - to levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere that are safe for today's and future generations.

According to the latest report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), energy-related CO₂ emissions in 2010 were the highest in history. After a dip in 2009 caused by the global financial crisis, emissions are estimated to have climbed to a record 30.6 Gigatonnes (Gt), a 5% jump from the previous record year in 2008, when levels reached 29.3 Gt. Clearly the promises made by countries so far are not getting us where we need to be

Research by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) suggests that current emission targets fall at least 40% short of what's needed, and imply dangerous levels of warming estimated at 3 to 4°C – a concern echoed by the latest IEA emission data showing a strong increase in 2010.

Despite contributing less than 4% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, Africans suffer to greater extent from the consequences of climate change. Droughts, floods, fires and disease are already causing crop failures and population displacement. With temperatures increasing more than any other continent, Africans, especially those living in marginal areas, will be subject to more severe weather events, famine and massive species loss. In addition to the climate impacts, oil and coal extraction industries are poisoning local and national politics and are responsible for innumerable human rights abuses.

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a phrase often employed carelessly to imply that poverty, environmental degradation, disease, and other problems afflicting the world are predominantly caused by, and therefore are the responsibility of, wealthy countries.

According to this view – one widely held by organizations claiming to represent the interests of the environment, consumers, the poor, and the sick – people in the rich world consume too great a proportion of the world's resources and emit too great a proportion of the world's pollution; they exploit people in the poor world by paying too little for coffee and bananas and by making them pay too much for pharmaceuticals. The solution typically offered by those who follow this interpretation of 'sustainable development' is to impose swinging restrictions on the use of resources, wide-ranging interventions in the governance and behavior of multinational

companies, and restrictions on international trade. These interventions would be enacted and enforced through various international agencies.

The impacts of climate change therefore affect our response to other agendas in the continent like the Millennium Development Goals, country strategic plans and visions. Climate change presents significant threats to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals especially those related to eliminating poverty and hunger and promoting environmental sustainability.

Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change because of the existing pressures on its ecosystems and its low capacity to adapt. By 2020, between 75 and 250 million people are projected to be affected by increasing water shortages. Agricultural production and fisheries resources are expected to decrease, reducing local food supplies and exacerbating malnutrition. Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change because of the existing pressures on its ecosystems and its low capacity to adapt.

In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, an international environmental treaty, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), was produced. Currently, 194 countries, also known as Parties, have signed the UNFCCC. Article 3 of the FCCC says that ‘policies and measures to deal with climate change should be cost-effective so as to ensure global benefits at the lowest possible cost,’ and that ‘The Parties should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties, particularly developing country Parties, thus enabling them better to address the problems of climate change.’ Meanwhile, ‘Measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade’ (Agerup et al. 2004).

However what seems to be the case is that most of the problems of the poor world result not from the actions of those in wealthy countries but from the adoption of unsustainable policies by governments in poor countries. Sadly, as the plight of most poor countries suggests, few countries have come close to instituting such systems of good governance and decentralized decision-making.

A more constructive perspective suggests that poverty exacerbates all sorts of problems, whether or not they are caused by changes in the earth’s climate. Under this view, only by eliminating poverty can we solve the myriad problems that prevent humans from achieving sustainable development. Development is not just about fulfilling poor people’s basic needs, but allowing them to choose how they develop and to choose which technologies they use. We have a moral responsibility towards fellow human beings who are alive today to ensure that this happens.

Gender and Climate Change

Over the past two decades climate change has increasingly become recognized as a serious threat to sustainable development, with current and projected impacts on areas such as environment, agriculture, energy, human health, food security, economic activity, natural resources and physical infrastructure.

Although climate change impacts will affect all countries, its impacts will be differently distributed among different regions, generations, age classes, income groups, occupations and genders (IPCC, 2001). The poor (of which 70% are women), primarily but by no means exclusively in developing countries, will be disproportionately affected (Drexhage 2006). Climate change does not affect women and men in the same way and it has, and will have, a gender-differentiated impact. Therefore all aspects related to climate change (i.e. mitigation, adaptation, policy development, decision making) must include a gender perspective. However, women are not just helpless victims of climate change – women are powerful agents of change and their leadership is critical.

Women in developing countries have limited access to resources; restricted rights, limited mobility and are marginalized in shaping decisions, which makes them highly vulnerable to climate change. The nature of that vulnerability varies widely, but climate change will magnify existing patterns of inequality, including gender inequality. Women play an important role in supporting households and communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Across the developing world, women's leadership in natural resource management is well recognized. For centuries, women have passed on their skills in water management, forest management and the management of biodiversity, among others. Through these experiences, women have acquired valuable knowledge that will allow them to contribute positively to the identification of appropriate adaptation and mitigation techniques, if only they are given the opportunity.

COP17 and Rio+20

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) will take place in 2012, marking two decades of official international action on sustainable development. In the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the international community came to recognize the unequal and unsustainable character of dominant development patterns. At the same time, it committed to take steps towards more equitable and sustainable development, and produced the conventions on climate change, biodiversity, and Agenda 21. Twenty years on, the world finds itself far off track in realizing the vision of Rio, even before the explosion of the multiple financial and economic crisis of 2007-08. These recent crises further aggravated the food, energy and the climate crises and underscored the urgency of a global shift to alternative development models.

Expanded and sustained participation by civil society in the evolving development discourse leading up to Rio+20 is crucial in this respect. One of the two themes that have been identified by the UN as central to Rio+20 – the need to elaborate the transition to “green economies” as a solution to the problems of escalating ecological destruction and poverty – is proving to be a potentially contentious arena. There are concerns that the green economy agenda could be hijacked by narrow Northern corporatist interests and sidetrack efforts to address the much-more complex social, developmental, and equity issues linked to sustainability in favor of less politically sensitive, market-based and ill-conceived technology fixes; and one-size fits all approaches that constrain the sustainable development prospects for the South. There is, thus, an

urgent need for CSOs especially in the global South to effectively engage their own governments on Rio+20 and beyond.

The next COP17 is exceptionally significant as it will be held one year before the expiration of the first commitment of the Kyoto Protocol, an important climate treaty which was adopted in 1997. COP 17 presents an opportunity to gain support from parties and negotiators to adopt a second commitment of the Kyoto Protocol and other agreements on climate change.

The 2011 COP 17 will be hosted in Durban, South Africa, from November 28 to December 9, 2011 and will bring together representatives of the world's governments, international organizations and civil society. The discussions will seek to advance the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the Bali Action Plan, agreed at COP 13 in 2007, and the Cancun Agreements, reached at COP 16 last December.

COP17 in Durban is an important milestone on the road to the Rio+20 conference/summit. Rio+20 will be a time for the world to take stock and move forward on sustainable development in the context of social equity. Climate change has huge impacts on all sectors of the economy, environment and human livelihoods and welfare; it is a key indicator of the unsustainable path society is currently following. Rio+ 20 needs to deliver on issues (Energy, Finance) that have a significant role within any sustainable development economy. If it succeeds in doing so, it should inject new life into the UNFCCC process as well.

Conclusion

Climate change is already hitting most of the developing world hard, not least economically. Any global deal on climate change must reflect the region's interests.

Developing countries should integrate climate issues into economic planning and management, make stronger efforts to assess their development projects and programmes in their sensitivity to current and future climate risks, continue to improve the environment for investment to encourage private sector investment in carbon finance activities, and improve access of local communities to weather and climate-related information and to the knowledge of best coping strategies.

The developing world, in particular, Africa women should be more present and speak with one voice regarding their expectations for the upcoming UNFCCC COP17 and the Rio+20 Summit, so that a fair, ambitious and results-and-actions agreement that addresses the specific challenges posed by climate change for African women can be reached.

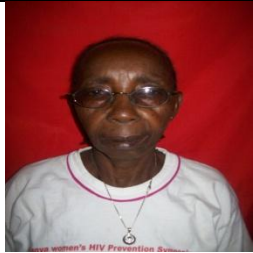
The incidence of major disasters is expected to increase as a result of climate change. Action at national level is therefore needed to improve disaster and crisis management and develop strategies for climate change adaptation where they do not yet exist. In Africa, a wide array of

adaptation options is available, but more extensive adaptation than is currently occurring is required to reduce vulnerability to future climate change. There are barriers, limits and costs, but these are not fully understood.

The fight against catastrophic climate change can succeed only if it forges a permanent link with social-justice campaigns; if it is prepared to commit to an *absolute* reduction in the material throughput of modern economies; and if it accomplishes a comprehensive shift in political conditions and social relationships. The poor and vulnerable, within societies and across the world, contribute least to climate change and suffer most from it.

5. Biography and Brief Presentation of Gimac Participants

ABANTU for DEVELOPMENT

	<p>Ms. Nyangáya is a board member of ABANTU and a seasoned consultant in participatory methodologies addressing community needs, including those related to climate change and food security.</p> <p>She is further trained and accredited by the United Nations (UN) as a strategic planning facilitator for the UN country Strategic Planning Retreats (SPRs). In addition to that, Ms. Nyangáya is a qualified Peace and Conflict Transformation Consultant of Responding to Conflict (RTC) UK, which is an organization training conflict transformers worldwide.</p> <p>Ms. Nyangáya has more than 15 years of experience in social development and gender work. Since 1995, she has worked as a social development consultant and has successfully carried out assignments for more than 35 international and national organizations and in more than 15 countries worldwide. These assignments have included gender training and the implementation of gender studies. Ms. Nyangáya is especially proficient in the handling of assignments in security risk locations and has managed assignments in many African countries, as well as in Italy, Thailand, and Dubai. She is a powerful and convincing presenter and is articulate and persuasive in written and verbal presentations.</p>
<p>Ms. Daisy Apondi Nyangáya ABANTU (Kenya)</p>	<p>Mrs. Mulatya is a grandmother, Chairperson of a PLHIV support group, and an activist in mitigating against the climate change effects in the semi-arid Eastern Province region.</p>
	
<p>Mrs. Jacinta Mbithe Mulatya ABANTU (Kenya)</p>	



Ms. Odongo Symprose Lango
ABANTU
(Kenya)

Ms. Symprose runs a rural orphanage and does climate change work so as to ensure food security for the orphans in her care as well as for the community in which she lives.



Ms. Anne Christine Mwaniki
ABANTU
(Kenya)

Ms. Mwaniki carries out gender development programs and documents environmental conservation work in Kenya.

ACDHRS



Mrs. Fatou Jammeh
ACDHRS
(The Gambia)

APGWA's nominee is Mrs. Jammeh, a board member of the Association for the Promotion of Girls and Women's Advancement (APGWA), and is responsible for educational, agricultural and environmental activities. Mrs. Jammeh is a former National Women's Councillor, a strong female politician and an advocate for gender and climate change.

FAS



**Mrs. Grace Briamah
Scotland
Amazing Grace Inc.
WLB/FAS
(Liberia)**

Mrs. Scotland is the beneficiary of the Women Led Businesses project conducted by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) so as to empower 25 African women's businesses in 5 African countries. At present, she is the President of the National Association of Liberian Entrepreneurs, a member of the 'National Arts and Craft Association of Liberia' as well as an associate of the National Cassava Strategy Committee of Liberia. She is also the founder and Executive Director of the Women Empowerment for Self Employment (WE4SELF), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to access livelihood skills and development training for women and youths.

Mrs. Scotland is further the managing director of Amazing Grace Inc., which manufactures and designs handcraft products, such as recycled glass bead jewellery including necklaces, bracelets, earrings, bead hand bags and straw baskets.

As a result of the deteriorating effects of climate change in Liberia, Amazing Grace Inc. decided to launch a full-time cassava production activity. Now, the company has cultivated and planted cassava in over 50 areas in Sinoe County. Most of the women that the organization works with are from the rural parts of the country, where food security is a major problem.



**Mrs. Grace-Divine Baricako
GIMAC/FAS
(Burundi)**

Mrs. Baricako holds a Bachelor degree in International Relations and Environmental Studies from the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi and is currently a graduate student in International Relations and Development at the same university. She has worked in the Environment and Natural Resources Department of the East African Community Secretariat and is also a member of the East African Community Youth Organization.

Mrs. Baricako moreover participated in the 18th GIMAC in the Panel on Youth and Sustainable Development, where her presentation focused on the gender and climate change perspectives of the latter.



Mrs. Zeinab KANE
Ministry of Gender
(Senegal)

Mrs. Kane is a lawyer and a PhD student in Public Law at the University of Dakar. Her thesis is entitled 'Human Rights and Climate Change in a West African Context: Reflections on the Challenges of Environmental Protection in Senegal'. She has attended several meetings on climate change in Senegal as a researcher and was also the Executive Secretary of the Senegalese Association of Jurists (AJS). Currently, Mrs. Kane works at the Ministry of Culture, Gender and Living Environment Partnership as Head of Division in the Directorate of Relations for the African and International Women's Organization (DRAFAE). In addition, she provides training in human rights and gender-based violence.

FEMNET



Ms. Sylvie Jacqueline
Ndongmo
FEMNET/ Women Peace
Initiatives
(Cameroon)

Ms. Ndongmo is the Chairperson of African Women Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), which is a Pan-African Women's Organization seeking to facilitate and coordinate the sharing of experiences, ideas, information, and strategies for human rights promotion among African Women's Organizations through networking and communication.


She is also the President of Women Peace Initiatives, which is an organization seeking to promote the involvement of women in peace building processes, using the ideology of nonviolence as the only tool for social change.




Mr. Donald Nguepi Ndongo
Youth for Peace/
CAMNAFAW
(Cameroon)

Mr. Ndongo is the President of the Youth For Peace association created in 2010 so as to increase the participation of youth in peace processes. He is also a member of the Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare (CAMNAFAW); in which he is particularly involved in its Youth Action Movement (YAM) branch where he is the Vice President.

The objectives of YAM are to sensitize the youth on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as well as to encourage them to have a healthy sexual life.

 <p>Mrs. Ngouetche Epse Ngumetsing Valentine Life Cameroon (Cameroon)</p>	<p>Mrs. Valentine is the Vice Coordinator of the focal point of FEMNET as well as the women’s Program Manager of Life Cameroon, an association established in 2004. She is further engaged in climate change issues and in advocacy programs on climate change so as to sensitize populations to environmental impacts and how to overcome these detrimental effects of climate change.</p> <p>The key mission of Life Cameroon is to mobilize and promote the rights of women and youth. They are also organizing workshops so as to enhance the knowledge and skills of women and youth in the country.</p>
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Africa Leadership Forum

 <p>Foluke Ademokun AIEMA (Nigeria)</p>	<p>Ms Ademokun is a manager in charge of monitoring and evaluation of the ALF-Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Lagos. She is a development specialist and certified trainer with over a decade of experience and expertise in applied research. Her pedigree in sustainable livelihoods assessments stems from her extensive involvement in various environmental impact assessments and resettlement planning projects. Having worked with fish and cassava processors in rural communities, Ms. Ademokun is an advocate of improved provision of efficient wood fuel for women processors.</p> <p>Currently, Ms. Ademokun is an associate of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) UK, who offers support services to female entrepreneurs on business innovations.</p>
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Senegalese Youth Coalition



Mr. Mamadou Barry
Senegalese Youth Coalition
(Senegal)

Mr. Barry is the Coordinator of the Senegalese Youth Coalition on Climate Change and the Program Officer of the Pan-African Institute for Research, Training and Action for Consumer Citizenship and Development (CICODEV) Africa. He also runs an advocacy program on climate change to sensitize populations to the impact of the phenomena and what they must do to overcome them.

The Senegalese youth coalition is a platform that was established in 2009, and comprises of about 30 youth associations. Their key mission is to sensitize people on climate change issues as well as to carry out training workshops to enhance the youth's knowledge. They also lobby the authorities to take their position into consideration at international climate negotiations.



Coumba Tine
Senegalese Youth Coalition
on Climate Change
(Senegal)

Ms. Tine is a member of the Board Executive in the Action Solidarity Network and an associate of the Senegalese Youth Coalition on Climate Change. She is a sociologist carrying out research on behalf of the Coalition regarding the links between and impact of climate change and gender.

WILDAF



Ms. Regina Bredu Oye
WILDAF
(Ghana)

Ms. Oye is a small scale farmer and an associate of Okushiebiade Vegetables Growers Association, which is a member of the Farmers Organization Network (FONG) in Ghana.

FONG is a member of the West Africa Small Scale Farmers Association (ROPPA), which operates in 13 countries across West Africa.

She is WILDAF's paralegal, trained through the project Using Law for Rural Women's Empowerment in West Africa.



Ms. Ouedraogo Awa
WILDAF
(Burkina Faso)

Ms. Awa is a farmer trained in the framework of WILDAF's project Using Law for Rural Women's Empowerment in West Africa. She is paralegal in Kombissiri, which is situated 50 km from Ouagadougou. In her zone, she has a farm of groundnuts and tomatoes and she is very active in issues regarding the environment, sanitation and women's rights.

Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (ISIS-WICCE)



Ms. Betty Akullo Olula
ISIS-WICCE/WORUDET
(Uganda)

Ms. Olula is the Executive Director of Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET), a women-led organization working in a post conflict area in Uganda. The organization seeks to address challenges brought about by the 23 year-old Ugandan conflict, including those related to climate change and food security by for example using a Village Savings and Loan Associations approach.



Rose Kedi
ISIS-WICCE/WORUDET
(Uganda)

Ms. Kedi is from Soroti district in the eastern part of Uganda and is a social worker by profession. She is a women's activist advocating for the promotion of women's rights. As a Chairperson of a women's Entrepreneurs group in Soroti, she is seeking to address issues of climate change.

In the region where the organization is operating, trees have been cut down to the extent that it has affected the climate in the area. In order to conserve the environment, women have accordingly been advised to use environmental friendly stoves, utilizing charcoal made from charcoal dust and cassava flour. To enhance food security in the region, the women are also using high yield seeds.

African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)



Mr. Ibrahim Ceesay
AYICC
(The Gambia)

Mr. Ceesay is a social justice campaigner, climate activist and independent film-maker from the Gambia. He holds leadership positions within several youth-led regional and international organizations and currently serves as a coordinator for the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC), the leading youth climate movement in Africa with 42 country chapters. Prior to his current position, he has worked with the Gambia National Commission for UNESCO as an Administrator/Secretary General of the National Federation for UNESCO Clubs and Centres. He is currently the Chairperson of the Youth Advisory Council for the Youth Section at the Gambia National Commission for UNESCO. In addition, Mr. Ceesay was involved in several youth led processes for the African Union, the United Nations and other international organizations as a youth expert.

AYICC is an umbrella youth network of African based youth organizations, drawing membership from grassroots youth movements and associations, youths in cottage industries, young innovators, universities and college student associations. In putting the organization's policies into action, AYICC aims to truly support youth who lack skills, opportunities and are unemployed. Over the past two years, they have accordingly been strategizing on how to best engage with their grassroots members, and especially on projects that would create job employment and generate income, increase high yield production so as to enhance food security as well as address some of the challenges caused by climate change.

Most of their members across Africa are working on a wide range of projects ranging from energy, sustainable land management, agricultural conservation, ecosystem restoration, waste management, policy and advocacy, education, rehabilitation and social entrepreneurship. Currently, there are over 20 national youth networks on climate change and focal points in 35 countries.



Ms. Sylvia Wambui Wachira
AYICC
(Kenya)

Ms. Wachira is the Continental Coordinator of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC). She is also a Youth Environmental Justice Activist and a Sustainable Development Worker. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Environmental Planning and Management from Nairobi University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wood Science and Technology from Moi University in Kenya.



Ms. Ewoule Woule Lobe Estelle
AYICC
(Cameroon)

Ms. Estelle is the Head of Department, in charge of environmental protection at GIC BELLOMAR (*Groupe d'Initiative Commune pour le Developpement Communautaire au Cameroun*). She is a Graduate of Limoges University and holds a Master degree in International Environmental Law. Ms. Estelle is also member of a youth organisation dealing with climate change issues and internally displaced people (IDPs) in Apadime. As an associate of the African Youth Initiative on climate change for AYICC in Cameroon, she writes articles about climate change on her blog:

<http://climatechange.afrikblog.com>



Ms Leila Jaouad
AYICC
(Marocco)

Ms. Jaouad is a graduate *from Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II'* and holds an engineering diploma in Agribusiness.

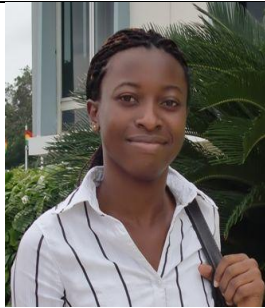
She is working as an analyst for Vigeo, a European leading CSR rating agency, and joined AYICC North Africa as an advisor in 2010. She is also engaged in issues related to climate change and corporate social responsibility.



Ms. Mariam Allam
AYICC
(Egypt)

Ms. Allam is studying Economics and Political Science at Cairo University and has participated and volunteered in organizing events for youth and children on climate change, environmental awareness and environmental development projects in Egypt.

She was a Delegate to the TUNZA conferences on Climate Change carried out by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in 2007-2008 and a Youth Representative of UNICEF Brazil's National Conference on the Environment Let's care about Egypt in 2010-2012.



Ms. Inès Ahoue
AYICC
(Ivory Coast)

Ms Ahoue is the Programs Officer for the NGO JVE Côte d'Ivoire, which is one of the 18 national representations of the JVE International Network. She is very involved in issues concerning climate change and other environmental issues. She is also engaged in women's issues and was selected as a MILEAD fellow (Moremi Scholarship) for the African Young Women Leadership Program. Through this program, JVE Côte d'Ivoire works to implement a local project for women's' development. Ines is moreover focal point of her organization (JVE International) in the Global Gender and Climate Alliance Network, known as GGCA.

Her organization has further sought to encourage young people in Côte d'Ivoire to engage in the fight for a better environment and better life conditions through local initiatives. The methods used are especially based on advocacy, education and local participation.



Ms. Amie Florette Tchikankou
AYICC
(Cameroon)

Ms. Tchikankou is a member of AYICC Central Africa through the Cameroon-based NGO Vital Actions for Sustainable Development (AVD). After becoming a member of AVD in 2008, she became one of the main trainers within AYICC. Her area of expertise includes training and empowering young people and women to adapt to climate change; conflict resolution and prevention related to climate and environmental crises; as well as the youth's and women's engagement in environmental education. As an environmental activist, she leads many educational programs within AVD and supports AYICC's work, focusing on gender and climate change.



**Mrs. Nguimatsa Rose Claudette
ANIDA
(Cameroon)**

Mrs. Nguimatsa is a teacher and promoter of rural community schools in the eastern region of Cameroon. She has worked as a youth programme coordinator and had a major role in the establishment of the Women Peace Initiatives association in 2010, along with some civil society activists.

In 2004, she and her husband funded Women's Association for Promoting Moral Leadership (FEPLEM) which carries out training seminars on peace and non violence, gender, environmental protection, youth's moral empowerment and the promotion of community schools. Since its creation, the association has been affiliated with the African Women Development and Communication Network (FEMNET).



**Ms. Emilienne Alice Kuoh
Elong
Littoral's Regional Delegate for
the Ministry of Women's
Empowerment and Family
MINPROFF/LIT
(Cameroon)**

Ms. Elong, a psychologist and human rights activist for about ten years, is the Regional Delegate for Women's Empowerment and Family for the littoral region; one of the most populated regions in Cameroon. Due to its population density, the region is highly exposed to climate change and thus in need of biodiversity and environmental protection. In acknowledging these environmental setbacks, *Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille* (MINPROFF) and Littoral (LIT) are actively involved in the replanting of trees in areas threatened by desertification. They are also providing support to victims of flooding and working to prevent the occurrence of mudslides and landslides.

Ms Elong handles a government structure seeking to fight against all forms of female discrimination, promote social development programs, reinforce women's capacities in all sectors as well as to monitor and implement measures that facilitate the integration of women in environmental management. She is also mandated to coordinate activities in five Women's Empowerment Centres, which are specialised field structures set up by the Ministerial department so as to educate and train women and girls to carry out income generating activities. The structure in which Ms. Elong is involved in aims to identify and support civil society organisations operating within their jurisdiction.

6. Poem: Climate, Justice, Now!

Save the people, save the earth

Don't change the climate

Save the children

Don't change the climate

Save our future

Climate, Justice, Now!

Cut down emissions

Give us a fair, ambitious, binding climate treaty

The world wants a real deal

This is what the children are calling for

This is what the world is calling for

Climate, Justice, Now!

Where are the climate leaders?

People are dying

The world is getting hotter

Disasters everywhere

Our nations are disappearing

Mother earth is crying

Calling for your help

Do it for the children

Do it for the future

Climate, Justice, Now!

Leaders of the world, be careful of what you do

In Copenhagen, what did we see?

Less hope from the world leaders

No climate leaders

Oh they failed us! What a climate shame

But we've got hopes

We have the energy

It's time! No decision about us without us!

Climate, Justice, Now!

If we don't make the most of mitigation

Scale up the funds for adaptation

We are going to see waves and waves of migration, no way to run, Katrina will come again,

a tsunami will come again

But our generation is a life generation conscious of climate change

We are going to stand up and fight for a place in the future!

It's not just about polar bears

It's about me

It's about you

It's about us

It's about love

It's about trust

Climate, justice, now!

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Picture

Front Page Photo Credit:

Thinking for a Cooler World: The Global Ideas Blog

Available at: <http://blogs.dw-world.de/globalideas/?tag=climate-change>

A woman in traditional African attire, including a beaded top and a long, textured skirt, is shown from the back, carrying a globe on her head. The background is a vibrant, abstract landscape with green and yellow tones.

WOMEN UNITE TOWARDS: A FAIR, TRANSPARENT,

EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE COP17/CMP7 AND BEYOND

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