



AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Leaving no one **BEHIND**

Empowering Africa's Rural
Women for Zero Hunger
and Shared Prosperity



High Level Event “Leaving no one behind: Empowering Africa’s Rural Women for Zero Hunger and Shared Prosperity” | 26 September 2018 – 16:00-17:30

New York, Permanent Mission of the African Union

BACKGROUND

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to equitable and sustainable development, and is both an outcome and a driver of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Without adequate and sustained investment in gender equality and women’s empowerment in agri-food systems, the achievement of critical development goals will be jeopardized. Over the last two decades, Africa has witnessed an unprecedented political momentum for gender equality and women’s empowerment. The African Union Agenda 2063, adopted in April 2015, calls for people-driven, inclusive development, with specific focus on enhancing women’s access to productive assets; women’s empowerment in all spheres; and equal social, political and economic rights. Other important milestones since the adoption of Agenda 2063 include:

- the Malabo Declaration on “Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods”, adopted by the African Union (AU) Summit in June 2014;
- the Declaration “2015 Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063” adopted in June 2015;
- the African Union Campaign to confine the hand held hoe to the museum launched at the AU Summit in June 2015;
- the Declaration on “African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women” adopted in July 2016; and
- the new AU Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Strategy for 2018-2023, closely aligned to the Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The AU and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) share a deep, longstanding interest in rural women’s economic empowerment and are keen to strengthen their partnership in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in Africa Agenda 2063, the SDGs and related development goals. They also have a growing concern about the persistent challenges that African women face in many rural settings and the lack of focus on rural gender issues in agricultural and rural development policies and practice.

PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

This high level event, which is being organized jointly by the AUC and FAO, will present the findings of the Regional Outlook on Gender and Agrifood Systems prepared by the AUC and FAO within the framework of a technical cooperation project. Speakers will discuss the status of gender equality in the agriculture and rural sectors, the progress made and challenges they face as they embed gender equality and women's empowerment in strategies for agriculture, value chains, food security and nutrition, and management of natural resources in the context of climate change. They will showcase ways in which multi-stakeholder collaboration can be mobilized, how political attention can be galvanized; and how investment in gender equality enables all people to achieve their full potential, leading to improved food security and nutrition outcomes.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The launch event will gather high-level officials from Member States, the UN System and the private sector, together with rural women's leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, and members of the media and academia.

FAO-AUC High Level Event *on the margins of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly*

Leaving no one behind: Empowering Africa's Rural Women for Zero Hunger and Shared Prosperity

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26 September 2018, 16.00 - 17.30

Arrival and Registration

	Remarks
15.30-16.10	<p>Chair: Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, UNECA (to be confirmed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H. E. Josefa Leonel Correa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission• H. E. José Graziano da Silva, Director General, FAO• H. E. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women (to be confirmed)• H. E. Akinwumi Adesina, President, AfDB (to be confirmed)• Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency (to be confirmed)
16:10 - 16:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H. E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana AU Champion for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (to be confirmed) <p style="text-align: center;">Q & A</p>
16.45-17.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H. E. Josefa Leonel Correa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission