African Union



2ND

EGUMENI DIALOGUE

On Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Building A Resilient Africa Through Accelerated Women Financial And Economic Inclusion

19–21 OCTOBER 2026

MULTI-PURPOSE AUC,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PROGRAMME BOOKLET

WELCOME TO THE 2nd EGUMENI DIALOGUE

Building a Resilient Africa through Accelerated Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion

The 2nd Egumeni Dialogue convenes African leaders, policymakers, development partners and stakeholders to advance women's financial and economic inclusion across the continent. We gratefully acknowledge the partners whose contributions make this Dialogue possible.

WITH APPRECIATION TO OUR PARTNERS

EAGER
EAST AFRICA GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE
Her Education. Her Power. Our Future.

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Spotlight Initiative

CANADIAN CENTRE
FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS
& POLICY RESEARCH

DAY 1: MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2026

ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING

08:00 - 08:30	Secretariat and AU Protocol

Arrival of Participants

08:30 - 08:45	Secretariat and AU Protocol

Arrival of VIPs

08:45 - 09:00	Secretariat and AU Protocol

Interactive Walk-Through the Exhibition

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY

09:00 – 10:30	Master of Ceremony: Ms. Lehau Victoria Maloka, Head of Coordination and Outreach Division, AUC-WGYD

African Union Anthem & Video Montage

Welcome Remarks
Ms. Prudence Ngwenya, Director - African Union Commission Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (5Mins)

High-Level Interventions - Why Accelerating Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion Matters

- **Mr. David Gudisch**, Deputy Permanent Observer to the African Union, Embassy of Germany (5 Mins)
- **Juliet Kavishe**, Managing Director, Canadian Centre for African Affairs and Policy Research
- **Christabel E. Dadzie**, Senior Social Protection Specialist, Strengthen Ethiopia's Adaptive Safety Net (SEASN) World Bank Project (5 Mins)
- **Dr. Matthias Z. Naab**, Director, Regional Service Centre for Africa, UNDP (5 Mins)
- **Ms. Sophy Dimakatso Malwela**, Chairperson, Continental Network for Women's Business Associations in Africa (5 Mins)

Performance
Maryam Buka Hassan, First UN Global Advocate for Peace and Security (5 Mins)

Solidarity Statements

- **Precious Banda**, President Young Women of Africa (5 Mins)
- **Iride Boffardi**, Deputy Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to AU (5 Mins)
- **Hon. Ivete Alane**, Minister of Labour, Gender and Social Action, Mozambique (5 Mins)
- **Hon. Dr. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey**, Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana and African Union Champion on Gender and Development Issues in Africa (5 Mins)

Performance
Mpiwa Gwindi, Performing & Recording Artist (5 Mins)

Keynote Address - Financing Africa's Future: Investing in Women as an Economic Imperative
Hon. Lesego Chombo, Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Botswana (10 Mins)

Opening, Recognition of WYFEI Accelerators & Unveiling of the WYFEI Country Acceleration Strategy

- **H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf**, Chairperson, African Union Commission (Video Message 5 Mins)
- **H.E. Amb. Selma Malika Haddadi**, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission (10 Mins)

10:30 – 11:00 Secretariat

Group Photo Moment and Networking Break

SESSION ONE Continental Outlook: Are We Accelerating Women's Economic Potential at the Scale Africa Needs?

11:00 – 13:00 Moderator: Yemisi Akinbobola, CEO and Co-Founder, African Women in Media

The State of Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion in Africa
Presenter: **Helen Tewolde**, Director, Access Strategy & Partnership Office (ASPO), University of Toronto

Interlocutors

- **Tigist Abate**, Chief Finance and Corporate Service Officer, Enat Bank S.C.
- **Elizabeth Kasenene Rumanyika**, President, African Women in Processing (U)
- **Adamnesh Bogole**, Head of Gender Equality, African Center for Economic Transformation
- **Morris Tayebwa**, Project Officer, East Africa Community-Creating Opportunities for Youth and Women in Africa (EAC-COYWA) Programme

Format: 15-minute presentation followed by TV-Style Pannel Discussion

11:00 – 13:00 Moderator: **Christine Kamugisha**, Legal Executive, Company Secretary & Board Director, Lactalis South Africa

Closed Door Ministerial Policy Roundtable
From Policy Commitments to Reforms: Creating an Enabling Environment for Women's Economic Participation

Presentation

- Policy and system-level changes that must happen to make financial and economic systems work better for women by 2030 - Mrs. Ron Osman Omar, Director of Industrialization, Minerals, Entrepreneurship and Tourism (IMET), African Union Commission Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industries and Minerals Department (15Mins)

Candid and Peer Exchange Round (1hr 45Mins)
Format: Facilitated Discussion

13:00 – 14:30 Secretariat

Lunch and Networking Break

SESSION TWO | Perspectives from the Ground on Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion

14:30 – 15:00

Moderator: **Emmanuel Mushy Ewald**, Programme Associate WYFEI, AUC-WGYD

Presentation of Outcomes from National/Local Consultations on Women Financial and Economic Inclusion

- Presenter: **Mme Huguette Akplogan Dossa**, President of African Women Leaders Network Benin
- Recognition of National/Local Convenors by Hon. Dr. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey, Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana and Representative for the African Union Champion on Gender and Development Issues in Africa

Format: Presentation

SESSION THREE | Spotlighting Women Shaping Africa's Economic Future

15:00 – 16:30

Moderator: Lingalireni Mihowa, Board Chair WALPE

Conversation with WYFEI Trailblazers

- **Chiraz Bensemmane**, Founder and CEO, Pitch World Fast, Algeria
- **Akinola Ibukun**, Co-Founder Director of Payments , PiggyTech
- **Blandine Umuziranenge**, Founder and CEO, Kosmotive, Rwanda
- **Loris Olivia Motouom**, Agritechnologic Africa, Cameroon
- **Mara Michelo**, Founder and CEO Jacaranda Hub, Zambia

Format: Conversation Segment

Recognition
Hon. Lesego Chombo, Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs in Botswana

END OF DAY ONE AND NETWORKING

SIDE EVENT Building Inclusive African Economies: Advancing Canada–Africa Cooperation on Finance,Trade and Economic Opportunity AUC-WGYD & Canadian Centre for African Affairs and Policy Research (Invitation-Only)

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2026

08:30 – 09:00 | Secretariat

Arrival of Participants, Registration and Networking

SESSION FOUR | From Exclusion to Inclusion: What Is Holding Women Back?

09:00 – 10:30 | Facilitator: **Lindiwe Ngwenya**, Programme Specialist, AUC-WGYD

Addressing Systemic Barriers to Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion

- **Seana Jose Insa-Daud**, National Director of Gender, Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Action, Mozambique
- **Fumukazi Zilanie Kamgundanga Gondwe**, Phoka Traditional Chief
- **Karungari Wachira**, Child Impact Director, Tiny Totos
- **Franck Kamunga Cibangu**, Executive Director, Droits Humains Sans Frontières
- **TMS Ruge**, Founder and CEO, Raintree Farms

Format: TV-Style moderated panel

10:30 – 11:00 | Secretariat

Networking Break

Lightening Talk: From Potential to Opportunity: Empowering Africa's Next Generation – **Johannes Paulus Yimbesalu**, Youth Engagement Specialist EmpowerHer, UNICEF Generation Unlimited (15Mins)

SESSION FIVE Closing the $42 Billion Gap: Innovative Financing Models for Women-Owned Enterprises

11:15–12:45 | Facilitator: **Audrey Hove**, Head Policy Management, Alliance for Financial Inclusion

Enhancing Women's Access to Finance

- **Felicia Dlamini-Kunene**, Deputy Governor at Central Bank, Eswatini
- **Alexander Zanders**, UfarmX
- **Diane Akuffo**, Founder and CEO, FundVestor

Format: Panel Conversation and Audience Interaction

12:45 – 14:00 | Secretariat

Lunch and Networking Break

SESSION SIX | Digital Innovations Expanding Women's Access to Finance and Opportunities

14:00 – 15:30 | Moderator: **Jacqueline Jumah**, Director of Advocacy and Capacity Development, Africa Nenda

Moving from digital access to meaningful financial inclusion for African women

- **Hon. Pamela Charlette**, Minister for Social Affairs, Family and Equality, Seychelles
- **Mrs. Matilda Asante-Asiedu**, Second Deputy Governor, Bank of Ghana
- **Oluwatosin Olaseinde**, Founder & CEO, Money Africa
- **Munir Duri**, Chief Executive Officer, Kifiya – Ethiopia
- **Kennedy Kipkemboi Sawe**, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy Mobile Money, GSMA

Format: Product & Digital Innovation Showcase

SESSION SEVEN | Women, AfCFTA and Regional Value Chains: From Enterprise to Markets

15:30 – 17:00

Moderator: **Carolyn Kandusi**, Founder, Policy Innovation Lab-Africa (PIL-A)

Unlocking Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in AfCFTA

- **Jessica Annor**, Head of the Youth, Gender, and Women's Empowerment Unit, African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
- **John Jailosi**, Regulatory & Digital Payments Specialist, COMESA Business Council
- **Diane Sayinzoga**, Chief of the Regional Office for Africa, UN Trade and Development
- **Elizabeth Olajumoke Johnson**, Founder and CEO, Medical Tourism Africa
- **Raymond Sawatsky**, Co-Founder/Managing Partner, Kinvest Venture Partners.

Format: Moderated strategic panel

END OF DAY TWO

Yoga Wellness Session – Powered by Medical Tourism Africa **(Thryvv Wellness)**

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2026

08:30 – 09:00	Secretariat

Arrival of Participants for the Interactive Sessions/Workshops

09:00 – 09:30	Facilitator: **Arlette Akingeneye**, Partnerships and Strategic Coordination Officer, AUC-WGYD

Performance Arts: Leveraging Creative Voices to address social and economic exclusion
Estifanos Solomon Gashaw, Visual Artist

Parallel Sessions/Workshops: From Access to Agency: Practical Solutions for Accelerating Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion

09:30 – 13:00	Secretariat and Collaborating Partners

CONWOBAA Masterclass: Strengthening Women's Business Associations for Collective Impact

A practical and action-oriented masterclass designed to strengthen women's business associations as powerful platforms for collective action and influence. The session seeks to equip association leaders with strategies to advocate for women entrepreneurs, expand access to finance and markets, build strategic partnerships, and influence policy and financial inclusion agendas, ultimately strengthening their collective voice and impact.

Convenors

- AUC-WGYD
- Continental Network for Women's Business Associations in Africa (CONWOBAA)

Format: Masterclass / Capacity-building workshop

Enterprise Support Organizations: Building the Ecosystem for Women-Owned Businesses

A practical session exploring how enterprise support organizations can better serve women-owned and women-led businesses. The session focuses on strengthening support around finance readiness, digitalization, market access, business growth, and tailored business development services that respond to the realities and needs of women entrepreneurs.

Convenors

- AUC-WGYD
- Mkazipreneur
- UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa

Format: Interactive workshop / Ecosystem dialogue

Women Migrant Workers: Expanding Financial and Economic Inclusion Across Borders

A focused session exploring how to strengthen the financial and economic inclusion of women migrant workers across borders. The discussion will focus on solution highlighting access to formal financial services, remittances and digital finance, social protection, skills and decent work, as well as opportunities for entrepreneurship, investment, and economic participation in both home and destination countries.

Convenors

- AUC-WGYD
- GIZ African Union Project African Integration through Labour Migration and Mobility (AIMM)

Format: Policy dialogue / Solutions workshop

Digital Financial Inclusion: From Access to Meaningful Use of Digital Financial Services

Focus on practical strategies to accelerate women's adoption and meaningful use of digital financial services, including mobile money, digital banking, digital credit, savings, payments, insurance and other emerging financial technologies, while addressing affordability, digital literacy, trust and consumer protection.

Convenors

- AUC-WGYD
- GMSA
- BigTechThisWeek

Format: Solutions and Commitments workshop

From Schools to Jobs: Equipping Girls and Young Women with Digital, Financial and Entrepreneurial Skills for Work and Enterprise

This session will examine how girls and young women can be better supported to transition from education and training into decent work, income generation and entrepreneurship. Drawing on evidence and scalable models from across Africa, the session will identify key transition gaps, showcase approaches that integrate digital, financial and entrepreneurial skills into education and TVET, securing actionable commitments from stakeholders.

Convenors

- AUC-WGYD
- African Union International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (AU-CIEFFA)

13:00 – 14:30	Secretariat

Lunch and Networking Break

14:30 – 14:45	Moderator: Chido Cleopatra Mpemba, Advisor to AUC Chairperson on Women, Gender and Youth

Lightening Talk: Impact of the Denarau Action Plan on advancing women's financial inclusion and economic empowerment

- **Felicia Dlamini-Kunene**, Deputy Governor at Central Bank, Eswatini (15 Mins)

Closing Plenary: From Dialogue to Action

The Session seeks to provide a platform to consolidate the collective outcomes of the 2nd Egumeni Dialogue into a focused set of **priority actions, institutional commitments and follow-up measures** that will accelerate women's financial and economic inclusion and inform the implementation of the **WYFEI 2030 Acceleration Plan** and relevant policy processes

14:45 – 15:15 Moderator: **Chido Cleopatra Mpemba**, Advisor to AUC Chairperson on Women, Gender and Youth

"What We Heard": A presentation of the key messages emerging from the Dialogue

- Rapporteur's synthesis: **Esther Ndagire**, Digital Innovation Expert, Hertie School of Public Policy

15:15 – 15:30 Closing Session

- **Ms. Prudence Ngwenya**, Director, African Union Commission Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (5 Mins)
- **Hon. Monica Mutsvangwa**, Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development of Zimbabwe (10 Mins)

NETWORKING & END OF THE 2ND EGUMENI DIALOGUE