|  |
| --- |
| **AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK** |
| INFORMATION NOTE  THE AfDB Gender Forum :  « Changing the State of Gender Equality in Africa »  First Edition  Tunis, May,10 2013 |
|  |
| **Quality Assurance and Results Department** *Gender and Social Development Monitoring Division* |

1. **Background**

Over the last two decades, many African countries have committed to various agreements at the global and regional levels and taken steps to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment on the Continent. Despite these efforts, there has been limited significant progress in this major development area: an important obstacle has been the failure to translate the policy commitments into practice.

Reducing gender disparities in Africa is perfectly in line with the AFDB long-term vision of transforming Africa for inclusive growth. President KABERUKA in his press release marking the 2013 International Women’s Day, stated that “economic growth alone does not suffice to create gender equality: it requires political and practical will to drive the gender agenda forward”.

The first edition of the “AfDB Gender Forum” will precisely leverage the Bank’s advocacy on this subject.

1. **Objective**

The “AFDB Gender Forum” is a yearly event that will bring together Heads of State, policy makers, private sector and civil society, representatives from financial development institutions to exchange views on crucial steps and innovative approaches that need to be explored to **transform** the state of gender equality on the Continent.

The “AfDB Gender Forum” is envisaged as a one-day event, which will feature: (i) a Message from High Level Guests ; (ii) a Presentation of extracts from the report on the state of gender equality in Africa (report commissioned by the Bank which aims to identify the key challenges for gender equality in Africa and provides a foundation for articulating major priorities needed to achieve sustainable results) ; (iii) Panel discussions on institutional reforms for improved gender equality and advancing the legal status of African women and, (iv) Focus on best practices from private sector, civil society and governments on the promotion of gender equality.

Program of the Forum is attached.

**PROGRAM**

08:15 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:20 Opening Remarks

Mr. Emmanuel M’bi Ebot, **First Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, AfDB.**

09:20 – 09:35 **Extracts from the Report on the State of Gender Equality in Africa**

Ms Ginette-Ursule Yoman**, Manager, Gender and Social Development Division, AfDB**

09:35– 10:00 **Discussions**

10:00 -10:15 **Break**

10:15 – 12:15 ***Panel Session 1: Promoting Sustainable Reforms for Improved***

***Gender Equality in Africa***

While Africa has been growing, economic performance has been mixed and the benefits not evenly distributed. Disparities in employment, education, political participation, and legal rights severely constrain women in their ability to contribute to Africa’s development growth and development and to benefit from that growth. The disparities are exacerbated by weak institutional structures in regional member countries particularly among the institutions that are supposed to promote gender equality.

*This session will highlight the importance of three major areas: (i) the need to elaborate sustainable policies to translate the international commitments into laws and actions; (ii) the necessity to identify effective incentives for successful implementation of sustainable reforms, and, (iii) the effectiveness of governments and gender machineries to assume their roles and serve the purpose for which they are created*.

MODERATOR: Mr. **Amadou Kone, Executive Director**, **AfDB**

Speakers:

Mrs Sihem BADI**, Minister for Women and Family Affairs, Tunisia** *(to be confirmed)*

Mrs Nana Oye Lithur, **Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana**

Mrs. Mariama Sarr, **Minister for Gender and Children Condition, Senegal**

Ms Lorna Rutto, **2011 laureate of the Cartier Women’s Initiative Award for Sub-Saharan Africa**

Mrs Everjoice Win, **Associate Director, OXFAM, Zimbabwe**

Ms. Diana Rivington**, Former Human Development and Gender Equality, CIDA, Canada**

Mr Steve Kayizzi**, Director, Research Department, AfDB**

12:15 – 13:45 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:45 ***Panel Session 2: Advancing the legal status of women***

Gender equality and women’s rights have been at the core of the political and societal transformation agenda for more than a decade. Revised Constitutions, which enshrine equality between men and women on issues such as the law of heritage, land distribution and condemn discrimination on the basis of sex and offer legal basis for affirmative actions are common on the continent.

*This session will highlight the importance of obstacles experienced in advancing the legal status of women and their property rights on the continent, and highlight the missed opportunities this situation creates. It will also address the need of finding innovative approaches to harmonize, if appropriate, in a forward-looking manner, traditional customary and civil laws with international commitments. The role of the private companies in promoting such approaches for the advancement of gender equality will be highlighted and the engagement of the civil society in this endeavor will be discussed*.

MODERATOR: Ms. **Cecilia Akintomide, Vice-President/SG, AfDB (TBC)**

Speakers:

Ms. Wivine Mumba Matipa, **Minister of Justice and Human Rights, DRC**

Ms. Tukiya Kankasa Mabula, **Deputy Governor – Bank of Zambia**

Ms. Soukaina Bouraoui, **Director, Centre for Arab Training and Research (CAWTAR)**

Ms. Mariam Dao Gabala, **Director General, OIKOCREDIT, Côte d’Ivoire**

Ms. Seodi White, **National Coordinator, Women and Law Research Center,** **Malawi**

Mr. David Kode, **Governance Coordinator & Policy and Advocacy Officer, Civicus**

Ms. Sharron Mcpherson, **Executive Chair, WEDI International, AFSUD**

Mr Victor Murinde, **Director, African Development Institute, AfDB**

15:45 – 16:00 **Break**

16:00 – 17:45 ***Panel Session 3: Highlights of Good Practices***

Countries like Morocco Rwanda, South Africa, Senegal, among others have made significant progress ion the advancement of gender equality. Many private companies also and civil society organizations have developed good practices in closing gender gaps and promoting gender friendly.

*This session will focus on good experiences in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in specific situations, at country level and in a particular area, in private companies, in international development institutions, in local communities or/and in various networks and foundations. Lessons learned from these examples will enlighten on the most appropriate process of changing the state of gender equality*.

MODERATOR: Dr Jallow Sering**, Director, African Development Bank**

Speakers:

Hon. Julia Duncan-Cassel, **Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia**

Ms. Almas Jiwani, **CEO, United Nations women, Canada national Committee, Canada**

Ms. Olajobi Makinwa, **Representative, Africa Region Organizations, , UN Global Compact Office**

Mr. Ekoko Mukete, **Vice President of the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Crafts,Cameroon**

Ms. Irene Natividad, **Founder and President, GlobeWomen, Inc. Usa**

Ms Ginette Nzau-Muteta**, AfDB Resident Representative, Burkina Faso,**

Ms. Tonia Kandiero, **Resident Representative of Tanzania Field Office, AfDB**

18:00 **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Simon MIZRAHI **Director, Quality Assurance and Results Department, AfDB**

18:15 **Cocktai**l