

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)



Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: September 2019 To: September 2021

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

1st September, 2021

Dear Stakeholders,

The Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) is pleased to carry on with our partnership with the UN Global Compact. In view of the principles and initiatives of the Un Global Compact, we have made concerted efforts to pursue the following principles through our entrepreneurship development programs, leadership and good governance, gender equality which are all in line with the sustainable development goals. ALF has persisted for 30 years in developing programs that create parliamentary leaders and confident, successful entrepreneurs. Over 50,000 clients have participated in our core training programs, over 700 businesses have been created while job creation runs into hundreds.

Yours Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Olumide Ajayi", is written over a faint, circular, textured background.

Olumide Ajayi, **PHD Executive
Director**

Part II. Description of Actions

ENTERPRISE AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SDG1)

In 2008, the ALF developed and commence *entrepreneurship training for youth and business owners*. This is in tandem with UNSC Resolution 2250 and seeks to advocate for youth inclusion in decision making affairs at all levels and to productively engage them in socio-economic activities that limits their susceptibility to violence and other social vices, but engaging them to become net-contributor to the national economy. Following the withdrawal of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) from providing financial and technical support to the program after nine years the ALF has successfully advocated for special SME financial support platform to facilitate loans for startup and expansion of enterprises in the country thereby increasing the youth's contribution to the GDP and economic growth of the country and in the process advocated for the creation of a special fund for the youth enterprise. The Agric-Business/Small and Medium Enterprises Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS) platform was set up by the Central Bank of Nigeria and bankers committee to provide a funding window of up to \$28,000 for each enterprise at 5% interest rate with no collateral required.

In line with the first goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the ALF build the entrepreneurial capacity of over 4000 entrepreneurs, facilitated loan of about \$2,888,000 and providing business development services for registered enterprises across Nigeria in the last 2 years.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND BEST PRACTICES IN HEALTH IN AFRICA (SDG 3)

Effective Sickle Cell Control in Africa: The Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) partnered with development Research Project Center (dRPC) to sponsor experts and professionals to be a part of The First African Congress on Sickle Cell Disease (ACSCD) which took place in Lagos, Nigeria in Nov 2019. The project was aimed at knowledge expansion and ensuring that the congress produces a robust outcome as a result of the contributions of these experts and professionals, the main objective of the congress was to provide a platform to enhance the understanding of the current state of sickle cell in Africa, the challenges and opportunities building on the experiences of key actors in the Africa region as well as other regions of the world, and to collectively explore and discover innovative approaches and best practices for effective sickle cell control. ALF successfully facilitated the participation of fifty health professionals, representatives of various health associations and NGO in the congress.

Maternal Mortality reduction in Africa: ALF Through the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) network in collaboration with MSD for Mothers (MfM), organized a continent-wide advocacy to support and promote a strategic engagement for national and regional advocacy aimed at accelerated action for maternal and neonatal mortality reduction in Africa to meet Agenda 2063 and SDG 3.1 target (which is to reduce the maternal mortality rate below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030). The first phase (2020) was primarily implemented by engaging Maternal Health stakeholders and policymakers in Nigeria, Senegal and at the African Union Level in five (5) different virtual dialogues. An advocacy document was

generated from maternal health data of the African Health Statistics database, with lived experiences (stories).

The 2nd phase (2021) was implemented by taking up the two (2) major outcomes of the policymakers' dialogue in Nigeria and Senegal which is to pass Reproductive health laws, which is the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) Bill and the need for the government to coordinate and explore partnerships with Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and maternal health stakeholders to established or replicate programs that have proven to be successful in other parts of the country.

GENDER EQUALITY (SDG5)

Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index (MPSI) was

developed as a COVID-19 response and recovery monitoring and implementation tool to ensure that women are not left behind. It is a joint project of the African Union Commission (AUC)'s Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD), Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) and Plan International (PI). It will be implemented in collaboration with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and support national as well as regional monitoring and implementation efforts of the Maputo Protocol.

The major thrust of this Scorecard and Index framework is to build accountability into gender equality and the implementation of the Maputo Protocol. A total of 226 indicators were generated from the 25 articles of the Maputo Protocol. These indicators were grouped into nine themes in accordance with the Maputo Protocol Reporting Template provided by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). A ninth theme that focuses on reporting and implementation was added to the eight themes provided by ACHPR to assess the level of implementation by Member States. The MPSI incorporates outcomes of the 2019 Africa Review Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years since adoption.

Reduction and Recognition of Unpaid and Domestic Work in Africa: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to harm health, social and economic well-being worldwide, with women at the centre. At the same time, women also shouldered much of the burden at home, given school and child care facility closures and longstanding gender inequalities in unpaid work. Prior to the pandemic, economies have relied on a seemingly endless supply of care work provided overwhelmingly by women to sustain families, societies and the labour force, without giving it any social or economic value.

Before the pandemic, women were spending on average three times as many hours on unpaid domestic and caring work - and this contribution was grossly undervalued. During the pandemic, widespread restrictions on daily life, school closures, disruption to businesses and a big rise in working from home have made many tasks more time-consuming and arduous.

This project was a continent wide perception study on how care burden can be alleviated by targeting governments' priority in social investment programmes that can ease the burdens of unpaid care work and on the imperative of focusing on women's unpaid care work in policy agenda.

ALF's Commitment to Gender Equity and Equality: According to the UN women's stance on gender equality, the ALF also believe in the elimination of discrimination against *women* and girls; empowerment of *women*; and. achievement of *equality* between *women* and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

ALF continued to be a strong member of the women advocacy network; Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC). ALF actively participates, supports and provides technical assistance as GIMAC holds series of dialogues and conventions with key actors on policy development and promotion of gender agenda throughout Africa.

It is important to mention that the ALF is deeply committed to **gender equity and equality** as this is reflected in our employment and recruitment policy.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

1. In line with the first goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), The Africa Leadership Forum has taken on the battle against poverty and unemployment in Nigeria by building the entrepreneurial capacity of over 5,000 entrepreneurs between Oct 2019 and sept 2021 and providing business development services for registered enterprises across southwest Nigeria;
2. Commence the Development of 2021 SDGEA report;
3. AFL mobilized the participation of experts and professionals to be a part of The First African Congress on Sickle Cell Disease (ACSCD) which provided a platform to enhance the understanding of the current state of sickle cell in Africa;
4. ALF Worked jointly with the AUC-WGYDD and Plan International to developed a COVID-19 response and recovery monitoring and implementation tool to ensure that women are not left behind.
5. ALF organized a continent-wide advocacy to support and promote a strategic engagement for national and regional advocacy to accelerate actions for maternal and neonatal mortality reduction in Africa.
6. ALF conducted a continent-wide perception study on how care burden can be alleviated by targeting governments' priority in social investment programmes that can ease the burdens of unpaid care work and on the imperative of focusing on women's unpaid care work in policy agenda
7. ALF has gone ahead to develop a comprehensive analysis of AU's decision on gender equality and women empowerment since 1963 till date.