



Programme for the CSW67 Side Event

“Towards Closing the Gender Gap in Science, Technology and Innovation in Developing Countries”

Thursday, 16th March 2023, 3.00 PM – 4.15 PM



United Nations
Office of the Special Adviser
on Africa

PROGRAMME FOR THE CSW67 SIDE EVENT



“TOWARDS CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES”

Thursday, 16th March 2023, 3.00 PM – 4.15 PM

Conference Room A, United Nations, New York

Actions In Support of The United Nations Global Compact Principles

1.0 Human Rights

Implementing The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals # 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 17.

Discuss the globally agreed targets namely as regards target 4.3: Equal access to technical/vocational and higher education.

Target 4.5 Gender equality and inclusion, with reference to women and girls in SIDS and developing countries.

Target 17.16; enhance the global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries particularly developing countries .17.18. capacity building support to developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS.

3.00 – 3.20 PM	Opening Segment
3.00 PM	Welcome Remarks by Dr. Ugoji A. Eze CEO and President, Renew Our Earth, the Engr. Aja Eze Foundation, Member New York City Bar, African Bar Association, United Nations Committee and Environmental Law Committee
3.05 PM	Opening Statements by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under-Secretary-General Cristina Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General • Mr. Edward A. Mermelstein, Commissioner of International Affairs, New York City Mayor's Office
3.15 PM	Keynote Address by Honourable Jean Sendeza, M.P., Minister of Gender, Republic of Malawi
3.20 – 4.00 PM	Presentation/Exhibition and Panel Discussion
	Moderator: Dr. Ugoji Eze, Esq
3.20 PM	Presentation/Exhibition by the Malawi Delegation: <i>MiLab: Virtual Science Laboratory for Secondary Schools in Malawi</i> – Associate Professor Chomora Mikeka, Director, Ministry of Education, Republic of Malawi
3.30 PM	Panel Discussion
	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ida Jallow, Senior Liaison Officer, ITU • Dr. Beatrice Khamati Njenga, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement at the International Leadership University, a member of the OSAA Africa Knowledge Network, STEM Working Group • Mr. Karl Eze, CEO Point Zenith, Founder of British Military Drone Racing Expert on Science, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) • Professor Address Malata, Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Science and Technology • Mr. Sonnie Ekwowusi, Attorney, Chairman, Human Rights and Constitutional Rights Committee, African Bar Association • Dr. Titilayo Adebola, Theme Coordinator for Intellectual Property Law and Associate Director of the Centre for Commercial Law at the University of Aberdeen School of Law, a member of the OSAA Africa Knowledge Network, Consultative Group on Intellectual Property Rights
3.50 – 4.10 PM	Interactive Session
	Moderator: Dr. Ugoji Eze, Esq
4.10 – 4.15 PM	Closing Segment
	Closing Remarks by H.E. Tijanni Mohammed-Bande, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations

SPEAKERS



Ugoji Adanma Eze

Ugoji Adanma Eze, Esq., PhD. Barrister-at-Law, The Honorable Society of Grays Inn, UK.

Ugoji Adanma Eze, Esq., PhD, earned her law degree in London and is a barrister-at-law of the Honorable Society of Grays Inn, London. Barrister Eze is a skilled producer of events and programs at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, who speaks on US National and Cybersecurity; Climate Change; Global Health; Water disasters; women in entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

Barrister Eze recently conceptualized and moderated a virtual High-Level meeting at the United Nations, New York on “Building Back Better: Risk- Informed COVID -19 Recovery and Rehabilitation and Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change - Related Disasters in Africa and The Caribbean.”

On the margins of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. Barrister Eze hosted a virtual event on Food Insecurity and Artificial Intelligence “The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Achieving Food Security in The Post COVID-19 Era: Investing in A Safe, Nutritious and Climate - Resilient Food System”.

On the margins of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2022, Barrister Eze moderated two High Level panel discussions: “Strengthening Resilience and Sustaining Development: A Humanitarian Approach to Leaving No One Behind “organized by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development Nigeria and “Food Security Response: Combatting Illicit Financial Flows and Securing Asset Returns for Sustainable Development” hosted by The African Union, NEPAD, African Peer Review Mechanism, The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Ugoji Adanma Eze, Esq., PhD., is a leading counter terrorism expert providing analysis and information on the rise of terrorism globally and a noted national security analyst. Her areas of expertise are cyber-security and global counter terrorism; International Human Rights Law; European Data and Privacy Law; International Criminal Law; and combatting Anti- Semitism and related intolerance.

In 2014, Barrister Eze hosted an event at the United Nations in response to the emergence of Antisemitism and related intolerance in Europe “Antisemitism: A Threat to International Peace and Security”

Barrister Eze is an author on National Security her recent book is “Reaffirming US Commitment To refugees A challenge To Security and Engagement” and has written an article in the Journal of educational leadership and policy studies, Southern Connecticut State University, School of Education, Department of Educational Leadership and policy studies “Autism in Africa: The Critical Need for Life Saving Awareness.”

Barrister Eze is a convener and an advocate – constantly rallying the Esther generation to be the hands and feet of G- D and to fight injustices around the world. She is a global leader and tireless advocate for the Internally Displaced, Refugees, Migrants and women, children and youths in war zones.

Ugoji Adanma Eze, Esq., PhD holds memberships in the following organizations: The Honorable Society of Grays Inn, London; the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, the New York City Bar Association; the SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON)

Her work often has been recognized including being designated Ambassador for Peace from the Universal Peace Federation, as well, she has received proclamations honoring her from the City of Houston, Texas, and Albany, New York.



Cristina Duarte

Ms. Cristina Duarte is the United Nations Special Adviser on Africa and Under-Secretary-General of OSAA since 1 August 2020. She is the strategic adviser to the Secretary-General on the interlinkages between peace and development in Africa and the focal point in UNHQ for relations with the African Group with regard to Africa’s development. As the head of OSAA, she supports the Secretary-General in promoting coherence in the UN system’s engagement in Africa and chairs the Inter-Departmental Task Force on African Affairs (IDTFAA), and advocates and mobilizes the United Nations, its Member States and

other key stakeholders around Africa’s transformative vision articulated in the 2030 and 2063 Agendas.

Prior to joining the UN, Mrs. Duarte served Cape Verde as Minister of Finance, Planning and Public Administration for 10 years. She was also Director of a reform program on private sector development and competitiveness. In the private sector, she rose to become Vice President of Citibank, a world class financial institution. Before then, she provided advice to several international financial organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations. Over her long career, she has developed strong leadership and strategic management skills, played an instrumental role in public policy making and in the private sector. She has also been involved in numerous international programs representing Cape Verde or the private sector. Mrs. Duarte is committed to

public service. Mrs. Duarte has global recognition and has worked well with a wide range of senior decision-makers both in government and in business around the world.

When Mrs. Duarte left Government in 2016, she was invited to governance and advisory positions in various international and regional organizations. She was a Member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). She was a Member of the United Nations High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs. She was a Member of President Paul Kagame's Advisory Committee on African Union Reforms. She was a Member of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and she was a Member of the Board of the Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development (UONGOZI Institute).

She has an abiding interest in issues of governance, private sector development, and particular competence in international negotiations, strategic and scenarios planning, development policy and management, and institution building. She has an excellent understanding of, and interest in, international and regional cooperation, as well as, the challenges facing African countries. In order to leverage her 10-year experience as Minister of Finance and prior to joining the UN, she was developing a research project as Visiting Research Fellow at WITS University, School of Governance in South Africa. USG Cristina Duarte speaks English, French, Italian and Portuguese fluently.



Edward Mermelstein

Edward Mermelstein is New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs. As head of the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, he leads the office's mission to serve as the primary liaison between the City of New York and the diplomatic community, consular corp., and the United Nations.

Prior to joining the Adams Administration, Edward was the CEO and founder of One & Only Holdings and One & Only Realty, where he specialized in international corporate and real estate law, private equity investment and joint ventures, as well as real estate investment. Edward's experience in navigating international markets led him to be named one of New York City's 10 most influential figures in real estate. He aims to bring the same tenacity to the Commission for International Affairs, and to help Mayor Adams reestablish New York City as the capital of the world.

In addition to a remarkable career in the private-sector, Edward has also been an integral member of the philanthropic community.

In 2016, Edward joined the Board of Overseers of NYU, where he established the Mermelstein Family Scholarship. He is also a Board Member of JDC, a leading global

Jewish humanitarian organization, which works in 70 countries to lift lives and strengthen communities.

He also served as the USA Director of the Link of Times Foundation, where one of the projects he helped facilitate was organizing the return of the Danilov Bells to the Russian Orthodox Church in 2008 from Harvard University.

Edward sits as Chairman Emeritus of COJECO (Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations), where he gave guidance to help facilitate the integration of Russian-speaking Jews into the greater American Jewish community while preserving their cultural heritage.

From 2018 until 2021 he served as President of Zaka International Rescue and Recovery, an UN-recognized humanitarian volunteer organization that provides a rapid response to mass casualty disasters across the world. To date, ZAKA has saved thousands of lives—and honored those who couldn't be saved with dignity in death.

Fluent in English and Russian, Edward emigrated to the U.S. in 1976 as a refugee from Ukraine. He holds a BA from NYU and a JD from Western Michigan Law School. Edward lives in NYC with his wife, Rose, a Broadway producer, and six-time Tony award winner, and his two sons.



Honorable Jean Muonaowuza Sendeza (MP)

Hon Jean Muonaowuza Sendeza (MP) is a wellseasoned politician with 20 years' experience in politics. A Patriot with 13 years' experience as Member of Parliament for Lilongwe South West Constituency where she has served as an elected member of Parliament during the period 2004-2014 and 2019 to date. She is currently serving as a Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare. Prior to her current assignment, Hon Jean Muonaowuza Sendeza worked as deputy minister of defense from February 2020 to 2022 and

as Minister of Home affairs from February 2022 to 2023. She is Passionate about the social welfare of people in her constituency and Malawi as a whole.

As part of her achievements, Hon Jean Muonaowuza has spearheaded the Building of a Military Hospital and has provided Strategic Contributions toward the Malawi 2063 Vision. She is passionate about improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable in society particularly Children, the Elderly and People with Disabilities.

Honourable Jean Muonaowuza Sendeza (MP) is passionate about Gender Responsive budgeting as a key to unlocking investment towards promotion of gender equality, Climate change and commercial farming. In her role as the Minister for Gender,

Community Development and Social Welfare, Hon Jean Muonauwuza continues to add value to her role as a public figure and as a member of the Executive branch of Government by providing skills in the following areas as she serves the people of Malawi; leadership, Resource Mobilization, Public Speaking and Public Relations and Advocacy.

She further serves as a Committee Member under the International Relations Committee and the HIV & AIDs Committee of the Malawi National Assembly where she continues to contribute to Malawi's 2063 Agenda that seeks to develop Malawi into a Middle-income country by 2063.



Chomora Mikeka

Chomora Mikeka is the Director of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) in the Ministry of Education (Malawi Government) and an Associate Professor of Physics (Wireless Communications) at Chancellor College, University of Malawi. He holds a Doctorate in Engineering from the Division of Physics, Electrical and Computer Engineering at Yokohama National University, Japan (2012), and is the Chairperson of the African Standards Organization (ARSO TC 78 - Medical Devices), National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), Pharmacy, Medicines and Regulatory Authority (PMRA) and

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Medical Devices Forum Technical Working Group.

Director Chomora Mikeka is, on behalf of the Malawi Government, the 1st Vice Chair for the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (AU STC-EST) 4th Bureau (2022 to 2024).



Ida Jallow

Ida Jallow is Senior Liaison Officer in the ITU Liaison Office to the United Nations. She is a lawyer by profession with a master's degree with Merit in law from the University of London: LLM Hons. She has been a Regulator in the Gambia, her native country for four years, A regulatory specialist in Zain/ Airtel in Sierra Leone for 3 years and with the ITU since 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

She started as a Senior Project Coordinator of the HIPSSA project, an ITU\EU 14-million-euro project on the Harmonization of policies and legal frameworks in the ICT markets in Sub Saharan Africa. I became a program coordinator of the ITU Regional office for Africa. She has two daughters and a son. She is passionate about

gender equality, Girls and Women in Tech, female empowerment and leadership, women, and children rights.



Beatrice Khamati Njenga

Beatrice Khamati Njenga is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement at the International Leadership University (Kenya). She is an educationist and environmental scientist with many years working locally and internationally in the areas of education, energy, environment and sustainable development; with government, non-government and community institutions. She taught at the Appropriate Technology Centre of Kenyatta University for many years, where her major areas of research and teaching were Renewable Energy, Environment and Technology Development. She has done significant work in youth mentoring and empowerment, as well as gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

Dr. Beatrice Khamati Njenga was Head of Education Division (and doubled as Head of Youth Division for a few years) at the African Union Commission for many years until her retirement in 2019. She established, developed and managed the African Union's continental education programme covering all African Union Member States: working with African ministries and institutions responsible for all levels of education, and relevant officials in regional economic communicates, in articulating African common positions in education development, which includes STEM Education. She coordinated development and implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) (2016-2024) and previously the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006 – 2015), both which promote STEM education. Some of Dr. Njenga's achievements were the Mwalimu Nyerere AU Scholarship and Intra Africa Academic Mobility scheme, which have a special focus on STEM education and research with gender equity; Harmonization and Quality Rating in African higher education and research; the STEM focused Pan African University; as well as support to continental Education Management Information Systems, among others.

Dr. Njenga also initiated the annual AU Continental Teacher Award, Innovating Education in Africa Expo whereby education innovations are identified and showcased for wider adoption and replication, while the innovators are celebrated and rewarded. To ensure ownership, and strategic and participatory implementation of continental agenda, Dr. Njenga established the CESA thematic clusters which ensure that stakeholders are on board in driving action. Dr. Njenga is keen to see that education development ensures inclusive access, quality, relevance and responsiveness to contribute to attainment of the knowledge, skills, values and mindsets required for attaining the Africa We Want, driven by competent African leaders of integrity, as an influential force in the global community.



Karl Eze

Karl Eze is Chief Executive Officer of Point Zenith a defence and national security startup. The company is involved in providing Uncrewed Aerial Systems services to government agencies and other partners.

He served 12 years as an Officer in an Elite Commando unit of the British Army, reaching the rank of Major and serving on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the wider Middle East. Karl also managed £400m of software projects as a Project Manager at British Army Headquarters.

On leaving regular service, he moved into the Financial Services, gaining a place on the Goldman Sachs Veterans Integration Programme and converting to a Full Time Role in Market Risk Governance.

Karl continues his military service in the Army Reserve, as first a Battery Commander at the Honourable Artillery Company, then as the Deputy Joint Regional Liaison Officer (Plans) for London, focused on Governmental Resilience. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he currently serving as the Staff Officer Grade One at the Regimental Headquarters of the Royal Artillery.

A graduate of University College London with a BSc in Human Genetics, Karl also studied for an MSc in Battlespace Technology with Cranfield University at the Defence Academy of the UK. Founder of the British Military Drone Racing, he is passionate about its Science, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) applications and continues to lead pan-defence innovation projects.



Address Malata

Professor Malata is the Vice Chancellor of the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), a position that she has held for five years. She became the 2nd Vice President of CIMPAD on July 22, 2022.

As an outstanding leader, she is the first woman to lead a major university in Malawi. She spearheaded the development and implementation of various Undergraduate and Postgraduate programs in the fields of Health, Science, Innovation and Technology.

Under her leadership, capacity building for faculty and other staff has been supported and MUST is a beautiful shining star among African universities. Her research work has focused on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, and health workforce development.

As a renowned international speaker, author and editor of various journals in the field of health, nursing, midwifery, and health workforce, professor Malata has made significant contributions in health care. Most notably, she is an advocate for girls and women empowerment through education. She is the recipient of numerous awards, fellowships and honors in nursing. A Medal of Distinction by the University of Malawi was awarded to her for being one of the first female Professors. She holds the title of adjunct Professor for Michigan State University, and Doctor Honaris Causa by the University of Oslo in Norway.



Sonnie Ekwowusi

Sonnie Ekwowusi is the Chairman, Human and Constitutional Rights Committee of the African Bar Association (AFBA).

A former Deputy-Governorship candidate in Lagos State, Sonnie Ekwowusi is a Legal Practitioner & Notary Public. He is the Principal Partner, Sonnie Ekwowusi & Co. (Legal Practitioners & Notaries Public). He is a law graduate of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He bags LL.M Masters in Maritime and Commercial Law.

Sonnie Ekwowusi has mastered the strategic political communication methodologies for winning public campaigns and political support. Sonnie Ekwowusi, together with other delegates and Parliamentary lobbyists across the world, has successfully deployed these methodologies in protecting the common heritage of mankind as enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

He is a graduate of the Leadership Institute, Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A. He is an alumnus of the Lord Acton University (Acton Institute), Michigan; United States He is a recipient of the 2010 Global Leadership Award jointly awarded by the Leadership Institute, Arlington, Virginia, United States, the Howard Center and the Bow Group, United Kingdom.



Titilayo Adebola

Dr Titilayo Adebola is the Theme Coordinator for Intellectual Property Law and Associate Director of the Centre for Commercial Law at the University of Aberdeen School of Law where she teaches intellectual property law, international trade law and international food law. She is the President of the African International Economic Law Network (AfIELN), an Expert Advisor to the Drafting Committee of the African Continental Free Trade Area's (AfCFTA) Intellectual Property Protocol and a Senior Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Dr Adebola is an Editor of Afronomicslaw.org, the leading resource on international economic law as it relates to Africa and the Global South and the Founding Editor of

Flora IP, an innovative resource on food, agriculture and intellectual property. She publishes and speaks globally on her specialist interests. Dr Adebola is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She is also dually qualified as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. She received her PhD and LLM from the University of Warwick.

His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande



Tijjani Muhammad-Bande has had an outstanding career as a scholar and diplomat. He received a BSc (Political Science) from Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria (1979); an MA (Political Science) from Boston University, United States of America (1981); and a PhD (Political Science) from University of Toronto, Canada (1987).

He started his academic career at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Nigeria, rising from Graduate Assistant in 1980 to full Professor in 1998, and ultimately to Vice-Chancellor, in 2004, a position he held for five years. During his tenure as Vice Chancellor, the University, with about 20,000 full-time students in various faculties, ranked first in the accreditation of academic programmes in Nigerian

universities (2007).

Between 2000 and 2004, Professor Muhammad-Bande served as Director-General of Le Centre Africain de Formation et de Recherche Administratives pour le Développement (CAFRAD), in Tangiers, Morocco. Established by African governments

in 1964, CAFRAD is the continent's premier intergovernmental Centre for governance reform. Under his stewardship, the Centre improved much-needed training for senior African public servants, conducted specialized research on African governance issues, and worked with a variety of partners, in particular the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

From 2010 to 2016, he held the position of Director-General of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Nigeria's most reputable policy institution for training leaders from the public and private sectors, including high echelon officials of Nigeria's Armed Forces. In that capacity, he inspired a marked improvement in the quality of the Institute's programming and activities. One of his signature initiatives in that regard was the establishment of the Political Parties Policy and Leadership Development Centre, the first of its kind in Africa.

As Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2018-2019), Professor Mohammad-Bande worked with colleagues from all regions of the world to achieve common objectives. He served as Vice-President of the 71st session of the General Assembly and was active in several forums, including as Chair of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34), Member of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Group.

Professor Muhammad-Bande was an assessor for the National Merit Award (Nigeria) and for professorial positions in universities. He has won merit awards and honours from institutions and governments, including the Government of the United States of America and the Government of China. Most notably, he was named Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR), one of Nigeria's highest national honours.

DISCUSSION SNAPSHOT





CONCEPT NOTE

CSW67 Side Event on:

Towards Closing the Gender Gap in Science, Technology And Innovation in Developing Countries

Concept Note

Introduction

As world leaders continue to strategize on how to build back better from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that we do not let short-term post pandemic measures prevent us from addressing the longer-term gender gap in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in developing countries.

The United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda is very articulate about sustainable development being underpinned by science, technology, innovation and scientific research. STI is a key component of the sustainable growth and development of a country. The capacity of developing countries to compete in the global market depends mainly on their ability to innovate and apply the relevant technology to industries and productive sectors. Investments in STI and the integration of STI into education, economic and industrial policies can increase global market competitiveness, create employment, increase productivity and address inequalities.

Whilst on the one hand huge technological strides are being made, the social and indeed the economic benefits remain geographically restricted mainly in developed countries. Developing countries remain excluded entirely.

We live in a time of tremendous and groundbreaking technological, scientific and innovative breakthrough, however not all of us benefit from it as many in developing countries are being left behind as a result of political, social and economic consequences of emerging inequality. The COVID-19 pandemic placed a spotlight on the inequality, particularly in the delivery of basic services such as education, which is an enabler for STI. In most developing countries both women and girls continue to face many challenges in enrolling, accessing, and maintaining their roles in Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) fields. This is unfortunate because women's untapped human capital can enhance the STEM workforce, given that women represent half of the world's population and more than 50% of its collegebound

population¹. According to the UNESCO, only 35% of STEM students in higher education globally are women, and differences are observed within STEM disciplines².

Health and agriculture are key areas in which innovations have a significant development impact in developing countries. For example, in Malawi, Airtel 321 furnishes data and information and maternal and child nutrition via mobile phone. The Pink Phone project in Cambodia helps women farmers share ideas, access resources and exchange expertise. One cannot underestimate the significance of technology is to be breaking down barriers to financial inclusion.

What is required?

Resilient recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 will not be possible without conscious efforts to boost global resilience on all fronts, social, economic, digital, scientific, innovative and technological. It is imperative to take strategically calculated and measurable collective actions to support the efforts of developing countries in special situations. It is pertinent to work together to mitigate the impacts of the gender gap in Science, Innovation and technology in developing countries.

There is a need to support these groups of developing countries to catch up to the emerging scientific, technological and innovative transformations; and to improve access for researcher and scientists in developing countries to publication, data and STI initiatives.

Support should be in the form of building their STI capacity homegrown research and development; foster regional and national innovation ecosystems; facilitate market access; develop capacity in the realm of intellectual property rights; and help in the transfer of technologies. Partnerships also plays an important role, thus enabling researchers in developing countries with access to databases, information resources, academic and professional journals.

Objectives of the event

The side event is intended to provide a platform for the exchange of views, sharing of experiences, and setting the common goals and indeed targets towards addressing the effects of the gender gap in science, innovation and technology and achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, particularly those related to Gender Equality. Accordingly, the event is expected to provide a platform for member states to:

- a. Highlight challenges that most developing countries face

¹ Reflections on Gender Disparity in STEM Higher Education Programs: Perspectives and Strategies, Enyonam Brigitte Norgbey

² UNESCO groundbreaking report Cracking the code: Girls' and women's education in STEM, 2017

Take stock of progress made by developing countries and share experiences of developing and implementing STI policies. Present existing knowledge on best practices in promoting STI to address gender gap in sectors such as education, health, and agriculture.

- b. Articulate possible solutions to the effects of the gap on women and girls in developing countries and in vulnerable situations and how to address these challenges; and
- c. Reflect on how to ensure that the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing frequency of the gender gap in science, innovation and technology do not result in leaving women and girls from the effected developing countries behind in the global efforts to achieve the agenda 2030 and other regional development agendas.

Guiding Questions

Participants are encouraged in their interventions, to address any or all the following guiding questions:

- a. How can we strengthen resilience considering the decade of action and delivery for the SDGs?
- b. How can we help countries in special situations to better adapt to and cope with the gender gap to ensure that no one is left behind?
- c. How can we limit the consequences of inequalities and or prevent the potential for deterioration of the situation, particularly for women and girls?
- d. What efforts should be done by developing countries to close the gender gap in STEM education?
- e. How can we capitalize on our efforts to recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic induced global shocks to fix the gaps and strengthen resilience to inequalities in developing countries.?
- f. Who really benefits from these innovations?
- g. How many of us will ultimately profit from this Fourth Industrial Revolution, or from the green technology?
- h. How can we ensure that those in developing countries are partakers in the groundbreaking advances in Artificial intelligence, robotics, Machine learning. biotechnology and the internet revolution?

Expected Outcomes

It is expected that the side event would:

- a. Deepen dialogue among member states, representatives of the developing countries, critical stakeholders, and development partners, on how to maintain resilience to the gender gaps in Science, Technology and Innovation in developing countries, on how to mainstream resilience in the post COVID-19 recovery plans;
- b. Synthesize views expressed by participants and present the key messages as possible policy recommendations for mitigating the gender gaps and addressing the consequences of the gender gap in developing countries on the socio-economic livewire of communities.

Format

It is envisioned that the event would comprise of four segments:

- a. An opening segment with Keynote addresses by high level participants.
- b. A panel session with Expert's presentations on the various aspects of the overarching theme of the event.
- c. Interactive session/ sharing of perspectives and brief comments by participants.
- d. Response by the panelists and closing remarks.

Expected Participants

It is expected that the event would be attended by:

- a. Representatives of UN member states.
- b. Representatives of relevant United Nations agencies, and other International Organizations.
- c. Representatives of developing countries and regional and sub- regional organizations.
- d. Representatives of major development partners.
- e. Representatives of major Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Private Sector, Academia, and interfaith Communities.

- 2.0 Labour: Our organization is committed to the labour principles. The United Nations 2030 Agenda is very articulate about sustainable development being underpinned by science, technology, innovation and scientific research. STI is indeed a key component of the sustainable growth and development of a country. The capacity of countries to compete in the global market depends mainly on their ability to innovate and apply the relevant technology to industries and productive sectors. Investments in STI and the integration of STI into education, economic and industrial policies can increase global market competitiveness, create employment, increase productivity and address inequalities. Women's untapped human capital can enhance the STEM workforce, given that women represent half of the world's population and more than 50% of its college bound population. According to UNESCO, only 35% of STEM students in higher education globally are women, and differences are observed within STEM disciplines.
- 3.0 Environment: The side event was intended to provide a platform for the exchange of views, sharing of experiences, and setting the common goals and indeed targets towards addressing the effects of the gender gap in STI, and achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, particularly those related to Gender Equality and Climate change. Participants were encouraged in their interventions to address the following questions: how can we strengthen resilience considering the decade of action and delivery for the SDGs ?; how can we capitalize on our efforts to recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic induced global shocks to fix the gaps and strengthen resilience to inequalities in developing countries ? and finally how many of us will ultimately profit from this Fourth Industrial Revolution, or from the green technology ?
- 4.0 Anti-Corruption: Resilient recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 will not be possible without conscious efforts to boost global resilience on all fronts, social economic, digital, scientific, innovative and technological. It is imperative to take strategically calculated and measurable collective actions to support the efforts of developing countries in special situations. It is pertinent to work together to mitigate the impacts of the gender gap in Science, Technology and innovation in developing countries.
- 5.0 There is a need to ensure that support is given to combat corruption to catch up to the emerging scientific, technological and innovative transformations; and to improve access for researcher and scientists in developing countries to publication, data and STI initiatives. It begs the questions: How can we ensure that those in developing countries are indeed partakers in the ground breaking advances in AI, robotics, machine learning, biotechnology and indeed the internet revolution? How will many of us in the developing world ultimately profit from this Fourth Industrial Revolution, or from the green technology?

Internationally: Our side event deepened dialogue among United Nations member states, representatives of developing countries, critical stakeholders,

and development partners, on how to maintain resilience to the gender gaps in science, technology and innovation in developing countries; on how to mainstream resilience in the post COVID-19 recovery plans. We also synthesized, internationally, views expressed by participants and presented the key messages as possible policy recommendations for mitigating the gender gaps and addressing the consequences of the gender gap in developing countries on the socio- economic livewire of communities.

- 7.0 Recognition: Dr. Ugoji A. Eze, Esq was invited to speak and make a presentation at the annual African Bar Association in Pretoria, South Africa at the University of South Africa (UNISA) 6-10 August 2023.
- 8.0 The said event was supported technically by UNDP. A huge thank you to the technical team of UNDP

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