



DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE SIDE EVENT

The side event, titled **“No Woman Left Behind: Innovation for Health & Economic Prosperity,”** is a high-level multi-country event organized by the Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) under the Uganda Gender Consortium on SDGs in collaboration with the African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET), the Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), and Mscan Uganda. This landmark gathering will take place at the Munyonyo Conference Centre in Kampala, Uganda, on either 10th or 11th April 2025.

Centering on the theme **“Leaving No Woman Behind: Leveraging Science and Tested Solutions for Sustainable Economic Growth and Good Health,”** the event is designed to address the critical intersections of women’s health and economic empowerment. By spotlighting innovative, science-based solutions ranging from groundbreaking maternal health technology to government-driven policy reforms, the event aims to disrupt barriers to women’s full participation in economic life and catalyze sustainable development.

The dynamic program will include a practical demonstration of Ugandan-made life-saving maternal health technology, an inter-country panel discussion, and an interactive plenary session. Distinguished speakers include:

1. **Dr. Phyllis Kyomuhendo (Uganda):** A founding member of M-Scan – a pioneering life-saving technology for maternal health who will share a presentation on the cutting-edge, innovative, portable ultrasound technology designed for regions with limited resources.
2. **Maureen Olyaro (Kenya & Botswana)** from FEMNET who will share the continental economic progress and unique proven approaches to financing for development in Africa.
3. **Lina Asimwe (Rwanda & Burundi)** from EASSI who will share live experiences on the critical role women play in driving job creation and economic growth as a vehicle for achieving gender equality in the SDGs.
4. **Dr. Angela Nakafeero (Government of Uganda):** The Commissioner, Gender And Women Affairs in the Ministry Of Gender, Labour And Social Development will elaborate science-related innovative models and policies by the government that have successfully catapulted women’s economic growth and wellbeing.

Through fostering robust dialogue among policymakers, private sector leaders, and civil society, this side event is poised to make a significant contribution to the 11th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-11). The event will generate actionable, multi-country recommendations that directly inform the forum’s agenda, reinforcing integrated strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

This synergistic approach is expected to enhance policy discourse and accelerate transformative, gender-responsive actions at local, national, and regional levels, ultimately strengthening Africa’s sustainable development trajectory.