



## CONCEPT NOTE FOR AFRICAN REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**TITLE:** EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AGENDA 2030 AND AGENDA 2063.

### Introduction

It is 8 years to the expiration of the Agenda 2030, yet the progress towards meeting the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains slow, especially in Africa. Progress is surprisingly slow on cross-cutting issues bothering on some SDGs, which if well addressed, will aid the actualization of the other SDGs. Some of these cross-cutting issues are: basic education, gender equality, women and youth empowerment and sustainable agriculture.

The COVID-19 pandemic and climate change are two crisis that has further deepened gender inequality in the continent, causing disruption to education especially for young girls and affecting agricultural yield. With women occupying majority of the informal sector in Africa, the impact of this crises has been very multi-faceted.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP), African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) and Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative (AREAi) want to share experiences of their work on sustainable agriculture, education, women and youth empowerment as examples for other stakeholders to learn from, to help their programming to achieve the SDGs. It will also showcase the importance of education in helping bridge gender quality using examples of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and climate change that teach young people to understand how climate change impacts their health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights how addressing that can enhance gender equality goals.

### Partners

The following are the partners for this side event:

1. Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Nigeria – Lead partner
2. African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)
3. Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative (AREAi)

### About the side event

This event aims to share experiences on what the partners are doing to advance the achievement of the SDGs. Specifically, the event will share experiences of partners working on organic and sustainable agriculture that preserves biological diversity and addresses climate change; Climate Change and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) module that teaches young people to understand what climate change is, at a basic level and how it impacts health, including SRHR; women and youth empowerment, and education. Partners will share innovative strategies they have used, proved to be effective for possible adoption by public and private stakeholders and to shape the focus of the continent in the remaining 8 years on the implementation of the SDGs. This event will culminate in the launch of a handbook on producing organic fertilizer and pesticides, a handbook that will help especially small-scale holder farmers to move away from the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The mode of delivering this event will be through PowerPoint presentations, case studies and experience sharing. The event targets policy makers, civil society organizations, private sector and the media.

### Speakers

Dr Priscilla Achakpa, Global President, Women Environmental Programme (WEP)  
Joint Youth Working Group on SRHR and Climate Change  
Olumide Idowu – African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)  
Heather McMullen, Senior Lecturer Queen Mary University London  
Prince Gideon Olarewanju, Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative (AREAi)

### Date and time

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. Time proposals 2-3:30pm; 11am – 12:30pm or 4-5:30pm.

### Contact person

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