



OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY
STATE HOUSE



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



DECLARATION: ROLE OF WOMEN IN ENERGY TRANSITION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN AFRICA

Africa Climate Summit 2023

4th September 2023



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We, the undersigned, recognize the critical role that women play in driving and shaping the global energy transition towards a more sustainable and equitable future. As we embark on this transformative journey, we acknowledge the need to empower and involve women at all levels of decision-making, innovation, and implementation within the energy sector. Therefore, we declare our commitment to:

- **Gender and Energy Compact:** Upholding the goals of the 2022 Gender and Energy Compact to catalyze action towards gender equality and women's empowerment to accelerate a just, affordable, inclusive and sustainable energy transition and calling for its broad adoption.
- **Equal Participation and Representation:** Affirming the importance of equal participation and representation of women in all aspects of the energy transition, from policy formulation and research to leadership and entrepreneurship, and recognizing that diverse perspectives lead to more comprehensive and effective solutions. Further, pledging to promote and support women's leadership in the energy industry, including leadership positions in the private sector, research institutions, governmental bodies, and civil society organizations by achieving the two-thirds gender rule.
- **Inclusive Energy Policies:** Emphasizing the importance of gender-responsive energy policies that consider the specific needs and priorities of women. Such policies will address energy access, affordability, and sustainability in ways that uplift women and vulnerable communities, ensuring no one is left behind.
- **Energy Access, Health, and Climate Nexus:** Working towards universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy services for the health of women and our planet. Access to modern energy services is essential for achieving gender equity



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and equality and women's empowerment, as well as ensuring healthy futures for women and children.

We recognize the job creation potential linked to the provision of both modern energy services and clean cooking devices. We will continue to emphasize the interlinkage between energy access and positive climate and health outcomes by including gender in Energy planning, air pollution and climate mitigation strategies, and health interventions.

- **Education and skill development:** Acknowledging the necessity of providing women with equal access to education and skill development in fields related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), climate, construction, and health. By enabling women to excel in these disciplines, we empower them to contribute meaningfully to the energy sector's technological advancements.
- **Data Collection and Research:** Emphasize the need for comprehensive collection and analysis of sex and gender disaggregated data that examines the intersection of gender and energy. By understanding the differentiated impacts of energy policies and technologies on women and men, we can design interventions that are truly equitable and inclusive.
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Supporting women as catalysts for innovation and entrepreneurship in the energy transition, by pledging to create an enabling and safe environment that encourages and supports women's entrepreneurial initiatives and ensures that their ideas contribute to the development and deployment of clean energy technologies.
- **Capacity Building and Mentorship:** Raising awareness and fostering the growth of a diverse and competent workforce through capacity

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building, knowledge transfer, vocational training, internships, mentorship, scholarships, fellowship and business incubation programs that connect women with established professionals in the energy sector.

- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Focusing on forging partnerships among governments, businesses, research institutions, and civil society to advance gender equality in the energy transition. Collaborative efforts will amplify the impact of our actions and drive positive change more effectively. Notable examples of gender commitments include:
 - The Africa Biodigester Component's Gender Action Plan includes a commitment that among biodigester contractors engaged at least 30% are women staff members
 - In the Employment promotion for women for the Green Transformation in Africa (WE4D) initiative - 70% of the trainees shall be women.
 - Under the Kenya Off-grid Solar Access Project implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum of Kenya and funded by the World Bank, efforts to close the gender gap in access to electricity through mini-grids and solar home systems include targets for female-headed households and women enterprise owners.
- **Role of First Ladies:** Requesting for the Organization of African First Ladies (OAF LAD) and its members to form a Coalition for First Ladies on Gender Just Energy Transition in Africa. The aim of this coalition is to prioritize the role of women in the energy transition and advocate for energy action in their respective countries, regionally and globally, and, to catalyze key stakeholders to action.