

CONCEPT

2025

**African Renaissance: Exploring
Women's Agency in the African
Development Agenda.**



1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The African continent is experiencing a socio-political and economic reawakening often termed the "African Renaissance." Central to this resurgence is the recognition of the critical role women play in driving sustainable development. Across Africa, women's contributions in politics, education, entrepreneurship, and community leadership are steadily reshaping the continent's development trajectory. Despite these strides, systemic challenges persist, including gender inequality, limited access to resources, and cultural barriers that hinder women's full participation in the development agenda. Addressing these issues is imperative to actualizing the African Union's Agenda 2063 and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. OBJECTIVES

This workshop aims to empower young women to serve as active agents of change within the African developmental agenda by examining their role in advancing the African Renaissance from a women centric and feminist perspective.

The African Renaissance embodies a vision for a revitalized, empowered, decolonised and prosperous Africa. Nevertheless, the role of women in advancing this agenda remains largely unexamined. This workshop seeks to fill this void by offering a platform for young women to explore their agency, enhance their capacities, and formulate strategies for meaningful engagement in the African developmental agenda.

- Highlight the pivotal role of young women's agency in the African development agenda.
- Advocate for transformative policy changes that empower women as agents of change in diverse sectors.
- Showcase successful case studies of women's leadership and economic participation across Africa.
- Identify challenges and propose actionable solutions to bridge gender gaps in development processes.
- Foster dialogue and partnerships among stakeholders to amplify women's impact on Africa's renaissance.

3. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 1.Enhanced Awareness and Comprehension – Delegates will acquire a more profound understanding of the African Renaissance and the contributions of young women in promoting this agenda.
- 2.Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Skills – Participants will refine their leadership and advocacy abilities, equipping them to engage effectively in decision-making processes and champion women’s rights and interests
- 3.Networking and Collaboration – Participants will have the opportunity to engage in networking and collaboration with peers from varied backgrounds in our movement, cultivating a sense of community and shared purpose.
- 4.Creation of a young women led action plan – Delegates will formulate an action plan that delineates strategies to promote young women’s empowerment and engagement in the African development agenda
- 5.A network of emerging young women leaders – Committed to advancing the African Renaissance and enhancing women’s empowerment.
- 6.A collection of recommendations – For policymakers, development practitioners, and other stakeholders on how to support and empower young women and girls in spearheading the African developmental agenda.

4. METHODOLOGY

The workshop will employ a participatory and interactive approach, incorporating presentations, group discussions, case studies, and experiential learning activities.

- 1.Presentations will provide an overview of the African Renaissance, the role of women in driving this agenda, and the challenges and opportunities that exist.
- 2.Real life and case studies will provide practical examples of how women can drive change and promote development in Africa and also women who have made a positive impact in their communities and countries.
- 3.Group discussions will provide a platform for delegates to share their experiences, perspectives, and ideas on how to promote young women's agency in the African development agenda and also explore the themes and issues presented.
- 4.Interactive and immersive activities that simulate real-world scenarios and challenges will be coupled with experiential learning activities which will provide delegates with hands-on experience and skills to develop strategies and solutions to promote young women's agency in the African development agenda.

5. FOCUS AREA

1. **Economic Empowerment:** Enhancing women's participation in key industries, entrepreneurship, and financial decision-making.
2. **Political Leadership:** Strengthening women's representation in leadership and governance to shape policies that promote gender equity.
3. **Social Transformation:** Addressing cultural and systemic barriers that hinder women's progress and positioning them as central figures in Africa's development.

6. TARGET AUDIENCE

The intended audience for this workshop comprises young women aged 18 to 40, representing a variety of backgrounds in the YWOA including;

- Emerging leaders – young women currently occupying leadership roles or exhibiting the potential to assume such positions.
- Activists and advocates – Young women committed to advancing women's rights and interests.
- Students and scholars – Young women engaged in studies or research pertaining to African development and women's empowerment;

1. YWOA South Africa Executive – 10
2. YWOA Continental Leadership Invited – 3
3. YWOA Lesotho – 2
4. YWOA Namibia – 2
5. YWOA Botswana – 2
6. YWOA Eswatini – 2
7. YWOA Zimbabwe – 2
8. YWOA Zambia – 2
9. YWOA Members in South Africa 25

7. BUDGET

The funds designated for this workshop will encompass:

1. Venue – FES South Africa Offices - Lindiwe Mabuza Space
2. Catering services, and additional logistical arrangements for all delegates on the day of the workshop
3. Facilitation and Expertise – Invited people from different institutions work shopping the young women and providing technical support to the workshop.
4. Participant assistance – Travel and lodging expenses for 12 participants from neighbouring Countries (Affordable lodging and flights)
5. Logistics of YWOA members from outside Gauteng – To use personal funds to travel to Gauteng and to be housed in homes of YWOA members in Gauteng as part of building a sisterhood and solidarity.
6. Materials and Documentation - Preparation of materials for workshops, encompassing manuals, reports, and various other documents

8. PROPOSED AGENDA

Programme Director: Lerato Moamogwa		
DAY 2 13 June 2025		
	Arrivals by delegates	
	Registration and Dinner	
Day 2- 14 June 2025		
09h00	Opening Remarks and introductions	Programme Director
09h05	Welcome Remarks	FES Director
09h15-45 mins	Keynote Address: Defining the African Renaissance – Revisiting Cheikh Anta Diop’s vision and how it applies to modern Africa.	Hon. Angie Motshekga Minister of Defence and Military Veterans of South Africa
Session 1		
10h00-30 mins	Presentation on The Role of Young Women in Africa’s Development – Positioning Young women for socio-economic, and political leadership	International IDEA Rep.
Session 2		
10h30-30 mins	Presentation on Cultivating Feminist Leadership and Advocacy Skills	Ms Phindile Kunene
TEA BREAK		

Session 3

Case Analysis and Group Discussion

1. Status of Women in Leadership and Governance

Objective:

- Assess the progress and challenges women face in political, corporate, and community leadership.
- Identify strategies to increase women's representation and influence in decision-making spaces.

Discussion Points:

- What are the current barriers preventing women from accessing leadership positions?
- How can policy reforms promote gender equity in governance structures?
- What role do mentorship and capacity-building programs play in empowering women leaders?
- How do cultural perceptions impact women's leadership opportunities?
- What successful models of women's leadership can be replicated across Africa?

Ms Bathabile Dlamini and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

11h00

40 mins
each
Segment

2. Agenda 2063: A Feminist Political Economy Perspective

Objective:

- Understand how policies shape women's rights and opportunities.
- Strengthen women's participation in policy formulation and understanding Agenda 2063.

Discussion Points:

- How well do existing policies in Africa support women's rights and development?
- How can women actively engage in policymaking and law reform?
- What policies need to be prioritized for advancing gender equity?
- What are the gaps in legal frameworks concerning women's protection, workplace rights, and leadership opportunities?
- A feminist Political Economy

Dr Khwezi Mabasa

	3. Poverty Reduction & Economic Empowerment of Women Objective:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the link between gender inequality and poverty. • Develop strategies to ensure women's economic participation and financial independence. Discussion Points:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the primary factors contributing to women's economic vulnerability? • How do we address the gender wage gap and unpaid care work? • What policies and programs have been effective in reducing poverty among women? • How can access to finance, entrepreneurship, and education support women's economic empowerment? • What is the role of government vs. the private sector in addressing economic disparities? 	Ms Mokgadi Rameetse /Mr Duma Gqulule
Lunch @13h00		
Session 4		
14h00	Formulation of a Young women led action plan	Ms Zanele Mathebula and Dineo Majavu
14h30	Reflections and Evaluation	All Continental President/ DSG
15h00	Closing Remarks	
Dinner		
Day 3/ 15 June 2025		
Breakfast and Departure		

PROPOSED SPEAKERS



Hon. Angie Motshekga

is a South African politician, educator, and advocate for women's empowerment. She is the current minister of South African Defence Force and Military Veterans and previously served as the Minister of education. She serves in the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC), where she continues to play a role in policy formulation, including education and gender equality strategies.

She held the position of President of the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) from 2008 to 2022, leading initiatives to promote women's political participation and gender equality within the party and the country. She has also been a key figure in the African National Congress (ANC), particularly in shaping education policies and advancing gender equality.

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma



Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma is a seasoned South African politician, diplomat, and medical doctor who has played a critical role in shaping both South Africa's governance and gender policies. She is a senior member of the African National Congress (ANC) and has held multiple ministerial positions since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

Dr. Dlamini-Zuma is one of South Africa's most prominent gender equality advocates, pushing for women's representation and empowerment at both national and continental levels. She remains a formidable force in South African and African politics, particularly in advancing the gender equality agenda. Her influence can be seen in policy frameworks promoting gender-sensitive governance.

- The increased representation of women in key government and AU positions.
- The push for economic inclusion of women through education, entrepreneurship, and leadership development.

PROPOSED SPEAKERS



Madam Bathabile Dlamini

Bathabile Olive Dlamini is a South African politician and activist known for her contributions to social justice and women's empowerment. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Zululand and was active in the anti-apartheid struggle through organizations like the Imbali Youth Organisation and the South African National Students Congress. Her work in mobilizing youth and communities during the 1980s laid a strong foundation for her later leadership roles.

After South Africa's democratic transition, Dlamini served in Parliament and later became Minister of Social Development and Minister in the Presidency for Women, focusing on community upliftment and gender issues. She also led the ANC Women's League as President from 2015 to 2022. Beyond South Africa, Dlamini serves as Deputy President of the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO), where she works to promote women's rights and political participation across the African continent.

Zanele Mathebula



Zanele Matebula is a seasoned South African professional with extensive experience in the trade union movement and program management. She currently serves as a Program Manager at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) South Africa Office, located in Johannesburg. Ms. Matebula has received specialized training in diversity and change management, equipping her with the expertise to navigate and address complex organizational dynamics effectively.

With 14 years of experience as an international practitioner, she brings a wealth of knowledge and a global perspective to her current role, enhancing the impact of FES's programs in South Africa. Through her extensive experience and dedicated service, Ms. Matebula continues to make significant contributions to labor rights and social justice initiatives in South Africa.

PROPOSED SPEAKERS



Ms Phindile Kunene

Phindile Kunene is a seasoned South African professional with over 15 years of experience in the social justice sector, specializing in learning and development, strategic planning, and curriculum development. Through her extensive experience and dedication, Phindile Kunene continues to play a pivotal role in promoting social justice, democratic engagement, and effective public policy in South Africa.

Her work has focused on learning and development, strategic planning, and curriculum development within the social justice sector, ensuring that grassroots movements and community organizations have access to impactful and transformative educational resources.

Ms Mokgadi Rameetse



Mokgadi Rameetse is a distinguished South African professional specializing in Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) strategies and transformation initiatives. She brings a wealth of experience from both the public and private sectors, focusing on sustainable empowerment and organizational development.

Through her diverse roles and extensive experience, Mokgadi Rameetse continues to make significant contributions to empowerment strategies, organizational development, and professional representation in South Africa.

PROPOSED SPEAKERS



Dineo Majavu

Dineo Majavu is a South African professional with a diverse background in political activism, public service, and program management. Dineo serves as a Program Manager at FES, a German political foundation promoting social democracy. In this role, she focuses on initiatives related to democracy, political culture, and social justice. She serves in National Committee member of the YCLSA, where she engages in youth mobilization and advocacy for socialist principles.

Mr Duma Gqubule



Duma Gqubule is a South African financial journalist, analyst, and consultant specializing in economic policy, transformation, and black economic empowerment (BEE). He is known for his critical insights into South Africa's economic landscape, particularly regarding inclusive growth, inequality, and structural economic reforms.

He has been involved in advising on economic transformation policies, focusing on issues like land reform, wealth redistribution, and financial inclusion. Additionally, he engages in discussions on economic justice, advocating for policies that address historical inequalities in South Africa's economy.

PROPOSED SPEAKERS



Mr Khwezi Mabasa

Dr. Khwezi Mabasa is a distinguished South African academic, policy analyst, and lecturer with a focus on economic and social policy, labor studies, political economy, and racial capitalism. He currently serves as the Economic and Social Policy Lead at Friedrich Ebert Stiftung South Africa and is a part-time sociology lecturer at the University of Pretoria.

Through his extensive academic and professional endeavors, Dr. Khwezi Mabasa continues to influence the discourse on economic and social policy in South Africa, advocating for transformative approaches that address historical inequalities and promote inclusive development.

