



**AUDA-NEPAD Africa Policy Bridge Tank
2024 Inception Conference: African Futures**

Concept Note For Parallel Workshop On

The Impact of Gender Inclusion on Africa's Development Prospects

Context : One of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Likewise, the African Union's Agenda 2063, a master plan for 'the Africa we want', places gender equality at the forefront of the continent's vision. Among the seven aspirations outlined in the agenda, Aspiration 6 and its related Goal 17 specifically focus on achieving full gender equality to enable a people-driven development for Africa. Many efforts have been made over the past decades to tackle gender inequality. Still, no country or region has yet achieved full gender parity, although some countries and regions have made more progress than others.

Despite the significant progress made in the area of policy and legislation and the ratification of international and regional conventions and commitments by African countries, gender inequalities persist as a significant social issue. They affect various aspects of life, including education, employment, political representation, healthcare and access to resources. According to a report by McKinsey, Africa's overall gender parity stands at 0.58 (1 would be full parity), and given the current rate of progress, it could take 140 years for the continent to achieve full equality. This alarming forecast calls for drastic actions to address gender inequalities on the continent not only for its intrinsic value, i.e. to improve upon the well-being of all human beings but also because of its potential economic benefits.

This workshop, on the theme "**The Impact of Gender Inclusion on Africa's Development Prospects**" is designed to discuss the findings of a ground-breaking modelling exercise on the impact of gender inclusion on Africa's development prospects conducted by the African Futures and Innovation Programme at the Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria (South Africa). The workshop seeks to discuss the current state of gender inequalities in Africa and likely trends in a business-as-usual scenario (or Current Path forecast) to 2043, the end of the third ten-year implementation plan of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the impact of an ambitious but reasonable reduction in gender inequalities (Gender scenario) on Africa's growth and human development prospects. The workshop seeks to stimulate discussions on gender and Africa's development and convince African policymakers to step up their efforts to reduce gender inequalities on the continent.

Objective: The primary objective of this 90-minute policy workshop is to engage stakeholders in a collaborative exploration of policies and processes essential for closing gender gaps in Africa. The workshop will focus on generating actionable recommendations to guide African policymakers and development partners in addressing gender inequalities in the context of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Approach: The workshop will adopt an interactive approach, encouraging active exchange of ideas among participants. It will begin with a 35-minute presentation by the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) Programme at the Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria (South Africa), to set the stage for the discussion. Subsequently, one expert discussant will provide their comments in a 10-minute speaking slot.

Structure: 1. Opening (5 minutes): Welcome and introduction to the workshop's objectives and format.

2. Overview – Setting the Stage (35 minutes): AFI will present the key findings of a report on the impact of gender inclusion on Africa's development prospects.

3. Discussant (10 minutes): The discussant will share insights on the presentation and necessary policies and processes for significantly reducing gender inequalities in Africa.

4. Interactive Discussion (Q&A) (40 minutes): The majority of the session will be dedicated to an open, interactive and moderated discussion with the audience. Participants will be encouraged to share their views, ask questions, and propose recommendations and suggestions.

Moderator: TBD (AUDA-NEPAD)

Presenter : Dr Kouassi Yeboua, Senior Researcher, African Futures and Innovation Programme

Discussant : TBD (AUDA-NEPAD)

Expected Outcomes:

- Create more awareness of the benefits of reducing gender inequalities in Africa.

Identify key policy recommendations for Gender equality in Africa and how to implement them.

- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders committed to advancing Gender equality in Africa.

The workshop seeks to inspire innovative thinking and collaborative efforts, laying the groundwork for a concerted and informed approach to reduce significantly gender inequalities in Africa. By encouraging active participation and dialogue, we aim to create a platform for shared learning and impactful recommendations to drive tangible progress towards gender equality in Africa.