

Closing Remarks

Gender Summit Africa

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Objectives of the Summit

- Take a fresh look at gender issues in science knowledge making, in and for Africa;
- Formulate a gender policy charter for scientific research;
- Strengthen research collaborations with all stakeholders;
- Accelerate a shared responsibility of promoting gender sensitive science; and
- Promote research and innovation that impacts public policy.

Key Drivers

- Africa's share of global research is growing quantitatively and qualitatively, even though still under 1%
- Despite this growth women are still underrepresented in
 - science and technology fields
 - top research managerial positions
 - science, technology, and innovation policymaking
- Including women in these areas would contribute to Africa's development
- Science is at the heart of the AU's Agenda 2063
 - NEPAD's African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS),
 - the African Laser Centre and the Southern African Network for Biosciences (SANBio).
 - AU adopted the new Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) in 2014 African Union Assembly.
 - "Year of women empowerment and development towards Africa's Agenda 2063"-Pandor

Key Drivers , cont

- “The implementation of the AU framework will also mean an increased number of women in science, research and technology. But the number game is not an end in itself. The mindset of the women scientists, and indeed of their male counterparts, must shift to posing the gender questions”- Shabangu
- Increasing the number of women in science must contribute to improvement of the quality of lives
- Recommendations from the Gender Summit will feed into Heads of States and Ministers responsible for Gender and Women who will be meeting in South Africa in June.

Key Drivers, Cont

Urgent tasks facing the Gender Summit 5:

- Develop innovative ways of supporting the implementation of the Africa Agenda 2063;
- Ensure that the Africa Agenda 2063 is researched-based and that the research is gender sensitive;
- Ensure that science, technology and innovation looks at Africa in a gender lens; and
- Train more African women in the fields of science, technology and innovation

Key Drivers, contd

- Lessons learned in gender activism: use the gender lens based on data:
- 1. Develop a framework
- 2. Identify the users
- 3. Train them
- 4. Collaborate

Objective 1: New Gender Lens: Key messages

- There is gender bias in scientific research , which results in poor science
- Gender bias in health & biomedical science, engineering & technology and agriculture
- Examples were given in the areas of manufacturing of condoms, seat belts, medicines and in production of scientific information in clinical and pre-clinical research.
- Gender analysis is needed in all phases of research – from funding decisions, project conceptualization and objective setting, to methodologies and ethics, to data collection and analysis, and to making recommendations based on results

Gender issues in science knowledge making, in and for Africa, Key messages

The summit has

1. Identified the gender gap: showing inequality between men and women in STEM-education, employment, knowledge production
2. Highlighted the poor science that resulted from excluding women, intersex, transgendered groups as subjects of study
3. Underscored the importance of gathering and reporting data by sex, race and gender in STEM
4. Shared with participants the gender analytical tool that scientists can use in conducting social science research
5. Emphasized the importance of involvement of women in STEM for economic development

Key Messages, cont

- Demonstrating the effects of biology, social conditioning, and environment on research outcomes
- Advancing scientific diversity and inclusion to mitigate the effects of gender and cognitive bias in science knowledge and practice
- Demonstrating benefits of gender-sensitive research for sustainable innovation and economies
- Building on and adopting existing successful research strategies
- [Key articles, reviews, assessments are available at: www.portiaweb.org.uk](http://www.portiaweb.org.uk), www.genderinscience.org,

Key Messages cont

- Science and technology contributes to economic development, eg of China and Korea
- But this growth is not continuous, hence it has moved to creative gendered innovation to increase economic growth
- Gendered innovation improves knowledge capital and new market
- Experience of Gender Sensitive Budget Bill in 2011
- Gender Impact Analysis and Assessment Law to force gender mainstreaming
- Despite all these developments, there is still a long way to go to full gender mainstreaming

Objective 2: Developing a Policy Charter

- Draft policy charter will be developed through a consultative mechanisms that will answer the following questions
- What measures are needed from institutions, funders, and journal editors to encourage gender sensitive research?
- Should institutions require researchers to control for sex and gender in all their research studies? If so, how will this be monitored and enforced?
- What role should funding agencies play to prevent gender discrimination in scientific research?
- What role should Journal editors play in promoting gender sensitive research?
- The organizers will draft a policy charter that will be circulated to participants for review and adoption

Objective 3: Key messages

From GS3-North America Goals

- Develop a **collective commitment** to strengthen human capital development, research and innovation through diversity
- Demonstrate **latest evidence** of how incorporating sex and gender consideration into STEM research and innovation contribute to excellence, and
- Expand and transform the Gender Summit into a **global level forum** for collaborative dialogue and activities focused on shaping science and society through the inclusion of gender dimension in research, innovation, and markets for science knowledge.

Key messages, cont

- Many needs and challenges shape the formation of the community of experts:
- *Globalization* of science, of business, of environmental, economic, health, food, and transportation challenges creates an opportunity to address national and international needs.
- The changing landscape of the scientific enterprise calls for *new knowledge and new social and institutional practices* for improving quality of life by addressing diverse research questions and different research methodologies.
- Collaboration across borders and disciplines creates *greater access to knowledge* while strengthening *public support* through broader dissemination and broader participation in solutions to challenges

Collaboration with Other Countries

- Develop a parallel-funded and parallel-administered initiative —the Gender-Focused Multi-national Collaboration (GFMC)
- Maintain a GS-Africa Social Network as a vehicle for community building and engagement,
- Partner internationally to advance greater diversity in STEM through future Gender Summits,
- Foster multi-national opportunities for other countries to host future Gender Summits/promote the participation of other regions of the world, and
- Include or make available global data with the diversity perspective.

Dissemination Plan

- Produce *Proceedings* to capture the broad-based contributions of summit participants
- Produce *Scholarly Book* to increase the knowledge base of gendered science and innovation
- Maintain *GS5-Africa Website* for ongoing engagement with all interested stakeholders

Next Gender Summit

Region: Asia Pacific

When: 2015. August 26---28

Venue: Seoul, Republic Korea



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