

EACSOFF KENYA NEWSLETTER

USHIRIKIANO

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KENYAN STAKEHOLDERS APPRAISE THE DRAFT *EAC GENDER POLICY*



Left: Participants are taken through the draft gender policy Right: Participants review the draft EAC gender policy in thematic groups

The Stakeholders' consultations meeting on the draft EAC Gender Policy was convened by the State Department of East African Affairs (SDEAA) and East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOFF) Kenya with support from Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD) partnership with Coffey International–*Jamii Thabiti* Programme. The Meeting brought together Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector Organizations and Government departments and Agencies.

The meeting reviewed the first draft of the EAC Gender Policy and made recommendations to improve the situation analysis as well as the 12 major areas addressed in the policy namely: gender, governance and participation; gender, education and training; gender, health, HIV and AIDS; Gender-Based Violence and harmful cultural practices; gender, environment and climate change; gender, energy and lighting; gender, agriculture, food security and nutrition; gender, trade and economic empowerment; gender, security, peace building and conflict resolution; gender and migration; access to clean water, sanitation and housing and gender, mining and extractive industries.

EACSOFF (K) & FAWE IN “GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE”

EACSOFF Kenya is in a girl's advocacy alliance (GAA) with *The Forum for African Women Educationalists* (FAWE) that focuses on Partner State reporting and implementation of Maputo protocol, Africa Youth Charter, EAC Youth Policy and the EAC Regional Implementation Framework on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. The GAA Africa region alliance will work in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia. These activities will enhance the capacity of partnering CSOs to influence policy advocacy, monitoring and accountability mechanisms at the

EAC, ECOWAS and AU levels. GAA's main advocacy focus is on the elimination of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and promotion of Economic Empowerment (EE) of young women and girls engendering a youth approach.



(GAA) Launch Representatives from Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia October 2017 at FAWE Headquarters (Nairobi).

AFRICAN UNION ANTI-CORRUPTION REGIONAL PLATFORM LAUNCHED



Left: Ms Sheila Masinde, Programs Manager for Transparency International Kenya addresses launch participants
Right: Participants at the launch

EACSO (Kenya) in partnership with Transparency International (TI) Kenya -the thematic lead for Anti- corruption launched the National Working Group on Anti-Corruption (NWGAC) on 16th February 2018, in Nairobi. NWGAC shall publicize AU Project 2018 and advocate for the Government of Kenya and the EAC to make clear commitments towards supporting the implementation of the Anti-Corruption laws. The event was in-sync with AU's declaration of 2018 as the African Anti-corruption year. The theme of the meeting was *“Winning the fight against corruption: a sustainable path to Africa's transformation”*. AU Project 2018's (“Africa Anticorruption Year”) general objective is to promote the fight against corruption and impunity on the continent. This will result in a sustainable path to a prosperous and peaceful Africa (Agenda 2063).

The regional platform provides opportunities for CSOs to engage on anti-corruption through; information sharing for learning purposes, tracking of anti-corruption events in the region to inform their participation and contribution at the events and providing contacts for point persons for ease of collaboration. For more information use the link below:

http://uncaccoalition.org/en_US/getinvolved/africa-region-anti-corruptionplatform

EACSO (K) AT THE 31ST GENDER IS MY AGENDA CAMPAIGN (GIMAC) PRE-SUMMIT MEETING



Participants follow on the proceedings of a session at the conference

This year's conference with the theme *“Corruption and Governance: Impact and way out for Women, Children and Youths.”* was held on 20th - 21st January 2018, at United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective of the 31stGIMAC Pre-Summit meeting was to identify strategies and interventions that have continental implications to forestall the continued impact of corruption in governance, which hinder development, weaken the fabrics of sanity in the communities, promote violence and encourage avoidable negative consequences or marginalization and ethnocentrism. The *Forum for African Women Educationalists* (FAWE) is the chair to Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC).

KENYAN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS TAKE THEIR SPACE IN ADVOCACY



Left: The Youth Senate – Kenya National coordinator Mr. Ben Ogutu (left) and the Chairman Mr. Dennis Ole Sankale consult as they make a presentation on the Status of implementation of the African Union Youth Charter in Kenya. Right: Ms Catherine Nyambura from FEMNET facilitating a session on the status of the Maputo Protocol during the Workshop

The EACSOF Youth focal points training on the Maputo Protocol, African Youth charter and other regional instruments under the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) Program took place on 5th April, 2018 at Kenya Comfort Hotel, Nairobi. EACSOF has established a national youth advocacy team under this program that will go a long way in shaping youth, gender and economic empowerment of women and girls in the EAC. The national advocacy team brings together more than 20 key national youth organizations and networks that are engaged in various youth, gender and economic empowerment programs in Kenya.

CSO'S PARTICIPATE IN MOMBASA PORT COMMUNITY CHARTER REVIEW



Participants take a group photograph after the workshop

The Mombasa CSO Platform, an affiliate of EACSO (K), engaged the lead consultant on the Mombasa Port Community Charter (MPCC) to give their input in the port charter under review. The discussions included, conceptualizing CSOs commitments and indicators to be incorporated in the charter among other emerging port issues that require the platform's attention. The platform will follow up on their recommendations during the upcoming validation workshop for the MPCC review report; however the participants are in agreement that the CSO Platform continues to be a stakeholder in the (MPCC).

MOMBASA CSOs EXPLORE BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE PORT



Participants in breakout sessions during the workshop

The Mombasa Port CSOs platform held a meeting on 27th March with the Kenya Port Authority (KPA) and the adjacent Community to discuss business opportunities at the port. The workshop was organized to enable the port community and CSOs platform to gain a deeper understanding of the procurement procedures at the KPA, and the status of implementation of the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) initiative. KPA Principal Procurement officer, Mrs. Evelyne Shigoli, attended the forum to explain port procurement procedures and assist the port community to get better access to business opportunities at the Port. The meeting had representation from women, youth, and persons with disabilities who are expected to benefit through the AGPO initiative, that allocates them at least 30% of government tenders. This requirement is also provided for under the Public Procurement and Disposal Act of 2015. The port community was previously not informed on the status of implementation of the AGPO initiative by the KPA.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Ms Sironka giving a welcoming note to participants at a workshop

EACSOFF (K) welcomes the new National coordinator- Amy Wanjiru Sironka. Amy is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a holder of an MA in International Relations. She brings with her over six years work experience in the social sector policy advocacy with international organizations.

UPCOMING EVENTS



NDC Chair, Mr. Masheti Addressing the committee members during the 4th NDC Meeting

- Plans are currently underway for the 2018 EACSOFF AGM The National Dialogue Committee (NDC) Kenya is preparing for the National Dialogue Forum (NDF) to be held in May
- EACSOFF Kenya is set to launch its Strategic Plan in Nairobi in May

CONTRIBUTORS

Amy Sironka

Benedict Omillo

Sheila Wafula

GRAPHIC LAYOUT

Sheila Wafula

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Masheti Masinjila

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 www.eacsofkenya.org

Contact Us

HSE 331 Muguga Green Road off Waiyaki Way/Brookside Drive
(Behind New Safaricom House), Westlands.

P.O. Box 27559-00506, Nairobi-Kenya.

Tel: (020)2252058 Email: info@eacsofkenya.org/eacsofke@gmail.com