ADVANCING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE MARITIME SECTOR

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OUTLINE

- Background;
- Normative Frameworks for the Advancement of Women;
- Current Realities;
- Challenges;
- Opportunities;
- Blue Growth Approaches;
- Way forward; and,
- Conclusion.
Compared to other sectors, the Kenyan maritime sector remains heavily male-dominated;

Integration and participation of women has been very slow (low numbers);

Government policy reforms – Repealed discriminatory laws and granted women liberty to work in all sectors including non-traditional sectors for women;

But indeed very few women have been absorbed within the maritime sector; and,

Ensuring greater women's involvement and participation in this sector provides an opportunity to contribute to: sustainable development; promote women's economic advancement; and, reduce women's poverty.
INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
  - Promotes integration of women into all levels of political, economic and social development
- Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)
  - Gender equality and non-discrimination
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Goal 5 and other
  - Non-discrimination and equal opportunity
- UNSCR 1325 – Women, peace and security
- ILO Conventions - Convention 111 on non-discrimination, equal opportunity and treatment for employment (1958)

REGIONAL INSTRUMENTS

- African Union Agenda 2063 - Calls for inclusive economic growth
- AU Charter on Human and People’s Rights and the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) – Realization of Women’s rights
  - AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality
  - AU Gender Policy
  - Declaration of 2010 -2020 as the “Decade of the African Women”
  - Africa Union Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS, 2050)
  - EAC Treaty
    - EAC Gender Policy
    - EAC Gender Equality, Equity and Development Bill

NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

- The Constitution of Kenya
  - Art 10 & 27 – Equality and non-discrimination principles
- Employment Act, 2007
  - Art 5 – Non-discrimination in employment
- Draft National Policy on Gender & Development
  - Gender mainstreaming in all sectors
- Draft National Equality Policy
  - Equality and non-discrimination
- Sexual Offences Act, 2006
  - Prevention and protection from sexual violence
- National Policy for the Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence
- Kenya National Action Plan on Women, Peace & Security

GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- Institutionalization of gender mainstreaming in all sectors;
- Socio-economic empowerment;
- Gender Sector Working Group coordination;
- Development of gender related policies;
- Coordination of GBV programmes;
- Implementation of the 4-year Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence; and,
- “Jitokeze” campaign (Speak out) helpline 1195 for reporting of GBV cases.
Current Realities

- Upto 90% of global trade facilitation by volume is seaborne.
- 70% of global trade facilitation by value is by sea.
- Blue economy related industries support the livelihoods of about 660–820 million people worldwide.
- Women account for about 15% of people directly engaged in fisheries.
- 70% of African countries are either coastal or islands.
- Africa’s oceanic space is bigger than the land mass but is largely underdeveloped.
- Participation of women currently stands at 2% of the world’s maritime workforce.
- Undoubtedly, developing African sea power presents an unrivalled opportunity for both women and men to work both at sea and offshore.

Blue economy provides a great opportunity for women’s participation in development.
Challenges

Women have largely been excluded from contributing in this previously male dominated sector despite having a key role to play due to:

- Limited access to natural and investment resources, credit, technology and skills;
- Limited mobility and bargaining power;
- Limited access to and control over land or fishing grounds;
- Poor opportunities and information to enable them contribute to value addition;
- Low returns and benefits (contribution is often overlooked or undervalued);
- Existing power structures that limit women’s participation in the sector; and,
- Lack of recognition of the unique and valuable role they play in the sector.

Inequalities in accessing marine resources greatly undermines women’s productivity and results in negative implications for food security and nutrition.
Opportunities

Potentially, Blue Growth can contribute to:

- Addressing challenges facing coastal communities by improving the economic, social and ecosystem resilience of fisheries and aquaculture-based livelihoods and enhancing positive linkages with development;

- Promote diversification to reduce poverty, fight malnutrition and enhance employment opportunities e.g. through hatcheries;

- Promote the social, economic and environmental transformation of the sector through implementation of appropriate policies, strategies and initiatives focused on indigenous coastal fishing communities;

- Creation of market linkages for products to enhance fair trade with product labels designed by the communities.
Opportunities

• Enhance access to services and livelihood opportunities and support for the self-reliance of indigenous communities;

• Train women in indigenous communities to dry fish purchased from local fishing communities as both an economic activity and a source of food security and nutrition;

• Link fisher communities with national and regional markets and create decent jobs as service providers in the aquaculture industry;
Opportunities

- Promote sustainable small-scale fisheries in territories inhabited by indigenous peoples and involve them in developing policies that are tailored to their needs and cultures;

- Recognize indigenous leaders and fisheries professionals among the indigenous peoples and the roles they play in the fisheries sector - Raise awareness and strengthen their contribution to food security, nutrition and poverty eradication;

- Empower and provide technical assistance to women to establish own associations to help negotiate fairer prices and lower transport costs for products.
Blue Growth Approach

To realize the full potential of the blue economy requires:

- Analysis of the needs, interests and contributions of key population groups;

- Effective inclusion of all societal groups - women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), local communities, marginalized and other underrepresented groups;

- Prioritizing working with indigenous communities to advance policies that unlock the economic and social potential of all population groups;

- Empowering women and communities to safeguard natural resources while enhancing opportunities to access decent work;
Blue Growth Approach

- Prioritizing balancing sustainable use of aquatic resources with economic and social benefits;
- Encourage young African women to take an active economic role in the maritime sector – from shipping, maintenance, port services and to financing; and,
- Utilizing comprehensive multi-sectoral approaches to facilitate coordinated and effective integration.
Way forward

- Invest time and resources on women - Research, consultations, partnership and funding;

- Invest in blue growth dialogues to provide a means for local stakeholders to determine tailored solutions that best benefit communities;

- Engage maritime authorities, operators and ports to identify opportunities to develop a sustainable, integrated maritime sector, which will create jobs for women—both directly and indirectly—in areas such as logistics and transport; and,

- Support local initiatives and early intervention as a means of promoting empowerment, designing appropriate strategies as a means of increasing the number of women in the sector.
Conclusion

• Gender equality and women's empowerment is at the heart of all global, regional and national policies and actions;

• This first Global Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) offers a fertile ground to further women's role in this transformative field;

• The full potential of the blue economy can only be reached if it is truly inclusive, allowing all people in society to reap the dividends on offer from the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers; and,

• Women must be at the heart of this inclusivity; and,

• Blue economy provides a great chance to achieve the global development agenda.
70 per cent of earth’s resources are underneath the seas, and a greater portion of the wealth from the seas and oceans remain untapped

THANK YOU