

THE REGIONAL SHAREFAIR ON Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry: Building on Good Practices 13th-15th October 2015 Nairobi, Kenya

UN Women's regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa, in collaboration with the Australian High Commission and other partners, is pleased to announce that it will host a **Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry: Building on Good Practices** in Nairobi, Kenya from the 13th to the 15th of October 2015. The Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry Sharefair builds on the success of the 2014 Rural Agricultural Technologies Share Fair which brought together over 350 participants and 90 exhibitors from across the region.

Photo Credits: UN Women/Katja Isaksen



The valuable extractive resources in Africa – oil, gas and minerals – are driving immense economic and social development and have the potential to drastically reduce poverty levels on the continent. However, barriers exist that prevent women from actively and profitably benefiting from the extractives industry in Africa. **Women's needs and opportunities are often overlooked** and they experience disproportionate negative impacts such as family and social disruption, environmental degradation, loss of employment as well as risks to their security. Women are disadvantaged due to their exclusion from the extractives value chain and their limited capacity to take advantage of productive opportunities within it. If not addressed, these factors could further widen the gender gaps in access to resources and resource-related opportunities. However, effective partnerships between the private sector and government in investing in gender responsive approaches in the extractives industry can address these issues.

The **Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry** will provide an opportunity for knowledge exchange and dialogue on the issues surrounding women at all levels in the extractives. It will promote technologies, innovations, best practices and policies that support women working in the extractives. It will have a substantive South-South component and will bring together women miners, women living and working in the extractives from around the region and large-scale mining companies. It will also offer a platform for governments, policymakers, researchers, academics, private sector (mining, oil, gas), community groups, civil society, technology innovators and others to interact with women in the extractives and discuss and uncover some of the good practices and challenges in the sector.

The **13th of October** will be dedicated to women in the extractives sector, who will have the chance to attend practical and interactive skills-building and mentorship sessions. It will also provide a platform for the partners to interact, network and explore business opportunities.

The 14th and 15th of October 2015, will focus on **high-level policy dialogues with regional and national governments, private sector, panel debates, workshops and case study presentations** of good practices on the effective integration of gender-equality in the extractives sector. **For policy-makers and the private sector, the Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry: Building on Good Practices** comes at an opportune time as several African countries are developing their extractives policies. It is crucial that policy makers/governments, civil society and the private sector are aware of the specific gender issues to be addressed in planning and managing natural resources and how to benefit from a gender responsive extractives industry. It is an opportunity to learn from other countries in the region and to hear from and interact with women working in the extractives first hand. In addition, the African Union has declared 2015 **The Year of Women's Empowerment** – providing a strong motive for the integration of gender equality into a traditionally male-dominated sector.

The Key themes of the Sharefair will include:

- Knowledge exchange, networking and mentoring for women in the extractives.
- Integrating gender in legislative, policy and regulatory frameworks of the extractive industries
- Gender-specific impacts of the extractive industries: Environmental, social and economic
- Economic Opportunities for women in the extractives: Throughout the value chain
- Skills development including women in the resource-based economy
- Private sector networking with women entrepreneurs in the extractives industry sector

Objectives of the Sharefair

- Multi-stakeholder Dialogue with government, civil society and private sector to **raise awareness of the need for gender equality in the extractives industry.**
- Expanding the **evidence base** towards a gender-inclusive extractives sector.
- **Solution Oriented South-South Collaboration:** Sharing best practices for creating gender-inclusive extractives industry.
- Network, mentor and create business/knowledge exchange opportunities for women in the extractives.
- Development of a **Regional Action Plan for Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry”**



Photo Credits: UN Women/Katja Isaksen



Photo Credits: UN Women/Katja Isaksen

The final Sharefair programme, exhibition map and catalogue of technologies will be available onsite and online at www.africa.unwomen.org and www.empowerwomen.org/sharefair2015 from July 2015. Please contact brenda.muthamia@unwomen.org for more information