



**WORKSHOP REPORT REGARDING YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY ON:  
LEVERAGING AFRICA'S YOUTH INNOVATION AND ENERGY TO END VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

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**DATE:**

4 – 6 DECEMBER, 2013,

**PERFORMANCE PLACE:**

DEBREZEIT - ETHIOPIA

**REPORT PREPARED BY:**

**NGALIM EUGINE NYUYDINE**

CONSULTANT FOR THE WORKSHOP

WITH CONSULATED MINUTES BY:

**NANCY KAIZILEGE**

PARTICIPANT, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**ENDORSED BY:**

**MADAM JENNET KEM**

GENERAL MANAGER, AFRICA UNITE CAMPAIGN ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN AND GIRLS

## **ACRONYMS:**

**AYUNet:** Africa UNiTE Youth Network on Ending Violence against Women and Girls in Africa.

**EVAWGs:** Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa.

**SWOT:** Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

**FGM:** Female Genital Mutilation

**3Hs Advocacy:** which are the 'head, hand and heart'

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**PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP**

The youth workshop on 'leveraging Africa's Youth Innovation and Energy to End Violence Against Women and Girls,' organized by the Africa UNiTE Secretariat in partnership with UN Women and the Urgent Action Fund in Africa in Debrezeit, Ethiopia from December 4 – 7, 2013, brought together participants from the five regions of Africa to brainstorm on their role in ending violence against women and girls in Africa. The following countries were represented in the workshop: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Central Africa); Ethiopia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda (East Africa), Zambia (Southern Africa); Tunisia (Northern Africa); Ghana and the Republic of Guinea (West Africa). The workshop which was also a follow up of the Arusha Declaration of March 3, 2012 and the ground breaking, historic and momentous Mt Kilimanjaro Climb initiative under the theme "Climb Up, Speak Out" from March 05 – 09, 2012 also garner momentum for a follow up process by the Youth. As such, the workshop was aimed at concretizing the implementation of this Declaration by setting up the Africa UNiTE Youth Network on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa dubbed "**AYUNet**".

The workshop was jointly facilitated by Madam Jennet Kem, the General Manager of the Africa UNiTE Secretariat in Addis Ababa, Mr. Antonie de Jong, the Director of Resource Mobilization from the UN Women Office in New York, Madam Letty Chiwara, the Resident Representative of UN Women Ethiopia, AU and ECA, Professor Wangari Mwai of the Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership of the University of Kenyatta, Nairobi and Mr Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine, Commissioner for the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon, Executive Director of the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) and Consultant for the workshop. These personalities through their facilitation inspired the participants who committed themselves in taking the lead in Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in their respective countries and communities.

The key presentations for the workshop included:

- Regional and international frameworks on youth empowerment and their role in development;
- Understanding the concepts of VAWGs, youth and masculinity and femininity;
- Transformational leadership on EVAWG;
- Networking and working together to EVAWGs;
- Advocacy and communication strategy;

The last three presentations on: strategic vision and planning, resource mobilization and institutional strengthening were handled by participants in brainstorming sessions in working groups

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At the end of the three days workshop the following outcome documents were considered as the constituent documents for the creation of AYUNet:

- Governance guidelines;
- Action plan;
- Resource mobilization;
- Project proposal for fund raising;
- Logo and content for the website of the network

After adopting the above documents, the participants then committed themselves on popularizing the network at the continental level and convincing their governments on the recognition and establishment of the network at the country level.

## **PART II: PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP:**

### **1. Introduction**

The youth leadership and advocacy workshop on leveraging youth innovation and energy to end violence against women and girls held in Debrezeit from December 4 – 6, 2013 comes at the hills of the Mt Kilimanjaro Climb of March 05 – 09, 2012 with the theme as “Climb Up! Speak Out” on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa. Back from Kilimanjaro, climbers and solidarity events’ organizers have become ambassadors of the Campaign in their various sectors/countries. Some of these tremendous results have been recorded in Kenya, Ethiopia,<sup>7</sup> Cameroon, Burundi, Ghana, Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Tanzania, just to name a few. Key amongst the Ambassadors are youths from about 40 African Countries who participated at the Youth Leadership Forum organized as a forerunner to the Climb, culminating in a draft Declaration on youths engagement to EAWGs, as well as the creation of a task team to put ideas together for the establishment of an African Youth UNiTE Network to end Violence Against Women and Girls.

It should also be recalled that youths have been identified at the global, regional and national levels as key partners in sustainable efforts towards ending violence against women and girls. As such, in 2011, the UN focus on youth during the 16 Days of Activism, with key messages on behavior change and mobilizing them as actors, especially in prevention and service delivery to survivors.

Given the fact that youths constitute about 70% of Africa’s population and it is projected that by 2040 over 40% of the world youth will live in Africa couple with the fact that in most parts of Africa, girls and young women –future and potential leaders in various sectors, future potential wives and mothers - still suffer from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), breast ironing, forced and early marriages, rape, incest, have little or no rights to inheritance and land tenure, are lowly educated, victims of human trafficking, relegated to the background on decision making processes, suffer multiple rapes in conflict and post conflict situations; therefore the fight against violence on women and girls is key to enhancing development and sustainable peace. It is against this backdrop that the youth leadership and advocacy workshop was organized in Debrezeit to set up a youth network on combatting violence against women and girls in Africa.

### **2. Opening ceremony**

The opening ceremony of the workshop was interspersed with speeches from Madam Jennet Kem, General Manager of the Africa UNiTE Secretariat, Madam Letty Chiwara, Resident Representative of UN Women in Ethiopia, AU and ECA, and Mr Antonie de Jong, Director of Resource Mobilization of UN Women in New York.

Madam Kem, in her opening remarks, she welcomed the participants with well wishes for the three working days of the workshop. She acknowledged the presence of Mr. Antonie de Jong,

Director of Resource Mobilization from the UN Women office in New York by appreciating his continual support for the UNiTE campaign initiatives and for taking off time from his busy schedule to participate in the youth workshop. She also extended her sincere gratitude to the Urgent Action Fund, UN Women and the other UN Agencies for supporting the organization of the workshop. She further wished the participants successful deliberations and fruitful outcome from the workshop.

Madame Kem strongly highlighted the need for the youth leaders to define the Africa that we want. She reminded the youth participants that the main aim of the campaign is to end violence on women and girls as to foster happier families, communities and the continent at large. She positively underscored the fact that Africa's vision through the new AU leadership is to become increasingly prosperous, peaceful and one that carries its voice across the globe.

Mr. de Jong on his part delivered the opening remarks of Madam Letty Chiwara who was unavoidably absent during the opening ceremony of the workshop. Mr. de Jong noted the importance of the workshop and the need for the creation of a youth network on combatting violence against women and girls. He also stated that girls continue to be victims of all sort of gender based violence that encumber their own development. As such, this requires strong determination and collective efforts from all, harnessing youth creativity, energy, physical and numerical strength towards the UNiTE Campaign's vision of creating next generations of Africa free of Violence Against Women and Girls.

He also recalled that after the Kilimanjaro climb, the deliberations were on the follow up on the commitments taken in Arusha. He therefore called on the participants to be creative during the workshop and think out-of-the-box as to provide sustainable solutions to their won issues. It is essential that the group builds on lessons that we have learnt, citing an example of a bike project across Southern Africa that emanated from a conversation with a friend. On this basis he assured participants that Africa is a priority for sponsors and as such most of them are ready to support youth led projects if an only the network to be created have something to "sell". He summed up his opening remarks with a strong statement saying that violence on women and girls is like a cancer in the society and we have to dig deep to uproot it.

Both Madam Kem and Mr. de Jong statements were highly inspirational for the participants calling upon them to work towards sustainable solutions as well as on applying what they have learnt in form of the **3Hs advocacy which are the 'head, hand and heart'** with targeted messages that aim for particular influences, output and outcomes.

The opening ceremony was followed by the presentation of the objectives and methodology of the workshop by the Consultant, Mr. Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine.



### 3. Workshop Objectives and Expectations

#### 3.1. General Objective:

- The purpose of the workshop was primarily for the youth to strategize on how to build and strengthen the much needed synergies and network to fight against violence on women and girls in our communities.

#### 3.2. Specific Objectives:

- Build the capacity of participants on leadership, advocacy, negotiation and Resource Mobilization to spearhead the Africa UNiTE Campaign on EVAWGs;
- Deepen knowledge about the prevalence, different forms and contexts of VAW/Gs on the continent as well as regional and international frameworks on youth empowerment and their role in development and progressive initiatives on EVAWGs;
- Motivate participants to become agents of change and ambassadors for the Africa UNiTE Campaign in their respective countries and communities;
- Provide a platform for sharing experiences and best practices for youth interested and active in ending violence against women and girls (*Creation of a Youth Network on EVAWGs to facilitate and coordinate their actions in their respective countries*).

#### 3.3. Expectations of the Workshop

- Participants are knowledgeable on issues of EVAWGs and the various regional and international frameworks;
- Participants learn and shared new methods of tackling VAWGs;
- Participants enhanced skills to be adept leaders and champions of EVAWG, including skills on leadership, negotiation, resource mobilization etc;
- A vibrant network on EVAWGs to be created with commitments from participants on leveraging the knowledge acquired from the workshop;
- Through the momentum of the training and the creation of the network the vision of the UNiTE campaign is achieved in the shortest time possible by engaging African governments on creating an Africa free of violence against women and girls.

### 4. Workshop Methodology

The methodology included the following:

- Presentations in plenary where the resource persons did extensive presentations of their papers using the most practical means such as PowerPoint for the understanding of the participants.
- Participatory or interactive approach where the participants and resource persons debated issues through active question and answer sessions.
- Learner-driven approach where the participants were granted the latitude to learn more and ask challenging questions to resource persons in order to clarify any sort of intellectual doubts.

- Creation of working groups: this approach facilitated in-group discussions and debates in view of broadening the scope of issues treated in some presentations.
- Sharing of best practices to enable participants to learn best leadership and management practices from other participants.
- Creativity in presentations, role play, etc

## 5. Presentations in Plenary:

### 5.1. Regional and International Frameworks on Youth Empowerment and EVAWGs. *Presented by: Dunia MEKONNEN TEGEN, UN Volunteer to UN Women, Addis Ababa.*

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Dunia started her presentation by defining the “Youth” as a period of shift from the dependence of one age group to adulthood’s independence and awareness of interdependence as members of a community. UNESCO uses different definitions depending on the context; while the UN defines the youth as the age group between the ages of 15 – 25. This definition was further endorsed by the General Assembly A/36/215 and resolution 36/28, 1981. The African Youth Charter endorsed by the AU on its part defines the youth as that age group between 15 – 35 years. Nonetheless, operational definition of ‘youth’ often varies from country to country, depending on the specific socio-cultural, institutional, economic and political factors.

She went further to present the various international and regional instrument and frameworks on youth development and EVAWG. They include:

- The Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted in 1948;
- The Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples adopted in 1965;
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted in 1966;
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966;
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women adopted in 1979;
- The United Nations Guidelines for Further Planning and Follow-Up in the Field of Youth adopted of 1985;
- The United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) of 1990;
- The Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development and Agenda 21 of 1992;
- The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993;
- The Programme of Action of the International conference on Population and Development of 1994;
- The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development of 1995;
- The World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond 1995.
- The Africa Youth Charter which Article 23 and 26 are on the rights of girls and young women and youth participation.
- The decade of the African youth from 2009 – 2018;

- The African Youth Declaration on the Post 2015 Agenda;
- The Arusha Declaration and outcome document on EAWGs;

The above instruments and initiatives make allusions to the rights of the youth and their role in stamping out violence against women and girls.

## 5.2. Understanding the concepts of EAWGs, youth and masculinity and femininity.

*Presented by Madam Jennet Kem, General Manager of the UNiTE Secretariat:*

Madam Kem noted that issues of masculinity and femininity are very fundamental in understanding issues of violence against girls since the bottom-line is the identity of who we are. There are things that society has made us believe about men and women that are at the centre of violence against the girl child and women. There are issues of values that raise questions such as “what values do I and society attach to my girl and boy child?” There are issues of norms and expectations that also inform our actions. Questions such as: “what are the norms that define expectations of girls and boys, men and women?” should guide our actions for change. Thus far experience has shown that women are as competent as men and sometimes better than men. She therefore underscored the fact that as youth leaders the best way of assessing who we are should not be gender based, that is masculinity or femininity which will greatly enhance their capacity to end violence against women and girls in Africa.

## 5.3. Understanding leadership in general and leadership as EAWGs (Linkages between leadership and VAWGs). Presented by Prof. Wangari Mwai, Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership of the University of Kenyatta, Nairobi:

Prof Wangari, started by presenting the centre for transformative and inclusive leadership which is part of the Mo Ibrahim foundation created in 2013 to build leadership competence of emerging and existing leaders, potential leaders, policy makers and young leaders. She alluded to the fact that for the last three years there has been no winner for the Mo Ibrahim Award which is a great concern in Africa. She affirmed the fact that the challenge of moving to transformational leadership in the African region prompted the establishment of the Centre.

She stated that you cannot articulate and change issues, attitudes without a policy. As such, transformative training for young people is key to success. At the same time, the process of transformation is a metamorphosis, taking the example of a caterpillar that transforms to a butterfly. She therefore called on the youths not to be **a caterpillar for life! Become a butterfly and fly with it!** Transformation starts with you as an individual as there is no change that begins with a group, a dream starts with an individual. Transformation is often very painful as it is difficult to change you and to change others because:

- We are comfortable in our comfort zones, we are ruled by habit, and it is difficult to discard our old habits. There is nothing good that is not painful.
- Most of us are living the shadows of the real people we are. Our limitations make us our own imitations.

A passionate leader becomes infectious and contagious and instills in other people the feeling that...”This person is different.” This demonstration of infectious leadership led to an exercise on experience sharing:

**Princess Sophia, South Sudan:** The smallest things may influence the way other people think about themselves and their countries;

**Lloyd, Zambia:** The tremendous work done in Zambia where the police carry smiles on their faces while interacting with civilians has changed their attitudes towards the wider public.

**Eugene, Cameroon:** Elaborated on the part he played in informing policies in Cameroon and was compensated with an appointment as the MDGs Youth Spokesperson, became winner of King Mohamed VI Award, appointed the youngest Commissioner in the Commission for Human Rights and member of advisory group to UN Women

**Mwasapi, Tanzania:** Still struggling and has not worked with big groups but as a graphic designer, has done animation and led student groups in high school and got a young person addicted to drugs back to school. Using art to transform people is hard. He has a lot in mind to do but ability to do so much is less. This stage is not easy. Attracting small group is the beginning of a bigger movement.

**Mamadou, Guinea:** Draws inspiration from his life philosophy on the quote, "I think, therefore I am" Rene Descartes. It is what we think that makes us human beings. Under-exploitation of our potential makes us less of human beings. He has been a student leader at all levels and being part of Model UN activities. He dreams to have a model AU across Africa which will be a tool to make us sovereign on our own land and that it is a powerful tool to promote understanding and ownership for own prosperity. Youth need to believe in their own resources.

**Salimatou, Ghana:** She is the youngest athletics coach in Ghana. She trains youth who are inspired to succeed even when she is not there. Working in a dire situation of lack of funds but has brought young people together in a group on social media to mobilize funds for the cause.

**Sophia, Kenya:** She was a civil servant but resigned worked on issues of human rights and VAWGs. Over the years, she has been able to combat the rape syndrome in the North of Kenya. She arrested the first rapist who raped a 10 year old in 1994 and put him through a trial. The man was jailed for 100 years. Today she works with the Ministry of Education to get young girls back to school and to set up a school for vulnerable girls and victims back to school. She ensured a jail term for the former husband of lady for 25 years for beating his wife. His wife is now well and happy. She has also gotten three chiefs sacked for settling rape cases of young girls who went as far as getting pregnant under trees.

The messages that came out in the training are that change begins with us. Be a champion and then share the vision with others who will also become champions. Employ the assistance of catalysts as catalysts accelerate change. Unlock your brain, grow your mind. Health is also very important in the leadership wheel. In the world we live in today, the health challenges are many such as stress, heart attacks, HIV/AIDS. Health will be the key to achieving all others. Self-Awareness/Personal Mastery and acceptance of your body image because you are unique and singular is very important as it liberating. It is good to ask what others think about

what we say and do. Accept correction and humble yourself to get 'entry'. In the same time, self-esteem is important.

#### **5.4. Advocacy in Practice. By Kennedy Walusala, President of ICGLR Youth Forum**

The presenter started by defining advocacy as the act of influencing, or attempting to influence, the way that someone else thinks about, and acts on an issue: In this light it is important understanding the advocacy approach which include the following:

1. Identify the problem that needs to be solved;
2. Research the prioritized issue;
3. Development of Policy documents;
4. Influencing Policy Makers;
5. Follow Up.

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Once the above steps are understood you can then develop your advocacy strategy that include;

- Citizens based awareness raising;
- Dialogue forums with policy makers;
- Evidence based advocacy;
- Engagement with state actors;
- Engagement with other non-state actors;
- Use of ongoing mechanisms;

Kennedy concluded his presentation by saying that in every advocacy there is need to assess if it is yielding fruits. He used the traffic light matrix to demonstrate the assessment process.

- Red – Engagement unlikely to yield substantial results;
- Orange – Engagement to yield average results;
- And Green – Engagement to yield strong results.

#### **5.5. Communication Strategy: Presented by NGALIM Eugene Nyuydine, Consultant for the workshop.**

Ngalim started by defining communication as the way people receive information, the types of information they can access, and the ways they interact across the globe. He however noted that, there are still huge disparities in access across countries and between rural and urban areas.

He then presented the guiding principles of communication which are

1. It is owned by all;
2. It acts as an umbrella for existing initiatives (and does not create unnecessary new ones);
3. It is easily adaptable at the local level;
4. It uses both traditional and new media (the latter where appropriate, based on country analysis); and

5. It seeks to coordinate and share resources and knowledge across partners.

This was followed by the different types of communication channels in Africa that include: Radio and TV, newspaper, word of mouth, internet and the social media, educational mass media, and communication for development.

In order to effectively develop a communication strategy there is need to lay the foundation which include: Enhanced skills and capacity, improve communication and information flow (develop a basic information package, enhanced website, collect and create database of existing information, enhanced the use of technology for information sharing), strong impactful message (overarching message, messengers, messaging material).

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Once the communication strategy has been developed in order to implement it, you have to build support and create awareness by strengthening national government support. The various ways of engaging governments include:

- Face to face meeting
- Discussion
- Presentation/briefings
- Televised debate
- SMS
- Side meeting during events: AU summit, regional meetings, etc.
- Goodwill Ambassadors/Prominent figures
- Publications
- Goodies: poster calendar, agenda book, key chain, pins
- publications

Apart engaging the government it is also important to build grass root support via partners: Communities and Civil Society, media, opinion leaders, traditional leaders,

Ngalim concluded by saying that for any successful communication strategy to be implemented there need for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the process.

#### **5.6. Networking and Working Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls: *By Kennedy Walusala, President of ICGLR Youth Forum***

Kennedy define a network as any group of individuals or organizations who on voluntary basis and in pursuit of common objectives undertake joint activities after organizing themselves in such a way that their individual autonomy remains intact. A network should have:

- Clear purpose;
- Committed members;
- Mission statement;
- And shared vision.

Characteristics of a network include:

- Membership is voluntary;

- Relationship is mutual and symbiotic;
- Autonomy of participating organisations is maintained and encouraged;
- Relationships are informal and fluid making it easy to initiate and dissolve;
- Should be helpful to participating members;
- Activities are jointly carried out;
- Networks are focused on specific targets or an issue of advocacy;
- Networks are fluid and informal;
- Networks may receive or generate funding from diverse sources.

Creating a network demands the following steps:

*Step 1:* Putting together a core team;

*Step 2:* Identifying potential members – key factors;

*Step 3:* Recruiting members into the network;

*Step 4:* Winning the commitment of members – trust building.

Kennedy ended by stating that the most important thing about a network is how to institutionalise the network, how to tackle common problems and how to run effective networks. The newly created Africa UNiTE network will have to go through these stages before reasserting itself on ending violence against women and girls.

### **PART III: EXPERIENCE SHARING BY PARTICIPANTS ON ROLLING OUT VAWG**

#### **Golli, Tunisia**

VAW situation is worse especially for albino women and girls because of their condition. His work has been focused on combatting these vices.

#### **Kennedy, Kenya**

After the Kili Climb the Declaration was shared with the Heads of State of the Great Lakes Region that pushed to pass a Zero Tolerance Campaign for 2012 and 2013. The next Summit which is an opportunity for further advocacy will be held in Angola in January 2014. Although increased efforts against VAW in the region have been made, cases are still going unreported and violence remains prevalent

Actions in Kenya have included peer to peer training, the use of celebrities to be ambassadors of the process and the use of mobile phones to spread awareness. The bulk sms method would prompt thoughts on changing mindsets and behavior

#### **Mamadou, Guinea**



Experience in teaching in a school where the rest of the students made a perpetrator feel guilty and isolated him from the group. This could work at a bigger/societal level where the 'feeling of guilt' to perpetrators is prompted by their isolation in the social circles. Naming and shaming of perpetrators in the community could be an effective tool.

### **Lloyd, Uganda**

The use of clubs in schools to understand their rights and know responsibilities through sports, games, drama, art and craft; children's parliaments on local radio; awareness in places with crowds and high traffic points such as markets on commemoration days.

### **Mwasapi, Tanzania**

Follow up activities were done through magazine and media interviews, features in UN Women articles and 16 Days of Activism program and outreach, work with NGOs to sponsor communications and design services to VAW organizations.

He organized a Caravan for Change—a proposal implemented for the 16 Days of Activism to reach more people and assisted in the branding of the caravan to raise awareness and stimulate media action on VAW and related issues. Experiences were shared with different groups; young, old, disabled in this initiative...messages were well shared and documented because of prior training of facilitators

Challenges that came up during this initiative included inadequate legal services to victims, time to cover all regions was limited, language barrier was also a problem in some regions and limited resources. Most services said to be provided by the government were unheard of by the public e.g. gender desks; and women have been silenced by culture. Also, Female Genital Mutilation is prevalent as it remains a source of income to those who promote it/carry it out.

The issue of shelters for victims—where victims are forced to go back to the homes in which they were violated is also a major problem.

Positive actions against VAW include the support to gender desks in six regions and a one-stop centre for VAW victims to ease the process of reporting cases to police. There was also a testimony of a young woman who lives with young oppressed girls and has taken hundreds of young girls through school—a practical example of changing circumstances from victim to agent of change.

### **Salamatou, Ghana**

Assists young girls through school to empower them and uses sport as a tool to empower young girls and boys and educates through sharing/stories with them. However, getting funds to empower a woman to stand on her own to be independent is not easy



### **Susan, Uganda**

Helps implement a chicken project—chicken rearing to make profit to buy essentials for victims. She wrote a report to the Uganda parliament through and MP which raised the profile of the issue and featured on a popular talk show. She has conducted outreach on radio stations which spreads knowledge life skills and rights; and through parents meetings in schools. More girls have passed their O level's and joined the police force. Challenges are transport and reach. Partnership would be beneficial to the initiative

### **Yvon, Equatorial Guinea**

He supports sporting events to facilitate awareness raising on VAW. For the youth in his country, violence is a consequence of many things and so prevention is important.

Entrepreneurship is a powerful empowerment tool. In the last three years, he started little businesses in which girls were more active than boys. It is important to work with young boys as partners. They don't talk about human rights anymore, they assume they have them. We will not inherit but create the future we want, that is why he is confident about the future.

Men and women should stop thinking... 'this is female, this is male'. The government has done its part, now it is time for citizens to do theirs. Youth should not continue perpetrating what they have inherited.

### **Lloyd, Zambia**

His project concluded that men felt that they were not involved in the process. The project then used the imagery of the mother, sister, girlfriend or daughter—what was valued most by men to appeal to them. The program emanated from that mindset to bring men on-board. The 'I Care about Her' project calls on men to feel responsible over the well-being of these important women in their lives and that being a strong man does not mean you have to beat up your wife.

It also communicates that there is no need to fear the men in uniform who are meant to protect them. The One stop centre in Kigali for coordinated services to the many women who have suffered at the hands of men and to deter men from violence against women as most allegations against women are very trivial, violence is not the answer.

### **Eugene, Cameroon**

He replicated the Mt. Kilimanjaro climb on Mt. Febe, the highest point in Yaoundé. The event dubbed the Solidarity Climb on Political Violence against women and Girls in Cameroon ended up as a high profile and popular event. Cameroon saw the need to take the lead in the process

and the national launch was supported by the Head of State who appointed a high profile Minister of State to preside over the launch.

The follow up activities have included essay and painting competition in 20 schools; a youth caravan with the Ministry of Youth Affairs as a partner for National youth day which is held on February 11<sup>th</sup> every year, with a bonanza that stimulated youth dialogue on the issue.

As a result of Eugene's lead role in the campaign he has been appointed to the civil society advisory group to UN Women in Cameroon and also appointed in organizing committee for Cameroon's participation in the 2014 CSW. He is presently working with Plan International on 'Because I am a Girl' and replication of Kenya 'Men to Men' strategy through 'Boys to Boys' campaign.

A baseline study on Violence Against girls is underway and the opening of school clubs in all regions that Plan works in Cameroon. The baseline study will inform the extension of campaign.

Eugene lamented that the main challenge faced in rolling back the campaign on EVAWG is funding.

#### **PART IV: BRAINSTORMING / WORKING GROUPS OUTCOMES**

Brainstorming in working groups took place in two different sessions. The first session of the working session was focused on the context setting on the situation of youths in EVAWG; frameworks; and youth involvement in EVAWGs. The second working session was focused on the strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of a youth network on EVAWGs. The working groups came up with far reaching outcomes and recommendations that were presented in the form of role plays.

##### **1. Session on Context Setting, frameworks and Youth Involvement on EVAWGs:**

###### **1.1. Group I: Context Setting.**

The first group, through role play, brought to light domestic violence among many other types of VAW which is prevalent because women are being persecuted for being women and being married to men. It also highlighted another reason why perpetrators commit VAW is because they know they can get away with it. This factor was cited with relation to the reply of President Clinton who when asked why he did it, said, "...I thought I could get away with it." VAW is used as a way of bringing about order in the household and that partners/husbands believe that there is a standard their wives should live up to.

Culture was cited as another problem that makes youth believe that it is okay to perpetrate and be subjected to VAW which also makes victims feel rejected by social systems that withhold the role of the man over humanity. The group spoke of the general acceptance of VAW through generations, condoned by socialization. It was made clear that culture does not condemn VAW, in many cases, it encourages it.

There are no resources to implement programs on VAW at the grassroots where it is most needed and to make people aware of the laws that exist. There is also lack of political will.

### **Recommendations**

In the group's recommendations, it was emphasized that even though culture defines us as human beings, culture that hurts should not be tolerated. More women should be empowered and elected at decision making levels so as to, among other things, ensure the appropriate laws on EVAWGs are passed and effectively implemented. Other recommendations include:

- We have to begin with learning. A grassroots campaign throughout Africa on gender mainstreaming through education in schools hence affecting change 'bottom-up' is essential
- Governments should allocate adequate budgets for EVAWGs
- Perpetrators could be used as agents of change in exchange for relief of jail term. Laws could consider perpetrators being given room to make amendments.

### **Comments on Group Presentation**

We need to think about what legislation would work best for perpetrators? What can we practically do with the process? Should we recommend a mixture of criminal and civil law or should criminal law take upper-hand in punishing perpetrators? Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

The use of alternative ways to end violence, such as using messages that hit home and are relatable/close to heart of communities are effective e.g. the use of a story in Uganda on 'if animals can't fight, are they more intelligent than us human beings to start beating his wife'

Men always say— "I love her...I love her to death" assuming they do not hurt women because they do not beat her. Psychological violence is just as bad as physical violence.

It was again highlighted that the work of the network should lead to peaceful, harmonious violence free homes and societies.

### **1.2. Group 2: Frameworks on VAWGs**

Group Two through an interactive exercise emphasized that in understanding frameworks, it should be noted that normative standards are there but they mean different things to different

people. Our experiences shape our perceptions so that even though the frameworks are meant for everyone—to suit everyone's needs—they may be interpreted differently by the people it serves according to the mindsets and perceptions.

It is essential that youth be involved in making the frameworks applicable and holding governments accountable by reaching out to the unreachable. This can be done in the following ways:

**1. Spread the awareness and advocacy to non-traditional groups such as bus conductors and street vendors**

Sensitization on the issue of VAW should be done with the people that interact the most with the public as an easier way to transmit the awareness to the community-also, to ensure that the frameworks really appeal to everyone and not just the minority elite.

**2. African youth to leverage on social media and social networking /an online movement that can facilitate:**

- Naming and shaming of perpetrators and sharing stories on the ground.
- Music, dance, drama and sports.
- Leveraging on messaging and awareness during the next World Cup games

This is also important because, young people are engaged at a much later stage of the development of regulations and frameworks and these messages can be shared best amongst youth at that level. Social media is a platform that young people relate to best and can interact more effectively.

**3. Institutionalization of the Africa Youth UNiTE network for enhanced legitimacy as either support units in responsible ministries or an integral part of a relevant agency such as Human Rights Commissions**

Institutionalizing this network and using it as an instrument is important for credibility and legitimacy. The best place to do this would be the African Union so there is ownership throughout the continent. The network should be profiled to AU and UN Women heads.

Of all the continents, Africa is the youngest by virtue of the masses of young people above all other continents in the world. Popularization of the Maputo protocol to this majority group will greatly accelerate efforts to ERAW in the Region.

**4. Advocacy: African youth to participate in advocacy and policy making to ensure:**

- Interpretation-domestication, demystification and localization of frameworks
- Application-government enforcement and keeping to commitments and accountability
- Ratification-for those countries that have not

## **5. VAWGs should be treated as genocide-immunity should be revoked for perpetrators especially those in public office**

### **1.3. Group 3: Youth Involvement in EAVAGs**

Group three presented by way of role play dialogue that awareness is important and the masses do not know much, if anything, about the campaign to EAVAGs. The group highlighted that changing attitudes is a process and it takes time.

Actions proposed by the group included the use of social media and promotional material; media programs such as talk shows, drama, posters, banners; awareness to change attitudes through education at an early age such as gender studies in school curriculums, incorporated in subjects of school clubs; peer-peer education; the use of celebrities, musicians, comedians and role models through caravan events to attract the public to be part of the campaign to listen and reach youth who are out of school; national teams to be ambassadors for the campaign e.g. the use of Samuel Eto'o and other high profile African footballers to spread the word against VAW; and incorporating education in youth income generation programs

In all, it was agreed that our knowledge should be translated into actionable steps—there should be no excuses why it should not.

## **2. Session on SWOT Analysis / Proposed Actions for Youth Network on EAVAG.**

### **2.1. Group I:**

#### **Strengths:**

- ☉ The African youth is increasingly accepting differences between their respective communities.
- ☉ The African Youth is realizing its potential and this is being acknowledged by the leaders currently in charge.

#### **How does this help the Network?**

##### Strength 1

Unity amongst the youth will set the path towards approaching partners in action.

Approach influential people together to access funds to entertain events meant to combat GBV's.

##### Strength 2

Use this momentum to get young people to positions that will allow them to partake in the fight against GBV's

**Weaknesses:**

- ⊙ Lack of resources: Financial, Logistics etc
- ⊙ Inexistence of formal and sustained networks amongst the youth in the continent.
- ⊙ Lack of understandable material for the illiterate layer of Society.

**Proposed Actions:**

- ⊙ Produce simple and knowledgeable material to increase awareness of the illiterate layer of society. Raise resources to facilitate the printing of images that will be understood by anyone that is exposed to them.
- ⊙ Entertain a Social Media Campaign to spread the word about the existence of initiatives aimed at ending GBV's.

**Opportunities:**

- ⊙ The momentum nurtured by the African Union to facilitate the integration of the African Women as a capable and active contribution to attaining the MDG's.
- ⊙ The achievement of office by women that will facilitate the existence of the network being put in place.
- ⊙ Girls participating in extra-curricular activities that will shape their capacities towards ending GBV's.

**How do we use these Opportunities?**

- ⊙ Launch a grass root awareness campaign in the local schools that will be aimed at nurturing long-term extra-curricular clubs.
- ⊙ Create a portal that we will promote through the popular social network. This portal will be used to report abuses and promote the best practices to solve these crimes
- ⊙ Approach the UNESCO with a proposal to fund a pilot club in a randomly selected school to create an awareness club that will engage the students in ending GBV's

**2.2. Group II:****Strengths**

- Human resource: young people here to start working with
- Networks: associated with other groups/networks in our own countries so we are not reinventing the wheel
- Skills: and diverse expertise among us
- Best practices to borrow experience from
- Indigenous knowledge: As Africans we ourselves best understand our history, experience and structures

**Weaknesses**

- Institutional: The youth network does not yet have an African regional coordination structure
- Funding and Resources: Lack of adequate funding mechanism
- Credibility: As a new initiative, it lacks experience and comparative lessons to learn from
- Implementation at local level will vary with environments and levels of influence of the members of the network

### **Opportunities**

- **Power in masses:** Africa is a young continent
- Existing national policies and frameworks to peg action on
- **Global Backing:** Push from the UN at global level to establish regional initiative for action at local level ; global mobilization for regional networking
- **Partnership:** Room for collaboration with African talent and celebrities
- **Kigali International Centre** to be built may integrate work with youth on VAW
- **African Union:** Affiliation with the African Union to enhance credibility and legitimacy at Regional level

### **Threats**

- Possibility of conflict arising in African countries
- Political commitment may not translate into action at national/local level
- Political instability and continuity of political will with change in governments
- Economic recessions may change priorities of partners, donors and national governments

### **Proposed Action Plan**

	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1.	Set up interim steering committee for the network	Appointed now to work for six months
2.	Institutional and capacity building: creation of a module for transformational leadership Training of Trainers (TOT)	March 2014
3.	Official launch: big noise that will popularize the campaign including call to stop VAW/messages from high profile Africans	January 2014
4.	Resource mobilization	On-going
5.	High level advocacy: integration with AU	Starts after this meeting with confirmation of structure, goals and vision and mission statements
6.	Headline campaign at major sporting events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Confederation for African Football (CAF) to headline campaign at major African football</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying with CAF starts after this meeting</li> <li>• Kilimanjaro Marathon is</li> </ul>

	tournaments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kilimanjaro Marathon: has 5km, 21km and 42km</li> </ul>	an annual event, next one takes place in March 2014
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### 2.3. Group III:

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
We are diverse and united. We have a lot of common issues; it's what brings us together to take action.	Lack of understanding and co-operation from seniors, elders, superiors.	Collaborate with existing institutions that deal with ERAW/Gs.	Youth may not (always) be taken seriously due to generational and leadership conflict.
The youth constitutes majority of the African population and possess a lot of energy.	Language barriers.	Public figures and celebrities eg. Footballers, artists, cultural leaders etc. – getting them involved.	Availability of resources.
Personal lobbying.			
Actions: 2014/2015			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building - plan activities.</li> <li>Mobilize our own communities and reach the unreachable eg. hosting seminars in universities, create personal action plans to raise awareness, organize traditional dances, make good use of social and traditional media, use international days to spread the word and increase awareness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy with policy makers on policy reforms and implementation on ERAW/Gs.</li> <li>Generate documents in all official languages of the AU.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Networking eg. FEMNET, AQWCLN etc.</li> <li>Organize events in partnership with public figures and celebrities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct lobbying by Africa UNiTE Secretariat to write letters to member states for institutional support.</li> <li>Seek donations and organize fund raising events.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b> – The Network, Africa UNiTE Secretariat, AU, UN System, Private sector, CSOs, Celebrities & Public figures			



### 3. Feedback on the presentations from the Director of Resources

Mr. Antonie de Jong's appreciated the presentations of the SWOT Analysis of the various groups in the following way:

- The good news is that all traditional donors love Africa as many countries in Asia and Latin America are no more eligible for funding as they have become emerging economies. Most African countries are Less developed countries, which is a special status of preference for funding. Many donors have budget lines on gender issues and the UNiTE Campaign initiative is increasingly recognized and the focus is shifting to youth as they are highly recognized at the UN.
- A link with the AU and local government will be ideal for political support and sustainability. The Mt Kilimanjaro climb can be used to secure political support.
- It is important to keep the structure of the network simple but concise and to apply transparency. The initiative can be known as a success story/good news story which is very much needed in Africa.
- It is important to start so that partners may be inspired by the initiative to get on board, with emphasis on results based management. Also, accommodate concrete contribution from UN Women, AU shows a seal of endorsement that shows seriousness.
- Make the project document clear and concise and mention the deliverables. A simple deliverable is the inclusion of VAWGs in the school curriculum. The project document should be accessible and easy to read.
- Do not limit idea of partners to governments but also plan to work with the private sector and foundations such as the Bill Gates and Melinda Foundation. The network should also be accessible for donations from individuals. It is important to accommodate some seed funds from UN Women and the AU for the start. Avoid partners that the UN does not work with such as those in the tobacco, alcohol, mining, weapons and adult industry. The budget for the proposal should be clear and reasonable
- A Steering Committee is a good idea to ensure that the project is up and running-also for outreach and fundraising. Also, plan to start with a pilot rather than roll it out immediately as it will be easier to replicate and correct.
- A slogan is very important for the initiative though sometimes difficult to come up with. Suggestions include:
  - ***Enough is enough;***
  - ***Youth for peace and progress;***
  - ***Africa for peace;***
  - ***Empower women, develop a nation.***
- Develop a website, which could be a gift from a partner in the private sector.

In reply to a question of when adequate funds may have been mobilized for the network to start initial operations, he said that by early February 2014 the seed funding should have been

mobilized from UN Women that may be matched by other partner organizations and the network should have a stable flow of resources by the end of 2014.

#### **4. Deliberation/adoption of the AYUNet and its constituent documents.**

The draft statute of the network was presented in plenary by the Consultant and with the time limit, it was agreed that the draft will be sent to all participants for their inputs to it before a set deadline.

The group agreed on direction from the Director of Resource Mobilization who strongly urged that the structure of the network should be as simple as possible, best laid out in the form of guidelines against a constitution or statute as donors are afraid of heavy, bureaucratic, administrative structures. The network will need to be more flexible as too rigid structures can hinder progress. Simplicity and less complication is essential especially at this early stage of set up of the network. He also advised that, communication is important for the network and the campaign. A website is like a business card and it is imperative that it is developed and used as an effective tool for the network. With the advice from the Director of Resources, the name “**Governance Guidelines**” was adopted by the group.

Immediately after the deliberation of the Governance guidelines, the participants were divided into three groups to work on the Action Plan for 2014/2015; the Resource Mobilization Plan for 2014/2015; and the Logo and the Website of the network. After working deep into the night these documents were drafted and adopted in plenary. Therefore the outcome documents which now serve as the constituent documents for the network are:

1. Draft Governance Guidelines;
2. Action Plan for 2014/2015
3. Resource Mobilization Plan for 2014/2015
4. Logo for the network
5. Content of the website

## **PART VI: CONCLUSION / CLOSING REMARKS**

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks presented by Lloyd Moshavko on behalf of the participants. This was followed by remarks from Madam Jennet Kem, Manager of the Africa UNiTE Secretariat, Mr. Antonie de Jong, Director Resource Mobilization, Madam Letty Chiwara, Resident Representative of UN Women to Ethiopia, AU and ECA.

### **Vote of Thanks by Lloyd Moshavko (Zambia):**

Moshavko thanked the Manager of the Africa UNiTE Campaign and the Resident Representative of UN Women for their interest on having the youth as a major actor on rolling back violence against women and girls by organizing this workshop that led to the creation of

the Africa UNiTE Youth Network on EVAWG (AYUNet). He also thanked the Director for taking the driver's seat of the movement and voiced hope to change the mindsets that will see a society that ignites the message of unity. He said that over the week, creativity had emanated from the involvement of young people who in just a few hours came up with so much that can be multiplied through their work back home.

He noted that AYUNet is a baby that is in an infant stage and need more feeding to grow. The fact that the youth constitute the majority of Africa's population, we are confident that the network is going to be a success but this also means that the network should immediately go operational with the website functioning. He ended by stating that *"whatever goes up must come down but for AYUNet, what goes up must go higher."*

#### **Remarks from Madame Kem**

Madame Jennet started by thanking the Director, Mr. de Jong for being here and for guiding the workshop and being part of the process. She said, the process had been enriched and empowered by his presence as he has been an open and silent ambassador of the campaign from its inception. She thanked Mrs. Letty Chiwara of UN Women for hosting, supporting, and believing in the campaign-which gives more reason why the network should survive.

#### **Remarks from Mr. de Jong**

He stated that he was just extremely honored and pleased to be there for the workshop and would like to thank Letty and Jennet for making it possible for him to attend. He said that in life we are not always paid to like each other but it is a bonus if we do as is the case with the team for the UNiTE Campaign.

He said that, it is easier to say sorry than to get permission. This network is the product of a very unique drive that is happening within the confines of bureaucratic structures. It is therefore important to take initiative rather than wait until the permission is given at higher level. Inform rather than ask for permission. There is a Dutch saying that goes, "if you have a good intention, do not let the grass grow over it because soon grass will grow over you". Be what you can in this limit time we have, let us be in a hurry to get the network up and running and not lose momentum.

He said that he and Mrs. Chiwara were leaving to have meetings with important partners. They would use this opportunity to introduce the project to them. He also stressed that it was an unusual coincidence that the head of UN Women and AU are of the same nationality. It is important that these two leaders know about this initiative.

On a personal note, he ended his remarks by saying that at a point in life, you start looking back at your career and the three most important things in his life are the years he had in Haiti, the Kilimanjaro Climb and Southern Africa motorcycle ride with the UNiTE campaign.

### **Remarks from Madam Chiwara**

Madam Chiwara said that she was fondly reminded by the workshop of a time when she was told that ‘you will be a politician when you grow up.’ She was thankful for the opportunity to witness the amazing work started with the youth of Africa.

This campaign is so critical for the work of UN Women. Madam Chiwara was one of the co-chairs of the UNiTE process as UN Women with UNFPA. She noted that the Key areas to congratulate the Secretariat on are its:

1. Work with the security sector-ensuring safety and security of those that have been abused.
2. Work with queens and traditional leaders on EAW have traditional, religious and cultural roots, ingrained in our norms. Working to change mindsets of community shapers
3. Work with the youth as they constitute 70% Africa’s population. This group can change the way we see each other. They are a development army through this network to uphold and fight violence against women. So much zeal to succeed when you are in an army. Be the army to fight VAWGs in Africa. You need the tools and resources to do that and we are committed to do that so the army grows.

She congratulated everyone on the hard work and products of the workshop-the sky is the limit as you are ready to move on and we will do our best to support you.

“Such a network has never been established around the world. This is the first network in the world against VAWG. You are trailblazers and as such you should be proud. You will be stopped until you have gotten what you want. Go home and continue, collaborating, expanding and supporting the network for an Africa free of violence against women and girls”.

She said that she was committed to getting the network the recognition it required, and to support and engage it at all levels of decision-making at the African Union. She would also work to engage the network in the annual YWCA intergenerational dialogues at the AU in January 2014 to discuss issues on the margins of the AU Summit in order for the voices of AYUNet to be heard there.

She thanked Madame Jennet for her passion, belief and faith in this campaign that goes beyond measure because she believes in the course. Her faith has brought us here today and

we will be here forever. She thanked her for her passion, commitment and dedication to the campaign and her team and the UN Women team for all of the support they had provided to achieve the progress so far. She thanked them for working as a team and that she is blessed with such an amazing team.

She also said that the Director of Resources, Anthonie is an African at heart-he looks white but he is black. She thanked him for coming all the way from New York to witness this and asked him to take the message back to the management that we are not playing and that we are counting on their support.

She gave thanks to Urgent Action Fund for part funding the workshop. She pledged that UN Women will continue to keep them as key partners and supporters to the youth network. She highlighted that Plan International is another key partner to bring on board more so because it was the only civil society partner to launch the campaign in Ethiopia.

She said, “Thank you to all of you. You are an amazing group with knowledge and skills. I am really proud of you. I am confident that the network will be pushed forward in respective countries. Safe journey as you travel home”.

After the closing remarks, some participants volunteered to start doing the secretariat work from their various countries. They are:

Mwasapi - Tanzania  
 Mamadou - Ethiopia  
 Eugene - Cameroon  
 Nancy - Tanzania  
 Kennedy - Kenya

All those attending the workshop and those that participated in the Arusha workshop in March 2012 are recognized as the founding members of the networks and will be considered as representatives of their own countries in that capacity.

## **Annexes:**