



COMMUNIQUE OF AFRICAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE HELD ON 19TH - 21ST JULY, 2018

The African Women in Leadership Organization celebrated her 10th Year Anniversary from the 19th – 21st July 2018.

The opening event - a welcome cocktail and reception in Honor of Her Excellency Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor; The Vice President of Liberia, took place at the Nikon Luxury Hotel Abuja on 19th July, 2018 in Partnership with She Forum Africa. In attendance at the cocktail were, The second Lady of Ghana; Her Excellency Hajiya Samira Bawumia, Sen. Godswill Akpabio, AWLO Founder; Dr. Elisha Attai, The Chairperson of AWLO Advisory Board; Chief Opral Benson, Senator Ita Giwa and a host of other dignitaries.

The Opening Event paved way for the 2-day Conference on 20th and 21st July 2018. It began with the Founder's Address who welcomed Delegates to the Conference; preparing their minds for the Conference deliverables and sharing AWLO's milestones in the past 10 years, The were opening remarks by Chief Opral Benson, and The Chief Host's address by Her Excellency Mrs. Aisha Buhari, First Lady of Nigeria ably represented by Chief. Dr Gloria Shoda President of National Council of Women's Society (NCWS).

The keynote address was delivered by Her Excellency, Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor. She spoke on AWLO's 2018 theme; Creating Transgenerational Impact Through Innovative Leadership. She implored women to change their mindset in relation to the girl-child and inculcate the qualities of leadership in them from the cradle. She also implored women to have a common purpose and vision and also has a collaborative spirit and learn to work the talk by engaging in activities that will uplift and develop other women and the entire creation. She also encouraged members not to dwell on the old but focus on the new and not to shy away from challenges for they are indeed stepping stones to greatness.

They were also goodwill messages by distinguished female leaders such as Dr. Toyin Tola Saraki and Senator Florence Ita-Giwa who congratulated AWLO for her significant strides in the past Ten (10) years and encouraged her to do more in political participation and raising the next generation female leaders.

The Conference was Moderated by Professor Uduak Archibong who introduced the First Day's Paper Presentations by Barr. Natasha Akpoti on '**Being a Visionary Woman: Building a New Foundation and Living Legacy**' and Mr. Charles O'Tudor's on **Innovative Leadership: The Brand called You.**

Mrs. Ezinne Kufre Ekanem led the Women in Politics Symposium on Ways to Secure a Sustained Economic and Political Empowerment for Women, and on her Panel were; Dr. Gloria Shoda, Hajiya Dr. Ramatu Aliyu, Mr. Linus Okorie, Her Excellency Samira Bawumia, and Hon. Fatoumata Jahumpa.



The second phase of Day-one's event was the unveiling of the Compendium of African Women of Worth: 100 Amazons by Dr. Elisha Attai. The Compendium was unveiled by the Keynote Speaker for the Second Phase, His Excellency Hon. Henry Siriake Dickson; Bayelsa State Governor. This event also saw the decoration of African Women of Worth, Deserving Dignitaries, and Matrons.

On the 3rd Day, Prof. Uduak Archibong recapped the previous day's presentations and ushered in the Day's Presentations namely; **Creating Impact through Entrepreneurial Leadership** by Mrs. Yemi Adenuga and Mac Della Cooper's on **Leading Through A Backward Integration: The Future of the Female**.

After the two Presentations, Ms. Inimfon Etuk led a Leadership Roundtable on **How to Impact On Young Impressionable Minds From The Top** with Mrs. Unyime Ivy King, and Next Generation Female Leaders – Ms. Yvonne Balogun, Ms. Chinenye Azike, and Ms. Faith Tom Babs.

Barr. Timipre Wolo lead the Women in Male Dominated Sectors Symposium on **Creating Opportunities for Emerging Female Leaders** along with Mr. Mark Garrat, and Arc. Moradeke Okunrinboye.

The Introduction of the Next Generation Female Leaders (NGFL) Project had the brilliant Next Generation Female Leaders of AWLO lined up on the stage, and the Global Youth matron Dr Violet Arene gave an insight into what NGFL is about. The NGFL are Young Women Leaders whom AWLO is creating opportunities for as a way to bridge the gap in leadership to the next generation.

The Founder of African Women in Leadership Organisation also acknowledged the NGFL think-tank lead by Ms. Ekemini Akpakpan; the GM of AWLO and her team members Mr. Benson Imoh; AWLO Chief Technology Officer and Creative Director, and Mr. Nosa Ehigie Producer/Media Lead.

In the spirit of preparations for next year's Conference to be held at Kigali Rwanda in April The CEO of Rwanda Convention Bureau introduced **"Remarkable Rwanda"** capturing in a nutshell the attractions of Rwanda.

Dr Elisha gave his appreciation remarks; commending the Organizing Committee and gave awards to Founding Members and Coordinators. He also pronounced Dr Violet Arene as the new President of AWLO in his stead who accepted and pledged her commitment to the task ahead. The AWLO 10th Anniversary was Compered by Gloria Ohuagwu.

It ended with a thanksgiving service at the Realm of Glory Church, Abuja officiated by Rev. (Mrs) Grace Aiyedogbon – an AWLO Global Patron. The special guest at the Thanksgiving Service was Her Excellency, Mrs. Caroline Mchome, First Lady of Kakamega County, Republic of Kenya.

In summary the following resolutions were made:

- (1) The African Woman must renew her mindset to see the potential within her.



- (2) Experienced Women must raise and mentor younger women to bridge the gap to the Next Generation.
- (3) Parents, Leaders, and Mentors should provide opportunities to the next generation leaders.
- (4) The male and female child must be given equal opportunities to develop their potential.
- (5) Women must be participative in politics and join political parties.
- (6) Women must learn to unite and support one another.

- (7) Women must have a Collaborative Spirit.
- (8) Leaders must rise to influence government policies so that gender-balance can be attained.
- (9) Women should strive for excellence; to set standard, and open doors for more women.
- (10) Women should focus on self-development to attain leadership in their sphere.
- (11) Young women must be aware and ready to imbibe a a problem-solution attitude to inculcate a responsibility mindset.
- (12) Women must have a culture of self-discipline and invest in themselves
- (13) Women must be confident in themselves and do their jobs without fear or favour.
- (14) Women must strive to live in their fullness beyond discriminatory cultural practices.