



COMMUNIQUE OF THE HEFORSHE AFRICA SUMMIT

The HeforShe Africa Summit identifies men as partners for gender equality in support of the UN Women HeforShe Movement. The Summit convened by The Founder of African Women in Leadership Organisation; Dr Elisha Attai, is a point of engagement for men; to achieve resolutions and action plan, thereby intentionally forging enabling societies where women can access equal rights and opportunities in all areas of existence. Being a Man, through the AWLO platform Dr. Attai's goal is to align men with the goals of the HeforShe Movement.

The United Nations defines HeforShe as an invitation for men to stand in solidarity with women to create a bold, visible and united force for gender equality. To work with women and with each other to build businesses, raise families, and give back to their communities. The HeforShe Africa Summit's Keynote Address was delivered by HRH Alhaji (Dr) Yahaya Abubakar, CFR, Etsu Nupe; a key-player of gender parity. Standing in solidarity with AWLO for gender parity, and women's leadership, he recounted his personal strides and struggles in areas of girlchild education, early child marriage, and other cultural impediments to gender parity.

He reinforced the value of the implementation of human rights; informing participants of constitutional rights in areas of equality and education.

The British Deputy Head of Mission; Mr. Peter Thomsa, in his goodwill message referenced significant milestones of gender parity as a mark of more achievements to come.

Professor Uduak Archibong, a Professor of Gender Studies from the University of Bradford Moderated the Three Plenaries namely:

1. The Family & Culture Gender Equity Drivers: New Patterns to set in Motion new Values System

2. Women's Leadership: Promoting Diversity, Harnessing Potential, and Bridging the Gender Gap for an Equitable Workplace

3. A Personal & Collective Pledge to Gender Parity: What will I do?

The Conference was hosted by the honorary U. S. Cultural Ambassador & Girl child Advocate Yewande Austin.

A Stage Play on Gender disparity and Fatima Ada Ishiaku's sexual violence (true life) story buttressed the responsibility of men in forging enabling environments, for women to attain their full potential.

This event was planned and organized by The AWLO Team - The AWLO Lagos Chapter led by the Coordinator; Mrs. Maureen Omeibe, the AWLO HeforShe Think-tank led by

the Chairperson; Dr. Favor Ayodele, and AWLO International Headquarters led by the General manager Ms. Ekemini Akpakpan.

The Thought Leaders who led thought provoking conversations and solutions to forge gender parity and women's leadership were:

- Mr. Mark Garratt – Director, External Affairs University of Bradford, United Kingdom
- Hon. Sam Ikon – Former Member of House of Representative, Nigeria
- Mrs. Maureen Omeibe – AWLO Lagos Coordinator & Dean of Coordinator
- Mr. Kufre Ekanem: MD/CEO PhilosoVille Limited
- Gilbert Ewehmeh – Managing Director, YES Cameroon & AWLO Cameroon ED
- Mr. Churchill Udoh – CEO Westgate Group
- Arc. Ezekiel Nya-Etok, Fnia – DG, Nigeria First Project & Principal partner Novone Consult Limited
- Hon. Temba Mliswa – Member of the Zimbabwe Parliament
- Dr. Favor Ayodele – Life Coach & Business Management Consultant
- Mr. Ubong King – CEO Ubong King Foundation
- Mr. Oluwayemi Odubote – CEO Imey Solutions
- Henry Ukeni Daniel-Elebiga, JP – Consultant to IG of Police on CBN/Bank Support Strategy

The HeforShe Africa Summit formed new perspectives, therefore the following recommendations and resolutions were made to drive gender Parity on an Individual and Collective Level

AREAS OF EVERYDAY LIVING

- Gender Parity begins at home
- Practising role-modelling every day; to help the younger generation understand their roles and how to put gender parity into practice.
- Debunking the concept of superior and inferior gender, rather acknowledging both genders as equal and unique beings.
- Removing pressure on the girl child for early marriage and unconsented marriage.
- Development of intentional and equal relationships between men and women
- Intentionally promoting the culture of love, integrity and trust amongst women to nurture a support system.
- Proactivity in re-framing culture as the key; as precedents and antecedents form culture.
- Re-framing conversations, assumptions, beliefs, and attitude as the basis and key for gender parity to thrive.

LEGISLATIVE

- Public hearing of bills related to gender parity by the legislative before passing into law
- Awareness on existing human rights and rights of women.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Driving of large-scale entrepreneurship for women
- Focusing on areas of personal strengths for successfully driving of women's empowerment
- Focusing on the potential of women to key into opportunities, and economic returns for the Nation.
- Development of a sense of economic and financial responsibility among women.
- There's necessity for Men's Partnership with women to harness potential and boost economic productivity. They should channel effective collaboration and cocreation with women to build prosperous economies.

A. THE ROLE OF AFRICAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ORGANISATION

- AWLO should create more advocacy and awareness seminars summits and conferences on gender parity.
- AWLO should position itself as a messenger, and create campaigns to effectively change the narrative and shape new perspectives on gender parity.
- AWLO must walk the talk; thereby spearheading actions to implement gender parity. It must assess needs, identify goals, implement, and evaluate outcomes in areas of gender parity.
- AWLO must become a lobbyist organization; advocating and lobbying policies to effect gender parity
- AWLO must be the support system; that channels networks for breeding gender parity globally.

PLEDGES

Collective Pledge

Organized Action for Free Distribution of Sanitary Towels in Nigeria

Personal Pledges

- An offer of capacity Building opportunity by Mr. Ubong King of Ubong King Foundation to sponsor women at the summit in "Penetrating Your Market" Course valued at 1.8 million in August 2019
- Arc. Ezekiel Nya-etok availed himself to AWLO in the areas of human capacity development and sponsorship of enterprising young female leaders.