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Gloria J. Browne-Marshall



Zoubida Ammal El Boustani

**3 WOMEN
FOR
3 JUST
CAUSES**



Rhoda Peace Tumusiime

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DIRECTEUR DE PUBLICATION
PRÉSIDENTE DU CONSEIL EDITORIAL
Samirat NTIAZE
samirat2008@gmail.com
Conseiller et rédacteur en chef
François NDENGWE
amepya2@gmail.com

éditeur
S.C.C (Santia Communication Corporate)
3, Rue de Bruxelles appt. 2 Océan - Rabat - Maroc

Cameroun
JOURNALIST
Jean Pierre HACHDA
tél. : + 237 99 05 44 10
jphachda@yahoo.fr

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Boulli Timothée
tél. : + 237 74 93 17 01
timsboulli@yahoo.fr

MOROCCO
JOURNALIST AND TRANSLATOR
Ibrahim Muhammadou Amadou
tél. : + 212 603044347
manjagara201432@gmail.com

HEAD OF MISSION
NTIAZE NDONGMO Mohamed
tél. : +212 6 35 84 26 45
anelkapresi2010@gmail.com

USA
REPRESENTATIVE
Soire Sy
tél. : +1 646 240 11 55
syoire@yahoo.com

France
Salomon Mezepo
tél. : +33 601 181 652
menaibuc@orange.fr

Belgique
CONSULTANT
christian Tcheandjieu
tcheandjieu@yahoo.fr
tél. : + 3228949636

United Kingdom
REPRESENTATIVE
Firmin Michel Ngaleu
tél. : +447908522486
mangali99@yahoo.co.uk

Switzerland
REPRESENTATIVE
METANGMO Patrick
tél. : +41797966656
wtsobgny@gmail.com

Ivory Coast
CORRESPONDANT
Valery Foungebe
tél. : +225 40 40 20 51
v.foungebe@yahoo.fr

Benin
JOURNALIST
Ayéfèmi Faozane ORO
tél. : +229 61 41 30 41
orofaozane@yahoo.fr

RDC
JOURNALIST
C.Milfrid DJANKABAKANA
tél. : +242 06 69 222 68
chrislawilla@yahoo.fr

Gabon
REPRESENTATIVE
Serge Olivier NziKoué
tél. : +241 07 36 67 65
nzikoue_so@yahoo.fr

Ecuatorial-Guinea
Jillapia Nestor
tél. : +240222259070

TRANSLATOR
Tsobgni Bruno
tél. : +240 222 24 33 26

MARKETING
Eric WOUABO WAFO
wouabowafoeric@yahoo.fr
tél. : +237 7819 9591

Ngaleu Woukogou christelle
tél. : + 237 76026816
Email:chrisngaleu@yahoo.fr

JOURNALIST
Kabir Jules Kevin Ken SOBZE MEFIRE
vinkesobze@yahoo.com
tél. : +237 9123 5215

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THREE REALLY WONDERFUL WOMEN !

The three women on this issue of your magazine have one thing in common: they struggle for a just cause. They are all talented in their respective field, but they put their talent to serve a cause that is just, noble. They are Prof. Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, Mrs. Zoubida Amma El Boustani, and Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime.

Prof. Gloria J. Browne-Marshall teaches constitutional law at John Jay College in New York City. She is also an author of several articles and books. Her recent book, released last month is "The Voting Rights War: The NAACP and the Ongoing Struggle for Justice." This is a timely work as the US people will vote next month to choose their next President.

Why was a war necessary for a part of that person to gain the right to vote, in a country that labels herself as the beacon of world democracy? That war started some two centuries ago. Is that war completely won today? We recommend Prof. Browne-Marshall's book for the quality of the analysis and for the insight, both legal and historical, that the reader gets after having read it.

In addition to being a Professor and an author, Browne-Marshall is also a playwright. *Class*, the play she wrote was on stage up to last month in New York. The topic of that play is also timely. Whiteman's complaints in front of a Black person who is his University Professor. Is this a metaphor of the current trends in the US society where polls show that a growing number of dissatisfied white people are voicing their anger? They are also raising their support to one of the Presidential candidates. He reciprocally appeals to that anger. For that, the dominant media and the establishment label him "populist." Read Browne-Marshall's balanced answer to the question we asked her about *Class*.

Mrs. Zoubida Amma El Boustani is a successful business-woman in the real estate sector in Marrakesh, the main touristic city of the Kingdom of Morocco. Though she is in her element with the elite of that beautiful place and country, she devotes almost half of her time to not for profit organizations, some of which she has created and chair.

Her NGOs help needed people. They provide education to children who otherwise, would face obstacles to go to school and may probably quit the school system prematurely. Her NGOs also promote women's rights and women's participation in all the sectors of Moroccan life, for instance, business, art, culture, civil society, and politics, in the noblest meaning of this word.

In this issue of your magazine, you will read an opinion that Mrs. El Boustani wrote about an issue that interests not only Morocco, not only women, but the entire planet: Climate

change, global warming.

COP22, the international conference gathering all the world countries to fight global warming, will be held in Marrakesh, from 7 to 18 November 2016. This means that next month, Marrakesh during that period will become the world capital city. World leaders, major world business captains, prominent civil society activists and of course media from all the countries on earth will come to Marrakesh to find solutions to global warming that is threatening all of us on earth.

What Mrs. El Boustani writes about COP22 and global warming is not only full of common sense. It also provides a philosophy conducive to saving our environment and to and to increasing the brotherhood bonds among all the members of humanity aboard our common boat: the earth.

Undoubtedly, Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime is an extraordinary woman. She is in charge, at the African Union, of the most vital department: Rural Economy and Agriculture.

Is there a continent on earth where the challenges of rural economy and agriculture are superior and more urgent than those of Africa? This is as the continent whose share of world population from today up to the end of this century will more than double, from 15% today to over 30% or even 40% according to some UN estimates. Already by the middle of this century, that is, after tomorrow, Africa's population, crossing the 2 billion line, will surpass China's by more than half a billion inhabitants.

Never in human history has such a phenomenon been observed. A phenomenon all the more so in a continent that centuries of slavery almost depopulated. How are Africans going to feed themselves? What type of agricultural organization is needed to feed that unprecedented hurricane of people? For sure type has never existed, given the very unique nature of the demographic dynamism going on in Africa. Therefore, Africans have only solution: to invent a new agricultural organization, a new system of rural economy.

And hey have to do it right now. Time is running fast, but their population is growing even faster. Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime chairs the teams of inventors who are designing the tools thanks to which the most frightening agricultural and nutritional challenge ever will be successfully tackled. She deserves respect.

Bravo to our three really wonderful women, and to all their colleagues in this new issue of the magazine that we are offering you. We are proud of them; they are our sisters. Our journalists have endeavored to make this issue richer the precedent ones. From the bottom of our heart, we very warmly thank our sisters. Please join us, in shouting a loud Hooraaa! to our sisters.



COP 22 SEEN BY A BUSINESSWOMAN AND CEO IN MARRAKESH

“After the negotiations in Lima and the decisions of Paris, it will be up Marrakesh to act”

Next 7 to 18 November, in Marrakesh, the event will fire the general mobilization on a theme or a slogan that has become taboo: “his is serious!” In otherwise explicit terms, under the effective leadership of Morocco (that takes the relay after France), COP22, or, according to its official name UNFCCC will be held on the Bab Ighly site, alongside the mythical Marrakesh’s walls.

COP stands for Conference of the Parties, and UNFCC for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 25 hectares of land is dedicated to COP22 that will host approximately thirty thousand participants from around the world. The field will be divided into four zones. A first area, so-called “blue zone,” will be reserved to the UNFCC General Secretariat. The second zone will be for the civil society, a third dedicated to innovations, and the fourth to meetings and work sessions.

AFTER PARIS MARRAKESH

Historically, the initiative of these conferences was in 1992 during the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro on the recurring theme of global warming. The goal then was to endorse agreements between the different powers and nations on



the reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, COP conferences’ mission is to gather representatives of the Parties, but

also all those, men or women, who though outside of the States, faces Climate Change issues.

The city of Berlin, Germany organized the first COP, in 1995. Marrakesh did the same in 2001, offering her beautiful landscape the participants.

Thus, after Paris, Morocco and particularly the city of Marrakesh, takes the relay. This is a job for the ochre city. She has a lot on the plate, and will have to toil on mitigating the effects of climate change and on innovative adaptation. She will also have the responsibility to develop operational tools under the framework of the Paris-Lima and Paris-Marrakesh plan.

So, after the time of the

Thus, after Paris, Morocco and particularly the city of Marrakesh, takes the relay. This is a job for the ochre city.

negotiations in Lima and that of decisions in Paris last year, it will be, this year will be that of the so-called action-conference. One of COP22's major aims is to start the process thanks to which the Paris Agreement adopted at COP21 in December last year in Paris will enter into force.

ACTION ON THE GROUND

For several months, Marrakesh, like the whole country, is preparing herself for this conference. The objective: put in place a policy of sustainable development. Many achievements and actions have been initiated in the perspective

of a global society that is more realistic about his future.

Among the operational projects or those in the process of being operational, Ouarzazate solar station is a good example.

Showing Marrakesh authorities' and citizens' determination to act directly on the ground are: the treatment of waste water, the use of methane to produce electricity, the watering green areas, in particular golf courses, and, to a more modest but very important level, the ban in Marrakesh as in the whole Kingdom, of plastic bags which pollute a lot.

By its position of as Moroccan

touristic capital city, Marrakesh has also worked to innovate in what contribute to give credibility her action: from garbage sorting to the launch of electric buses, and the renovation of the lighting Park, the creation of a photovoltaic Park and more dramatically, the Formula E car race.

The enumeration is not exhaustive but attests to the will of all levels of officials, not to mention local NGOs in which Moroccan women have their place, and play their full role in this important rehabilitation program of the planet.

The climate situation has continued to deteriorate, at the same rate that the industry grew. So far, the actors of this deterioration don't sincerely care about their actions' consequences that damage the good common living, and the health of all of us, the guests in the planet Earth.

LIMITATION OF GLOBAL WARMING

This COP22 will, therefore, take into account - among other issues - the delicate challenge of limiting global warming to 2 ° C. Some major powers, including the United States and most recently China (all two big polluters), have confirmed their ratification to this fine ambition of making the atmosphere more breathable. Let's wait and see again, as they act, especially the Chinese. They say that she will no longer promote warming which whose terrible havoc we already see.

Remains to be seen if the agreements and their control every five years will be met.

The evil is well underway.

On already observes what is



happening in glacial areas, in the high mountains with the permafrost effect (the frozen 'cement' that melts and provoke the collapse whole sections of the mountain) and the proliferation of natural disasters. These have an extremely negative impact on wildlife, flora, and of course also on human beings. For people whose survival depends directly on this fauna and the flora, the risk of poverty, even hunger, becomes clearer.

The Countries that will honor the Moroccan invitation will already have the task to be inspired by the good intentions recorded during the pre-cop22 in the presence of Ministers of the environment and for the preparation of discussions.

Would it be only because between intentions, commitments, and decisions, the meaning of these words will more than ever have its importance, and more than ever, the advisers should be paying.

All the more so since most of these advisors are among the greatest polluters and indeed the masters of the world.

EMERGENCY SCIENTIFIC

At the Summit of the Earth in Johannesburg, in 2002, Jacques Chirac rang the alarm bell. His cry is recorded in the Annals: "The House is on fire, and we look elsewhere!

Following him, Nicolas Hulot, rejecting the failure of the negotiations, did not underestimate the psychological effect of that Summit and the solutions it has suggested.

Other influential voices of which Pope Francis's, who in his famous encyclical "Laudato Si" highlighted the climate problem, are heard increasingly

powerfully.

Will intelligence and reason prevail over production without measure? Will a few privileged persons' money keep on feeding shameless and unscrupulous, trusts driven only by their private interests?

Major decision makers in the planet, their lies and evasions appear too indifferent to the world that has continued to deteriorate.

We know today that there is a scientific emergency. Some of these decision makers, not the least important and influential among them, are aware of that fact, but do not care.

Will the Marrakesh COP22 add her precious stone to the consolidation of previous agreements?

In any case, after the negotiations in Lima and the decisions of Paris, it will be up Marrakesh to act.

Zoubida AMMAL EL BOUSTANI

Senior Partner Financial & Business Solutions - Marrakesh

Founding President of the Association of Women

Entrepreneurs of the Tensift

Regional President of AFEM -

MARRAKESH 2010 to 2013

Vice President of "Entreprendre International", Marrakesh

Bureau

Founding Member of "dar bellarj Foundation."

Founding Member of "tifl dar

Belabbas Sidi Association"

Founding Member of "Riad

Zitoun road of Ourik School"

Association

Founding Member

"SOROPTIMIST

INTERNATIONAL" Marrakesh

Member CGEM (Federation of

Moroccan Employers).



Riad Zitoun School

“EDUCATION, EXCELLENCE, CITIZENSHIP”

The many leaders in business, politics, civil society, education, media and culture that Femmes d'Afrique magazine has up to now interviewed give one and straightforward answer to this question we routinely ask them: “What is your message to African young girls?”

One word summarizes the uniform response: “EDUCATION.” They say they urge African girls to educate themselves. They stress the importance of education for progress and liberty in life. Education, they say, is also the surest guarantee to gain the financial resources needed to improve one's material living conditions.

But what would you do if you are a young girl living in a village and your parents lack the means to send you to school? Either you don't go to school,

or some philanthropic hand comes to your rescue.

Created in 1998, the Riad Zitoun School is precisely that helping hand for hundreds of your rural girls in Morocco. This is the initiative of a not for profit association of Moroccan women, of which Mrs. Zoubida Ammal El Boustani is an active member. The school is located in Douar El Hassania, in the Al Haouz province, at 19 km from Marrakesh.

What the Riad Zitoun School has accomplished is impressive. It has the ambition to do more. “Education, Excellence, Citizenship” is the school's motto. That's the perfect choice.

Riad Zitoun deserves supports. Navigating the school's website would show you the school achievements: <http://www.riadzitounecole.com/riadzitounschool>



“ENTREPRENDRE AU MAROC”

Most people work, but never succeed. The few who succeed just concentrate on two things: their goal and their network.

“Entreprendre au Maroc” a not-for-profit association of which Mrs. Zoubida Ammal El Boustani is an active member, has the explicit goal to provide that network to starting entrepreneurs in Morocco. What is peculiar to this association is that it provides a needed help in an environment where such help is rarely found, and to those are really in need.

The help has three main forms: breaking the isolation into which many would-be entrepreneurs lock themselves; working with the new entrepreneur, woman or man, to refine her or his project and to evaluate her or his market; and of course open the list of the association members to the new entrepreneurs. These members are confirmed businesspeople, like Mrs. El Boustani, with an extended experience that they are happy to offer free of charge to newcomers. Any new entrepreneur knows the

difficulty to raise seed capital. This is perhaps the most crucial financial needs of any business project since banks routinely turn their back to new projects as they have become extremely averse to new entrepreneurs.

Elsewhere, the seed capital barrier is more or less lower by alternative sources of finance, of which capital angels are family or friends' loans are typical cases. But in Morocco, you won't find any vibrant angel capital and families or friends are not often wealthy enough to provide you with seed capital for your start-up.

This is where Entreprendre au Maroc intervenes to save you. They are ready, depending on the quality of the project and the entrepreneur, to loan, without asking for any collateral up to the equivalent of 10,000US dollars of seed capital. In Morocco, this is a substantial amount.

Visit Entreprendre au Maroc website to see what they do: <http://www.reseau-entreprendre-maroc.org/>





Estherine Fotabong, Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD

What is the content of your job, as Program Implementation and Coordinator Director at NEPAD?

I am responsible for providing strategic leadership for the Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate and also lead the Formulation

and implementation of NEPAD programmes within the Directorate. Building partnerships and mobilizing resources is a very important aspect of my job profile therefore, I support the NEPAD CEO in developing, managing and maintaining relations internally

within the African Union system and also with external partners.

What has been the main contribution of NEPAD to Africa's development in the past three years?

The NEPAD journey since 2001 when it was adopted by

the African Union has been a learning experience which has impacted positively Africa's development trajectory. NEPAD is the embodiment of the African rebirth and renaissance, a new feeling of optimism and a new story of steady growth unfolding on the continent.

Through NEPAD, Africa has made advances in continental priorities in Agriculture through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Environment, through the Environment Action Plan and in Infrastructural development through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) amongst others. NEPAD today fulfils two functions – it provides the strategic thinking, and also bridges the gap between programme design and implementation, by building implementation capacity both at the regional and at the national level.

NEPAD is organizing this September, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the 2nd Conference on "Rural Futures". What is the purpose of the "Rural Futures" conferences? What has been achieved since the first "Rural Futures" conference held in Cotonou, Benin, in 2013?

The overarching purpose of the Rural Futures Program, which was launched by the NEPAD Agency in 2010, is to facilitate new thinking with respect to the vision, strategies and plans for rural economic transformation and the reduction of rural poverty and inequality with an operational approach that is spatial, integrated, inclusive, and participatory. In recognition of

the fact that rural development is a fundamental pillar for achieving the development and transformation of African countries. The purpose for establishing the Africa Rural Development Forum (ARDF) is to provide a platform to share lessons within Africa and to learn lessons from other countries where focussed efforts in support of rural transformation have been put in place. This ARDF serves as a venue for exchanging and discussing real experiences obtained on the ground. It provided an opportunity to discuss the lessons learned to date, the success stories, as well as those that were not successful. The Forum shares best practices of policy coordination across

The purpose of the Rural Futures Program is to facilitate new thinking for rural economic transformation

different sectors and agencies as well as between different levels of government with the aim of developing more effective and efficient means of rural service provision. The ARDF also builds and maintains strategic partnerships between the NEPAD Agency and various rural development stakeholders

towards advocacy and policy dialogue on rural transformation in Africa. In 2013, the 1st Africa Rural Development Forum was held in Cotonou, Benin under the theme "Sustainable Rural Transformation Agenda for Africa". The Forum adopted the Cotonou Declaration on Rural Futures which outlined a set of principles and actions needed to accelerate rural transformation on the continent.

How will NEPAD contribute to the success of the African Union Agenda 2063, which is the master plan for Africa's long-term development?

The 50 year development vision for Africa, Vision 2063 is premised on making Africa a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. The NEPAD Agency as the technical body of the African Union has a major role to play in realizing the aspirations of Africans through Vision 2020. Specifically, the NEPAD Agency provides implementation support to the various sectoral components of Vision 2063 and also responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda 2063.

For the past three years, "Africa is rising" was a popular theme. But after the collapse last year of commodities' prices, in particular oil's price, most African countries are now in financial difficulties. What was the reality of "Africa rising"? What solutions does NEPAD advocate to solve those difficulties?

The Africa Rising mantra came about as a result of rapid economic growth in Africa since 2000. Much of the



excitement surrounding Africa's economic growth is fueled by the exploitation of oil and gas reserves, massive investments in the telecommunications industry as well as infrastructure development. In recent times, prices of the commodities have taken a downward spiral thereby affecting the revenue stream of major resource rich countries. Major oil producers such as Angola and Gabon have seen massive drop in oil revenue and Nigeria has recently also entered into a period of recession. The AU Mining Vision and the NEPAD Natural Resource Governance programme stress the importance of economic diversification and effective use of revenues from the exploitation of natural resources for economic and social progress. The path from resources in the ground to economic transformation and sustained prosperity requires governments to address a series of policies areas along the extractive decision chain to avoid the so called Resource Curse and the Dutch Disease. Given the cyclical nature of the extractive industry, the investment of resource revenue in other sectors of the economy such as education, agriculture and infrastructure is key for long term development and transformation of resource rich countries.

The African Union will place the African continent in 2017 under the theme "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend". What does that phrase mean? What must African governments and African society in general do, to get this "demographic dividend"?

With the youngest population in the world, Africa's population is expected to double by 2045. Currently, over 40% are under the age of 15 whilst a significant 20% are between the ages of 15 and 24. This huge youth bulge is both an opportunity for rapid economic transformation and also presents a formidable challenge to the continent. The sight of thousands of African youth putting their lives on the line in search for better opportunities in Europe by taking that perilous journey across the Mediterranean can no longer be overlooked. Job creation, skills development and entrepreneurship remain a viable tool to reverse the surge in illegal migration into Europe. The NEPAD Agency takes a practical orientation in supporting and encouraging African countries to prioritize the issue of job creation and skills development especially for the youth. In this regard, the NEPAD Agency is implementing a skills development and job creation programme in a number of African countries to support governments through policy reforms and investments to strengthen occupational prospects of young people with a view to better tackle the growing unemployment on the continent.

Last June, the government of Cameroon gave you the "Honor of Recognition" award for your actions in favor of rural women in Cameroon. What are these actions? How will this award influence your professional life?

Without a doubt, Africa's biggest resource remain its women population and it is imperative that women are included in



all levels of decision making and implementation. Through a number of interventions, particularly, the NEPAD Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Project (GCCASP) which I lead, the NEPAD Agency is at the forefront of providing support to rural women farmers in facing the adverse effects of climate change and its impacts of agriculture productivity and livelihoods. I was really honoured to have received the award from the Government of Cameroon which I dedicate to the hardworking African woman who strives to make life better for their children, family and communities. I

received a similar award from the Government of Ethiopia in 2014 and I believe this recent one from my government will certainly spur me on to put in my utmost best to contribute in enhancing the livelihoods of the African woman. In the various positions I have had in my professional career, I have been given the privilege and opportunity to contribute to the development of the continent. I intend to continue using the platforms that I have to advocate and support the design of policies and implementation on concrete actions that promote the empowerment of the African woman and girl child.

PROFESSOR OUSSEINA ALIDOU

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

AN ORIGINAL APPROACH TO SOLVE AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENTAL AND SECURITY PROBLEMS

Ousseina D. Allied is a Professor in the Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures and the Graduate Program in Comparative Literature at Rutgers University.

This is the largest University in the State of New Jersey. Located in the city of New Brunswick, Rutgers University has more than 50,000 students. A full Professor, Mrs. Alidou has been teaching there since 2000. Her concentration is on African literature and issues related to human rights, especially women's rights in African traditional and contemporary societies, and also in the African Diaspora around the world.

She is a theoretical linguist whose research focuses mainly on the study of women's orality and literacy practices in African Muslim societies; African Muslim women's Agency and gender justice; African women's literatures; Gendered discourses of identity and the politics of cultural production in African Muslim societies.

Prof. Alidou is the Director of the Center for African Studies at Rutgers.

A team of Femmes d'Afrique magazine journalists first met Prof. Alidou at Howard University, in Washington, D.C., on 7 March 2016. Howard University had invited her to give a conference. Our journalists listened to a brilliant exposé on African women's development under several constraints.

Prof. Alidou has an original approach to Africa's development. She adopts a gender viewpoint that allows her to see the roots of African developmental problems and to



propose solutions to these problems. She adds that such an approach has a better chance to produce lasting solutions precisely because in Africa, policymakers have neglected women who are the majority of the population and also the immense majority of the vulnerable section of

the society.

Because this majority is excluded from participation to economic and political life, Africa loses the huge revenues that women can contribute.

In the USA, apart from the academic circles, the knowledge

of Africa is minimal. Through her teachings, Prof. Alidou tries to close the gap. The level of knowledge of Francophone Africa is even lower than the level of knowledge of the rest of Africa. Prof. Alidou considers her position at Rutgers University as a privileged one that imposes duties on her to contribute to raising awareness on that part of Africa, particularly on Sahelian Francophone African countries.

At the Howard University conference, she spoke about “Youth, Violence, Gender and Sustainable Development” in the Sahel area. She feels very strongly about this theme. And she shares that strength with her twin sister, Dr. Hassana Alidou, who is the Ambassador of the Republic of Niger in the USA; For Prof. Alidou, it is important to keep in mind that there is not one definition of youth. “Each era produces his type of youth,” she says. “A youth during stable and peaceful periods differs from a youth that lives in times of conflicts”. She also distinguishes “the youth of the transition period, between the period of conflict and peace.”

Then, she analyses youth from the gender perspective. An interesting point she makes is to deepen her differentiation by examining the differences between young people from different regions within the same country.

She takes the case of Niger, her country. Though all that country's young men and women are equal as citizens, they are very unequal depending on the region where they leave. This inequality comes from the nature of the challenges they face. In the South of Niger, agriculture is thriving. In the North, agriculture is almost impossible, because of the desert. Survival demands much more effort. Even access to drinking water becomes a matter of life or death. Job opportunities are rare. Health and education services are obsolete when they simply do not exist.

But since recent years, it is not only natural geography that



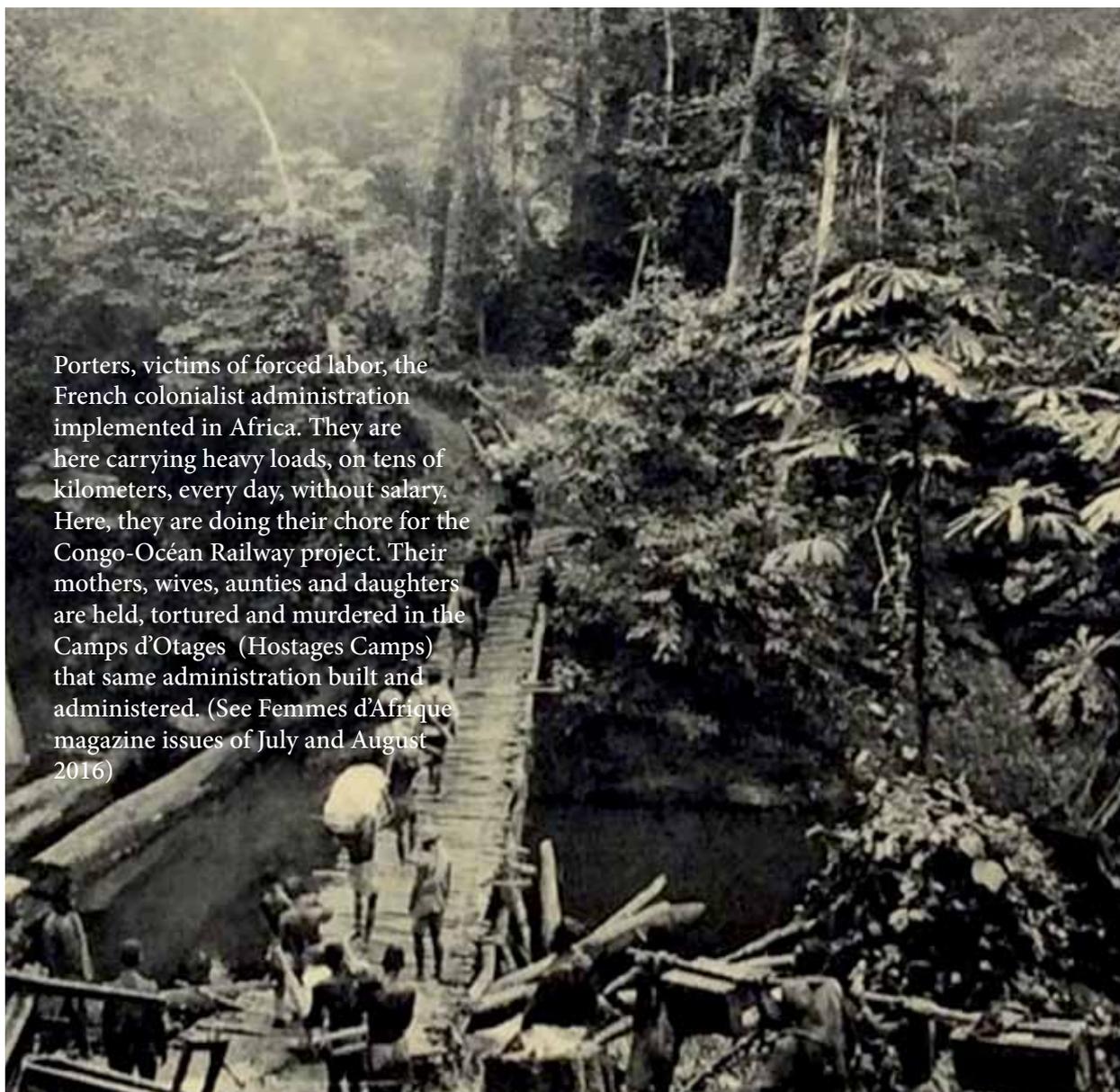
puts Nigerian Northerners in a disadvantage position about their compatriots in the South. Insecurity, violence, and terrorism have added to Northerners' ordeals.

Niger has borders with several countries that have been or still are the theater of prolonged bloody conflicts: Chad, Mali and

particularly Libya which is the major security preoccupation of that region. The situation in Mali remains tense. Terrorists are active around all those borders, killing, but also aggressively recruiting among the youth. This youth's deplorable material conditions are a factor that facilitates the recruiting.

Thus, Prof. Alidou said, to be successful in the anti-terrorism combat, requires to radically improve the lives of Nigerian Northerners, in particular, the youth. They are more fragile, more exposed, and more vulnerable, than the youth from other parts of the country. They need support, from the government, the international community and mostly from the entire people of Niger, the Southerners mostly who are relatively privileged, and who must do their national solidarity duty towards their brothers and sisters from the North.

Niger has borders with countries that have been or still are the fields of prolonged bloody conflicts



Porters, victims of forced labor, the French colonialist administration implemented in Africa. They are here carrying heavy loads, on tens of kilometers, every day, without salary. Here, they are doing their chore for the Congo-Océan Railway project. Their mothers, wives, aunties and daughters are held, tortured and murdered in the Camps d'Otages (Hostages Camps) that same administration built and administered. (See Femmes d'Afrique magazine issues of July and August 2016)

L'HUMANITÉ, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1905, NO. 551, SECOND YEAR

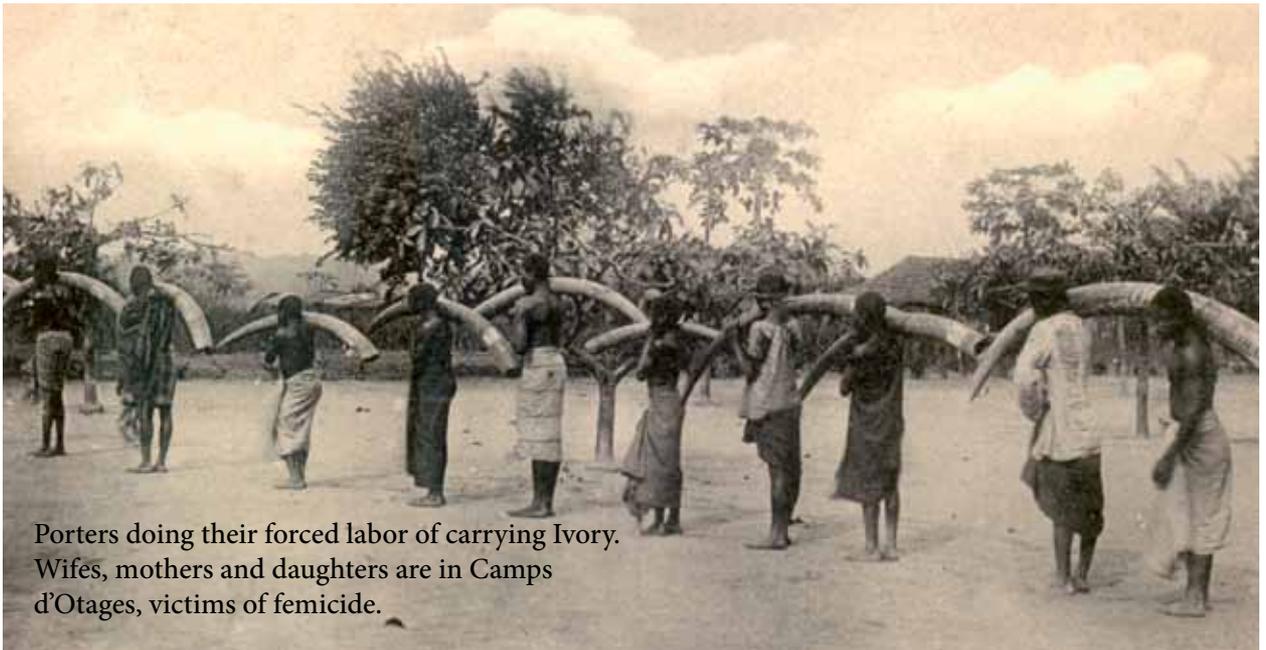
THE COLONIAL BARBARISM

THE HOSTAGES CAMPS

So it is no more deniable, despite the formal refusals of those concerned, that horrible excesses

have been committed in the Congo. The system of silence, verbal reports, substituted to the

official written reports, perfectly demonstrates the nature of the cruel measures ordered, taken



Porters doing their forced labor of carrying Ivory. Wives, mothers and daughters are in Camps d'Otages, victims of femicide.

or tolerated. If Toqué had to give his word to one of his superiors that he wouldn't say anything, he wouldn't write anything on what he learned, it's because firstly the atrocities perpetrated were such that they were worried that the weakened echo of the natives' moans could reach Europe. And then choking so many horrors indicates sufficiently that the torturers were aware, that they knew the enormity of their crimes. It is for light on the scope and the importance of the depredations committed, on the waste of human lives and wealth dissipated, that Mr. de Brazza's mission was sent to the Congo. It is now necessary that all this be laid out in the great day of publicity, against which the culprits had so far fled in the shadow.

Mr. Gentil made newspapers refute the existence of these hostages camps. Yet, these camps have existed. They have had an

official, regular organization, if one can say so, when one talks about the raids against men, women, and children. Even official notes exist, of which the commission had to be seized by the Minister, on the conditions that must govern the formation of these camps, and their location. One of these notes contains, in its own words, these explicit recommendations:

"Build cabins in the bush,

**Build cabins
in the bush,
OUT OF
PASSERBY'S
SIGHT**

OUT OF PASSERBY'S SIGHT. Surround them with a round path and place guards there. The women detained in the camp will receive a portion of millet that they will have to grind and cook themselves. The woman and, if such is the case, the children, will be returned to the man when he will have performed the chore that is requested of him (portage, taxes, etc.)". In the execution of these official instructions, which are still present in a written document, that the Minister had under his eyes, hostages camps were officially established in Fort-de-Possel, in Trois-Marigots, in Dekoa, in Fort-Crampel, and in Krebedje.

It is Captain Thomasse, the Commander of Fort Crampel, who had officially given the indications above mentioned, for the building of these camps, that were needed to be placed "out of passerby's sight." Because



The Christian Church was part of the enablers of Camps d'Otages and the femicide committed there.

some inspectors, some explorers, could have been brought to cross these devastated areas. And their European sensitivity, still ill-suited to colonial practices, would have been moved by the spectacle of these women and children. Thus, they had to take these women and children out of those inspectors' and explorers' view. Hence, when Mr. de Brazza visited the colony, had it not been for a native's symbolic and touching mimicry, his arms crossed while he crawled at Mr. de Brazza's feet in order to show the presence of prisoners not far away, Mr. de Brazza would have ignored the existence of these horrors perpetrated again in 1905. Indeed, Mr. de Brazza wrote, on this issue, in a report that the Minister had to read also:

"The abduction of women in indigenous villages was used in a common way as a means of

requisition of carriers, on the road from Fort Possel to Fort Crampel, to speak of the region I personally visited. At the present time, in the same region, it is still considered the complement of any repression. Everything has been implemented, during my time in that region, to prevent me from knowing about that practice. If I had not been able, despite this obstruction,

The abduction of women in indigenous villages was used as a means of requisition of carriers

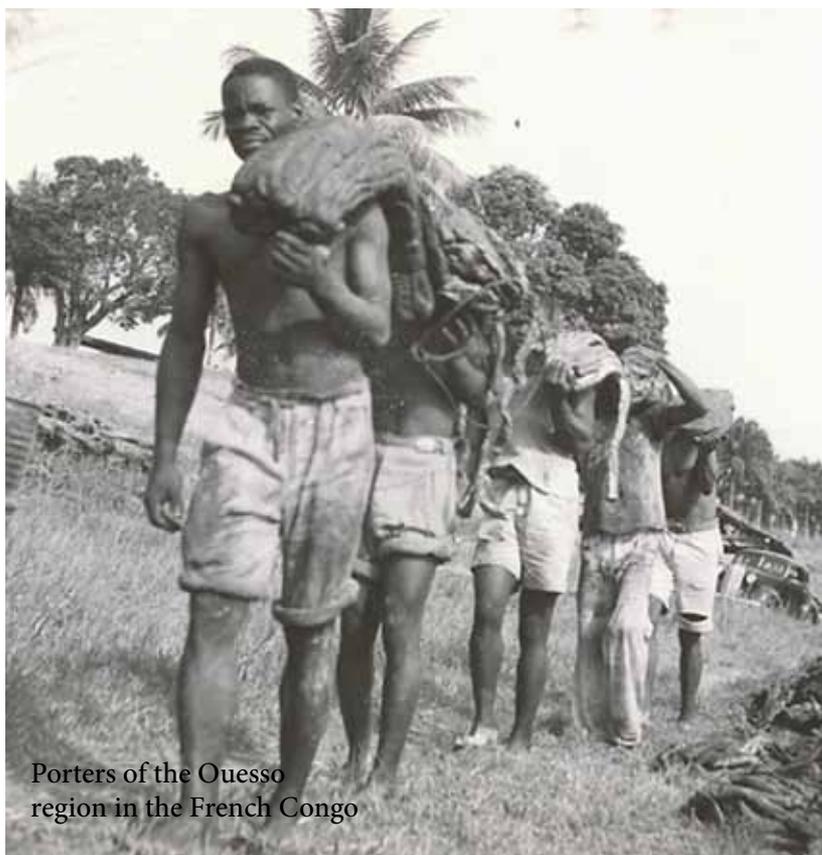
to enter in personal and direct relationships with the natives, in conditions which I reserve to speak to you on my return, it could have happened this incredible fact that my passage in this region would have brought, on behalf of France, a kind of consecration to all the atrocities!"

This Mr. de Brazza's testimony is, I think, quite explicit. It confirms in a striking way: what we have not stopped to say, since the beginning of these articles: one cannot consider such execution, such act of cruelty, as an exceptional fact, attributable to the perversity of its author; they are attributable to the system, to the plan itself. And since around the regime, around these daily dramas that were happening in the Congolese bush, one had built a sort of high screen, a wall of silence, to prevent the victims' sobs and the

groans of children at the breast of their milkless mothers, from reaching the sympathetic ears of the inhabitants of the metropolis, one is forced, today, to clarify the facts, to enter into the details of the cruelties which have made this country a huge ossuary.

Because the country has been depopulated. Could you figure out, indeed, what may be the demographic evolution of a region where one methodically organized the capture of women and children, to force men to provide to the authority a chore so painful, so dangerous, that half of those who endure this task die in a few days? Firstly is the raid, the hunting of humans. In the frantic terror caused by the arrival of whites searching for carriers or, ivory or rubber, one runs hurriedly. It is a panicked stampede in front of a cataclysm that is advancing. And in the first confusion of unleashed fear, man abandons woman; woman abandons child. Guards or militiamen, who we have trained in this hunt, back the fugitives to a given point. And when one considers sufficient the number of prisoners so gathered, one pushes in piles this miserable human cattle of women and children, the butts of rifle or the whip, hitting their kidneys, and one parks them in the hostages camps built "out of passerby's sight", according to the official instruction quoted above.

There, these women who often have children at the breast, children who had not yet reached adulthood, poorly fed, each of them toys of the guards, shrivel



Porters of the Ouessou region in the French Congo

and die as I showed for women in Bangui. Thus, when he arrived at his post, Toqué found fifty women whom he liberated. In a letter to Mr. Poirée, then the (French) colonial administrator

There, these women who often have children at the breast, children who had not yet reached adulthood, shrivel and die.

of Haut-Dahomey (current Republic of Benin), Toqué exposed in this way the regime that he was instructed to apply: "Ah Mr. Administrator, you would shudder if it were possible for you to see how we understand the indigenous policy here. It is of a Bismarckian simplicity: we have to lift to Chad 3,000 charges a month. Everything must be subordinated to this obligation. I leave you to think of how the rare savages of the country, hear this joke: whites on one side, sultans on the other side! The natives do not approach to the supply route."

When I said that Toqué had been wrong to write!... Why didn't he only kept silence like the newspapers of Paris!

Gustave Rouanet

RHODA PEACE TUMUSIIME, COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE, AT THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

“Women should be empowered. If we are not involved in the development of agriculture, I don’t think we’re not going anywhere”

At the end of last Month, on 29 August we found Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime in Antananarivo. She was there for yet another important cause that she defends: vaccines to protect African livestock. Indeed, she gave the opening remark of the 9th PAN African Meeting of Directors of Vaccine Laboratories in Africa, which took place from 29 to 31 August in the capital city of Madagascar. In charge of rural economy and agriculture at the AU Commission, Commissioner Tumusiime travels all the year across Africa to promote African agriculture and to plead for more resources in favor rural population in our continent. A phenomenon, unprecedented in world history, is underway in Africa for the past four decades: a demographic explosion, in both rural and urban areas. Elsewhere, cities’ population has historically increased at the detriment of the countryside. Villages were emptied as people migrated massively to cities. That’s what happened in Europe, in America and all parts of the world.

In Africa, both urban and rural populations are increasing, and they are doing so at a rate also unprecedented in history. That’s why, Africa, whose population was the third of the European population in the mid-1950s, will have by the middle of this 21st century, a population three times larger than that of Europe.

Who will do the job to feed this exceptionally large African population, that is already above 1 billion inhabitants today, and that will cross the 2 billion line in 2050?

The answer is obvious: agriculture and rural economy will do that job. Hence the vital job Commissioner Tumusiime is doing right now. For a year, we followed her throughout Africa. Everywhere,

she teaches best agricultural practices. She meets ordinary African farmers, in particular women, of whom she is the best advocate. When she attends high-level conferences, with international experts, she always insists on pragmatic solutions, not on theories.

Present at all AU Heads of State summits, she calls African rulers to their responsibility. She urges them to respect their commitments. In particular, the

Present at all AU Heads of States summits, Commissioner Tumusiime calls African rulers to their responsibility

ones in the declaration that African heads of State and Government adopted two years ago at the Third Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Aiming to accelerate agricultural growth and transformation in Africa, in order to end hunger in that continent by 2025, that declaration stated that this growth and transformation must be inclusive and contribute at least “50% of the overall poverty reduction target”.

At the Antananarivo conference, Commissioner Tumusiime called the attention of the audience, and beyond this audience, that of all Africans about the huge losses Africans are inflicting to themselves because of carelessness or neglect regarding livestock and the

diseases that decimate it. “In Africa, these diseases alone cause annual losses estimated at 4 billion US dollars,” she said. She is not only pointing to a problem. As usual with her, she endeavors to propose a solution. Here, the solution is called AU-PANVAC. This is she declared, “the only center of excellence on the African continent responsible for ensuring the production and use of good quality vaccines” to protect African livestock. AU-PANVAC “will ensure the harmonization of vaccine quality in African and contribute significantly towards the control of animal diseases in Africa.”

The Commissioner also insisted: “livestock forms part of the priorities under the CAADP (Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program) which is the strategic framework and process for increased agricultural production, productivity, food and nutrition security on the continent.”

Already on 3rd March 2016, we were with Commissioner Tumusiime in Addis-Ababa, her Department was organizing at the AU headquarter, the African Environment Day jointly celebrated with the Wangari Maathai Day. A great protector of Africa’s environment and beautiful landscape, Commissioner Tumusiime, who had been very active for African at the Paris COP21 conference just three months earlier, in December 2015, invited experts, officials and civil society join forces in order to strengthen that protection.

She was too busy, but she accepted to sit down with Femmes d’Afrique magazine for the interview that we are offering you here. Then you could have a glance at her timetable for the past year. We’ve selected one fact per month.



What was the purpose of the African Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day Conference?

On this day, we decided to have an entire week focused on the environment. The AU' theme focused on women's rights and access to natural resources. This is essential. That's why we brought the women here, and we know that they are key players in the sustainability of the environment and natural resources.

What are the main hurdles against the promotion of sex equality in Africa?

We have heard about equality of the sexes since the day or women came out and made a movement to say not enough is enough highlighting factors that discriminate socially against women and their role. Gender equality must be focused on the environment, and development should be achieved in the context of the Agenda 2063. This means that the focus should be more on law and the role of women, equality of opportunities, resources, education and management because the women feed more than 50% of the population of the continent. You cannot cut a part of your body, and you think you live, therefore this continent cannot live without the other half of the room, and on the other hand, women are more than that.

At all times of crises, women feed the household. Could equality between the sexes be a key factor in the development of agriculture in Africa?

If women must link their tool, the whole continent will move regarding availability and economic activities. Regarding agriculture, women played a large role. We have skilled farmers, and the majority of them are women. The women feed more than 50% of the population. Women play a key role, and we need to focus on them by giving them the means, the technology, inputs, and modern seeds. Let me say this: women should be empowered. If we are not involved in the development of agriculture, I don't think we're not going anywhere.

Today, we celebrate the African Day of Environment and the Wangari Maathai Day. She said "Human rights are not things that we are putting on the table,



but issues for which we fight." What does that statement mean to you? What is your opinion?

This statement indicates that we cannot simply take the question of women. We need to get the message of women; we must ensure that women focus on women's rights. In the absence of implementation, nothing will happen. It is a question of fight for them: education and advising women. For me, the best tool we can give a woman is to give every child access to schools, so that they can learn at the highest level, and women will be able to claim their rights. Uneducated women

cannot. Look, for example, certain rights that we want to eliminate on the continent. Women continue the mutilation; some women require this because they do not know. It is a terrible act because it is women who practice it and defend it. Women maintain that culture is negative. They want it simply because they do not know. We must educate and empower them. We need to increase their awareness and their leadership.

If you have any advice for a young African girl, what would you say?

I think that young people need to be empowered, not only girls. Gender equality does not mean only the girls. We look at society at large. But for girls African, I must say that the future is bright because women have a very important role, and there is no doubt about that. It takes just to refresh, to understand and put into practice. Change policies that have an impact on young girls to ensure that they can build up their confidence. Make opportunities available to them. With unemployment in the continent, we see more girls in the food industry. Agriculture is a foundation on this continent and it is also an opportunity for them to get a job. The future is bright for young girls.

**Women
feed more
than 50%
of the
population**

AUGUST 2016

Commission of Rural Economy and Agriculture

Ninth Pan-African Meeting of Directors of Veterinary Vaccine Laboratories. Antananarivo, Madagascar
The African Union Commission hosts the Ninth Pan-African Meeting of Directors of Veterinary Vaccine Laboratories in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The meeting kicks off on 29 August, with the opening remarks of Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime. Among others, she expressed her concern about the constraints of the livestock sector development in Africa, due in part to some animal diseases, like Peste des Petits Ruminant, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia and Rift Valley Fever.



JULY 2016

African water ministers adopt Dar Es Salaam roadmap for achieving water security and sanitation



Meeting in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia on 27 July, African water ministers adopt a roadmap for sustainable and universal access to safe water and sanitation in Africa.

“The Dar Es Salaam Roadmap for achieving the N’gor Commitments on Water Security and Sanitation in Africa,” was the culmination of the 10th General Assembly of the Governing Council of the AMCOW and commemoration of the 6th Africa Water Week, which took place from July 18-22, 2016, in Tanzania.

Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime urged the ministers to increase efforts to realize the African Agenda 2063. She added:

“It is also an opportunity for AMCOW to dialogue and agree on the direction that Africa is to take towards achieving sustainable development and water security in Africa as we strive to realize the targets of our Africa Water Vision 2025 on, “An Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and the environment.”

JUNE 2016

Africa Strategic Grain Reserve Conference, 14 and 15 June 2016, Nairobi, Kenya

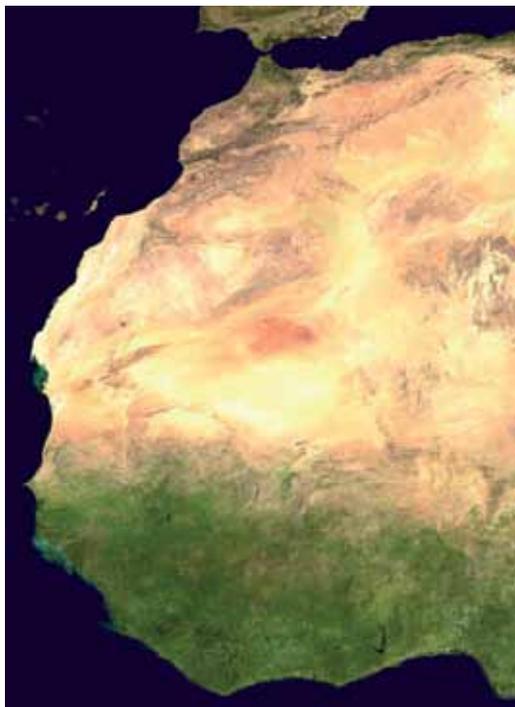
The two-day African Strategic Grain Reserve conference starts in Kenya, Nairobi on 14 July 2016. The African Union's Partnership for Aflatoxin Control, GrainPro, the Schooner Africa Fund, Abt Associates and AGCO/GSI sponsor the conference.

The conference has the purpose of providing safe storage solutions for national grain reserve agencies in Africa.



MAY 2016

First International Conference on the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) Theme: Restoring Africa's Landscapes – The Way Forward



The First International Conference on the GGWSSI starts in Dakar, Senegal on 2nd May 2016. The debates, on the theme “Restoring Africa’s Landscape - The Way Forward,” continue up to 7 May 2016.

83 per cent of rural Sub-Saharan Africans are dependent of livelihoods from the land, yet 40 percent of Africa’s land resources are currently degraded, driving poverty, hunger, unemployment, forced migration and conflict while amplifying climate risks such as droughts and floods. For this reason, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, a Pan African program, was launched in 2007 by the African Union Assembly. The initiative aims to address the issues of land degradation and desertification in the Sahel and Sahara, boost food security and support communities to adapt to climate change.

Following world leaders’ commitment to strengthen climate resilience through Africa’s GGWSSI during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (CoP) 21 in December 2015, Paris, GGWSSI partners are coming together this year to expand the annual World Bank Group Sahel and West Africa Program (SAWAP) Conference to a first Conference of the GGWSSI.



APRIL 2016

AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Speaks at the 29th FAO Regional Conference for Africa

In Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Ministerial Session of the 29th Session of the FAO Conference for Africa opened on 7 April 2016. Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan of Côte d'Ivoire, gives the opening remarks. Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime attends, with other international and African personalities, of which Dr. Jose Graziano, FAO Director-General.

In her speech, the Commissioner said: “Africa is opening a new chapter in the script of economic development, as seen in the recent firm

commitments by its leaders to turn the continent's natural, human and physical resources for the improvement of African's livelihoods.”

She added: “We should take the steering wheel to drive planning and laying the building blocks toward achievement of progress against the defined targets linked with priority areas,” she added. In the light of recent AU Summit decisions, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa Agenda 2063, the declaration on “Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025.”

MARCH 2016

Uganda Awards Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture a Medal



In recognition of the impressive role she had played for Uganda, Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime receives on 15 March 2016, the prestigious Presidential Award that Ugandan President, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni gives her. Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime was the first female commissioner for women who set up the Women Ministry. The Ugandan Government also recognizes her outstanding performance as Commissioner for Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal and Industry and also her current role as Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission, where her efforts in advancing the empowerment of women in the area of Agriculture and Agribusiness are remarkable.

FEBRUARY 2016

First Edition of the Africa Day for School Feeding 1st March 2016

On 1st March 2016, the AU Commission, the AU Member States, and some development partners, jointly observed the first edition of the Africa Day for School Feeding. The day's theme is: "Home Grown School Feeding: a Conduit for Africa's Sustainable Development."

The Republic of Niger has offered to host the first edition of the celebrations.

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) is working with 65 nations worldwide on implementing school feeding programs which are an effective safety net, helping to ensure that over 18 million children have access to education and food. In Africa alone, WFP works with some 39 nations. In the fight against hunger, school meals are a sound investment in the future of the next generation.



JANUARY 2016

Tumusiime addresses the press on COP 21 and its implications on Africa



On 28th January 2016, in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, during the 26th AU Summit, Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime addresses the press on the implication of COP21 on Africa.

For her, the Paris COP21 conference held a month earlier was a global success. She was pleased that Africa had spoken with one voice at that conference. This allows our continent to negotiate actively on issues such as securing resources for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and enhanced technology.

She observed that "there cannot be industrialization without renewable sources of energy." For her, industrialization was one of the causes of climate change but could not be overlooked as it greatly contributes to the continent's development.

DECEMBER 2015

Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime's

Intense activities at the COP21 Conference in Paris. Among others, he participates to the “Young African Lawyer Program in Support of Africa’s Climate Negotiations,” and she had a working session with UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban-ki Moon.



Fatoumatta Ndure, Head of Secretariat, African Youth Initiative on Climate

NOVEMBER 2016

AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Addresses 3rd African Coffee Symposium



On 24th November 2015, the 3rd African Coffee Symposium kicks off in Luanda, Angola. In her statement during the opening ceremony, Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime insists on inclusive growth with women and youth participation. For them, she pleaded for more resources to put in agribusinesses, and before that in agricultural technical and vocational education.

In the name of his organization's members, Mr. Alfonso Pedro Canga, President of the Inter-African Coffee Organization appreciates Commissioner Tumusiime's statement, and praises her actions in favor of African agriculture.

OCTOBER 2015

6th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security commemorated

The AU Commission, the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency, the United Nations Agencies and different partners, co-organized in Kampala, on 30th October 2015, the "6th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security" (ADFNS)

Addressing the audience, Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime stressed that providing countries make improving food and nutrition security a priority, eradicating hunger in Africa is possible.

This 6th Day is part of an ADFNS's year-long celebration, on the theme "themed "Empowering Our Women, Securing Our Food, Improving Our Nation."

Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime

observes that the AU Summit had declared in January 2015 the year 2015 in Africa as the "Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063". This declaration highlights women's role in fighting extreme poverty and hunger. She added that:

"Under its commitment to reduce poverty by half by the year 2025, the Malabo Declaration categorically calls for supporting and facilitating women and youth in "gainful and attractive agribusiness opportunities." Furthermore, she commends President Museveni's contribution to the Malabo Declaration and his guidance to build and support the agricultural transformation goals that were agreed upon in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. These goals define the next decade of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP) within the context of the first ten years of Agenda 2063 and Vision 2025.



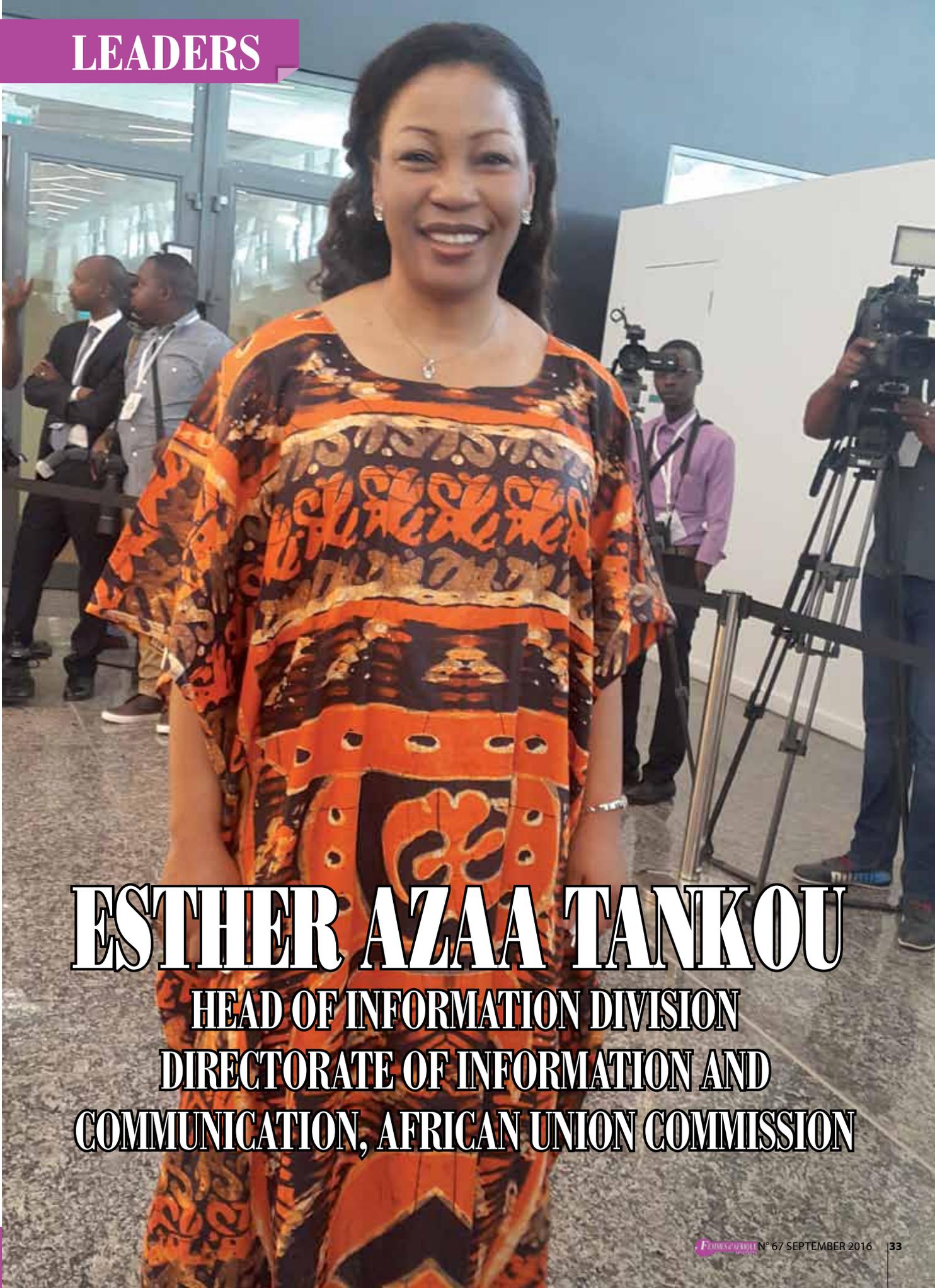
SEPTEMBER 2015

Africa is projected to have just one low-income country by 2050



Released on 1st September 2015 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, the Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR) announces that a majority of African countries labeled today as low income, will upgrade to middle income in the next 15 years, and in 2050, all but one will be middle income.

It is the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), a program facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), that produce the ATOR. "While the recent growth performance is encouraging, African countries still face major challenges in terms of reducing poverty and eliminating hunger and malnutrition," said Ousmane Badiane, IFPRI Director for Africa.



ESTHER AZAA TANKOU
HEAD OF INFORMATION DIVISION
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

You directed the African Union Commission's communication during the 27th AU summit held last July in Kigali, Rwanda. Was it a successful summit? What difficulties did you face?

First I would like to express my appreciation to *Femme d'Afrique Magazine* for the constant interest in covering the activities of the African Union (AU) over the years. I have always noticed the reporters of *Femme* and *Homme d'Afrique* in all the major events organized by the AU for the past 10 years of my service in the Directorate of Information (DIC) and Communication of the AU Commission, so much so that I almost thought these dynamic team of very passionate reporters were an extension of the DIC team on the ground. I am particularly impressed with the quality of information and content layout in *Femme / Hommed'Afrique*. The way articles are written in this publication to analyze the socio-economic and political the development of the African continent, is just a true example of the African narrative which we are encouraging at the African Union. We need to tell our own stories and portray the beauty of our rich continent.

With regards to your question about the media coverage of the 27th AU Summit that took place from 10-18 July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda, I am very delighted to say that it was one of the best Summit in terms of coverage because of the visibility that was given through the popularization of all the activities undertaken during the event. The positive feedback we received from the African citizens worldwide and the international community made the entire organising committee of that Summit very proud. Immediately after the summit, I received encouraging messages from the AUC leadership congratulating me for the successful coverage of the event. The AUC Chief of Staff commended me and my team and added 'the Chairperson of the Commission,



H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said this has been our best Summit'. All the Commissioners and Directors also expressed frantic appreciation of the way the summit was covered. Receiving such good commends from my leadership, can only motivate one to do more... I must also admit that the host country, Rwanda was very receptive and cooperative to ensure that everything was fully implemented as planned. I was privilege to lead the communication and branding strategy as the Ag. Director of Information and Communication of the AUC. I took part in this capacity, in the two evaluation missions

convened by the AU Commission and the Government of Rwanda that went to Kigali to discuss the preparatory modalities for the organization of the 27th AU Summit. In general the communication strategy elaborated by the DIC was fully implemented with the remarkable support of the very dynamic communication experts from the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and from the Presidency of the Republic. We had the highest number ever of accredited journalists during this summit to cover all the events. The accreditation process went on

very smoothly. It was done jointly by the DIC and the host country, Rwanda being a visa free country, it was easy to facilitate movement of the participants into the country. This was a powerful message when the AU chose to launch the African Union Passport during this Summit to symbolise the determination of the AUC to facilitate free movement of people in the continent. Also the Kigali Summit was crucial in that it was an elective Summit as the current Commission was terminating their four year mandate as stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the Union. To that effect the elections took place and due to the fact that none of the candidates managed to gather the required 2/3rd majority, the Summit decided that the current Commission members will continue their work until the next Summit in January 2017 when elections will be reorganised.

Also, there were high expectations on the achievements of the current Commission, so the DIC provided many platforms for the AUC leadership to interact with the journalists to inform on the achievements of the different departments, such as press briefings, facilitate one on one interviews, several press releases were issued by the DIC, translated into all the working languages of the AU and disseminated through the mailing list of the accredited journalists including [journalistsworldwide](http://journalistsworldwide.org) who could not cover the Summit physically. The information materials were also posted on the AU website: www.au.int as well as distributed to AU Missions, AU staff in the continent and abroad and to all press attaches of AU Member States Embassies.

The media outlets that were used to disseminate information about the 27th AU Summit included News agencies, Embassies, Magazines, newspapers, online media/ social media, Photo, Radio and TVs among others. Amongst the many languages used to disseminate the information to the general public



were English, French, Arabic, Portuguese (the four working languages of the AU), including Swahili, Spanish, Kinyarwanda, Chinese, Somali, Shona, Siswati, German, Russian and Swedish.

The Summit had a special page link :<http://au.int/en/summit/27>, carrying the logo of the theme of the year : “2016. African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women”.

This design shows the evolution of Human Rights within the African Continent. The darker earth represents the past from which Human Rights emanate. The nest and dove represent the internalization of the Concepts of Human Rights through the listing of the various rights and their applications to Women in particular. The new Africa (brighter and more colourful) is the one we aspire to. The branding of the AU and messages on the seven Aspirations and flagship projects of Agenda 2063 inundated the entire city of Kigali from the

The new Africa, brighter and more colourful, is the one we aspire to.

airport to the venue of the Summit and in all the big hotels around Rwanda.

Furthermore, most of the open sessions during the Summit were live streamed to give access to users to view, review and download the videos for a long period of time. The key statements of the AU Chairperson and the AUC Chairperson were followed live on <http://www.youtube.com/AUCCommission>. In fact the social media channels of the AU were very busy during the entire Summit. The hashtags used for the 27th AU Summit were: #27thAUSummit, #AUKigali 2016, #AUProject2016, #WomenRights and #Agenda2063/ #MyAfrica. Thousands of the photos taken during the Summit by the DIC team were made available to users at the AUC flickr channel: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/africanunioncommission/>. A fully equipped Media Center was set up for the journalist to facilitate their work. Several Award were given to the leaders within the framework of the Gender Pre Summit event and the Summit including the Gender Scorecards Awards, which were given full media coverage.

All these just contributed to the success of the Summit which was well organised and the agenda fully discussed on time by our Leaders to enable stress free event with fruitful outcomes. All journalists went back very satisfied with the work done. I will forever remember this Summit as a wonderful achievement in the way it was covered and popularised thanks to the support I received from the AUC leadership who were very open, easy going, media friendly and ready to give me the guidance I needed at that moment in time.

For the first time at such a summit, there was a side-event dedicated to African news editors. At that side-event, a number of leading African



editors interacted with AU officials and some African ministers. Is the AU Commission satisfied with that first experience? What is the follow up?

**All
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work done**

The African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the African Editors Forum (TAEF) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR), organised this Forum with African Editors from all Member states, on the margins of the 27th African Union Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, to exchange views and discuss the critical role that an informed African Citizenry must and can play in the implementation of our continental vision Agenda 2063. We discussed the role of African media in the popularisation of Agenda 2063, in accurate reporting so as to help shape the African narrative and advocating for the ownership of the framework by Africans.

The media, in line with their role in the society as information gatekeepers, are central to ensuring that citizens are adequately informed. It was, therefore, crucial for the media to understand the

process of the conceptualization of the Agenda 2063 framework through the various consultation process; to fully appreciate the seven Aspirations of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan alongside the flagship projects so as to effectively undertake the task of providing useful information dissemination to the citizenry and for purposes of accountability. Therefore, the objective of this side event was to engage and sensitize the African media on the key elements of Agenda 2063, as a way to rally the support of citizens, governments, private sector and ensure they are fully informed and involved.

It is believed that if the media is properly briefed on the rationale behind the conception and development of Agenda 2063, the flagship projects and implementation processes, they will be better equipped to disseminate the information to the people and subsequently, the citizens can thereby participate more meaningfully in efforts towards its implementation and realization of the prospects therein.

Yes, the Commission was very satisfied with that first experience. The Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, addressed the African editors during several hours of direct interaction with the journalists, she listen to them, answered all their questions and inquiries before urging the journalists to tell the true story of Africa and be responsible while doing their work. This, she underlined, will go a long way to change the negative perception and reports by some non-African media. Dr. Dlamini Zuma underscored the need to hold such dialogues with the African Editors more often. She actually expressed the need to organise such a forum at least twice before the end of this year.

Agenda 2063 is the master plan for Africa's long term development



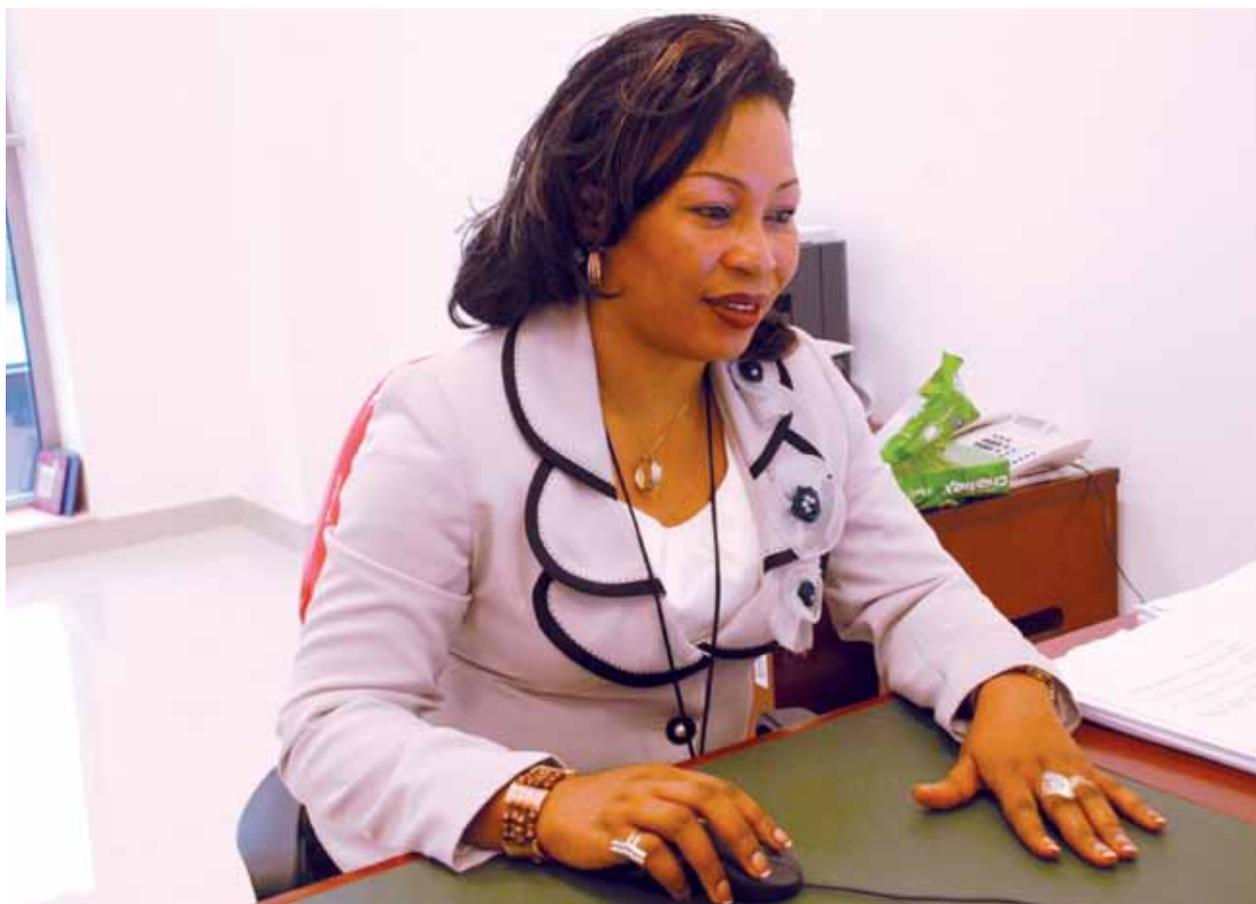
adopted by the African Union. What actions is the AU Commission taking to popularize that agenda throughout the whole African continent?

Africa's Agenda 2063 – “The Africa We Want”, as you rightly says the master plan for Africa's long term development. It is the Framework for Africa's social, political and economic transformation. It envisions seven aspirations of Africa whose development is people driven and wherein, the potential of women and youth are fully utilised. However, for Africa's citizens to actively participate in its implementation, and drive the development process, they need to be continuously and sufficiently informed on the

progress being made towards the realization of Agenda 2063 aimed at the sustainable development of the continent. This is also key to enable the citizenry to hold their governments accountable to the commitments.

A communication strategy has been elaborated to popularise the Agenda and communicate the messages of the vision 2063. The information is disseminated through all the existing channels of communication including the social media. The AUC has embarked to simplify the concept and package the information in all languages including the local dialects to reach out to the common African citizen even in rural areas.

The Agenda 2063 should be seen as



a unique opportunity to recreate the African narrative by putting it into perspective to enthuse and energize the African population and use their constructive energy to set and implement an achievable agenda for unity, peace and development in the 21st century.

Additional measures include: designation of national focal points for Agenda 2063, integrating Agenda 2063 milestones/targets into national planning frameworks, as well as through regular updates on Agenda 2063 to cabinet retreats and to National Assemblies/Parliaments. Also we are looking at how to include Agenda 2063 in school curricular, organise public lectures in universities, etc.

Some Africans are still sceptical about Agenda 2063. For instance they say the OAU and the AU have already announced similar

master plans in the past, but with no achievement. What would you reply to them?

I will say this is not true because each

Agenda 2063 should be seen as a unique opportunity to recreate the African narrative

vision is adapted to the new realities in the continent. During the OAU era, the vision was to liberate Africa from colonialism and this was achieved. Today African countries are free, independent and sovereign. The objective of the Agenda 2063 is to develop Africa's growth trajectory for the next 50 years benefitting from lessons learnt over the last 50 years. It was developed within the context of the Union's 50th Anniversary celebrations, taking stock of what the continent has achieved during the past 50 years to reflect on what the continent want to achieve in the next 50 years. Agenda 2063 should be seen as a new phase in efforts by Africans to catalyze development of the continent and strengthen African integration and unity. It aims to build upon the achievements and draw lessons from earlier efforts such as the Lagos Plan of Action,

the Abuja Treaty and the NEPAD to address new challenges faced by the continent, in the short, medium and long-term. The guiding principle therefore is continuity of actions, drawing appropriate lessons and building upon what has worked in the past. Therefore we cannot say that the OAU failed in its vision because today's continental vision is building on the past achievements, not just starting from scratch...but learning from past experience to advance the development agenda of the continent.

Through the Solemn Declaration adopted by the 21st Ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at Addis Ababa, on 26th May 2013, African political leadership at the highest level, pledged to commit itself to long term national and continental development strategic planning and implementation. This is an encouraging starting point which needs to be capitalized upon. It provides the entry point to translate political statements and commitments into mechanisms for concrete action, and also provide the means to track and verify progress and facilitate timely decisions on corrective measures.

The AUC is advocating for Agenda 2063 to be domesticated in the national laws of the AU Member States, given that this Agenda is people-centered and therefore should continue to embrace the ideals of Pan Africanism. In this regard a starting point for development of Agenda 2063 was a stock-taking of performance of national, regional and continental plans and programmes, in order to use them as building blocks for the agenda, while learning from past mistakes and identifying best practices/successes. The thrust of Agenda 2063 is a program of social, economic and political rejuvenation that links the past, present and the future in order to create a new generation of Pan Africanists that will harness the lessons learnt and use them as building blocks to



consolidate the hope and promises of the founding parents for a true renaissance of Africa. Agenda 2063 is expected to be a source of inspiration for development of national and regional sustainable development plans.

A number of African governments continue to violate the freedom of expression. What does the AU Commission say in this regard? What can this commission do to guarantee that this essential freedom is fully respected?

The AUC takes the issue of human rights very seriously, that is why the AU Heads of State and Government at their 26th Summit adopted the year 2016 as 'Year of Human Rights with a particular focus on the Rights

of Women'. They devoted a full year to tackle the issues related to human rights including freedom of expression etc. the AUC is again any form of impunity. A clear example is the trial of a former president, Hissene Habre by the African Extraordinary Chambers which was set up in Senegal. This Chadian president was accused of human and war crimes. Several other examples can be given to show the determination of the Commission to guarantee that essential freedom is respected. You well know that the AU has established an African Court of Human and People's Right whose seat is in Arusha, Tanzania and the African Commission of Human and People's Rights whose seat is in Banjul, in The Gambia



AMINATA SIDIBÉ, FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF MALI (2007-2009)

“We Malian women, have to keep on struggling for our rights and those of the coming generations of Malian girls”

Active in environment protection and sustainable development, Aminata Sidibé, a former Minister of Education of Mali, attended the 27th African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government that took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 10 to 18 July. Femmes d’Afrique met her for an interview that shows that despite being distant from governmental responsibilities, she is still contributing positively to her country and our continent.

What is your interest to attend this 27th AU Summit?

There are multiple interests! First, the theme of the summit this year is Human rights, with a particular focus on women’s rights. The summit will revisit the Maputo Protocol. The importance of this revisiting lies in a question: all AU countries have signed that Protocol; why are they not all implemented as they should be doing? What are the shortcomings? Where are we exactly with this Protocol? Up to now, only five countries are in line with the Maputo protocol. Why?

What is the Maputo Protocol? Why is it important? To who?

The Maputo Protocol relates to social burdens. A majority of African States are developing



countries. To a large extent, traditions still prevail in Africa. You know the place and the role of women in African societies. You are certainly aware that the role assigned to us still lock us in marginal positions. Education also does not favor the emergence of women. How to encourage African States to educate more girls, particularly in the secondary and the third levels? How to generalize education to all girls and women? I believe that the solution lies in education. The emancipation of women, empowerment. How to go and achieve this empowerment? That is the question.

You seem to be saying that African traditions are an obstacle to women's emancipation and empowerment in Africa. What precisely make those traditions that obstacle? How do they operate to be that obstacle? Could you give some concrete examples?

I'm talking about the inequalities regarding human rights. On women's rights. Isn't it obvious that women are generally in inferior positions in African societies? It's obvious. I see it, and I think that this inequality is a major cause of Africa's underdevelopment.

Next year, the theme of the AU Summit will be on "harnessing demographic dividend" in Africa. Do you welcome the choice of that theme?

I congratulate the African Union to have chosen that important theme which brings the population issue on the table. Africa's population is in continuing to grow. Some sub-Saharan African States have



a total fertility rate which is between 6 or 7 children per woman. The problem is less acute in North Africa. This big sub-Saharan Africa's population growth impacts on development. Take Nigeria. She has already 180 million inhabitants. And the population is still growing at around 2% to 3% per year. That's really big! By 2060, Nigeria would somehow double her population.

This high African population growth forces us to think seriously. Would the goals of Agenda 2063 be met with that growth? Will Africa provide education and health care to all her children as Agenda 2063 promises? That's a challenge! A challenge of big numbers.

Thus, choosing "Demographic Dividend" as the next year's theme, is a way to attract African governments' focus and that of Africans in general, on the demographic trends in our continent. We have to put in place the appropriate tools to deal with these trends. For the African Union, that choice is a way to wake-up Africans' conscience to the challenge of high demographic growth in their continent and countries. Whether we like it or not, African governments will have to integrate family planning in their policies.

What is the situation of women and girls in Mali?

The Malian education system made a lot of progress. Significant advances occurred since 1962, after independence. Mali was on her way toward universal primary education. In Mali, equity between girls and boys, from the early age, not only in Malian schools' classrooms,



but also in the law. Our task is to monitor the enforcement of this law.

A result of girls' large school enrollment is seen in today's Malian families where women have higher responsibilities than in the past. Yet, there is still a resistance, mainly in villages,

against sending girls to school. But despite this resistance more than 82% of Malian girls go to school today.

The Malian government has signed different international texts and conventions to protect girls and promote their education. How are these texts implemented in Mali today?

Today there is a wide range of texts. I believe that their implementation is problematic. The executive may have the will to go ahead and fully implement the texts that favor gender equality at all the levels of the society. But, often, the Parliament is an obstacle because conservatives are still powerful in Malian Parliament today. They make progress difficult. Therefore, we, Malian women, have to keep on struggling for our rights and those of the coming generations of Malian girls.

A result of girls' large school enrollment is seen in today's Malian families where women have higher responsibilities than in the past



DR. FATIMATA DIA SOW, COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND GENDER,
ECOWAS (ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES)

“We are supporting women’s contribution in agriculture, both for their participation to the production and their and access to resources”

What do you expect for you and for ECOWAS, from the 27th Summit of Heads of State of the African Union to which you are attending in Kigali, Rwanda?

You know that the 27th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union is about human rights, specifically women’s rights. And that is critical because we are currently in a continent where there are a lot of changes concerning security. These security changes in some countries lead to the very negative impacts at the level of communities and populations regarding respect of human rights, of vulnerability. The negative consequences are that even the fundamental rights written in the conventions that African heads of State have signed for the well-being of the population are no longer guaranteed.

Furthermore, this question of rights is not only an African problem, but a global one. Peace and security are also on the global agenda. Thus the general situation should be





examined comprehensively. That's the method leading to appropriate decisions that counter the negative impacts of conflicts on populations, particularly on the most vulnerable among them, youth and women.

The AU theme this year on women's rights reminds us of the importance to upgrade the response to anti-women violence. This is a permanent ECOWAS concern. In our West African region, we know that peace cannot be found and preserved without respects for human rights.

You insist on human rights. You have also mentioned

the conventions African governments have signed to protect these rights. Are these conventions enforced?

The AU theme this year on women's rights reminds us of the importance to upgrade the response to anti-women violence

For sure, our governments have signed numerous conventions to protect children, vulnerable groups and displaced populations. The way authorities implement these conventions, does not produce effective consequences on the general respect of human rights. This is a paradox whose explanation may this: our governments put a lot of money on the armed forces, and they intervene at the political level, but as long as people do not feel safe, as long as their rights are not protected, peace and stability will be only ephemeral. So, it's always important to revisit these questions

of rights. To make strong statements for their correct and effective implementation.

Last March your department at ECOWAS co-organized with FAO an important high-level meeting in New York. So far what are that meeting's results?

Indeed, that meeting was about gender in agriculture. FAO supported us to organize it. Our aim is the program for "zero hunger by 2020". We're working on the prerequisites to reach that goal. Since that meeting, we've started to train leaders in ECOWAS Member States in understanding how essential it is, to integrate gender in the program. We are reviewing our member states' NPAI (National Program of Agricultural investment). We have held two working sessions in Dakar, Senegal, and then in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. We are supporting women's contribution in agriculture, both for their participation to the production and their access to resources: seeds, finance, etc. We want women in agriculture to advance in the value chain. At this level, data are very important. Without accurate and timely data, you don't have a proper knowledge of what's going on. Therefore, we are preparing the collection of data in all ECOWAS Member States. With these data, ECOWAS will have a wide reference and a robust instrument that will help to objectively measure progress in our region.



A close-up portrait of Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, a Black woman with short, dark hair, wearing a black blazer, a pearl necklace, and red lipstick. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

GLORIA J. BROWNE-MARSHALL, J.D.M.A
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, JOHN JAY
COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

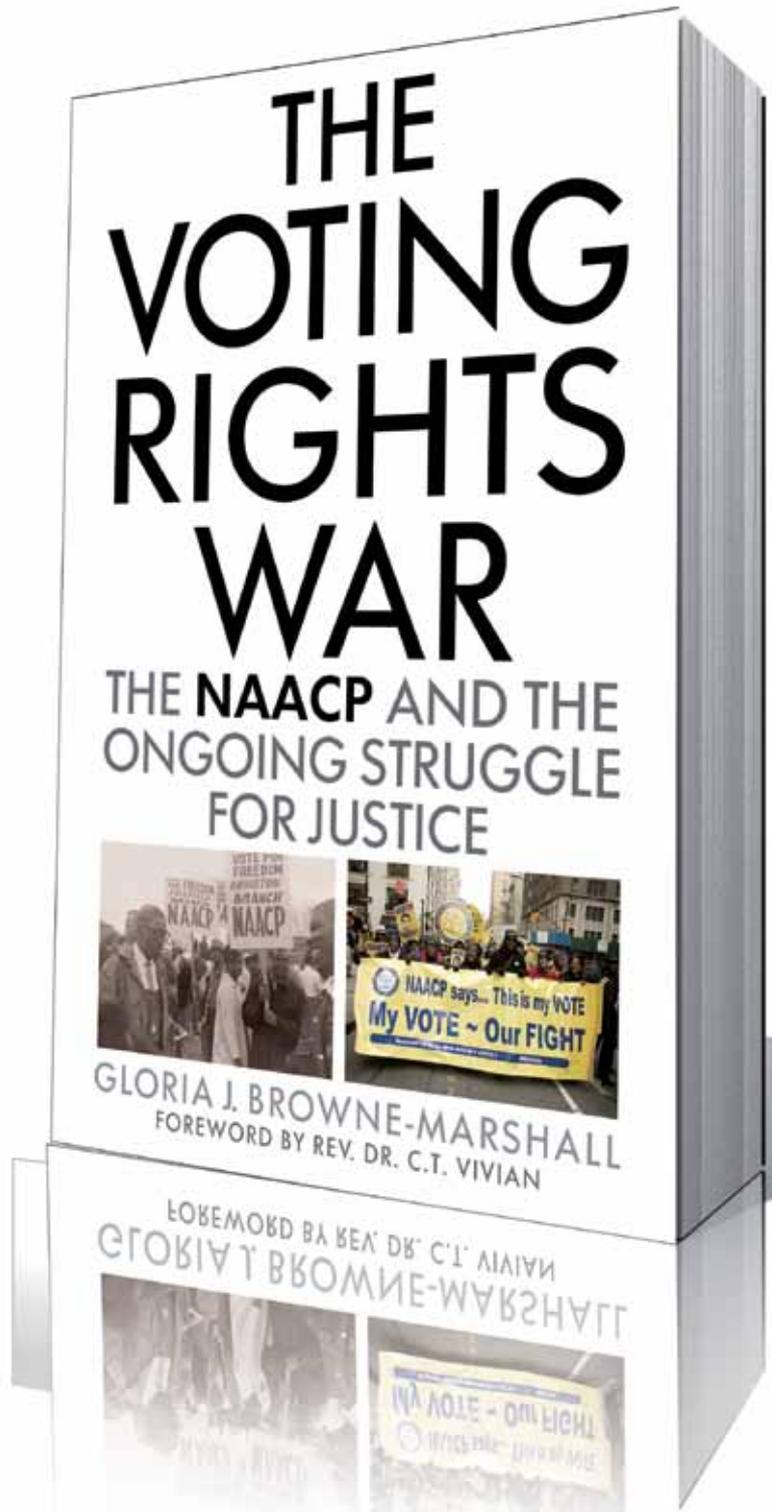
Gloria J. Browne-Marshall is the author of recently released book “The Voting Rights War: The NAACP and the Ongoing Struggle for Justice.” She is an associate professor of constitutional law at John Jay College (CUNY), a civil-rights attorney, a legal correspondent and founder/director of The Law and Policy Group, Inc. She reports on the U.S. Supreme Court in her award-winning syndicated newspaper column and hosts the weekly radio program “Law of the Land with Gloria J. Browne-Marshall” on WBAI. She is a playwright and the author of the seminal book *Race, Law, and American Society*.

This September, you will release your new book titled: “The Voting Rights War: The NAACP and the Ongoing Struggle for Justice”. What is the main message of that book?

Several concerns motivated to write *The Voting Rights War*. First, I was concerned that there would be a drop in voter participation when President Obama left office. Women, young people, students, and people of color may stay home because there was not a similar Obama-like excitement about the election. Also, I wanted to remind voters of the great sacrifice made by previous generations to decide the

franchise. It’s not based on political personality. Voting is a right and an obligation of all American citizens. Mainly African-Americans fought

and died for a right that was already theirs by birth. All Americans gained from African-American sacrifice and contribution.



Politically and economically has the Black American community progressed relative to other ethnic groups since the Civil Rights struggle of the 1960s?

Among African-Americans, some have progressed extremely well economically and politically since the 1960s. That's how we can have African-Americans in every strata of life from astrophysicists and athletes to president of corporations and the country. Millionaires abound. However, it is a tale of two communities. One wealthy and the other struggling while both are being terrorized by police and unfairly impacted by a biased criminal justice system and institutionalized racism.

How would you assess President Barack Obama's two terms on three issues: Black community's well-being; the entire US nation's prosperity; and foreign policy, particularly regarding Africa?

I praised Senator Barack Obama and knew he would be a successful candidate. I cried when he was elected and attended the inauguration. I watched President Obama secure historic healthcare legislation while dragging the American and thus the world's economy out of a devastating recession. All of this while fighting two wars and racists in Congress who sought to defeat him on his first day in office. I asked the question:

would they let him govern? They would not. Using Executive Powers became essential to his presidency. So, those Americans who felt the world came to an end when he won took their revenge on everyday Black Americans. Harassment, police violence, bitterness, constant undermining of African-American progress is the price we pay for a Black

President. Unfortunately, Barack Obama realized it too late, if at all. Attorney General Eric Holder, the first African-American to hold this office, understood the fight. He is married to the sister of Vivian Malone who desegregated the University of Alabama. I reviewed the speeches of Senator and then President Obama. He never promised the Black community

RACIAL VIOLENCE IN THE USA:

WHAT WOULD JAMES BALDWIN DO TODAY?

CONFÉRENCE LUNDI 18 JANVIER 2016

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Conférence de **Gloria J. Browne-Marshall**, professeur américain de droit constitutionnel, écrivain et journaliste, spécialiste des questions raciales aux États-Unis

UFC UNIVERSITÉ DE FRANCHE-COMTÉ

anything. He received 97% of the Black vote and even into his second term did not show the community he fully grasped what we were dealing with in America. Many of his speeches criticized the community in ways he never criticized other constituents like labor or veterans or Latinos or gays. He will look back with regret for not doing more.

In your multiple activities, you are also a playwright author. Last month, "Class", a play you wrote, was performed in New York City. The topic is a confrontation between an angry White student and his African-American professor who the student considered a privileged person in today's US society. Why did you choose this topic? Could you tell us more about these two characters?

As a child, I was greatly influenced by James Baldwin. In January, I presented a conference University de Franche-Comté in Besançon. James Baldwin, the author, activist, playwright, educator and journalist became my template. I write based on how the issue speaks to me and the forum suited for it. In my okay CLASS, the characters demanded the stage and refused to allow me to complete my book The Voting Rights War until I wrote down their struggle. Both characters competed for attention vying for the stage



with each believing their side to be more justified. It was a difficult play to balance the working class disappointed White male facing the possible sunset of a super power and the African-American woman coming into her own power after struggling

In CLASS, an Irish-American working class student confronts his middle-class African-American female professor

against outrageous historical obstacles. CLASS is a difficult but important play and I believe it should be produced in many different countries and languages. I hope to have it produced in France. If a theater is interested contact me at: sweetwaterpro@hotmail.com.

In CLASS, an Irish-American working class student confronts his middle-class African-American female professor over a poor grade given in her race-relations class. Enraged by her arrogance, he holds her hostage to force her to change it. Always repeating the prejudiced rhetoric of his father and dying disappointed laborer who feels cheated out his American Dream and blames immigrants and Affirmative Action. CLASS is



Discussion after the CLASS show. From left to right: Gerald Markowitz (Prof. of history, John Jay College of Criminal Law), Gloria J. Browne-Marshall (playwright), Nick Denning (Actor, plays student Jodie Hctor character), and Jeffrey Thompson (Director)

a modern telling of the story of slavery. One set and two characters and a drama with some humor and a journey through American history. Who owns the American dream? That's the core of CLASS.

According to numerous reports, angry or even impoverished White men form the majority supporting Donald Trump's efforts to become the next US President. Is this anger justified?

This anger and seething disappointment are emotions experienced worldwide wherever there are those older White men who led by fiat and being male and white offered guarantees of employment and preferences. As laws require more fairness and women, people of color and religious minorities rise politically, economically, and socially there is a loss. Trump

has tapped into it. Going back to the time of a socio-racial hierarchy where White males reigned is a part of America that few talk about. My book "Race, Law, and American Society: 1607 to present" examines 400 years of the unfairness under law that created and maintained the socio-economic unfairness longed for by many of Trump's followers. Changes in the world have made it an uncomfortable place. It is quite normal to reach back to an earlier or simpler time even if it is completely unrealistic.

What lessons should one learn from "Class" to make the USA a better nation for all her citizens?

America is a nation of immigrants who came here with pain due to unfairness faced in their nation of origin. Despite a reputation as a beacon of democracy, America has a violent past

filled with acts of racial barbarity toward African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans that most European-Americans want to forget. CLASS is about competing interests and older generations forcing their fears and disappointments onto younger people. The White student is poor and angry and feeling cheated. He blames the teacher who is doing better economically. But, the student, Jodie Hctor, does not know the teacher has struggles of her own. One line when she reveals her father is imprisoned and he mocks her pain. She regrets, "Being human in front of someone who does not believe I am." In CLASS, Jodie speaks of the oppression of the Irish by the English but cannot see the pain of the African-American by White Americans. Seeing each other as fully human can make America better for all. It is a core lesson in CLASS.



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Archery is one type of sports where African women are absent. In this picture, a Japanese at competing at Rio Olympics

WHY ARE AFRICAN WOMEN ABSENT FROM SOME SPORTS?

As the Rio Olympics once more showed, African women were absent from a large number of sports categories? Why?

One can observe, this question isn't valid only for African women. One observes the same fact for African sportsmen. In general, there is an under-representation of African

athletes in several disciplines. Since Abebe Bikila, the Ethiopian runner won the gold medal at the Rome Olympics in 1960, African men's participation to the Olympics is overwhelmingly in athletics.

Likewise, since the Moroccan female runner, Nawal El Moutawakil, won the gold medal

at the Los Angeles Olympics, African women have been competing mostly in athletics at Olympic games.

In both cases, men and women, East African athletes have been so far very successful. They have become the African "Gods" and "Goddesses" of stadiums. But sport is not only athletics. Why

are we not seeing African not even winning, but participating in most sports out of athletics?

What about other sports?

We are not sure that African women competed in all the 28 types of sports seen last month at the Rio Olympics in Brazil. Two of these were new: the rugby 7s and golf. In all, 42 disciplines. Were African sportswomen present in some of 306 trials, of which 136 for women, 161 for men and 9 mixed? Their performance in the disciplines of athletics shows that women can break records. But on their way to succeeding in the other sports, African women fall on two hard African obstacles: gender inequality in sport and the eternal lack of sports facilities in Africa.

To combat macho practices in sport, UNESCO, in 1978, inscribed in its charter that sport is “a fundamental right for all.” UNESCO would thus support women’s practice of sports and urge governments to implement gender equality in sport.

Published in 2010, a study of CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa) describes barriers to women’s practice of sports in Africa:

“In Morocco, the practice of female sport obeys a cultural logic of reproduction and social,” writes Brahim Elmorchid, Doctor of Economics, professor at the Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech in Morocco, and author of the study titled “Gender and Sport in Africa: between practices and public policies.”

Women’s practice of sport is highly correlated to social origin. Girls who practice sports in our



Are there African sportswomen in Canoe? Here is Luuka Jones, competing in Rio Olympics in the Kayak Women contest

continent are mainly daughters of the middle- and upper-class parents. This practice is also concentrated in urban centers. In the rare cases where girls from poor communities or rural areas practice sports, this practice is often very informal, out of the institutional organization of sport, and without the use of appropriate material and equipment. Apart from poverty, traditional

socio-cultural norms are a second obstacle that prevents African women to practice sports. Dr. Cyna Gueye from Senegal, who contributed to the CODESRIA study, wrote about Senegal:

“In predominantly Muslim societies like ours, the weight of Islam that is refractory to sports dress model and diversity, is a serious handicap which retards (or blocks) the integration

African sportswomen are also absent from Cycling. On this picture, the winners of Women's Cycling Team Pursuit at Rio Olympics: (L to R) Russia, People's Republic of China and Germany



of veiled women in sports.” Thus, whatever their ambition to progress in sports, African women in predominantly Muslim countries, are extremely limited in their possibilities to practice sports. Graver, since such a practice could unveil them, it risks to blur their identity and to lead society to question their very real sexual identity or orientation.”

In many African countries, the 2015 Declaration of Brighton on the place of women in sports is still wishful thinking.

The lack of sports facilities and equipment

If they courageously overcome the socio-cultural constraints and manage to gain a foothold in the sports field, African women fall on the second big obstacle:

obsolete or absence sports facilities and equipment.

This is no longer a problem specifically related to gender. It results from African rulers' lack of strategic vision in the sports area. Even in athletics, the

Most African Athletes are forced to live in Europe or America, for training facilities and good equipment

African sports par excellence, for both African men and women, the deficiency of sports facilities and equipment is a striking reality of our continent.

Most African athletes are forced to live in Europe or America, where, for their training, they find adequate facilities and use good equipment. For instance, Murielle Houré, the Cote d'Ivoire 100 meters woman runner lives in the USA.

On behalf of UNESCO, Professor Wladimir Andreff reviewed sports facilities in twenty African countries classified as least developed countries. These countries included Senegal, Benin, and Congo. He found that the 16 least developed countries had a running track for 563 000 inhabitants;

a football field for 106 000 inhabitants; a small basketball court, handball, volleyball for 253,000 inhabitants; a pool for 2350000 inhabitants and a gym to 8600000 inhabitants.

Apart from South Africa and some parts of North Africa, sports like swimming or gymnastics are not practiced in Africa simply because swimming pools and gyms do not exist. Also, Africans, women or men, are de facto excluded from sports such as golf or tennis that require expensive types of equipment and facilities.

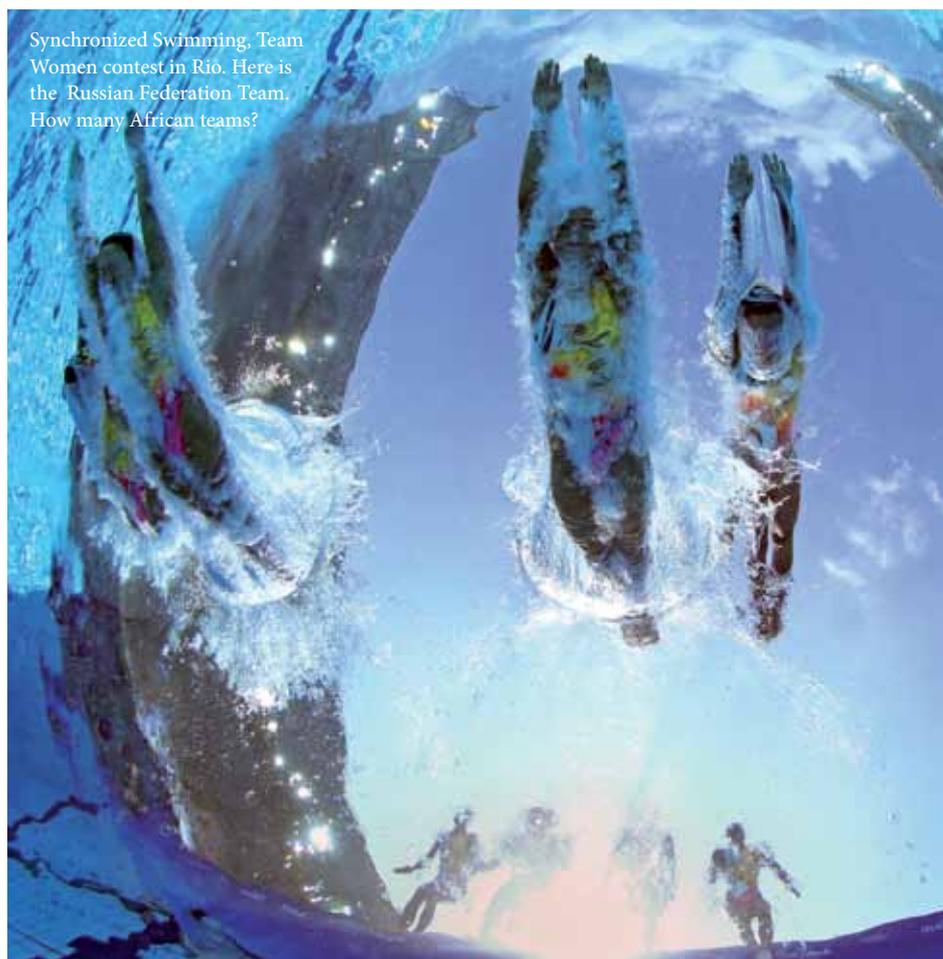
Ministries lacking vision and resources

It won't be exaggerated to remark that African ministries in charge of sports are at 90% ministries of one type of sports: football. To go ahead with the reality, they are ministries of male football.

That is to say, they do nothing to arouse enthusiasm in sports where women shine. Male football swallows all the resources. By the way, these resources may not be huge, given the general neglect of sports in our governments' budget. But the fact that even these relatively meager resources that African governments appropriate for sports are all eaten by one sport, male football, illustrate a structural bias against female sports in our continent.

The Private Sector to Rescue

There is another common African weakness that compounds the difficulties opposing women's practice of sports in Africa: private sector's tiny part in financing sports in Africa. Much of the money sustaining sports in Africa is public money. Given African



Synchronized Swimming, Team Women contest in Rio. Here is the Russian Federation Team. How many African teams?

governments' poverty, it is not surprising that sports in Africa don't pay. Yet Africans like sports. They are as fans, spectators and TV viewers of sports events. This is a huge market waiting for

sports entrepreneurs to exploit it and reap profits.

The private sector may be the solution that will enhance female sports in Africa, especially at the elite level that produces sportswomen able to compete worldwide and bring back gold medals to Africa. Given that a career in that elite club is very short in time, African private sector, African sports entrepreneur, should work hand in hand with the elite sportswomen in our continent, both upstream, in identifying and nurturing the prospective and would-be champions as earlier as possible, while charting after career opportunities for ex-champions.

The private sector may be the solution that will enhance female sports in Africa

PHOTOS ALBUM



RIO OLYMPIC GAMES, AUGUST 2016



PHOTOS ALBUM







**MARGOT
WALLSTRÖM**

MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
THE KINGDOM OF
SWEDEN



When a team of Femmes d'Afrique magazine journalists met with Ms. Margot Wallström, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, they found a leader who showed a genuine interest in Africa's development. This was last year, during the 25th African Union Summit, in June, in Johannesburg, South Africa. She very much appreciated the summit: "Empowering African Women." She said: "using women's force to develop Africa should be applauded." The African Union had invited her to the summit, as a special

guest who participated to a panel discussion in which she presented Swedish and Nordic countries' experience in empowering women. "With Africans, Sweden can also share her social model: the labor market and engaging women for instance."

To many Africans, Sweden is a model of women empowerment. What will be your message during that panel discussion?

First of all, I will talk about girls. Despite ambitious targets the Beijing Declaration set, girls are still discriminated around

the world. This must stop. Girls and boys must have the same opportunities, in particular in education and health. Education is critical in becoming an active woman.

Secondly, I'll mention the reforms thanks to which women have acquired the position they have today in Sweden. For example, taxation on an individual basis rather than on the family one, and the dependency on husband the family basis implied. Child care policy is critical because women need to be sure that children are in good hands before they can go out for a job in the labor market.

Given your previous discussions with African leaders, do you think they are ready to listen to your message?

Yes, very definitely. African countries have progressed a lot in engaging women. For sure, there is still a lot to do. But significant changes happened this last decade. And African countries have set ambitious targets in its Agenda 2063. This is all the more remarkable because planning for 50 years is not commonplace. In Africa as in other parts of the world, women make up at least 50% of the population. There cannot be any lasting development or peace without women's participation.

Some decades ago, when Olof Palme was Swedish Prime Minister, Sweden was popular in Africa, in particular for her support of Africans' anti-colonial struggle. Then Sweden-Africa relations entered an extended period of decline. How do you explain this decline? How are you going to make Sweden popular again in Africa?

I represent the new Swedish government, formed less than a year ago. We have decided, from our social-democratic and green party's background, to re-engage with Africa, on a broad scale. We regret that was not the case in the past eight years. This re-engagement is also in Sweden's interest. Indeed, Sweden has moved from providing aid to becoming a trade partner with Africa. Of course, we will continue with aid and humanitarian actions, but we will also increase business partnership with Africa. We have old diplomatic contacts with Africa, and Swedish new government will rekindle them.



Could you give some specific areas of Sweden new government's re-engagement with Africa?

There is a platform of Nordic countries' ministries in charge of Africa. There are a number of

projects in which we will offer our experience. But of course, we also learn from African countries.

How, from Sweden, do you see the "Africa is rising" narrative?

"Africa is rising" is absolutely correct. Many African countries are growing, with excellent economic development achievements. This is positive. There is still the need to invest for instance, in infrastructure and renewable energy. This is also a chance for Sweden, for her trade. We should be able to reinforce economic links with a growing Africa, while keeping our political contact with that continent. What happens in Africa also affects us. Migration is a case.

«Africa is rising» is absolutely correct

As you talk about migration, what is Sweden's position on the migration issue?

Sweden has a long history of welcoming migrants and refugees, from Africa or from other places in the world. We will continue to do so. We have to avoid the situation whereby the Mediterranean sea becomes a grave instead of being a sea that connects Europe to Africa. We have to do more, in order to prevent conflict from escalating into wars. We have to fight poverty and provide young people with hope for the future. We must invest in the youth.

The European Union is envisaging to set up a military and naval force to fight migration across the Mediterranean sea. What is Sweden position on this issue?

The European Union is still discussing that issue. It hasn't taken any final decision yet. Sweden insists on the necessity of a legal base for any European military intervention. Beyond that, military intervention should be part of a whole package, because Europe also needs these migrants. In Sweden, we have Syrian refugees, but also youngsters from Eritrea, Somalia, Afghanistan, from Africa and the Middle-East. We need them; they contribute to our society. They enrich Sweden and other Nordic countries.

Related to Africa, Sweden is a very advanced industrial country. In what specific sector or area do you think Sweden should increase her relations with Africa?

Climate change, energy and environmental sectors. Investing



To African girls I say: «Get educated! Participate fully to your country's life»

in infrastructure is important. Sweden's universities and industries developed closed contacts, and this could help to present Sweden education system to our African partners. With Africans, Sweden can also share her social model: the labor market and engaging women for instance.

As you are insisting again on engaging with women, if you had one message to African girls, what would it be?

Get educated! Participate fully in your country's life. Engage also politically, to change your society.

FEMMES d'AFRIQUE Magazine



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3, Rue Bruxelles Appt.
N° 2 - Océan
Rabat - Maroc

www.femmesdafrique.com

samirat2008@gmail.com
santiacom3@gmail.com
Tel. : + 212 648 82 21 37

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Avenida Hassan II, (Frente del estadio de Malabo), Guinée-Équatoriale.

Tel. : 00240 333 09 03 13 - Email: anguedjang@hotmail.com