

THE POWER OF WOMEN IN CLIMATE ACTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

Honorable guests, esteemed colleague and friends, greetings everyone.

I'm so honored to stand before you to speak about the cross-cutting issue that touches our lives in our African communities and all over the world.

Let us hear the true stories and evidences of how the African women played a role and still do in climate action and peace building.

In Tanzania (mainland & Zanzibar), women have been engaging themselves in leading smart agricultural projects especially in Kilimanjaro and Iringa and environmental health conservation in the coasts in Zanzibar that aimed at protecting their communities from drought, hunger, loss of fertile soil and floods by planting drought-resistant crops, harvesting rain water and restoring mangroves along the coast of Indian ocean. This shows us that women are determined to rescue all of us from climate disasters and unsustainable development.

And here are concrete, Tanzania- based examples of women driving climate action and peace building. In Climate Action.

- Seaweed farmers famous known as Mwani Mamas in Zanzibar, these are the women whom have adopted to warming seas by adding values into useful end product such as soaps, oils and snacks and for medical purpose too hence sustaining livelihoods and coastal economies.
- Mangrove and coastal restoration – Tanga, women formed their own groups to run tree nurseries, restore mangroves and join Beach Management Units tying conservation to new incomes.

In Peacebuilding and conflict resolutions.

- Women , Peace and Security National Action Plan (WPS-NAP), Tanzania has moved to develop it's first WPS-NAP, with UN Women support meant to authorize women's role in prevention, mediation and recovery.
- Women mediators and civic networks, National groups like WiLDAF Tanzania train and mobilize women on governance, rights and community safety as a foundation for local conflicts resolution.

In Kenya, one great women in time the late Wangari Maaathai a noble peace prize winner practically addressed to the world that planting trees is not only the requirement of the environment but a tool to peace resolutions and through the Green Belt movement over 50 million trees were planted by women to address deforestation, empowering women particularly in rural areas and bring conflicts into an end over land and water.

In Uganda, women are the peace builders since they are solving the local conflicts caused by overgrazing and they turned to be optimistic over this situation and use it as an opportunity to come together and raise a voice and dedicate their efforts to save their land. This reminds us that

African women are the game changer in climate action and peacebuilding.

In our African continent, we are all witnesses on how the climate crisis brings heavy burden to women, like when there is drought, hunger and floods homes and families always separates and women are left alone fighting to rebuild again families and homes along with children. But these burdens could not stop African women to bring positive impacts in our communities and raise to their best and become innovators from clean cooking energy in Tanzania, to solar power projects in Senegal and sustainable farming in Ethiopia.

The truth upholds in peacebuilding too, where the researches of the world show us that it is inevitable for conflicts to still occur when a woman is included in the room and at the table of peace making and so if you need an eternal peace keep a woman at the table of conflict resolution as their wisdom heals, protects all and rebuild trust.

For the sake of this generation and the future generation we shouldn't ignore the close relationship between climate and peace, as chaos often occurs over land, water and food. And when women are given opportunities to lead these scarce resources become equally distributed and hence resolve the chaos before it erupt.

Therefore, if we are thirsty for climate justice lets empower women. If we are hunger for peace lets invest in women. If we are dreaming for greater Africa and a better world lets invite women in the room of opportunities, leading and resource management.

The power of women in climate action and peacebuilding is outstanding and incredibly visible from the evidences from some of our African communities. When women come together and act the Africa and the world become whole again.

Thank You.

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