



3rd nalafem
SUMMIT
 REPORT

1st July 2024

Windhoek, Namibia



THEME

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO LEAD

Since its inception in 2022, the Nalafem Summit has evolved into a key multi-track diplomacy space and one of the largest multigenerational platforms. It serves as an opportunity for African women leaders from politics and activism, to convene, share insights, exchange best practices, and cultivate collaborations between the public and civil society. Through a commitment to advocacy, accountability, innovation, and partnerships, the summit has been instrumental in accelerating the realization of gender commitments. Politicians, government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats, policy-makers, and activists gathered in Windhoek on 1st July 2023 to reflect on the theme of "Women's Right To Lead"

3rd nalafem SUMMIT

Co-hosted By



The **Government of Namibia** and **Nala Feminist Collective**



INAUGURAL NALAFEM SUMMIT & AWARDS

Abuja, Nigeria | 1 July 2022

153 participants | 27 speakers from 21 Countries
20 states in Nigeria

2ND NALAFEM SUMMIT & AWARDS

Nairobi, Kenya | 1st-2nd July 2023

219 participants | 52 speakers from 37 Countries
14 partners | 7 side events

32 speakers | 113 participants
35 countries | 430 online attendance

259 female | 171 Male

Age: 18-75 years

Partner
Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, Namibia



2 Billion Livestream viewers

nalafem.org



WOMEN'S RIGHT TO LEAD

OPENING

KEYNOTE

PATRON OF 3RD NALAFEM SUMMIT & GUEST OF HONOR:

H.E DR. NETUMBO NANDI NDAITWAH, VICE PRESIDENT OF NAMIBIA

MODERATOR: MENESIA MUINJO

Dr. Netumbo highlighted the importance of leading wherever one is. She recalled the milestone of women's right to vote in 1919 and noted the declining momentum in this regard. The UN General Assembly, often referred to as the world parliament, saw its first woman president in 1953. Despite this, societal support for women leaders has historically been limited. Today, however, women benefit from gender-friendly laws adopted by many countries. Dr. Netumbo urged women to redouble their efforts.



Reflecting on her leadership journey, Dr. Netumbo shared her experiences since joining the SWAPO party at the age of 14. She emphasised, "Do not adopt a negative attitude, you will learn a lot. You need to focus and be ready to learn in order to understand the world around you." She discussed Namibia's progress towards gender equality, crediting the political history of apartheid for shaping the country's inclusive policies. Women played significant roles in the political, military, and diplomatic campaigns. Post-independence, Dr. Netumbo stressed that Namibia cannot return to discrimination. The last Swapo congress established a quota ensuring a quarter of leadership positions for young people and a 50/50 gender split in the constitution. She called for collective effort to implement these programs for Namibia's prosperity.

On navigating party primaries, Dr. Netumbo advised, "Be in contact with all the party structures in order for them to realise what you can do. Be honest and sincere about party activities. Do things in the best interest of party members." Regarding the prospect of a woman president in Namibia, she acknowledged the challenges, noting that society has historically doubted women's leadership capabilities and women often face disempowering comments. However, she advocates for holistic and intergenerational leadership among women.

I have been working with youth, and I must tell you it is important to understand their needs and priorities. As a first generation of African leaders, I must hold the hand of younger ones. The Nalafem Summit is ideal for such intergenerational movements





It is wonderful to see how consistent the Nalafem Summit has grown since the organisation was started at the forefront of the Generation Equality Forum in Paris in 2021



The Summit can be a powerful catalyst for continued action and collaboration to ensure every girl and woman has the tools that she needs to succeed and thrive in the digital world and beyond it.



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H.E. AMINA MOHAMMED, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS



Only 32% of women and girls in Africa have access to the internet, for those who are connected the environment could be a hostile place. Approximately 73% of women have faced online violence, while women in leadership roles continue to face online threats.



AMB. SIMA BAHOUS, UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



When women exercise their rights and choices without harm, when women and girls are educated, economically empowered, then they grab that seat at the table and they shape the face of humanity



DR. NATALIA KANEM, UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





INTERGENERATIONAL PANELS



INTERSECTING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, GENDER AND RACIAL INEQUALITIES

HOW CAN WOMEN ACHIEVE FINANCIAL FREEDOM?



Moderator: Hon. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, (Botswana) Global economist and former Cabinet Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry in Botswana

In line with Demand One of Africa Young Women Beijing+25 Manifesto on Economic Justice, this panel explored the multifaceted and intersectional challenges women face in attaining financial freedom. By examining the intersections of social, economic, gender, and racial inequalities, the panel discussion uncovered systemic barriers and identified actionable strategies for empowering women.

TAKEAWAYS

1. Enabling Environment for Economic Empowerment: governments, businesses, and civil society must collaborate to create an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment to foster agency among women
2. Equality for Sustainable Growth recognizes the different leadership styles of men and women. Financial assistance, transparency, accountability, and stakeholder inclusion in policymaking are crucial elements for achieving this
3. Importance of Capacity Building and Data-driven policies are essential for informed decision-making in promoting women's economic empowerment.
4. Private Sector's Role in Promoting Equity; This includes efforts in recruitment, providing access to finance, financial literacy programs, and advocating for technological solutions that support digital financing. These efforts aim to ensure marginalized communities, especially women, have equal opportunities to achieve financial freedom.

“ It is not just about creating empowerment. It is about creating agency. ”



HON. BOGOLO JOY KENEWENDO

GLOBAL ECONOMIST AND FORMER CABINET MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN BOTSWANA



“ It is important to ensure fairness and equity in recruitment and be deliberate. ”



ERWIN TJIPUKA
CEO OF STANDARD BANK
NAMIBIA



“ In the framework of democracy within APRM, one needs to look at transparency & accountability predominantly because it is essential to address failures at national policy level. ”



DR. BETTY SCHROEDER
VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE APRM
NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL



“ Government, businesses, civil society, should create an Enabling environment for women economic empowerment. ”



DR. HANAN MORSY
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CHIEF ECONOMIST AT THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA



SAFETY FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS

HOW DO WE END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE?



Moderator: Rana Abdelhamid, (Egypt) Founder of Malikha & 2022 Congressional Candidate

In line with Demand Two of Africa Young Women Beijing+25 Manifesto on Criminalizing Gender Based Violence (GBV), this panel addressed the critical issue of violence against women in political spaces. The discussion emphasized the prevalence and impact of such violence, stressing the systemic barriers that perpetuate it. It redefined and centered a Pan-African feminist definition of safety and violence for women, drawing attention to online and offline violence and innovations to address them.

TAKEAWAYS

1. Prevalence of GBV: Two in three women globally face GBV, with publicly visible women being especially targeted.
2. Women's safety is crucial for their participation in politics. Low self-esteem and lack of rights are significant barriers that need to be addressed.
3. Need for Mentorship and Education: learning from experienced women leaders are essential for empowering younger women and fostering their participation in leadership roles.
4. Support and Positive Interventions: such as police public relations committees and community engagement. There needs to be a concerted effort to support women in seeking justice and reporting violence.

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ERWIN TJIPUKA
CEO OF STANDARD BANK NAMIBIA



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DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
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In the framework of democracy within APRM, one needs to look at transparency & accountability predominantly because it is essential to address failures at national policy level



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