

CWP AFRICA REGION CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Hon. Madina Ndagiza – CWP Africa Region Chairperson

The International Women Day as a special day dedicated to celebrating the socio-economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, has helped to accelerate actions for gender parity.

The 2024 Women Day is commemorated around the theme “**Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress**”. This is an apt and timely call to speed up deliberate actions to empower women for greater participation in socio-economic and political activities. On this auspicious occasion, we reflect and celebrate the remarkable achievements of women worldwide while acknowledging the work that still lies ahead to achieve true gender equality and women’s inclusion in all aspects of our regional development.

Investing in women is not just a moral imperative; it is a deliberate decision that accelerates progress across all sectors of society. When we invest in women, we invest in the future. We invest in stronger economies, healthier communities, and more vibrant societies.

In achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, there must be a commitment to adequate funding, removal of socio-cultural barriers, political liberation, and access to land and credit facilities to all, irrespective of gender.

Empowering women economically, is crucial to unlocking their full potentials. By providing women with access to education, training, and

economic opportunities, we enable them to become active participants in their own success stories. When women thrive, families thrive, communities thrive, and nations thrive.

However, investing in women goes beyond economic empowerment. It involves ensuring equal access to healthcare, ending gender-based violence, promoting women leadership and political participation, and reducing barriers that hinder women progress.

Today, let us reaffirm our commitment to inspiring women and girls at all levels. Let us create conducive inclusive environments that accommodate women, value, and respect them, and give them equal opportunities to contribute their talents and ideas. Let us address the issue of stereotypes, and other barriers, and advocate for better policies that promote gender equality.

As we celebrate the achievements of women around the world, let us also recognize the importance of inter-sectionalism. We must ensure that our efforts to empower women are inclusive of all women, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

It has been evident that women's parliamentary caucuses supported by a visionary leadership and political will can amplify women's voices for influence and thereby, allow women parliamentarians to be united and foster gender equality legislation and policy agendas. Parliamentary Caucus, has indeed proved to be an influential governance body which mobilizes male counterparts to work hand in hand to influence gender progressive legislations and position the gender agenda in our national Parliaments.

In conclusion, we need to remember that inspiring and investing in women is not just the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do. As we make an effort towards a more just and equitable world, let us harness the power of women potential to accelerate progress and create a brighter future for all.

Thank you.