The sustainable development goals (SDGs) aim to address the root causes of poverty, and underline the universal need for an inclusive and resilient development. Investing in gender equality and women’s empowerment in policies and programmes are pre-requisites for effective delivery of the SDGs.

The concept of ‘resilience’ is becoming increasingly utilized in development programming. It is commonly understood to encompass a broad-based multi-sectoral development that includes the many ways in which individuals (men and women, boys and girls) and livelihood systems mitigate, adapt, recover, and learn from shocks and stresses; the longer-term goal being to reduce vulnerability and increase well-being. In the context of development, ‘resilience’ hence bridges humanitarian responses and longer-term development. The frequent exposure to multiple and interlinked resilience challenges, slows down development progress and threaten sustainability of programmatic interventions.

In light of this, UN Women, in partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), together with FAO, GROOTS Kenya, IFAD, IOM, SEI, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNISDR, WFP and other partners proposes to hold a regional Sharefair on Gender and Resilience with the theme of ‘Strengthening Resilience by Empowering Women’. The sharing and learning event will provide opportunity to further explore the role of women in building and strengthening resilience and promote dialogue and sharing of experiences on gender-responsive resilience-related programmes and policies in Africa to accelerate development and humanitarian response and the overall achievement of the SDGs.

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**Call for Innovations:** Innovators across Africa are invited to showcase cutting edge innovations, including social innovations that best provide solutions on how women and their communities can build and strengthen resilience through resilient technologies and associated innovative strategies, projects, interventions and methods, to be brought to scale. The innovations can be at pilot level, medium or advanced and should strengthen women’s and girls’ capacities to mitigate, adapt, recover, and learn from shocks and stresses while achieving the longer-term goal to reduce vulnerability and increase well-being of women and their communities.

**The selection process:** All submissions will be judged by an independent and credible external panel of experts with strong resilience programming experience. The winning innovator will receive full sponsorship to attend the Sharefair in Nairobi. Out of the innovations received, approximately 15 strong innovations across Africa will be selected and exhibited during the Sharefair. An online catalogue of all innovations received will be created.

Innovators from the HoA (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) are particularly strongly encouraged to apply.

**Who can apply:** The applicants will be individuals or institution’s from: Government departments and institutions, or agencies; Multilateral Agencies; Non-governmental organizations (NGOs); Community-based organizations (CBOs); Private Sector; Research and academic institutions; Media and Public or Private Foundations and UN Agencies.

**How to apply:** The applicant should submit their application using the guidance below, and submit through the email jack.abebe@unwomen.org with a copy to flavia.ciribello@unwomen.org by 16th October, 2016.

CALL FOR INNOVATIONS: Application Guidelines

The applicants are required to limit the page to a maximum of 3 in single spaced, 12-point font and share a high resolution picture showcasing your initiative/innovation. These could include photos from your field work or generated from your beneficiaries and staff working in the intervention. We seek for photos showing real socio-economic impact in the lives of women and girls in Africa.

Applications must include the following:

1) **Cover page:** Organization name, country, address and contact information (telephone and email); Innovations title, high resolution picture, and focus geography.

2) **Section A:** Context. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the context and challenges, with a strong gender lens, to justify the design of the innovations and the problem being addressed.

3) **Section B:** Objective and methodology of the innovation.

4) **Section C:** Description of the innovation. The description needs to be outlined in such that it responds to the listed guidelines.

   a) **Relevance to the Gender and Resilience concept?**
   - Is the innovation suitable for women’s needs?
   - How does the innovation strengthen women’s and girls’ capacities to mitigate, adapt, recover, and learn from shocks and stresses?

   b) **Originality of the innovation:**
   - Is it a new concept or a variation of an existing idea?
   - Is it unique to the specified area or adapted from elsewhere?

   c) **Impact of the innovation:**
   - Has it or will it make a fundamental positive change or simply a minor adjustment on women’s life?
   - Has it or will its impact be on multiple operational areas or just one specific area?
   - What’s the number of women and girls who have been or will benefit from the innovation? And how? (please include qualitative and quantitative information)

   d) **Sustainability of the initiative/innovation:**
   - Does the innovation lead to long lasting impact on economic empowerment?
   - Can the development approach be applied to similar problems/opportunities?
   - Is the innovation ecologically friendly?
   - Is the innovation socially sustainable?
   - Will it be cost-effective to implement?

   e) **Applicability:**
   - Has this innovation improved or has the potential to uplift the livelihood and living standards of women and girls?
   - How have others learnt or benefited from the initiative?

   f) **Replicability**
   - Is the innovation made by using locally available inputs?
   - Is this innovation easy to replicate and has the capacity to be scaled up in different contexts?

With a strong gender focus and lens and with particular attention to gender needs, the innovations should fit at least one of the following resilience dimensions:

1. Environment and Natural Resource Management
   1.1 Water resources development and management
   1.2 Pasture and land management
   1.3 Securing equal access to natural resources
   1.4 Environmental management (including renewable energy and bio-diversity)
   1.5. Strengthening pollution control in the region.

2. Market Access, Trade and Financial Services
   2.1. Transport, mobility and market development
   2.2. Securing livestock mobility
   2.3. Securing financial transaction
   2.4. Trans-boundary disease control & SPS measures and standards

3. Livelihood Support and Basic Social Services
   3.1. Livestock production & health
   3.2. Agriculture production and productivity
   3.3 Fisheries development
   3.4 Income diversification
   3.5 Productive and social safety nets
   3.6 Equal access to basic social services (nutrition, education, health, water sanitation)

4. Pastoral Disaster Risk Management, Preparedness and Effective Response
   4.1 Early warning response
   4.2 Climate monitoring and climate change
   4.3. Mapping of pastoral movements and drought events occurrence

5. Research and Knowledge Management and Technology Transfer
   5.1 Support to applied / adaptive research
   5.2 Advisory and extension services / systems
   5.3 Knowledge management and communication
   5.4. Promote the network of national and regional dryland collaborative, adaptive and applied research centres.

6. Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Peace building
   6.1 Conflict resolution
   6.2 Peace building and mediation mechanisms
   6.3. Conflict Early Warning and Response Network at national and Africa wide level.

7. Coordination, institutional strengthening, partnerships and resource mobilisation
   7.1 Coordination and Platform management,
   7.2 Institutional mechanisms
   7.3 Partnerships
   7.4. Ensure gender mainstreaming agenda and empowerment