Extraction of oil, gas and minerals in Africa is driving immense economic and social development and could drastically reduce poverty levels on the continent. Women in the Extractive Industries (EI) play a major role in contributing to the economy and to company performance, yet they are not equitably benefiting from the EI sector due to barriers such as exclusion from the extractive value chain and limited capacity to capture productive opportunities within the EI. These issues exacerbate gender gaps that inhibit women’s access to resources and resource-related opportunities. However, effective partnerships between the private sector and governments to foster gender-responsive approaches can address these issues and bring women to the centre of the EI sector.

UN Women in collaboration with its key partners will host a Regional Sharefair on gender equality in the Extractive Industries to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector to discuss and share gender issues that must be addressed when managing natural resource development.

The event comes at an opportune time as several African countries are developing their extractive policies creating an opportunity to learn from different African countries and to interact with women working directly in the EI. In addition, the African Union has declared 2015 the Year of Women’s Economic Empowerment, providing a strong initiative for integrating gender equality into a traditionally male-dominated sector to bring greater benefits for all.

During the Sharefair, booths will be allocated to partners to exhibit their work and best practices. Those interested are invited to send in their proposals by email to valery.awuor@unwomen.org by 30th September 2015 to receive exhibition guidelines.
Key Themes
1) Unpack the issues and opportunities for women IN and IMPACTED by the EI
2) EI policy: inclusive policy frameworks to achieve micro and macro benefits for all
3) Exchange of knowledge on gender issues in the EI
4) Network platform for the business community to explore partnership opportunities with women in the extractive business

Objectives
• Multi-stakeholder dialogue with government, civil society, and private sector to raise awareness on how to benefit from gender equality in the EI
• Expanding the evidence base towards a gender-inclusive extractive sector
• Solution oriented south-south collaboration: sharing best practices for creating a gender-inclusive EI
• Network, mentor and create business/knowledge exchange opportunities for women in the EI
• Development of a forward-looking communiqué for gender equality in the EI in Africa

Outline of Events

October 13
• Presentations by women in and affected by the EI
• Practical and interactive skill-building and mentorship sessions

October 14
• Assessing EI policies surrounding gender equity
• Panel discussions, case studies and presentations on high-level policy issues

October 15
• Breakout sessions on gender issues in the EI (eg. best practices, research and personal experiences)
• Formulation of a communiqué to pave future initiatives
### CONVENING PARTNERS
- UN Women
- African Union

### FUNDING PARTNERS
- Australian High Commission
- UNECA/AMDC
- UN Development Programme
- European Union
- International Alert
- Cordaid
- Gulf African Bank
- Kenya Airways
- Friends of Lake Turkana

### COLLABORATING PARTNERS
- Action Aid Kenya
- Equity Bank
- International Organization for Migration
- Strathmore Extractives Industry Centre
- African Women in Mining Association
- GDC/GIZ Health Sector Program
- Kenya Chamber of Mines
- Tullow Oil
- Aga Khan University
- Gemmological Institute of America
- UN Office of the Special Envoy of Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region
- UNEP
- Anadarko
- GROOTS Kenya
- UN Global Compact
- Canadian Cooperation
- IEA Kenya
- Oxfam
- World Bank
- Econews Africa
- Institute for Human Rights and Business
- Publish What You Pay
- WTV

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