NBD’s REGIONAL Nile Women’s Network
Presents Episode 3 of the...
“WATERING WOMEN”
WEBINAR SERIES
Sub theme: Women and Climate Actions
Thursday 14th September 2023
3:00 pm-Nairobi (GMT+3)
TOPIC:

“SOLUTIONS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES & INDIGENOUS WOMEN TO ENHANCE PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE POLICY & ACTION”.

Speaker: Ms. NIYONZIMA Nadine
Indigenous peoples number more than 370 million people living in some 70 countries, mostly developing countries, and are enormously affected by poverty.

- In Burundi, indigenous peoples represent, according to estimates, 1% of the Burundian population and they are very poor. Poverty against indigenous peoples is more widespread compared to other social levels in Burundi.

- There are several factors that explain this poverty, the main ones being: discrimination and marginalization, accompanied by a mortality rate that is increasing exponentially.

- For example, the majority of indigenous peoples live in indecent houses and in which poor conditions and bad weather threaten the health, especially that of the most vulnerable such as small children, the elderly or pregnant women.

- Women and girls from indigenous communities are particularly vulnerable to the precarious living conditions that are generally observed in these communities, and in particular they are victims of climate change that destroys their livelihood as land in need, indigenous women and girls are at the forefront of emergencies caused by the climate crisis, pollution, desertification and biodiversity loss associated with their way of life.
04 September the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender visited the indigenous of the Ntamba zone in Musigati commune, Bubanza province.
The indigenous peoples live in deplorable conditions under straw huts and in landlocked.
Context in which Aboriginal women live

Around the world and in Burundi in particular, indigenous women are at the level of struggles for the recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples and the advancement of their rights as women of local communities.

Despite all multiple challenges, they continue to work, to make their voices heard at the local, national and international levels, including through the creation of their own organizations and networks and in collaboration with other social movements.

This is particularly the case of women's organizations and trade unions, in order to defend their demands and priorities in the massive participation in the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change.
Indigenous Women's Group for Sustainable Development
Involvement of indigenous people in the management of the nature reserve and small trades
While important progress has been made, obstacles to their organization and participation in decision-making processes persist. Although still to be measured, the negative impact on indigenous women's participation clearly creates new barriers to women's struggle for participation and equality.
Barriers to the integration of indigenous women in the fight against climate change

There are several barriers to Indigenous women's participation in the fight against climate change. Some are physical and some are not.

Physical barriers include environmental and economic conditions, including financial dependence on people, poverty, lack of infrastructure and essential services, there is also the lack of access to financial support for indigenous women's organizations; lack of suitable meeting venues; limited access to information and poor communication networks.

Psychological barriers include lack of knowledge about their rights and applicable customary and legislative frameworks; the limited skills and abilities of Aboriginal women.

For example, in language and politics, as well as coaching and negotiation, and unfortunate access to formal education for indigenous women; Their fear of transgressing social and cultural rules, of speaking out in public, as well as their lack of interest or motivation, are very important limits to their real integration.
Lack of access to formal education for indigenous peoples, including women in the local community
Obstacles (continued)

Other barriers include prevailing gender norms, the current gender role distribution and the extreme poverty in which indigenous women and their local communities live.

There are also gender-based norms and roles, discrimination, violence and harassment, lack of support from public authorities, limited political participation and lack of solidarity are among the social barriers that hinder the participation and organization of Indigenous women.
Environnemental and economic situation

- Financial dependence on men: Most Aboriginal women do not have access to sources of income. They depend mainly on their spouses, who themselves do not have much means because of the marginalization suffered by the entire indigenous community.

- Poverty and lack of infrastructure and essential services: In the context of Burundi, indigenous communities are isolated from the rest of society. Their members live in autarky, far from the infrastructure and services enjoyed by other communities such as schools, health centers, administrative offices, etc.

- This meaningfully limits the access that indigenous people in general and women in particular can have to the means to improve their living conditions.
Physical meeting venues

Lack of adequate meeting places: Due to poverty and marginalization, indigenous women lack a physical space adapted to their needs and to allow them to flourish. For example, they lack adequate toilets equipped with washbasins, toilets and the necessary equipment. Once, during a meeting, indigenous women said that the meeting space they used did not have separate toilets for women or access to clean water.

Distance to meeting places: The distances women have to travel to get to meeting places are very long. This at the same time limits the number of participants and motivation.
Another physical barrier to indigenous women's participation and organization may be their limited access to useful information and their sometimes fragile communication networks.

For example, indigenous women identified their lack of access to relevant information as an additional barrier.
Psychological barriers

Psychological barriers to indigenous women's participation and organization were classified into three subtypes: awareness and knowledge; skills and competencies; emotions and motivation.
III. Solutions to consider

- DEMONSTRATE determination in how they seek to achieve gender parity in local, national and international climate policies and decision-making roles.

- BE able to inspire best practices in other sectors, countries or companies where the empowerment of women and girls has advanced and concrete measures have been put in place.

- BALANCING gender in national delegations and in national climate policies and actions.
III. Solutions to consider

- ENCOURAGE women and girls to make invaluable contributions to and benefit from climate action.
- CALL ON indigenous communities and women to participate fully, equally and meaningfully in the international climate process and to ensure a leading role for women in decision-making and climate action.
- Maintaining and protecting forest resources
- Promote the active participation of local communities and indigenous women in community management and forest heritage development through agroforestry
III. Solutions to consider

- MAINSTREAM gender in different priority sectors of their National Climate Action Plans.
- PUT in place gender action plans adopted by governments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that call for women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the international climate process.
- GROWING a leading role for women in decision-making and climate action
To improve the participation of local communities and indigenous women in climate policy and action, it is necessary to:

➢ To support the establishment and functioning of indigenous women's organizations and networks, and to facilitate the exchange of experiences among them, by providing them with appropriate meeting facilities and support services as appropriate.

➢ Support indigenous women's access to communication technologies and promote skills for climate policy and action

➢ To encourage opportunities for exchange of experiences and mutual learning between local community and indigenous women's organizations, with a view to jointly identifying barriers, opportunities and strategies for mutual assistance.

➢ To foster dialogue and collaboration between indigenous women, on the one hand, and trade unions and organizations, on the other, with a view to finding solutions to the problems that indigenous women currently face in improving their participation in climate policy and action,
➢ To promote the participation of indigenous women in the executive committees and thematic commissions of organizations such as indigenous peoples' organizations, trade unions and organizations,

➢ To strengthen the capacities of indigenous men and women and their traditional leaders with regard to the rights of local communities and indigenous women, international standards and applicable national legislation;

➢ Ensure indigenous women's access to information on policy and action processes To ensure indigenous women's access to information on climate policy and action processes and the rules that govern them, with a view to encouraging their participation, and to provide them with technical assistance and training so that they acquire skills in the fight against climate change and environmental.
Thank you for your kind attention
God bless you!!!!!!!!!!!

Vice chairperson in NBD’s REGIONAL Nile Women’s Network

Ms. NIYONZIMA Nadine
Biography

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Niyonzima Nadine has a degree in Economics in the option of Administration and Business Management, graduated from the Universities of the Grand-Lacs in 2017. Specialized in the Management of organizations and economic management. She worked with ABDE (Burundian Association for Development and Entrepreneurship) as a teacher 2014-2015 then director of the nursery school, fundamental and fundamental post 2015-2019. In 2020, she joined a well-known company ABC (Agro Business Company as Managing Director of the company until today. She is also executive secretary of the association "COFORME-services) which provides consultancy in the field of water, protection of the land and maritime environment, training in diving under -marine, search and rescue in the lakes and in-depth discoveries. She joined the Burundian Forum of Civil Society of the Nile Basin and plays the role of secretary of the National Committee of a network of Burundian Nile women and Vice chairperson in NBD’s REGIONAL Nile Women’s Network.