



COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



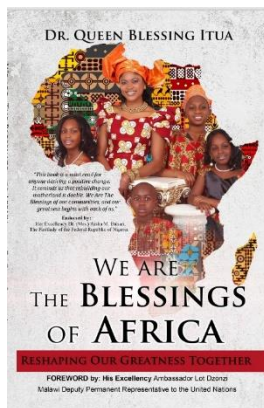
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development



#CSocD #SDGs #GlobalGoals WEBSITE: social.un.org/csocd

Global Empowerment Movement (GEM) Hosts The 57th Session of The Commission for Social Development Side Event VENUE: United Nations Building, United Nations Headquarters, New York

DATE: 21 February 2019 TIME: 9:45 am – 11:00 am ROOM: Conference Rm 12



CONCEPT NOTE

**Theme: Activating and Strengthening Women
Empowerment through Economic and Social
Inclusion: Empowerment as a Link to Poverty Eradication
and Sustainable Development**

#GEMCSocD57 #GEMUNPovertyEradication

#WomenYouthEmpowerment #GEMHumanTraffickingEradication

**We Are the Blessings of Africa Book Presentation
And Esteem Panel Discussion**

1. Background

Although human trafficking, increased crime rates; kidnapping; ritual killing; women exploitation through sex trade; labor exploitation; domestic work enslavement, and drug abuse are global phenomena, in recent years, the unprecedented upsurge in the number of vibrant Africans, young men, women, and youths take to the desert route en-route Europe in a blind search for the proverbial “Greener Pastures” have been blamed on the extreme poverty in Africa and imbalance in the African economy. Of the many people that risks their lives to embark on the perilous journey of better lives, a very few have been successful in making it through the very harsh conditions the desert presents, while several uncountable have met their untimely end in the hands of the harsh elements or from unsavory abuse of being sold into modern day slavery, farm workers, false enslavement, or *seized by the cold hands of the Mediterranean Sea*. This dare devil craze for Africans migration to Europe and to other Countries has been further heightened by poverty and continuous lack of the required enabling environment for these women and youths to engage themselves in viable and productive activities.

Extreme poverty in Africa and the lack of equal access to productive resources and opportunities have been blamed for putting many young and vibrant Africans, especially the poor in a more vulnerable position to many societal ills, including human trafficking and the perilous journey through the Mediterranean Sea. Our future and the future generation are at stake if we do

nothing to develop the young men and women and the motherland. There is a critical sense of urgency on correcting poverty.

2. Poverty Eradication Via Women and Youths Economic & Equality Empowerment is the key to Curbing Human Trafficking and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The world leaders unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015. Ending poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, everywhere, is at the center of the 2030 Development Agenda, set out in the very first of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda embodies a vision of a shared future and of societies that are inclusive, just and equitable, and that offer equal opportunities for all to fulfil their full potential in life. Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that lie at the heart of this Agenda is Goal 10, which seeks to combat inequality within and among countries. The ambitious 2030 Agenda underscores that addressing inequality in all its dimensions is critical to making economic growth more inclusive and sustainable and is essential for human trafficking prevention and eradicating poverty, ensuring shared prosperity, advancing social progress and achieving sustainable development for all.

Despite the huge Blessings of gender equality, the gender and economic disparity and exclusion are a huge issue. For example, research shows that women are more likely to be poor, unemployed, and doing unpaid work. In 2017, global unemployment rates for men and women stood at 5.5 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively. This is projected to remain relatively unchanged going into 2018 and through 2021 (International Labour Organization (ILO), World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends for Women 2018: Global Snapshot (Geneva, 2018). Available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_619577.pdf)

As clearly indicated in the book “We Are the Blessings of Africa, Reshaping Our Greatness Together,” *Africa is richly blessed with natural resources and her people – ‘her blessing, Africa should not be poor.’ The key to Africa’s greatness lies within ‘her blessings.’ ‘We (male and female) Are the Blessings of Africa’ and change begins with each one of us.*

The gender and economic disparity and exclusion are a global issue. Like other continents, Africa needs to tackle the challenges to social inclusion, especially discrimination, disadvantages and multiple barriers faced by people in vulnerable situations and rural communities, if we must be able to eradicate poverty – the common root of human trafficking, etc. we must include all, and leave no one behind.

“We firmly believe that to find effective approaches to ending poverty, those experiencing it must have a seat at the table and be given tools to empower themselves and participate fully,” said the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador King.

To effectively eradicate poverty, which is the common root of Africa Human Trafficking, it is important that Africa invest and empower her blessings, male and female equally, especially poor men, women, and youths,

Women & Youths Economic and Equality Empowerment: The keys to Curbing Human Trafficking, Eradicating Poverty, and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Africa must therefore Activate and Strengthen Women Empowerment through Economic and Social Inclusion: Empowerment as a Link to Poverty Eradication, Human Trafficking, and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and urgently

- Address the challenges and barriers surrounding poverty, economic and gender equality, education, inclusiveness by investing in ‘her blessings.’
- **Empower the poor** to seat at the table and be given tools to empower themselves and participate fully to work on eradicating poverty and human trafficking
- **Activate and strengthen the ‘Blessings of Africa’** - *male and female of all ages, class, color, ability, especially the poor, marginalized, and disabled among us, leaving no one behind.*
- **Invest in the youths (young men and women)** education, gender and economic equality empowerment
- **Invest in women economic equality** because a growing body of research and experience show that the economic empowerment of women is foundational to poverty alleviation, economic growth, and overall sustainable development.

3. Objectives

The aim of the side event is to highlight how Women and Youth inclusiveness, Economic and Equality Empowerment are the keys to Eradicate Poverty, Curb Human Trafficking, and Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

The side event discussion will address the following critical areas:

Economic empowerment of the marginalized poor people, challenges to social inclusion, the effect of women and youth economic empowerment, and gender inequality on poverty in Africa. Poverty is the common root of Africa human trafficking, abuse of women, victimization of the vulnerable and the marginalized people in need.

In addition, the side event will explore ways we can strengthen empowerment through economic, education, political, fiscal, social inclusion, social protection policies because strengthening women and youth economic empowerment to be agents of change is the prerequisite for poverty eradication and the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The side event discussion will also

- Address the challenges and barriers surrounding economic equality and poverty
- Emphasize the importance of woman and youth economic equality and inclusion empowerment as critical keys to addressing poverty, human trafficking, and many of the social ills that we see in our community today.
- *Call for a concerted effort of investing on ALL Africa Blessings, both male and female full potential equally; leaving no one behind on the journey of poverty eradication, human trafficking intervention, and sustainable development pursuit.*

FACILITATOR

Dr. Queen Blessing Itua

United Nations Representative /Executive President, Global Empowerment Movement

Recipient of the President Obama Lifetime Achievement Award

Author of “We Are the Blessings of Africa, Reshaping Our Greatness Together”

<https://drqueenblessing.com/author/>

CHAIR

H.E. Ambassador Samson Iteboje, Deputy Permanent Representative,
Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations

MODERATOR

Minister Alexander Temitope Ajayi, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations

PANELISTS

- **H.E. Ambassador Lot Dzonzi**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of Malawi to the United Nations
- **H.E. Ambassador Fatima K. Mohammed**, Permanent Observer, Mission of the African Union to the United Nations
- **Commissioner Vivian Angelia Thomas**, District 4, Henry County, Georgia State
- **Dr. Dilshad Dayani**, Professor Columbia University, Founder Lead 2 Empower, Advocate, Broadcast Journalist, Author & Social Impact Strategist
- **Dr. Deloise Blakely, Queen Mother**, Ambassador of Goodwill to Africa and the Community Mayor of Harlem, President, New Future Foundation
- **Rev. Simon Bisong A.** Senior Pastor, AGCC Global President / Founder, African Prayer Summit
- **Dr. Macaulay Kalu**, Chair, African Union Sixth Region, Canada

4. Guiding Questions (Answers with Africa Focus)

1. How can we achieve women and youth education and economic empowerment for poverty eradication? (*Ambassador Lot*)
2. How can we achieve gender equality for poverty eradication? (*Ambassador Fatima*)
3. How can we achieve women empowerment through political, fiscal, and social protection policies? (*Commissioner Vivian*)
4. How can we curb human trafficking, modern-day enslavement, abuse, and victimization? (*Dr. Dayani*)
5. What is the role of individuals in addressing poverty eradication? (*Dr. Deloise Blakely, Queen Mother*)
6. How can countries and leaders lead Economic and Equality Empowerment to ensure equal access to productive resources, opportunities and basic services? (*Rev Bisong*)
7. How can we achieve inclusiveness, leaving no one behind for sustainable development in Africa? (*Dr. Kalu*)

5. Structure of the Panel Discussion, and Interactive Dialogue

In segment one – The Moderator will introduce the panelists. The GEM Executive President, the host of the 57th Commission for Social Development Global Empowerment Movement side event will give opening remarks, present the book: *We are the Blessings of Africa, Reshaping Our Greatness Together*” and read excerpts in context-setting.

The Event Chair will make his Remarks, and t

In segment two - Panel discussion to address a wide array of empowerment initiatives including addressing and removing gender inequality Inequalities for equitable society and strengthening women’s rights. The Moderator will invite the panelists to make 4 minutes presentations (addressing the guiding questions). *Panelists are expected to structure their presentations around the theme: “Women & Youths Economic and Equality Empowerment: The keys to Curbing Human Trafficking, Eradicating Poverty, and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”* The panelists will present responses to the guiding questions and make recommendations from their research; allotted time is 4 minutes each, plus additional 2 minutes of closing remarks for a total of 6 minutes per panelist.

Following panelist presentations, the moderator will **open the floor for interactive dialogue and invite questions to the panelists directly related to the presentations from the floor**. After a short question and answer session, the guest participants will make their 2 minutes remarks, panelists will make 2 minutes concluding remarks, a 2 minutes closing remarks, and Event Facilitator a thank you closing remarks.

6. Time: 9:45am – 11:00am; Total Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes

The time allocation for the interactive discussion is as follows:

Speaker	Suggested Speaking Time
Moderator: Introduction of Event Chair/Panelists	4 minutes
Facilitator/GEM Executive President: Opening Remarks-Blessings of Africa Book Presentation & Context-Setting	4 minutes
Event Chair/: Remarks	3 minutes
Panelists (7): Presentations @ 4 minutes per panelist	28 minutes
Interactive Open Dialogue - Questions for the Panelists, and comments from the audience	10 minutes
Guests Remarks (5 participants @ 2 minutes each)	10 minutes
Concluding remarks by panelists 2 minutes per panelist	14 minutes
Closing Remarks/Vote of Thanks	2 minutes

7. Outcomes

The outcomes or recommendations of the discussions will be reflected in the GEM Executive Chair’s summary, which will also serve as an archive of GEM event. The Commission for Social Development to the ECOSOC will also use these summaries in a report on CSocD57 in the 2019 High-Level Forum from 9 to 18 July 2019, a three-day ministerial segment to be convened under the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.”

For More Information, Please Visit

<https://www.globalempowermentmovement.org/united-nations-events/>