



62nd Session of the UN Committee on the Status of Women 2018 -
 Inclusiveness of rural women’s decisions must be made by rural women, not for them!

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Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/S AC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA’s work is based on 3 programmes:

“JUST KNOW” Campaign emphasizes” MA YEM, MA BO”:

- Knowledge of one’s body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

“Health before Wealth” Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicin

“Women’s economic autonomy” through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was established in 1946 to promote women’s rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. It meets in March of each year in New York, and African Action on AIDS has been represented since 2003, the year it acquired its consultative status with the UN.

One important aspect of the CSW annual meeting is its capacity to convene leaders from governments, non-profits, philanthropies, corporations to explore emerging trends for a common purpose: Elevation of the status of women worldwide! In this capacity, it has become a global learning space for all.

The CSW 62 consultation Day was held at the UN head quarters in New York, March 11, 2018. One of our AAA New York representatives attended. The main theme was: “Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of the Rural Women and GIs”. The key idea being that, the inclusiveness of rural women’s decisions must be made by rural women, not for them. Two complementary activities helped to raise issues (1) and celebrate an African rural woman (2):

- 1) The new film: “Woman” by Yann Arthus Bertrand & Anastasia Mikova (available on YouTube) presented wonderful photography and some statistics including:
 - Women represent 70% of living below the poverty line
 - Women reinvest 90 % in their families, men only 30 to 40 %
 - 2/3 of the 900 million illiterate adults are women
 - In countries with equal access to education the women do better than men
 - 10% of countries have a female head of state



- 2) The key note speaker of the event this year was: Sizani Ngubene, awardee of the Women of Distinction Award. She is the Founder of Rural Women’s Movement (RWM), South Africa. Sizani did not receive a formal education, but took it upon herself to become educated. As a very young girl she listened to the radio and was enraged about issues, she told her mother that she must travel to ALL of Africa to teach women to have a voice and speak out. In 1990 Sizani founded the RWM, which later became the National Movement of Rural Women (NMRW). Sizani encouraged women to be elected to land councils, and to speak out. RWM has currently worked with 450 women who increased their income and 750 rural women have become”better organized and mobilized to effectively lobby against and tackle legislation policies and practices that discriminate against women’s socio-economic and cultural well-being.

Her recommendation: Ask for help when you need it and know we cannot achieve our dreams alone. We need a community! For more information consult: Websites: www.ngocsw.org; www.social.org.br

Huguette Streuli, Representative of African Action on AIDS to the United Nations, New York, N.Y.



HAPPY MOTHERS’ DAY!

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