



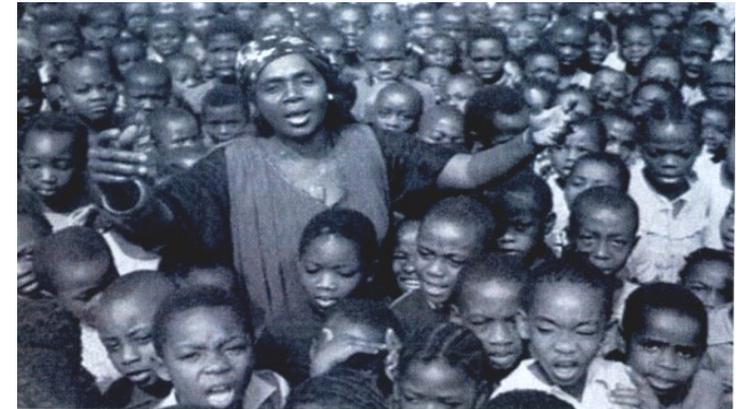
## International Women’s Day 2022: Equality as Full Participation of Women and Men

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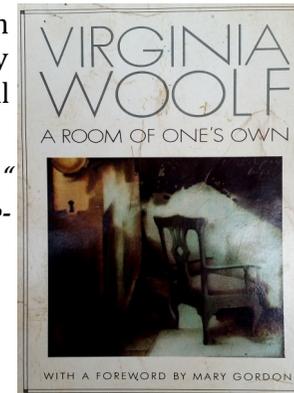
*Equality that is perceived as SAMENESS makes no sense. It’s contrary to nature. Both Men and Women have strengths and limitations. Why then should women not be recognized for their many strengths or trade them to acquire others that do NOT suit their natural abilities? Many of these strengths are very useful under the concept of equality and providing for the whole. Before finding solutions, We simply need to fully understand some of the differences between men and women. For example, women typically link work, life and caring, whereas most men typically link work and Power! To paraphrase, Albert Einstein, “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid”. Not recognizing and understanding those differences leads to this type of reasoning and outcome. We must work with what each group does best. This is the foundation for equality.*

Real efforts towards full participation of Women and Men in any society must be rooted on the basic philosophy of the said society. In traditional Africa, community growth and development is rooted on Solidarity - to be transmitted by men and women from one generation to another. Expressions like “ A single hand cannot tie a parcel, or “ the scaffolding poles hold on to one another...” reaffirm that each must be strong together for them to last! Society must ensure that men and women bring strength in whatever they do... Neither of which is Superior or Inferior, rather pooling individual strengths to boost up the whole.

\* In 1984, the famous Song “LIBERTÉ”, by our beloved **Anne Marie NDZIÉ**, called for Freedom, not only in Cameroon but the world. This cry boosted her individual career and leadership. It rallied and energized her entire country and the world to stand up and sing with her (see pic ). In the End, She was elevated to National Grand Motherhood...The “MBÔMBÔ Nationale “, “The National Grand Mother.”



\* **Wangari Muta Maathai** the African Giant, launched and carried the Environmental Protection through her Green Belt Movement for a whole life and she became a Nobel Prize winner. AAA honored her, by modestly digging a Water Well in a rural school where water had gone dry: the “MBÔMBÔ Wangari well “ (see pic )



\*Virginia Woolf, a century before the “ Me Too Movement ” , in her great book “A Room of One’s OWN “ insisted that a woman must secure money and a ROOM of her own, in case she is repudiated or becomes a lifelong Beggar...

**INTERNATIONAL Women’s Day !**  
A day to serve as a booster of Women’s existing Talents and Leadership.

Ruth Bamela Engo, **President AAA**

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