



**MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR ANALPHABETIC WOMEN - More so if they use only local languages**

*The 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status Women, New York, 14 – 25 March 2022.*

Your contributions keep us going! Please send a tax-exempt check payable to one of African Action on AIDS' addresses below

Session virtually attended: The theme of this year's 66<sup>th</sup> session was “**climate change and environment disaster risk reduction.**”

**SIDE EVENTS:** In all there were some 600 side events including,

1) Feminist solutions for the environmental and climate crisis; 2) Climate justice for women & girls: approaches to combating ecocide; 3) African women resilience in the context of climate change; 4) Securing women's and girl's land rights for a climate just and economically sustainable future; 5) Climate shocks exacerbating humanitarian crisis, insecurity and gender inequality – voices from the Sahel and Afghanistan; 6) Gender transformative climate adaptation. African women's leadership as driver for change.

**On African Women:** Major problems exist for analphabetic women, even more so if the local language is all they know. Information should be provided at the right time also in local languages. Climate change intensifies problems that include the increase and decrease of water, which then leads to floods and droughts. Involving women is key because they understand these issues best. “It is time for UN women to see that things have to change... It needs to create their own new space, their own perspective and that things have to be done differently – Nairobi woke us up”. As a very diverse group that has honored its different mother tongues and respected mother earth since pre-school, it considers itself a defender of environmental rights by default.

WEBSITES: [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

<https://www.youtube.com/cswngo>

To complement the need to understand issues in local languages, in view to progressively formulating solutions and exchanges based on the local mastering of issues.

AAA wants to draw international attention: a) to the cry of one of our girls for the need to know our languages (see Pic 1), b) to “dictionnaire du camfranglais of Valéry Ndongo” ((see Pic 2) that describes local people's determination to understand and learn from each other. This began with “pidgin or bush English” in which intonation and words are combined to create a clever cross linguistic jargon that blends with local languages. This fusion model of African languages and thought patterns should be stimulated.

Report by Herta Kaschitz-Wüstenhagen, Jeanette Liebeherr and Lilly Sucharipa, Representatives of AAA at the United Nations, Vienna



## AFRICAN VOICES

“How can we tell our children of the lives our parents led / When we do not know the language that they heard when to / Be fed” (From Africa to Come: The view of the younger generation: a Perpetual Diary, published in 1996).

Although many consider Africa the birth-place of the world, her voice is hardly heard, and as emphasized by one of our young people quoted above, we cannot lead the future without knowing the past.

**Picture 1**



**Picture 2**

Contacts: [www.africanactiononaids.org](http://www.africanactiononaids.org)

HONG - KONG	USA	Europe	Cameroon
Vivek Aranha <i>AAA Representative in Asia</i> Unit 103, 7 May Road, May Towers one, Mid-levels HONG-KONG <a href="mailto:v_aranha2000@yahoo.com">v_aranha2000@yahoo.com</a>	Laraine Lippe <i>Chairman AAA Board of Directors</i> P.O. Box 1680 New York, NY 10163- 1680 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:laraine.lippe@gmail.com">laraine.lippe@gmail.com</a>	Herta P. Kaschitz- Wuestenhagen <i>AAA Representative in Vienna</i> Schottenfeldgasse 20/9 - 1070 Vienna, Austria E-Mail: <a href="mailto:hpkaschitz@aol.com">hpkaschitz@aol.com</a>	Ruth Bamela Engo <i>President AAA</i> B.P. 4340, Yaoundé Cameroon <a href="mailto:ruthengooaaa@gmail.com">ruthengooaaa@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:francoisebaaaaa@gmail.com">francoisebaaaaa@gmail.com</a> Whatsapp & O.M : 237 699 236 169