

Committee on Women and Development re-launches E-network of African Gender Machineries

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Addis Ababa, 19 May 2011 (ECA) - The E-network of African Gender Machineries, an electronic tool to access and exchange information and ideas regarding women's advancement all over the continent, was re-launched on Thursday during the 7th Session of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD). The ongoing four-day meeting, which will end on Friday, is taking place at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Pamela Mhlanga, Economic Affairs Officer at the African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD) underlined that the re-launch is an important and necessary step to enhance the daily work of staff and partners of National Gender Machineries (NGMs) and National Mechanisms (NMs): "It is critical for NGMs to be able to use ICT tools effectively," she stated.

The E-network was born out of collaboration between the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW – now UN Women) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the ECA in December 2006. "But after five years, we had to face the fact that there was a limited use of the information portal and there were also limited contributions from Member States", Mhlanga said.

Furthermore, the visual and interactive features needed updating and the resources and other tools needed expansion. The new version of the E-network, which will go live during the CWD, provides – amongst others - space for profiling of NGMs; News and Highlights; Resources; Documents and Publications; a Calendar of Events; and useful links. "All the content of the E-network will be available in English and French," Mhlanga noted.

The progress of this useful information gateway will be reviewed regularly by the CWD and managed by national E-teams (two gender experts and one ICT expert) as well as a Regional Management Team run by ECA sub regional offices and one Member State, according to ECA's Information and Communication Service.



Thokozile Ruzvidzo,
Director of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD)



Pamela Mhlanga, Economic Affairs Officer
at the African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD)

“But this is your tool, we are just managing it for you”, said Thokozile Ruzvidzo, the Director of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development, addressing the participants who include experts in the field from all over Africa.

The information portal can be found at www.uneca.org/ngmafrica

Ends.

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