

# WOMEN OF THE DIASPORA

## Gender and Race Discrimination

18 September 2020, 11:00 AM EDT TO 1:00 PM EDT

### INTRODUCTION

African and Afro-Descendant women represent a world of hope and promise. Blessed with an abundance of human resources and possessing myriad unique cultures, customs and traditions, Africa and its diaspora exist as a network for innovation and growth in human development and have the potential to be at the forefront of a paradigm shift – reversing stereotypes while safeguarding our planet and people, upholding human dignity, and respecting the rule of law.

In 2020, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has strained the well-being and resources of the entire world. The decimation of the global economy demonstrated the importance of maintaining the health and being of workers and consumers and is taking an especially heavy toll on women and girls. Meanwhile, experts are becoming more aware of the vital role the planet's health plays in spreading and containing Zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19. Indeed, even before the unprecedented coronavirus crisis facing humanity, our Mother Earth has been languishing in a health crisis of her own – climate change. Additionally, amidst lockdowns in connection with the pandemic, authorities observed an alarming and growing rate of domestic and gender-based violence, further exacerbating the inequality and disproportionate burden faced by women and girls resulting from climate change and inadequate healthcare.

Given the above, it is undeniable that health, the empowerment of women, and the environment are closely intertwined.

### AGENDA

Women of the Diaspora, Gender and Race Discrimination, is a virtual forum that provides an opportunity to explore how discrimination and violence against women and girls has evolved and what can be done to reverse this imbalance. Discussion of gender equality will include the ideas, experiences and initiatives of the private sector, high level representatives from international organizations, governments, civil society, art and culture, and academia. Additionally, with the African diaspora as the sixth region of Africa, the Summit serves as an enabling environment for discourse between those inside and outside the continent.

As the first in a series of webinars, Women of the Diaspora will focus on the intersection of Good Health and well-being, Gender Equality, and Climate Change. Within this framework, the Summit hopes to serve as an entry-point towards creating and sustaining multilateral partnerships.



**Sustainable Development Goal #3:**  
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



**Sustainable Development Goal #5:**  
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



**Sustainable Development Goal #13:**  
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The format of the Summit includes:

- Pre-recorded video statements and short features
- Interventions by high level representatives from international organizations, government and the private sector.
- Conversations with representatives from the private sector, local government, civil society and academia.
- Showcasing the Red Card Pledge Campaign
- Recognition of selected champions whose efforts have helped advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa and the Diaspora.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Women of the Diaspora Virtual Summit are:

- Define the issues of discrimination and violence against women and girls in different sectors such as the arts, sports, civil society and business.
- Explore and develop cross-sector and cross-border partnerships for eliminating racism, discrimination and violence against women and girls
- Bring attention to and popularize the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly goals 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing), 5 (Gender Equality) and 13 (Climate Action), in tandem with Agenda 2063.
- Create and formulate solutions, initiatives and opportunities for achieving a better, more equitable world, through and with the support of programs that target systemic racism.

### OUTCOME

Women of the Diaspora is intended to serve as the beginning of the dialogue and not the end. It is hoped that the relationships built and the connections reinforced, amongst participants, through the Summit will lead to the development of opportunities for women and girls to thrive in a better and more just world.

### CO-ORGANIZERS

The Republic of Costa Rica, Office of the First Vice President  
UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund  
ARDN, African Renaissance and Diaspora Network

### PATHWAY TO SOLUTIONS

Women of the Diaspora falls within the framework of the Pathway to Solution's Initiative, an international, multilateral special project for the United Nations, spearheaded by ARDN, to popularize the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with various United Nations system entities, the international community, civil society, the private sector, academia, the world of sport and culture and governments.

For more about the initiative, visit: <https://www.ardn.ngo/pathway/>

### CONTACT

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