EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OPENING REMARKS

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DURING KENYA'S AFFIRMATIVE FINANCE ACTION FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA (AFAWA) FINANCE SERIES

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TALKING NOTES: AFAWA FINANCE SERIES

Role of the OWRA

1. The Office of Women's Rights Advisor (The Office) supports the coordination of the President's special projects and adoption of the Women's Agenda across all sectors as outlined in the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) plan and Women's Charter.

2. The Office plays a role in identifying gaps within the women space. These challenges are processed and gathers key influential stakeholders from the ecosystem.

3. These processed gaps are then transmitted to relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies to facilitate meaningful conversations on the solutions and policies required to close the access to credit gap women entrepreneurs' face in Kenya.

Background of the journey to AFAWA series.

4. The African Development Bank realizes an enabling environment is critical for access to finance for women-led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

5. Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) Finance Series is providing a platform for all stakeholders to discuss the benefits and impact women led MSMEs could bring to the Kenyan economy. This is to ensure that more women-owned MSMEs are bankable.

What AFAWA means for women in Kenya and MSMEs

6. AFAWA Guarantee through Africa Guarantee Fund is linked to the Government of Kenya plan for inclusive economic growth within sectors.

7. Women are culturally faced with challenges that hinder them to access lines of credit that can enable them to grow and expand their businesses.

8. Having a guarantee should ideally give a life line to this women to contribute to their household budget as well as contribute to the Economic growth of the country.

Bottom up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) Plan

9. Women Economic Empowerment and Investment is a key women's right issues.

10. The Government of Kenya has placed women at the forefront of its policy agenda across all the sectors outlined in the BETA plan and Women's Charter. This includes Economic Empowerment and easy access to credit. Such initiatives includes Hustler Fund, Uwezo Fund and Women Economic Fund, National Government Affirmative Action Fund.

Other plans we have to work on the same

11. Today, we meet as partners to start a conversation that will increase the uptake of this lines of credit to our women.

12. Before us are several issues that we need to highlight. The low uptake despite the increased efforts , the regional balance, the bottlenecks to business registration and the synergise that can be harnessed from public private partnerships.

13. Kenya has signed is the first country in Sub Saharan Africa to sign to the World Economic Forum Gender Parity Accelerator focusing on economic empowerment. It will focus on public-private action on financial services and Investment Promotion for

14. Ladies and gentlemen, the time is now, let us take this opportunity to interact with honest conversations that can address our collaboration to make this country a better place for the woman who wants to give more to her family, her country and the future generation.