



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT**
OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISOR ON
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS

**REMARKS BY HON HARRIETTE CHIGGAI DURING THE PRECOP
MEDIA BREAKFAST 24TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT SAROVA PANAFRIC
NAIROBI, KENYA**

THEME - TOWARDS A WOMEN LED CLIMATE ACTION IN COP28

- 1. Dr. John Chumo, CEO of Mama Doing Good**
- 2. Ms. Fridah Githuku, Executive Director GROOTS Kenya**
- 3. Distinguished members of the Forth Estate**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning.

1. Kenya has just come from a very successful Africa Climate Summit that was held in Nairobi. I must say that the world is looking at us to guide the conversation at COP-28 given the leadership that the country has shown on matters of climate. I will add that the world will need women to offer solutions to climate change.
2. Someone once said and I quote '*The challenge of climate change is unlikely to be gender-neutral, as it increases the risk to the most vulnerable and less empowered social groups.*' The intersection between climate change and women and girls can never be clearer as the world faces the ravages of El-Nino. We know that women, girls, and those living with disabilities are most susceptible to the effects of climate change. This is due to social, political and economic inequalities that limit their autonomy and access to resources.

3. We agree here that they also play important roles in helping to prepare for the most adverse impacts of climate change on households and communities. It is evident and we have seen their contribution to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
4. Our First Lady, Her Excellency Mama Rachel Ruto, through **Mama Doing Good** has led from the front championing increase of forest cover and clean cooking fuel. We must be determined to lead our march into a future where women and girls form the statistics of global measures to combat climate change.
5. I note with concern climate change is driving hunger globally and especially in Africa, putting food systems at risk of reaching a breaking point. Last year, a quarter billion people went hungry and 35 million were on the verge of starving. Climate change is increasingly a driver of these devastating numbers. Most of those suffering are women and girls. They eat the last and eat the least.
6. Rural women are still amongst the most marginalized groups in society as they are largely excluded from land ownership and from credit in Africa. They also have little access to emerging technology. My office is soon leading an Africa conversation as a build up from the African Climate Summit on investing in Africa women farmers to increase food security on the continent. The Food Security Summit will bring together African women to give Africa solutions that will make this continent food secure. Africa can actually feed the world if we put women on the forefront
7. Women in Kenya and Africa are leading the response to the climate and food crisis. Addressing gender equality in the agriculture sector alone could bring millions of people out of hunger and add trillions to the world economy. Women leaders are more likely to innovate, focus on social protection policies, ratify multilateral treaties, focus on global solutions and drive solutions. I am here to remind us that gender data can help to advance climate justice and accelerate gender equality. Yet, high-quality gender data

related to the environment and climate change is still largely very scanty. With greater vigor and focus there is need to underscore the essence of gender data to inform climate change solutions whose pillars have gender lens at heart.

8. Climate change is increasingly understood to impact the amount, distribution, and conditions of unpaid care and domestic work that is disproportionately carried out by women and girls. For example, climate-induced resource scarcity increases the time required for activities like food harvesting, water collection, and food preparation. While extreme weather events like floods and fires cause widespread injury, disability and damage to care-responsive infrastructure services. However, only limited data is available that specifically measures this impact, and most comes from small-scale research studies.
9. We need to therefore acknowledge **the need to conduct national gender and environment assessments** to establish a baseline context within countries against which future changes and progress can be measured.
10. The inclusion of **sex-disaggregated data** within national censuses, administrative data, labour force surveys and other relevant household surveys can help to produce gender statistics on different aspects of the environment and climate change. Ensuring data is collected at the **intra-household level** is crucial for capturing gender differences.
11. Her Excellency Mama Rachael Ruto has been on the forefront of showcasing women as the solution to climate mitigation. Increasing our forest cover and creating spaces such as these to showcase female led solutions to climate change challenges is critical so that we keep women at the nexus of solutions. Let's engage and remind the world that African women and girls have the solutions to climate change and the investments and measures being committed need to bring them on board.
12. We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and we should be the last generation to experience climate change and we should be the last generation to do something about it.

13. Question is whether we are losing the race on climate emergency, but it's a race we must win . It's import to note a nation that destroys its soil destroys itself .
14. Global warming is an extinction threat and a constant warning that we stop warming the earth .
15. Let's invest in women during early warning systems, provide solutions for alternative energy sources and protect our future through climate financing solutions that consider the many women and girls on the continent who are holding forte in their own small but effective ways.

Thank you.

Hon. Harriette Chiggai

President's Advisor on Women's Rights