



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

TALKING POINTS FOR HIGH-LEVEL PRE-SUMMIT BREAKFAST - WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT AND AFRICA BUILD SHOW

DATE: 19th June 2024

VENUE: Serena Hotel, Nairobi

Salutations

The Team from GEX

- The Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Alice Wahome
- The Principal Secretary for Public Works, Mr. Joel Arumonyang
- The Principal Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Charles Hinga
- The Principal Secretary for Roads, Eng. Samuel Mbugua
- Partners present
- Distinguished Guests
- All The Women In Construction
- All Protocols Observed,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me in a special way to thank the CS Lands, Hon Alice Wahome, for her dedication and for joining us having given her a very short notice ; she is amongst the women who ensured my office is put in place;

The GEX team led by Edwin for embracing government

Good Morning

1. It is an honor to see all of you as we congregate here this morning for the 2nd Women in Construction and Africa Build Show Pre- event breakfast.
2. it brings me great joy to see so many passionate and dedicated individuals here, committed to advancing the role of women in the construction industry.

Significance of the Event:

3. The summit is more than just an event; it is a platform aimed at addressing gender disparities and empowering women to lead, innovate, and drive sustainable practices within the construction industry .
4. The construction industry has traditionally been male-dominated, but the Summit ahead of us, is a testament to the changing tides for **Women Led, Women Powered and Women Build**.
5. Women are increasingly stepping into roles that were once considered out of their reach, and they are excelling beyond expectations and societal biases.
6. The big question is how do we bridge the gender gaps and accelerate the space for women to participate in big ticket jobs and open their market base within the industry .

Objectives of the Summit:

7. The theme for the Summit this year is, **"Tools for Change: Empowering Women with Skills, Resources, and Sustainable Practices,"** that perfectly encapsulates our goals.
8. Our objectives for the Summit are clear:
 - a. **Empowerment through Skills Development:** Providing women with both technical skills such as engineering and architecture, and essential soft skills like project management and leadership.
 - b. **Access to Resources:** Ensuring women have easier access to construction materials, funding, and networking opportunities. This includes innovations in supply chain management and financial support systems.
 - c. **Promotion of Sustainable Practices:** Emphasizing green building techniques, eco-friendly materials, and sustainable practices that offer opportunities for women to lead in this field.

Conference Highlights:

9. Over the three days, the summit will feature a series of activities designed to inspire, educate, and empower through:
 - a. **Keynote Speeches:** We have an incredible line-up of speakers, including our Chief Guest, H.E, Dr. William Samoei Ruto, the President of the Republic of Kenya, who will share insights on leadership and sustainability.
 - b. **Panel Discussions and Breakout Sessions:** These will cover a wide range of topics from project management essentials to innovative leadership and sustainable building practices.

- c. **Fireside Chats:** Personal stories of success and challenges from women practitioners in the industry will be shared, providing inspiration and real-world insights.

Context of women in construction industry:

- 10. To put things into perspective, let's consider some important statistics.
- 11. According to a recent report, women make up only **20%** of the global construction workforce in Africa.

Skilled female personnel – Engineers, Architects, Urban Planners, Construction managers and Real Estate Managers are fewer than **11%** in Africa.

- 12. In Kenya, the construction sector is one of the fastest-growing industries, contributing significantly to the economy. Despite the significant impact on the economy, we have witnessed gender disparities in the construction industry.
- 13. We see women are under-represented, particularly in leadership roles at all levels in the construction industry.
- 14. Look at these numbers of women across the industry that demonstrates the state of affairs.
 - a. Only **3%** of construction artisans were women with **7.3%** of registered Engineers.
 - b. Further, only **15.5%** were women contractors with 17% being Quantity Surveyors.
 - c. Going deeper into the gender statistics, according to Women in Real Estate (WIRE) in 2020 released a report that indicated **94%** of women in the construction industry are sexually

harassed. Other challenges include lack of dedicated women sanitation facilities and lack of well-fitting specialist uniforms.

15. However, studies have shown that companies with greater gender diversity perform better financially.

Resource Mobilization:

16. To ensure the success of the 2nd Women in Construction summit and the continued empowerment of women in construction, we need your support.

17. There are several ways you can contribute:

- a. **Sponsorship Opportunities:** We have a range of sponsorship packages available, each offering unique benefits such as branding, speaking opportunities, and VIP access.
- b. **Donations:** Your financial contributions will support scholarships, **training** programs, and capacity-building initiatives for women in construction.
- c. **Volunteering:** Share your time and expertise by mentoring or conducting training sessions.

Impact of Contributions:

18. Your contributions will have a profound impact by:

- a. **Creating Opportunities:** By supporting this summit, you are helping to create more opportunities for women in the construction industry.
- b. **Driving Innovation:** Empowered women bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the table, driving growth and development in the sector.

- c. **Building Inclusivity:** Your support helps build a more inclusive and diverse workforce, which is essential for the industry's future.

Call to Action:

- 19. I urge all of you to actively participate in the summit. Attend the sessions, engage in discussions, and make meaningful connections. Additionally, consider sponsoring this event.
- 20. Your sponsorship will not only provide valuable exposure for your institution but also contribute to a cause that is driving positive change in the industry for women.

Closing Remarks:

- 21. In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all. Your dedication and commitment to this cause are truly inspiring.
- 22. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the organizing committee, who continue to work tirelessly to bring this event to life.
- 23. As we move forward, let us continue to support and empower each other. Together, we can create a future where women are not just participants but leaders and shakers in the construction industry.

Thank you, and I look forward to engaging with you.

Ahsanteni sana!

Hon. Harriette Chiggai

President's Advisor on Women Rights

