



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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African Union Commission elects first female Chairperson

The Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) concluded its 19th Ordinary Session, electing Dr. Nkosazana Clarise Dhlamini Zuma as the new Chairperson of the AUC, and Mr. Erastus Mwencha as the Deputy Chairperson.

The Summit also saw the election of six of the eight Commissioners to pilot the affairs of the Commission for the next four years. The election of the last two Commissioners was postponed to the January Summit 2013.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Dhlamini Zuma committed herself to work with determination to ensure that the vision of the organization is translated into reality. She dedicated her victory to all the women in Africa and called for unity and cohesion on the continent. The newly elected Chairperson of the AU Commission expressed gratitude to the Heads of States for choosing her to pilot the affairs of the continent adding that by so doing, they had given an opportunity to the Southern African subregion to lead the Commission for the first time.

Addressing the Summit, the outgoing Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Jean Ping congratulated Dr. Zuma for her election. He described her election as “a memorable moment on the continent”, as it is the first



Dr. Nkosazana Clarise Dhlamini Zuma

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NEPAD advocates for African women farmers

African governments have been called on to devise new strategies and mechanisms to support women in the agricultural sector to contend with the effects of climate change.

The call was made by Rudo Makunike, a Senior Officer in charge of Sustainable Land and Water Management at NEPAD, during the opening of a two-day workshop on Gender and Climate Change in Kigali.

"Women contribute 80 percent of the food produced in Africa and given the pertinent role that they play in the agricultural sector in this continent, there is a need for all gov-

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time a woman has been selected to be at the helm of the Commission. He thanked the Heads of State for having given him the opportunity to serve the continent during the last four years. "I am proud of the work I have done ...I have played my part and now I take my bow".

Mr. Ping expressed profound gratitude to President Boni Yayi, Chairperson of the AU and to all AU Heads of State for their fruitful contribution to his efforts to develop the continent. He further congratulated the Deputy Chairperson Mr. Erastus Mwencha for his "brilliant" re-election as well as the newly elected Commissioners.

Source: www.nepad.org

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ernments and other stakeholders in Africa to put in place mechanisms which can help them to cope with the effects of climate change because of their reproductive roles," Makunike said.

She said most women farmers lack modern technologies thus lower output. According to the official, lack of access to input and output markets is one of the major challenges many women farmers face in Africa.

In an interview with The New Times shortly after opening the workshop, Makunike said: "NEPAD, as a technical implementing agency of the African Union, would like to respond to the needs of the women farmers so that they are better able to cope with the effects of climate change. It is in this regard that we organised this workshop to get views and experiences from women farm-

ing groups on ways to alleviate the effects of climate change".

Makunike said the workshop is in line with NEPAD's role of responding to the needs of women and other vulnerable groups of society such as the youth and children. The official noted that NEPAD has completed crafting a framework on how to effectively tackle the effects of climate change. She disclosed that the NEPAD Agency, with support from the Norwegian Government, is a five-year programme on Gender and Climate-Smart Agriculture Support Programme in Africa, saying this is in recognition of the critical role women play in African agriculture and the challenges they face due to climate change and climate variability.

"It's important to develop a clear understanding of the specific issues impacting rural women farmers' ability to engage in the agricultural sector in a more productive aneady devised various strategies to assist farmers to cope with the effects of climate change citing the use of irrigation farming systems and fertilisers.

The Executive Secretary of Muhanga Women Farmers Association, Dativa Kantarama, commended the organisers of the workshop terming it as a crucial platform to share views and experiences on how to address the challenges women face in the agricultural sector.

*Source: For full story: Africa News, July 20, 2012
Friday*

Upcoming Event

- Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) in support of the AU and its NEPAD Programme inter cluster meeting , 26-27 July 2012, Naivasha, Kenya

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