

Women's Forum Mauritius 2016
Meeting the climate challenge for SIDS and Africa
20-21 June

Since achieving independence on 12 March 1968, Mauritius has gradually moved from a mono-crop agricultural economy to a more diversified one with financial services playing a lead role in the development effort and strategy. Indeed, the sustained growth of the financial services sector over the past two decades has successfully positioned the Island as a hub in the region.

Being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius has to ensure a development process that is sustainable and at the same time, safeguards the country's precious biodiversity. The largest challenge that all African countries, including the SIDS, now face is to achieve rapid innovation towards green energy and sustainable food security in an era of continued climate disruption.

The Women's Forum Mauritius takes up the innovation challenge for Island States and Africa during a high-level two-day meeting for scientists, policymakers, and business leaders. With the support and collaboration of H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius, a renowned biodiversity expert, the Forum will showcase Mauritius's remarkably rich natural flora and fauna, while underlining why it is a global biodiversity hotspot today. Drawing on international speakers and experiences, participants will debate climate and health solutions; climate, agriculture, and biodiversity best practices; sustainable energy and water and sanitation for Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS); how to advance innovation in agriculture, health and land use; improving the participation of women and youth in scientific and technological training; and processes for frugal green innovations with value-added for SIDS and African economies.

Women's leadership, vision, and ingenuity are essential if we were to better protect the world's biodiversity and advance climate action. The Women's Forum Mauritius will feature women who are at the forefront of the climate and biodiversity movements, bringing them together with their men counterparts in a unique meeting that will build capacity and empower those who attend. Delegations will participate from India and South Africa, and there will be a strong African, European and Asian international presence at the meeting.

On the agenda of the Women's Forum Mauritius:

Climate, agriculture, biodiversity: Challenges, opportunities, ways forward

The effects of climate change on the African continent and tropical islands like Mauritius, what these will mean for biodiversity efforts and food production, and how to advance a sustainable agriculture, including aquaculture, which incorporates biodiversity as the underpinning of food security?

Achieving resilient water supply and sanitation in an era of climate change

How climate change, demographics and population movements will together exacerbate problems of the lack of access to safe water and sanitation, and what are some innovative practical ways to meet the challenges of achieving water and sanitation for all.

Coming together around SDG 6, water & sanitation

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal no. 6 is to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all. Looking towards the Water Summit to be held in Budapest at the end of November, what is the roadmap taking form, and what will it mean for SIDS like Mauritius?

Climate and health: Challenges and ways forward

Climate disruption will mean more malaria, fatal heat waves, poor water quality, and damaging air pollutants, to name a few of the many health impacts. How can these threats be turned into opportunities to strengthen health systems? What are the health and non-health based interventions to address and even improve public health in these conditions?

Climate and energy: Challenges and ways forward

The potential of wind, waves, and solar, to address African and SIDS energy needs. And the vision and practical next steps to bootstrap renewable energy to reach the millions who do not have electricity and who rely on wood or biomass to cook and heat their homes. It can be done!

Sci tech breakthroughs for biodiversity, agriculture, health, and energy

These presentations will introduce participants to cutting-edge scientific and technological innovations that address agriculture, health and energy from biodiversity and climate angles.

Frugal GREEN innovation

Examples of products that are affordable for the bottom of the pyramid, while being ecosystem-responsible from the supply chain to end use. And strategies for promoting such innovation locally and nationally.

Amazing women: short interviews with change leaders in the sustainability and climate fields to bring out their vision and motivation for their life work.

Bringing more women and youth into the innovation movement

How to do this for African states – for STEM and ICT – in ways that promote cultures of research, innovation and entrepreneurship?



Sunday, June 19

15:00-17:30 Registration

18:30-20:30

Restaurant La Ravane, Paradis Hotel & Golf Club

Women's Forum Mauritius welcome reception

Speaker:

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, Journalist and author

Welcome remarks:

Gilbert Espitalier-Noël, CEO, New Mauritius Hotels

Donald Payen, Executive Vice-President Customer Experience, Ground & In-flight Services, Air Mauritius

Monday, June 20

08:00-09:15 Registration, with tea and coffee available

09:15-09:45

Conference room

MC introduction and host country and Forum welcome

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius

Jacqueline Franjou, CEO, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

MC:

Gillian Martin-Mehers, Founding Director, Bright Green Learning

09:45-10:15

Conference room

Unleashing the untapped knowledge-based capital of African women

For wealth acquisition and growth for a better Africa and a better world.

Speaker:

Julius O. Akinyemi, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, MIT Media Lab

10:15-10:45 Networking break



10:45-12:00

Conference room

Climate, agriculture, biodiversity: Challenges and opportunities

The effects of climate change on the African continent and tropical islands like Mauritius: what will this mean for biodiversity efforts and food production?

Moderator:

Emelia Arthur, Advisor to the President of Ghana, and Member of the Board, CARE International Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Advisory Group and IUCN/FAO Forest and Farm Facility

Speakers:

Winnie Akinyi Nyonje, Researcher, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
Segenet Kelemu, Director General, ICIPE, and L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate
Catherine O'Reilly, Associate Professor, Department of Geography-Geology, Illinois State University
Marjaana Sall, European Union Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius, for the Union of the Comoros and the Republic of Seychelles

12:00-12:15

Conference room

Amazing women

Jill Farrant, leading expert on resurrection plants, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town, and L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate, interviewed by **Claire Doole**, the Founder and CEO of Claire Doole Communications.

12:15-12:25 Room change

12:25-13:35

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Women's Forum Mauritius networking lunch with the South African delegation

We invite you at this luncheon to discover the 20-strong remarkable South African delegation to the Women's Forum Mauritius.

MC :

Crystal Orderson, South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter, Jeune Afrique

Speaker:

Philisiwe Mthethwa, CEO, National Empowerment Fund

13:35-13:50 Room change



13:50-14:10

Conference room

The impact of climate change on Small Island Developing States

Speaker:

Didier Robert, Senator and President of the Regional Council of Reunion Island, and Vice-President Africa zone, nrg4SD

14:10-15:35

Conference room

Climate, agriculture, biodiversity: Ways forward

How to advance a sustainable agriculture, including aquaculture, which incorporates biodiversity as the underpinning of food security?

Moderator:

Emelia Arthur, Advisor to the President of Ghana, and Member of the Board, CARE International Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Advisory Group and IUCN/FAO Forest and Farm Facility

Welcome remarks:

Audrey d'Hotman de Villiers Desjardins, Sustainable Development Manager, Rogers & Company Limited

Speakers:

Fetein Abay, Professor and Director of the Institute of Environment, Gender and Development Studies, Mekelle University

Mathew John, Founder-Director, Director, Keystone Foundation

Julie Lerner, Founder and CEO, PanXchange, Inc.

Karen Mapusua, Coordinator, POETCom

15:35-16:35

Conference room

Achieving resilient water supply and sanitation in an era of climate change

How climate change, demographics and population movements will together exacerbate problems of the lack of access to safe water and sanitation, and what are some innovative practical ways to meet the challenges of achieving water and sanitation for all.

Moderator:

Deborah Berlinck, Journalist and communications strategist

Speakers:

Patience Dampney, Lead UNFCCC Coordinator for Africa on Adaptation, Africa Group of Negotiator

Snowy Khoza, CEO, BigenAfrica

Patricia E. Perkins, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University

16:35-17:05 Networking break



17:05-17:20

Conference room

Amazing women

Aisha Muhammed Oyebo, the Founder and CEO, Murtala Muhammed Foundation, and Co-convener, Bring Back Our Girls Movement, interviewed by **Claire Doole**, the Founder and CEO of Claire Doole Communications.

17:20-18:30

Conference room

Climate and health: Challenges and ways forward

Climate disruption will mean more malaria, fatal heat waves, poor water quality, and damaging air pollutants, to name a few of the many health impacts. How can these threats be turned into opportunities to strengthen health systems? And what are some of the most promising health and non-health based interventions to address the impact of climate change on people's health?

Moderator:

Deborah Berlinck, Journalist and communications strategist

Speakers:

Ildi J. Fenyvesi, Lecturer, Division of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, University of the Witwatersrand

Alexandra Henrion Caude, Director of Research, Inserm, Hôpital Necker

Robert Sebbag, Vice President, Access to Medicines, Sanofi

Nick Watts, Executive Director, Lancet Countdown to 2030: Public Health and Climate Change

18:30-19:00

Conference room

Ours will be the century of solidarity, or it will not

Moderator:

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, Journalist and author

Speaker:

Nicolas Hulot, Founder and President, Fondation Nicolas-Hulot

19:15-19:45

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Cocktail reception organized by HEC Paris, School of Management

HEC African Women Leaders Award for Corporate Social Innovation

20:00 -22:30

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Dinner reception

Host welcome:

The Hon. Mrs Marie-Aurore Perraud, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Republic of Mauritius



Tuesday, June 21

08:15-08:45 Day 3 registration, with coffee and tea available

08:45-08:55

MC welcome back

Gillian Martin-Mehers, Founding Director, Bright Green Learning

08:55-09:10

A planet where our children can still live: The essential role of politicians

Keynote speaker:

Ravza Kavakci Kan, Member of Parliament, Republic of Turkey

09:10-10:00

Keynote interviews on climate and energy

Moderator:

Sophie Lambin, Co-founder and Managing Director, Kite Global Advisors

Keynote speakers:

Laurence Tubiana, French Ambassador for International Climate Negotiations

The Hon Mr. Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management, Republic of Mauritius

10:00-11:00

Conference room

Climate and energy: Challenges and ways forward

The potential of wind, waves, and solar, to address African and SIDS energy needs. And the vision and practical next steps to bootstrap renewable energy to reach the millions who do not have electricity and who rely on wood or biomass to cook and heat their homes. It can be done!

Moderator:

Sophie Lambin, Co-founder and Managing Director, Kite Global Advisors

Speakers:

Tafadzwa Chiganga, CFO, Frontier Markets

Indra Haraksingh, Professor, Department of Physics, The University of the West Indies, President, Caribbean Solar Energy Society and Member of the Steering Committee, World Renewable Energy Network

Manoelle Lepoutre, Senior Executive Vice President, Executive Careers and Management, Total

Laura Williamson, Communication & Outreach Manager, REN21

11:00-11:45 Networking break



11:45-12:00

Conference room

Amazing women

Amna Malik, entrepreneur, politician and activist, and Founder and President, Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR), interviewed by **Claire Doole**, the Founder and CEO of Claire Doole Communications.

12:00-12:45

Conference room

Coming together around SDG 6, water & sanitation

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 is to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all. Looking towards the Water Summit to be held in Budapest at the end of November, what is the roadmap taking form, and what will it mean for SIDS like Mauritius?

Moderator:

Snowy Khoza, CEO, BigenAfrica

Speakers:

Jill Farrant, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town, and L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius and Co-Chair, UN High-level Panel on Water

Lormus Juggoo, Director, Water Resources, Water Resources Unit, Ministry of Energy & Public Utilities, Government of Mauritius

12:45-13:00 Room change

13:00-14:30

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Luncheon session: Meet the next generation of leaders

Next-generation leaders are young Mauritian women who, based on their accomplishments and achievements, are on well on their way to becoming top executives and innovators in government, business, and civil society. Delegates will have the opportunity at this luncheon to hear from and talk with members of this group.

Moderator:

Paul Boateng, Member, UK House of Lords, and Trustee, Planet Earth Institute

Speakers:

Joana Dias Madaleno, Student, Imperial College London

Sarah Gouia, Student, University of Cambridge

Belinda Wong, Corporate Manager, Projects & Development, Rogers & Co. Ltd

13:00-15:00

Board room

CEO Champions working luncheon

By invitation only

Hosted by the Gender Gap Grader

CEO Champions is a C-suite initiative, serving as a platform for global leaders – both men and women – to establish new and innovative ways to drive the corporate empowerment and advancement of women in the workforce. This peer-peer working luncheon will launch CEO Champions in Mauritius.

Moderators:

Karima Bouaiss, Associate Professor, IAE Poitiers and CEDE- Essec Business School

Elian Carsenat, Co-Founder, Gender Gap Grader



14:30-14:45 Room change

14:45-15:45

Conference room

Sci tech breakthroughs for biodiversity, agriculture and health

Four presentations of cutting-edge scientific and technological innovations to address agriculture and health from biodiversity and climate angles.

Moderator:

Crystal Orderson, South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter, Jeune Afrique

Speakers:

Brandi DeCarli, Founding Partner, Farm from a Box

Laurent Gilbert, Advanced Research International Development Director, L'Oréal

Evelyn Gitau, Programme Manager, Grand Challenges Africa initiative, African Academy of Sciences

Flower Msuya, Senior Researcher, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam

15:45-17:05

Conference room

Strategies for nurturing frugal GREEN innovation

How to best promote development of products that are affordable for the bottom of the pyramid, while being ecosystem-responsible from the supply chain to end use?

Moderator:

Liz Zeidler, Chair, Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Founding Director, Happy City

Opening remarks:

Jyoti Jeetun, CEO, Mont Choisy

Speakers:

Marie Connett, Portfolio Lead, Agricultural Productivity Technology, Global Good

Bertrand Moingeon, Professor, HEC Paris, and Executive Director, HEC Indian Ocean Office

Allison Robertshaw, Executive Director, SEED

17:05-17:35 Networking break



17:35-19:00

Conference room

Bringing more women and youth into the innovation movement

How to do this for SIDS and African states – for STEM and ICT – in ways that promote cultures of research, innovation and entrepreneurship?

Moderator:

Liz Zeidler, Chair, Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Founding Director, Happy City

Speakers:

Ethel Cofie, Co-Founder, Women in Tech Africa, and CEO and Founder, EDEL Technology Consulting

Anne Githuku-Shongwe, South Africa Multi-Country Office Representative, UN Women, and Senior Managing Partner, Afroes Holdings

Steena Kistnen, Senior Manager Education Development, Medine Ltd.

Adriana Marais, Postdoctoral Researcher, Quantum Research Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Mars One Project Astronaut Candidate and L'Oreal-UNESCO International Rising Talent

Unoma Okorafor, President, Working to Advance African Women

19:00-19:20

Conference room

Closing keynote interview

Moderator:

Crystal Orderson, South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter, Jeune Afrique

Speaker:

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius

19:20-19:30

Conference room

Next steps

Jacqueline Franjou, CEO, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

19:30-21:00

Le Manoir, Sugar Beach Resort & Spa

Closing dinner

Welcome remarks:

H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius

Fatih Mehmet Kursun, CEO Mauritius & Madagascar, Turkish Airlines

The Women's Forum Mauritius 2016

20-21 June

Speakers

- **Fetein Abay**, Professor and Director of the Institute of Environment, Gender and Development Studies, Mekelle University
- **Julius O. Akinyemi**, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, MIT Media Lab
- **Emelia Arthur**, Advisor to the President of Ghana, and Member of the Board, CARE International Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Advisory Group and IUCN/FAO Forest and Farm Facility
- **Deborah Berlinck**, Journalist and communications strategist
- **Paul Boateng**, Member, UK House of Lords, and Trustee, Planet Earth Institute
- **Karima Bouaïss**, Associate Professor, IAE Poitiers and CEDE- Essec Business School
- **Elian Carsenat**, Co-Founder, Gender Gap Grader
- **Tafadzwa Chiganga**, CFO, Frontier Markets
- **Ethel Cofie**, Co-Founder, Women in Tech Africa, and CEO and Founder, EDEL Technology Consulting
- **Marie Connett**, Portfolio Lead, Agricultural Productivity Technology, Global Good
- **Patience Dampfey**, Lead UNFCCC Coordinator for Africa on Adaptation, Africa Group of Negotiator
- **Joana Dias Madaleno**, Student, Imperial College London
- **Claire Doole**, Founder and CEO, Claire Doole Communications
- **Brandi DeCarli**, Founding Partner, Farm from a Box
- **Gilbert Espitalier-Noël**, CEO, New Mauritius Hotels
- **Jill Farrant**, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town
- **Ildi J. Fenyvesi**, Lecturer, Division of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, University of the Witwatersrand
- **Jacqueline Franjou**, CEO, Women's Forum for the Economy & Society
- **Laurent Gilbert**, Advanced Research International Development Director, L'Oréal
- **Evelyn Gitau**, Programme Manager, Grand Challenges Africa initiative, African Academy of Sciences
- **Anne Githuku-Shongwe**, South Africa Multi-Country Office Representative, UN Women, and Senior Managing Partner, Afroes Holdings
- **Sarah Gouia**, Student, University of Cambridge
- **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**, President of the Republic of Mauritius
- **Indra Haraksingh**, Professor, Department of Physics, The University of the West Indies, President, Caribbean Solar Energy Society and Member of the Steering Committee, World Renewable Energy Network
- **Alexandra Henrion Caude**, Director of Research, Inserm, Hôpital Necker
- **Audrey d'Hotman de Villiers Desjardins**, Sustainable Development Manager, Rogers & Company Limited
- **Nicolas Hulot**, Founder and President, Fondation Nicolas-Hulot



- **Jyoti Jeetun**, CEO, Mont Choisy
- **Mathew John**, Founder-Director, Keystone Foundation
- **Lormus Juggoo**, Director, Water Resources, Water Resources Unit, Ministry of Energy & Public Utilities, Government of Mauritius
- **Ravza Kavakci Kan**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Turkey
- **Segenet Kelemu**, Director General, ICIPE, and L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science laureate
- **Snowy Khoza**, CEO, BigenAfrica
- **Steena Kistnen**, Senior Manager Education Development, Medine Ltd.
- **Fatih Mehmet Kursun**, CEO Mauritius & Madagascar, Turkish Airlines
- **Sophie Lambin**, Co-founder and Managing Director, Kite Global Advisors
- **Manoelle Lepoutre**, Senior Executive Vice President, Executive Careers and Management, Total
- **Julie Lerner**, Founder and CEO, PanXchange, Inc.
- **Thembakazi Mali**, Senior Manager, Clean Energy Solutions, South African National Energy Development Institute
- **Amna Malik**, Entrepreneur, business leader, politician and activist , and Founder and President, Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR)
- **Karen Mapusua**, Coordinator, POETCom
- **Adriana Marais**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Quantum Research Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Mars One Project Astronaut Candidate and L'Oreal-UNESCO International Rising Talent
- **Gillian Martin-Mehers**, Founding Director, Bright Green Learning
- **Bertrand Moingeon**, Professor, HEC Paris, and Executive Director, HEC Indian Ocean Office
- **Flower Msuya**, Senior Researcher, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam
- **Philisiwe Mthethwa**, CEO, National Empowerment Fund
- **Winnie Akinyi Nyonje**, Researcher, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
- **Unoma Okorafor**, President, Working to Advance African Women
- **Crystal Orderson**, South Africa Editor, The Africa Report, and Reporter, Jeune Afrique
- **Catherine O'Reilly**, Associate Professor, Department of Geography-Geology, Illinois State University
- **Aisha Muhammed Oyebo**, the Founder and CEO, Murtala Muhammed Foundation, and Co-convener, Bring Back Our Girls Movement
- **Donald Payen**, Executive Vice-President Customer Experience, Ground & In-flight Services, Air Mauritius
- **Patricia E. Perkins**, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
- **Marie-Aurore Perraud**, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Republic of Mauritius
- **Patrick Poivre d'Arvor**, Journalist and author
- **Didier Robert**, Senator and President of the Regional Council of Reunion Island, and Vice-President Africa zone, nrg4SD
- **Allison Robertshaw**, Executive Director, SEED
- **Marjaana Sall**, European Union Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius, for the Union of the Comoros and the Republic of Seychelles
- **Robert Sebbag**, Vice President, Access to Medicines, Sanofi
- **Laurence Tubiana**, French Ambassador for International Climate Negotiations
- **Nick Watts**, Executive Director, Lancet Countdown to 2030: Public Health and Climate Change
- **Laura Williamson**, Communication & Outreach Manager, REN21
- **Belinda Wong**, Corporate Manager, Projects & Development, Rogers & Co. Ltd



- **Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong**, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management, Republic of Mauritius
- **Liz Zeidler**, Chair, Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Founding Director, Happy City