Bridging the gender gap: Women in science and science for gender equality

Date and time: October 16, 2014, 11:00 – 12:30 pm

Session aim
This session aims to identify gender issues in the fields of science, technology and innovation (STI), with the goal to develop actions to address existing gaps, facilitating the participation of women in these areas and exploring options for an enhanced contribution of science, technology and innovation to gender equality.

Background
According to traditional gender roles assigned to men and women, science, technology and innovation (STI) are areas considered "masculine." Girls and women who are interested in these fields often are met with patterns that discourage gender diversity in mainstream socialization, policies and practices. The under-representation of women and gender bias in STI have also been linked to the marginalization of applied scientific research that could contribute to the advancement of women and gender equality.

Proposed topics for discussion
a. Women and science: situation in the diversity of disciplines and geographical differences. Determinants of this variation and historical evolution;
b. Public policies and programs that have shown success to bridge the gender gap in STI – both in education and in employment;
c. Science as a privileged area to widen women’s options and promote gender equality. Examples of STI initiatives, working towards gender equality;
d. Associations of women in STI: experiences, initiatives and recommendations;
e. Women innovators and entrepreneurs in the field of ITS.

Panel
✔ Moderator: Soumia Benkhaldoun, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Management Training, Morocco

Speakers
✔ Liisa Husu, Professor of Gender Studies at Örebro University, Founding Member of the European Platform of Women Scientists.
✔ Unoma Ndili Okorafor, Founder and CEO at WAAW Foundation “Working to Advance STEM education for African Women”
✔ Bola Olabisi, Vice-President of British Association of Women Entrepreneurs and CEO, Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network
✔ Ezzoura Errami, President of the African Association of Women in Geosciences
✔ Geraldine Fraser Moleketi, Special Envoy on Gender, African Development Bank


Panel coordinator: María José Moreno Ruiz, Chief Gender Officer, African Development Bank, m.moreno-ruiz@afdb.org