

**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 2-DAY 4<sup>th</sup> WOMEN'S ECONOMIC FORUM KENYA  
WITH THE THEME 'NAVIGATING WITHIN A CHALLENGING ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE'**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## PREAMBLE

Community Advocacy and Awareness Trust – CRAWN Trust in collaboration with Ministry of Gender, Culture, The Arts and Heritage, University of Nairobi Women's Economic Empowerment Hub (UON WEE HUB), Adelphi, World University Services of Canada (WUSC), Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), Digital Oasis, Christian Aid, CARE Kenya and Global Affairs Canada organized the two-day Women's Economic Forum 2023 from 28-29 February 2024. The theme for the forum was "Navigating Within a Challenging Economic Landscape and Examining the Trends and Positioning Women". Participants were drawn from various captains of industry, high-ranking government officials, private sector, non-state actors, development partners, thought leaders, women's rights organisations, media, academia, and grassroots women from Nairobi County and its environs.

The goal of the fourth WEF-K was to furnish delegates and participants with practical insights and strategies for navigating the current economic shifts and promoting informed decision-making in the economic sphere. The discussions of the forum were centered around influencing non-exclusive economic policy to effect the desired changes at national and county levels for women's effective contribution to economic recovery, Convening private sector players and other key stakeholders involved in capital development, enterprise development, and market regulation, to enable women to engage in local and global supply chains, Bringing unique and subtle Women's Economic

Empowerment issues that policymakers may not have considered and addressing barriers to women's economic and political empowerment, including addressing the scourge of violence against women and the const to the economy.

The Women's Economic Forum 2024 commenced with keynote addresses from distinguished speakers, including Ms. Daisy Amdany, Executive Director of CRAWN Trust and representatives from the aforementioned partners. Following these addresses, Ms. Jackline Makokha, the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point for Kenya's State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, delivered the speech on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Culture, The Arts, and Heritage, Hon. Aisha Jumwa, thereby officially opening the forum.

The thematic areas that were covered by panels discussions and business clinics were; Social Impact Investment, Business and Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Enterprise Development & Trade Agreements, Technology and Gender Digital Divide, and Harnessing Collective Power.

**WE**, thought leaders from diverse women's rights organizations attending the fourth Women's Economic Forum Kenya believe it is a fundamental right for women to be economically empowered because when women thrive, communities thrive and economies flourish.

## Contextualizing Economic Challenges

WE acknowledge that in recent years, the global economy has been tumultuous, marked by instability, recessions, and financial crises. These hard economic times have disproportionately affected various demographic groups, with women bearing a significant brunt of the financial strain.

*Therefore, we, thought leaders from diverse women's rights organizations hereby present this thematic area structured communiqué as follows:*

**Financial literacy:** Financial literacy is vital for empowering women in finance. Efforts are underway to provide comprehensive knowledge of investments, savings, and entrepreneurship. Equipped with these skills, women can make informed decisions and contribute to their households and communities. Targeted initiatives aim to bridge the gender gap, ensuring women have the resources to thrive economically.

**Innovation and technology:** Embracing innovation and technology empowers women to excel in STEM, challenging stereotypes, fostering inclusivity, and driving societal progress towards a more equitable and innovative future.

**Policy advocacy:** This is crucial for advancing gender equality by breaking down barriers and fostering inclusivity, amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, and challenging systemic injustices. Recognizing its significance is key to creating a more just and equitable society where individuals of all genders have equal opportunities to thrive.

**Unpaid care work must be recognized:** Unpaid care work, crucial to economies and predominantly performed by women, requires formal recognition and funding allocation to address its significance.

**Data-Driven Empowerment:** Utilize data-driven insights to address socio-economic challenges for women, enabling tailored interventions across various contexts.

**Progressive collaboration and networking** are crucial.

We understand the power of women coming together, utilizing their connections to amplify their influence and cultivate more robust ecosystems. Strategic partnerships should be embraced if women are to move forward.

**Content creation for women's economic empowerment:**

This disseminates knowledge, resources, and inspiration to enhance financial independence and participation in the economy, addressing barriers like gender discrimination and limited access to resources. By highlighting success stories and advocating for policy changes, content creators foster a supportive community that empowers women to pursue economic goals and contribute to gender equality.

## Conclusion

As we conclude the Women's Economic Forum Kenya 2024, we reaffirm our commitment to women's empowerment in the face of economic challenges. Together, through collaboration and innovation, we will continue to champion gender equality and create inclusive environments where every woman can thrive.