

Gender & Inclusion Summit

Shaping Inclusive Futures – Gender and Inclusion Summit 2023 Mobilises Stakeholder Commitments for Impactful Change.



The Gender and Inclusion Summit was conceptualized in 2022 as an annual event to provide an inclusive platform to explore transformative ways to advance gender-responsive governance and inclusion in Africa. The theme for the inaugural summit titled **“Connecting the Dots for a Gender-Inclusive Society”** laid a solid foundation for future conversations and collective actions towards building an equitable society.

The 2023 Gender and Inclusion Summit (GS-23) convened prominent leaders, policymakers, NGO and CSO representatives, academics, students as well as public and private sector professionals from November 28th to 29th in Abuja, Nigeria. The theme **“Building Bridges: Advancing Gender & Inclusion through the Intersection of Trade & Health”**, provided a platform to explore strategies to harness the potential of trade to increase economic participation for vulnerable groups, reduce inequalities, improve access to opportunities and advance health as a critical investment for economic returns. The summit events commenced on November 27th, 2023, with a workshop titled **“Measuring What Matters: A Learning Workshop on the Approaches for Evaluating Women and Girls Empowerment”** in collaboration with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and the World Bank Africa Gender Innovation Lab (GIL).

Mr. Udeme Ufot, Chairperson, Policy Innovation Centre (PIC), officially opened the Summit and underscored the commitment of PIC to drive dialogues that explore clear-cut policy and strategic imperatives that must be mainstreamed to realize an inclusive Nigeria. Mrs. Ibukun Awosika echoed this in her Keynote Address, stating that **“the Government needs to have the right engagement and the right policies to drive the solutions that we need.”** Dr. Charity Chenge, Senior Program Officer, Global Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in her Keynote Speech expounded on the summit theme, “it is important that we collectively recognise the relationship between health and productivity...women are crucial in trade, in the workplace, and are disproportionately affected by the burden of disease.”

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Dr. Charity Chenge, Senior Program Officer, Global Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



Dr. Tunji Alausa, The Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Nigeria, in his Ministerial Interview titled “Reducing Maternal Mortality in 2030 and Beyond: What are the Critical Policy and Intervention Imperatives?” reiterated the need for better coordination to address maternal mortality in Nigeria, “It shouldn’t be a crime or risk to get pregnant, and we’re determined to change that. Nigeria’s problem is not policy formulation but implementation...We need better coordination for an improved health system”.

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The summit featured a wide array of dialogues that explored approaches to foster inclusion: amplifying student agency for safer and more inclusive campuses, inclusive health systems, advancing period equity, inclusive food systems and agricultural value chain pathways, gender inclusivity in the creative sector and inclusive futures for youth with disabilities. Dr Jamila Ibrahim, Federal Minister of Youth reiterated this in her Keynote Speech “Is it a threat to be a young person in Nigeria? And if many young abled Nigerians struggle this much, how much more the impaired?”

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Dr Jamila Ibrahim, Federal Minister of Youth



Other sessions highlighted opportunities for inclusive leadership in trade and health, shifting harmful social norms, innovative community engagements, enhancing women's agency and ease of doing business for MSMEs and inclusive economic growth. Hana Brix, Global Director, Gender, World Bank shared some intriguing insights on the business case for women's economic empowerment. ***"Recent World Bank report found that women in the economy due to existing barriers, have much lower earnings than men even for the same efforts...Just addressing these constraints based on our calculations would expand the economy by \$9.3 billion and raise the GDP by 3.2%."***



To wrap up the Summit, PIC hosted a post-summit event at the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28 in United Arab Emirates (UAE). Dr. Osayui Dirisu, the Executive Director of PIC lead discussions on innovative solutions for addressing gender and socially inclusive climate-resilient food systems challenges.

In May 2023, the Policy Innovation Centre launched the maiden edition of the 'Purple Book'. The Purple Book is a curation of policy and programme recommendations from the Gender and Inclusion Summits. Through the Purple Book, the PIC actualizes its commitment to ensure that every idea and recommendation from the Gender and Inclusion Summit is documented to facilitate sustained advocacy and collective action for a Gender-Inclusive Society. The 2024 edition of the Purple Book will be launched in April 2024.



The GS-23 Learning Workshop Participants

About the Policy Innovation Centre

The Policy Innovation Centre (PIC) is the first national institutionalized behavioral initiative in Africa supporting governments and stakeholders to make behaviorally informed decisions and generate contextually relevant evidence for high impact interventions in critical thematic areas. The PIC is an initiative of the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG). The PIC convenes the Gender and Inclusion Summit as an annual event.

Meet GS-23 Partners



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