

**GENDER CONTRIBUTIONS TO Sustainable
Development IN NIGERIA: Enhancing the Gender
Relevance by Constructive Engagement and Education**

By

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **INTRODUCTION**
- **BASIC DEFINITIONS**
- **SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT**
- **ROLE OF WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**
- **CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE WOMAN
CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

INTRODUCTION

- **The Brundtland commission (The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)) named after its chairperson, Former Norwegian prime minister, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland defined the concept of sustainable development more precisely as development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987).**

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- **The publication paved way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and seconded by the Habitat Conference at Istanbul, 1996, which also emphasized on the need for sound environmental management**

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BASIC DEFINITIONS

- **GENDER** IN THIS SETTING REFERS TO WOMEN. IT IS IN NO WAY A CAMPAIGN FOR FEMINISM RATHER A CAREFUL ATTEMPT TO STRESS THE ENVIABLE ROLE OF WOMEN FOLK IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY.
- *“THUS, WOMEN HOLDS THE KEY TO THE SKY”-CHINESE PROVERB*

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- **EDUCATION:** EDUCATION ESPECIALLY THAT OF WOMEN PROMOTES AN AGENDA FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN WITH TOOLS TO LIFT THEMSELVES OUT OF POVERTY . EDUCATION AN EMPOWERMENT IS A MUST FOR WOMEN AND INDEED, OUR WORLD TODAY.
- *HENCE, IT IS AIMED AT RESTORATION OF THE DIGNITY OF MAN(WOMAN)-UNN .*

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- **CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT:THE INEQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN IS EVEN MORE APPARENT IN DEVELOPING SOCIETIES WHERE THE WOMEN ARE LIMITED IN BOTH THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL SECTOR DUE TO A PLETHORIA OF FACTORS.THESE INCLUDE: LACK OF EDUCATION,SOCIO-CULTURAL BIASES, POLICY BLINDNESS AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS.THSES FACTORS RELEGATE WOMEN TO THE FRINGES OF SOCIETY. OUR ADVOCACY NOW IS TO ENGAGE WOMEN CONSTRUCTIVELY.**

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- WHILE SOME EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN STAND OUT WHO OCCUPY SENSITIVE AND TOP POSITIONS IN ECONOMY , POLITICS, AND SOCIETY, THE MAJORITY OF WOMEN ARE UNDERPRIVILEGED.
- THUS, FOR EVERY PRESIDENT JOHNSON – SIRLEAF,FRANCE ANGELA MERKEL,UNITED STATES FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE, HILARY CLINTON; THERE ARE MULTITUDES OF FACELESS, NAMELESS, IMPROVERISED WOMEN. **THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT POVERTY IS TO EDUCATE AND EMPOWER WOMEN-PETER OSAOR,2012.**

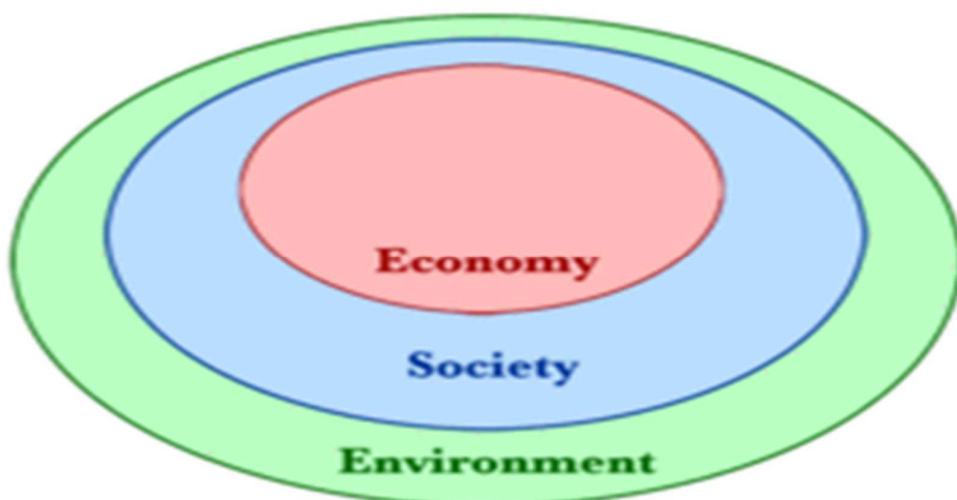
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NEED FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

- Sustainability is the capacity to endure. For humans, sustainability is the long-term maintenance of responsibility, which has environmental, economic, and social dimensions, and encompasses the concept of [stewardship](#), the responsible management of [resource use](#). Achieving sustainability will enable the earth to continue supporting human life as we know it (**Wikipedia, 2012**).

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3 PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY



WIKIPEDIA, 2012

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The relationship between the three pillars of sustainability (Wikipedia, 2012).

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CHALLENGES TO GLOBALLY SUSTAINABILITY

- **THESE ARE**
- The depletion of the ozone layer,
- The Global climate changes,
- The accumulation of toxic chemical or radioactive wastes,
- The human over-appropriation of biomass
- The loss of biodiversity.
- Nuclear accidents and other specific forms of radioactive contamination, acid rain, air and water pollution, desertification and other forms of land degradation, depletion of natural resources, and floods.
- (Jennifer, et al;2013)

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CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- GLOBAL MARKETS AND WOMEN ARE NOT OFTEN USED IN THE SAME SENTENCE, BUT INCREASINGLY, STATISTICS SHOW THAT WOMEN HAVE ECONOMIC CLOUT –MOST VISIBLY AS ENTREPRENEURS AND MOST POWERFULLY AS CONSUMERS-**IRENE NATIVDAD** , *1998 SUMMIT DIRECTOR, FIFTH GLOBAL SUMMIT OF WOMEN AND CHAIRWOMAN*

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- WHEN WOMEN ARE FULLY INVOLVED, THE BENEFITS CAN BE SEEN IMMEDIATELY; FAMILIES ARE HEALTHIER AND BETTER FED; THEIR INCOME SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT GO UP. AND WHAT IS TRUE OF FAMILIES IS ALSO OF COMMUNITIES AND, IN THE LONG RUN, OF WHOLE COUNTRIES.
- **KOFI ANAN-FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL**

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SPECIAL TRIBUTE

- **PROF. DORA AKUNYILI**(1954-2014)-CHAMPION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE.

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OTHER CHAMPIONS

- **DR. NGOZI OKONJO IWEALA**- A PROFESSIONAL OF REPUTE, TRUE AFRICAN AND NIGERIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE & SUPERVISING MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY.
- **OBIAGELI “OBY” EZEKWESILI**-JOINED WORLD BANK IN 2007 AS VICE PRESIDENT OF AFRICAN REGION.NOTED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NIGERIAN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

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OTHERS

- **HAJIA GAMBO SAWABA(1933-2001)**
- HER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES EARNED HER PERSECUTIONS AND FROM BOTH COLONIAL AUTHORITIES AND THE NATIVE ADMINISTRATION WHICH RESULTED IN HER BEING INCARCERATED FOR MORE THAN A DOZEN TIMES.

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CHALLENGES TO WOMEN CONTRIBUTIONS

- SOME OF THE CHALLENGES ARE:
- **POLICY BIASES**-Women represent over 50% of population of Nigeria,however,only about 2% are involved in policy initiation.
- **SOCIO-CULTURAL BIASES-THIS LEADS TO CONTINUED SUBORDINATION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC GOALS.**
- **PLACEMENT IN FEMALE GHETTOS.-WOMEN ARE JUST PLACED ON FLEXIBLE JOBS-NOT WHAT THEY NEED BUT WHAT THEY SHOULD DO.**

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CHALLENGES CONTD.

- **LACK OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**-According to UNESCO in 2006, the share of women in scientific tertiary studies was only 29% and 16% in the field of engineering.
- **POVERTY AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS:** This the bane of female education and empowerment in Nigeria.

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RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

- **ADVOCACY FOR BETTER TRAINING OF THE FEMALE FOLK.**
- **CULTURAL,SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS BARRIERS TO WOMEN TRAINING SHOLD BE JETTISONED.**
- **MALE CHAUVINISM MUST BE FORGOTTEN AND WOMEN NEED TO BE ALLOWED TO HAVE EQUAL PLAYING CONDITIONS**
- **CARE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PLAN SHOULD BE PUT IN PLACE TO TRAIN GIRLS FROM LESS PRIVILEDGED HOMES.**

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CONCLUSION

- “THE BIG SECRET IN LIFE IS THAT THERE IS NO BIG SECRET. WHATEVER YOUR GOAL, YOU CAN GET THERE IF YOU’RE WILLING TO WORK.”
- “FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS. THAT’S WHERE TRUE WISDOM MANIFESTS ITSELF”.

OPRAH WINFREY

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- THANKS

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LISTENING

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