

The e-network for national gender equality machineries in Africa



Participants in the e-network

The e-network is primarily designed for, and used by, national machineries in Africa. The information portal and the thematic e-discussions are open to all stakeholders and provide a forum for collaboration and cooperation at different levels.

For more information on the e-network, please visit: www.uneca.org/ngmafrica

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Background

The e-network is the outcome of a project carried out by the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The project aimed to build the capacity of national gender equality machineries in Africa to effectively use information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance achievement of the goals of gender equality and empowerment of women throughout the region.

In 2004 and 2005, four sub-regional workshops were organized for national machineries in Africa to strengthen skills on knowledge management and the use of ICT. A regional meeting was held in September 2005 to highlight lessons learned from the sub-regional workshops and begin development of an e-network (electronic network) for national machineries in Africa. The e-network was established at a second regional workshop in December 2006.



Economic
Commission for Africa



Division for the
Advancement of
Women



United Nations

E-network for national gender equality machineries in Africa

The e-network for 53 national machineries in Africa was established at a regional workshop in December 2006. The e-network serves as a tool to enhance knowledge management and communication strategies within the national machineries, as well as to strengthen networking among national machineries at the sub-regional and regional levels to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Structure of the e-network

The e-network operates through an information portal and regular interactive activities, including an ongoing internal discussion list for national machineries and regular thematic e-discussions with broader participation.

E-network management

Ten sub-regional coordinators from national machineries are part of a regional Management Group, which guides and monitors overall operation of the e-network. ECA, including gender focal points from sub-regional offices, and DAW support the Management Group.

The information portal

The information portal, www.uneca.org/ngmafrica, is the central hub of the e-network for national machineries. National machineries use the portal to access and share relevant information and resources, including on national machineries in Africa and on organizations and intergovernmental and treaty bodies and processes at regional and global levels. The information portal also provides access to the interactive activities of the e-network.



Discussion list

An internal discussion list for national machineries, in French and English, allows for continuous exchange of information. National machineries use the list to share information, raise queries and exchange ideas on relevant topics. The e-network can also be used to mobilize national machineries around a particular event or theme.

Thematic e-discussions

Thematic e-discussions, held 3 times a year for a duration of 6 weeks, are open to all stakeholders, including national machineries, line ministries, NGOs, donors and academia. The e-discussions aim to promote a vibrant and informed debate on current areas of interest and encourage collaboration and cooperation among different stakeholders. Interested participants can sign-up via the information portal.