

**8<sup>th</sup> GIMAC Young Womens Advocacy Training  
Report  
10<sup>th</sup> July 2022**



**Report by Martin Silukena**

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## 1.0. Introduction and Background

This document is a report of the 8<sup>th</sup> GIMAC Young Women Advocacy Training that took place in Lusaka, Zambia on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

GIMAC Young Women Network (GYWN) is a young people's network formed in 2018 from the mother network Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC Network). The GYWN was formed to recognize and amplify vulnerable young women's voices and their advocacy efforts in their communities. The network is made up of over 130 youth organisations and movements across Africa led by passionate women and #HeforShe male champions who advocate for the rights of girls and young women in their different regions across Africa. The network's advocacy work seeks to address gender equality and active women participation across the 6 thematic areas of Governance, Peace and Security, Human Rights, Health, Education and Economic empowerment. The network is membership-based and relies on the skills, resources, expertise, and passion of its members to advocate for gender equality. It is led by a youth steering committee composed of representatives from North, South, East, West and Central Africa.

The one- day training workshop was a precursor to the main GIMAC meeting convened in Lusaka from 11- 12 July, 2022. The training was held within the month of July 2022 which had been set aside as a month to celebrate Pan African Women's month anchored on building back the social economic status of women across Africa post COVID-19 era. The celebrations were guided by following theme:

**"Towards the African Womens Decade: Women Health Capital through accelerated social and economic development, addressing the Courage of violence, and building resilience in nutrition on the Africa continent"**

The above theme was situated in and built on the African Union theme for the year that stated: **"Building Resilience in Nutrition on African Continent: Accelerate Human Capital, Social and economic Development"**

The 8<sup>th</sup> GIMAC Advocacy Training was conducted on the margins of the 4<sup>th</sup> AU- RECs Coordination Summit and offered an opportunity for young people to understand how they could engage with the AU, the Regional Economic Bodies, and development partners on matters affecting youth development on the African continent. The workshop provided a platform for young people to consolidate their views and make recommendations to the main GIMAC meeting that proceed immediately after the Advocacy training workshop. The training

workshop was attended by 154 participants from across Africa. The List of participants is at Annex II.

## **2.0. Objectives of the Workshop.**

The workshop objectives were:

- i. Enhance the capacity and participation of the youth to advocate, monitor and evaluate the progress in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)
- ii. Increase Youth understanding of the continental commitments, strategies and action plans towards nutrition, SRH&RR, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and advancing economic empowerment and financial inclusion of women and girls.
- iii. Educate the Youth on the policy making process, advocacy, and implementation at the grass roots, national and regional levels with the aim of strengthening reliable governance systems and structures and enhancing transformative education - including Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).
- iv. Create a space for young people to amplify their voices while strengthening their skills and expanding their network to encompass CSOs, AU and UN organs, as well as partner organisations for potential collaborations

## **3.0. Expected Outcome**

The main expected outcome of the Youth advocacy training were recommendations to be utilised in advocacy towards the AU REC Coordination Summit.

The following were other expectations:

Enhanced coordination and collaboration amongst the GIMAC Young Women Network youths for collective programs and advocacy on women rights, food security and nutrition, and climate change among others:

- i. Knowledge, skills and analysis strengthened among the GIMAC young people on feminist Pan African Perspectives and intersectionality of gender equality with food security and nutrition;
- ii. Establishment of a sustainable partnership and collaboration between civil society organization, youth networks, feminist movements and youth organizations.
- iii. An African community platform developed to address real life stories of women engaged and affected by climate change, including challenges and success stories.

## **4.0. Workshop Agenda.**

The workshop Agenda is at Annex I.

## **5.0. Introductions and Workshop expectations**

The participants were asked to introduce themselves by name and were also asked to share something unique about their countries and what their expectations for the workshop were. The following were some of the common expectations shared.

- i. To network with diverse people across the African continent and determine how to proceed going forward on the agenda for the youth.
- ii. Looking forward to learning from the sessions of the day.
- iii. Learning the needs of youth.
- iv. Diverse groups of youth to be the catalyst of the change they would like to see.
- v. Understanding the perspective of youth and understanding their needs.
- vi. Connecting and understanding how youth can be the catalyst that would take Africa forward.
- vii. Ensuring that gender equality was realised in Africa.
- viii. How to go forward as youth?

## **6.0. Welcoming and Opening Remarks:**

The workshop participants were welcomed by Ms. Karen Ondwasi Olaka, Chairperson, GIMAC Young Women Network who in her remarks emphasized the importance of the GIMAC Young women's network and the critical role that young people played in the attainment of the Sustainable Development goals. She observed that the meeting was key to young people in the post COVID-19. She explained the role of her organisation and recognising the role that young people played in serving the community to improve their own welfare. She stated that the GIMAC Young women's network was within its mandate committed to supporting youth realise their goals. She encouraged the participants to utilise the space provided by the training fully and enjoy it. Part of her remarks was an apology to young people who may have experienced travel and logistical challenges to get to the training.

## **7.0. Remarks by Invited Guests**

**Remarks by Dr Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, GIMAC Steering Committee Member and Young Women Lead**

In her remarks, Dr. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda recognised the amazing leadership of the GIMAC Young Women Network Steering committee and congratulated them for the great work of convening the workshop. Dr. Gumbonzvanda also recognized women leaders and partners present who supported young people of Africa and that there could never have been liberation of Africa without the young people of Africa.

In her statement Dr. Gumbonzvanda highlighted on her role as AU Goodwill Ambassador on end child marriages. She made the following observations:

- i. Change doesn't happen unless we turn our words into influence for transformation.
- ii. There was need to turn our words into influence, from identifying the issues to influencing the agenda.
- iii. Encouraged young people to interact with the leaders and ambassadors in attendance from different countries to present and push their issues.
- iv. Noted that the young people's experience was just as valid as anyone else's experience and implored that language should not be a barrier for them to express themselves.
- v. Africa needed to be liberated around economic wellbeing, food security, owning of the assets of the continent and unleashing of the greatest potential of its people which was the youth, the young men and women across the continent.
- iv. As long as African daughters and sons were still given out to child marriage, Africa would not be prosperous, as long as there was child sexual exploitation, there still remained work to be done.
- v. The theme of the AU Summit for 2022 was about economies of nations in Africa, the governance of nations, it was about the prioritization of the resources of nations and the valuing of own systems and assets on the continent.
- vi. The participants were the Africa they dreamt about, as they elected their leaders and heads of state and so they should shape the agenda and continue to speak about it.

#### **Remarks by Sam Norgah, Director, Plan International African Union Liaison Office**

The summary of the remarks by Mr. Norgah were:

- i. We need to create spaces and opportunities for young people to engage in development and social processes that affect them.
- ii. Young people were being prepared today to be leaders for tomorrow. We need to invest in them and empower them to take up the mantle of leadership.



- iii. The triple nexus between food security, nutrition and climate change need to underpin any development discourse in order to achieve the AU 2022 theme.
- iv. There was need to urgently address harmful practices that impact on the development and survival of children particularly girls - child marriage, FGM and other harmful practices
- v. Young people need to exercise and leverage on their skills, experiences, networks and broker partnerships (with others) in order to influence public policy.
- vi. Plan International will continue to support the GIMAC young women network and invest in girls and young women as part of our commitment towards the achievement of the AU agenda 2063

**1. Statement by Dr Helene Yinda, Africa YWCA Network and GIMAC Network Co-Thematic Lead on Young Women**

The following statement was delivered by Dr. Helene Yinda:

- i. We must not forget about the young women in rural areas because they are part of us, we need to open doors for them and create a platform for their voices to be heard.
- ii. The young women in rural areas face harsh realities including rape, but their voices aren't heard because we assume that only the voices of the educated women in urban areas who know how, where and when to express themselves ought to be heard.
- iii. The women in the rural areas must be heard despite their lack of formal education, they are mothers who take care of their families and do all the hard work. They must be included in the advocacy work that we do.
- iv. Therefore, we need to open doors and create a space for them to express themselves and be included in the agriculture and nutrition programmes.

**8.0. Orientation to AU Theme 2022, Youth Policies/ Existing legal frameworks**

The session was facilitated by Mr. Ononuju Silver Okwaraogoma and Dr. Rewan Youssif both of them from the Youth Division, AUC and was delivered within the context of the three themes below.

- Understanding the AU organs, processes and various opportunities for advocacy.
- Understanding existing policies that are in line with youth work
- Share opportunities for advocacy at GIMAC, AU and at the regional levels.
- Women, Gender and Youth Division Flagship Initiatives

**Key Highlights of the presentation by the AUC Youth Division**

- The division worked towards Unleashing the potential of women and youth by achieving gender and youth parity, enabling development and fostering meaningful engagement

- The 3 priority areas of AUC Youth Division being Youth and Gender Transformative Programming, Maintaining Strong Foundations and catalyzing action in countries for scale and impact.
- Gender and Youth Mainstreaming- through systematically integrating youth affairs, gender perspectives and women's development into the work of all stakeholders.

In terms of how the Youth Division of the AUC delivered its work, the MOCAAP Model was shared summarised as follows:

- i. Mobilization-Sensitizing youth and women for their meaningful engagement.
- ii. Orientation- Using AU training tools adaptable to different stakeholder groups.
- iii. Conversations/Connections- Online and offline to build networks and amplify the voices of women and youth.
- iv. Activation-empowering women and youth to act in their communities through providing spaces and resources.
- v. Advocacy- Linking connections and conversations to effect change in high-level policy spaces and grassroot communities.
- vi. Partnerships- Working with partners to collectively deliver impact at scale.

The presentation by the AUC Youth Division also highlighted 6 programmes, namely, Education and Skills development, Young Professionals' development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Youth engagement, Health and wellbeing and Policy Partnerships and Evidence.

### **The 1 Million Next Level Initiative**

The 1 Million Next Level Initiative as presented within the AUC youth Division presentation was a youth focused initiative of the African Union Commission, Youth Division and envisioned to provide 300 million African Youth opportunities in Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment, Engagement and Health and Wellbeing by 2030. It was, the successor of the 1mby2021, and was concerned with scaling-up of youth development and engagement strategies and initiatives for impact. It was a multi-stakeholder partnership involving the public and private sectors, and the young people of Africa.

The other key flagship programme shared by AUC, Youth Division was the AU COVID-19 vaccination Bingwa initiative. The word Bingwa was explained that it means champion in Swahili. The idea of the initiative was to engage young people meaningfully in scaling up the COVID-19 Vaccination uptake. The Initiative was among other things intended to respond to the low uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine in Africa. The African continent was estimated to be at 20% vaccination rate with the target being 70% by April 2023.

The idea of the initiative was to get young people to be champions to drive the COVID-19 vaccination on the African continent. The AU COVID-19 Bingwa initiative was explained to be a public/private youth partnership initiative that was being done in partnership with the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The meaning of Bingwa in the context of the initiative was the youth champions that would be deployed by the AU in the different communities across the continent to mobilize their own communities to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The Initiative would leverage on other works including both the 1 million next level

initiative under the health and wellbeing and the Saving Lives Livelihood initiative which was the key flagship for the Africa CDC.

The Initiative aimed at generating demand for the COVID-19 vaccine and targeted at creating a network of Bingwas with the target of at least one Bingwa per province or district, each Bingwa would have the role of mobilizing their own community to get the COVID-19 Vaccine. It was intended to make an indirect contribution to bridging the 760 million vaccination gap in Africa by increasing the demand for COVID-19 vaccination.

Going forward, the AUC Youth Division would conduct a Light the Torch event from Addis Ababa that will go across the continent to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccination.

The country rollout plan would take a phased approach starting 5 countries then 10 countries then 20 and 20. One Bingwa would be deployed in all the 55 member states to start leveraging on the behavioral change communication aspect.

The process would involve launching a call for applications for young people to apply to be Bingwas, then proceed to select one Bingwa on the national level for the 55 member states before getting to sub-national levels. The selected young people to be Bingwas would have their capacities strengthened, so that they were able to take that knowledge to their countries and communities. Further support would be in the form of giving young people seed grants and also allow them to work in the already existing frameworks of COVID-19 vaccine rollout in their countries. Cross learning among countries would be promoted by the initiative.

The recruitment of Bingwas would be inclusive regardless of one's profession or role they played in their communities.

#### **9.0. Promoting youth financial and economic inclusion, ending violence against Women and Girls and towards proper nutrition, health and wellbeing.**

The subject matter was delivered in a parallel session facilitated in 3 groups as below:

- i. Promoting Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion facilitated by Dr. Auxilla B Ponga, Former PS Ministry of Tourism, Zambia.
- ii. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls facilitated by Ms. Mwinji Nachinga, Africa Youth Commission.
- iii. Towards proper nutrition, health and wellbeing facilitated by Chipso Muchabalalwa, Plan International, Zimbabwe.

#### **Summary Plenary and group discussion points**

The session was delivered through 3 group discussions followed by plenary with key discussion points summarised below.

#### **Group 1: - Promoting Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion**

The group facilitator led the group in the following discussion:

- Financial inclusion meant that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way.

- Through financial inclusion, governments aim to develop a culture of savings and investments among the youth; this in turn could boost the country's economy. Bringing the youthful sections of the society under a formal financial system would help protect their financial wealth.
- By targeting the youth, financial inclusion would not only help promote financial stability but also broaden the country's socioeconomic growth. That would also enable the participating institutions such as banks and insurance companies to improve their customer base and expand into the rural sector.
- By leveraging technology and support through proper grievance redressal systems, financial inclusion can reduce income inequality and serve the underprivileged and the underserved.
- Factors causing financial exclusion were lack of surplus income by young people, high transaction costs by financial institutions, lack of required documents by young people and as well as remoteness of the unserved population. Other cited reason why young people could not access financial services were structural in nature including collateral requirements by most financial institutions. Capacity issues affecting young people, for instance inability, to structure their business to acceptable bank standards constituted one of the factors excluding young people.

Other group discussions on the subject matter brought out the following:

- i. Need to promote groups savings and banking in a bid to address the gaps associated with lack of documentation by young people at the same time benefiting from resource pooling and reduced transaction costs.
- ii. Young people need to be innovative/based on their passion/ interest and optimizing the use of information technology.
- iii. Consider starting enterprises that banks would be attracted to work with thereby attracting systems to begin to look out at what young people were doing with a view to incorporating them into formal systems. Example of group savings known as Village Banking in Zambia and Table Banking in Kenya were given as those informal systems that were gradually being integrated into formal systems on account of the many successes observed from such initiatives.
- iv. Promote Village/ Table banking- with a possibility of opening a bank account with minimum balance.
- v. Young people should not wait for jobs to find them but look for existing needs and find solutions to such challenges that people would be willing to pay for.
- vi. Need for youth capacity strengthening in financial literacy for their better participation in public finance and in programmes that promote financial including and women and youth empowerment.
- vii. Young people need to be part of financial decisions in public finance management spaces.
- viii. Need to have youth affirmative funds, creating capacity of youth to access financial resources and systems.
- ix. Promote community based financial support systems and access to opportunities including household and community level financial literacy and inclusivity.
- x. Interventions to target rural and underprivileged young people on financial literacy and inclusion.
- xi. Start initiatives in rural areas to advise and provide financial literacy to young people and women as a way towards financial inclusion.

- xii. Rural women and young people should also consider indigenous ways of banking and saving at the same time promote documenting what was working well.
- xiii. Consider indigenous financing solutions for sustainability.
- xiv. Need to have sustainable investment and saving taking into account long term implications.
- xv. The conversation on financial inclusion needs to take into account the pros and cons (risk) of both financing and entrepreneurship initiatives being considered.
- xvi. There was need to explore ways of connecting local financing initiatives with formal systems as a way of formalization local systems and promoting financial inclusion.
- xvii. Consider household initiatives that were supportive of young people to bring them in the space of financial inclusion.
- xviii. Need to include and prioritize rural youth and women in financial inclusion programmes
- xix. The need to simplify financial inclusion to the most understandable basic levels.
- xx. Need for more capacity building including empowerment with basic resources to allow young people to explore their enterprise ideas.
- xxi. Looking for financing beyond banks and banking. let us learn from local financing initiatives. Draw improvement from their financing can be draw from family and friends
- xxii. Government responsibilities - advocacy for call to government to decentralize some of the institutions and support systems needed to promote rural and women financial inclusion. Government should be held accountable to advance financial inclusion in rural areas targeting youth and women.
- xxiii. There was WYEI -AUC Initiative in motion valued at \$20 Million intended to unlock the potential and support women and young people in empowerment and enterprise development.
- xxiv. Young people should consider employing and empowering young people in their business initiatives as a way of availing opportunities to fellow young people.
- xxv. Need for financial inclusion for youth in the civil service and that Banks to consider products that promote saving among young people in the civil service.
- xxvi. Governments to make specific tax recommendations that promote business start-ups especially for young people and women.

## **Group 2: - Ending Violence Against Women and Girls**

- i. Sexual harassment and child marriage remained major violence issues that affected rights of women and girls where efforts to address them should be scaled up.
- ii. There was need for information on sexual harassment to get to the grassroots.
- iii. Power structures still rested with men and efforts to address that should be embraced by youth.
- iv. There was need to promote sensitisation and awareness on violence against women and girls.
- v. There was need to increase financing towards programmes that address gender-based violence.
- vi. Include women and girls living with disability in GBV programmes.

- vii. Promote securing of quotas for women and girls in employment and economic opportunities.
- viii. Promote women solidarity on matter being advanced by women.
- ix. Promote social media programs to increase access to information by young women and girls on ending violence against women and girls.
- x. Promote Policy reforms and recommendations including effective implementation of relevant policies.
- xi. There was need for increased budget allocation towards education of girls to empower them and promote economic independence of women.
- xii. Increase young women and youth representatives in positions of power for heightened participation in decision making processes including increased accountability on violence against them.
- xiii. Create synergies between CSOs and government with regard to GBV in a bid to determine what actions to take in responding to GBV.
- xiv. There was need to strengthen the African justice systems to effectively address Violence and against women and girls and that young women should demand justice for violence suffered by women and girls.

### **Group 3: - Towards proper nutrition, health and well-being among African youths**

- i. Nutrition, health and well-being in Africa among youth and women should be promoted.
- ii. Need for greater and meaning involvement of youth and women in matters of nutrition, inclusiveness in programme design and implementation as well as in creation of awareness on policies and laws governing food security and nutrition.
- iii. There was need to fund and educate young women in the agricultural domain including support towards the acquisition of modern farming equipment and ensuring that they had relevant capacity to manage farming businesses.
- iv. Within nutrition, food security and health programming, young people must be understood as individuals and not groups and engaged in ways that they could meaningfully contribute.
- v. Need to have young people who were assertive to drive the agenda of nutrition and food security based on researched evidence.
- vi. Promote greater participation of youth in evidence generation in nutrition and food security issues affecting girls and young women to support programming.

- vii. Within work that promotes the nutrition and food security of youth and young women there was need for collaborate with new and existing partners in improving nutrition for the achievement of the envisaged impact.
- viii. Systems that perpetuate exclusion of young women and young people in nutrition and food security matters need to be addressed.
- ix. Need generate interest in nutrition and food security matters by young people.
- x. Nutrition to be a big item in the African social economic development agenda where the private sector was engaged and education systems promotes it.
- xi. Need to use social media to promote nutrition, food security and wellbeing among young people.
- xii. There was need to build resilience around the factors that affect women in relation to climate change in African countries.
- xiii. Civil society to advocate for the review of existing policies in relation to climate change in the light of women's welfare.
- xiv. Programmes that promote the wellbeing of women and girls should be climate smart.
- xv. Climate change programmes to mainstream mental health education and support for young women and girls.
- xvi. Prioritize partnership opportunities that promote nutrition and food security for young women.
- xvii. Young people should be proactive and engage communities including the AU on health, nutrition, food security and mental health issues including creating awareness for greater and meaningful participation of young people in such programmes.
- xviii. African Young People should be proactive and use political spaces to influence and attain the change they want to see in nutrition, food security and wellbeing.
- xix. In the quest to have proper nutrition and food security, there was need to promote trade within the African continent where indigenous foods were also promoted.
- xx. The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP27, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022 was an opportunity for further engagement to address issues of nutrition and food security in Africa.
- xxi. Need to integrate in the school system nutrition and food security education.
- xxii. Nutrition promotion in the rural areas should look at social indicators and the kind of food produced as well as the quality of food that was produced.
- xxiii. There was need to promote youth focused and led initiatives in nutrition and food security.
- xxiv. Sexual reproductive health and rights was a key component of health and wellness of youth and young women in the light of food security and nutrition, it should therefore be incorporated in such programmes.

xxv. Nutrition and malnutrition had an intergenerational impact that could affect mothers and their children leading to poor physical and mental development of those affected. Therefore, nutrition in young women and young people need to be prioritised.

### **10.0. Advocacy Training**

The session on advocacy training was facilitated by Ms. Tashirifa from the IPAS Network

#### **Definition of Advocacy**

The following were covered in the session:

Advocacy was oftentimes confused with community sensitization and the session provided the difference between them.

If one was using their knowledge and expertise to ensure that government policies and laws were changed, advocacy was involved.

Engaging in activities that do not realize change such as negotiating with policy makers was not advocacy.

Doing community mobilization and engaging with community members could be said to be awareness work. Advocacy centered around identification of an issue or problem and engaging with policy makers, advocacy was about motivating and mobilizing community members so that they were able to support their own agenda.

#### **Stages in Advocacy**

identify an issue or problem, as an advocate find a specific issue or problem that you want to advocate and push for. Having chosen an issue, identify its root cause backed by data, facts and statistics to help your advocacy and help have meaningful conversations. In relation to the issue, make sure you have an advocacy goal and objective, clarify your objective, what is it that you want sorted out and propose potential solutions. Having known the problem, move on to identifying the stakeholders who have power and influence with regard to the advocacy issue.

In negotiating we must think about the objective, why one is speaking, with whom would one engage with, what message to be put across and what objective to be achieved ultimately. There must be an agenda planned out. Having a planned-out agenda was said to be the most effective way to achieve results especially in negotiating with policy makers.

#### **Case Study on Advocacy**

A case study on what recently took place in Kenya was shared by the facilitator, where they were pushing for a Reproductive Health policy document and did engage a lot with the Ministry of Health (M.O.H) to make sure the policy aligned with the constitution. The first consultative meetings were held and after the consultative fora the document was made a secret. While the CSO contributed to the document their efforts to have access to the final document were rejected by the M.O.H. CSOs then mobilized activists to go out into the streets, held social media campaigns, radio talk shows and when the media picked it up the M.O.H launched the policy document.



Because of the conversations, negotiations, engagements and advocacy of the youths and activists, the M.O.H called for a meeting to redraft the document and the policy document was redrafted. From the case study, varied skills of communication and negotiation were employed in engaging with the M.O.H within the broader advocacy work.

### **Other Key considerations in Advocacy that were highlighted by participants.**

Ensure that you understand who you are targeting when packaging the advocacy messages, do an analysis to understand the level of education of the target group as well as their interests, so that when developing the messages, you meet them at their level.

Highlight how serious the problem is using data, statistics and facts that you can present to the policy maker whilst engaging with them.

Highlight what the effects of the problem are, you can cite statistics and what the progression would be should the problem be left unattended to.

Finally, have a clear request in the form of a solution, that will solve the problem. Be very specific, concise and straight to the point

### **Plenary- Reflections and input from participants on advocacy**

When you view yourself as an advocate, you must show that you are serious and mean business, with a sense of radicalism.

In some contexts, policy advocacy should not be our top priority. If we direct all our attention and efforts in one direction to correct a policy, we make our governments feel satisfied with just correcting documents. Africa would be a better continent if work was implemented in line with the existing laws and policies including those for the African Union.

It's important to identify strong people and our allies who we can use to support our advocacy efforts.

It's not always going to be easy and straightforward in advocacy work, advocates must maximize on their strength in communication, be strong and assertive in approach.

Depending on the context, advocates may be grouped as drafters, negotiators, administrators and foot soldiers to optimize on available opportunities to move forward the advocacy agenda each category performing specific tasks and pursuing specific deliverables.

The following were other group discussion points on advocacy:

- i. Identify who has power and influence and who has little influence.
- ii. Identify the opportunities and obstacles in your advocacy journey.
- iii. Identify who is against the advocacy agenda and identify how to work with or around them.
- iv. Package and structure your message in an interesting manner and ways that identifies the gap, be clear on your messenger too.
- v. Review progress to make to assess the impact of your work
- vi. Be strategic in finding allies in finding people that support your agenda
- vii. Work towards collaboration and not competition

- viii. Know the appropriate tools for negotiation
- ix. In lobbying, numbers may sometimes not matter, but lived experiences may achieve quicker results through stories that bring a human face to the situation.
- x. Youth Advocacy soft skills include communication, negotiation skills , networking and Reporting.

#### **11.0. What needs to be done differently by the network**

The session was facilitated by Juliet Kimotho from African Population and Health Research Center

The following were some of the comments and feedback provided by participants:

- i. Need for inclusion of young women living with disabilities in the next network meetings.
- ii. Adequate time to be allocated to the meeting to allow for more engagement and action planning.
- iii. There was need to understand what progress the AUC, Youth Division was making towards the youth agenda. It was therefore proposed that meetings such as the GIMAC Young Women Meetings/ Workshop be used as a platform to appreciate and monitor what progress was being made by the AUC on youth matters.
- iv. Need for greater involvement of the media, religious and traditional leaders in the work of the network.
- v. Young women from rural communities need to be supported to participate in future network meetings to give them an opportunity to voice out on matters affecting them without third part representation.

#### **Overview and Highlight of the Day**

The session was facilitated by Melissa Ruvimbo Kubvoruno from Rozaria Memorial Trust who gave an overview and highlighted the key discussions of the day.

## **12.0. Recommendations and Key asks from young people.**

- i. Youths to be encouraged to meaningfully participate in public finance management at all levels. That leads to youth representation in fiscal policy spaces such as in discussions on revenue including on taxes that affect them.
- ii. Bridging the gap in implementation of fiscal policy by regularly holding the government and other stakeholders accountable.
- iii. Prioritization of capacity building for youth and avail opportunities to them in relation to financial and economic development at grassroots, national and regional levels. For instance, having affirmative funds, youth stimulus packages, bank loans and mainstreaming of financial literacy through curricula to support young people and women.
- iv. There was need to strengthen the legal and policy frameworks and the implementation of such frameworks aimed at improving SRHR and ending gender-based violence against women and girls.
- v. Increase budget allocation towards education of young women and girls and ensure transparency and accountability in resource management by the African Union and members/states in the quest to end violence against women and girls.
- vi. Strengthening collaboration between CSOs, the private sector and government to provide support and increase female participation in decision making spaces as part of the efforts to end gender-based violence.
- vii. Building resilience for nutrition through increased understanding and capacity of women and young people in nutrition and food security matters.
- viii. There was need for private sector engagement in nutrition promotion through, among other things, creating policy frameworks that encourage private sector participation as primary stakeholders including funding nutrition challenges within the AU member states.

- ix. There was need for young people to be part of decision-making processes within the micro to macro social, economic and political development point of view to ensure policies were responsive to the nutritional and food security needs of youths.