Introduction

This side event provides an opportunity for an evaluation of the progress made by Kenya on increasing the voice of rural women in (1) governance issues, (2) the achievement of greater gender equality and (3) their participation in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This side event pays particular attention to rural women participation in the electoral processes and an analysis of their participation and outcome both as candidates and supporters in the two electoral periods of 2013 and 2017. The event showcases the role of women as governance actors as well as the enablers and challenges to their effective participation as governance actors.

Guiding Questions

1. What are the legislative frameworks in place and how have they contributed to the empowerment of rural women and girls?
2. Beyond legislation and policy, what are some of the other enabling factors for women’s participation in Governance matters?
3. How can women bring transformative change as leaders: What are some of the best practices on the role of women as game changers?
4. How can we ensure effective Partnerships at the local and national levels for the empowerment of rural women as governance actors?
5. What actions and investments have governments and other stakeholders taken that have resulted in rural women’s and girls’ engagement in governance processes?

Objectives of the side event:

- To demonstrate that legal and regulatory frameworks as enabling factors can increase voices of women in governance
- To showcase models that have worked to drive the progress and opportunities for improvement of rural women in governance.
- To show case the rural women as actors in overcoming patriarchy which hinders women’s active participation in elective politics.
- To demonstrate the benefits of effective partnerships in empowering rural women

Speakers:

1. Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, Kenya
2. Governor Anne Waiguru, Elected Governor, Kenya
3. Governor Joyce Laboso, Elected Governor, Kenya
4. Governor Paul Chepkwony, Elected Governor, Kenya
5. Representative, Kenya Women Parliamentary Association
6. Ms. Zebib Kavuma, Country Director, UN Women, Kenya
7. Ms. Cynthia Chepkosgei Muge, Young Elected Independent Candidate, Kenya

Moderator: