Dr. Natalia Kanem and UNFPA Team after the 29th AU General Assembly

Dr. Natalia Kanem, Acting Executive Director of the UNFPA was invited as a Special Guest of the 29th African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Ethiopia by His Excellency Prof. Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea and Chairperson of the African Union. The UNFPA Team on the ground (DGM-ELO) worked closely with other UNFPA offices to ensure a successful representation…

In this Edition:

- The 29th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly & Tribute to Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin.
- Bilaterals Meetings of Dr. Natalia Kanem, Acting Executive Director of UNFPA at the margins of the 29th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 19th General Assembly of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) & Launching of the 6th Edition of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) Report.
- High-level Meeting on the SWEDD Initiative organized by UNFPA/WCARO and the World Bank.

Addis Ababa-Ethiopia, 3-4 July 2017: 29th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, remembering Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin

The Acting Executive Director of the UNFPA Dr. Natalia Kanem was invited by H.E. Prof. Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea and Chairperson of the African Union to attend the 29th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3-4 July 2017.

The context of this visit was first, the contribution of UNFPA to AU Member States on the AU theme of the year: **"Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth"** and second, the loss of Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA in June 2017. In his speech during the opening ceremony, the AU Chair said: **"Dr. Babatunde Osotimehim (...) was brutally taken away from us. He contributed significantly, through his engagement and exemplary leadership in awakening the international community on the importance of the demographic dividend towards achieving sustainable development. He worked hard so that the African Union's Roadmap regarding this theme would be a tangible reality. "**
The role played by UNFPA was acknowledged by African leaders and other stakeholders as the message on the Demographic Dividend was loud and clear. AU Head of States are indeed calling for implementation of strategies to harness the Demographic Dividend, to join efforts to provide a peaceful environment for youth enabling them to be competitive in the professional market.

Inside the Mandela Hall, Assembly observing a minute of silence in remembrance of Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin.

During the 29th AU General Assembly in Ethiopia, and under the chairmanship of President Alpha Conde, AU Heads of State and Government recognized once again, the work and legacy of the late Executive Director of UNFPA: Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin. A minute of silence was observed at both the opening sessions of the AU Summit and the OAFLA General Assembly.

4th July 2017 AUC Plenary Hall, Old Building: Launching of the 6th Edition of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) Report

Dr. Natalia Kanem, the Acting Executive Director had the opportunity to address the OAFLA General Assembly and in so doing, ensured that stakeholders were assured that initiatives spearheaded by the late Executive Director would continue under her leadership.

OAFLA used this opportunity to launch its annual flagship publication. In line with the AU theme of the year, **"Harnessing the Demographic Dividend trough Investments in Youth",** the publication particularly features content that is in line with OAFLA 2017 theme which is **"Building on 15 years of engagement to harness the demographic dividend of Africa through promoting the needs of adolescents and their access to youth-friendly health services".** The publication was jointly launched by Dr. Natalia Kanem and the First Lady of the Republic of Chad, H.E Mrs. Indira Deby. UNFPA was proud to participate in this event and Dr. Kanem highlighted that "UNFPA will remain committed to working together with OAFLA to mobilize greater investments in youth, prioritizing the needs of all adolescents as a way to ensure that the demographic dividend becomes a reality for Africa." The ceremony was attended by many First ladies and a minute of silence was observed on the loss of Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin. Prior to this, she had an opportunity to meet with H. E. Roman Tesfaye, First lady of Ethiopia and elected Chair of OAFLA and other First Ladies present.

Dr Natalia Kanem on the main table with H.E Indira Deby, First Lady of Chad, the Secretariat of OAFLA and the Representatives of the AUC

African Union's Head of states are calling for implementation of strategies to harness the Demographic Dividend for increased funding for Family Planning.

PROFILE OF DR. NATALIA KANEM

Following the sudden decease of Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations' Secretary General appointed Dr. Natalia Kanem of Panama as Acting Executive Director of UNFPA effective 5 June 2017. From 28 July 2016 until this date, Dr. Kanem had been Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director UNFPA-Program. She was appointed by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 28 July 2016. Dr. Kanem joined UNFPA in 2014, and served as UNFPA Representative in Tanzania from 2014 to 2016. She brings to the Acting Executive Director position more than 25 years of strategic leadership experience in the fields of medicine, public and reproductive health, peace, social justice, and philanthropy. Dr. Kanem holds a medical degree from Columbia University in New York and a Master's degree in Public Health, with specializations in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, from the University of Washington in Seattle. She is also a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University, where she studied History and Science.

Dr Natalia Kanem during the 29th AU Summit

Dr Natalia Kanem
Acting Executive Director of UNFPA

BILATERAL MEETINGS OF DR. NATALIA KANEM IN ETHIOPIA

Dr. Kanem had several high-level meetings in the margins of the AU Summit and she used this opportunity reiterate UNFPA's commitment to the development of Africa's people. Especially the women, adolescents and youth who make up a significant proportion of the population and are disproportionately affected when there is inaction or neglect. She highlighted the need to leave no one behind and the commitment to reach the furthest behind first when it comes to issues of their fundamental human rights including the right to decide, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, on matters concerning their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

1st July 2017- AUC Conference Center: Dr. Natalia Kanem AED, Meeting with H.E. Mrs Amira ElFadil, Commissioner of Social Affairs, AUC

Dr. Natalia Kanem, the acting Executive Director of UNFPA met H. E. Amira El Fadil, the Commissioner for Social Affairs at the African Union Commission. This was an important meeting to strengthen the collaboration between UNFPA and AUC's Department of Social Affairs who hold the mantle for many key issues related to UNFPA's mandate. They discussed some on-going initiatives involving the partners and how to work even more closely together moving forward especially along the implementation of the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth. The Commissioner stressed the need to ensure greater implementation which is an important priority for her department moving forward.

UNFPA assured her of its unwavering support towards increased implementation and added that the successful implementation to existing commitment would transform the face of development in Africa and benefit all the women, adolescents and youth of Africa.

Dr. Kanem used the opportunity to present to the Commissioner a copy of the ''Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa, July 2017'' which is the organization's latest contribution towards providing evidence to the discourse on DD.

Dr Natalia Kanem presented H.E. Mrs Amira ElFadil, Commissioner of Social Affairs, AUC with a copy of the "Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa"

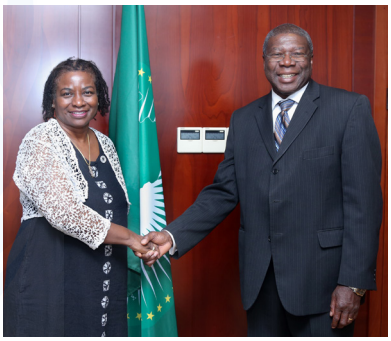
2nd July 2017 at UNECA Conference Center; Bilateral with Mrs Bineta Diop, AUC Chairperson's Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security

Dr Natalia Kanem with H.E. Mrs Bineta Diop, Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security discussing on the issues of common interest.

3rd July 2017 at AUC; Meeting H.E. Mr. Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC, accompanied by H.E. Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, AUC (outgoing)

Dr Natalia Kanem and H.E. Mr. Kwesi Quartey surrounded by Mr. Zane Dangor (ELO), H.E. Dr. Ikounga (HRST); Mr. Mabingue Ngom (UNFPA/WCARO); Mr. Constant-Serge Bounda (UNFPAMadagascar)

Dr Natalia Kanem (L) and H.E. Mr. Kwesi Quartey (R)



Dr Natalia Kanem (R) and H.E. Dr. Martial de Paul Ikounga (L)

Interaction between Dr. Natalia Kanem and Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo, the First Lady of Ghana

Dr. Natalia and Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo

Interaction between Dr. Natalia Kanem and Mrs Roman Tesfaye, First Lady of Ethiopia and Chair of OAFLA.

Dr. Natalia Kanem and Mrs. Roman Tesfaye

Dr. Natalia Kanem had also an opportunity to meet with H.E.M. Moussa Kaki Mahamat, the AUC Chairperson, Amb. Tete Antonio, Permanent Representative of the AU to the UN; Amb. Jean-Marie Ehouzou, Permanent Representative of the AU in Geneva; Amb. Philippe Baker, Ambassador of Canada in Ethiopia and many others.

African First Ladies contribution towards the Continental Agenda on Women Empowerment and the Demographic Dividend

Despite the significant progress made in raising economic growth rates, improving maternal health, decreasing infant mortality and increasing school enrollment rates for girls, and improving the participation of women in decision-making processes, most countries in the Sahel region are still unable to translate this economic growth into a prosperous and better quality of life for the people. A High-level Meeting on the SWEDD Initiative was organized by UNFPA/WCARO in the margins of the 29th AU General Assembly.

First Ladies during the SWEED Initiative's side Event

This high-level meeting according to Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director of UNFPA/WCARO aims ''to provide a platform for exchanges between First Ladies and the community of partners on the major challenges of empowering women and girls in order to strengthen their commitment to support efforts to address these challenges''. The meeting also informed them about their participation in the launch of the regional communication campaign for social and behavioral change that will take place later in August 2017 in Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire. The involvement of high-level political leaders, including the African First Ladies was identified particularly concerning the SWEDD Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy to harness the demographic dividend. The success of this initiative depends to a large extent on the successful implementation of interventions aimed at generating women and girls' empowerment, girls' education, prevention of child marriages, prevention of gender-based violence and female genital mutilation and the promotion of the use of rights-based reproductive health services. These interventions constitute the portfolio of the SWEDD project. The SWEDD project is an initiative supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank (WB), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the governments of six countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad).

3rd July 2017, Addis Abeba: H.E. Amb Baso Sangqu Ambassador of South Africa to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Mission

H.E. Baso Sangqu, RSA Ambassador to the Eu (R) and Dr. Natalia Kanem

Dr. Natalia and Mr. Victor Rakoto (L); with the Mr. Zane Dangor (R) after a debriefing with the UNFPA team.

De-briefing with UNFPA team and Meeting with Victor Rakoto, Deputy Representative, Ethiopia CO

UNCT Special Meeting during the 29th AU Summit- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dr. Natalia following the discussions and exchanges coordinated by Mrs. Amina Mohamed

4th July 2017, Addis Abeba - Sheralton: Meeting with H.E. Pr. Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea and Chairperson of the African Union

Dr. Natalia Kanem had an opportunity to meet the President of the Republic of Guinea and used the opportunity to congratulate him on his work so far as AU Chairperson including his innovation to nominate other Heads of State to lead the continental push on key issues that are of interest to the continent. This is especially the case for the Champions he has nominated for Demographic Dividend, Ending Child Marriage, Gender and UN Reform. Given that expectations are very high for the successful implementation of the AU 2017 theme of the year on ''Harnessing demographic dividend through investments in youth'' and its attendant roadmap which represent the continent's sincere desire to depart from 'business as usual' and ensure a strategic impact towards its set development objectives, the Acting Executive Director of the UNFPA, and her delegation explored avenues on how to ensure consistent follow up to the theme of 2017.

H.E. Prof. Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea, hia Ambassadors; Dr. Natalia Kanem AED and her team

UNFPA in Guinea

UNFPA Representative in Guinea:	Mr. Cheikh Fall
UN Resident Coordinator:	Mrs. Seraphine Wakana
Current Country Programme:	7th CP 2012-2017

Guinea is a country in West Africa, bordered on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. It's known for the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, in the southeast. The reserve protects a forested mountain range rich in native plants and animals, including chimpanzees and the viviparous toad.

Capital: *Conakry*
Population: *12.4 million (2016) World Bank*
President: *Alpha Conde*

4th July 2017, AUC: Meeting with H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kabore, President Burkina Faso

Dr. Kanem met with the President Kabore and members of his delegation to the Summit and thanked him for his leadership and support towards issues related to development in Africa especially as regards the demographic dividend. As one of the Heads of State of countries under the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Initiative (SWEDD), the President has been a champion within the region and beyond.

The Acting Executive Director of UNFPA used this meeting to reiterate UNFPA's continuous support for the demographic dividend agenda and to working with countries in Africa towards the empowerment of women, adolescents and youth. In turn, the President expressed his condolences to the UNFPA family for the loss of Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin and pledged to continue the excellent working relationship already established with UNFPA.

H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kabore, President Burkina Faso and Dr. Natalia Kanem during the meeting at AUC

UNFPA in Burkina Faso

UNFPA Representative in Burkina Faso/CD:	Dr Edwige Adékambi Domingo
UN Resident Coordinator:	Metsi Makheta
Current Country Programme:	7th programme 2011-2017

Burkina Faso is a landlocked Country located in West Afica. It covers and area of around 274,200 square kilometers and is surrounded by six countries: Mali to the north; Niger to the east; Benen to the the southeast...

Capital: *Ouagadougou*
Population: *18.65 million (2016) World Bank*
President: *Roch Marc christian Kabore*
Official language: *Frenc*

HAPPENED IN JUNE-JULY 2017

Panafrican Youth Forum Ndjamena, Chad:

In preparation towards the 29th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, the Government of the Republic of Chad organized with the Pan-African Youth Forum together with the African Union Commistsion and the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU) under the AU 2017 theme on ''Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth''. UNFPA was one of the main partners of this Forum. UNFPA supported this event both technically and financially given the importance the organization places on the demographic dividend agenda in Africa and its importance in achieving the ''African We Want'' and sustainable development. The UNFPA delegation to this meeting was led by Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Director of UNFPA's West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) [1]

Youth Connect Africa Summit 2017 Kigali, Rwanda

From the 19 - 21 July 2017, the Kigali Convention Centre received more than 2,500 delegates including top executives from multinational companies in Africa, leaders of civil society organizations, Africa's development partners, members of the academia, entrepreneurs, artists and youth opinion leaders from across the continent. In line with the vision of investing in youth in Africa, the Youth Connekt Summit focused on establishing policy, programs & partnerships towards empowering young Africans as key agents to change the narrative and build the ''Africa we Want''. It was hosted by H.E. President Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and attracted special guests such as Mr. Jack Ma, Founder and Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD and Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa. [2]

CARMMA WEEK – Karthoum, Sudan

The Campaign for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) was launched in 2009 to help address the unacceptably high rate of maternal mortality across the African continent. This campaigned had the tagline, ''No woman should die whilst giving life'' and focused on using key strategies to mobilize country-level stakeholders towards vital actions to reduce maternal mortality. 8 years after the launch of the campaign and with 46 countries having launched CARMMA, AUC sought to hold an in event in Sudan from 30th July- 1st August, 2017, to mobilize North African countries and to launch the campaign in Sudan as the 47th country on the continent to do so. The event brought together countries from North Africa as well as neighboring States such as Ethiopia, Eritrea and Chad. [3]

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UNFPA was instrumental in the development and rolling out of CARMMA given the importance of the issue of maternal mortality to the overall mandate of the organization.
This has resulted in the ongoing provision of technical and financial support to CARMMA at the continental as well as national levels. In keeping with this, UNFPA supported the CARMMA event in Sudan. Ms. Lina Moussa, Representative to Sudan led the UNFPA delegation which included Ms. Ramatu Daroda, ESARO and Mr. Samuel Kissi, DGM-ELO. There was a strong representation of the UN family with the presence and active participation of UNAIDS and FAO. W.H.O was represented by the Regional Director for EMRO.

The CARMMA launch of Sudan was chaired by the Vice President of the country with the support of the State Minister of Health and the AUC Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Amira El Fadil.

The event was successful in highlighting the need to revamp action towards the accelerated reduction of maternal mortality; the importance of situating the maternal mortality reduction campaign in broader issues such as access to sexual and reproductive health and rights including family planning and the African Union's demographic dividend agenda.

GENERAL INFORMATIONS:

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER THE 29th AU SUMMIT IN ETHIOPIA

During their general assembly from the 3-4 July in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia, Heads of State and Government (HoSG) had taken decisions that will influence the political agenda of the continent. This included a reiteration of their commitment to continue to
"Speak with ONE VOICE" and to ensure the implementation of and annual reporting on the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth".

The AU theme of 2018 is confirmed as
"Winning the Fight against Corruption:
A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation"
and the dates and venues of AU Summits in 2018 decided: 30th AU Summit 22-29 January 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 31th AU Summit in Mauritania, from the 25 July 2018. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda is elected to lead the African Union in 2018. Important decisions are taken with regards to the Youth. Two new commissioner are expected by the end of July 2017.

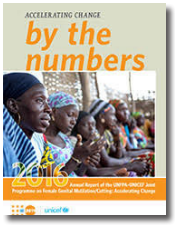
LAUNCHING OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND AT COUNTRY LEVEL

Till date, 11 countries in Africa have launched the AU Theme of the year. More recently this includes: Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Seychelles, Togo, Madagascar, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. Additionally, about 40 countries have developed demographic dividend profiles, a key milestone of the AU DD Roadmap.

MILLIONS OF LIFE TRANSFORMED

The 2016 Annual Report of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is publicized. It shows how funds entrusted to UNFPA have enabled the organization to protect and promote the health and rights of millions of women and young people, enabling them as well to realize their full potential. The numbers in the report speak for themselves. UNFPA is proud to have enabled millions of women of childbearing age to exercise that right… *The report is available.*

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING: ACCELERATING CHANGE



With the generous financial contributions of the governments of Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom including the European Union, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting: Accelerating Change plays a critical role in achieving Target 5.3 which calls for the elimination of all harmful practices by 2030, under the Sustainable Development Goal 5.

UNFPA TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA programmes reached women and young people in 155 countries, territories and other areas in 2016 through a network of 123 country offices, six regional and three sub-regional offices and liaison offices in Addis Ababa, Brussels, Copenhagen, Geneva, London, Tokyo and Washington, D.C.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Happening between August-September 2017)

DATE & VENUE	EVENTS	THEME
1-7 August Global	2017 World Breastfeeding Week	
12 August Global	Commemoration of the International Youth Day	"Youth and Peace Building"
19 August Global	Commemoration of the World Humanitarian Day	
24-25 August Addis Ababa- Ethiopia	Acting on the Call Summit 2017	"Overcoming Critical Barriers to Maternal and Child Survival"
9-11 September Nairobi-Kenya	Extraordinary Meeting of the Specialized and Technical Committee of Youth and Sports	In line with the AU Theme of the Year "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth"
4-8 September	Addis Ababa-Ethiopia Regional meeting on producing vital statistics from civil registration records and measuring completeness of civil registration records and quality assessment	
20 September New-York	OAFLA Side Event at the Margins of the UNGA72	"Global Partnerships towards Harnessing the DD"
12-25 September New-York	UNGA72	High-level influence/advocacy with impact outside Africa to ensure mainstreaming of Demographic Dividend implementation agenda in Africa

ABOUT, THE ADDIS ABABA, LIAISON OFFICE (ELO)

The Addis Ababa, Liaison Office (ELO) represents UNFPA to the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – The political capital of Africa. Under the Division for Governance and Multilateral Affairs (DGM) in New-York (UNFPA HQ), ELO engages with AUC, ECA and relevant regional partners towards the implementation of the ICPD agenda and its integration into various regional and global development frameworks including the African Union's Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, as well as other instruments concerning women and youth.

ELO develops strategies to ensure that AU Member States are well informed and supported to promote UNFPA priorities. ELO is also a gateway, through which UNFPA reaches 55 AU Members States, regional institutions such as Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and a large diplomatic community for more than 350 corps, Africa's development partners based in Ethiopia, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other international organizations towards this objective. ELO ensures effective coordination and leadership among UNFPA various divisions involved in the ELO work.

ELO is a multilateral space managing the strategies for inter-governmental processes relevant to UNFPA's mandate. The office contributes to enhancing strategic positioning of UNFPA in the region by gaining political buy-in of AUC and AU member states in all global negotiation processes related to ICPD, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063.

ELO Team during their Session drafting the DGM-ELO Strategic Engagement Plan

For more information about ELO, follow us:

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Photo Gallery of the 29th AU General Assembly in Ethiopia

DIVISION FOR GOVERNANCE AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

ETHIOPIA LIAISON OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS