

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RURAL WOMEN

“AFRICAN VOICES SOWING THE FUTURE: LEADERSHIP, RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FROM RURAL AREAS”

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

March 11th – 13th, 2026

Lagos, Nigeria

Day 1: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

“Participation, Public Representation and Leadership”

11:30 – 12:00: Registration, Delivery of Conference Materials

12:00 – 12:15: Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Edna Dafe**, Project Director, Women's Board – ECS (Nigeria)
- **Enase Okonedo**, Vice Chancellor Pan-Atlantic University (PAU - Nigeria)

12:15 – 12:30: Artistic Cultural Performance

- **Quinndy Akeju**, Artist and Activist, Co-founder and coordinator of Afrocolectiva and a member of the Black African and Afro-descendant Community in Euskadi (Spain/Nigeria)

12:30 – 12:50: Opening Session

- **Teresa López de Armentia**, President of REDMUJERES.NET (Spain) – *Video*
- **Susana Mateo**, International Cooperation Coordinator, ZABALKETA (Spain)
- **Geraldine Imhabekhai**, Project Administrator, Women's Board – ECS (Nigeria)
- **Justina Olusegun**, Gender Specialist – ECS (Nigeria)

12:50 – 2:00: 1st Panel Session: “Participation and Public Representation of Rural Women”

- **Moderator: Yvonne Abia-Bassey**, Nigerian Association for Women's Advancement (NAWA)
- **Panelists:**
 - **Chinwe Igwe**, Iroto Rural Development Centre - Women's Board - ECS, Nigeria)
 - **Fenny Apiyo Ochieng**, Kianda Foundation (Kenya)
 - **Quinndy Akeju**, Artist and Activist, Co-founder and coordinator of Afrocolectiva and a member of the Black African and Afro-descendant Community in Euskadi(Spain/Nigeria)
 - **Ines Gonzalez Barreda**, CEO of the Etsoseng Foundation and a learning and development specialist(South Africa)

2:00 – 2:15: Q&A Session

2:15 – 2:30: Daily Synthesis – Justina Olusegun, Gender Specialist ECS

2:30 – 3:30: Lunch Break

3:45 – 4:45: Transit to Nike Art Gallery

5:00 – 5:10: Inspirational Keynote

- **Nike Davies-Okundaye**, Founder of Nike Art Gallery (Nigeria)

5:15 – 7:30: Art Exhibition & Guided Tour

- *“Art as a Rural Voice”* – Guided by **Nike Davies-Okundaye**
- Evening Toast and Networking Cocktail

7:30 – 8:00: Return to Lodgings

Day 2: Thursday, March 12, 2026

“Entrepreneurship, Economic Empowerment and Sustainability”

9:00 – 9:10: Opening of Day 2 – Edna Dafe, Project Director, Women's Board – ECS (Nigeria)

9:10 – 9:40: Keynote Address: “Access to Financing and International Networks”

- **Ezinne Ukagwu**, Iroto Rural Development Center (Nigeria)

9:40 – 10:10: Coffee Break & Networking

10:10 – 11:10: 2nd Panel Session: “Rural Female Entrepreneurship: Experiences that Transform Communities”

- **Moderator: Olusola Osunsami**, Medical Physicist (Nigeria)
- **Panelists:**
 - **Igbadia Flora**, Executive Director Koloba and Lala Women Association (Nigeria)
 - **Rama Diagne**, Migrant and entrepreneur in the Basque Country-Spain (Senegal) - *Video*
 - **Helen Ogunnowo**, Trader, Farmer and Member of Rural Women's Cooperatives (Nigeria)
 - **Clementine Baza Bola**, Resilience and entrepreneurship organization (DRC) - *Video*

11:10 – 11:30: Q&A Session

11:30 – 11:45: Stretch Break

11:45 – 12:45: 3rd Panel Session: “Climate Change, Sustainability and Female Resilience”

- **Moderator: Angela Da-Silva** (Nigeria)
- **Panelists:**
 - **Josephine Kayele Musulwa**, Principal, Kibondeni & Kimlea Colleges (Kenya)
 - **Odion Anahve** M&E Specialist, Gender & Strengthening Expert, Founder TAAF (Nigeria)
 - **Felile Faith Mofokeng**, Social Development & Environmental Awareness (South Africa)

12:45 – 1:00: Q&A Session

1:00 – 2:30: Lunch Break & Networking

2:30 – 3:15: 4th Panel Session: “Power, Inequalities and Structural Violence: Leading from Community Resilience”

- **Moderator: Chidera Anele** (Women's Board, Nigeria)
- Panelists:
 - **Pauline Irungu**, Projects and Partnerships Officer at Kibondeni College (Kenya)
 - **Gbemisola Titilope Akosa**, Executive Director, Centre for 21st Century Matters. (Nigeria)
 - **Ebere Oyema**, Executive Director, Healthy Living and Women empowerment Initiative - HELWEI, (Nigeria)
 - **Refilwe Mokoena**, Project Administrator at Ithubelisha, a programme under Etsoseng Foundation (South Africa)

3:15 – 3:30: Q&A Session

3:30 – 4:30: Working Groups: “Action Plan to 2030: Leadership, Sustainability and Cooperation”

4:30 – 5:30: Plenary Presentation of Findings

- Led by:
 - **Table 1: Olusola Osunsami**,
 - **Table 2 : Angela Da-Silva**
 - **Table 3 : Yvonne Abia-Bassey**
 - **Table 4 : Catherine Azu**
 - **Table 5 : Ebere Oyema**

5:30 – 5:40: Daily Conclusions – Odion Anahve M&E Specialist, Gender & Strengthening Expert, Founder TAAF

5:50 – 7:30: Guided Tour: Yemisi Shyllon Museum of African Art

Day 3: Friday, March 13, 2026

“Promotion, Networks and Collective Commitment”

9:00 – 9:15: Opening of Day 3 – Justina Olusegun , Gender Specialist – ECS (Nigeria)

9:15 – 9:45: Presentation: “Governing from the Community: Female Leadership and Social Transformation”

- **Professor Oluwayemisi Obashoro-John** - Professor of Adult Education University of Lagos, Founder OLOF.(Nigeria)

9:45 – 10:15: Coffee Break & Networking

10:15 – 11:15: Working Groups Session II: “Solidarity Economic Networks: Strategies for the Autonomy of Rural Women”

11:15 – 12:15: Plenary Presentation of Findings

- Led by:
 - **Table 1: Pauline Irungu**
 - **Table 2: Titilope Akosa**
 - **Table 3: Odion Anahve**
 - **Table 4: Clemetina Chibugo Okoli**
 - **Table 5: Felile Faith Mofokeng.**

12:15 – 12:45: Reading and Signing of the LAGOS DECLARATION 2026

12:45 – 2:00: Closing Ceremony

- Presentation of Certificates
- Guest Addresses

2:00 – 2:10: Final Closing Remarks – Edna Dafe, Project Director, Women's Board – ECS (Nigeria)

2:10 – 2:30: Farewell Performance – Quinndy Akeju, Artist and Activist, Co-founder and coordinator of Afrocolectiva and a member of the Black African and Afro-descendant Community in Euskadi (Spain/Nigeria)

2:30 – 3:30: Farewell Lunch

3:30: Departure

Conference Masters of Ceremony

- Day 1: Catherine Azu
- Day 2: Akeju Kehinde
- Day 3: Catherine Azu and Akeju Kehinde