

Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
Government of Canada
pm@pmo-cpm.gc.ca

KAIROS – CIDA FUNDING

We have received shocking and saddening news that KAIROS will not be able to fund the African Women's Economic Policy Network (AWEPON) activities for the year 2009 – 2012 because CIDA has in return cut off funding for KAIROS

African Women's Economic Policy Network (AWEPON) is a Pan African faith based non governmental organization. AWEPON is a network of over 150 organizations in over 18 African countries with the secretariat legally registered in Uganda. The network works towards achieving economic justice through strengthening the capacity of African women at the grass roots and national levels to influence the shape of economic policy.

For the past eight years, AWEPON has benefited from KAIROS through core support, funding to enable us build capacity to run numerous activities and lobby and advocacy programs in relation to major thematic areas of Research and advocacy, capacity building and economic literacy as well as working with coalitions and alliances. As a result, AWEPON has been able to influence policies at National and international levels on economic issues as they relate to women. The network has been able to develop manuals for training women across the continent on issues in economics and business and as such, trained thousands of women on trade and business issues in a bid to economically empower them. The network has also built capacities and skills of women from various African countries through its extensive internship program.

Due to the need to continue to support vulnerable women in Africa, the network requested for continuation of support from KAIROS to increase our capacity to help vulnerable African women adapt to climate change and also shape the nature of government policies and programs to include and take seriously climate adaptation in an effort to extend social and economic justice to millions of vulnerable African women.

The recent gender climate justice hearing (*25th November 2009*) organized in Kampala by AWEPON illuminated the extent of mishap that climate change is having on the women in Africa. Climate change is ravaging a lot of lives and livelihoods of millions of vulnerable Africans, majority of who are women - due to their role as social caretakers. It has been reported to fuel conflicts, diseases and massive displacements of people across Africa. Millions more are losing their lives and livelihoods as a result of complex phenomena beyond their understanding that experts agree is climate change.

AWEPON, with support from KAIROS works towards cushioning the impact of these climatic changes on the poor and vulnerable African women through specific tailor-made programs. Annually, the network helps estimated 20m women through training and economic literacy to develop their productive capacities. We engage in advocacy work for the women in Africa on policy issues as they relate to development and human rights of African women. To AWEPON,

this abrupt discontinuance of financial support from KAIROS means that we shall not be able to support millions of marginalized, excluded and voiceless women and children at the necessary scale.

To millions of vulnerable African women and children, this means denial of the very basic of human rights. To over 6000 direct women beneficiaries of the AWEAPON program on climate adaptation will be fully exposed to the escalating brunt of the impacts of climate change which will expose them to more human rights abuses.

We therefore note with concern that the decision not to fund KAIROS whose programs help AWEAPON and other countless organizations, churches and individuals in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, and will reduce the capacity of humanitarian efforts to uphold and protect human rights and freedoms of millions of people across the globe.

As a network, we therefore request that the decision made not to fund KAIROS be revisited and funds extended to them to enable millions of the poor and vulnerable Africans and many other beneficiaries across the globe to benefit from programs designed to uphold human rights and protect the rights of these innocent victims.

With kind regards

Daisy Owomugasho
Executive Director
African Women's Economic Policy Network [AWEAPON]
Plot 73 Kiira Road, Kamwokya
P. O. Box, 33576 Kampala- Uganda
Tel: +256-414344181
Fax: +256-414344176
Email: awepon@utlonline.co.ug
Website: www.awepon.net