

# 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights Yaoundé, Cameroon, February 3 – 7, 2014

## Conference Announcement

The African Federation for Sexual Health and Rights (AFSHR) is pleased to announce the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights with the theme *“Eliminating Women and Girls Sexual and Reproductive Health Vulnerabilities in Africa”*. The conference will be held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from February 3-7, 2014, and hosted by the Women in Alternative Action (WAA), Cameroon.

The conference is part of a long-term process of building and fostering regional dialogue on sexual health and rights that leads to concrete action that will enhance stakeholders’ ability to influence policy and programming in favour of a sexuality healthy continent including that of the African Union and its bodies. AFSHR has collaborated with several Core Conference Partners (CCP) and other key stakeholders in sexual and reproductive health over the past ten years to organise this regional conference. The conference was previously held in Johannesburg, South Africa (2004); Nairobi, Kenya (2006); Abuja, Nigeria (2008); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2010); and Windhoek, Namibia (2012).

The conference activities will start with a two day capacity building on sexual and reproductive health and rights for young people on 3-4 February, 2014. Various Sexual and Reproductive Health constituencies will also hold expert meetings and High Level Task Force Consultation during these days.

The main conference will hold from 5-7 February, 2013 and it will involve plenaries, concurrent sessions, skills building workshops, exhibition among others. The conference will deliberate on Sexual and Reproductive Health of all categories of women and girls including women living with HIV , women and girls living in conflict situations, women and girls living with disabilities and difficult circumstances/excluded populations and issues such as, early marriage and adolescent motherhood, gender-based violence as well as maternal morbidity and mortality.

### Conference objectives are:

1. Identify promising/best practices at eliminating women and girls sexual and reproductive health vulnerabilities
2. Facilitate knowledge management and programming to enhance Women and Girls Agency.
3. Enhance women and girls programmes in regional and global development agenda including ICPD Beyond 2014 and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

### **The thematic areas/tracks include:**

- **Policy and Legal instruments**

Analyze existing policies at continental, regional, national and community level that affect sexual and reproductive health. Explore and share promising and best practices in policy and legal frameworks for the promotion, protection and provision of sexual and reproductive health.

- **Sexual and Reproductive Health Information and Services.**

Share best practices in the provision of information and services as well as integration of SRH and HIV services. Special attention will be paid to programme targeting excluded population of women and girls.

- **Social-Cultural, Historic, Economics, Politics and Religion**

Revisit all forms of barriers that prevent women and girls from attaining fully their sexual and reproductive health capacities and agency. Identify existing opportunities within social-cultural ambience that can be leveraged to promote the agency of women and girls. Promote programmes that have led to positive socio-cultural changes in favour of women and girls.

- **Research Knowledge Management and Skills Building**

Provide update in knowledge, behaviours and capacity building for enhancing sexual and reproductive health of women and girls.

- **Innovations, Technology and Diversity**

Explore how innovation and technology have aided or affect the sexual and reproductive health capacity of all categories of women and girls.

- **Investments, Financing and Accountability**

Explore issues in women and girls sexual and reproductive health investments by donors, governments and countries. Promote best practices in financing and accountability for effective programme delivery.

### **Participants**

Over 500 delegates representing various stakeholder and constituency groups are expected at the conference. These include policy makers, development partners, civil society organisation, academia, media, women, girls and young people.

### **Call for Abstracts**

A detailed call for abstracts will be issued shortly. Only online submissions will be accepted. For up-to-date information, visit the conference website [www.africalsexuality.org](http://www.africalsexuality.org).

## **Registration**

Registration information can be found on the conference website [www.africalsexuality.org](http://www.africalsexuality.org). The registration fee is USD 150. Early bird registration closes on December 15, 2013. Registration after December 15, 2013 will attract additional charges

## **Scholarships**

AFSHR does not offer scholarship to delegates. Delegates who cannot fund their participation costs are encouraged to seek scholarships through their institutional partners.

## **Hotel Accommodation**

Conference partner hotels will be announced shortly. Delegates are solely responsible for making their accommodation arrangements and are encouraged to do so directly with the partner hotels as soon as possible.

## **Visa and Airport Transfer**

The conference host will assist delegates who need a visa to travel to Cameroon with obtaining their visa. Delegates from countries needing a visa to visit Cameroon should submit a request for a letter of invitation to the conference secretariat as soon as they pay their registration fee. For information about applying for a visa, visit the Cameroon Ministry of External Relations website [www.diplocam.cm](http://www.diplocam.cm) or contact your local Cameroon consulate.

Delegates are responsible for arranging transfer from the airport to their hotel. A list of shuttle service providers will be provided shortly.

## **Further Information**

For questions about the conference logistics, including participation, sponsorship, and exhibition contact: Justine Kwachu, [waacameroon@yahoo.com](mailto:waacameroon@yahoo.com)

For general conference questions contact Omolara Ogunjimi, [conference.afshr@gmail.com](mailto:conference.afshr@gmail.com)

For questions about the website and abstract submission, contact: Kunle Onasanya, [webmaster@africalsexuality.org](mailto:webmaster@africalsexuality.org),