



CONFERENCE BOOKLET

ORGANIZED BY



UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF



THE REPUBLIC
OF KENYA

THEME

LEADING THE WAY TO EMPOWERMENT & SUSTAINABILITY IN AFRICA & BEYOND

24-27 September 2026

Mövenpick Hotel & Residences, Nairobi, Kenya

PARTNERS



WELCOME TO NAIROBI

Leadership becomes meaningful when it moves people, institutions and communities

The 2026 Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) Biennial Conference brings Soroptimists, public leaders, professionals, advocates and partners together around a practical question: how do we turn leadership into healthier, safer and more economically secure futures for women and girls?

Nairobi is the meeting point for four days of leadership dialogues, health innovation, youth development, sustainability, peace and justice, institutional learning and federation business.

Conference at a glance

Theme

Leading the Way: To Empowerment & Sustainability in Africa and Beyond

Dates

24–27 September 2026

Venue

Mövenpick Hotel & Residences, Nairobi

Format

Leadership dialogues • Plenaries • Breakouts • Awards • AGM • Networking

From sisterhood to systems change

The programme is designed to connect lived experience, expert practice, institutional leadership and the collective influence of the Soroptimist movement.

Hon. PS Mary Muthoni Muriuki, CBS, HSC

**Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health
and Professional Standards, Ministry of Health, Kenya**



Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Leadership of the Sorooptimist International Africa Federation, led by our dedicated SIAF President, Mary Muia, Development Partners, Corporate Leaders, and Champions of Women's Empowerment across Africa and Beyond

It is a distinct honour and privilege to join you in Nairobi for the 4th SIAF Biennial Conference.

As we convene under the mandate, "Leading the Way to Empowerment & Sustainability in Africa and Beyond," and the sub-theme, "Lighting the Path: Unlocking Africa's Transformative Power Through Women's Leadership, Resilience, and Solidarity," we affirm a fundamental truth: Africa's health, economic vitality, and sustainable future depend on the agency, resilience, and leadership of women.

Anchoring Our Journey in Health, Resilience, and Justice

From the perspective of public health and national development, I am deeply inspired by the critical issues this conference addresses. We are advancing health equity, mental-health resilience, and sustainable health financing while building the essential bridge between medical science and legal frameworks to deliver survivor-centred justice for women and girls.

Empowering Leadership, Youth, and Education

Sustainable transformation demands that we pass the torch with intention. Through dedicated mentoring, dynamic leadership academies, and inclusive movements for youth and digital leadership, we are equipping tomorrow's leaders to take their place with confidence and purpose.

Driving Sustainability, Climate Justice, and Governance

Our mandate extends naturally to the health of our environment and institutions. Through grassroots mobilisation for eco-innovation, robust public pathways for climate justice, and the pursuit of social equity across public institutions, we demonstrate that environmental stewardship and good governance must advance together.

Amplifying Our Global Voice, Peace, and Strategic Security

As we redefine equity and inclusion, we are amplifying women's voices on the global stage. Public-sector transformation, security, and operational justice must ensure that peace and security are lived realities within every community—not merely ideals.

Government Partnership, Excellence, and Looking Ahead

Governments cannot achieve universal health coverage, climate resilience, or sustainable socio-economic transformation alone. Progress requires strong, multisectoral partnerships connecting the public sector, private industry, and grassroots communities.

I am particularly delighted to witness the conference milestones: tonight's Gala honouring extraordinary Women of Excellence; Best Practices Recognition across Health and Wellbeing, a Healthier Planet, Economic Empowerment, and Next Generation Leadership; and the SIAF AGM, strengthening the Federation's growth, governance, and accountability.

The insights, proven solutions, and unified strategies developed here in Nairobi must extend beyond these walls. Let us continue lighting the path together, building a resilient, sustainable, and equitable Africa for generations to come.

Karibu sana to Kenya, and I wish you a most successful conference and AGM.

MESSAGE FROM THE SIAF PRESIDENT

Mary Muia

Chairperson, SIAF 4th Biennial Conference & AGM • SIAF President 2025–2026 • Founder/Executive Director, WEMA Wealth Africa



Distinguished guests, esteemed leaders, dedicated Soroptimists, and champions of women's empowerment across Africa and beyond:

It is my profound honor and absolute privilege to welcome you to the 4th Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) Biennial Conference right here in Nairobi, Kenya.

As we gather under our overarching mandate, “Leading the Way to Empowerment & Sustainability in Africa and Beyond”, and our vital sub-theme, “Lighting the Path: Unlocking Africa’s Transformative Power Through Women’s Leadership, Resilience, and Solidarity,” we stand at a defining moment for our continent’s future.

Championing Healthier People, Healthier Planet, Rights & Social Justice

At the core of our sustainable development journey this biennium is our guiding focus: Healthier People, Healthier Planet, Rights & Social Justice. We recognize that the well-being of women and girls is inextricably linked to the health of our environment, the protection of our fundamental rights, and the pursuit of inclusive equity. Across our nations, African women are stepping up as the architects of climate resilience, maternal and child health advocates, and fearless defenders of social justice. True empowerment means securing clean water, robust healthcare, equitable opportunities, and uncompromised dignity so that our communities can truly thrive.

Leading the Way Through Resilience and Solidarity

Our journey is anchored in unyielding resilience. We have confronted systemic barriers, economic shifts, and environmental crises, turning challenges into stepping stones for progress. Yet, our greatest strength lies in our solidarity.

When Soroptimists unite across borders, cultures, and generations, our collective voice becomes a powerful catalyst for systemic change. This conference is our shared platform to forge strategic partnerships, scale innovative solutions, and accelerate our mission to uplift women and girls across Africa and beyond.

Looking Ahead and Carrying Our Vision Forward

Over the next few days, our high-level leadership dialogues will confront our most pressing regional challenges, setting a bold strategic vision for the future. We will place a vital emphasis on Next-Gen empowerment and inclusion, ensuring that no woman or girl is left behind.

Our programme, including the 4th SIAF Annual General Meeting, anchors our commitment to Federation growth in governance and accountability. We also celebrate two powerful milestones: collaborative partnerships spanning governments, corporate leaders and grassroots communities, and the SIAF Best Practices Recognition across Health & Wellbeing, Healthier Planet, Economic Empowerment, and Next Generation Leadership.

The bold insights, proven solutions, and unified strategies we forge here in Nairobi will serve as a springboard to the global stage, culminating in our dedicated SIAF Side Event at the Soroptimist International 2027 Convention in Prague, where we will champion “Advancing Women’s Health, Wellbeing, Rights & Resilience.”

Together, let us think bigger, act bolder, and build stronger networks. We are not only lighting the path; we are paving a sustainable, equitable legacy for generations to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOST

Jesca Oredo

President SI Union of Kenya (2025-2026)
Chair, Host Country Steering Committee



Distinguished guests, esteemed speakers, valued partners, fellow Soroptimists and friends,
On behalf of Soroptimist International Union of Kenya (SIUK) and the Host Country Steering Committee, it is my great pleasure and profound honour to welcome you to Nairobi for the 4th Biennial Conference and Annual General Meeting of the SIAF, scheduled from 25th to 27th September, 2026 at the Mövenpick Hotel.

SIUK is honoured to host this gathering of women who have chosen not only to witness change, but to lead the change aligned with the Conference Theme, "Leading the way to empowerment and sustainability in Africa and beyond." This conference presents a valuable opportunity to explore what genuine equity and inclusion look like and what we can achieve by working with young Soroptimists, rather than simply working for them. The programme is designed to challenge us to engage meaningfully with pertinent issues affecting women and girls, including but not limited to health, gender-based violence, digital leadership and peace-building. These are not abstract conversations. Behind every statistic is a woman and behind every empowered woman lies the possibility of an empowered family and community.

Our diversity as Soroptimists is one of our greatest strengths and we are confident that your participation will contribute immensely to the success of this conference. Ultimately, the true measure of our success will not only be found in the resolutions we pass, but in the partnerships we build, the girls and women we mentor and the ideas we transform into action when we return to our communities.

As the host country, we invite you to experience Kenya's unique cultures, warmth and hospitality beyond the conference halls. From our vibrant cities and historic landmarks to our breathtaking national parks, diverse cuisine and rich traditions, we hope that your time here will be as enriching personally as it is professionally. May this conference inspire us to move from intention to impact. Let us lead boldly, empower meaningfully and work together to create a stronger, fairer and more sustainable world.
Welcome to Nairobi, the city in the sun!

I make these remarks in Soroptimist friendship.

MESSAGES FROM TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

Judith Apondo

SIAF Membership and Extension Director •
Conference Liaison Person



Honored Guests, led by Hon Permanent Secretary Mary Muthoni Muriuki and Soroptimist International (SI) President Renata Trottmann Probst

Distinguished Soroptimist International leaders, in your various capacities, my beloved fellow Soroptimist members, Ladies and Gentlemen. Receive greetings from the Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) members.

With humility, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome on behalf of SIAF membership, feel most welcome and appreciated. To esteemed guests from Africa and beyond, we are truly overjoyed that you found it worthy of your time to travel and join us during this event. Thank you for your time.

It is my hope that our being together in the next few days will not be in vain. Let us all individually purpose to make our engagements special and a unique chance not only to share ideas, network and build lasting relationships, but also to strategize on ways of increasing our membership in all Federations. It goes without saying that members underpins and remains the cornerstone of Soroptimist International as a global organization. For this reason, may I encourage all of us to make deliberate and intentional efforts towards increasing SI membership.

I wish you all very fruitful engagement and a wonderful stay in Nairobi, Kenya.

Prof. Catherine M. Aurah

Chair, Technical & Programme Sub-Committee



Greetings, distinguished guests and delegates.

It is a great honour to welcome you to the SIAF 4th Biennial Conference here in the vibrant city of Nairobi. As the Chairperson of the Technical and Programme Sub-committee, it has been a privilege to lead the coordination of the content, speakers, and awards that form the backbone of this event. As a committee, we ensured that every session aligns with our overarching theme: “Leading the Way: To Empowerment & Sustainability in Africa & Beyond”, which is more than just a title; it is a commitment to the future of our continent.

Health, Resilience, and Justice

Focusing on health equity, mental health resilience, health financing, and the forensic bridge uniting medical science and legal frameworks for survivor-centered justice.

Leadership, Youth Empowerment, and Education

Dedicated to mentoring the next generation, driving leadership academies, and building inclusive movements for youth and digital leadership.

Sustainability, Climate Justice, and Governance

Exploring grassroots mobilization for eco-innovation, policy pathways for climate justice, and social equity across public institutions.

Global Voice, Peace, and Strategic Security

Redefining equity and inclusion, amplifying women's voices globally, and driving public sector transformation, security, and operational justice.

We are honoured to host an exceptional lineup of keynote speakers and experts—from global health advocates, policymakers, and social justice reformers to economic leaders and technology innovators—who will share their insights across our plenary and breakout sessions. It cuts across all age groups, and both genders are represented.

This conference is more than a gathering; it is a technical blueprint for driving lasting impact across the continent. I encourage you to engage deeply in the discussions and participate actively in the Q&A sessions.

I hope this conference leaves you with fresh ideas, new partnerships, and renewed energy to continue leading the way.

Feel most welcome to the SIAF 4th Biennial Conference. Together, let us turn our collective voice into transformative action.

Ruhiyih Kulecho

Chair, Young Soroptimists Sub-Committee



What becomes possible when generations of women come together, share what they know, challenge one another and imagine the future together?

As the Next Generation, we arrive with ideas, experiences, questions and a deep desire to contribute. We also arrive with gratitude for the women who have opened doors for us, created space for us and welcomed us into a movement that continues to create change.

We are not here simply to inherit what has been built. We are here to build with you.

As we explore “Leading the Way: To Empowerment & Sustainability in Africa and Beyond,” let us ask: How do we ensure every generation has the opportunity to lead? How do we create meaningful mentorship where wisdom and experience are shared, while also recognising the different value young people bring? Every generation has something valuable to give, and every generation has something to learn.

To my fellow young women, remember that your creativity, skills, energy, connections and perspective are valuable. Bring what you have. Your voice matters.

May this conference strengthen connections across generations and across our continent, sparking conversations, friendships and collaborations that continue long after we leave Nairobi. And while we learn, connect and dream together, let us also remember to laugh, dance, celebrate and enjoy each other. After all, building a better future should leave room for joy.

From the Next Generation, welcome to Nairobi. I am honoured to share this space with you, and excited to see what we can build together.

The future is not waiting for us. We are building it together, today.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



PROF. ANNE BEATRICE KIHARA

Former President, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO); Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist



NJERI JOMO

Chief Executive Officer, Jubilee Health Insurance

Dear Soroptimists of the Africa Federation,

Women's health is not simply a health-sector concern. It is fundamental to the wellbeing of families, the resilience of communities and the social and economic progress of our societies.

Across Africa, we have made important advances in women's health, yet too many women and girls still encounter barriers between needing care and receiving the right care at the right time. Clinical excellence matters, but so too do affordability, information, prevention, financing and the strength of the systems surrounding every woman. Prof. Kihara's work has particularly emphasised evidence-based practice, maternal health, advocacy and stronger health systems, while Njeri's work focuses on health financing, digital innovation and expanding access to quality healthcare.

The theme Her Health – Our Future therefore asks us to think beyond individual interventions. We must build systems in which women can access appropriate healthcare throughout their lives, where prevention is prioritised, where financial barriers do not determine health outcomes, and where technology and data help us reach more women rather than leave some behind.

This requires partnership. Healthcare professionals, governments, insurers, communities, advocates and organisations such as Soroptimist International each hold a different part of the solution. When these strengths come together, we move closer to health systems that are not only clinically effective, but accessible, affordable, responsive and centred on the dignity of women and girls.

As we gather in Nairobi, our invitation is to turn the conversations of this conference into practical action: to advocate, collaborate, innovate and invest in solutions that allow every woman and girl to live healthier and more empowered lives.

Because when we invest in her health, we invest in our collective future.

Mariet Verhoef-Cohen

SI CONVENTION CHAIR
2027



Dear Soroptimists, friends and partners,

It is a great pleasure to join you in Nairobi for the 4th Soroptimist International Africa Federation Biennial Conference. This gathering comes at an important moment for our movement. Across Africa and around the world, women continue to lead change in health, education, economic empowerment, climate resilience, peace and social justice. The conversations taking place here are therefore not isolated discussions; they are part of a much larger global effort to ensure that women and girls are able to live with dignity, opportunity and influence.

As Chair of the Soroptimist International Convention 2027, I am particularly inspired by the energy, leadership and perspectives emerging from the Africa Federation. Nairobi gives us an opportunity to listen to one another, strengthen our connections and carry forward ideas that can shape the work of Soroptimists well beyond this conference.

The 2027 Convention in Prague will bring our global community together again. My hope is that the experiences, partnerships and commitments developed here in Nairobi will travel with us to that gathering – enriching the global conversation and ensuring that Africa's voice, innovation and leadership remain strongly represented.

Soroptimist International is at its best when we connect local action with global purpose. Every project, every partnership and every woman whose life is changed contributes to a movement greater than any one club, country or federation.

I therefore encourage you to use these days not only to exchange ideas, but to build relationships that endure, identify opportunities for collaboration and imagine what we can achieve together as a truly global network. I look forward to welcoming many of you to Prague in 2027, where we will continue this journey together and celebrate the strength, diversity and collective impact of Soroptimists around the world.

**With warmest wishes for an inspiring
and successful conference.**

Her Excellency Madame Micheline Ombae Kalama

Minister for Gender, Family, and Children
in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



MINISTÈRE
DU GENRE, FAMILLE
ET ENFANT



To the Women Driving Lasting Impact through Soroptimism

It is a profound honor to address the 4th SIAF Biennial Conference and Annual General Meeting on behalf of His Excellency President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. To our Kenyan hosts and delegates from across the world: Karibu sana.

Action in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Areas

SIAF has long championed the economic empowerment, education, health and advancement of women and girls. Africa's greatest wealth lies not only in its natural resources, but in the resilience, intellect, enterprise and leadership of its women.

A Shared Vision for African Women and Girls

SIAF has long championed the economic empowerment, education, health and advancement of women and girls. Africa's greatest wealth lies not only in its natural resources, but in the resilience, intellect, enterprise and leadership of its women. Women must remain at the heart of human rights and progressive reform. We must move beyond charity towards justice, ensuring rural women, young girls and marginalized communities receive opportunity and protection not as a favour, but as a right.

Action in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Areas

We cannot achieve sustainable development while women and children continue to bear the burden of conflict, displacement and instability. I therefore call upon Soroptimists and partners to use their networks, influence and grassroots presence to:

- Champion justice for survivors of gender-based violence through accountability, care and legal protection.
- Build lasting peace by placing women at the centre of mediation, reconciliation and reconstruction.
- Empower vulnerable women and girls with education, resources and psychosocial support to rebuild their lives.

Let our advocacy become both a shield for the vulnerable and a catalyst for transformative justice.

The empowerment of women is one of Africa's greatest accelerators of sustainable development. Let this conference forge partnerships that extend far beyond these days in Nairobi. I encourage us all to engage boldly, challenge boundaries and build an Africa where every woman and girl can realize her full potential with dignity, peace and pride.

To our organizers, volunteers, hosts and participants: thank you.

God bless you all.

Renata Trottmann Probst

SI President 2026–2027



Dear Soroptimists of the Africa Federation,

It is a pleasure to send my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Africa Federation conference in Nairobi. I look forward to joining you there in person.

This conference holds particular significance for me, as I was serving as Federation President when the final steps were taken towards the establishment of the Africa Federation. Seeing your Federation come together once again for this important occasion means a great deal to me personally.

Conferences provide an opportunity to reflect on progress, exchange ideas, strengthen friendships, and look ahead together. They also reaffirm our shared commitment to improving the lives of all women and girls through service, educational and empowering projects, advocacy, and international cooperation.

As we begin Soroptimist International's new Focus Theme, **Her Health – Our Future**, I hope your discussions in Nairobi will open new avenues for the Federation's work and inspire renewed energy for the months ahead.

I very much look forward to meeting many of you in Nairobi and wish you all a productive, enjoyable, and successful conference.

I write to you in the spirit of friendship and warm fellowship.



Not one challenge. A connected system of barriers – and opportunities

Health

Strengthen prevention, access, financing and gender-responsive health systems that recognise the realities of women and girls.

Economic agency

Move women from participation to ownership, resilience, capital access, leadership and sustainable enterprise.

Education & youth

Build pathways for girls and young women to complete education, develop leadership, access digital opportunity and shape institutions.

Justice & peace

Connect health evidence, rights, mediation and institutional reform so protection becomes practical, not rhetorical.

Sustainability

Place women at the centre of climate resilience, community innovation, water, food security and locally led adaptation.

Institutional leadership

Use Soroptimist networks to turn relationships, expertise and advocacy into programmes, partnerships and measurable action.

The scale of the mission is visible in the numbers

442

maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in the WHO African Region in 2023 — down from 727 in 2000, but still far above the SDG target.

70%

of global maternal deaths occur in the WHO African Region.

43.5%

of girls complete lower secondary school in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared with 45.3% of boys (2023).

65.2%

female labour-force participation in Sub-Saharan Africa, versus 75.6% for men (2025).

79.2%

of employed women in Sub-Saharan Africa are in vulnerable employment, compared with 63.9% of men (2025).

52%

of women in Sub-Saharan Africa have an account at a financial institution or mobile-money provider, compared with 64% of men.

Sources: WHO Regional Office for Africa, 2025 maternal mortality update; World Bank Gender Data Portal using UNESCO/UIS, ILO and Global Findex data. These figures are regional indicators intended to frame the scale of the mission, not to describe every country equally.

Four days. One movement from reflection to action

Day 0 – Arrive & Connect

Registration and welcome reception establish the community before formal proceedings begin.

Day 1 – Lead, Learn & Build

Leadership dialogues, health innovation, youth mentoring, digital leadership, sustainability, equity and inclusivity.

Day 2 – Peace, Justice & Recognition

Keynotes on mediation, governance and peace; local-to-global practice; awards, change of insignia, closing addresses and conference dinner.

Day 3 – Govern & Carry Forward

The AGM converts the gathering into institutional decisions, continuity and the next phase of federation work.



The programme is the mechanism.

The mission is what happens after delegates leave Nairobi – through policy, projects, partnerships, mentorship and federation action.



Official Programme

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Day 0 • Thursday, 24 September

Arrival & Welcome

EMCEE: Gloria Mululu & Margaret Kiundi

TIME	ROOM	SESSION	SPEAKER / LEAD
2:00–6:00 PM	Registration Area	Arrival & Registration	Delegates
7:00–11:00 PM	Cocktail Garden	Welcome Reception	Secretariat

Day 1 • Friday, 25 September

Opening Ceremony

EMCEE: Margaret Kiundi & James Karongo

TIME	ROOM	SESSION	SPEAKER / LEAD
7:00–8:00	Registration Area	Registration	Registration Team
8:00–8:30		Entertainment	African Dancers
8:30–8:50	Hall	Candle Lighting Ceremony, Soroptimist Pledge, Soroptimist Symphony, Flag Ceremony (Digital) & Guest Country Mentions	
8:50–9:40		High-Level Leadership Dialogues: “Leading the Way: To Empowerment & Sustainability in Africa and Beyond”	Jesca Oredo Mary Muia Michelle Burnette Mariet Verhoef-Cohen

Leadership Dialogues

Introducing the Moderator: Avasha Singh

9:45–10:00	Hall	Remarks	Her Excellency Madame Micheline Ombae Kalama
10:00–10:15		Speech by President, Soroptimist International – “Soroptimist International Today: Purpose, Impact and Our Shared Future”	Renata Trottmann Probst
10:15–10:30		Keynote: “Lighting the Path: Bridging Gaps in Health, Education, and Rights to Transform Africa’s Future”	Prof. Anne-Beatrice Kihara
10:30–10:45		Keynote: “Catalyzing Africa’s Future: Public-Private Synergy in Women’s Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Growth”	Jubril Adeniji
10:45–11:05		Official Opening Address: “Strengthening Resilient Health Systems: Gender-Responsive Pandemic Preparedness and Cross-Border Collaboration Across Africa”	PS Mary Muthoni
11:05–12:00		Coffee Break & Press Opportunity	Conference Media Team

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Day 1 • Friday, 25 September

Health Innovations Plenary

Moderator: Evelyne Kibuchi | Rapporteur: Lucy Norrine

TIME	ROOM	SESSION	SPEAKER / LEAD
12:00–12:10	Hall	Financing Health Equity – “De-risking Futures: Health Financing, Inclusion, and Women’s Economic Resilience”	Njeri Jomo
12:10–12:20		Mental Health Resilience – “Mind, Body, and Resilience: Prioritizing Mental Health in Africa’s Transformation”	Marion Stetchy
12:20–12:30		Strategic Leadership Partnerships for Sustainable Impact – “Building Sustainable Partnerships and Leadership Capacity to Advance Women’s Economic Empowerment and Community Impact”	Michelle J. Burnett
12:30–12:40		Justice & Forensics Bridge – “The Forensic Imperative: Uniting Medical Science and Legal Frameworks for Survivor-Centred Justice”	Dr. Kizzie Shako
12:40–1:00		Health Innovations: Moderated Dialogue & Audience Q&A	Plenary speakers
1:00–2:00	Restaurant	Lunch	—

Parallel Hall

TIME	ROOM	SESSION	SPEAKER / LEAD
2:00–2:10	Hall	Leading Beyond Borders – Lessons from African Women’s Leadership That Can Scale Globally	Alvine Sangha Muaikei
2:10–2:20		Empowering the Next Generation – Mentorship, Leadership and Sustainable Pathways for Young Women	Hazel Obat
2:20–2:30		The Power of Mentorship – Shaping the Next Generation of Female Leaders in Finance	Laura Fisayo-Kolawole
2:30–2:40		The Power of the Next Generation – Stepping Up, Taking Charge and Driving Soroptimist Values Forward Early	Jehemuelle Manioc
2:40–2:50		Mobilising the Next Generation – Building Inclusive Movements for Sustainable Change Across Africa	Phenny Ogembo
2:50–3:30		Moderated Dialogue & Audience Q&A	Hall speakers

Breakout C

Moderator: Ruhiyi Temko | Rapporteur: Irene Wakasa

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Day 1 • Friday, 25 September

Breakout B

TIME	ROOM	SESSION	SPEAKER / LEAD
2:00–2:10	Breakout B	Sustainability & Innovation	Amb. Dr. Christine Obaigwa Owinyi
2:10–2:20		Bridging Policy and Action – Grassroots Mobilisation for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice	Rosemary Atieno
2:20–2:30		Leading with Impact – Maximising Influence Through Personal Growth and Leadership Development	Gladys Muhunyo
2:30–2:40		Empowering the Next Generation – Leadership Lessons from the Corporate Sector	Wilhemina Asiamah
2:40–2:50		Innovating for Impact – Digital Transformation, Sustainable E-Governance and Social Equity in Public Institutions	Ravaka Randrianarimanana
2:50–3:30		Moderated Dialogue & Audience Q&A	Breakout B speakers
Moderator: Dr. Eunice Kanaga Rapporteur: Rukia Kanenje			

Breakout A

2:00–2:10	Breakout A	Equitable Access & Influence – Driving Social Impact and Global Change Through Public Service	Dr. Michèle Sandra MONLOUIS-DEVA
2:10–2:20		A Global Voice, Equal Power – Redefining Equity and Inclusion for Women Worldwide	Jan Roberts
2:20–2:30		Beyond Representation – Turning Women’s Presence into Influence and Policy Impact	Dr. Arthie Moore-Robberts
2:30–2:40		From Voice to Action – Digital Leadership: Utilising Innovation and Technology to Amplify Women’s Voices Globally	Carol Kakooza Kyazze
2:40–3:30		Moderated Dialogue & Audience Q&A	Breakout A speakers
Moderator: Prof. Catherine Aurah Rapporteur: Lillian Achieng			

3:30–4:00	Hall Foyer	Coffee
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Plenary Close

4:00–4:30	Hall	Breakout Reports	Track moderators
4:30–4:45		SIAF Film	—
4:45–5:00		Day 1 Closing Notices	
7:00–9:00	The View Restaurant	Leadership Dinner	Secretariat

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Day 2 • Saturday, 26 September

Peace, Justice & Leadership

EMCEE: Julie Ambudo & NY Ando Maherinirina
Moderator: Rev. Jane Ng'ang'a & Eva Odongo

TIME	ROOM	SESSION	SPEAKER / LEAD
8:00–9:00	Registration Area	Registration	Registration Team
9:00–9:15		Keynote Speaker: Operational Justice: From Incarceration to Economic Restoration	Teresa Njoroge
9:15–9:30		Keynote: Global Health, Climate Justice, and Leadership – Shaping a Sustainable Future for Africa and the World	Amb. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo
9:30–9:45		Navigating Niche Leadership & Entrepreneurship in Modern Africa	Dr. Mercy Korir
9:45–10:15	Hall Foyer	Q&A	Panel Speakers
10:15–11:00		Coffee	—

Peace, Security & Resilience

Moderator: Marie-Grace Kayirangwa
Rapporteur: Nancy Oigo

11:00–11:10	Hall	Peace, Security & Strategic Governance – “Beyond Conflict: Public Sector Transformation, Security and Sustainable Governance”	Jacqueline K. Njeru
11:10–11:20		Navigating the Backlash: Resilience, Rights & Resilience in Advocacy	Lucy Karambu
11:20–11:30		Next Generation Leadership & Storytelling – “Cracking the Nut: Storytelling, Education and Next Generation Empowerment for Sustainable Change Across Africa”	Nancy Odero
11:30–12:15		Moderated Dialogue, Audience Q&A & Action Points	Plenary speakers
12:15–1:15	Restaurant	Lunch	—

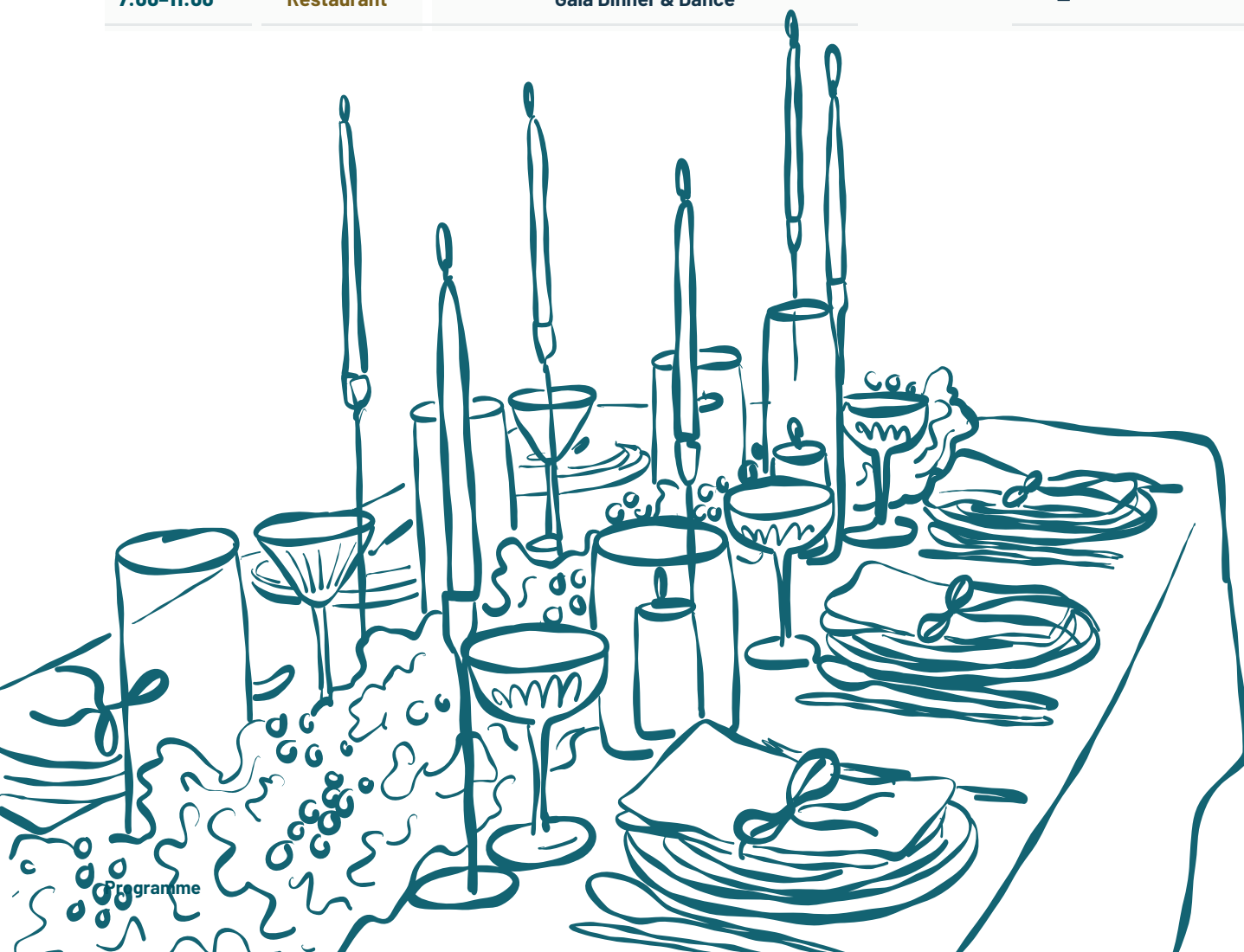
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Day 2 • Saturday, 26 September

Awards, Closing & Celebration

EMCEE: Margaret Kiundi

TIME	ROOM	SESSION	SPEAKER / LEAD
1:15–1:25	Hall	Finance and Governance	Wendy Logan Soroptimist International Finance Director
1:25–2:15		Best Practice Awards	Martha Pufong
2:15–2:45		Special Peace Award	Mary Muia
2:45–3:15		Change of Insignia	Mary Muia
3:15–3:45		Video Announcements	—
3:45–4:00	Hall	Closing Remarks	Jesca Oredo
4:00–4:15		Closing Remarks	Mary Muia
7:00–11:00	Restaurant	Gala Dinner & Dance	—



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

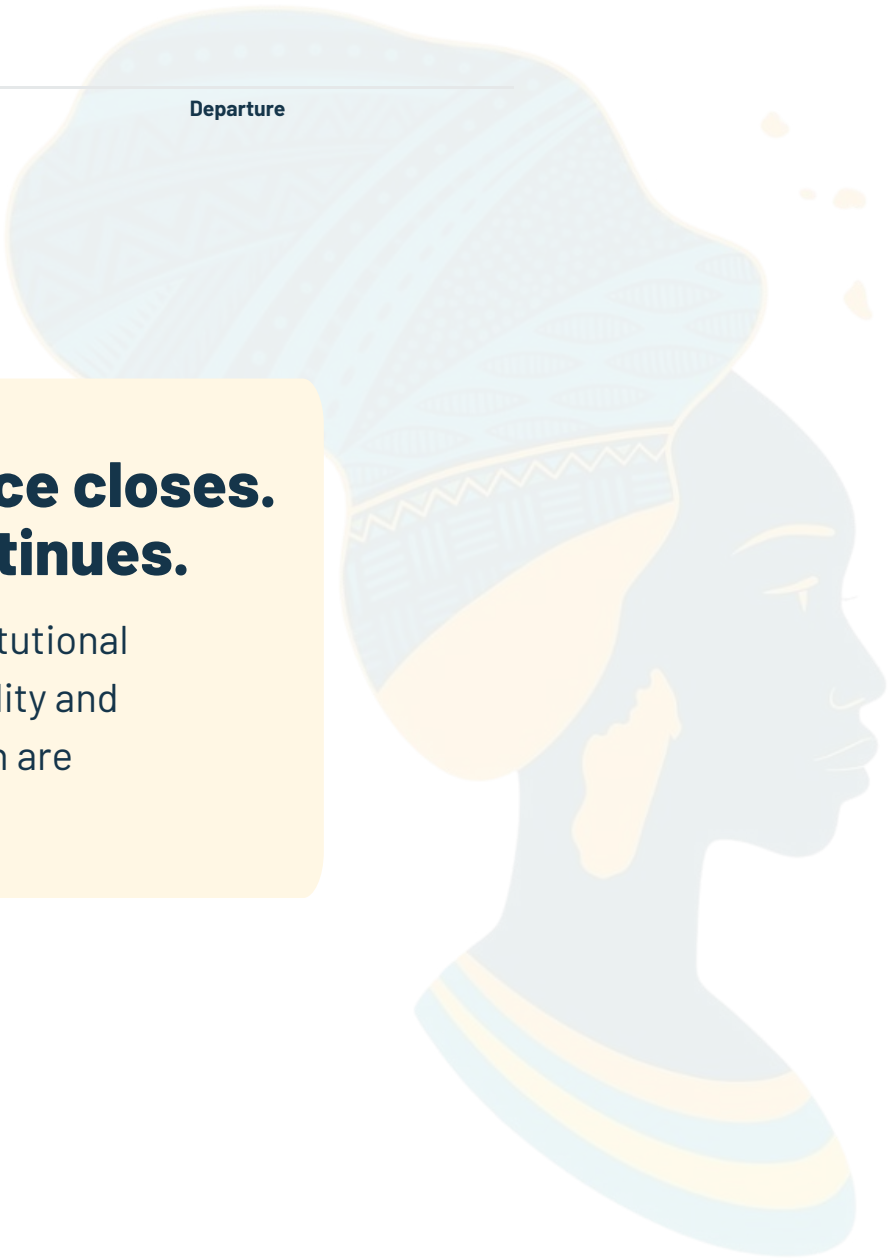
Day 3 • Sunday, 27 September

AGM & Close

TIME	ROOM	SESSION
9:00–11:00	Hall	SIAF AGM
11:00–11:30	Hall Foyer	Coffee
11:30–12:30	Hall	AGM Continued
12:30–1:00		AGM Q&A
1:00–2:00	Restaurant	
After Lunch	—	Departure

The conference closes.
The work continues.

The AGM is where institutional continuity, accountability and the next cycle of action are carried forward.





SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

Voices Leading the Way

The Nairobi programme brings together federation leaders, clinicians, public servants, investors, educators, governance specialists, youth advocates, sustainability practitioners and social entrepreneurs.



LEADERSHIP

Host-Country Leadership



Mary Muia

PRESIDENT, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL AFRICA FEDERATION (2025–2026) • FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WEMA WEALTH AFRICA • CHAIR, SIAF 4TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Mary Muia is an executive leader and organisational development specialist with more than two decades of experience spanning public health, global governance and gender advocacy. Through SIAF and WEMA Wealth Africa, she advances health, social inclusion, climate action and opportunities for adolescent girls and young women.



Jesca Oredo

PRESIDENT, SI UNION OF KENYA (2025–2026) • CHAIR, HOST COUNTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

Jesca Oredo leads the Soroptimist International Union of Kenya and chairs the Host Country Steering Committee for SIAF Nairobi 2026. In the opening leadership dialogue, she frames Kenya's role as host around translating sisterhood into action — strengthening communities, health security and opportunities for women and girls.

FEDERATION LEADERSHIP

Leadership, Solidarity & Global Sisterhood



Renata Trottmann Probst

SI PRESIDENT 2026–2027

Renata Trottmann Probst leads Soroptimist International for 2026–2027. Her presidency places women's health at the centre of the organisation's work under the Focus Theme **Her Health – Our Future**, connecting health with education, empowerment, the elimination of violence, environmental sustainability and long-term organisational strength.



Michelle J. Burnett

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

Michelle J. Burnett leads Soroptimist International of the Americas as Executive Director/CEO, providing strategic direction for its mission to improve the lives of women and girls through education and economic empowerment. She brings more than two decades of experience in nonprofit leadership, financial management and organisational development.



Iris Burkhalter

TREASURER 2026/2027 OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF EUROPE

Iris Burkhalter is a Swiss finance professional with a background in hotel management and finance. A member of Soroptimist International Club Zürich-Turicum, she has served as Union Treasurer and Union Vice-President.



Mariet Verhoef-Cohen

GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR GENDER EQUALITY & SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT • SI 2027 CONVENTION CHAIR

Mariet Verhoef-Cohen is an internationally recognised advocate for gender equality and sustainable water management. A former Soroptimist International President and former President of Women for Water Partnership, she has represented women and water on major UN and global platforms and now chairs the SI Convention 2027 in Prague.

Health Systems, Rights & Evidence



Prof. Anne-Beatrice Kihara

**FORMER PRESIDENT, FIGO • CONSULTANT OBSTETRICIAN & GYNAECOLOGIST •
SENIOR LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

Prof. Kihara is a globally respected clinician, educator, researcher and advocate whose work has helped shape maternal and reproductive health policy in Africa and internationally. Through leadership in global health organisations and collaboration with governments, WHO and development partners, she champions improved healthcare for women and girls.



Dr. Kizzie Shako

**FORENSIC POLICE SURGEON • FOUNDER, VUNJA KIMYA FOUNDATION &
E.S.C.A.P.E. FORENSIC CONSULTANCY**

Dr. Shako works at the intersection of medicine, law and human rights. With extensive criminal-justice and forensic experience, she has contributed to policy frameworks, forensic documentation and multi-agency reforms that strengthen responses to sexual and gender-based violence and improve dignified, science-backed access to justice.

From Reintegration to Global Governance



Teresa Njoroge

FOUNDER & CEO, CLEAN START AFRICA • SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

Teresa Njoroge is a leading voice in criminal-justice reform, gender equity and sustainable development. Through Clean Start Africa, she advances reintegration models for justice-impacted women, children and youth, linking reform, financial inclusion and economic opportunity while building coalitions across government, business and civil society.



Amb. Dr. Josephine Rose Majale Ojiambo

**FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL, COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT •
AMBASSADOR • GLOBAL GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LEADER**

Dr. Ojiambo is a physician, diplomat and global development leader whose career spans diplomacy, public health, governance and sustainable development. A former Kenya Ambassador to the United Nations, she has led high-level work on gender equality, climate action, innovation, peacebuilding and strategic partnerships.



Lucy Karambu

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESILIENT WOMAN

Lucy Karambu is a restorative justice advocate and social entrepreneur advancing dignity, healing and economic empowerment for justice-involved women and girls. Through Resilient Woman, she combines trauma-informed care, mentorship and economic empowerment to support sustainable reintegration and strengthen pathways to long-term stability.

Media, Mental Resilience & Youth Voice



Dr. Mercy Korir

CO-FOUNDER, CEO & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, WILLOW HEALTH MEDIA

Dr. Mercy Korir is an award-winning medical doctor, journalist and business executive. She pioneered Kenya's first multimedia Health & Science Desk at The Standard Group and now leads Willow Health Media, combining medicine, media and business to strengthen public-health storytelling, informed dialogue and responsible leadership.



Marion Stetchy

8TH EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY YOUTH AMBASSADOR (KENYA) • DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE & PEACE PRACTITIONER

Marion Stetchy advocates for youth participation, democratic governance, peacebuilding and sustainable development across Africa. Her work spans the SDGs, Agenda 2063, climate action and the UN Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, with a focus on communication, regional cooperation and institutional inclusion of young people.

YOUNG SOROPTIMISTS

Mentoring the Next Generation



Hazel Lynette Obat

STEM EDUCATOR, COUNSELLOR & YOUTH LEADERSHIP MENTOR

Hazel Obat combines more than a decade of experience in STEM education, counselling and youth leadership development. Recognised as a Gender Champion, she focuses on mentoring girls and young women through critical stages of personal growth, confidence building and ethical leadership.



Alvine Sangha Muaikei

FOUNDER & CEO, EVERLASTING DESIGNS FOUNDATION • SECRETARY GENERAL, CAMEROON ENGLISH FASHION DESIGNERS ASSOCIATION

Alvine Sangha Muaikei leads vocational training and mentorship programmes that equip women and girls with practical skills, leadership and pathways to sustainable economic empowerment. Through EDAF and the Echo & Anchor mentorship platform, she connects entrepreneurship with personal growth and community transformation.

Financial Leadership & Institutional Accountability



Laura Fisayo-Kolawole, CFA

HEAD, EQUITIES & ALTERNATIVES SOLUTIONS, FIRST ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Laura Fisayo-Kolawole leads multi-asset investment portfolios across public and private markets in Nigeria. With more than 17 years of investment-management experience, she brings expertise in equities, fixed income, private credit, infrastructure and alternatives, alongside advocacy for financial literacy, market development and professional mentorship.



Jubril Adeniji

REGIONAL MANAGING DIRECTOR – EAST AFRICA, GTBANK | MANAGING DIRECTOR, GTBANK KENYA

Jubril Adeniji is Regional Managing Director – East Africa of Guaranty Trust Bank (GTBank) and Managing Director of GTBank Kenya, providing strategic leadership across Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. With over 25 years of banking experience, he previously served as the pioneer Managing Director of GTBank Tanzania and has held leadership roles spanning corporate, commercial, retail and international banking.



Wilhemina Asiamah

CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR, GCB BANK PLC

Wilhemina Asiamah is a senior finance professional with more than 24 years of experience in banking, auditing and financial management. A Fellow of ACCA and member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, Ghana, she champions corporate governance, accountability, ethical leadership and the empowerment of women and children.

Stronger Organisations, Stronger Communities



Gladys Muhunyo

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST • TRAINER, SPEAKER & CORPORATE MODERATOR

Gladys Muhunyo helps organisations strengthen culture, leadership and team performance. A Distinguished Toastmaster and former District Director, she has led organisational development, fundraising, partnership management and strategic planning initiatives across nonprofit and private-sector work in more than 20 African countries.



Dr. Michèle Sandra MONLOUIS-DEVA

PRESIDENT-ELECT, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF FRANCE • PRESIDENT, REGIONAL CANCER SCREENING COORDINATION CENTRE, FRENCH GUIANA

Dr. Monlouis-Deva is a Doctor of Dental Surgery with extensive experience in pediatric dentistry, gerodontology and public health. She leads cancer-screening coordination in French Guiana and advocates for prevention, equitable access to healthcare, women's leadership and social impact through Soroptimist International.



Njeri Jomo

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JUBILEE HEALTH INSURANCE

Njeri Jomo is a health financing leader with over two decades of experience across insurance, healthcare financing and financial services. Her work focuses on expanding access to quality healthcare through innovative financing, technology, data-driven decision-making and public-private collaboration to advance universal health coverage.

GOVERNANCE & REPRESENTATION

Institutions that Anticipate, Include & Act



Jacqueline K. Njeru

SENIOR RESEARCHER, NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE, NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY-KENYA

Jacqueline Njeru is a public-policy researcher and peace and governance specialist focused on national security, anticipatory governance, peace and conflict, and public-sector transformation. Her experience also spans UNESCO-linked social development, curriculum innovation, human rights protection and countering violent extremism.



Jéhémuelle Manioc

NATIONAL SECRETARY ASSISTANT, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FRANCE • LEADERSHIP ACADEMY COORDINATOR, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL EUROPE

Jéhémuelle Manioc supports coordination across more than 100 Soroptimist clubs, including French overseas territories. She has helped lead the Soroptimist Europe Leadership Academy and focuses on organisational growth, international collaboration and expanding opportunities for Soroptimist impact across regions.



Jan Roberts

LEADERSHIP & GLOBAL VOICE ADVOCATE

Jan Roberts is a leadership advocate focused on strengthening women's voice, influence and representation. His work explores how inclusive leadership and meaningful participation can translate representation into greater institutional and social impact.

SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION

Climate Resilience, Digital Governance & Local Leadership



Rosemary Atieno

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, COMPE • CO-FOUNDER & KENYA PROJECT LEAD, WOMEN'S CLIMATE CENTERS INTERNATIONAL

Rosemary Atieno is a horticulturalist and community-development leader with more than 15 years of experience across climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, WASH, food security and women's leadership. She champions community-led solutions that strengthen self-reliance, environmental conservation and climate-smart livelihoods.



Ravaka Randrianarimanana

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS OFFICER, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY & FINANCE OF MADAGASCAR

Ravaka Randrianarimanana is a public lawyer, e-governance researcher and PhD candidate who also lectures at the University of Vakinankaratra. A Mandela Washington Fellowship alumna and Charter President of Soroptimist International Club Analamanga Fanilo, she advances digital governance, ethical leadership and stronger public institutions.



Amb. Dr. Christine K. Obaigwa Owinyi

CEO & CO-FOUNDER, KENYA CANADIAN EMPOWERMENT NETWORK • GROUP CEO, GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN EDUCATION

Amb. Dr. Christine Owinyi is an educator, sustainability advocate and global development leader advancing accessible education, environmental stewardship and community empowerment. Her work connects education, innovation and global partnerships to sustainable development.

Building Movements and New Leadership



Phenny Ogembo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DARAJA LETU FOUNDATION • PRESIDENT, GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN MOVEMENT KENYA

Phenny Ogembo is a Pan-African advocate and gender and community-development specialist working across gender equality, youth empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and rights, climate action, peacebuilding and the protection of adolescent girls and young women.



Nancy Odero (MSc)

FOUNDER & CEO, RESILIENT AFRICA • PUBLIC/COMMUNITY HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

Nancy Odero works across leadership, research, public and community health, development and youth empowerment. She is active in sexual and reproductive health and rights advocacy for adolescents and uses storytelling and authorship as tools to educate, engage and build resilient communities.



Carol Kyazze Kakooza

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AXIOM ZORN • DATA FORENSIC SCIENTIST & ICT FOR AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST

Carol Kyazze Kakooza is a data and digital-innovation specialist working at the intersection of agriculture, financial inclusion and data integrity. Through Axiom Zorn, she develops technology that helps smallholder farmers build digital identities, access finance and markets, and participate more fully in the digital economy. Her work also spans AI-enabled credit scoring, data governance and intellectual-property protection.

LEADERSHIP, INCLUSION & ORGANISATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



(Dr.S) Arthie Moore-Robberts

FOUNDER, CELEBRATING HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL & KI LEADERSHIP INTERNATIONAL • LEADERSHIP STRATEGIST & DIVERSITY & INCLUSION SPECIALIST

Arthie Moore-Robberts is an entrepreneur, leadership strategist and diversity and inclusion specialist with more than 28 years of international experience. She works with corporate leaders, governments, universities and communities to develop compassionate, values-driven leadership, inclusive organisations and stronger leadership pipelines for women and young people.

The value of a Conference is measured by what changes after it

1. Convert dialogue into commitments

Capture decisions, partnership opportunities and programme ideas with named owners and clear next steps.

2. Strengthen the pipeline

Connect senior leaders with young Soroptimists, emerging professionals and grassroots practitioners.

3. Build evidence into advocacy

Use health, economic, education, justice and climate evidence to sharpen federation-level advocacy.

4. Finance what works

Bring corporate, public and philanthropic partners closer to tested community programmes and scalable models.

5. Carry Nairobi into clubs

Translate the conference into club-level action, learning sessions, campaigns and new partnerships.

6. Measure the next chapter

Track progress so SIAF's next biennial gathering can show not only what was discussed, but what changed.

Leading the Way means leaving with a blueprint for impact

A partnership. A policy idea. A stronger club. A new mentor. A health intervention. A funding pathway. A renewed commitment to women and girls.

24–27 September 2026

Mövenpick Hotel & Residences, Nairobi, Kenya

Conference programme, speaker profiles and mission framing prepared from the SIAF Nairobi 2026 programme and speaker materials.

**Empowerment. Sustainability. Health.
Leadership. Action.**

The conference ends in Nairobi. The mission continues everywhere Soroptimists lead.



The Committee Members



The Committee Members



Mary Muia
SIAF President 2025-2026



Jesca Oredo
President SI Union of Kenya (2025-2026)
Chair, Host Country Steering Committee



Judith Apondo
SIAF Extension & Membership Director
SIAF Liaison person



Prof. Catherine Aurah
SI Vinya Club
Chair, Technical & Program Sub-Committee



Dolphine Anyango
SI Kisumu Club
Technical & Program Sub-Committee



Rukia Kanenje
SI Kisumu Club
Technical & Program Sub-Committee



Margaret Kiundi
SI Mombasa Club
Chair, Excursions & Hospitality Sub-Committee



Alice Owuor
SI Mombasa Club
Excursions & Hospitality Sub-Committee



Ruhayi Kulecho
SI Taita e-club
Chair, Young Soroptimists Sub-Committee



Shirley Sabrina
SI Nairobi Central
Young Soroptimists Sub-Committee



Abigael Nyamawi
SI Taita e-Club
Young Soroptimists Sub-Committee



Caroline Odandi
SI Nairobi Central Club
Chair, Event Management & Logistics Sub-



Rose Oteri
SI Nairobi Central Club
Event Management & Logistics Sub-



Lydia Benard-Jones
SI Nairobi Central Club
Chair, PR & Marketing Sub-Committee



Eva Odongo
SI Kakamega Club
PR & Marketing Sub-Committee



Eva Odongo
SI Kakamega Club
PR & Marketing Sub-Committee



Cecilia Wachira
SI Nairobi Central Club
PR & Marketing Sub-Committee



Elizabeth Waiswa
SI Nairobi Central Club
Chair, Finance & Partnership Sub-Committee



Irene Wakasa
SI Kisumu Winyan Club
Finance & Partnerships Sub-Committee



Julie Ambundo
SIJK President Elect
Logistics & Event Management Sub-Committee



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