



Feminist Frontlines of Extractive Economies

Women in Mining and Agriculture in Africa

Co-hosted by Oxfam South Africa (OZA), the Centre for the Study of Race, Gender and Class (CSRGC) and the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) at the University of Johannesburg

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Executive Summary

This Policy Brief, co-hosted by Oxfam South Africa, the Centre for the Study of Race, Gender and Class (CSRGC) and the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) at the University of Johannesburg, positions African women as central agents in transforming extractive economies. It builds on the July 2025 feminist meeting that informed South Africa's G20 Presidency agenda for a gender-responsive just transition across mining and agriculture.

Across Africa, women contribute the majority of agricultural labour and sustain mining communities, yet remain excluded from ownership, decision-making, and fair benefit-sharing. Structural inequities, rooted in colonial legacies, patriarchal norms, and extractive capitalism, continue to reproduce poverty, precarity, and environmental degradation. The Brief calls for a feminist political economy grounded in redistribution, accountability, and care to ensure that justice in mining and agriculture includes justice for women's bodies, labour, and knowledge.

Four interlinked panels explored women's leadership, climate and digital transformation, agricultural justice, and economic sovereignty. Discussions underscored the urgency of reframing women's participation from resilience to structural transformation. In mining, speakers highlighted gender-based violence, unsafe conditions, and psychological stress as systemic injustices

demanding gender-responsive safety audits, trauma support, and leadership quotas. In agriculture, feminist pathways to land and food justice call for secure tenure, climate-smart cooperatives, and peri-urban land protection.

Panellists also demonstrated how feminist innovation, through seed sovereignty, community markets, and informal finance networks, already anchors local economies and ecological resilience.

The report's cross-cutting policy priorities align with the African Union Agenda 2063 and the G20 Task Force mandates on Climate Action and Social Cohesion.

Alignment with AU2063 & G20 Task Force on Climate Action and Social Cohesion

1. **Inclusion to Transformation:** Feminist policy must go beyond integrating women into extractive systems to fundamentally redesign those systems through equity, care, and accountability;
2. **Safety and Sovereignty First:** Gender-responsive safety, mental-health, and land-tenure reforms are prerequisites for justice in mining and agriculture;
3. **Feminist Governance for the G20 Era:** South Africa's G20 Presidency offers a historic opening to institutionalise feminist economic governance, anchoring Africa's just transition in women's leadership, knowledge, and collective power.

Ultimately, the Brief advances a vision of redistributive justice—where women co-own and co-govern Africa's resource economies, ensuring that value, dignity, and care circulate locally and sustainably.

Introduction, Background & Context

This Policy Brief situates itself within South Africa's long struggle for social and economic justice and the broader Pan-African effort to position women as leaders—rather than labourers—within the continent's extractive and gendered economies of mining and agriculture.¹ These sectors, foundational to Africa's development, continue to reflect the deep structural legacies of patriarchal colonialism. Historic systems of exclusion have left enduring imprints on ownership, power, and profit—patterns still largely concentrated in private hands dominated by white male elites with enduring ties to transnational networks of capital.² Women sustain families, communities, and ecosystems, yet remain systematically excluded from decision-making, land ownership, finance, and social protection. Gender inequality in extractive systems is not incidental but structurally embedded, reinforcing poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation.³



Source: Liveson Muwanga

The feminist political economy of resistance and renewal amplifies this call for transformation. Across Africa, women's labour, leadership, and ecological knowledge are indispensable to achieving

fair and sustainable development. Rather than integrating women into exploitative systems, feminist policy approaches seek to transform the very architecture of extractive economies by centring redistribution, accountability, and care—ensuring that justice in mining and agriculture includes justice for women's bodies, time, and labour.

"Today we stand in the presence of academics, pioneers, activists who are breaking ground both literally and figuratively. From the rich soils of our farmlands to the depths of our mineral wealth, women are not only participating, they are leading, innovating, and transforming." **Dr. Tambi Mazu, Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, University of Johannesburg**

This Policy Brief draws on the convening co-hosted by Oxfam South Africa (OZA), the Centre for the Study of Race, Gender and Class (CSRGC) at the University of Johannesburg, and the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) on 31 July 2025. The gathering united scholars, policymakers, activists, and community leaders to reframe extractive economies through feminist, decolonial, and intersectional lenses. Its outcomes contribute directly to G20 T20 Task Force 5 (Climate Action and Just Energy Transition) and Task Force 4 (Social Cohesion, Equity and Solidarity for the SDGs), advancing feminist perspectives on equity, redistribution, and leadership within Africa's extractive and agricultural transitions.

As South Africa assumes the G20 Presidency in 2025, the continent stands at a critical juncture. Africa is not merely a site of vulnerability in the face of inequality and climate crisis—it is a site of agency, innovation, and feminist resistance. The extractive economies of mining and agriculture reveal both the persistence of global structural injustices and the transformative potential of African women who navigate and challenge these systems daily.

Despite policy commitments to gender equality, women across Africa remain excluded from ownership, leadership, and fair benefit-sharing. Women contribute between 60 and 80 per cent of agricultural labour yet hold less than 20 per cent of land titles globally and only about 13 per

cent of farms in South Africa. In mining, women are underrepresented in leadership, face gender-specific health and safety risks, and bear disproportionate exposure to violence, displacement, and precarity. These inequities are rooted in colonial legacies, patriarchal norms, and extractive capitalist models that undervalue women's contributions while reproducing dispossession and dependency. Women continue to anchor communities, preserve ecological knowledge, and drive locally led innovation.

Across the continent, they organise for land rights, pioneer sustainable farming practices, demand environmental justice, and hold corporations accountable. Their work is not peripheral—it is transformative and central to achieving the SDGs, Agenda 2063, and the G20's just transition mandate

Rationale for this Policy Brief

This Policy Brief translates the insights and collective wisdom of the 2025 convening into feminist policy recommendations for the G20, African Union, and regional platforms. It advances the argument that extractive economies—both mineral and agricultural—are not gender-neutral and that women's structural exclusion perpetuates cycles of inequality and ecological harm.

By articulating women's leadership and agency, the Brief disrupts dominant narratives that cast women solely as victims of extractive systems and instead recognises them as innovators and

architects of sustainable futures. Grounded in a Pan-African feminist political economy, it calls for redistributive justice, gender-responsive investment, and policy.

This intervention sits squarely within the Think Tank 20 (T20) mandate to translate research into actionable policy. It underscores the need for evidence that foregrounds African women's lived experiences and intellectual labour in mining and agriculture—the twin pillars of many African economies. The gendered dimensions of ownership, remuneration, and knowledge production remain obscured by hierarchies privileging external

expertise and male-dominated leadership.

From this perspective, a feminist analysis of extractive economies is inseparable from epistemic justice. Global and regional policy frameworks must draw directly on African women's knowledge systems, labour histories, and ecological practices.

The purpose is to move beyond rhetorical empowerment toward generating rigorous, context-grounded evidence capable of transforming how the G20, African Union, and national governments design, finance, and evaluate policies for mining and agriculture.

Discussion

Four panel discussions were held throughout the day. Panellists provoked audience responses in a short presentation, and the floor engaged robustly in sharpening the analysis and proposing policy recommendations. Below is a synthesised analysis, followed by policy recommendations.

Women's Leadership, Safety, and Justice in Mining Communities

The first panel of the convening focused on women's leadership, safety, and justice in mining communities. Moderated by Dr Tambi Mazu, Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, University of Johannesburg. The discussion featured three distinguished speakers⁴ who brought feminist, historical, and experiential perspectives to understanding women's roles and realities in extractive industries.

Psychological and Structural Barriers to Women's Well-being

The intersecting stresses of colonial legacies, unsafe working environments, and gender-based exclusion have produced an often-invisible crisis of mental health among women miners. Psychological distress and structural inequity are mutually reinforcing, shaping a labour environment where survival is mistaken for empowerment.

"The mining industry is extremely hazardous by nature. Take those hazards and conflate them with gender-based violence, lack of upward mobility, and all these intersections of oppression—then it's no wonder we face mental health issues that are not being addressed," Prof. Janice Moodley, College of Human Sciences, Department of Psychology, University of South Africa (UNISA).

There is also value in recognising diversity among women in mining, from executives to underground workers, to avoid one-size-fits-all policy approaches.

"Even when women are placed in leadership, are they given autonomy? Are their voices heard? We cannot speak of equality when the structures remain the same," Prof. Janice Moodley, Associate Professor, College of Human Sciences, Department of Psychology, University of South Africa (UNISA).

True transformation requires reimagining mining workplaces as environments of dignity, safety, and mental well-being, not merely economic participation. Mental health is an equity issue central to gender justice.

Reclaiming Feminist Leadership and Historical Memory

Feminist leadership in the mining and agriculture sectors is a continuum of Africa's long tradition of women's stewardship and governance of the environment. Colonial extraction, disruption, capitalist exploitation, and patriarchal erasure challenge feminist leadership to restore memory and Indigenous knowledge systems.

“Before colonisation, our societies had ways of living together. Women were land managers and resource stewards—think of the Donyi traditions, Queen Amina of Zazzau. We have not just been the 60% of women in agriculture; we’ve been in the boardrooms for centuries,” Ontlotile Seemela, African Regional Chair, International Association for Political Science, and lecturer at North-West University.

Policymakers must decolonise the discourse of empowerment, moving beyond Western-centric models to draw from Africa’s own histories of collective governance and care economies.

“Policies are idealistic and often don’t trickle down. If the lion defines hunting, it won’t reflect the deer’s perspective. Include relevant people in conversations. Learn from small-scale farmers.”² Ontlotile Seemela, African Regional Chair, International Association for Political Science, and lecturer at North-West University.

The feminist struggle for equity is not only about economic reform but also about epistemic justice, the contest over who defines knowledge, power, and value in extractive economies.

Safety, Dignity, and Justice in Mining

For women, there are disproportionate and persistent dangers and indignities in mining operations. Existing safety and justice mechanisms remain inadequate, with policies that exist on paper but fail in practice.

“In one incident, a belt stopped due to rocks jamming the crusher. After two hours, the police came underground. The attendant was found two days later—she reported being tracked and raped. This is the kind of system we have underground.” Mamosa Modise, Founder and Chairperson of the Association of Women in Mining South Africa (AWIMSA)

There is systemic devaluation of women’s safety, where mining companies prioritise equipment and production over human life. Gender-sensitive safety systems, the installation of personal tracking and emergency communication devices, and improved sanitation facilities underground are all core to renewing the dignity of women underground. Worker safety, particularly for women mineworkers, is linked to the broader feminist and climate justice movement, which advocates for justice in mining communities, including physical security, environmental restoration, and community well-being.

From Resilience to Structural Transformation

Across all contributions in the dialogue, a shared theme emerged: that resilience has become an imposed condition for women forced to adapt to inequitable systems. The panellists collectively argued for a shift from endurance to transformation — from coping with inequality to dismantling it.

These insights point to an urgent feminist agenda for mining and other extractive economies:

- Recognising **mental health** as a structural and justice issue;
- Reclaiming Africa's **pre-colonial feminist leadership** models;
- Embedding **gender-responsive safety and justice** systems in all mining policies and operations.

Together, these arguments demonstrate that Africa's just transition depends not on integrating women into existing extractive systems but on redesigning those systems through feminist governance, intersectional policy, and care-centred economics.

Feminist Futures: Climate, Digital and Institutional Transformation

The second panel, titled *"Feminist Futures in Extractives, Climate, Digital and Institutional Transformation,"* moderated by Professor Elizabeth Makhatha, Head of School, Mining, Metallurgy and Chemical Engineering, University of Johannesburg, explored how feminist political-economy principles can guide Africa's transition toward just, inclusive, and sustainable governance. Participants from across research, civil society, and industry contributed to the dialogue.⁵

Front-line environmental defenders

A feminist approach to climate governance reframes women as actively shaping adaptation and resilience strategies.

"Women are not only vulnerable populations; we are front-line environmental defenders –from artisanal minefields in Mali to rehabilitation efforts in Nigeria – often without institutional recognition or adequate support." Dr Comfort Asokoro-Ogaji, Executive Director, Women in Mining Africa (WiM-Africa)

This perspective centres women's environmental labour and local knowledge as critical to sustainable transition strategies that value care, community resilience, and intergenerational justice.

Institutional transformation emerged as another vital dimension. Many continental and national strategies – from the African Green Minerals Strategy to South Africa's Critical Minerals Strategy remain gender-neutral or tokenistic.

"The African Green Minerals Strategy mentions women once; the South African Critical Minerals Strategy mentions gender only in passing." Adrian Joseph, Research Fellow, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

The feminist-governance lens demands gender-disaggregated data and accountability mechanisms that make extractive policy genuinely inclusive. The panel also examined digital technologies as potential tools for feminist accountability. When governed by feminist ethics, technologies such as GPS, Wi-Fi, RFID and blockchain can enhance transparency and safety; yet without deliberate design, they risk entrenching surveillance and exclusion.

*"Digital tools can enable grievance reporting without fear of victimisation and help monitor compliance with social and environmental commitments." **Joan Matjuda, shaft geologist, Siyanda Bakgatla Platinum Mine***

In reflecting on the energy transition, participants highlighted the paradox of **decarbonisation without justice**. The feminist just-transition agenda demands co-creation models that embed value locally, repurpose industrial sites, and invest in community food-energy-water systems to sustain livelihoods. Together, these reflections extend the feminist political economy of extractives toward a vision of governance that is redistributive, restorative, and future-oriented.

*"Policies – however elegant – only matter if guided by bottom-up realities and the micro-histories of communities." **Dr Dana Gompel, Eskom Just Energy Transition Office***

Feminist Pathways to a Just Agriculture Transition

The third panel, *"Feminist Pathways to a Just Agriculture Transition,"* moderated by Isobel Frye, Oxfam G20 Senior Policy Adviser, examined how gender justice in land, food, and climate systems can be advanced through feminist political-economy frameworks. The panellists⁶ traced intersecting issues of land access, cooperative structures, youth engagement, agroecology, and climate adaptation.

A feminist agricultural transition positions land as both a resource and a relationship. Women's stewardship of land connects food sovereignty to collective power and ecological care. The discussion underscored that policies must recognise land justice as the foundation of equitable value-chain participation—ensuring women's ownership rights, finance, infrastructure, and education are all aligned to inclusive development.

*"Where I come from, women carry the land on their backs and the future in their hands. Farming is survival, resistance, and legacy." **Tandi Hopi, Farmer and Director, Green River Band Programmes***

Land must be reframed as value-chain justice rather than a single-asset question. Socio-cultural barriers and customary tenure systems continue to exclude women, cascading into limited access to credit, markets, and technology.

*"Land is a feminist issue. If women can't access land, exclusion spreads across inputs, finance and markets." **Lehlogonolo Ratlabanya, Project Lead, Graça Machel Trust.***

The panel also highlighted the importance of cooperative models. When grounded in shared vision and transparent systems, cooperatives can secure funding and land more easily, enabling sustainable production. However, without durable governance, such structures risk collapse, eroding community trust and stewardship.

Youth and technology emerged as twin catalysts for transformation. Young women and men are using digital tools to close inter-generational knowledge gaps and strengthen advocacy.

Farmers increasingly rely on peer networks—particularly via WhatsApp groups—for troubleshooting, marketing, and learning. This digital peer learning has become a decentralised extension service, improving productivity and solidarity across rural and peri-urban communities.

Yet ecological and policy threats continue to disable peri-urban farmers through uncontrolled land-use underscored by urban sprawl and mining encroachment.

“My mother says my navel is buried in that land—we were forcibly removed under the Group Areas Act, and I returned.” Nazeer Sondag, Chairperson, Philippi Horticultural Area, Food and Farming Campaign.

Peri-urban agriculture sustains urban food systems and informal markets while providing ecosystem services. Yet weak enforcement of land-use laws and limited public participation in licensing processes expose farming areas to speculative development. Community networks are responding through advocacy, administrative appeals, and litigation to defend agricultural zones.

Climate disruption repeatedly surfaced as an amplifier of inequality. Women’s farming networks are sharing climate-smart practices—composting, agroecology, and soil restoration—through local dialogues and digital exchanges. Collective learning was described as both adaptation and activism.

Floods in the Eastern Cape illustrated how informal women’s groups mobilise rapid recovery, blending Indigenous knowledge with modern tools.

“Networking is power... Knowledge must circulate—don’t hoard it.” Lehlogonolo Ratlabanya, Project Lead, Graça Machel Trust

Achieving a just agriculture transition requires shifting women from the margins of survival to the centre of decision-making—recognising them as landowners, innovators, and custodians of ecological futures.

Unlocking Economic Justice: Women’s Access to Markets, Finance, and Food Sovereignty

The final panel, *“Unlocking Economic Justice: Women’s Access to Markets, Finance, and Food Sovereignty,”* moderated by Mandisa Mbaligontsi, African Innovation Lead, aGILE (Oxfam South Africa), an independent feminist facilitator, examined how feminist economic frameworks can transform Africa’s agricultural and food systems by addressing the root causes of exclusion in finance, markets, and ownership. The panellists⁷ foregrounded women’s practical innovations and collective agency in re-designing economic systems that are circular, care-based, and community-driven.

Rethinking Access and Ownership

The persistent gap between inclusion rhetoric and fundamental transformation is evident.

South Africa's progressive legislative landscape fails in practice because access criteria and incentive frameworks remain structurally biased:

*"Access to finance and markets exists in theory, yet practical requirements exclude many women due to collateral, documentation, and track-record barriers. We must redesign evaluation systems to close historic gaps." **Teboho Bosiu, Economist at Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED)***

Policy reform must move beyond token inclusion to re-engineer the rules that determine who qualifies for financing and whose work is valued.

Feminist Innovation and Localised Economies

Women are reclaiming ownership across value chains through community seed banks, agroecology training, and locally controlled markets:

*"We chose to own more of the value chain – reviving indigenous seeds, building community seed banks, and creating our own organic market channels... Instead of food parcels, we roll out starter kits, so households grow food for home first, then sell surplus. That's how we move from relief to resilience," **Sibongile Cele, Chairperson at Mcebo Group, Mcebo Fresh Veggie Rooftop Farm***

This illustrates how feminist economic justice begins with re-valuing local knowledge and moving from relief to livelihood. Localised economies require "inclusive financing ecosystems" that blend grants, municipal funds, and social-impact capital rather than extractive debt.

Feminist economies already exist in the informal food system – stokvels, community kitchens, and women-led cooperatives – and that policy must protect and finance these, rather than displace them.

*"The fact that street vendors provide around 70% of people's food needs is itself a remarkable form of innovation. Municipal markets, which once supplied mainly to retailers, now see about 60% of their buyers coming from these same vendors—and this happens despite vendors lacking mobility, proper infrastructure, or any land tenure. That level of resilience and adaptation deserves recognition." **Nthakoana Maema, Chief Executive Officer, ORIBI***

Policy and Market Barriers: Feminist Pathways to Market Justice

Across interventions, ownership models privilege large-scale enterprises. Legacy Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), such as the Industrial Development Corporation and Land Bank, have faced criticism for their slow, collateral-based models that exclude women and community projects. This gap creates potential for recognising alternative land-tenure systems, such as *Permission to Occupy (PTO)*, as legitimate instruments for investment and insurance.

Blended-finance mechanisms route capital through local intermediaries and grant-based instruments. Others called for agriculture to be compulsory in schools to cultivate youth

pipelines into farming and agripreneurship.

Economic justice requires women to co-govern markets, set fair prices, and build circular economies that retain value locally. Contract farming and agro processing are strategies to stabilise income and prevent waste:

"We pre-agree prices with buyers and refuse below-cost selling. Adding sun-drying and processing protects our value. That's how we move from relief to resilience,"
Sibongile Cele, Chairperson at Mcebo Group, Mcebo Fresh Veggie Rooftop Farm.

From Feminist Finance to Food Sovereignty

The policy synthesis led by Isobel Frye, Oxfam G20 Senior Policy Adviser, distilled key takeaways for G20 and T20 frameworks.

Participants called for an ecosystem approach to feminist finance — one that links gender-responsive public investment, inclusive intermediaries, and working-capital guarantees for women's enterprises. Seed sovereignty, Indigenous knowledge, and social-entrepreneurial models were positioned as the foundation of resilient local economies.

Recommendations

Feminist Policy Priorities for the Mining Sector

Women's leadership, safety, and justice in mining must be reframed as central to Africa's just transition, not peripheral social issues. Mining operations and public policy should integrate feminist principles of care, equity, and accountability across all levels of governance.

Specific Actions:

- Establish **mandatory gender-responsive safety audits** in all mining operations, including psychosocial risk assessments and GBV prevention protocols.
- Require transparent **mental health and trauma-support** frameworks for women workers, implemented through collaboration among unions, NGOs, and the state.
- Integrate **gender-sensitive safety** technology (tracking systems, secure sanitation, emergency communications) as a standard condition for mining licenses by 2026.
- Institutionalise **women's leadership quotas** within mining boards, unions, and oversight bodies, with enforcement mechanisms monitored by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).
- Include **climate and community restoration targets** as part of post-mine rehabilitation, recognising women as environmental stewards and local decision-makers.

Feminist Policy Priorities for Agriculture and Land Justice

Agriculture remains the other axis of extractive economies. Feminist land and food justice demand secure tenure, equitable financing, and recognition of women's ecological knowledge systems.

Specific Actions:

- Guarantee land tenure and **access rights for women farmers** through gender-responsive legislation.
- Expand **financing for women-led agricultural cooperatives** focused on climate-smart and regenerative farming.
- Integrate **women's ecological knowledge** into national food security and climate adaptation strategies.

Feminist Futures: Climate, Digital and Institutional Transformation

Feminist transformation of climate, digital, and institutional systems requires centring women's knowledge, leadership, and agency in policymaking and governance frameworks that drive Africa's just transition.

Specific Actions:

- Integrate **gender-responsive frameworks** into Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) instruments across extractive-sector policies.
- Establish **gender-and-climate desks within ministries** of mining, energy and environment to institutionalise accountability.
- Require **gender-disaggregated data and social-risk analyses** within all

environmental-impact assessments and mining-licensing procedures.

- Develop **national digital-rights and data-protection strategies** that safeguard women's participation in technology design and oversight.
- Embed feminist principles in national and regional Just Energy Transition (JET) policies to ensure **equitable livelihood recovery and local ownership of renewable-energy** projects.

Feminist Pathways to a Just Agriculture Transition

Women's leadership in agriculture underpins food sovereignty, climate resilience, and local economic recovery. A feminist agricultural transition must transform power relations across land tenure, value chains, and financing systems.

Specific Actions:

- Adopt **gender-responsive land-reform** mechanisms that secure women's tenure in both freehold and communal areas.
- Establish **financing instruments and insurance schemes accessible to women** smallholders, including persons with disabilities.
- Strengthen **cooperative governance and market access** for women-led producer organisations.
- Integrate **climate-smart and agroecological training** into public-sector extension programmes and agricultural curricula.
- Protect **peri-urban agricultural zones** through enforcement of the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Act and transparent land-use licensing.
- **Mandate women's participation in all agricultural decision-making** bodies—from municipal forums to national policy councils.

Cross-cutting Actions for the G20

The G20 provides critical levers for advancing feminist extractive policy. Africa's 2025 G20 presidency presents a historic opportunity to embed gender equity in trade, energy, and environmental frameworks.

Specific Actions:

- Champion a **G20 Declaration on Feminist Extractive Economies**, led by South Africa, which commits to gender equity in mining, agriculture, and climate policy.
- Mandate that all **G20-aligned multilateral funds** (e.g., Green Climate Fund, Just Energy Transition Partnerships) **include gender quotas in leadership and decision-making**.
- Create an **African Feminist Extractives Observatory** under the AU's Department of Women, Gender, and Youth, tasked with monitoring implementation of gender justice targets in mining and agriculture.
- Promote **South–South knowledge exchange on feminist governance** models between African, Latin American, and Asian countries with similar extractive legacies.

Conclusion

This policy brief reaffirms that women's roles in mining and agriculture are central to Africa's future.

Yet transformation requires not only inclusion but redistribution of power, resources, and representation. Recognising women as leaders in extractive economies, rather than beneficiaries, demands that feminist values of justice, solidarity, and sustainability shape the G20 agenda moving forward. Feminist economic justice in mining and agriculture depends not merely on expanding access, but on redistributing control, knowledge, and dignity.

Participants agreed that women must co-own financial and market systems, ensuring that value circulates locally and care is embedded within economic design. By recognising and financing the informal and indigenous economies already sustaining communities, from seed banks and stokvels to community kitchens, Africa can continue build inclusive, regenerative markets that reflect feminist ethics of equity and interdependence.

This discussion reaffirms that feminist transformation is inseparable from economic sovereignty and the right of women to define, produce, and govern their own systems of livelihood and exchange.

Endnotes

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3. Oxfam South Africa, *Fair for All: Gender Transformation Across the Agricultural Value Chain* (Johannesburg: Oxfam SA, 2025); ENERGIA, Working Paper: Powering a Gender-Just Energy Transition (The Hague: ENERGIA, 2024); African Union, *Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2018–2028* (Addis Ababa: AU Commission, 2018).
4. Since 2016, the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation at the University of Johannesburg has worked to advance Pan-African dialogue, research, and advocacy that connect Africa and its diaspora. Similarly, the Centre for the Study of Race, Gender and Class continues to lead in innovative, intersectional research grounded in the study of inequality. Together with Oxfam, these institutes are grounded in Africa but globally connected.
5. This policy brief falls under the auspices of the Think Tank 20, which is the official engagement group of the G20. The T20 exists to advance evidence-based policy recommendations that shape the global agenda. Today, we affirm that this agenda must include the experiences, struggles, and agency of African women who, despite deeply entrenched inequalities, continue to drive change within extractive and agricultural systems.
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