



**LANGUE VIVANTE II**

**Epreuve du 2<sup>ème</sup> groupe**

**ANGLAIS**

Forum : Empowering Women May hold Key to Africa's Prosperity

20 November 2008

5 A high-level conference on development in Africa has heard that empowering women could be the key to the continent's prosperity. Five hundred delegates from across Africa are attending the forum, which is focusing on gender equality, women's empowerment and ending violence against women. The gathering is being held at the headquarters of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa.

10 Addressing the opening session were such notables as African Development Bank chief Donald Kaberuka, African Union Commission Chairman Jean Ping. United Nations Economic Commission Secretary-General Abdoullie Janneh, Ethiopia's President Girma Woldegiorgis and Denmark's Development Minister Ulla Tornaes. In his speech, A.U. Chairman Jean Ping lamented the poor record of many African governments in achieving equality in the nearly 30 years since adoption of a landmark convention on women's rights.

15 "Over the three decades since convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in 1979, a number of member states are still lagging\* in overcoming the challenges of gender-based discrimination and violence. This explains why we are here today : to fashion out more practical ways of overcoming **these challenges**".

20 Delegates at the opening session heard many reasons why empowering women is a wise idea. On a continent where a significant percentage of the population is engaged in food production, **they** heard evidence that agricultural productivity increases dramatically when women have equal access to the means of production. In addition, an educated female workforce can make a significant contribution to economic growth.

25 But Danish Development Minister Ulla Tornaes raised what is possibly the most compelling reason : self-interest. She noted that, in general, societies where men and women are most equal are the most prosperous. Put another way, empowering women is also in men's economic self-interest. "We know that economic growth and gender equality are closely related. More equality goes hand in hand with higher economic growth. Africa's women are so far a largely untapped source of economic potential. Properly harnessed, this resource can transform Africa and contribute to economic growth," he said.

30 The three-day gathering will examine some of the toughest challenges facing African policy-makers, among **them** finding ways to ensure women in impoverished countries have access to education, credit, decent jobs and property rights.

**[WWW.Voanews.com/english/news](http://WWW.Voanews.com/english/news)**

\*lagging (l. 13) = moving too slowly behind

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**I. READING COMPREHENSION (08 marks)**

**A/ Choose the best option (0.5 mark)**

1. Which of these sentences best expresses the main idea of the text ? Circle the letter corresponding to the right answer.
- a) Women are doing well in economy
  - b) Women’s promotion can boost economic growth
  - c) Men are looking down on women
  - d) Some countries are lagging behind

**B/ Complete this table appropriately with phrases from the text (3 marks : 0.5 for each correct answer)**

The Forum’s agenda	<u>Three</u> reasons why women should be empowered
2. _____	5. _____ _____
3. _____	6. _____ _____ _____
4. _____	7. _____ _____ _____

**C/ Find in the indicated paragraphs of the text words or phrases similar in meaning to the following : (2 marks : 0.5 for each correct answer)**

- 8. giving authority to (parag.2) = .....
- 9. defeating (parag.3) = .....
- 10. until now (parag.5) = .....
- 11. not exploited (parag.5) = .....

**D/ What or who do the following words or phrases in the text refer to ? (1.5 marks : 0.5 for each correct answer)**

- 12. these challenges (l. 15) : .....
- 13. they (l. 18) : .....
- 14. them (l. 29) : .....

**E/ Find in the text phrases which are used to : (1 mark : 0.5 each correct answer)**

- 15. add ideas : .....
- 16. explain or clarify something: .....

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**II. COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (06 marks)**

**F/ Circle the letter corresponding to the best option for each situation**  
**(2 marks : 1 mark for each correct answer)**

**17. Situation : Somebody declares that men are superior to women. You want to disagree but politely. How would you express it ?**

- a) I disagree
- b) I don't agree
- c) I'm afraid I don't share your opinion
- d) I must help you out.

**18. Situation : You want to show your determination to help women. How would you express it ?**

- a) I'll be by your side
- b) I can no longer back you up
- c) I must help you out
- d) I used to help feminists in their fight

**G/ Passage completion (2 marks : 0.5 for each correct answer)**

**Situation : Mrs Sarr attended a forum on "Development in Africa" in which the following ideas have been expressed:**

- "If we empower women, we can ensure economic prosperity".*
- "If women are powerful, the economy goes strong".*
- "Women don't have equal access to the means of production, which reduces agricultural productivity".*
- "Economic growth and gender equality are closely related".*

**Back to her country, she decided to share those ideas with her colleagues by email. Complete her email.**

There were a lot of participants at the Forum. Some of them thought that economic prosperity could result from..... 19  
 Some added that the more powerful women are, the.....the economy. Others said that women 20  
 should.....the means of production in order to boost 21  
 agricultural productivity. Most importantly, it was pointed out that there is a close link between..... On the whole, it was a very successful meeting. 22

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**H/ Use prefixes or suffixes from the box to form suitable words for the gaps. You will need the plural forms in some cases. (2 marks: 0.5 for each correct answer)**

Prefixes	<b>Un-, dis-, mis-, in-</b>
Suffixes	<b>- ment, - ist, - er</b>

Femin.....have been fighting for years for women’s rights. They know  
23

that many women have been living in an.....safe and hostile environment.  
24

All this .....justice results from the political.....management of our decision –  
25 26

Makers. This fight for freedom is as noble as the anti- slavery struggle.

**III. WRITING (06 marks)**

**Choose ONE topic and write 100-150 words about it**

1. Some of your neighbours are often beaten by their husbands. **Write a letter** to the President of the Republic to inform him. Suggest the action you want him to take.
2. Do you share the opinion that a girl’s place is at home ? Why or why not ?
3. Your school has invited a feminist and students are asking her questions about the situation of women in your country and in the rest of the world. Write out the interview.