

## STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On this International Women's Day, The Gambia Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO) proudly stands in solidarity with women and girls around the world, particularly those in The Gambia, as we reflect on their remarkable contributions to society. This day serves as a moment to recognize the significant strides we have made toward achieving gender equality and empowerment, while also acknowledging the ongoing challenges that women face in many areas of life.

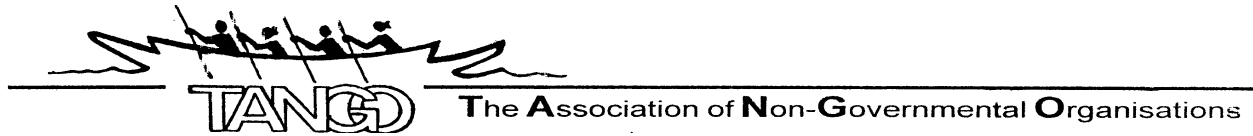
Women in The Gambia, like in many countries, continue to be at the forefront of social change, economic development, and community leadership. From leading local NGOs to shaping policies, running businesses, and contributing to families as caregivers in addition to their reproductive role, Women are indispensable to the fabric of society. Yet, despite their central role in driving progress, gender inequality remains a significant barrier in many areas, including access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and decision-making power. In some cases, cultural and societal expectations continue to place women at a disadvantage, preventing them from fully realizing their potential.

TANGO recognizes the multifaceted challenges that women face, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups such as rural women, women with disabilities, and those living in poverty. The work we do through our member organizations aims to address these disparities by promoting gender-sensitive policies, providing platforms for women's voices, and advocating for laws, policies and practices that ensure equality for all. We believe that empowering women is not only a matter of human rights but is also essential to achieving sustainable development. When women are given equal access to opportunities, education, and leadership roles, entire communities and nations thrive.

The theme for International Women's Day 2025 calls for an emphasis on "**Accelerate Action for Gender Equality.**" TANGO fully embraces this message, as we see firsthand how empowering women leads to stronger, healthier, and more prosperous communities. From grassroots initiatives to national policy, when women are empowered to participate fully in all aspects of society, they bring unique perspectives and solutions that benefit everyone.

As an organization, TANGO is committed to supporting women's leadership, both within our own structure and in the wider civil society sector. Through various programs, TANGO provides training and capacity-building opportunities for women, enabling them to take on leadership roles in their communities and in the development sector. We also work closely with our partners to ensure that gender equality is not just a theoretical goal but an actionable priority in all of our programs and advocacy work.

Furthermore, TANGO recognizes the importance of engaging men and boys as allies in advancing gender equality. True societal transformation requires the participation of everyone, regardless of gender. We encourage open dialogues about gender roles, stereotypes, and the need to share responsibilities in both public and private spheres. Only through collective effort can we dismantle the barriers that prevent women from achieving their full potential.



This International Women’s Day, TANGO calls on all sectors—government, members of the civil society, the private sector, and individuals—to take concrete actions to break down the structural barriers that limit women’s opportunities. We urge policymakers to enact and enforce laws that protect women’s rights, promote equal opportunities, and eliminate violence against women. We also encourage businesses and organizations to prioritize gender equality in their operations, ensuring women are given fair opportunities to thrive and lead.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of women, we also commit to a future where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a reality for all. TANGO is proud to be part of a growing movement in The Gambia and beyond that works tirelessly to build a more inclusive, equitable world for women and girls. On this International Women’s Day, let us honour the women, who have paved the way, and renew our commitment to creating a world where all women are empowered to reach their full potential.

HAPPY WOMEN DAY!!!!

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