



AFRICAN FEMINIST MACROECONOMIC ACADEMY
The Audacity to Disrupt

Feminist Perspectives on the Extractives Sector and Natural Resource Governance



2025



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INTRODUCTION

Natural resource governance (NRG) in Africa sits at the intersection of history, political economy and gendered power relations. Despite the continent's vast natural resource wealth, the "paradox of plenty" persists, shaped by governance systems rooted in colonial extraction, contemporary capitalist interests and entrenched patriarchy. These systems often concentrate control and economic benefits in the hands of a few, while externalising the social, economic and ecological costs onto communities, particularly women and other marginalised groups.

AFMA-Central Africa applied a Feminist Political Ecology and Pan-African feminist lens to examine these dynamics and explore pathways towards more just and accountable natural resource governance. Grounded in principles of intersectionality, accountability, transparency, distributive justice, collective ownership and environmental sustainability, the academy examined how power operates across NRG institutions and value chains, and how these systems can be transformed to advance gender, economic and environmental justice.

The academy brought together 19 participants from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Ethiopia, strengthening their capacity to apply feminist analysis to natural resource governance and to advance more equitable and sustainable approaches within their respective contexts.

Day one: Introduction to feminist analysis and feminist macro-level economics

Welcome Remarks

The academy commenced with virtual welcome remarks from Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director of FEMNET. In her remarks, she highlighted the significance of AFMA as one of FEMNET's flagship programmes and encouraged participants to emerge from the academy energised to strengthen their advocacy work.

She underscored Africa's vast natural resource wealth and noted that these resources do not always translate into improved development outcomes for African people, particularly in the Central Africa region. She highlighted the disproportionate impacts experienced by women, including loss of land, restrictions on land ownership in some countries, and inadequate compensation for communities and individuals exposed to harmful chemicals and their associated health impacts. She emphasised that these challenges constitute critical human rights concerns.

Reflecting on the African Union's focus on justice and reparations, she noted that the academy provided an important opportunity to strengthen feminist advocacy for greater economic justice. She called for more equitable distribution of Africa's wealth, greater African ownership and control over natural resources, financial flows that serve African people, and stronger accountability mechanisms to ensure that communities benefit meaningfully from the resources extracted from their territories.

Session one: Introduction to African Feminism/s

The first session was delivered by Dr. Melania Chiponda who started by framing African feminism as a liberation framework rooted in African women's resistance to multiple and intersecting systems of oppression. These include colonialism, racial capitalism and extractivism, imperialism, missionary and Victorian norms, and patriarchal industrial capitalism.

*“African Feminsm is a collective,
community-rooted struggle for justice
NOT an individualistic empowerment
model”,
Dr Melania Chiponda*

Dr Melania emphasized that, there has been history of African Women, who have always resisted oppression. She cited the example of women in Nigeria, who organized themselves to fight against the market taxes imposed on them. Similarly, women in South Africa, who mobilized themselves, marched to go and demand for the abolition of laws which they considered not just for women.

Dr Melania captioned African feminism as one that celebrates what she termed “ **motherism**”, “**womanism**” but grounded in “**Communism**”, the spirit of #UBUNTU

A participant from Cameroon , cited the example of the Takenbeng women

“ In Cameroon, there is the history of the Takenbeng women who rallied themselves , to discipline any man who beats his wife they will get him well beaten, excrete and throw in his compound, will even sweep his compound as a symbol of wiping away the “curse”, while women who used derogatory insults on other women were also being disciplined , by imposing that , they buy a carton of washing soap to clean up the woman they had abused”

The Gendered Economy Under Colonial Capitalism: Dr. Melania drew participants' attention to the gendered division of labour that emerged under colonial and capitalist economic systems. She explained that while men were increasingly incorporated into mines, farms and factories as waged labourers, women were largely relegated to unpaid domestic and reproductive labour, which remained undervalued and largely invisible in conventional economic measures. She emphasised that women's labour is fundamental to sustaining households, communities and economies.

In particular, women:

- Produce food and support household food security;
- Provide care for households and communities;
- Collect water and fuel, particularly in rural areas;
- Sustain and reproduce the labour force through unpaid care and domestic work; and
- Keep rural and local economies functioning through their often-unrecognised economic contributions.

“African Feminism Exposes How Economies Rely On Women’s Unpaid Care Work.”

African Feminism vs Western Feminism: The session further explored the difference between African and Western Feminism. Dr. Melania noted that African feminism is collective and community-driven, centred on land, labour and survival, and challenges Victorian constructions of womanhood. It is grounded in the liberation of all women. In contrast, she characterised individualistic, centred on identity, rights and the empowerment of individual women, and as less likely to address colonial gendering and the broader structural realities shaping African women's lives.

In conclusion, Dr. Melania noted that African feminism remains highly relevant today, as African women continue to lead struggles for climate justice, land and resource sovereignty, energy justice, economic dignity, healing and care-centered communities, and liberation beyond colonial borders. She emphasised that African feminism is a living movement of resistance, care and transformation.

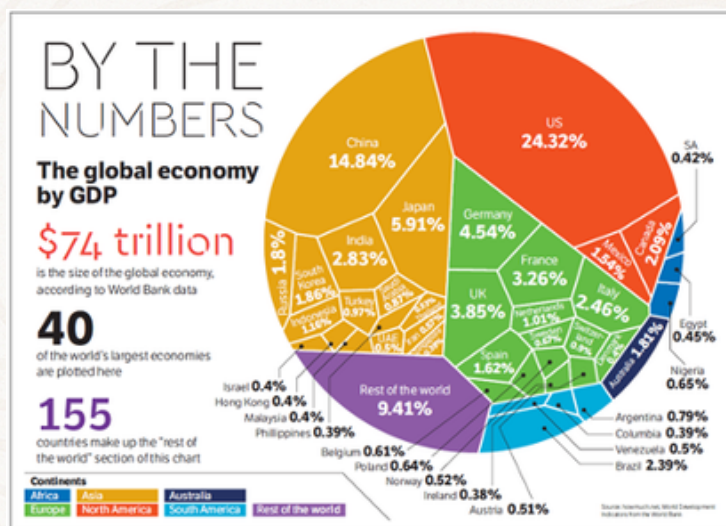
Session two: Introduction to Feminist Macroeconomics. ***By Ms. Hanah Wangombe***

At the start of her presentation, Hannah differentiated between Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. She described microeconomics as study of the behavior of individual markets and their participants, such as buyer and sellers. Macroeconomics on the other hand is study of the whole economy including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as well as how the economy is affected by changes in unemployment, national income, and price levels.



Macroeconomics involves Fiscal and monetary policy. Fiscal policy involves the government using taxes and spending to influence the economy, while monetary policy is managed by the central bank to control the money supply and interest rates. Both are used to stabilize the economy.

In regard to macroeconomics, she noted that growth is mainly measured using Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is mainly measured using three approaches; (i) Production approach which measures the value added by all industries in an economy; (ii) Income approach which sums up all the income earned by residents, including wages, profits, and taxes; and (iii) Expenditure approach which Calculates total spending on goods and services, including consumption, investment, government spending, and net exports.



Later the discussion moved on to Feminist Macroeconomics. She noted that feminist macroeconomics utilises gender as an analytical tool. It looks at areas of inclusion such as feminist growth theory, macro-modelling of the care economy, and social infrastructure and intra-household allocation. Feminist economics shows that macroeconomic policies have indeed gender disparate effects, and gendered institutional settings, both in market and non-market activities, and at the aggregate and disaggregated levels, also affect macroeconomics. It also acknowledges the gender biases of macroeconomic policies, incorporate the care sector in the modelling of macroeconomics, and analyse the distribution of paid and unpaid labour within the household.

The session then explored the intersection of Feminist Macroeconomics and Natural Resource Governance, with Hannah emphasising the need for a systemic and political economy approach to understanding how different economic actors, including governments, civil society, the private sector and international institutions, interact and shape one another. The discussion highlighted the interdependence of production, social reproduction, financial capital and state regulation, while feminist political economy helps reveal the power relations and gendered structures underpinning these system

" Growth in Africa is driven by natural resources e.g Mining, oil and Gas and any resource rich country with lack of diversification may get into poverty. GDP talks about goods and services produced by an economy. There is a world crisis of inflation, which is the frequent rise in prices of goods and services and this Inflation is double faceted, as on one hand it is good as it can stabilize an economy when there is recession. On the other hand, hyperinflation is what is not needed, as the local population does not have buying power in case of inflation. It is noted that, as prices rise, households cannot afford key commodities especially female headed households, who are more imparted as they have to go for lower standards of meals, which will directly impart their health. More than 50 to 60 % transition energy comes from Africa"

The session also highlighted how feminist macroeconomic approaches make visible the unpaid, non-commercial and non-monetary dimensions of economic life, providing a stronger basis for understanding systemic inequalities. These perspectives are particularly relevant in the context of the critical minerals boom, debt crises, demands for a just transition, and growing feminist advocacy around the care - climate nexus.

At the end of the session, Hannah introduced the concepts of the Purple, Green and Red Economies as complementary dimensions of a just and feminist economic transition. The Purple Economy focuses on investing in care and social infrastructure, recognising sectors such as healthcare, education and childcare as essential to the economy. The Green Economy centres ecological sustainability and climate action while ensuring a just transition that creates decent work and addresses gender inequalities in green sectors. The Red Economy focuses on economic justice and redistribution through progressive fiscal policies, reducing income and wealth inequalities, closing gender gaps and strengthening workers' bargaining power.



Photo description: Participants during a Group work session



Photo description :Participants in Country groups to work on why women's role matters in Natural Resource Governance

DAY TWO: Introduction to feminist political ecology- and the political economy of natural resources and extractives in Africa with a focus on Central Africa

Session one: Overview of feminist critiques of traditional economics and political economy. (How did we get here?)

By Hannah Wangombe

The session started with a five minutes survey, using a menti-meter for participants to say what politics means to them.

One of the participants noted that “politics means Governance”. Another said, “To me, politics means decision making”. A majority of the participants shared the view that, politics means power. The presenter introduced the concept of politics as one defined differently by different people. Hannah noted that politics is fundamentally about power dynamics and the ways in which different groups struggle over and negotiate the distribution of resources, rights and responsibilities. She explained that, in a broader sense, politics involves struggles over the factors of production land, labour and capital, while from a gender perspective, it can also be understood through the lens of body politics and collective decision-making. She emphasised that politics is particularly important in the oil, gas and mining sectors, where understanding power dynamics is critical to examining how resources, rights, responsibilities and benefits are allocated. She further highlighted the role of the environment and nature as important actors in these political processes.

Gender and Extractivism: Hannah drew participants’ attention to the different stages of the extractive industry, noting that the process typically involves militarisation and governance, feasibility studies, licensing and contracting, exploration, production, processing and marketing. She highlighted persistent gender inequalities across the sector, including significant gaps in women’s land ownership and their underrepresentation in geological and other technical careers. She emphasised the importance of strengthening the link between academia and industry to address these gender disparities.



Photo description: Chart showing the percentage of women in the mining sector .

Feminist Advocacy: Hannah highlighted two critical gaps that feminist advocacy should seek to address:

- Strengthening the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data in the mining sector to make women's participation, experiences and challenges more visible.
- Supporting women's collective organising, including through cooperatives, to strengthen their participation, visibility and bargaining power within the extractive industry.

Gender Issues in Mining: Through a country-level group work session, the presenter and participants identified the following key gender-related challenges affecting women in the mining sector across their respective countries:

- Limited access to and ownership of land for women.
- Precarious working conditions, including long working hours.
- Inadequate workplace facilities, including a lack of separate and appropriate sanitation facilities for women.
- Poor menstrual hygiene management, which can limit women's ability to work during menstruation.
- Limited access to education and training opportunities that would encourage and enable women's participation in mining.
- Unequal access to education and employment opportunities for women with disabilities.
- Lower wages and limited job security for women working in the sector.
- Persistent gender gaps in employment and career progression, with women experiencing fewer opportunities for promotion and advancement compared to men.



Photo description: Group work and presentation by some participants

Session two: Understanding Extractives and Natural Resource Governance in the Global Economy

Extractive Industries in the Global Economy

By Veronica Zano

At the start of her presentation, Veronica noted that many of Africa's mineral resources remain underexploited, partly because the sector requires significant capital and technical capacity to generate geological data and undertake exploration and extraction. She highlighted the continued reliance on foreign investors and companies to provide the capital and expertise needed to develop these resources.

She then outlined the key stages of the extractive industry value chain, including exploration and planning, extraction/mining, processing and value addition, refining, and transportation.

Photo description : Veronica Zano giving an insight on the Extractive Industry and the global economy



She further stated opportunities to be explored across different countries which include but not limited to:

- Increase international partnerships in the oil and gas sectors. e.g. the existing relationship between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.
- New jobs should be created in Mining sectors and also in services , infrastructure in downstream industries.
- Use of digital tools to boost efficiency.

On the other hand, the following were identified as the trends/drivers in this sector:

- Rising demands of minerals, as the global transportation to clean energy:(electric vehicles, renewable energy) is on high demand.
- Geopolitical realignment
- Digital transportation and technological adoption.
- Mining companies are digitalizing operations , using AI to optimize production.
- Job creation.

Key Stakeholders in the extractives value chain: Veronica noted that the EI value chain is a complex sector with a global regional, national and local architecture of relationships among individuals and institutions.



Photo description: Diagrammatic representation of Key Stakeholders in the EI value chain

At the end of the day, Veronica outlined the following as the Potential Risks in this sector :

- Environmental degradation if not well managed .
- Social Conflicts especially in mineral rich but politically weak regions.
- Governance challenges , weak regulations, corruption and lack of transparency.
- Market violation, as prices of minerals or oil could shift rapidly.

Technology aspects: improved technology.

Day Three: Deep dive into Natural Resource Governance Frameworks in Africa with case studies from Central Africa

Session one: Architecture of Extractives and Natural Resource Governance Legal and Policy Frameworks Africa and Central Africa

At the start of her presentation, Veronica noted that the extractive industries governance in Africa addresses the complex management of oil, gas, and mineral resources to support sustainable development while mitigating adverse effects. Governance encompasses the exercise of political authority through standardized rules, norms, procedures, and mechanisms established via laws, regulations, and policies. The sector operates under two primary regulatory regimes: a law-based regime that applies consistent rules across mining rights, and a contract-based regime where obligations such as taxation, environmental requirements, and social contributions are negotiated individually. Effective governance requires the capacity of governments to design and implement comprehensive policies and establish functional institutions capable of managing the sector's complexity and competing interests.

The legal foundation for extractive operations is typically established through national constitutions, policies, and mining laws, which define ownership, management responsibilities, and operational procedures. While constitutions provide overarching principles on development, environment, land, and labour rights, the specific governance details are articulated through dedicated mining or petroleum laws and complementary sectoral regulations covering taxation, environmental protection, labour standards, health and safety, and resettlement. A robust legal framework must clearly delineate responsibilities among government agencies and tiers of government, ensuring coordinated regulatory action and distinguishing between the government's roles as regulator and as a commercial operator where state-owned enterprises are involved.

At the continental level, the African Mining Vision (adopted 2009) provides a comprehensive development framework promoting transparent and equitable resource exploitation through geological mapping, contract negotiation capacity, institutional development, infrastructure investment, and economic linkages. The Africa Green Minerals Strategy (adopted 2025) builds on this by establishing four pillars: mineral development advancement, people and technological capability building, value chain development, and mineral stewardship all aimed at ensuring critical minerals support an equitable green energy transition. Complementing these frameworks, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) operates as a global standard requiring disclosure of information throughout the extractive value chain, now encompassing beneficial ownership, gender equity, licensing transparency, and environmental impact requirements. Together, these instruments provide building blocks for enhancing governance, though they must be leveraged thoughtfully to address existing gaps while minimizing unintended consequences.

Session 2: African Ecofeminist Political Economy: A feminist Political Ecology Lens

By Dr. Melanie Chiponda

At the start of the session, Dr. Melania noted that Feminist Political Ecology provides a critical lens for understanding extractive industries governance in Africa by linking gender, power, and environmental management. This approach reveals how resource access is fundamentally gendered and political, centering African women's ecological knowledge rooted in their historical roles as custodians of land and water. African ecofeminism draws on deeper traditions of anti-colonial resistance, ecological stewardship, and communal governance frameworks embedded in Ubuntu/Unhu principles, as evidenced through women-led movements across extractive zones throughout the continent. However, current governance frameworks fail to adequately address how the climate crisis disproportionately impacts African women, how the critical minerals boom intensifies extractive violence, and how the financialization of land, forests, and carbon commodifies resources upon which communities depend. These governance failures systematically strengthen corporate control over community interests.

The extractive economy as currently practiced generates specific gendered harms that remain invisible within conventional regulatory frameworks. These include territorial dispossession and water grabs that undermine food and water security; militarization of mining zones that increases gender-based violence; invisible and unpaid care burdens as women absorb the social costs of environmental degradation; and systematic exclusion from decision-making processes and compensation schemes. In contrast, an ecofeminist economic model prioritizes community stewardship, care economies, regeneration, and women-led governance, fundamentally rejecting the extractive logic of militarized zones, pollution, corporate control, and gendered violence.

Alternative ecofeminist approaches to natural resource governance center care-centered economic practices including agroecology and seed sovereignty, community-owned renewable energy, and the reclamation of commons while resisting privatization. Transforming natural resource governance requires operationalizing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent with gender-responsive assessments, establishing demilitarized territories, enabling community shareholding and transparency in resource management, and providing explicit protection for women defenders.

In conclusion, Dr. Melania noted that a Pan-African just transition must chart sovereign development pathways beyond colonial extraction models, foster regional cooperation, ensure reparations and ecological restoration, and elevate feminist leadership in climate and energy policy. African ecofeminism offers a framework asserting that women's knowledge and labour are central to sustainable economies, that extractivism is fundamentally incompatible with life, and that any just transition must be simultaneously feminist, Pan-African, and ecological.

Day four: Deep dive into rethinking NRG and feminist macro-level analysis of interventions applicable to labour in mining, financing solidarity economy models and Advocacy tactics for NRG reform

Session one: Extractives and Gender: A glimpse into the Feminist Natural Resources Framework (FNRF)

By Eunice Asiedu

During this virtual session, Eunice Aiedu highlighted the critical role of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) as a significant income source for households across Africa. She noted that recent years have witnessed unprecedented shifts from agrarian economies to informal mineral extraction, largely driven by climate change and its impact on agricultural viability. Simultaneously, growing consumer demand for socially and environmentally responsible products is reshaping market expectations throughout extractive supply chains. Multiple pressures, including climate impacts, documented human rights violations, environmental degradation in extractive operations, heightened corporate accountability expectations, and strengthened health and safety regulations, are intensifying scrutiny of mining practices globally. To respond to these converging demands, Eunice emphasized the necessity of embedding sustainability and responsible business conduct throughout operations via comprehensive frameworks that harmonize efforts across entire supply chains, ensuring consistent standards from production through final delivery.

Through facilitated discussion and knowledge-sharing among participants and the facilitator, significant challenges in the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector emerged across the represented countries. While women comprise 40-50% of the ASM workforce, they are predominantly concentrated in precarious positions such as food vending and materials carrying, roles that offer minimal income security and advancement opportunities. Working conditions for women in ASM are systematically unsafe, with documented high rates of sexual exploitation, gender-based violence, and broader human rights abuses endemic to the sector. Women face compounded discrimination that extends beyond workplace practices to deep-rooted cultural barriers. Even women with the skills and ambition to advance in mining operations face deliberate exclusion based on gender assumptions about their physical capabilities. Perhaps most significantly, traditional norms and beliefs continue to restrict women's participation, with widespread prohibitions preventing women from entering mining pits during menstruation based on cultural beliefs that such presence will bring curses or cause productive mines to fail. These interconnected barriers, economic marginalization, safety risks, exploitation, discrimination, and cultural exclusion create a multi-layered system that systematically limits women's agency and economic opportunities in ASM.

Women in Small Scale Mining: Through a discussion method, the presenter requested that , participants share the situation of women across their different countries .

“In Equatorial Guinea, there is an Increase presence of women in this sector , though underrepresented . It is more advanced, so women need advanced skills but then women in engineering are limited in number. Capitalism and exploitation, where land grabs displace so many communities”

“In DRC, it is about Violence and discrimination in the Artisanal small scale and large-scale mining sector. We can see the Gendered burdens in water collection, care giving, unpaid labour, which increase family responsibilities and even payment of school fees”

“In my country, it is the problem of Patriarchy. Patriarchy and resource governance, still persist and so a lot of women are still excluded from land ownership and leadership.”

At the conclusion of her presentation, Eunice outlined five core principles that should anchor a Feminist Natural Resource Governance Framework:

- **Intersectionality:** Recognition that gender, class, caste, and ethnicity intersect to shape differential access to natural resources and determine who holds political power in governance structures. Acknowledging that climate change impacts are experienced unequally across social categories, with women bearing disproportionate burdens, is essential to designing responsive policy.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Implementation of gender-responsive governance mechanisms that explicitly center women's participation and priorities. This principle requires transparent systems for documenting land rights, clarifying resource ownership, and establishing clear decision-making processes. Feminist budgeting approaches should be integrated to ensure equitable allocation of resources and benefits across all community members.
- **Collective Ownership and Participation:** Prioritization of community-based governance models that recognize and value both formal and informal labour contributions. Meaningful participation of all stakeholders particularly women and marginalized groups strengthen accountability and ensures that governance decisions reflect diverse community interests and knowledge systems.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Integration of gender-inclusive conservation approaches that recognize women as environmental stewards with invaluable ecological knowledge. Sustainability frameworks should employ regenerative and participatory methods that protect ecosystems while supporting community livelihoods.
- **Redistributive Justice:** Commitment to correcting historical and ongoing injustices in land and resource access, ensuring equitable ownership structures and benefit-sharing arrangements. This principle explicitly challenges the concentration of power and resources among elites and corporations, redistributing control and benefits to communities and particularly to women who have been systematically excluded from resource management and decision-making.

Session two: Advocacy at the African Union

By Ms. Lusungu Kacheche

At the start of her presentation, Lusungu provided an introduction noting that the African Union, established in 2002 and headquartered in Addis Ababa, represents a union of 55 African member states (though currently six are suspended) with a foundational mandate to accelerate political and socio-economic integration of the continent, promote peace, security, and stability, and advance sustainable development across economic, social, and cultural dimensions. Unlike its predecessor, the Organisation of the African Unity, the AU represents a fundamental shift from limiting cooperation to heads of governments toward a complex union with multiple sources of power. The AU is guided by multiple legal instruments, including the Constitutive Act, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Maputo Protocol on women's rights, which collectively establish principles for governance, human rights protection, and continental integration. The institution is characterized by a rotational leadership system that ensures fair regional representation across five geographic regions; Northern, Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa, and enforces gender parity in leadership positions.

The AU's complex institutional architecture comprises several key decision-making bodies and specialized organs working in coordination. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government serves as the highest decision-making body, meeting annually with rotational leadership. The Executive Council, composed of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, oversees the African Union Commission's work and prepares agenda for the Assembly. The African Union Commission functions as the secretariat, led by a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, and is organized into six commissions managing technical areas: Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment; Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining; Education, Science, Technology and Innovation; Infrastructure and Energy; Political Affairs, Peace and Security; and Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development. Specialized Technical Committees work on thematic issues, while the Peace and Security Council, the African Governance Architecture, the Pan-African Parliament, and various specialized institutions, including the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights provide oversight on specific mandates. Regional Economic Communities coordinate continental policies at the regional level.

Civil society engagement with the African Union is critical given the institution's role as the highest decision-making body shaping policies affecting the African continent. The AU provides a unique platform where all member states convene simultaneously, making it an effective space for advocacy and collective action on shared continental challenges. Civil society participation contributes to policymaking and implementation, ensures accountability for how AU resources are utilized on behalf of African peoples, and enables advocacy for advancing specific agendas such as gender equality, human rights, and environmental protection. Key strategies for influencing AU processes include participating in Specialized Technical Committees and other convened spaces, providing substantive research and evidence, conducting joint initiatives with partners, engaging member states on policy implementation, making formal submissions to organs such as the Permanent Representatives Committee, and engaging international partners on specific issues. However, advocates navigating AU engagement face substantial challenges including navigating bureaucratic processes, addressing closing civic space, managing internal institutional politics and competing agendas, meeting financial requirements, understanding the institution's complexity, identifying appropriate targets among multiple pathways, and investing in sustained relationship-building over extended timeframes.

Session three: Advocacy for Feminist approaches to natural resource governance

By Hannah Wangombe

During this session, Hannah noted that a comprehensive advocacy strategy for advancing feminist approaches to natural resource governance must operate across three interconnected key areas: generation of research and knowledge products including policy briefs, white papers, and research papers; awareness raising and campaigns focused on macroeconomic and extractive industries targeting women's rights groups and grassroots women's movements; and direct policy influencing at national and continental levels. The research foundation should prioritize gender-disaggregated data and feminist political ecology analysis, with specific focus on civic education on macroeconomic and oil, gas, and mining sectors; critical examination of budget-making processes through a gender-sensitive lens, particularly tracking allocation to care economy investments; analysis of national and subnational mining laws and codes; investigation of land rights and sexual and gender-based violence in extractive zones; and protection of human rights defenders engaged in environmental advocacy. Complementary research should analyse the governing legal and policy frameworks of extractive industries, examine budget statements for their alignment with gender equality commitments, and track how resource rents are allocated through government budgets.

Policy influencing mechanisms must address both sectoral and systemic dimensions. For mining advocacy, priorities include advancing the Africa Mining Vision and country-level mining visions, operationalizing the Africa Green Minerals Strategy, building movement capacity through initiatives like the Association of Women in Mining in Africa (AWIMA), and addressing artisanal and small-scale mining through frameworks centred on land rights, formalization, cooperatives, occupational health and safety, and sexual and gender-based violence prevention. For oil and gas advocacy, the focus should encompass fossil fuel phase-out, environmental and social governance standards, meaningful women's engagement and employment, and partnerships for women's education and professional development. Critical linkages requiring advocacy attention include the nexus between extractives and conflict, connections between extractive industries and climate change, just energy transition frameworks, and the integration of academic-industry partnerships that center equity. A transformative approach also demands advancing the "Purple, Green, and Red" transition framework: investing in the Purple Economy (care economy as critical social infrastructure), the Green Economy (ecological sustainability and just renewable energy transition), and the Red Economy (progressive fiscal policies addressing inequality and strengthening workers' rights), acknowledging the interdependence of social, environmental, and economic justice in achieving feminist natural resource governance.

Day five: Closing and Award of certificates

Session one: Participants Reflections and takeaways from AFMA Central Arica

By Grace Namugambe

During this session, Grace facilitated a process for participants to engage in a reflective exercise, sharing key takeaways from the academy, including strengthened understanding of Feminist Political Ecology, greater clarity on gendered dynamics within extractives, and enhanced confidence to influence national and regional NRG policy spaces. These reflections highlighted both the relevance and urgency of feminist approaches to natural resource governance across Central Africa.

Participants identified priority advocacy areas such as formalisation of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM), land and tenure reforms, environmental justice, resourcing of women's rights organisations, and increased visibility of women's labour in NRG value chains. They also emphasised the need for sustained cross-country solidarity, peer learning, and coordinated engagement with AU mechanisms and national policy dialogues. Key recommendations included establishing a regional advocacy working group, integrating feminist NRG perspectives into national CSO platforms, and strengthening evidence generation to influence extractives governance reforms.

Session three: FEMNET Membership

By Mark Njagi

The session on FEMNET Membership offered participants clarity on membership structures, opportunities for engagement, and pathways to deepen their involvement within FEMNET's continental feminist movement. Several participants expressed interest in formalising institutional and individual membership to sustain their advocacy beyond the academy.

Session four: Closing Session

The day concluded with a **closing ceremony**, where participants received certificates of completion and captured a group photo to commemorate the shared experience. A culturally immersive **Ethiopian coffee ceremony**, organised by the hotel, provided a meaningful moment of reflection, cultural appreciation, and community-building. This ceremony reinforced the academy's commitment to feminist principles of care, connection, and grounding in local cultural contexts.

