

2nd UN Tourism Regional Congress on Women Empowerment in Tourism in Africa

*Theme: Advancing from Empowerment to Leadership: Driving
Structural Change in the Tourism Sector in Africa, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe*

29 April – 1 May 2026

Provisional Programme (Draft)

Wednesday 29 April 2026

Venue: Elephant Hills Hotel

08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:00	<u>Official Opening Ceremony</u> *Group photo and coffee break
10:00-10:15	Keynote Address
10:15-11:30	Ministerial Roundtable: Institutionalizing Gender-Responsive policies into National Tourism Strategies Panelists will discuss integrating gender mainstreaming into national tourism strategies. The session focuses on using gender-responsive budgeting and sex-disaggregated data to ensure institutional accountability and equitable resource allocation.
11:30-11:40	Results of the Global Report on Women in Tourism: The Transport Industries
11:40-13:00	Panel discussion: From Policy to Practice- Facilitating Women Leadership in Tourism This session explores how to dismantle the "glass ceiling" and other structural barriers preventing women from reaching executive leadership and board positions. Panelists should share actionable tools and successful pathways for increasing female representation in high-level governance.
13:00-14:30	Lunch break

14:30-15:30 **The WITLAC Dialogue: Strengthening the Women in Tourism Leadership Africa Committee's advisory role**
The session will underscore WITLAC's vision, core priorities, upcoming activities, and pathway for engaging more members. The objective is to enhance the **Women in Tourism Leadership Africa Committee's (WITLAC)** influence as a regional advisory body. Discussion will focus on coordinating leadership efforts for WITLAC to advocate for women across the continent.

19:00-20:00 **Welcome cocktail** (venue tbc)

Thursday 30 of April 2026

Venue: Elephant Hills Hotel

Sustainable Financing, Digital Innovation and Education

09:00-10:30 **Panel discussion: Navigating Financial Ecosystems, Sustainability and Investor Matchmaking**
This session addresses the credit gap by exploring tailored lending products and credit-guarantee schemes available for women-led SMEs. It will guide entrepreneurs on aligning their business models with **financial institutions priorities** and sustainable tourism practices to ensure they are "investment-ready" for global opportunities.

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 **Panel discussion: Leveraging Technology for Market Access**
This session will discuss how **AI, e-commerce, and digital analytics** can scale women-led businesses. Panelists will share success stories of digital adoption that have enabled entrepreneurs to access global tourism value chains.

12:30-14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00-15:00 **Closing Ceremony**

- Presentation and Adoption of the Victoria Falls Roadmap/Action plan (tbc)

Closing Remarks

19:00-21:00 **Dinner** (venue tbc)

Friday 1st of May 2026 (LABOUR DAY)

10:00-12:00 **Social Programme**
Immersive experience or Eco-wellness activity (tbc)

12:00-13:00 **Lunch Break**

- END OF ALL ACTIVITIES -

In compliance with the United Nations system's environmental protection policy, the working documents **will not be distributed on paper** at the venue of the event. Therefore, **the delegates are requested to bring with them copies of the documents.**