

Outcomes of Advocacy Workshop on Abortion at 16th GIMAC Consultative Forum



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Participants sensitized

- Increased awareness of participants of RH and abortion issues.
- Increased understanding and support for need for access to safe abortion.
- We hope many more women's groups will include this in their advocacy agenda

GIMAC Communiqué to AU Summit

- The GIMAC communiqué which was read to the Heads of States provided for Comprehensive RH even though it stopped short of specifically mentioning access to safe abortion.
- Impact on retaining all objectives of MPoA

Collateral benefits

- Ongoing Collaboration with GIMAC members on specific activities
- Witnessed the Appointment of the new member of ACHPR whom Ipas has since interacted with
- Progression of plans for a sensitization workshop on abortion as a Human right for the ACHPR—held in November 2010 in collaboration with the SRRWA

Lessons learnt

- Need for engaging with ambassadors who form the PRC –working dinner for sensitization
- Need to get accreditation for specific meetings of the AU which give access to the people who make policy decisions
- The importance of beginning to lobby policy makers on critical issues long before the Summit and only using the Summit to firm up positions on which they have already been sensitized

Moving forward

- **Need for more strengthened partnerships with GIMAC members and organizations throughout the year.**