



#### THEMATIC

##### FOCAL POINTS:

ACCORD  
ACDHRS  
ALF  
ANCEFA  
AWDF  
EBWA  
FAS  
FAWE  
IPAS  
SAHARA  
SWAA  
WILDAF

#### REGIONAL FOCAL

##### POINTS:

ACOLVF  
AWA  
FDC  
OTM  
WAWA

#### OBSERVERS:

Ministry of  
Gender of  
Senegal, of South  
Africa and of  
Zimbabwe

#### COORDINATOR:

FEMMES AFRICA  
SOLIDARITÉ (FAS)

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## 18<sup>th</sup> GIMAC PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATION ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE AFRICAN UNION

June 27-28, 2011  
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

# SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### PARTNERS:

ACHPR  
AU  
ECOSOCC  
Government  
of Finland  
Government  
of Norway  
Government  
of Sweden  
ILO  
MRFCJ  
NEPAD  
Nobel  
Women's  
Initiative  
OSI  
PAP  
RBM  
UAF  
UNDP  
UNECA  
UNFPA  
UNICEF  
UNOWA  
UN Women

#### OTHERS:

AAWORD  
ABANTU  
Akina Mama  
ANSEDI  
CAFCO  
CAFOB  
CGE  
CHR  
CONAFED  
Equality  
Now  
FEMNET  
FIDA  
IAC  
ISIS-WICCE  
MARWOPNE  
T  
NPI  
Pan African  
Movement  
ProFemmes  
REPERES  
SSWC  
Women's  
Society of  
Alfateh  
etc.

#### TOTAL

More than  
55 partner  
organization

We, representatives of African women's civil society organisations and African women leaders meeting under the umbrella of the "Gender is My Agenda Campaign" (GIMAC) at the 18<sup>th</sup> African Women's Pre-Summit Consultation on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from June 27-28 2011, convened by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) in partnership with the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) Gender Cluster, Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO), and with the support of the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other UN agencies, Open Society Initiative (OSI), the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Ipas, Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), the Global Fund for Women, the International Labour Organization (ILO), Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice (MRFCJ), and with the governments of Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Norway, Spain and Sweden;

**Welcoming** the decision of the African Heads of State and Government to devote the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union on the theme, "Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development";

**Appreciating** the leadership of the African Union Commission and particularly its Human Resources, Science and Technology Department in ensuring that these important concerns receive the attention of the Heads of State and Government;

**Recognising** the support of our various partners and the presence of Hon. Ms. Eulalia Envó Bela, Minister of Social Affairs and Promotion of Women, Equatorial Guinea; Hon. Dr. Olivia Muchena, the Minister of Women's Affairs, Zimbabwe; Hon. Ms. Immaculée Nahayo, Minister of the Rights of the Person and of Gender, Burundi; Hon. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashbane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa; Hon. Ms. Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa; Hon. Mr. Jean Paul Adam, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Seychelles; Ms. Lala Ben Barka of UNESCO; Ms. Diana Ofwona of UN Women; Ms. Akila Aggoune Belembaogo of UNICEF and Ms. Fatou Ndoeye of UNEP whose contributions called attention to the urgent need to integrate gender, youth and sustainable development perspectives in key and current issues concerning the African continent;

**Appreciating** the collaboration of GIMAC and Hon. Ms. Awa Ndiaye, Minister of Culture and Gender of Senegal, in organising the International Conference on Parity, in June 2011, in Dakar, Senegal.

**Reiterating** the determination and commitment of the African women's movement in keeping women's rights concerns on the African Union's agenda through Pre-Summit consultations;

**Recalling** the commitments of African Heads of State and Government to take all necessary steps to achieve gender equality in Africa;

**Recognising** the continued desire of the Heads of State and Government in implementing and reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004), as reflected in the increased number of Member States that have fulfilled their annual reporting requirements. Further recognising Member States that have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); and the African Youth Charter (2006);

**Noting** with appreciation the implementation of the plan of action of the African Women's Decade, 2010-2020, to further promote gender equality and the advancement of African Women in all spheres of life;

**Welcoming** attempts by the African Union and the United Nations to resolve the conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and other parts of the continent;

**Reaffirming** the GIMAC's commitment to monitor, evaluate and report on AU policies on women's rights, especially the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People Rights' on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

**Urge** the Heads of State and Government and other stakeholders during the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union to consider and adopt the following recommendations:

#### **A. MEMBER STATES OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

1. Expedite the implementation and the reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the African Youth Charter by Member States that have not yet done so.
2. Simplify and disseminate the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the African Youth Charter to promote the understanding and implementation of these instruments at all levels of society.
3. Prioritize quality and accessible education, both formal and informal, in science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship to develop the skills of women and youth to attain economic independence.
4. Allocate adequate financial resources to promote job creation to ensure sustainable livelihoods for women and youth.
5. Encourage, guarantee and facilitate the participation of women and youth in decision-making structures to promote political inclusiveness and intergenerational dialogue at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.
6. Safeguard and promote the rights of youth to information, freedom of expression and communication.
7. Improve access to and increase funding for comprehensive medical care services for sexual and reproductive health, emergency surgery and trauma counselling for women and girls, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations.
8. Develop and monitor effective early warning systems and protection mechanisms in consultation with local communities, to mitigate violence against women and girls.
9. Create opportunities for women to own land and provide training in new farming techniques to increase crop productivity, and to adapt to farming challenges arising from climate change.

## **B. AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

1. Call upon Member States to implement and report on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, according to the stipulated guidelines.
2. Urge countries that have not yet ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa to do so and define timelines on which to deliver this commitment. Further urge those that have ratified to speed up domestication and implementation taking into consideration that reporting guidelines have been adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
3. Appoint a Commissioner in charge of Gender and Youth Affairs, served by two directorates.
4. Adopt a coordinated approach with the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), United Nations agencies, civil society, international and development agencies to ensure comprehensive strategies on issues concerning the rights and empowerment of youth.
5. Organise a second Head of States and Government gender debate during the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union in January 2012, to review the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and to commit to further action on women's rights in Africa.
6. Ensure that the AU position in the upcoming Durban Conference on Climate Change (COP 17) integrates the effects of climate change on the livelihoods of women and youth, and push for concrete actions to address these challenges.

## **C. GIMAC**

1. Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation framework of the GIMAC, and advocate for the implementation and reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.
2. Mentor and support youth in their lobbying efforts to participate in decision-making structures at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.
3. Continue to raise awareness on violence against women, and lobby for action to prevent and address the consequences, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations.
4. Review and follow-up on the recommendations made in previous Pre-Summit consultations, to assess the progress made for further action.

## **D. SPECIAL ISSUES**

### **Countries in Conflict:**

Call on the African Union and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, and Sudan to resolve all conflicts and contribute to an inclusive peace and reconciliation process.

**Elections:**

1. Call on all African countries preparing for elections to ensure that the electoral processes and outcomes are transparent and peaceful and ensure due diligence before, during and after elections and take women's concerns and needs into consideration.
2. Encourage all African women to aspire to elective offices and request governments to provide adequate security for voters before, during and after the elections.

Gender is My Agenda Campaign Network  
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, June 2011