

THEMATIC**FOCAL****POINTS:**

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

REGIONAL FOCAL**POINTS:**

ABANTU
ACOLVF
FDC
OTM
WAWA

OBSERVERS:

Senegal, South Africa and
Zimbabwe

COORDINATOR:

FEMMES AFRICA SOLIDARITE
(FAS)

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**19th GIMAC PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATION ON
GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE AFRICAN UNION**

**25-26 January 2012
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**PARTNERS:**

ACHPR
AU
ECOSOCC
Finland
Norway
Sweden
ILO
MRFCJ
NEPAD
NWI
OSI
PAP
RBM
UAF
UNDP
UNECA
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNOWA
UN Women

OTHERS:

AAWORD
AMwA
ANSEDI
CAFCO
CAFOB
CGE
CHR
CONAFED Equality
Now FEMNET
FIDA
IAC
MARWOPNET
NPI
PAM
PAWO
ProFemmes
REPERES
REPSFECO
SSWC
Women's Society of
Alfateh
AYICC

We, representatives of African women's civil society organisations and African women leaders meeting under the umbrella of "Gender is My Agenda Campaign" (GIMAC) at the 19th African Women's Pre-Summit on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 25-26 January 2012, convened by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) gender cluster, Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice (MRFCJ) with the support of Ipas Africa Alliance and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Norway and Sweden;

Welcoming the decision of African Heads of State and Government to devote the 18th Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit to the theme, "Boosting Intra-African Trade";

Appreciating the leadership of the African Union Commission and particularly its Trade and Industry Department in ensuring that these important concerns receive the attention of Heads of State and Government;

Recognizing the presence of Ms. Mary Robinson, president of the Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice (MRFCJ) and former president of Ireland; Ms. Margaret Vogt, Special Representative to the Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA); Ms. Clotilde Nirangira, Minister for National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, Burundi; Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary, United Nations (UNECA); H.E. Anne Anderson, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations; Mr. Yusupha Crookes, Director for Regional Integration, World Bank; Ms. Marie-Madeleine Kalala-Ngoy, Member, AU Panel of the Wise; Ms. Soyata Maiga, Esq., Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa whose contributions called attention to the urgent need to integrate gender and youth perspectives in key and current issues concerning the African Continent including the elimination of violence against women, climate justice and women's economic empowerment;

Reiterating the determination and commitment of the African women's movement in keeping women's rights 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;

Congratulating the women who have stood for elections as commissioners at the AUC in line with the gender parity principle;

Recognising the continued desire of the Heads of State and Government in implementing and reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA-2004) as reflected in the increased number of Member States that have reported on it and those that have ratified the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol-2003);

Noting with appreciation the desire of African Heads of State to continue to engage African women and youth to ensure that our voices are heard and that our needs are effectively taken on board at all times;

Welcoming attempts by the African Union and the United Nations to resolve the conflicts in Libya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic and other parts of the continent;

Reaffirming 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);

Recognising the efforts of the African Union in declaring 2010-2020 as the African Women's Decade to further promote gender equality and the advancement of African women in all spheres of life;

Urge the 18th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government and other stakeholders to consider and adopt the following recommendations:

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE AFRICAN UNION

1. Member States who have not reported on SDGEA to do so before the next African Union Summit to show their commitment and support to the promotion of gender equality in Africa.
2. Organise a Second Head of States Gender Debate during the June 2012 African Union Summit.
3. Identify the scope of the informal sector in Africa and recognize women's active role in cross-border trade and activities when calculating national GDP.
4. Improve women's access to resources, credit and other financial services, technology and market information to strengthen their opportunities to fully contribute to intra-African trade.
5. Develop early warning, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to eliminate violence against women and girls and end militarization and the proliferation of small arms, to create a stable, enabling environment for intra-African trade.
6. Provide adequate and timely financing for women to develop entrepreneurial skills for economic empowerment and independence.
7. Equip women with the knowledge and tools to develop their businesses and job effectiveness through training in financial management, operations management, rights, advocacy, networking and policy dialogue skills.
8. Provide adequate social and labour laws and policies for women's paid and unpaid work including improved transportation and access to market opportunities, provision and access to health and social services for women, and protection at the borders for women engaged in cross-border trade.
9. Address the gender imbalance in the leadership of private and public institutions engaged in influencing policy on trade and trade-related issues in Africa, and build capacity of policy makers and implementers to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into all policy dialogues.
10. Create opportunities for women to own land and provide training for women in new farming techniques to increase crop productivity and to adapt to farming challenges

arising from climate change.

11. Ensure the participation of women in all aspects of climate change negotiations, policy and action at all levels in order to enable inclusive sustainable development and to harness Africa's opportunity to lead the green economy.
12. Address climate change risks and opportunities for green growth through national strategies and plans with a focus on the positive contribution women can make to adaptation and mitigation.
13. Provide funding for comprehensive medical care including emergency surgery and train more medical workers on trauma management to support a holistic approach for the rehabilitation of women survivors of sexual violence.
14. Adopt national laws and local plans of action for ending violence against women and girls, including national action plans on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and allocate funds and resources for prevention and awareness raising programmes and activities.

B. AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

1. Adopt a coordinated approach to issues concerning the regional dimensions of conflict in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations (UN) agencies, civil society organizations, international and development agencies.
2. Appoint an African Union Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security and for Conflict Related Sexual Violence and deploy special advisers to all AU peacekeeping and political missions to ensure that women, peace and security concerns are integrated into all operations.
3. Urge countries that have not yet ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to do so and to report on the implementation of the Protocol according to stipulated guidelines.
4. Adopt a consolidated regional approach and engage development partners in the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325).
5. Facilitate the accreditation of women civil society representatives to access the AU Summits to ensure their participation and contribution to the outcome documents of the Summit.

C. GIMAC

1. Advocate for the adoption and utilization of the strategic framework of the SDGEA at national, sub-regional and regional levels.
2. Identify AU gender champions and GIMAC goodwill ambassadors amongst Heads of State and leaders in the public and private sector to amplify the GIMAC message.
3. Build on and strengthen existing monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms and develop a SDGEA Index with support from research and development institutions.

4. Strengthen the linkages between individual network organizations and the work of the GIMAC particularly in program development and financing.
5. Support youth especially young women to participate in peace processes and negotiations.
6. Establish Situation Rooms of African women election observers to monitor elections in all African countries in 2012.
7. Conduct high-level women solidarity missions to conflict and post-conflict African countries including Libya, Tunisia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
8. Encourage African member states to indicate their support of the Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development in support of the gender equality commitments and women empowerment made at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.
9. Reinforce the representation of youth and their participation in GIMAC activities.

D. SPECIAL ISSUES

Countries in Conflict:

Call on the African Union and the Governments of Libya, Sudan, South Sudan Somalia 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 process and outcomes are transparent and peaceful and ensure the protection of women before, during and after elections.
2. Encourage all African women to aspire to elective office and request governments to provide adequate security for candidates and voters before, during and after the elections.

Gender is My Agenda Campaign Network
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 2012