We, representatives of African civil society organizations and African women and youth leaders, meeting under the umbrella of the Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) for the 22nd African Women's Pre-Summit on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20-21 May 2013 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)/AU and the 10th anniversary of the GIMAC;

Appreciating the support provided by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union, UN Women, Femmes Afrique Solidarité (FAS), Ipas Africa Alliance, Urgent Action Fund, African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Isis-Women’s International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE), Institute for Social Transformation, WorldYWCA, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and Oxfam International to amplify the voices of rural women from different parts of the continent, to hold an inter-generational dialogue with African youth, and celebrate African Women Pioneers and the 10th anniversary of the GIMAC;

Welcoming the decision of African Heads of State and Government to devote the 21st Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union to the theme of “Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance;”

Recognizing African women pioneers’ active contributions to Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance, in particular the pioneers of the Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO), and the critical role of gender equality in Africa’s development as the OAU/AU celebrates its 50th anniversary;

Acknowledging that Africa needs inclusive people-centered governance structures that fully include women, especially rural women, youth and men;


Appreciating the support of the African Union Commission and particularly the Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma for her commitment to the promotion of women’s rights and gender mainstreaming on the African continent and the vision of a prosperous Africa at peace with itself with a focus on people-centred development;

Endorsing the Declaration of 13 May 2013 of the African Union Commission Consultative Conference of Women Stakeholders on Pan Africanism, Renaissance and Agenda 2063 and appreciating the Chairperson for hosting the conference in partnership with the GIMAC;
Urge the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to consider and adopt the following recommendations:

1. The land reform agenda in Africa should enable women’s increased access to agriculture and agro-enterprises to eliminate poverty, especially in the rural areas and to ensure that Africa feeds herself. In this regard, we urge member states to reserve and allocate **30 percent of all arable land in Africa** to women by the year 2020 since women constitute about 70% of agricultural workers. This is also in line with the decision of the 2003 AU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Maputo when the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was ratified with the goal to “Eliminate hunger and reduce poverty through agriculture.” Furthermore, member states should provide inputs for rural women such as tractors and irrigation, as well as training in agriculture techniques that integrates local knowledge, to guarantee and safeguard organic farming and limit the proliferation of genetically modified crops.

2. By 2015, member states should work to **remove all social, cultural and economic barriers** that prevent the full expression of the rights of women and the **full ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol** and other instruments essential for the protection of women in Africa.

3. By 2020, implement **gender parity as envisaged in operative paragraph 5 of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)**. As at January 2013, only one country has achieved gender parity at the level of parliament while eight other countries have achieved 30-40 percent women representation in parliament. We further urge Heads of State and Government to honor their commitment to report annually on progress made on the implementation of the SDGEA.

4. We commend member states for allocating increased resources to education. Member states should institutionalize **legal mechanisms and programmes that ensure retention and completion of educational training for girls and women** including the introduction of initiatives that will promote science and technology among women and girls. Furthermore, concerted effort and resources should be provided for youth enterprise development, skills-based training and intergenerational mentoring as a way of tackling rising unemployment among youth across the continent.

5. Member states should overhaul ineffective health delivery systems to guarantee unhindered access for women to health facilities including **Specialized Treatment Centres** to deal with psychological trauma among women in member states.

6. There can be no sustainable development in Africa in the absence of peace and security. Member states should **end impunity for sexual and gender-based violence** by strengthening justice mechanisms to hold perpetrators accountable. Moreover, perpetrators should be banned from holding positions of leadership in government and the security sector.

We commit to continue monitoring and providing reports on progress made on the SDGEA; to fully engage in the articulation, as well as support and monitor the implementation of Vision 2063; and continue to document and disseminate the history of African women’s leadership.

**Adopted on 21 May 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**