DECLARATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE OF WOMEN STAKEHOLDERS
ON PAN AFRICANISM, RENAISSANCE AND AGENDA 2063

Preamble

1) **WE**, African women drawn from African Union Member States, Civil Society Organisations, Women Pan African Movements, Women's Rights Organisations, Academia, Diaspora Organisations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the private sector and UN Agencies met in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia from 12-13th May to consult, define and strategise on women’s priorities on Pan Africanism, Renaissance and Agenda 2063.

2) **RECALLING** the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, Article (1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW); the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, the African Union Gender Policy and the Decade for African Women(2010-2020) and various regional and international Legal instruments on Women’s Rights;

3) **RECOGNISING** that African women and their Diaspora sisters played a critical role in the evolution of Pan Africanism, through their contributions to the anti-slavery, anti-colonial and liberation struggles. Through their efforts, women ensured that the struggles for freedom, dignity, development, peace and self-determination also addressed our aspirations for women’s emancipation, gender equality and women’s empowerment. Their aspirations found expression in the formation of strong women’s movements across Africa and the Diaspora that resulted in the development and progressive adoption of legal frameworks, policies and programmes;

4) **ACKNOWLEDGE** that the struggle of African women is part of a worldwide struggle of all women; that women's emancipation is at the heart of the question of humanity itself and it is therefore universal in character;

5) **CELEBRATING** the key roles that African women’s movements, organisations, networks have played in advancing the liberation of Africa from colonisation and Apartheid in the pursuit of equality, peace and development for African people locally, continentally and in the
international arenas, throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century.

6) **RECOGNISING** the role played by the pioneers of the Pan African Women’s Organisation (PAWO).

7) **REALISING** that over the last fifty years, Africarecorded progress in economic and social development, improvingthe status of women, consolidating democracy and the creation of institutions to unite and develop Africa. However, we have not yet realised our dream of an integrated, peaceful, people-centred and prosperous continent that embodies gender equality and women’s empowerment;

8) **STRESS THE NEED** for Africa to move with determination, boldness and dedication to eradicate poverty, underdevelopment, inequality, conflict, and disease, as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU).

Towards Agenda 2063

9) **SUPPORT** the vision of an Africa that is integrated, prosperous, people-centred, at peace with itself, and asserting its place in the global community;

10) **RECOGNIZE** that neither peace nor prosperity will be fully realised without the participation and emancipation of African women.

11) **ACKNOWLEDGE** the value of investing in women, given the role they play in families, communities and societies, translates directly into human and social development;

12) **FURTHER RECOGNIZE** that women constitute more than half of Africa’s population, that over seventy five percent of our population is young and the potential and opportunities this presents for speeding up the realisation of the African Agenda;

13) **COMMEND** the African Union for the initiative to consult with all sectors of society, the African citizenry and the Diaspora as well as Member States, RECs and AU Organs to develop a continent-wide Agenda 2063;

14) **EXPRESS** our determination to ensure that the voices of women, not only those who participated in the workshop, but from all countries, the Diaspora, all walks of life and generations are heard as we frame this agenda;

15) **DETERMINED** to take bold actions to transform our continent and to actively mobilise women for collective participation and action to advance Agenda 2063.

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:
That our aspirations for a peaceful, integrated, people-centred and prosperous continent mirrors the vision of the founders of Pan Africanism. In pursuance of these aspirations, we

1. COMMIT to the transformation of gender inequality in the economy; the creation of wealth and the promotion of sustainable, participatory and equitable economic development and growth through opportunities for women:

   a. In agriculture, pastoralism and agro-processing, agro-business including the development of agricultural research and sciences;

   b. Land rights, ownership and inheritance rights, and the development of vibrant rural economies;

   c. Improve the quality and packaging of our value added products, and ensure effective branding and marketing of African products to compete in domestic and global markets;

   d. Promote gender sensitive financial and non-financial business development services;

   e. Promote women’s access to and control of productive assets, including land, finance and other resources;

   f. Invest in the scaling up of African women entrepreneurship to generate employment, create wealth and sustainable livelihoods;

   g. Enhance women access to knowledge, ownership, and the production of technology, research and innovation for value addition and development;

   h. Accelerate Africa’s infrastructure revolution, including the rapid expansion of energy; transport; adequate, affordable and decent shelter; water and sanitation; and ICT infrastructure that is modern, sustainable, responds to women’s needs and with the participation of women;

   i. Promote women’s trade including access to markets, removal of legal and social barriers to women’s participation in trade and facilitate intra-Africa trade;

   j. Contribute towards the integration agenda, encouraging free movement of peoples, goods and services, promote harmonised inclusive and gender sensitive policies and interventions with a view to encourage women owned businesses that are regional, continental as well as global;

   k. Sustainable management of natural resources in a transparent and accountable manner, to ensure more equitable distribution of proceeds, towards value-addition and beneficiation for industrialisation and the development of communities and infrastructure. In this regard, we must strengthen women’s
participation in decision-making, ownership and control of natural resources;

l. Mitigate the negative impacts of natural and man-made disasters on women and girls through the implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies;

m. Ensure that women and gender variables are factored in economic analysis, economic modelling, economic policies and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

n. Mobilise the diverse voices of women, including feminist economists, grassroots development and community activists, academics and intellectuals in the development of alternative economic models to promote sustainable, gender sensitive and equitable economic development and globalisation.

1) COMMIT TO ACHIEVE Gender EQUALITY by the end of the Decade of African Women, by

a. Advocating for equal representation and participation of women in all institutions of society, public, civil and private and for the removal of all forms of discrimination based on gender;

b. Advocating for full gender parity by the end of the Decade

c. Promoting women’s role in leadership and governance through policies such as affirmative action and quotas; electoral law and campaign finance reforms; women’s participation in political parties; mentoring and advocacy as well as the inclusion of the gender parity principle in national constitutions;

d. Mentoring young women to build capacity, self confidence and support their engagement, representation and participation in key policy and decision making institutions and structures;

e. Positioning African women; build solidarity and capacity in order to influence and exercise power in strategic decision making spaces at the local, national, regional and global levels;

f. Promoting inter-generational dialogue, solidarity and leadership;

g. Promoting democratic and ethical governance leadership across all sectors in Africa;

h. Strengthening the accountability of governments and institutions in promoting gender equality;

i. Positioning women within the decentralised governance agenda and local governance

j. Recognising the importance of political will and sustained commitment from our political, social, economic, civil society,
spiritual and cultural leadership across the continent for the implementation of Agenda 2063;

2) **PROMOTE, PROTECT and ADVANCE Women’s Human Rights, by**

   a. Grounding the African women’s agenda on rights framework to ensure individual and collective accountability for women’s rights and gender equality;

   b. Upholding the rule of law and access to justice by repealing all laws and legal obstacles that undermine women’s full citizenship and constitutional rights and by realigning national legal frameworks with the continental and international legal commitments by adopting enforcement measures;

   c. Strengthening justice systems at national and continental levels to ensure they are responsive to women and girls needs and rights;

   d. Advocating for the full ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocol to the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and other regional and international instruments as critical to the protection and promotion of women’s rights;

   e. Promoting and support women’s knowledge of their rights and the law as well as their access to legal aid;

   f. Promoting women’s rights, gender equality and awareness in society through the integration of citizen and women’s rights in the school curriculum and civic education;

   g. Supporting and work with youth and men champions of women’s rights and gender equality;

   h. Strengthening regional and international cooperation in protecting women’s rights and access to justice in instances where citizens are not within the immediate jurisdiction of their countries; protect immigrants and tackle the growing rate of trafficking of young girls and women across Africa;

   i. Engaging and developing the capacity of legislators, administrators of justice as well as the legal practitioners across the continent in effectively protecting, promoting and advancing African women’s rights at national and continental levels;

   j. Promoting a multi-sectoral approach to accelerate the ratification, domestication and implementation of existing commitments on women’s human rights;

   k. Continueing to actively engage women’s human rights organisations and experts in the development and implementation of the African Agenda 2063;
3) **PROMOTE PEACE, SECURITY AND GENDER JUSTICE** and

a. Move beyond militaristic notion of security and shift towards human security

b. Advocate for the reduction of military spending and for the re-allocation of freed resources to socio economic development priorities;

c. Mainstream gender across the African Union Peace Support Operations, security, law enforcement and justice organs;

d. Demand full and equal participation of women in peace and security structures, missions, interventions and representation in key decision making positions on conflict prevention, management, resolution, peace-building and transitional justice processes in line with the AU policies and instruments as well as United Nations Peace and Security Resolutions on women peace and security;

e. Develop and adopt a continental African framework on women peace and security;

f. End persisting violence against women and girls and end impunity in conflict and post-conflict situations;

g. Guarantee the security of women during and post elections;

h. Address the escalating rate of domestic violence and increase safety measures for women in public and private spaces;

i. Institutionalise psychosocial and economic support to survivors including reparations for victims and survivors as well as addressing posttraumatic stress disorder resulting from violence and armed conflict;

j. Support the provision of services to survivors of conflict and ensure comprehensive witness protection;

k. Encourage peace education amongst all sectors of society, especially for young men and women;

l. End the proliferation of arms, child soldiers, drugs, human trafficking, and the protection of the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons;

m. End all forms of institutionalised and socialised violence against women, underage girls and young women; especially child marriage and female genital mutilation;

n. Build the capacity of the police, judiciary and traditional leaders to transform harmful and cultural socialisation and practices to deal with victims of abuse and rape;

4) **PROMOTE Human Development by**
a. Investing and improving the quality of education and training systems, and strengthen efforts towards gender equality in education by the end of the African Women’s Decade;

b. Promoting a skills revolution to drive Africa’s modernisation, sustainable industrialisation, green economy and agricultural revolution for the acceleration of infrastructural and economic development;

c. Strengthening our health systems through gender equity in access to and awareness of health care, women’s sexual reproductive health rights and choices, and ensure drastic reduction in child and maternal mortality in all our countries;

d. Strengtheningsocial policy and social security protection of the vulnerable, women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and marginalised communities;

e. Recognizing the role of community, sectoral and grassroots organisations and networks in contributing to mobilisation, capacity building and social capital for development;

f. Committing towards the mobilisation of women in rural, peri-urban and urban areas, and harness the knowledge and contributions of grassroots women;

g. Accelerating the implementation of Africa’s commitments on health, especially the elimination of major killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Cancer;

h. Improving access to reliable, safe and affordable modern and sustainable sources of energy;

i. Strengthening data collection systems to ensure quality data for gender planning, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives, programmes on gender and the empowerment of women;

j. Supporting quality and relevant tertiary and vocational education and training, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics for girls and young women;

k. Recognising and harness the existing expertise and provide opportunities for employment in the region including the use of indigenous language.

5) PROMOTE Science and Technology, Research and Innovation and

a. Promote the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes on science, technology, engineering and mathematics and technology education for girls and boys;
b. Accelerate women’s access to and control of technology to reduce their care burden and release them to unleash and realise their potential;

c. Promote the innovative use of science and technology to advance women’s economic opportunities and for the eradication of poverty and the development of infrastructure and industrialisation;

d. Build, develop, document and protect African indigenous knowledge and culture, as a driver of and contributor to innovation.

6) ADVOCATE FOR Cultural transformation, Pan Africanist values, Renaissance and

a. Celebrate and develop the positive aspects of our indigenous African knowledge, cultures and institutions that promote women’s status, our African identity and our unity in diversity;

b. Promote and renew women-centered Pan African unity and values including solidarity, service and self-determination and reliance;

c. Build new generations of Pan Africanist through cultural exchange, youth service programmes, arts and culture amongst African youth, including the Diaspora;

d. Encourage all countries to teach African history, Pan Africanism and Renaissance in schools and educational institutions, so as to foster people-to-people integration and promote the establishment of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance Chairs at universities;

e. Invest in and promote African cultural products and industries with the view to strengthen African identity, unity, diversity and gender equality;

f. Strengthen African cultural industries that create opportunities for women including artists, crafters, musicians, filmmakers, dancers, traditional healers and designers;

g. Review and document cultural norms, values and practices that promote or impede women’s empowerment, gender equality and women’s rights, and influence positive change and development of African cultures;

h. Engage with traditional authorities, including women cultural leaders to address traditional and cultural practices impacting women’s empowerment, gender equality and women’s rights;

i. Promote targeted approaches to transform household gender relations;

j. Engage African media to ensure that the diversity of African women’s stories are told the African way by African women;
k. Strengthen our continental media houses, to become vibrant, Pan African and primary sources of news and entertainment for Africans;

l. Establish a Pan African women multi-media network to drive Agenda 2063;

m. Promote the development of Pan African cultural products and content using new technologies to promote African identity, positive gender identity and equality as well as African heroines and heroes amongst our children;

n. Promote pride in our African identity, and take charge of the narrative of who we are, our past and our future, and our place in the world;

o. Strengthen our linkages with the African Diaspora and mobilise the Diaspora in support of Africa’s renaissance and prosperity;

p. Promote unity amongst African nations to enable them to compete on the global stage;

q. Preserve, protect and promote the use of African languages as an important part of African heritage and identity.

7) MOBILISE resources for Africa’s transformation and

a. Explore, promote and sustain innovative ways of domestic resource mobilisation, including review of tax systems, public and private investment policies and pension funds towards African development;

b. Promote African philanthropy to ensure ownership of the African development agenda.

c. Upscale allocation of resources for gender related and women’s empowerment interventions, and advocate for the equitable allocation of national and continental resources across genders;

d. Encourage effective, equitable and accountable use of resources, manage the resources in the interest of current and future generations; and act against corruption, pilfering of national resources and illicit outflows from the continent;

e. Advocate for the allocation, redistribution of public and private resources towards priorities that are critical to women’s empowerment and development, and ensure women’s participation in these processes;

f. Foster home-grown public-private partnerships to broaden domestic resource base, and encourage domestic investment by public and private sectors.

g. Institutionalise gender parity and gender mainstreaming in African institutions such as the African Union and its organs, African
Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;

h. Define the rules of engagement in development cooperation and aid, foreign investments, relationship with the global financial architecture so that they align with African development, gender equality and women’s empowerment priorities;

i. Ensure that the proceeds of the continent’s natural resources are utilised for development, industrialisation, women’s empowerment, and positive legacies for future generations.

8) **ENSURE broad-based participation, foster Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships, and**

   a. Ensure effective engagement and ownership of Agenda 2063 by all stakeholders at all levels of implementation;

   b. Foster strong women’s networks, alliances and grassroots movements to implement Agenda 2063;

   c. Strengthen the mechanism for mutual transparency and accountability;

   d. Foster a culture of information sharing and effective coordination among women within and across Africa and the African Diaspora.

9) **SET MILESTONES towards the realisation of AGENDA 2063 and**

   a. Acknowledge that Agenda 2063 is a long term continental vision, and its realisation will require short and medium-term milestones and strategies, so that we assess progress on the way;

   b. Ensure that African women’s input and priorities are captured in the post 2015 development agenda, so that it reinforces milestones towards the realisation of Agenda 2063, and that the global agenda supports Africa’s transformation and development;

   c. Achieve gender mainstreaming in all milestones, as well as specific gender targets and indicators;

   d. Set up a comprehensive knowledge management strategy promoting and tracking the intersection between post MDGs and Agenda 2063 processes and milestones.
THEREFORE RESOLVE TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

a. Present at the upcoming 50\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Summit these aspirations of women, and advocate for the inclusion of the proposals in the 50\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Proclamation;

b. Undertake, individually and collectively, to engage women in our countries and the Diaspora to participate in the debate and formulation of Agenda 2063 and its milestones;

c. Urge Member States, RECs, the Diaspora region, civil society, and the broader women movements and networks to organise similar women stakeholder workshops at country and regional level on Agenda 2063;

d. Develop an Action plan for the Implementation of the concrete strategies proposed at this Consultative workshop with a view to enrich the Agenda 2063 framework and to accelerate the realisation of the objectives of the Decade of Women in all our countries and across the continent;

e. Develop a communication and information plan to popularise this Declaration with a view to encourage widespread participation and ownership by women of Agenda 2063.

We commit as African women, as gender activists and Pan Africanists to continue to play a transformative role in our families, communities, grassroots movements, organisations, educational institutions, work places, parliaments, media houses, farmers’ and business associations, judicial systems, security forces, diplomatic missions, religious platforms and in all spheres of our lives, to work for a just, peaceful and prosperous Africa and world.

Adopted on this thirteen day of May 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia