



25th GIMAC Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in the African Union and Member States

20-23 January 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

SHORT CONCEPT NOTE

The Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) is one of the largest networks of African Civil Society Organizations working on women’s rights and gender equality, with more than 55 member organizations and partners working throughout Africa to advocate for women’s rights. Each year, the GIMAC holds a biannual Pre-Summit Consultative meeting on the margins of the African Union Heads of State Summit to monitor the progress made on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA).

The GIMAC members use this opportunity to examine cross-cutting issues in line with the AU summit themes and to develop strategies to advocate for effective gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment at a national, regional and international level.

The GIMAC was established in 2005, a year after the African Union (AU) adopted the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), to create a space for civil society to foster and monitor the implementation of the SDGEA. The SDGEA stands out as a legal achievement in the struggle for the protection of women’s rights in Africa, for gender parity at all levels of the African Union and for gender mainstreaming in the AU, Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

To date, there have been 25 Pre-Summit Meetings organized around the six thematic areas of the SDGEA, which are Governance, Peace and Security, Human Rights, Health, Education and Economic Empowerment.

The Gender is my Agenda Campaign combines locally owned processes, grassroots advocacy and high-level diplomacy to secure gender equality, the protection of women and their mainstreaming in leadership positions within the African Union and Member States, as articulated in the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

The year 2015 is a unique opportunity for the acceleration and realization of the commitments made to African women’s rights, gender equality, women’s empowerment and inclusive development. 2015 marks the 5th year into the African Women’s Decade (2010-2020), the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20), the fifteenth anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and the finalization of deliberations on the Post-2015 agenda.

In this context, the Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC), is holding, in Addis Ababa, its **25th Pre-Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Union and Member States** under the theme **“2015, Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063: What is the Change We Want to See?”** to reflect on progress, current gaps and emerging issues,

and review implementation of existing commitments made by African Union member states to women's human rights, health, education, governance, women's economic empowerment, peace and security and climate change.

The GIMAC is followed by a **Stakeholders' Consultation** held by the African Union Commission, under the leadership of the Chairperson, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. The consultation brings together Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs from across Africa, Civil Society Organizations, Regional Economic Commissions and other Stakeholders to strategize on the "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063".

Objectives of the 25th GIMAC include:

- The adoption of an Agenda 2063 that is fully reflective of African women's rights, issues and concerns.
- Member states to implement African civil society recommendations on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- A transformative Post-2015 development agenda that accelerates the implementation of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Concrete implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 as part of the African Union commitment to „Silence the Guns“ by 2020.
- Development of a roadmap for the execution of the Solemn Declaration Index.

Key expected outcomes from the 25th GIMAC consultative meeting include:

- Inclusion of the GIMAC recommendations on women's rights, issues and concerns towards an engendered Agenda 2063 framework are included in the outcome documents of the AU Summit.
- Existence of a strategy to strengthen Africa's position on gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2015 deliberations on Beijing+20, the post-2015 development agenda, including actions for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- Consensus on a way forward on the use of the Solemn Declaration Index for monitoring and implementation of SDGEA.
- Strengthened partnerships and networking among the GIMAC members for advocating for member states to implement recommendations from the GIMAC meeting throughout the year.