



28TH SESSION OF THE GENDER IS MY AGENDA CAMPAIGN (GIMAC) AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

We, participants meeting for the 28th consecutive biannual Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Civil Society Consultative Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda from 10 to 11 July 2016;

Representing a diverse group of 200 women leaders, advocates, human rights defenders, young women and girls from across Africa and the Diaspora;

Welcoming and reflecting on the GIMAC session theme, **“Implementing Women’s Rights in Africa: If not now, when?”** to commemorate the year 2016, the African Union Year of Human Rights with particular focus on Women’s Rights;

Further welcoming the inter-generational dialogue between women, young women and girls at the 28th GIMAC session;

Commending the African Union Commission Chairperson for her vision and actions to put the rights and development concerns of women and youth at the forefront of Africa’s Agenda 2063;

Appreciating the partnership with the African Union Commission to integrate civil society perspectives, particularly those of women and girls, in the deliberations of the Third High-Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment held from 8 to 9 July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda;

Recalling the recommendations of the 27th session of the GIMAC Civil Society Consultative Meeting held in January 2016 and the 8th African Union Gender Pre-Summit;

Welcoming the GIMAC launch of the first civil society monitoring report, the Solemn Declaration Index (SDI), to provide evidence-based monitoring of the progress of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA, 2004);

Noting with grave concern that in the areas under discussion at the 28th GIMAC session, including on health, education, peace and security, economic empowerment, accountability and leadership, the overall progress of women’s rights on the continent reveals a decided lack of follow-up and investment in the implementation of existing progressive laws and policies;

Further noting that the current slow pace of progress has dire impact on the human security of women and girls and as a result, stifles the development of the continent and her peoples in all sectors;

Reaffirming that women’s rights are human rights and that the implementation of human rights provides the best framework for the advancement of societal progress;

Expressing our firm solidarity with the peoples and women affected by armed conflict, particularly in Burundi, South Sudan and the Central African Republic;

Declaring our commitment as civil society actors to continue to advocate for and use our resources to support actions at the local, national, regional and international level that prioritize African women’s human rights and gender equality;

Hereby urge African Union Member States to consider and prioritize implementation of the following recommendations:

1. States to sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol, 2003) in line with the 2015 and 2020 commitments and to lift existing reservations;

2. States to implement the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and to report annually on progress;
3. States to strengthen and promote sustained partnership and collaboration between state actors and civil society, repeal national laws that restrict civil society contributions to sustainable development, and to commit to open the space for effective civil society engagement with the African Union;
4. States to implement gender parity principles on political participation and ensure young women's effective inclusion in policy dialogues;
5. States to substantively increase budgetary allocations towards preventive mechanisms of dialogue and community reconciliation, accountability for human rights, gender equality and equal access to resources for all, in order to silence the guns, end gender-based violence and combat religious extremism;
6. States to hold armed parties accountable for violence against innocent civilians in South Sudan and Burundi and for leaders and peace mediators to fully honor commitments to make women's effective participation in peace processes a lived reality, as enshrined in United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security;
7. States to establish collaborative mechanisms between state authorities, women, community and religious leaders, border patrol and airline companies, to protect women and girls from the growing scourge of abductions and trafficking in conflict situations;
8. States to institute laws where needed and strengthen judiciary processes to implement existing laws abolishing child marriage;
9. States to establish and strengthen national bureaus of statistics, under the data revolution commitments, for generation of qualitative and quantitative age-disaggregated data and narratives on unsafe abortion and its impact on development, as espoused in Agenda 2063;
10. States to accelerate implementation of existing commitments on provision of age appropriate and culturally sensitive comprehensive sexuality education;
11. States to domesticate and implement commitments made in the Africa-led March 2016 UN Commission on the Status of Women resolution 60/2 on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS and the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS;
12. States to promote gender-sensitive peace education in schools and develop referral, reporting, tracking and response guidelines to combat violence and provide access to quality and safe education for girls and young women;
13. States to robustly promote gender-responsive pedagogy in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); and adopt school re-entry policies to enable pregnant girls and teenage mothers to access quality education along with their peers;
14. States to invest in renewable energy in agriculture and to strengthen judiciary systems to enable women smallholder farmers to secure their tenure rights, equitable access, control and ownership of land and natural resources;
15. States to encourage gender quotas to increase female representation in corporate boards and for women-owned businesses to secure public procurement contracts.

Done on 11 June 2016, Kigali