



African Gender Forum and Award 2007
*“African women for Africa’s development:
 Building partnerships with the Diaspora”*
10-12 December 2007, Dakar, Senegal

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORUM

**Government
of Spain**



**Government
of Italy**



We, African Women meeting the women of the African Diaspora and descendants of African migrants, representative of the Civil Society Organisations, of the International Organisations and of governments, working across Africa, Europe, Asia and America,

Meeting for the 2nd Edition of the African Gender Award and Forum 2007 on “African women for Africa’s development: Building partnerships with the Diaspora” in Dakar, Senegal, from 10-12 December 2007, organised by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and its PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development with the collaboration of the “Ministère de la famille et de l’entreprenariat féminin” of Senegal, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and The Diasporan Touch, with the support of

- the African Union and the NEPAD,
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

and with the financial support of

- the Government of Spain,
- the Government of Italy,
- the African Development Bank (ADB),
- the African Women Development Fund (AWDF),
- the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA),
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM),
- South African Airways

Appreciating the cooperation, the support and the commitment of the Government of Senegal towards the African Gender Forum and Awards 2007,

Following up on the 2005 edition of the African Gender Award and Forum on how to promote economic empowerment and strengthen cultural and economic ties between African and Arab women,

Gathering to discuss the issue of Women and Migration in its socio-economic and political aspects,

Welcoming the presence of the following special guests:

- **H.E. Mr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai**, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia
- **Honourable Mrs. Getrude Mongella**, President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and President of the Award Selection Committee who chaired the Grand Opening
- **Her Excellency Mrs. Viviane Wade**, First Lady of Senegal,
- **H.E. Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma**, First Lady of Republic of Sierra Leone
- **H.E. Mrs. Olubanke King-Akerele**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Liberia
- **H.E. Mrs. Awa Ndiaye**, Minister for Women, Family and Social Development, Republic of Senegal
- **H.E. Jeanne Françoise Leckomba Loumeto Pombo**, Minister for Women’s Promotion and Women’s Integration into Development (Republic of Congo),
- **H.E. Valerie Nyirahabineza**, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Republic of Rwanda
- **H.E. Mrs. Gisèle Mandaila**, Secretary of State for Family and Disabled Persons, Royaume de Belgique
- **H.E. Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn**, Former Minister of Defense, Finland

Having defined the term “African Diaspora” and discussed the following issues:

- Migration and the changing role of women.
- The economic dimensions of migration.
- Roles and responsibilities at policy level
- Providing solutions and recommendations to African Governments on Migration
- Building bridges between the continents: opportunities, good practices and responsibilities,

Took the opportunity to share good practices and experiences during the side events on:

- Liberia and Senegal
- Senegalese and Rwandese private sector
- UNSCR 1325

Note with appreciation the organisation of such a Forum to debate on the women, gender and migration issue,

Make the following recommendations,

To the AU, the African Governments and the Western Governments:

- We urge the Member States of the African Union to collaborate with IOM on the adoption and implementation of migration policy and instruments,
- The African governments should draw National Plans of Action on Migration linked to PRSPs and should bring in the gender perspective
- The Governments should develop and/or strengthen a policy framework favorable to diasporan investments by:
 - a. removing barriers like taxes, create opportunities for Diaspora’s participation in political life and governance in country of origin, set legal framework to improve links between remitters and receivers
 - b. creating an enabling environment in Africa for people to stay or returnees to settle back in good conditions
 - c. fostering dialogue with the Diaspora and the private sector for information sharing on innovative ideas and investment opportunities
 - d. promoting and putting in place mechanisms which channel remittances and encourage income generating investments (remittances used as micro-credit investments, investment funds)
- The African and Western Governments should facilitate and promote circular migration within Africa and between Africa and the host countries in order to balance the “push and pull” theory between receiver countries and countries of origin
- Every State should sign the Migrants’ Rights Convention of the United Nations
- The governments should collaborate with the international organisations, civil society and private sector to intensify research
 - a. on the conditions and situation of migrant women, even at grassroots level
 - b. for culture-sharing knowledge

and to create a databank on specific figures, indicators, statistics, information on countries, on women profiles (expertise, skills, remitted money) to better prepare candidates for migration

- The African governments should create Diaspora Liaison Officers assisted by a Gender Specific Support within African Embassies to increase awareness and responsibility
- Governments should work towards creating youth-friendly development policies which promote the right to decent work and encourage entrepreneurship and business initiatives through a gender equality perspective.

To Civil Society and women networks:

- Civil society should be more involved in decision making processes relating to migration issues
- Civil society should be more involved to reinforce the existing networks and partnerships between Africa and the receiving countries and to create new networks
- Civil society should more advise and monitor the implementation of the various policies and report (governments in policy making and promotion of reforms regarding migration policies and gender mainstreaming)
- Civil society should engage African-American women in the policy and business arena
- Civil society and women networks need scale up their advocacy efforts to ensure that the young generation is given the conditions and opportunities to initiate projects and see them through
- Civil society and women networks must create and support dialogue platforms for young people
- Specific to this Forum, participants and their networks should continue their discussions (including on-line) and sharing of best practices in relation to issues raised during the Forum itself

To the media:

- The media should be supported to develop programmes, initiatives, and mechanisms that will transform the image of Africa from a negative to a positive one within Africa and among the Diaspora and the African descendants,
- The media should promote the concept of migrants as social actors and actors of change
- The media should be encouraged to mainstream gender in their activities
- The African media should be encouraged to be autonomous entities

To the private sector:

- The private sector should put in place a remittance aid to contribute to development projects
- The private sector should collaborate with the government in ensuring that diasporan remittances are properly channeled to profitable ventures
- African and Afro-Descendant women in the Diaspora should collaborate with private sector's actors in African and other countries to develop sustainable projects

Make the following commitments:

- 1) Agree to support and promote the African Women Database launched by IOM, AfricaRecruit and FAS during the AGFA 2007
- 2) Promote Africa as an equal partner and not as an assisted continent
- 3) Agree to send a delegation representing the African Gender Forum to the second Global Forum on Migration and Development (Manila, October 2008) to increase the visibility of migrant women's problems and ensure that the voice of Africa is heard
- 4) Contribute to a better integration of migrant women in the country of destination
- 5) Promote the image of migrants as contributors and not as "economic parasites"
- 6) Collaborate with African governments and private sector by making Africa suitable for investments and new projects
- 7) Involve prominent African women, Diasporan women and African descendants in the dialogue for positive utilisation of Diasporan resource base
- 8) Continue to promote women who have success
- 9) Promote financial independence of African women in Diaspora and African descendants, which gives choice and voice as well as life-long education to build women's self-confidence and capacity
- 10) Promote micro-finance schemes that will allow for a better use of Diasporan funds by women and allow women an easier access to bank/commercial credit
- 11) Continue to promote the gender dimension in migration through research and advocacy
- 12) Continue to promote international tools which aim to guarantee the protection of migrants' rights

Commit ourselves, collectively and individually to ensure the implementation of the Forum's recommendations by following up on the progress made.

**Presented at the African Gender Forum and Award for adoption
on the 11th December 2007
at the University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal**