INTERNATIONAL MENTORS TO ASSIST WITH BUSINESS PLANS OF AFRICAN WOMEN FROM POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES

From 9 to 10 November 2010, Femmes Africa Solidarite PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (FASPC) based in Dakar and the IE Business School, with the support of the Spanish Government, will organize a private meeting to brief mentors on their role in assisting 10 African women entrepreneurs coming from post-conflict countries.

Hosted by the Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, the two-day event aims to train mentors who will assist African women entrepreneurs in their business development, guide them in their social progress and help them with the legal and market particularities in their respective countries as well as internationally. This meeting is also an opportunity for mentors to meet with potential partners and to connect with other women in the Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropic sector in Switzerland.

Women led business is a partnership programme between Femmes Africa Solidarité and IE Business School. The programme started in Spain in January 2008 with 24 participants coming from post-conflict countries in Africa. The participants were trained to develop their own business plans to be carried out in their respective African countries.

After several training sessions, a group of the 10 best projects has been chosen among women participants from African countries including Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Rwanda, as well as South Africa and Senegal.

The 10 business plans selected were the winners of a negotiation workshop in June 2010, hosted by Casa Africa, Spanish institution of public diplomacy to serve the state foreign policy and to bring Africa closer to Spain, in Las Palmas. Since, the award winners had the opportunity to present their winning project at several international meetings such as the 16th consultative meeting on Gender mainstreaming in Africa well-known as “Gender is My Agenda Campaign”.

After this Genevas’ mentorship meeting, an International Investors’ Panel is planned to be held in Africa in January 2011, which will involve many stakeholders from Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropic sector to financially support the 10 best business plans.

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