



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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Excellency, Mrs Sirleaf,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our presence here today must be considered as a continuum of our traditional recognition of those who brought extraordinary inputs within Africa continent to support the struggle of African women for gender equality.

Efforts have been made, within the African continent and especially in areas affected by conflicts, to spread women's plead. Women are no longer seen as victims but as actors in the peace and reconstruction of their countries. African women of the 21st Century are striving to ensure the success of the gender cause through economic and political change. According to the principles defined by the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), there is a true will expressed by the African leaders to transform the institutions by taking into consideration the historical movement of African women towards participation at the highest levels of decision making, to the economic progress of their countries, and to freedom, justice and full respect of their rights.

A "gender revolution" has been triggered and international recognitions of this are essential.

This has been the case few months ago, during the African Gender Forum and Award (AGFA). We were then all convened, under the auspice of the Government of Senegal, to present the African Gender Award to one of our most active personalities and first women president in the African continent who strives for the gender agenda, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Initiated by Femmes Africa Solidarite, through its pan African centre for gender, peace and development, this biennial gathering intends to honor African leaders who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in implementing the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and in furthering gender mainstreaming.

The award of H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf stresses her achievements that consist in the protection of women's rights, their inclusion in the political and judicial field, the free access to education for children and the establishment of a Market Women Fund. It also draws the attention to her strong dedication for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 which protects women's rights.

For the years to come, H.E. Sirleaf Johnson has expressed her endless engagement to come to develop action plans for the implementation of the Solemn Declaration.

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I would end by expressing all my gratitude to the government of Liberia for its continuous support to the cause of women in Africa. Without any doubt, H.E. Sirleaf represents, for the African continent, a reference for the gender agenda.