



Femmes Africa Solidarité



**Edition 2007 African Gender Award and Forum
10-12 December 2007, Dakar, Sénégal
«African Women for Africa's Development: Building partnerships with the
Diaspora »**

PRESS RELEASE

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Women's Entrepreneurship of Senegal, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and DiasporanTouch, are holding the second African Gender Forum and Award from 10 to 12 December 2007. The theme of the Forum is 'African Women for Africa's Development: Building partnerships with the Diaspora.'

The first African Gender Forum, held in May 2005, brought together African and Arab women around issues of women's entrepreneurship. This year, more than 150 participants and their networks from across Africa, Europe and North America are expected to participate in the 2007 edition.

The 2007 Forum is conceived as a space for dialogue to promote cooperation between African women, African members of the Diaspora and African descendants on issues of the feminisation of migration, and the positive contribution of migration to Africa's development.

African women, members of the Diaspora, members of governments, academia, civil society and the private sector will take part in panel discussions and debates on topics such as women and migration, the gender dimension of cash remittances, the responsibilities of African governments in migration, women's access to economic resources, and the contributions of the African Diaspora to African development.

As well, the Minister of Family and Women's Entrepreneurship will launch the National Strategy for Gender Equality in the presence of other ministers and leaders of the region of West Africa.

On 12 December, African women will present the 2007 African Gender Award. This year's laureate is Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda. The Award will be presented at a ceremony hosted by Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, primary sponsor of the African Gender Award, and co-laureate of the 2005 Award with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa. The Award recognises African heads of state who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in gender mainstreaming and women's advancement.

Rwanda and President Kagame were chosen by the Award Selection Committee for the efforts of the Rwandan government in implementing policies to strengthen the capacity of women and for their work in the promotion of women in Rwanda. Rwandan civil society and the private sector will also be honoured for their efforts in gender mainstreaming through the presentation of awards to the non-governmental organisation Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe and the Banque Populaire pour la Promotion de la Femme. The Award selection committee is chaired by Her Excellency Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan African Parliament.

The Forum will be held at the Conference Centre of Cheikh Anta Diop University II. The three-day programme also includes two dinner debates on Senegal and Liberia at the Terrou-Bi restaurant and a cultural night dedicated to Rwanda at the Daniel Sorano National Theatre.

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