



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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INFORMATION NOTE

FAS Shares Expertise at Pan-African Capacity Building Forum, Maputo

Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS, was invited to make a presentation at the Pan-African Capacity Building Forum, from 1 to 3 August, 2007, in Maputo, Mozambique. The presentation was the focus of the session titled "Gender, Equity and Women's Empowerment in Africa's Development: Capacity Building Strategies and Programs", which was held on the second day of the Forum.

Mme Diop's presentation introduced the history, achievements and challenges of gender mainstreaming in African institutions. As well, it highlighted the importance of women's networks and civil society organisations in achieving gender parity in African development. The presentation included two discussants, Dr. Hilda Tadia, Chair and Member of the Governing Board of the African Women's Development Fund, Aminata Traoré, former Minister of Culture for Mali, and Leah Chatta-Chipepa, Program Officer for African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). The presentation was chaired by Carin Norberg, director of the Nordic Africa Institute in Sweden.

The session participants drafted eight recommendations, including the need for African Ministries of Science and Technology to facilitate access to technology and information by rural women, and the inclusion of explicit gender and women empowerment policies in all ACBF-supported institutions.

This was the second Pan-African Capacity Building Forum, and was hosted by the president of Mozambique, His Excellency Emilio Guebueza. The theme of the conference was 'Improving Development Results for Africa.' More than 600 delegates attended the conference, held at Joachim Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo. Delegates came from across Africa, including Heads of State and Government, ministers, professionals from the public sector, professionals from the private sector, civil society leaders, policy researcher, professors and educators.

The three-day Forum included presentations and discussion sessions on topics such as governance and attainment of the MDGs, the African Diaspora as an actor in African development, capacity building and HIV/AIDS, post-conflict capacity building, and gender equity programmes for capacity building. Speaking at the closing of the Forum, on 3 August, Angolan Premier Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos remarked how the conflicts and political instability in several African countries pose great challenges for post-conflict reconstruction, in particular, the need for the promotion of institutional capacity building that can ensure lasting peace and sustainable economic growth.

The first Pan-African Capacity Building Forum was held in Bamako, Mali, in 2001. It is organized every five years by the ACBF. The Foundation is based in Harare, Zimbabwe, and was founded in 1991. It currently works in 40 African countries and has invested more than USD \$290 million in institutional capacity building across the continent. The ACBF is supported by the African Development Bank (ABD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, among others.

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