



## Femmes Africa Solidarité

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## INFORMATION NOTE

### Germany's Development Minister highlights the important work of African Women working for the Gender is my Agenda Campaign

The 8<sup>th</sup> African Partnership Forum (APF) took place in Berlin, Germany, from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May, in the build-up to the G8 Summit, which is scheduled to take place next week in Heiligendamm, Germany. The APF was preceded by a dialogue forum held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, which brought together civil society representatives from Africa, the APF Co-Chairs, and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Speaking at the opening of the APF, the German Minister of Cooperation and Development, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, stated that these events were a vital opportunity to strengthen the partnership between G8 countries and African states and discuss recommendations and strategies for future action. The Minister also revealed that she kept a leaflet from the Gender is My Agenda Campaign on her wall; a reminder of the progress of the campaign to advance African women.

#### **APF – Berlin, Germany - 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May**

The APF was established at the G8 summit held in Evian, France, in 2003. Since then the Forum has preceded G8 summits, bringing together high level representatives of G8 countries, African Union states, and their development institutions. This year, Germany, Denmark, the NEPAD Secretariat and Ghana (representing the AU) co-chaired the APF which was attended by over 200 delegates. Other participants included the Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel, the Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the President of Botswana, Festus Mogae. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of Liberia also addressed the forum. The APF focused on the four topics of: peace and security, growth and investment, climate change and gender equality.



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## APF-CSO – Berlin, Germany – 20th May

The Co-Chairs of the APF have reiterated the need to discuss African development issues not only with high level governmental representatives but also with civil society organisations (CSO). In order to achieve this, the German Joint Conference Church and Development (GKKE) and the NEPAD Secretariat jointly organised the APF-CSO Dialogue Forum whose aim was to ‘integrate positions and recommendations of representatives from civil society into the 8<sup>th</sup> APF and the G8 process as a whole’ by presenting a CSO statement to the APF. This was the first time that CSO recommendations have been presented and integrated into the APF process.

Mrs Bineta Diop, Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) was asked to present on the subject of peace and security at the Dialogue, focusing on the role of women and the use and implementation of SCR 1325 in peace and security situations.

Her recommendations were included in the statement which was presented by the CSO’s to the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the APF. The recommendations called for states:

- To recognise women’s role in all aspects of peace, security, humanitarian and development initiatives;
- To encourage Africa and its development partners to support the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (1325)
- To end impunity for gender-based abuses during and after conflict;
- To integrate a gender perspective in peace-making and peace-keeping, and encourage the participation of women in all levels of decision-making and issues related to prevention management and resolution of conflict.

The statement also recommended that:

- The G8 Member States undertake to contribute resources for the Trust Fund for reconstruction and rehabilitation programs and ensure gender budgeting in reconstruction programmes and projects;
- The G8 take adequate measures to avoid the abuse of vulnerable groups and the disregard of human security in the exploitation of the extractive industries to ensure the avoidance of future conflict arising from improper extractive industry practices.

The success of this first partnership between CSO and the APF was summarised by the German Minister of Development Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul who has stated:

“I am pleased that on the road to the 8th Session of the APF we will for the first time clearly hear the voice of Africa’s civil society on the G8 Africa agenda. For me, civil society in Africa is thus making an important contribution to the preparations for the 2007 G8 Africa policy and beyond.”



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The G8 Summit will take place in Heiligendamm, Germany, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007 with Africa expected to be the focal point of the discussions.

- END -

*FAS is an international women's organisation with the ECOSOC Consultative Status working to empower African women to assume a leadership role in peace building, and conflict resolution. FAS programmes operate mainly in war-torn countries such as the Mano River and the Great Lakes regions. FAS also works closely with African sub-regional and regional organs such as ECOWAS and the African Union to ensure greater involvement of women in decision-making processes for peace and development.*

**Please Contact the FAS Office for more information or go to [www.fasngo.org](http://www.fasngo.org)**

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