



## Femmes Africa Solidarité

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### INFORMATION NOTE

#### Ellen Johnson Sirleaf salutes the work of Femmes Africa Solidarité at the Regional Conference on the Political Participation of Women Monrovia, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Mrs Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, praised the grassroots activities which have been initiated by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) in the last decade, at the Regional Conference on the Political Participation of Women, held in Monrovia, Liberia, from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April. These activities have focused on capacity building and advocacy campaigns, which have sought to integrate women more effectively into the decision making processes in Liberia.

Mrs Sirleaf herself presided over the opening ceremony of the conference, which was organised by the African Democracy Forum (ADF). She urged African women to continue working with civil society organisations such as FAS - represented at the conference by the Communications Officer Moussa Diop - in order to encourage a greater participation of women in politics at every level.

The Liberian President declared that:

*‘Women must rise and face the challenges and I know that certain organisations like Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) do much work in this field.’*

Also present at the opening ceremony were the Liberian Minister for Gender and Development, Vaba Gayfloor, and the Coordinator of ADF, Franck Kamunga.

The conference was also attended by over forty representatives from African civil society groups from various African countries. Several themes were discussed at the conference, including the challenges faced by women voters and political candidates and, more generally, the social taboos which prevent the political participation of women at an everyday level. The participants of the conference also visited several Liberian civil society organisations, which are based in Monrovia.

For further information please visit [www.fasngo.org](http://www.fasngo.org) or [www.africandemocracyforum.org](http://www.africandemocracyforum.org)



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