



## Femmes Africa Solidarité

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### PRESS RELEASE

**By the Communication Officer**

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#### **Mrs Bineta Diop pledges for urgent solution about food crisis in Somalia**

**The African Women's Day was celebrated in a context marked by famine and malnutrition in the Horn of Africa. In addition to war and sexual violence, women and their children bear the brunt of the situation prevailing in East Africa. In her capacity as Coordinator of the "Gender is My Agenda Campaign" GIMAC and Chair of Women and Gender Sector Group of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (AU-ECOSOCC), Ms Bineta Diop\*, Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) has called on policymakers to ensure that urgent solutions are found.**

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), more than 29,000 children under age 5 already died in southern Somalia during the last three months because of the famine in East Africa that directly threatens 12 million people, mostly women through Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

*"I hope my visit will highlight this injustice, increase awareness about the impact of climate change and encourage the international community to respond,"* said HE Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice (MRFJC) and President of Oxfam International, who was in visit to Nairobi last July.

It was reported by UN agencies that just in southern Somalia controlled by the Islamist militia al-Shabab, acute malnutrition affecting more than 30% of children under 5 was observed for a long time while the famine that was decreed by the authorities in July is now threatening 3.2 million people forced to flee to refugee camps like Dadaab.

Besides the war in Somalia, *"variations of international food prices causing food shocks more frequent and longer, and threaten security. Between 2005 and 2010, grain prices have doubled over the period 1990-2005. The sugar has tripled. The rice, four times more"* explained Jamal Saghir, Director of Sustainable Development for Africa at the World Bank.

On the occasion of the African Women's Day, Ms. Bineta Diop made a strong appeal. *"Women are already suffering from war and sexual violence. We express them our solidarity and call upon African policy makers and the international community to come to their rescue in refugee camps"* she said.

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