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PRESS RELEASE

Bujumbura : Official Presentation and First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the project “Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in Burundi”

By : Communications Officer

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender of Burundi and the Collectif des Associations et ONG Féminines du Burundi (CAFOB) have officially presented the project “*Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in Burundi*”. The ceremony was held on 4 August 2011 in Bujumbura before the members of the Steering Committee, which had held its first meeting on the project earlier that day, and an audience of parliamentarians, government representatives and members of the civil society and the media.

“The people of Burundi are embracing democratization of their country, taking part in elections and supporting the creation of new institutions that protect the rule of law and good governance” declared Laetitia Twagirimana, the representative of the Ministry in her speech. She emphasized that *“The primary objective of the project (...) is to contribute to engendering the democratic process in Burundi to ensure full and equitable participation of women in all decision making processes and to protect women’s rights for sustainable human development”* before thanking FAS for this project.

Mrs Marie Louise BARICAKO, Chair of the Executive Board of FAS, added that *“the project aims at strengthening the capacities of women leaders, women that are today in political decision-making positions and women of the civil society and the media, so that they can fully participate and play their part in responding to the needs and priorities of women.”*

The project “*Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in Burundi*”, which is planned over two years, was introduced in a presentation by Ms Harriette Williams and Ms Chloé Huynh from FAS. The project consists in the capacity-building of political leaders in gender-sensitive policies and the establishment of *“a platform for advocacy on the adoption and implementation of laws and policies that promote gender equality”*.

FAS is a long-standing partner of Burundi, notably through the project it has been conducting since 2007 for the adoption and implementation of National and Regional Action Plans on implementing Resolution 1325 in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

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