



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME IS THE LAUREAT OF THE 2007 AFRICAN GENDER AWARD

Following a four-hour deliberation, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul Kagamé, was chosen by the Selection Committee to receive the African Gender Award at their meeting on Saturday, 27 January 2007, which took place at the African Centre for Gender and Social Development of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Presided by the President of the Pan-African Parliament, Mme. Gertrude Mongella, the jury reached the decision to elect President Paul Kagamé of Rwanda as the recipient of the 2007 Award.

The jury's choice was guided by specific criteria and indicators designed to monitor the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equity in Africa, for which President Paul Kagamé has shown major efforts in his country, in the promotion of women's rights.

Since the 1994 genocide, Rwanda has been distinguished for its integration of women in the reconstruction process, the fight against gender-based violence,

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the protection of the rights of women and girls, women's rights to economic development and to own property, as well as the rights of women and girls to equal education, particularly in rural zones.

Rwanda is the only country in the world that can count 48% of women deputies in their national Parliament, as well as total gender parity in the attribution of teaching positions in higher education and in the country's judicial system.

“Compared to other countries that reached the final stage of the competition, Rwanda is by far the country with the best performance in the promotion and protection of the rights of women,” stated the President of the jury, Gertrude Mongella.

President Paul Kagamé will receive the African Gender Award next May in Dakar, where the Award was created and attributed by the Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PACGPD) and Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS). The first African Gender Award was attributed in May 2005 to President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

A Press Conference will be held by Mme. Gertrude Mongella, President of the jury, and Mme. Bineta Diop, Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarite, on Monday, 29 January at the ECA at 15:00. For further details contact:

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