



Femmes Africa Solidarité



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SADC WOMEN TAKE INSPIRATION FROM GENDER IS MY AGENDA CAMPAIGN**

At the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Civil Society Forum on 14 to 16 August 2007, women civil society leaders applauded the example set by the Gender is My Agenda Campaign in mainstreaming gender in Africa, and took inspiration from it in drafting the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

The Forum, which preceded the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, drafted the Protocol and presented it to the SADC Heads of State on 17 August. Unfortunately, they declined to sign it. Civil society groups in the region will therefore continue to work to ensure that the governments of the region sign the document and implement its recommendations.

The SADC Protocol takes inspiration from the strategies of the Gender is My Agenda Campaign and urges African states to implement the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. It is composed of approximately 20 articles that emphasize women's rights in economic development projects.

The SADC summit was held from 16 to 17 August in Lusaka, Zambia. At the parallel summit, the Gender is My Agenda Campaign made a presentation as part of a series of panels organised around development in the SADC region. The representative from the Foundation for Community Development also made a presentation on the Foresight Group and its relationship to the Gender is My Agenda Campaign.



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Femmes Africa Solidarité and the non-governmental organisations that participate in the Campaign are now working on the implementation of national contact points. The advocacy work of these contact points is intended to encourage states to develop special strategies and programmes to implement the SDGEA.

For more details about FAS, please visit our website [www.fasngo.org](http://www.fasngo.org) or [www.genderismyagenda.com](http://www.genderismyagenda.com)

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*FAS is an international women's organisation with ECOSOC Consultative Status that works to empower African women to assume a leadership role in peace building, and conflict resolution. FAS programmes operate mainly in war-affected areas such as the Mano River region and the Great Lakes region. 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.*