



15th AFRICAN WOMEN'S AU PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATION ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE AFRICAN UNION

DRAFT SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We, representatives of African women's organisations and civil society meeting under the umbrella of "Gender Is My Agenda Campaign" (GIMAC) at the 15th AU Pre-Summit African Women's Consultation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from January 21st and 22nd 2010, convened by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) with the support of the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Open Society Initiative (OSI), Department For International Development (DFID), African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Norway;

Welcoming the decision of the Heads of States of African Union to devote their 15th ordinary session to issue of Information and Communication Technologies in Africa which has the opportunities of lifting African Women out of the pit of poverty

Appreciating the support of the leadership of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in ensuring the sustenance and advancement of the programmes and activities of GIMAC

Appreciating further the support of our various partners and the presence of also H.E. Madam Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland whose address at the opening ceremony recalled the various initiatives of African women as well as the support from the African Union in uplifting the status of African women;

Reiterating the determination of the African women's movement in keeping women's priorities on the agenda of the African Union and **appreciating** the AU's support and acknowledgement of the significance of the African Women Pre-summit consultation mechanism as a way of giving gender issues prominence in the Summit agenda;

Recalling the commitments of African Heads of State and Governments to break down all barriers to achievement of gender equality in Africa through the instrumentality and introduction of wide range and meaningful initiatives, policies and programmes at the continental, regional and national levels;

Welcoming the initiatives of the AU Commissioner for Human Development, Science and Technology to give both African women and men access to the ICT Award and the proposal by AUC to work with GIMAC in the implementation of her Science and Technology agenda and programmes

Recognising with a heart of gratitude the continued support of the AU Heads of State and Government to the implementation of The *Solemn*

Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) as reflected in the increase in the number of reporting member states on SDGEA as well as those who have ratified the protocol

Noting with appreciation the desire of African Heads of State to continue to engage African women and ensure that our voices are heard and our needs are effectively taken on board at all times;

Welcoming the efforts of the African Union and the United Nations in resolving the conflicts in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Somali and Democratic Republic of Congo and other parts of the continent;

Reaffirming GIMAC's commitment to monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of *AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)*, *The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)*, and other decisions of the AU, commend the ongoing work of the various focal points in supporting Member States in the implementation of these commitments and preparation of their reports as provided for in the SDGEA;

Recognising the effort of WGDD and the chairperson of AUC in declaring 2010-2020 as the African Women's Decade as well the desire to use this period to further promote gender equality as well as advancement of African Women in all sphere of life;

Commending the effort of the WGDD and African Union in finalising the modalities for the operationalisation of the African Women's Fund scheduled to be launched this year;

Reaffirming our support for the decision of the UN Security Council to set up a Steering committee to enhance the visibility and strengthen the coordination within the United Nations system regarding the preparation for the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325;

Committing ourselves to support the work and activities of Civil Society High Level Panel on the 10th Anniversary of Resolution 1325;

Recognising and commending the continued desire of the Chairperson of AUC to ensure that the various conclusions and recommendations of the Pre-summit meetings of the various Civil society organisations working of gender and women are properly mainstreamed into the decisions of the AU Summits especially those relating to the implementation of the SDGEA;

URGE the 15th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State to adopt the following recommendations:

A. Implementation of SDGEA

1. Call on the countries that are yet to submit their mandatory reports on SDGEA to do so as a way of fulfilling their commitments toward gender equality in Africa;

2. Empower the AUWGDD with necessary resources required in ensuring effective monitoring and provision of technical assistance to Member States in meeting their reporting commitments and obligations within the SDGEA
3. Make it a tradition to annually commend and support Member States that regularly submit their reports and are making progress in ensuring gender equality and advancement of African Women

B. African Union

The meeting calls on the Heads of State and Government of the Union to:

1. Mandate the Peace and Security Council to work closely with the UN Steering Committee on Resolution 1325 ensuring that concerns and experience of the African region are effectively captured in the various submission to the UN security Council as well as the General Assembly
2. Ensure that the African Women's Decade: 2010-2020 is given the visibility and the necessary support required for its effective implementation in our member states
3. Approve without further delay the operational modalities for the African Women's Fund already adopted by the Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's affairs during their meeting of November 2009 in Banjul, the Gambia
4. Continue to uphold the gender equality and parity principle in all continental, regional and national structures and ensure that gender mainstreaming remains the cornerstone of the development agenda and programmes
5. grant our earlier call for the Second Heads of State Summit Debate on Gender part of which should be devoted to the appraisal of the SDGEA and commitments to gender equality and advancement of African Women
6. Make deliberate effort to develop a gender-driven framework that will give African women access to ICTs infrastructure as means of raising awareness and reducing the level of poverty among African Women
7. Develop mechanisms and initiatives that will ensure and guarantee sustainable access for the girl child in the use of ICTs as a way of bridging the current digital divide between boys and girls in Africa;

C. GIMAC

1. Commit to working with Member States and women at the grass roots and youth in ensuring that effective implementation of SDGEA through well articulated National Plan of Actions
2. Commit also to enlarge our activities and programmes through effective deployment of the proposed GIMAC Index and reporting guidelines
3. Promise to make available the recommendations of GIMAC from the second Shadow Report on the implementation of the SDGEA and use subsequent reports to provide missing data and information as a way of adding value to the implementation process.
4. Mainstream justice into each of the thematic areas of GIMAC in the implementation of the SDGEA
5. Pledge our support and willingness to cooperate with the AUC and the WGDD in the implementation of the Africa's women decade: 2010-2020
6. Provide all the necessary support for the Civil Society High Level Panel on the 10th Anniversary of Resolution 1325 by sharing experience in the implementation of the resolution in our various countries and also mobilises for the involvement of the grass root women in the process;
7. Collaborate and work closely with the Gender Cluster of the AU ECOSOCC in providing content for the programmes and activities of the cluster
8. Work closely with the ECA's African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) and the Committee on Women and Development in the implementation of the seven thematic areas of focus that came out of Beijing + 15 review
9. Continue to strengthen our collaboration with existing partners and also encourage partnership and initiatives that promote gender equality and give visibility to the needs and activities of African women such as the Nobel Peace Prize for African Women (NOPPAW) and the activities of Packard Foundation on Reproductive Health and Rights

D. OTHER ISSUES

The 15th African Women AU Pre-Summit Consultation also deliberated and made recommendations on the other issues:

Election

1. Call on African countries preparing for election to ensure that all the electoral processes are carried out peacefully and ensure that due diligence measures are followed before, during and after the elections

2. Support also and encourage all African women who are aspiring for elective positions in member states and call on governments to ensure that adequate provisions are made for the security of before, during and after the elections.

**Gender is My Agenda Campaign Secretariat,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 22nd 2010**