

Femmes Africa Solidarité

**ENGENDERING THE PEACE PROCESS
IN AFRICA**

2007 Report of Activities



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear FAS friends and Supporters,

I am delighted to present to you the 2007 annual report of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS). The following pages describe work that embodies commitment to the FAS objective of engendering the peace process in Africa. FAS has been working diligently and strategically to ensure that the women in Africa's conflict areas have a voice in their countries as well as at International level.

Each year, FAS reaches hundreds of women in conflict areas, providing support in training, advocacy and creation and strengthening of networks among women organisations. Our three offices in Dakar, Senegal; New York, America; and Geneva, Switzerland, are strategically laid out to make sure that we can carry out our work effectively.

You can now find us in some communities in conflict prone African countries – Sudan; Great Lakes Region (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda); and Mano River Region (Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia). We are also visible at an international level at the UN CSW in New York and UN HRC in Geneva, Switzerland. Our bold mission- engendering the peace process – has been our driving mantra. You can also see us on our website which was launched this year, www.fasngo.org; and in various media depicting our work.

This report is a documentation of our activities in 2007 from January to December and shows you the achievements, constraints and lessons learnt. The report examines the many facets of our Strategic plan (2004-2007) and shows how our objectives are inspired by the experiences gained in working in communities in conflict areas. I hope that by reading it you will get a better understanding of our work. For partners in the corporate and non-profit sectors who want to participate in the causes we champion, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Global campaign

Our work is mainly focused on three continents - Africa, Europe and America. In Africa, where our main work lies, we fight for the rights of women by making sure that they have a voice in the peace processes and negotiations of their Governments.

The Pan African Center and the Gender is my Agenda campaign are sub units of FAS. Through our regional office in Dakar, we are working towards the establishment of the Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) as a Centre for Excellence in Africa to provide advanced training and research in peace building and development issues, with an emphasis on gender. The Centre undertakes research and documentation on conflict resolution and development issues to support its training function and further the economic empowerment of women in the Mano River and Great Lakes regions.



The Centre brings together practitioners, researchers and policy makers concerned with conflict resolution in Africa. This facilitates the horizontal transfer of knowledge and enables them to share successes and challenges.

The African Gender Award, under the auspices of the Gender is my Agenda Campaign, recognizes and rewards African Leaders, who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in gender mainstreaming and women's advancement as stated in the SDGEA adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union in Addis Ababa in July 2004. It also recognizes other stakeholders from the private sector and the civil society who are designated from the Award recipient country. This year it was won by Rwandese President Paul Kagame. Past winners are South African President Thabo Mbeki and Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade (2005).

In Europe and America, we mainly carry out advocacy work through lobbying and presentation of statements at the UN CSW in New York and UN HRC at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. We organise women's meetings with prominent and influential people that could help them achieve peace in their respective countries.

Challenges

Despite all our achievements, we face a number of challenges.

At the international level, more work is needed to increase the visibility of grassroots women's groups from conflict areas. Conferences such as the summits held by the African Union Commission Heads of State, the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the UN Human Rights Council and the Security Council including the CEDAW Committee, present an excellent opportunity for women to raise awareness about their situation. However, due to limited financial resources, this is not adequately done. FAS' offices in New York Office and Geneva have taken on the role of 'middleman' between women's groups on the ground and the international community. Yet more financial and human resources are needed to strengthen FAS' programme at the international level.

Financially, we do not receive enough funds to be able to maintain a core working staff and carry out activities proficiently. Currently, FAS has established an effective intern recruitment policy that helps to meet our goals, however, the interns change every six months leaving a knowledge and experience gap. This gap can only be met if FAS is able to maintain key staff for purposes of continuity, sustainability and expertise.

Financial Partners

We thank you for your support that enables FAS to continue its important work to engender the peace process in Africa's conflict areas. We know that without your commitment, our work would not be fulfilled. We look forward to continued collaboration in the years ahead.

Bineta Diop
Executive Director



I. INTRODUCTION

This report is prepared as a narrative of Femmes Africa Solidarité's (FAS) activities from January to December 2007. It provides an overview of the activities undertaken by FAS this year in furthering the objectives of its four-year programme on engendering peace processes in Africa. It describes the background, objectives and outcomes of sub-regional, regional, international and institutional-building activities. The report concludes by presenting a brief overview of FAS' future direction in each programme area.

Speaking of peace and security in Africa, the first woman Head of State of the continent reaffirmed her belief in peace in Africa and her joy to see that women have invested in issues of peace and security.

*"Peace and security are important issues that must be taken into account as priority," said **Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, stressing the priority of educating children, both girls and boys. "By putting them in school, we come to inculcate our values," said the president of Liberia, explaining that education will enable them to grow with a spirit of peace and avoid war on the continent."*

- Bamako Conference on Gender, Peace and Security on the occasion of FAS' 10th anniversary in Mali. 11-15 June, 2006



From left to right - President Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson of Liberia, President Amadou Toumani Touré of Mali, Ms Aminata Tall, Ministre d' Etat of Senegal



II. ACTIVITIES

1. SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES

1.1 Mano River Region

*On December 10, First Lady of Sierra Leone, Madam **Sia Nyama Koroma**, at the opening ceremony of FAS' African Gender Forum and Award in Dakar, Senegal, said: I also wish to recognise and appreciate the excellent work of FAS in supporting peace building initiatives by women in the Mano River sub region and particularly the sustained assistance it has given to the establishment and sustenance of the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET).*



Background

FAS facilitated the creation of the **Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET)** which has been recognised as a common platform in charge of engendering the peace processes in the sub-region. FAS' work in the sub region strives to bring lasting and sustainable peace to the Mano River Union which comprises a network of women's organisations from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Overall objective (2004-2007)

The overall programme is aimed at contributing to the efforts for engendering the peace and reconstruction process for the empowerment of women within the overall framework of the revitalization of the Mano River region through capacity building and institutional strengthening.

Specific objectives 2007

1. Develop MARWOPNET's skills in research, information dissemination and communication
2. Strengthen the capacity of MARWOPNET in terms of coordination

Summary of activities

Taking into consideration the resources available, FAS focused its work at country level and undertook the following activities:

a) MARWOPNET Board meeting

As part of its constitutional mandate to enable it function well in consolidating peace across the sub-region and elsewhere, MARWOPNET held a combined retreat and Governing Board meeting.



The purpose of the meeting was to reflect on the operations and progress of the Network, identify and address challenges, strengthen the collective leadership and team building capacity to lead the network more effectively. The retreat was also an opportunity for the group to harness resources to influence policy makers in engaging women in all spheres of decision making including post conflict reconstruction.

The combined retreat and board meeting took place on 7 July in Freetown, Sierra Leone and was attended by founding members, Governing Board members, and key partners such as FAS, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) representatives and other stakeholders.

The outcome of the meeting was that the group agreed MARWOPNET had to write a letter to the Presidents of the Mano River Region requesting that they (MARWOPNET) utilise their observer status within the region in times of elections; that MARWOPNET should help other networks link with it so as to promote solidarity and that national chapters should send monthly reports/updates of what was happening at the Secretariat in terms of implementing regional projects. The group also agreed that members should pay a membership fee.

b) Elections in Sierra Leone

FAS provided funding to MARWOPNET to allow female observer teams to be sent to the first and second rounds of the elections which took place in Sierra Leone in August and September.

In keeping with MARWOPNET's overall Mission and Vision of engendering the peace process including its consolidation in the Mano River sub region, the objective of this all-woman election observer mission was to monitor the electoral process to ensure its fairness.

The MARWOPNET Observer Mission consisted of eight teams of Observers. Each team comprised of international and domestic-level members. International members came from MARWOPNET branches in Liberia and Guinea. These observer teams were deployed across the country in every region at randomly selected polling centres and stations. Observer teams were sent for the two rounds of elections in the country.

The teams noted that the elections were conducted in a generally calm, transparent and peaceful environment. Special arrangements were made for vulnerable people, including the elderly. There was a higher voter turn out.

The teams recommended that education on voting should be intensified and conducted in good time before the elections. It was also recommended to train polling staff on how to handle the public in challenging circumstances (such as riots). As for the polling staff, the teams suggested that they should be adequately trained in the guidelines of the National Electoral Commissions' procedures.



c) Liberia Colloquium

The International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security is an initiative launched by the President of Liberia, H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and co-convened by the President of Finland, H.E. Tarja Halonen.

The Colloquium will empower women to be more effective leaders by linking with their peers from around the world and sharing and implementing best practices on economic empowerment, influencing climate change and sustainable development.

Elisabeth Rehn, former Minister of Defence of Finland and a member of FAS' Advisory Board will act as Vice Chair for Europe while FAS has been designated Vice Chair for Africa under the leadership of Gertrude Mongella, the President of the Pan African Parliament. Moreover, FAS is fully engaged in the process of designing the colloquium's framework and format with H.E. Elisabeth Rehn.



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf addresses participants at a meeting.

FAS undertook various activities to provide information to its various networks and partners on the importance of the Colloquium and how they could contribute to its success. As a member of the Steering Committee, FAS also played a key role in drawing the road map leading to the 2009 Colloquium and has contributed to the entire process since 2006.

The Colloquium is scheduled for March 2009, and its main theme is the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UN SCR) 1325 on women, peace and security. This resolution largely focuses on the effects of armed conflicts on women and girls and seeks to ensure that they are protected from the worst abuses in times conflict. It also aims underlines the importance of including women in peace processes.

15 January, Monrovia, Liberia: FAS participated in the celebration of the first anniversary of the election of H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. On this occasion FAS attended the seminar entitled "Formal Launch of Preparations for the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment and Leadership" and moderated a panel discussing the status of the implementation of UN SCR 1325 and presented the lessons learned from three countries: Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Liberia.

23-24 January, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 9th African Union (AU) Pre-Summit Meeting. FAS informed the 34 organisations representing civil society and government officials participating about the Colloquium and its significance.



22-23 February, Kigali, Rwanda: The Executive Director of FAS attended the Women Parliamentarians International Forum to launch the 2nd African Gender Award to be given to Rwandese President Paul Kagame. She also met with the President of Liberia, H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to discuss the Colloquium. A session on lessons-learned was held on Rwanda because of the gender positive programmes in the country.

7 March, Madrid, Spain: The government of Spain organised the “2nd Meeting of Women for a Better Future” which was attended by more than 250 African women from 41 African countries, including the President of Liberia, ministers, parliamentarians, business women, women from civil society, as well as their counterparts from the Spanish government. On the margins of this event, FAS met with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Ms. Graça Machel and Ms. Wangari Mathai to promote the Colloquium and discuss its preparation amongst other issues.

14 May, Geneva, Switzerland: FAS' Executive Director, Mrs Bineta Diop, facilitated the First Preparatory meeting of the International Steering Committee of the Gender Award at the International Trade Centre. She contributed actively to events on fundraising for the preparation of the Colloquium. Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye, the Deputy Director of IOM, also attended. The objective of the meeting was to report to Europe what had been discussed in Africa regarding the preparation of the Colloquium.



Participants at the 10th AU Pre Summit

23-24 June, Accra, Ghana: 10th AU Pre-Summit Meeting, FAS shared information on the Colloquium with the 78 participants who attended the meeting.

30 June, Accra, Ghana: Mrs Diop, met with the President of Liberia during the Summit and reported on the follow-up actions in Africa. She also met with Ms. Gertrude Mongella and Ms. Graca Machel and informed them on the Colloquium's preparation in order to get their views.

29-31 October, Monrovia, Liberia: In preparation of the Colloquium, FAS attended the “Train the trainers” workshop on women’s empowerment, leadership development, international peace and security. Mrs Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, Parliamentarian from Senegal, represented FAS.



15-17 November, New York, USA: the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit organised by Ms. Mary Robinson was attended by Mrs Bineta Diop, Hon. Gertrude Mongella, H.E. Elisabeth Rehn, Ms. Bisi Adeleye Fayemi and H.E. Olubanke King Akerele. A special session was organised with participants to provide them with updated information on the Colloquium and the 2008 conference in preparation of the Colloquium.

11 December, Dakar, Senegal: High level participation of the Vice President of Liberia, H.E. Elisabeth Rehn, Ms. Vivian Derryck, H.E. Banke King Akerele and the First Ladies of Senegal and Sierra Leone to the African Gender Award giving ceremony. A presentation was also made on the International Colloquium to the participating guests, Ministers and experts present.

12 December, Dakar, Senegal: On the margins of the African Gender Forum and Award, a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Colloquium was held with the members present. Discussions focussed on the preparation of the 2009 Conference.

d) Mission to Côte d'Ivoire

This Preparatory Mission, a united operation between the African Union Gender Directorate (AUGD) and FAS, carried out in November; made contact with women's organizations, relevant authorities, and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) with a view to analyze and map the situation in the country. The group wanted to make a needs-assessment and support women's participation in conflict resolution, reconciliation, and the democratization process for sustainable peace in the country.

The women of Côte d'Ivoire, the relevant authorities as well as various associations of West Africa and the Mano River region working with ECOWAS, expressed their need for support, assistance and solidarity from the women of their sub-region as well as from the other parts of the continent.

Due to FAS' experience and expertise in creating a common platform for women in conflict areas, it was approached by a number of women's associations in Côte d'Ivoire to help integrate them into the peace process.

FAS agreed to support the women in civic education, trauma counselling, and good governance in the November elections.

The AUGD-FAS mission also paved the way for a high level Solidarity Mission, which is scheduled to take place in 2008.

e) Capacity building

FAS has redirected its training programme through the Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) which will enable it to train women from different regions of Africa.

The Centre organised regional short courses with women from other regions to enable them develop skills in research, documentation, information dissemination, and communication strategies.

- Accra Training on UN SCR 1325 brought people from the Mano River Region. 23-24 June, Erata Hotel, Accra, Ghana. (See page 22)



- UPEACE Training entitled 'Second Short Course on Gender and Conflict: *Human Rights & Transitional Justice*', Mboadiene, Senegal, 9-13 April. Participants came from 18 different African countries. (See page 61 on PAC)

Partnership, Networking and Experience Sharing

FAS brought representatives from the Mano River Region to the United Nations sessions of the CSW in New York and the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

- **23 March, Geneva, Switzerland:** FAS organised a panel entitled "Women and War in Africa, experiences, responses and implementation of 1325" in the margins of the 4th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and brought Mrs. Agnes Taylor-Lewis, a MARWOPNET representative, to the panel to share the experience and lessons learned by MARWOPNET.
- **2 March, New York, USA:** A panel titled: The Girl-Child within UN SCR 1325 and African Instruments.

In addition to the international partnerships, FAS has managed to link local NGOs within Africa. Through this networking, it has created a pool of women advocates in the sub region and will continue to further train women and men through its PAC. MARWOPNET has become an independent NGO, working to reach the grassroots. FAS has also linked MARWOPNET with Issis-Wicce from Uganda, who taught them skills in researching and documenting.

FAS' partnership with the Open Society for West Africa (OSIWA) resulted in the NGO funding the purchase of equipment for a Community radio station for the three countries which is now up and running.

Monitoring and Evaluation

FAS continued to monitor and evaluate the work of MARWOPNET.

Four consultants hired by FAS visited Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia in January 2006 to assess key peace and security concepts, impact assessment tools, a leadership bank and specific case studies. Part of their work was presented at the conference on "Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of women's experience", organized by FAS in Bamako, Mali in June 2006. The publication will be available soon.

Moreover, FAS continued to work with women from the Mano River Region in the preparation of the Civil Society Shadow Report that was presented during the two Pre-Summit Meetings (January and June).

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

One of the challenges faced by MARWOPNET is due to Guinea's method of work. Guinea places more emphasis on its national programmes as opposed to programmes meant for the region. From the onset, the network (MARWOPNET) was meant to work together for the region and not on national interests. This has resulted in problems in the operation of the network and consequently, MARWOPNET has had difficulties reaching the grassroots women.

FAS' challenge is therefore to work in collaboration with Guinea and include Cote d'Ivoire.

On the way forward, FAS recognises that MARWOPNET leaders will have to overcome the lack of coordination between the countries in order to improve the success of their programmes.



It is also imperative that MARWOPNET and FAS re-define their partnership so as to establish programmes to reach grassroots women.

Another priority area for FAS in the region remains its advocacy activities for UN SCR 1325, involvement in post-conflict reconstruction and women's economic empowerment.

1.2. Great Lakes Region

Background

FAS has been actively working in the Great Lakes region since 1997 to empower women and promote their participation in peace processes through advocacy and capacity-building measures. Its activities have focused on consolidating women's organizations at the national level in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with a view to mobilizing them to create a network in the sub-region that looks into cross-border issues impeding peace.

Overall objective

The primary objective of the Great Lakes region project is to develop a base of women leaders who can effectively participate in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and create a sub-regional platform on which a lasting programme can be built. Past programmes focused on the UN, AU and Great Lakes conferences. This year the project will be redirected towards the 3 countries.

Summary of activities:

1. **Establish a strong link between women from the sub region through the activities of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR)**

Background

FAS was given observer status to participate at the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (IC/GLR) where the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security and Development in the Great Lakes Region was unanimously adopted.

FAS also supported the participation of women from the three countries (Rwanda, Burundi and DRC). As a result of this conference, a Secretariat was established within the agreed framework at the Conference, hosted in Burundi and a Gender Focal Point person was recruited. FAS is currently liaising with the Focal Point.

a) Women Parliamentarians International Conference

This conference was attended by parliamentarians from eleven African countries: Angola, Burundi, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan and Zambia in Kigali, Rwanda on 22nd and 23rd February. It was held within the framework of the IC/GLR which was to bring peace and stability to the GLR as well as to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan Parliament.



The theme of the conference was entitled “Gender, National Building and Role of Parliamentarians” and it was hosted by H.E President Paul Kagame and the first Lady of Rwanda, Madam Jeannette Kagame. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf also attended. FAS took the opportunity of this meeting to strongly advocate for the creation of a National Action Plan (NAP) on the UN SCR 1325.



Ms. Mongella, President Kagame, Mrs. Blair and a delegation of FAS who attended the conference

The overall achievement of the Conference was sharing the best practices and experiences of Rwanda which has 50 per cent of women parliamentarians. It was an opportunity for countries such as Liberia to learn from Rwanda's success.

In addition, networks for Rwandan women's organisations, women of Africa and international institutions were created. It also demonstrated top leadership support for the appointment of women to high government positions as well as their involvement in peace building efforts.

b) Regional Meeting of Parliamentarians of the GLR

Following the covenant by the Heads of State in 2006, a Regional meeting of Parliamentarians of the GLR was held in DRC. The meeting was co-organised by the Secretariat of the International Conference on the GLR and AWEPA, with the technical support from the joint secretariat of the UN and AU and it took place from 26 to 28 February, 2007 in the Hall of the People of the DRC which is in Kinshasa.

FAS supported Ms Monica Kande, Gender advisor of the GLR to attend the two meetings.

2. Implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) on the Implementation of UN SCR 1325 in the GLR

Aware of the added value that women in Africa can bring to peace processes, FAS has been advocating for their inclusion in peace processes.

In the GLR, FAS has been working to empower women by using international human rights laws that endorse the rights of women and girls during and after conflict such as the UN SCR 1325.

This resolution urges UN Member States and the UN system to adopt gender equity, equality and mainstreaming in peace, security and development policies and plans.

Despite the general context of the region, emerging now from complex crisis and going through the difficult post-conflict and reconstruction phase, each country has demonstrated to be extremely receptive to the programme and keen to be involved in the activities.



In each of the three countries, the participation of major stakeholders at national level was ensured, thus guaranteeing the ownership as well as the general commitment to push forward the implementation of the programme. Civil society organizations as well as all the gender machineries and sectorial ministries were included in the debate and FAS made sure to facilitate the dialogue between all the different actors.

The programme is now well off in each of the three countries and we are foreseeing to accomplish the task of developing the National Action Plans within the programme deadline envisioned for 2009.

1. Rwanda



Dr Olumide Ajayi, Ms Bineta Diop, Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, H.E. Mr Paul Kagame during FAS Field in Kigali in February.

Pre Mission to Rwanda (22nd -23rd February): The pre mission, organised by FAS, took place in Kigali during the two-day Women Parliamentarians International Conference under the theme “Gender, Nation Building and the Role of Parliaments”. On this occasion, Mrs. Diop had the opportunity to meet with H.E. Gertude Mongella and H.E. Paul Kagame to launch the programme on NAPs on the implementation of the UN SCR 1325 in Rwanda.

Femmes Africa Solidarité

A follow up visit was organised in Kigali from 28th- 30th October at which Mrs. Diop and the Chair of FAS’ Board, Mrs. Marie-Louise Baricako participated. The aim was to set up the Steering Committee. Rwandan civil society and government officials attended the meeting.

A Steering Committee to supervise, monitor and support the development of the NAP on UN SCR 1325, will be established in 2008, in collaboration with FAS, government authorities and the local civil society organisations (CSOs).

2. Burundi

Pre Mission to Burundi (30 October-2 November): In this pre mission, Mrs Diop had a number of meetings with government representatives, civil society representatives and the African Union. The purpose of the mission was to offer support to the work of Burundi women and introduce the project on UN SCR 1325. A workshop was also held on the implementation of UN SCR 1325 and the development of a NAP.



Participants to the meeting in Bujumbura, 27th – 28th December



A Steering Committee was set up during a second mission (27-28 December) to supervise, monitor and support the development of a NAP on 1325, in collaboration with FAS. An MoU between the two parties is in preparation.

The Steering Committee included representatives from Burundian major stakeholders such as governments (Human Rights and Gender Ministry of Burundi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland), civil society (the Burundian Women's Associations and CAFOB), international agencies (UNDP, UNDEF and UNIFEM) and private sector.

3. Democratic Republic of Congo

Pre Mission to DRC (4 – 8 August): A first preparatory mission went to Kinshasa, DRC from 4th - 8th August.



Ms. Augusta Angelucci, UNDP; Ms. Marie Bapu, UNDP-DRC; Ms. Rosalie Lo, FAS Programme Officer; and Mrs. Bineta Diop, FAS Executive Director during the Preparation Phase of the Project of National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in DRC.

Mrs. Diop and FAS Programme Officer, Ms. Rosalie Lo, presented two projects: “Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the Democratic Republic of Congo”

and “National Action Plan on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325” in the Democratic Republic of Congo”. FAS’ representatives got the opportunity to meet with various actors involved in the project, including UNDP.

In terms of follow up activities, FAS organised a mission in Kinshasa which helped to gather the major Congolese stakeholders and assisted in the establishment of a DRC UN SCR 1325 Steering Committee. FAS’ previous work in DRC greatly contributed to the success of this second mission thanks to FAS’ strong relations with Congolese networks, parliamentarians and media.

Ms. Aminata M’bengue N’Diaye, Former Minister in charge of Gender and Women’s Affairs and former member of the PanAfrican Parliament, represented FAS and acted as a mediator for the mission.

DRC initially posed some challenges to the launching of the programme, mostly due to lack of a favourable environment for the bridging of Civil Society and the Government.

A FAS delegation will be in Kinshasa at the beginning of 2008 (18-19 February) to meet with women's representatives of all the regions, and the relevant authorities in order to set up the Steering Committee.

▪ Training workshops for women from the Great Lakes Region

FAS through its Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland undertook a day’s training course on the UN SCR 1325 on 25th June at Erata Hotel, Accra, Ghana.



The training was attended by various gender based professionals, researchers and women from governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Special attention was given to representatives from the Great Lakes, Mano River and Horn of Africa due to the post war situations in these areas. The goal of this training was to familiarise participants with the provisions of the resolution and to build the capacity of women in advocating for their rights and to contribute to the drafting and implementation of NAPs in accordance with the UN SCR 1325.

At the end of the training, the women agreed that there was need for strong lobbying and advocacy on the implementation of UN SCR 1325 in their countries.

There was need for an evaluation and monitoring mechanism for ensuring that implementation of the resolution was occurring in their countries and also ensure that there was a synergy between different international instruments.

A specific session on UN SCR 1325 was also carried out in collaboration with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG), during the 51st CSW in New York in March. The NGO Working Group shares the same belief as FAS: a peaceful future depends on the full participation of women in all decision making to prevent violent conflict and to protect women and girls.

Furthermore during the AU Pre-Summits, all members of the Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) constantly undergo an insightful exchange of best practices and lessons learnt to better calibrate the efforts to push forward the women's agenda.

Advocacy, Networking and Partnerships

During the 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March, FAS organised a panel on the implementation of a NAP on UN SCR 1325. National focal points and representatives of grassroots women's groups were given an opportunity to present their achievements and to assess progress made in their specific countries.

Moreover the outcomes of the specific panels were brought to the attention of the Ministries attending the CSW during the Ministries meeting thus increasing the lobbying power of the women of the Great Lakes region.

FAS, in New York, also participated in the Arria Formula Meetings. In October, along with advocacy work on Sudan, FAS specifically highlighted the case of DRC within the context of Women and Armed Conflict and tackling the sensitive issue of gender based violence.

Consultative Meetings on Gender Mainstreaming were organized on the margins of the AU Summits in Addis Ababa, in January and Accra in June.



These meetings have enhanced the advocacy capacity of women's groups and organizations within regional structures for monitoring the implementation of UN SCR 1325 by providing a space for dialogue and debate on advocacy, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the international tools for women's rights.

Moreover, it has provided opportunities for sharing the experiences of the different initiatives of African women's peace movements within the Great Lakes Region. The sharing of experiences also led to enhanced public awareness and political commitment to engendering peace processes in other regions of Africa; the transfer of information and knowledge and the identification of the activities of partner groups. A "Civil Society Shadow Report on SDGEA" was also released in January in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Consultative Meetings at the AU played an essential role in favouring the merging of the constituents of the SDGEA with those of UN SCR 1325 thus strengthening the international platform that advocates for and promotes the involvement of women and youth in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and the protection of their human rights. It is vital to establish a link between the SDGEA and UN SCR 1325 in areas with all the international and regional instruments, such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The women from Great Lakes Region are often brought to the various meetings of FAS at the international and regional level where they are expected to raise awareness about their plight as well as create new networks.

These meetings occur on the margins of the UN HRC sessions in Geneva, UN CSW in New York, and African Union. These meetings create an opportunity for advocacy which has sometimes resulted in UN sending missions to the affected countries.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

This year, FAS was not able to implement some of its programmes because the organisation faced political obstacles. Meetings were held and agreements made but when it came to actual implementation, some African governments had other priorities or there was a change of government as in Rwanda. This resulted in a delay in implementing programmes.

The other obstacle was the lack of adequate funding to effectively implement programmes; for example, the trainings on the NAP on the implementation of UN SCR 1325.

In the coming year, FAS will focus its programme on the three countries working towards the implementation of a Great Lakes initiative through a three year project on the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) on Resolution 1325 in the Great Lakes region.



1.3. The Horn of Africa

1. Women Leaders Mission to Chad (2 - 5 September)



Members of the Mission to Chad: From left to right: Mrs Diop, Ms Okonjo-Iweala, Ms Kidjo, French Foreign Minister Mr Kouchner, Ms Robinson, Ms Kanyoro and Ms Wales

From 2 to 5 September, Ms. Mary Robinson, with the support of Oxfam, led a delegation of eight women leaders from eight countries to Eastern Chad, with follow-up advocacy visits to Paris, Berlin and London from 5 to 7 September.

Included on the Eminent Women mission were Ms. Robinson, the former UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and the first woman to be elected President of Ireland; Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Nigeria's former Minister of Finance; Ms. Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, a Member of Somalia's transitional parliament, Chair of the Sixth Clan and founder of Save Somali Women and Children; Ms. Musimbi Kanyoro of Kenya, the General Secretary of the World YWCA; Ms. Angelique Kidjo from Benin UNICEF Good Will Ambassador; Ms. Herta Daubler-Gmelin, German Member of Parliament and former Minister of Justice;

Ms. Jane Wales, World Affairs Council CEO, former Senior Director of the National Security Council and Associate Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in the US; and Mrs. Bineta Diop, the Senegalese Founder and Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité

The mission heard testimonies directly from those affected by the conflict, particularly women, and met with the male and female chiefs of the refugee and internally displaced people's (IDPs) camps, representatives of the civil society, international organizations and those responsible for governing.

Women, who were victims of rape and gender-based violence in Darfur, spoke with the delegation about their experiences. They told tales of brutality, most had witnessed the murder of their husbands and children and then suffered gang rape. Those who were not widowed were divorced by their husbands because rape and adultery are considered to be the same under Sudanese law. These women were left to fend for themselves and make their way across the border, where some found their missing children. Others were less fortunate. They could not remarry and faced discrimination, even in the distribution of food. Their children were shunned from school.

The mission confirmed that in the absence of effective international action, a massive regional crisis would occur. The urgency of the matter made it imperative to plan for the peace negotiations. It was made clear that a comprehensive peace negotiation agenda is needed; women and women's interests be represented at the negotiating table if peace negotiations are to yield lasting results.



Having ascertained the needs of the refugees and the internally displaced, the delegation engaged in an advocacy campaign to convey their messages to those in decision-making roles in the international community, so that relevant and effective action would be taken. Follow-on tasks for the delegation were to brief the UN Secretary General, as well as Ministers of UN member states, on the imperatives of swiftly financing and assembling a UN/AU hybrid force to enforce a ceasefire in Sudan/Darfur while highlighting the responsibility to protect. FAS' specific objective was also to include a gender perspective in the peace negotiations and to raise the women's voices of Darfur.

Their advocacy campaign included direct dialogue with world leaders such as H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, the president of 'The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement', H.E. Mr. Bernard Kouchner, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. They also addressed regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations Security Council.

As a result of the advocacy efforts, the following happened:

- **7 September:** UN Secretary General announced the **opening of discussions on peace negotiations on Darfur**, in Tripoli, Libya, from October 27, with the participation of all the concerned parties.
- **23-27 September: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown** in his speech at the Labour Party Conference, talked about his commitment to the people of Darfur. He also said that he had sent a message directly to the government of Sudan: "Make progress or face tougher new sanctions".



will not rest until there is an end to the aerial bombings, a ceasefire, a lasting political settlement and justice for the women and children of Darfur”.

British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown

- **On 1st October:** Mrs Mary Robinson and Mrs Diop participated in the Arria Formula at the UN Security Council , the high level segment at the UN General Assembly, hosted by the French government and chaired by H.E. Mrs. Rama Yade, the French State Secretary for Human Rights. They addressed the Security Council on the situation of women in Chad and Darfur and advocated for the responsibility to protect
- **15th October:** European Union foreign ministers gave their final approval to deploy a 3,000-strong E.U. peacekeeping force to help refugees and the displaced along Darfur’s borders with Chad and the Central African Republic.
- **21-23 October:** The French Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights, Ms Rama Yade, went for a 2-day non diplomatic visit to Khartoum and El Fasher (North Darfur), where she met the Sudanese authorities and discussed the situation in Darfur and the implementation of the North/South peace agreement.
- There was a public acknowledgement by the French Ministry that the initiative had been taken after having received a delegation of women returning from Darfur conducted by Ms. Mary Robinson.
- **24th October:** As a result of the Arria Formula meeting, at a session of the Security Council, held on 23 October, in connection with the Council’s consideration of the item entitled “Women and peace and security”, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council. Among others, it stressed that “The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the full and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and recalls the relevant statements of its President as reiterating that commitment”.
- **December:** Following numerous requests made during the field visit, by several women's organisations and authorities, FAS submitted a Concept Note entitled '**Engendering the Peace Process in Darfur, Sudan**' to the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom for a programme to be launched in January 2008.



As a result of the mission, awareness was raised about the situation in Chad and Darfur, particularly of women and children. The Secretary General of the UN reacted by making a statement to reiterate the commitment to the implementation of UN SCR 1325. Moreover, thanks to the commitment of the EU, troops were put at the border between Chad and Darfur so that the belligerent would not cross to violate the women in the camps.

2. Training workshop for women from the Horn of Africa

Ms Aisha Hagi Elmi of SSWC represented the Horn of Africa in the training workshop on the implementation of UN SCR 1325 in Accra, Ghana.

The training familiarized participants with the provisions of the resolution and built the capacity of women to advocate for their rights and to contribute to the drafting and implementation of NAPs in accordance with the UNSCR 1325.

Ms. Elmi talked about the devastating war that had ravaged Somalia for the past 15 years. Although women were not involved in the peace process, they paid the highest price during war. She stated that women were not recognized as parties in peace building, and that she formed the 6th Clan to demonstrate that women had a right to take part. Women's participation in the peace process was not optional but rather functional and important.

She stated that UN SCR 1325 was not working in her country due to a lack of knowledge and commitment at the national level.

Despite the fact that it was a powerful instrument, most women were clueless about its existence and thus could not use it for advocacy. She finally stated that her only hope was the commitment of FAS in helping to educate the women on its existence and how it could help them.

At the end of the training, the women agreed that there was a need for strong lobbying and advocacy on the implementation of UN SCR 1325 in their countries.

There was a need for an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to ensure that the resolution was being implemented in their countries and also to ensure that there was synergy between different international instruments.



2. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Introduction

FAS' activities at the regional level are focused on programmes to mainstream gender, particularly in the structures and mechanisms of the African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Overall Objective

The overall objective of FAS' programme for mainstreaming gender in the AU is to mobilize and strengthen the capacity of women so that they can contribute to decision-making processes in peace and development and to ensure gender equality in the design and implementation of African programmes.

Summary of Activities

1. Pre-Summit Consultative meetings

The Pre Summits are coordinated through the "Gender is my Agenda Campaign" (GIMAC) and its 54 NGO members. The Pre Summits are also regular occasions for networking among NGOs and civil society representatives and a forum in which to strengthen the existing partnerships among the members of the GIMAC.

In organising the Pre-Summits and producing recommendations, the Gender is My Agenda Campaign highlights the importance of civil society in holding the AU accountable to its commitments in gender mainstreaming and the promotion of women's rights on the continent.

FAS advocates through African Foreign Ministers to have the recommendations presented at the AU Summit of the Heads of State and Governments.

25-27 January, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: FAS convened and organized with the GIMAC network and its partners the **9th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union**. The Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) gave a financial contribution and the African Union Gender Directorate (AUGD) and UNECA provided significant assistance to FAS for the organization of this Pre-Summit.

The purpose of the summit was to discuss and review with women's networks and organisations implementation of SDGEA as contained in the Civil Society Shadow Report on the SDGEA. The meeting had to discuss the reports produced by AU member states as well as the shortcomings on the implementation of SDGEA. Approximately 40 participants were present, drawn from CSOs, government representatives, funding and international organisations. All of the regions of Africa were represented.



Women attend the 9th AU Pre-Summit on Gender Mainstreaming, Saida Agrebi, Fatou Bensouda, Yetunde Teriba, Gertrude Mongella,



FAS and the network of the GIMAC also launched the “**Civil Society Shadow Report on States’ Implementation of the SDGEA**” during this 9th AU Pre-Summit Consultative meeting. The report was then presented at the AU Heads of State and Governments Summit and disseminated to a wider audience.

As a result of the meeting, the Addis Call for Solemn Implementation was adopted by all participants. An Open Letter was also adopted and subsequently tabled before the 8th meeting of AU Heads of State and Government Summit that took place 29-30th January.

23-24 June: FAS convened and organized together with its partner networks the **10th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting** in Accra, Ghana, in preparation for the 9th AU Heads of State and Governments Summit. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), OSIWA, the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), AU, among others, gave financial contribution and the AUGD and UNECA continuously provided significant assistance to FAS for the organization of this Pre-Summit.



10th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting. Ms. Yetunde Teriba, AU Commission, Mrs Bineta Diop, H.E. Minister Hajia Alima Mahama, Ms. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi and Ms. Emelang Leateane.

The objective of this meeting was to discuss and create strategies on how to incorporate gender into the then ongoing deliberations on the formation of the Government of the African Union, and to ensure that the gender element was addressed. An AU representative was invited to explain what had been done in this regard. The impact of this new government on women was also discussed.

The result was the “Accra Inputs” to the Grand Debate on the Union Government. This document included twelve recommendations to ensure that gender parity and women's rights were addressed in the AU consultations. Women's civil society networks urged the Assembly of Heads of State to include the gender parity principle in the Constitutive Act of the Union Government. They also advocated for the AU Summit to make women and gender issues its strategic area of focus.

In addition, the GIMAC included a resolution urging member states of the African Union to implement the SDGEA. The resolution also called on member states to ratify the Protocol to the Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. This resolution built on the work of the 9th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting where civil society groups presented the Civil Society Shadow Report on the progress made in the implementation of SDGEA.

Other activities undertaken at the two-day consultation included: an interactive session with AU Commissioners and Government Representatives; a review of the progress on the implementation of the SDGEA; and panel discussions, with the following results:

- Information on the SDGEA and the Union Government were disseminated
- Communication tools related to the Campaign were presented
- Networks were empowered



Advocacy

Both Pre-Summit Meetings in 2007 had significant outcomes. At the end of the 11th Pre Summit a Statement and List of Recommendations was written. The documents were used for advocacy purposes at the AU Heads of State and Government Summit on how women should be given the opportunity to play a more active role in the African Union Government.

2. Training on gender, peace keeping, conflict resolution -UN SCR 1325

Training on UN SCR 1325: FAS, through its Pan African Centre and with the generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, undertook a day's training course on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on 25th June at Erata Hotel, Accra, Ghana. The training course was attended by various gender experts, researchers and women from governmental and non-governmental institutions. The goal of this training was to familiarize participants with the provisions of the UN SCR 1325 and build the capacity of women in advocating for their rights and contribute to the drafting and implementation of National Action Plans in accordance with the UN SCR 1325. One of the issues that emerged during the training was the need to translate the resolution into local languages in order for grassroots women to understand it.

3. Partnership with AUGD, AUWC, UNECA, ECOSOCC, ACHPRS, NEPAD,

a) African Union (AU)

The overall objective of FAS' programme for mainstreaming gender in the AU is to mobilize and strengthen the capacity of women so they can contribute to decision-making processes in peace and development. It is also to ensure gender equality in the design and implementation of African programmes through gender balance and gender mainstreaming.

a) i) African Union Gender Directorate (AUGD)

FAS has been designated by the AUGD as the coordinator of the civil society dealing with the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). The organisation's main mandate is to monitor the adoption and implementation of the SDGEA by member States. FAS actively participates and gives well-researched contributions to the meetings for the production of the civil society shadow report on SDGEA.

2-4 April, Tunis, Tunisia: The AU Gender Directorate invited FAS to its meeting titled: "Regional Consultation: Strategies for accelerating Ratification of AU Protocol on Rights of Women across Northern Africa."

FAS also participated in the "Let's Strengthen Africa's place in the World through Strategic, Balanced and Responsible Partnerships" meeting organized by the **Permanent Delegation of the African Union in Geneva** on the 23rd May.



12-14 May, Accra, Ghana: FAS went to the NGO Forum organized on the margins of the 41st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights by the **African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights' Studies (ACDHRS)**. The ACDHRS, as Human Rights Focal Point for the 'Gender is My Agenda Campaign', set the agenda on peace and security issues. It was a good opportunity for FAS to prepare for the 10th Pre-Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in the African Union, due to occur in June

18-22 November: the high level peace and solidarity Pre-Mission sent to Côte d'Ivoire was planned by the AUGD and FAS following requests from Côte d'Ivoire's womens' associations and authorities, as well as from various associations from West Africa and the Mano River region working with ECOWAS. The main goal of the mission was to contribute and support women's participation in the conflict resolution and the democratization process for sustainable peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

The mission discovered the willingness of stakeholders to support women's involvement in the Ivorian peace process. The delegation recommended that it was important to develop advocacy with the authorities to ensure that women were more involved in the peace processes in the country, strengthen the mobilization of cohesive groups of civil society, and raise public awareness on gender issues. FAS is currently working on strategies to achieve these outcomes. (*See also page 9*)

a) ii) **African Union Women's Committee (AUWC)**

The advocacy work of women's organizations helped the Chairperson of the AU Commission set up the AUWC, for which the Executive Director of FAS is the Vice Chair. The AUWC is an advisory body to the AU and UNECA on issues relating to gender, peace, security, stability and development in Africa. It is mandated to conduct visits in war-torn areas as well as to revise States' reports on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA).

18-19 April, Addis Ababa: As Vice Chair, FAS attended the 2nd Meeting of the AUWC, whose agenda was to review the programme of the Gender Directorate and give advice on the Member States' Reports on the SDGEA.. The group discussed how to review the many reports from the member states of the AU and therefore contribute to the report of the AU chairperson to the Summit. This was done and the presentation by the AU chairperson contained recommendations from the AUWC. One of the recommendations stated that new strategies were needed to tackle gender issues in Africa such as missions to meet with Heads of States to speed up the implementation of SDGEA. The meeting also adopted strategies to speed up the implementation of the SDGEA

FAS got the opportunity to deepen its work with the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) of the AU by attending the "Conference on the Popularization and Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa:



The Role of Parliament” on 10-12 October in Addis Ababa. It provided FAS with the opportunity to share information with organizations which advocate for women’s rights, to design common campaigning strategies and to ensure the successful implementation of AU legal instruments.

b) UNECA

FAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ECA in September to work together on efforts to empower women and promote gender equality in Africa. One of the areas of cooperation is facilitating capacity-building aimed at supporting the full participation of women in decision-making processes in post conflict reconstruction efforts.

In this spirit of cooperation, several FAS activities, at regional and international levels, received technical support from UNECA. They hosted the 9th Pre Summit in Addis Ababa on their premises and the activities of the Selections Committee for the Gender Award.

The Executive Director of FAS was invited to act as an Observer during the **UNECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance** from 29th March to 3rd April.

FAS sent a representative to contribute to the First Advisory Panel Meeting of the African Women’s Rights Observatory on the 20th and 21st April, both in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

14-28 November: 42nd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human Rights, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. FAS is always invited as an observer in recognition of its contribution to gender mainstreaming in Africa.

The objective of the meeting was so that the civil society could have a common stand on human rights in Africa.

This report was to be sent to the Commission. FAS' coordinator of the Pan African Centre, Ms Aminata Ndiaye, was chairperson of one of the panels discussing human rights. She shared with the group FAS' work on peace building and experiences on gender based violence.

c) ECOSOCC

The ECOSOCC is a consultative body composed of representatives from different social and professional groups of AU Member States. Its primary purpose is to ensure the participation of African civil society in the AU policy process. The membership of the Council also reflects its core principle of gender equality.

On October 31, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: FAS was elected to the General Assembly of the AU Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). In total, 150 civil society organisations, working at the national, regional and continental level, and within the African Diaspora, are supposed to be elected to the General Assembly. FAS ran as a candidate during elections for continental civil society organisations.

The election was an important victory for FAS and its network. Participating in the ECOSOCC will ensure that the voices of women, particularly those from the conflict zones in which FAS works, will be brought to the African Union level. Women can thus access the AU and contribute their input to continental-level policymaking.

15-16 October, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: FAS attended the African Diaspora Regional Consultative Conference that was held in the Headquarters of the AU. The Conference was the last in the series of Regional Consultative Conferences held in various regions of the world where there was a large concentration of African Diaspora.



The objective of the Addis Ababa Consultation was to discuss the outcome of the regional consultations as well as articulate the continental position regarding major issues concerning the continent and its Diaspora. The outcome of all the consultations served as inputs into the Experts and Ministerial meetings held in South Africa from 14-18 November and the Africa-Diaspora Summit planned for early 2008 as well as for the African Gender Forum, that was held in December 2007.

d) African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)

The Centre is a pan-African non-governmental organization created independently in the Gambia in 1989. Its main function is the promotion and protection of human rights and democracy in Africa through training, networking, action research, publication and documentation.

The Forum for NGO participation in Ordinary Sessions of the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights** (ACHPR) is one of the advocacy tools used by the Centre to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa in collaboration with its partners. FAS has observer status with ACHPR and it is responsible for organising the participation of civil society for each session. FAS has built fruitful collaborations with the ACHPR in designing policies and in the implementation of programmes relating to women's human rights and women's participation in Africa's peace and development agenda.

Between the 10-12 November, the ACHPR held a meeting entitled 'Forum on the participation of NGOs' in Congo, Brazzaville, which FAS attended.

e) New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD)

FAS works to advocate for gender mainstreaming within NEPAD which includes some International Development Goals that explicitly relate to African women. The organisation has been designated by the NEPAD Gender Unit to be the Focal Point for peace and security in the Gender Task Force, established by NEPAD.

2007 allowed FAS and its partners to develop a gender mainstreaming strategy as well as compile, publish and disseminate reports.

22-23 May, Berlin, Germany: FAS contributed to the 8th Meeting of the African Partnership Forum (APF), organized by NEPAD. More than 200 high level representatives from Africa, G8 and OECD countries met to discuss four key issues affecting Africa i.e. climate change, the need to invest in Africa, the key role of peace and security for development and the necessity to put women and girls on the African agenda, ahead of the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm from the 6th to the 8th June.

20-21 June, New York: FAS' office in New York participated in an internal meeting of the Chief Executive Board (CEB) to discuss their report which was an assessment of the Secretary-General's report on United Nations system support for the NEPAD introduced by the Director of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA).



The result of this meeting was that the CEB highlighted the importance of supporting African economic development by supporting NEPAD and underscored this initiative in their own coordination report.

Thus, their report is effective in drawing attention to African needs for development and economic progress and meeting those needs.

15-18 October, Johannesburg: FAS participated in the NEPAD Gender Task Force Meeting. An in-depth gender analysis has been commissioned by the NEPAD Secretariat to pull out key gender issues and identify the gender gaps and challenges highlighted in the Country Reports.

4. Gender Evaluation Study

FAS hired two consultants to carry out research for a ten year study which seeks to document the contribution of women in six different countries and two of Africa's sub-regions in terms of their life experiences and their contribution to ending conflicts in their individual countries. Dr. Olumide Ajayi, Deputy Director of the Africa Leadership Forum, Nigeria and Dr. Monica Juma, Executive Director, Africa Policy Institute, are to document lived experience, lessons learned and emerging best practices that show how the African Women's Movement, FAS and members of the 'Gender is my Agenda Campaign' Network have progressively used the favourable environment created by the transformation of the OAU to AU for the achievement of legally binding instruments for gender equity and equality and mainstreaming by all AU member states, the AU, its organs and programmes particularly NEPAD.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

FAS' lack of a constant source of funding is its biggest constraint. This leads to difficulties in the recruitment of human resources. In order to try and solve this issue, unpaid interns are recruited.

Although this keeps the organisation in working order it is not a sustainable solution. Unfortunately, the situation is not any better in its partner organisations of AUGD, ECA, and NEPAD. This financial constraint also affects FAS' ability to implement some of its programmes.

Additionally there is a problem of creating linkages with the Peace and Security unit in the AU. How can we work more effectively with the various commissions of the AU? FAS also struggles to ensure grassroots women's participation from its network in its regional programmes.

Despite FAS' challenges it has succeeded in implementing some of its planned activities at the regional level.



3. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Background

FAS' international advocacy programme has targeted five mechanisms to work with in advocating for women's rights at international fora. These mechanisms are the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW), the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee, UN Security Council and UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The networks that FAS works through, to promote its advocacy at the UN CSW and UN HRC, are the working groups in Geneva and New York.

At each of these organisations, FAS' activities have focussed on facilitating the participation of African women from conflict areas. It has also partnered with the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues (OSAGI) and United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) in New York on various projects. This participation takes the form of advocacy through reading out statements about the women's plight, having meetings with foreign government and non governmental leaders and meeting representatives of the UN tasked with bringing peace to the respective conflict areas.

FAS also builds the leadership skills of African women by carrying out trainings on the different pertinent instruments of the UN, such as CEDAW and UN SCR 1325.

The idea is that the women should understand what the instruments have to offer and how they can use them to fight for their rights in their respective countries.

Summary of Activities

1. UN Human Rights Council

During 2007, FAS attended the different sessions of the **Human Rights Council** to monitor and advocate for the implementation of international mechanisms on women's rights and mobilize support for African women's peace initiatives. At the HRC, the mechanism that the organisation is working closely with to promote its activities is the Working Group on Peace of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (Geneva). FAS is currently co-chair of this Working Group on Peace with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). FAS attended several meetings during 2007 in which common strategies for a better impact at the UN were discussed. FAS also works with the Gender Advisor in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the special rapporteurs and specific rapporteur on countries.



a) 4th Session of the Human Rights Council in March

The session was an opportunity to raise awareness on the situation of women in Darfur and also create links between women from Sudan, Burundi and Sierra Leone with women and stakeholders at the regional and international level.

FAS also took the opportunity to lobby for the inclusion of a reference on gender-based violence in the HRC resolution. On Friday 30th March, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus **a Resolution including a reference to gender based violence** among human rights violations occurring in Darfur.

FAS also organized a panel during the session titled: Women and War in Africa: Experiences, Responses and Implementation of UN SCR 1325. Sixty-five people including 22 men attended the panel.



FAS Panel, from left to right: Ms. Safaa Elagib Adam, Sudan; Ms. Yakin Ertürk, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on Violence against Women; Mrs. Bineta Diop, FAS' Executive Director; and Ms. Agnes Taylor Lewis, Marwopnet.

During this panel FAS shared its best practices on women in conflict resolution and on women's approaches to dealing with gender based violence; lobbied to include the implementation of UN SCR 1325 as a guideline to gender mainstreaming in conflict resolution and capacity building; lobbied for the establishment of National Action Plans for the Implementation of 1325; raised awareness on the women's situation in Darfur; and gave examples of successful projects supported by FAS (Mano River Women Peace network). The panel also discussed how a link can be created between the Special Rapporteur of the UN HRC on Violence Against Women, Ms Yakin Ertürk and grassroots women.

The intervention of the Sudanese Government was unexpected and very relevant in the debate. It was the first time the Government of Sudan participated actively expressing their position in a side event organized by an NGO. The Chairperson, Mrs Diop, expressed the need to establish dialogue with the Sudanese Government to ensure the protection of the civilian population in Darfur and acknowledged that the participation of the Sudanese Representative to a FAS panel constituted in itself recognition that women's conditions in Darfur needed to be discussed.

Such participation represented one of the first steps that the Sudanese Government undertook during the Human Rights Council to open a certain margin of dialogue with the international community.



The combination of international and national NGOs pressure, and the negotiations carried out by Germany on behalf of the European Union with the African Union Group ended up in the adoption of the HRC resolution on Darfur, which included some of the issues that had been at the core of NGOs lobbying work.

b) 5th Session of the Human Rights Council, 11-18 June

FAS read out a statement urging the council to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the report on the situation of human rights in Darfur. It was also an opportunity for FAS to meet with its key partner countries (UK, Finland, Norway, Germany, Spain and Senegal).



FAS' Geneva Coordinator, Roberta Méan, reading a statement on human rights violations in Darfur at the HRC, June

c) 6th Session of the Human Rights Council, 18-28 September

With the aim of finding a way to integrate gender into all of the Council's mechanisms, special procedures and work, FAS organised a discussion on gender integration.

On the situation of human rights in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, FAS sought to bring more awareness to the Council about the human rights violations still occurring in the three countries. FAS also urged for women to be included in the peace process at the negotiating table.

As a result of the discussions on gender integration, Chile took on the responsibility of drafting a resolution. FAS, along with other NGOs, contributed recommendations to be used in the resolution on gender integration.

d) HRC Briefing in New York, 8 August

FAS organized a HRC Briefing in New York: "Human Rights for 'We the Peoples': What Should We Expect from the Human Rights Council". The objective of this briefing was to present the work of the HRC and expectations of it as was done in Geneva, Switzerland from 29-30 July to the United Nations and related agencies, NGOs, and civil society partners in New York. FAS' objective was to ascertain what the Human Rights Council does in establishing and monitoring the human rights of the women and girls of Africa.



2. UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York

The office of FAS in New York takes advantage of this event to highlight the challenges faced by women living in conflict zones.

FAS collaborates with African Women's Caucus and NGO Group on the Status of Women to raise awareness on these challenges.

At the fifty-first session of the CSW, which took place from **26 February to 9 March**, FAS sponsored the participation of women representatives from Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The women were able to share experiences and influence what was happening in the Commission with the government ministers. More than 30 people attended the discussions.

FAS organized four panels and participated in two. The FAS panel discussions helped to shed light on the importance of UN SCR 1325, and how it is implemented in the National Action Plans of African countries. The discussions centred around the resolution's enforcement through the education of individuals, banning of violence against girls and women, creation of partnerships with other women's NGOs, civil society organizations, foundations, governments, UN agencies, academics and private individuals to raise awareness on the status of girls and women in Africa.

At the end of the discussions, it was agreed that more shadow reports should be made and distributed at international fora such as the UN HRC and UN CSW. Another agreement was that agencies and individuals within their respective countries should evaluate how their respective countries were progressing in implementing this resolution.

Femmes Africa Solidarité

3. UN Security Council

In 2000, the Security Council passed the UN SCR 1325 which seeks to recognise that women are not only victims of war, but also active agents in peace building.

This is one instrument that FAS uses to engender peace processes in Africa. A number of training workshops are held to sensitise women on the importance of this resolution and how they can use it to fight for participation in peace building processes in their countries.

NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (New York)

FAS is a member of this Working Group which provides information on UN SCR 1325. This is an independent group composed of more than 100 NGOs. It works to promote advocacy on UN SCR 1325. It was formed in May 2000 to advocate for a UN Security Council Resolution on women, peace and security which was later adopted.

23 October, New York, the UN Secretariat organized a Ghana Open Debate for UN SCR 1325. This was at the occasion of the commemoration of the anniversary of UN SCR 1325. The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security made a statement to the Security Council encouraging the further implementation of Resolution 1325.



25 October, New York, a meeting was organised where the following organisations attended: FAS, Youth Federation for World Peace, Women's Federation for World Peace International, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), David Kennedy Center, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Worldwide Organization for Women, International Council of Women and CONGO. During this meeting Mrs. Diop, FAS' Executive Director, presented the report of the high-level mission to the refugee camps in Chad/Darfur (*see Regional Activities, part 1.3*)

Women Leaders Mission to Chad (2 - 5 September): Ms Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and former Ireland President, led a group of eight eminent women including Mrs Diop, on a mission to Chad to collect find hand information on the effects of the war between Chad and Sudan.

The findings of the group were to influence the Security Council on its decision regarding the conflict. (*See Regional activities , part 1.3: The Horn of Africa, page 17*).

Arria Formula: It allows for informal meetings to be held outside the official chambers of the UN Security Council. Since 2000 certain NGOs (such as FAS) and UN members states have been allowed to participate. Last year, Ms Diop made an intervention asking that UN SCR 1325 is fully integrated into the work of the Security Council and of the UN in general. It was her hope that in implementing the recommendations contained in UN SCR, women affected by armed conflict everywhere would finally have a say in their country's peace building process, and that their involvement would, in turn, contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

She also asked that the Security Council also consider establishing a permanent and comprehensive monitoring mechanism. This would no doubt render more effective the Council's contribution to the prevention and redress of violence against women in armed conflict.

Mrs Diop further urged the Security Council to establish focal points and an expert-level working group on women, peace and security, so that UN SCR 1325 could be systematically integrated into its work. She said it would greatly benefit women in conflict if the principles of UN SCR 1325 were included in all Security Council resolutions, its missions and the mission reports. She also asked that the United Nations have a mechanism in place to ensure the inclusion of representatives of women and women's groups engaged in peacemaking and peace building at all peace negotiations and processes.

4. CEDAW Committee

This treaty is described as an international bill for rights of women. This is within the scope of FAS' objective which strives to build the capacity of women so that they can participate in decision making processes, including peace negotiations, within their countries.

FAS attended a conference on **23 July in New York** in order to obtain information about the successes and challenges that CEDAW had encountered since its inception 25 years ago. The meeting also discussed the moving of CEDAW from the CSW in New York to the HRC in Geneva.



On **8 August** another meeting was held by CEDAW. The objective of this briefing was for CEDAW to put forward their request for extending their meeting time to three sessions lasting a total three weeks per year on a permanent basis. FAS' objective during this meeting was to assess how CEDAW's extra meeting time would benefit the women of Africa.

5. UN ECOSOC

This agency assists the UN General Assembly to promote international, economic, social cooperation and development. Its functions include information gathering, advising member states and making recommendations. It is through these functions that FAS became accredited with ECOSOC and provides input on the violation of women's rights in conflict areas.

To this end, FAS participated in the Conference of Nongovernmental Organisations (CONGO) civil society conference and helped to prepare a civil society contribution to the ECOSOC high level panel. The organisation shared its experience and had discussions on peace and security, with particular focus on UN SCR 1325.

6. Other mechanisms

a) United Nations Peace-building Commission

The establishment of the UN Peace-building Commission in 2005 is of great importance for FAS' New York office in its gender mainstreaming work. This is particularly so with the Commission's selection of Sierra Leone and Burundi as its two first cases.

These are two countries in which FAS has worked for many years. The organisation attended the five meetings of the UN Peace-building Commission to link with its work in Sierra Leone and Burundi. FAS' representative in NY attended these meetings.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

The major constraint of this advocacy programme at international fora is the lack of funds to bring African women to attend the sessions. The benefits may not be clearly visible to partners but when these women present their statements and have meetings with foreign governmental and international agency officials, their impact is felt in steps that the UN takes in order to help bring peace to their conflict countries as has been shown above.

Another constraint is the lack of follow up mechanisms on the implementation of UN SCR 1325. This means that women in African countries are not benefiting from what is envisaged in this resolution.



IV. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING

Thanks to the support received from the Government of the Netherlands and other parties, FAS has been able to build its capacity by opening a Liaison Office in New York, a Regional Office in Dakar and has established the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development. The organisation has also created support portfolios in these three offices and managed to create a network of members, consultants and resource persons that are called upon from time to time to assist in its work.

1. ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

FAS' advocacy programme centres around International and African networks. On the International front, FAS works with the United Nations in New York through the CSW and in Geneva through the Human Rights Council. In Africa, FAS works with the African Union (AU) at the continental level. FAS' advocacy tools are the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (1995), UN SCR 1325 (2000), CEDAW (1979) and the AU's Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003).

FAS has made it a priority to build the capacity of both its members and women on the ground in Africa on a sub-regional, regional, and international level. The organisation has trained women as advocates, enabling them to influence policies and programs on conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well as peace-building.

The group of leaders in the Mano River and Great Lakes regions serves as a highly skilled pool of women who are trained as negotiators and mediators.

Their expertise is drawn upon to advance the women's peace agenda on the continent, as well as to influence decision-making structures at national and regional levels in regard to issues such as conflict prevention, disarmament and demobilization.

FAS conducts training workshops specifically adapted to the needs of grassroots women in the areas of reconciliation, civic education, conflict resolution, negotiation and leadership. In addition, it develops advocacy platforms and favours the creation of new local African networks and partnerships in these different programme areas.

With the establishment of the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development, FAS facilitates workshops on post-conflict issues including gender and peace-building; leadership and governance; and economic empowerment of women and development.



2. PARTNERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

Former presidential candidate in the French elections, Ségolène Royal, said the following about FAS after the organisation wrote encouraging her for having the strength to contest.

*"I warmly thank your organization Femmes Africa Solidarite, for your encouragement. ..., my belief is that the development of 'Africa depends on women's participation'. They have energy, they have the tenacity, they carry 80% of agricultural work, but have access to only 5% of bank credits."
May 2007*



Background

FAS continually strives to build partnerships and links with all stakeholders, including grassroots organizations, policy makers and implementers within governments, regional bodies, United Nations agencies and the private sector (see the list of partners of the African Gender Forum and Award, part 5). By doing so, FAS develops or reinforces initiatives related to gender, development, peace-building, post-conflict reconstruction and building of democratic institutions.

With all these partners FAS has been able to work around a common agenda to maximize resources, new opportunities for future programmes and avoid duplication in the implementation of programme, as well as to facilitate the sharing of best practices. The Partnership and Fundraising function in the Geneva office conducts research and locates possible partners in support of activities carried out by the Dakar Office.

In addition to the existing partnerships, FAS has also worked to enable partnerships with DFID, the government of Portugal, the government of Italy, UNDEF and UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA). FAS also supported various representatives from the field to attend international conferences and events related to gender, peace and security, allowing for experience-sharing and visibility.

The partners with which FAS has worked in 2007 include the AU, ECA, NEPAD, the Governments of Senegal, Mali, DRC, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Netherlands, Finland, UNDP, UPEACE, UNDEF, OSIWA, The Global Fund for Women, AWDF, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), International Organization for Migrations (IOM), as well as different partners from the private sector such as the Diasporan Touch and South African Airways.



Summary of Activities

a) United Nations Bodies (UNDEF, UNDP, UPEACE, UNECA, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNOWA)

FAS seized the opportunity to strengthen its relations with the **University for Peace (UPEACE) during the University for Peace Consultative Meeting 26-29 March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. A representative from FAS made a presentation on the FAS' PanAfrican Centre on Gender, Peace and Development.

As a result, the two are in the process of creating a Master of Arts in Gender and Peace-building within the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development. The two main partners for this programme will be the University for Peace based in San José, Costa Rica and the University Cheikh Anta Diop based in Dakar, Senegal.

In addition to its long-term collaboration with UPEACE, UNECA and UNIFEM, FAS initiated relations with the **UNOWA** by participating in the meetings organized on 27th April in Dakar on UN SCR 1325. NGOs and different UN bodies were invited to discuss the opening of the Regional Office for Human Rights in West Africa. FAS also had the pleasure to attend a meeting organized by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** on its African Programmes.

Another positive development for FAS' partnership programme was the signing of a contract between FAS and the newly established United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) for FAS' project on **“Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the DRC”**.

UNDEF supports democratization throughout the world by financing projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure participatory democratic processes. The two year project seeks to build the capacity of women in the DRC in order to ensure their participation in decision-making processes and the protection of their full rights.

b) UN OCHA Symposium + 5 Information for Humanitarian Action 22-26 October

The conference aimed to explore the role that information plays in responding to humanitarian crises. The humanitarian environment has changed dramatically in recent years, particularly the nature of humanitarian crises, and the growing frequency of natural disasters. Information management is central to effective humanitarian response, but recent emergencies have demonstrated that information is now more important than ever for the coordination, advocacy and evidence-based decision-making.



Panellists (from left to right) David Nabarro (UN System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza), Mrs Diop, and David Shearer (UN Deputy Special Representative for Iraq) discuss the realities of humanitarian intervention.



In adding her voice to the OCHA symposium + 5, FAS' Executive Director, Mrs Diop, re-emphasized the importance of a gender-based approach to all humanitarian responses in situations of violent conflict. Women form a majority of the civilian non-combatant population and the responses coordinated by OCHA must ensure that they take their needs into consideration. FAS shall continue working with OCHA to ensure that these responses are well informed and timely from a gender perspective.

c) AWDF

AWDF is the first Africa-wide grant-making organization set up to provide grants to African women's organizations across the continent. This organisation has partnered with FAS on various activities.

In November 2006, AWDF received a lead gift towards the Endowment Campaign from The Ford Foundation in the USA. AWDF launched an endowment campaign on November 2007, as a major step towards its own sustainability and that of the numerous women's organizations who benefit from AWDF's support. This launching was presided by an African Feminist Resource Mobilization Strategy Meeting. FAS attended and contributed to both events.

d) Government of Finland

In December 2006, FAS signed a contract with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Finnish Government** for funding on FAS' project on "National Action Plan on the Implementation of UN SCR 1325 in Burundi, Rwanda and DRC".



Mrs Diop signing a contract with the Ambassador of Finland in Geneva, Mr Vesa Himanen.

As part of FAS' regional programme in the Great Lakes region, the project started at the beginning of this year for a period of three years with the aim of realizing women's full legal and human rights in peace and security. FAS' project was one of 6 selected for funding out of a total of 26 applications.

Following the grant, FAS is planning to launch in the first half of 2008 two additional 'National Action Plans on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325' in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

e) Government of Spain

The Government of Spain has been supporting FAS in a number of activities.

7 March: The government of Spain organised the "2nd Meeting of Women for a Better Future" which was attended by more than 250 African women from 41 African countries, including the President of Liberia, ministers, parliamentarians, business women, women from civil society, as well as their counterparts from the Spanish government.



During the meeting the Spanish government asked FAS to extend the target in the project for Training & Mentoring Program for Women-led Businesses from the selected countries to include the Great Lakes Region as well as Mano River region.



Mrs Diop signing the MoU with Ms Christina Jazz of the Spanish Government

After this meeting, Mrs Diop and the Spanish Cooperation Agency (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI))'s Department of Cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the project: Training & Mentoring Programme for Women-led Businesses in six selected countries: Liberia, Rwanda, DRC, Senegal, Mozambique and South Africa.

The meeting was also an opportunity for Mrs Diop to update the government of Spain on FAS' activities and request for support on specific projects such as the Liberia Colloquium and also the African Gender Award and Gender Forum that was held in Dakar, Senegal in December with the theme "Gender and Migration".

f) Government of Italy

The Italian government showed interest in Development and Migration giving a special priority to Africa. The government said it would promote African development through projects and funding on a bilateral basis. On this basis, cooperation between FAS and the Italian government was initiated based on the 2007 Africa Gender Forum and Award, which focused on the link between Gender and Migration. The Forum discussed the potential contribution of the migrants, considered as Diaspora, by building solid partnerships with the African women, for development of their continent.

Italy gave financial support for the forum, and helped to create alliances being enjoyed by FAS networking with local Civil Society Organizations in Italy.

g) DFID

Following the visit of Mrs Diop to London where she had meetings with Oxfam and attended the Labour party conference, FAS developed a partnership with DFID on the project: Engendering the Peace Process in Darfur, Sudan.

Among the planned activities, FAS are planning a mission to map women's initiatives and organize the 1st African Women's Consultation on Darfur followed by advocacy work at the international level.



h) International Organization for Migrations (IOM)

Since the African Gender Forum and Award 2007 focussed on the issue of gender and migration, in June FAS attended a conference on “African Diasporas, Migration and Economic Development” organized by the African Youth Foundation and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Moreover, FAS acquired the **Observer Status with IOM** in November and benefited from IOM’s financial contribution and expertise for the organisation of the African Gender Forum and Award (AGFA) in December. As FAS’ main partner, IOM seized the opportunity of such an event to launch a Database on Migration, the first of its kind, initiated in partnership with FAS and the UK-based organisation Africa Recruit.

i) European Development Days / Government of Portugal

In early November, FAS attended the two-day European Development Days Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. This event attempted to enhance public awareness about development cooperation and to strengthen the effectiveness of EU development assistance by bringing together all actors from Europe involved in development to share thoughts on how to improve ideas, working methods and delivery. FAS Executive Director contributed to the Round table dealing with ‘Poverty, Human Settlements and Migration - Promoting a human-centred and holistic approach’.

On this occasion, FAS established contact with the Portuguese Development Support Institute (IPAD) which later provided funds to support the 2nd African Gender Forum and Award. We hope this partnership will be strengthened over the next few months.

j) International Women Leaders Global Security Initiative

The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnyslands in partnership with the Council of Women World Leaders, The White House project and the Women Leaders Intercultural Forum launched the International Women Leaders Global Security Initiative in October 2006.

On **November 15-17, in New York**, the International Women Leaders Global Security Initiative held a summit, which was attended by women leaders from over 30 countries to discuss critical issues such as protecting civilians in conflicts, terrorism, climate change and economic insecurity. The event was the largest ever gathering in the US of women leaders on security. H.E. Mary Robinson, President of Ireland (1990-97) and Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, Prime Minister of Canada (1993) hosted the event.

The Members of the Summit community are working to incorporate the goals and objectives of the Summit into their current work, pursue the commitments they have already made and continue to make new commitments.



Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

Ongoing constraints faced by FAS in partnership include long-term commitments to provide the resources for programmes. In this regard, FAS welcomed the three year project, which is being supported by the Government of Finland, and the two year project, funded by UNDEF.

Nonetheless, more funding is required to strengthen the projects and the institution to ensure sustainability.



3. NETWORKING AND OUTREACH

Background

The third objective of FAS' Institutional Building, as laid out in the project proposal, is to develop strong networking relations with civil society organizations. FAS has involved itself in many networking efforts in order to collaborate with groups having similar projects so as to avoid overlapping. In the process, FAS has created a number of networks in Africa: The Mano River network (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea); Great Lakes Region (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda) and at international level, the two Working Groups on Peace and Security in Geneva and in New York.

As illustrated by the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC) experience with mainstreaming gender in the AU, the collaboration of women and other organizations on a continual basis is essential. The Networking officer in Geneva works closely with these networks on various activities to be undertaken together regarding a common ground basis. These activities are realised with a view to support the programme activities in Dakar.

Summary of Activities

a) The African Women's Foresight Group

The African Women's Foresight Group is comprised of women who want to use their position and influence in various platforms to open the space for the participation of more African women.

It includes Liberian President H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, H.E. Ms Graça Machel and Ms. Wangari Maathai among others. The group was established in 2006. FAS among other organizations played significant roles in developing and agreeing on the constitution of the group. The Foresight Group is still in its early stages of development. FAS took the advantage of having women around Africa to organise and coordinate the first meeting of the Foresight Group.

The aim of the Foresight Group is to ensure that the faces and voices of dynamic African women are increased and amplified. The group hopes to do this by:

- Recommending women to serve in positions in African institutions as well as International bodies
- Supporting and 'accompanying' women serving in key positions in continental (AU/NEPAD or regional economic communities) and International organisations (e.g. World Bank, UN agencies) – this could be moral or financial support and/or access to contacts and platforms



7 March, Madrid, Spain: There was a meeting of the members of the Foresight Group, at the Sofitel Hotel. In attendance: H.E. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Ms. Wangari Maathai, H.E. Graça Machel, Mrs Bineta Diop.

b) Conference of Non Governmental Organizations (CONGO)

The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) in Consultative Status with the United Nations is an independent, international, not-for-profit membership association of NGOs that facilitates the participation of NGOs in United Nations debates and decisions. FAS is both a member of CONGO and one of its substantive Committees: Committee on the Status of Women (CSW).

23-25 March, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: FAS attended the “African Civil Society Forum: Democratizing Governance at Regional and Global Level to achieve the MDG’s”. There were over 250 participants representing over 150 NGOs/CSOs from 32 countries of the 5 African Regions and 4 from other regions of the world. The forum was convened by CONGO, the African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) in cooperation with the UNECA and the AU. One of the objectives of the Forum was to establish an independent space to give African civil society a larger voice at both regional and global levels. Gender perspectives in the MDGs were discussed.

The importance of upholding human rights was also emphasised. African states were urged to strengthen human rights education including at the grassroots level. African regional institutions were encouraged to include a mechanism to deal specifically with human rights and to take a more active role at the Human Rights Council.

28-30 June: CONGO and its UN partners organised the Civil Society Development Forum (CSDF) – in which more than 500 people from intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental circles participated. The Forum received significant support from the Swiss and Geneva authorities. The forum had two goals: to strengthen efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth and to strengthen efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger including through global partnerships for development.

7 December: FAS was elected Vice President of the CONGO. It will serve on the Board for three years. The Board oversees the work of CONGO between sessions of the CONGO General Assembly.

c) African Democracy Forum (ADF)

23-25 April: the African Democracy Forum held a “Regional Conference on Women’s Political Participation” in Monrovia, Liberia. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf presided over this conference which had the objectives of facilitating discussions between civil society, political parties and promoting democracy in Africa while ensuring that women participate.



The main aims of this conference were to: assist women to participate effectively in the election process, prepare to become civil servants and balance their professional and family lives.

FAS was invited to participate in this conference because of its expert knowledge on peace, security and on how to include women in the peace building process in African conflicts.

FAS' experience in the countries of the Mano River, especially in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, and in the Great Lakes region with Burundi, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was highlighted during the discussions. President Sirleaf of Liberia commended the work of FAS.

As a network on governance, human rights and democracy, ADF is currently conducting a campaign throughout Africa to set up a platform of organizations working for the integration of women in politics.

d) International Committee of the Red Cross

FAS has reinforced its collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Executive Director of FAS is a member of the Group of International Advisors of the ICRC. In this capacity, she attends meetings of the ICRC, including the Meeting of ICRC International Group of Advisers, which took place in March (7th meeting) and in August (8th meeting) in Leysin, Switzerland.

During the 7th meeting, the issues dealt with were the environmental degradation as a factor of violence, the evolution of international relations and the situations of violence throughout 2007, the conflicts' evolution and regional trends in the Middle East as well as the Human Rights Council.

On the occasion of the 8th meeting, the ICRC International Group of Advisors addressed the following topics: the main developments and activities of the ICRC since the previous meeting; the role of religious factors in today's

world, their impact on international relations and on humanitarian action; cluster munitions and the impact of conflicts on the environment.

These meetings enable FAS to share its experiences of African Women's initiatives for peace at the international level and keep abreast of peace and security humanitarian trends. Its membership of the Group of International Advisors has also facilitated its involvement in other humanitarian networks, including the CAUX Foundation and the Maurice de Madre French Fund. The ICRC is a strong networking partner, and is playing a role in the project of FAS' Panafrikan Centre for Gender, Peace and Development as it has, among others, offered books for the library of the Centre and provided lessons on humanitarian law.

FAS participated at the Official Day of CAUX in July, and met with the representatives of Maurice de Madre French Fund in May, in order to have an overview of the projects planned for this year.



e) Action Aid International

20 September, New York, USA: Action Aid, Global Action on Aging and International Women's Tribune Center (IWTC) organized a forum called "A Field of One's Own: A Forum on Women's Rights to Land and Natural Resources".

The speakers at the forum highlighted the necessity of women's rights in ownership and retaining of their land and natural resources. FAS' objective for attending this forum was to assess the situation of women's rights to land and natural resource ownership in the case of Africa.

f) Global Forum on Migration and Development and Migrants Rights International

9-11 July, Brussels: FAS attended the Global Forum on Migration and Development on the NGO day and the "Global Community Dialogue on Migration, Development and Human Rights" initiated by Migrants Rights International (MRI), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and the Commission Internationale Catholique pour les Migrations (CICM).

This was in order to gather information and present the meeting's outcomes to the participants of the African Gender Forum and Award; and look for potential speakers from the African Diaspora and to invite the participants to attend the Forum in Dakar.

g) Arab International Women's Forum

The Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) was set up in 2001.

The AIWF aims to connect Arab and International women in key positions in business and professions and in community leadership, public and political life. It was the main partner of the first edition of the African Gender forum and Award in May 2005. Since then, FAS and AIWF keep working in collaboration for the follow-up of the Forum.

h) ISIS-WICCE

ISIS-WICCE was founded in 1974 in Geneva, Switzerland with the vision of communicating ideas, creating solidarity networks and sharing information to overcome gender inequalities.

The ISIS-WICCE relocated to Kampala, Uganda at the end of 1993 with the objective of tapping into African women's ideas, views and problems to share the information with women at the international level. On the 19-20th October, FAS participated in a meeting organised by ISIS-WICCE in Monrovia, Liberia.



The overall objective of the meeting was to discuss how to include women in peace building activities in post-conflict countries. FAS discussed the Mano River Project and its experiences in Burundi to illustrate how women could participate in their respective post-conflict countries. Countries present at the meeting urged FAS to provide advocacy support in order to reach higher institutions such as the African Union.

Constraints and the Way Forward

During the last four years, FAS has identified the absence of a strong **regional network** in Africa that works on the **economic empowerment** of women as a major challenge.

While these groups exist at the national level, there is no continent-wide network that is focused on the promotion and protection of women's economic rights. FAS believes that the creation of the Foresight Group could put in process the establishment of a network focusing on economic issues.



4. RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

Background

FAS consistently seeks to increase its knowledge of women's issues and enhance the impact of its advocacy activities on women and peace. As such, it attempts to improve research, documentation and information dissemination on its programmes and activities to foster and promote its peace-building and gender-mainstreaming initiatives. As part of its advocacy strategy and project implementation, FAS continues to produce documents, disseminate information on gender mainstreaming, and to inform its members, networks, partners, and the general public about its activities and events.

FAS also works increasingly with the media to help publicize and arrange coverage of its major events. FAS was successful in mobilizing several international and local media outlets in 2007 through several major events like the 9th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting in Addis Ababa, the 5th Session of the Human Rights Council, the 10th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting in Accra, and the African Gender Forum and Award.

a) Research

A Research section was created in October 2005. The objective of this section is to produce reliable data and research to be disseminated via reports, publications, events and the Internet. FAS' research activities encompass several topics related to gender and peace-building issues, including migration and the African

Diaspora, gender mainstreaming in the AU, implementation of UN SCR 1325 in various African countries, Women's Empowerment and Leadership (in regards to, among others, the March 2009 Colloquium in Liberia), the CSW in New York, the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Research is undertaken as a primary activity as well as a component of programmes implementation. Research areas are cross-cutting. They are deeply related to the other fields FAS is working on. The data and information gathered are valuable and reusable for further activities implemented by FAS.

From 2008 onwards, FAS in collaboration with the Corymbo Foundation, will offer a unique Fellowship opportunity to a young African woman or man looking to gain international experience in the fields of gender, peace and development. The Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship will present the candidate the opportunity to work for a period of 9 months at FAS' International Secretariat in Geneva, before returning to put their skills into action through an additional 3 month placement with an NGO in Africa. One of the main activities of the fellow would be to do research in a variety of topics.

The research officer would be part of an international network of women researchers/workers in the same topics. The advantages would be various including: peer assessment/evaluation of the research done, platform for mutual information sharing and fruitful discussions on the topics of concern for further action.



5. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

FAS commissioned two best practice manuals that are currently being researched and written by external consultants. The first best practice manual focuses on FAS' work in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Its publication is foreseen for late 2008. The second manual focuses on FAS' work in the Mano River region of West Africa. As this manual is still in its initial research and writing phase, its publication is not foreseen until 2009. In both cases, field research was undertaken. In addition, Desk research and interviews are also being used to compile the documents.

In October, FAS launched its study: 'The Women's Movement for Peace and Security in Africa: 10 years of practice'. The study involved research and field visits to the Mano River region, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa to document the contributions that FAS has made to the international discourse on Peace-building . This report launch also received media coverage, at the national level in Senegal.

For its major events, FAS researches and writes "Aide Memoire" background documents. More than ten presentations were researched and written and presented at events such as the EU Development Days in Lisbon, Portugal, the ICRC Advisors Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, and the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit in New York, USA.

Advocacy tools

FAS disseminates information notes, press releases and regular newsletters to its members, networks, partners, partners and media. Generally, information is disseminated by e-mail, as this is the most cost-effective and rapid means of reaching readers. FAS also use its website to disseminate information and make it easily accessible to FAS staff in all three offices and the public worldwide.

This year, FAS presented several statements to the Human Rights Council. In total, four oral statements and one written statement were made to the Council. The oral statements were broadcast on the internet and the written statement was published on the website of the High Commission for Human Rights.

Press Releases and Information Notes

This year, a total of 21 Information Notes and eight Press Releases were written for various FAS events and achievements. The Information and Communications Officers of the Geneva and Dakar offices collaborated on a majority of these. Among these, approximately half were produced in both English and French. Some Press Releases were produced or elaborated by FAS' external media consultants. All of FAS' Information Notes and Press Releases for 2007 have been made available on its website.



Publications and Information Tools

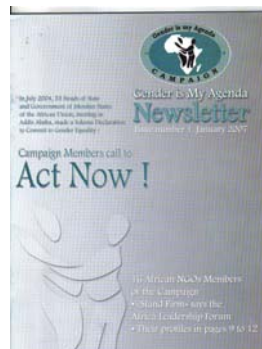
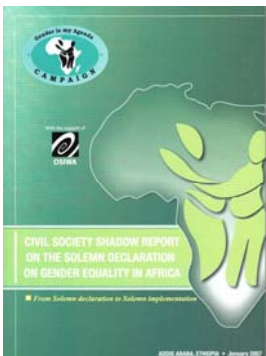
This year, following the 9th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting in Addis Ababa, FAS published the **Civil Society Shadow Report** on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. This report was published in English and French. Connected to this report are the Civil Society Guidelines and Mechanism for the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (English and French versions).

Every three months, the Information and Communications Officer in FAS' Geneva office writes and publishes **FAS News**. This quarterly newsletter is distributed by e-mail to FAS members, networks, partners and interested individuals.

The newsletter highlights FAS' more recent activities, as well as upcoming events. In 2007, three issues of FAS News were published (March, July and September).

FAS published the narrative report of the 9th Pre-Summit for distribution at the 10th Pre-Summit (June).

FAS also published the first two newsletters of the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (January and June 2007). The "Gender is My Agenda Campaign" newsletter is published every six months in English and French



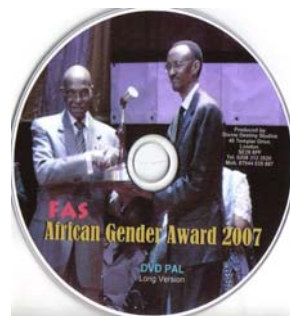
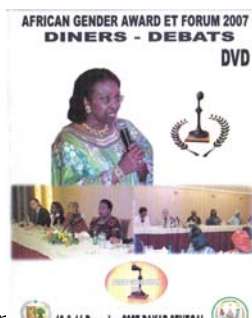
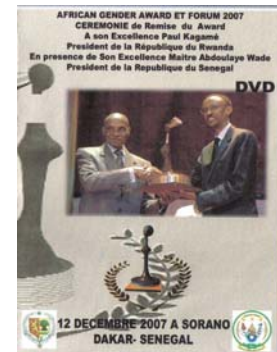
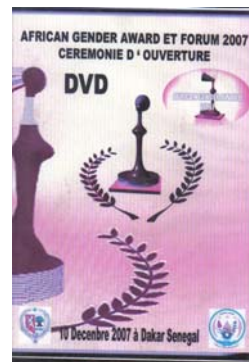
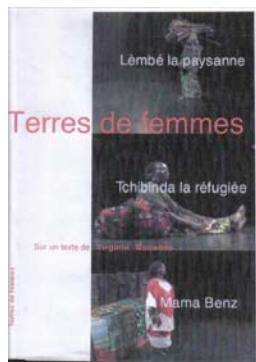


In June, FAS also produced a stage play, **Terre des Femmes (Women's World)**, in collaboration with a theatre troupe in Paris, France. The play discusses the 'Gender is my Agenda' campaign and addresses the importance of promoting women's rights and including gender considerations in politics and development projects. The play was made available on DVD in French with English subtitles to members of FAS' network.

- TV Spot for the 9th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU
- Radio Spot for the 10th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU
- TV Spot and Film on the African Gender Forum and the African Gender Award

Films and Radio Spots

- Film on the 9th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU
- Film on the African Women's process leading up to the 9th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU





Communication

• Liaison with Local and International Media

For the 9th Pre-Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, FAS worked with:

- Ethiopian Television (Ethiopia)
- Panapress
- BenTV (UK)
- GFM Radio (UK)

For the 10th Pre-Summit in Accra, Ghana, FAS worked with:

- Ghana News Agency
- Ghana TV (Ghana)
- Radio Gold FM (Ghana)
- TV3 (Ghana)
- Panapress
- West Africa Democracy Radio (WADR)
- New African magazine
- BenTV (UK)
- GFM Radio (UK)

During the 5th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, FAS received coverage from:

- Tribune de Genève (Switzerland)
- The Human Rights Tribune (Switzerland)
- Reliefweb (USA)
- aidh.org
- UN Press Centre (USA)

FAS invited the following media to cover the African Gender Forum and Award in Dakar, Senegal:

- APA News
- Panapress
- New African magazine
- BenTV (UK)
- BBC World Radio (UK)
- Radio France Internationale (France)

- Pamuzinda Productions (South Africa)
- West Africa Democracy Radio (WADR)
- RTS (Senegal)
- Reines d' Afrique (RFI)
- Jeune Afrique l'Intelligent
- Various local media (Dakar)

Aside from media coverage of FAS events, several media contacted FAS throughout 2007 for interviews. In particular, following FAS' participation in a mission to the refugee camps in eastern Chad with Ms. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, FAS and its staff were featured in articles in magazines and websites. Bineta Diop, the Executive Director of FAS, was profiled in the French-language magazine *Continental* in November.

As well, FAS' project in the DRC was the focus of an article in the News from the Field section of the UNDEF website. Christophe Farah, producer of *The World Today* on BBC Radio in London, England, interviewed Bineta Diop during the African Gender Forum in December.

Mrs Diop was also interviewed for two programmes on RFI, *Elan* (hosted by Benson Diakité) and *Reines d'Afrique* (hosted by Kidi Bebey).



Website

In June, FAS launched its new website. The website is now more engaging, user-friendly, and easy to update. The website includes news on FAS activities, FAS publications, as well as useful external resources.

The website enjoys more visitors than its previous versions.

The Information and Communications Officer in the International Secretariat can easily update it with the help of the Webmaster.

The website also includes a Login function for FAS staff and members which is tied to FAS' database of contacts. A section for media contacts has been added to the database and is regularly updated for use by the Information and Communications staff.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

FAS frequently faces budgetary constraints, and therefore cannot always secure as much media coverage as would be desirable for some of its major events. However, the international and national media that have shown consistent support to FAS' work throughout 2007 are in fact an asset for FAS to raise its profile, particularly in Africa.

New opportunities are also presenting themselves thanks to the new FAS website. More media such as web casts and audio files can now be uploaded to the website.

As FAS works more with television and radio outlets, especially in the field, this new website is an excellent tool to demonstrate the scope of media coverage that FAS enjoys. One ongoing constraint is the lack of a French version of the FAS website. This issue will be addressed as funding becomes available for FAS to have a full-time translator and bi-lingual webmaster.

The focus of the coming year will be on developing a media strategy for the Regional Office in Dakar.

As well, the Information and Communications officers of both offices will be working together to design a long-term media strategy that will become a part of the 2008-2012 FAS programme of activities.

Particular focus in both cases will be on raising FAS' profile in Africa, especially in its project countries, and on increasing the frequency and quality of FAS publications, including newsletters, DVDs, narrative reports, and best practice manuals.



6. COORDINATION

FAS is working diligently to strengthen its capacity in order to effectively coordinate its three offices. Staff members in all the offices communicate on a daily basis – by telephone, fax, email, and Skype. In addition, FAS has reconfigured its database to make it available to all the employees through its website. This facilitates its update and maintenance and allows the staff to consult it even when they are travelling.

The organisation has conducted numerous activities including workshops and trainings in order to strengthen its institutional building. These programs aim to reinforce communication and capacity-building both internally and between the three FAS offices. In addition, Inter-Office visits were carried out by FAS staff members.

FAS has also organised a meeting of the Executive Board. The members of the Board consult with FAS' Executive Director and staff to provide valuable input on programmatic and strategic direction for the organization.

FAS Staff and Offices

Regional Office, Dakar (Senegal):

FAS' Regional Office in Dakar was established in May 2003 and was operational by March 2005. Through the years, it has been able to strengthen its support to the other offices, in addition to assuming an increasing amount of operational activities transferred from the International Secretariat.

The Regional Office contributed to organizing the African Gender Forum and Award 2007 and the 9th and 10th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union. It also implemented the regional programme and its staff participated in various regional activities.

In October, the office received a visit from the New York representative, who attended a workshop organised by the PanAfrican Centre.

The full-time staff at the Regional Office in Dakar consists of a Programme Officer, Information and Communication Officer, an Administration and Finance Officer, a Coordinator for the PanAfrican Centre, and a Coordination Officer. In December, the Dakar Office reinforced its human resource by the recruitment of an assistant Programme Officer, and an Administrative Support Officer. Throughout the year, the office relied on three motivated interns who provided support to the full time staff.



FAS' staff in Dakar at the end of 2007: Aimé Akpatou, Meredith Stricker, Aminata Dieye, Alessandra Bo, Moussa Diop, Mme Ndour, Alice Massari, Rosalie Lo, Mme Durand



**International Secretariat, Geneva
(Switzerland):**



FAS' staff in Geneva during 2007: Roberta Méan, Coumba Fall, Kukikila Bindanda, Sol Pradelli, Pratima Upadhyay, Sophie Sombang, Marta Blanc, Mario Arnaboldi, Mrs Bineta Diop, Beatrice Fantoni, Anupa Varghese, Marco Cannata, Catherine Cowley and Violaine Beix.

The International Secretariat, based in Geneva, co-ordinates programmes in Africa and serves as a contact point for international organizations, NGOs and donor agencies.

The Secretariat's staff participated in the various activities of the Human Rights Council, the meetings of the CONGO, the NGO/CSW and the Working Group on Peace as well as other meetings in Geneva.

The Secretariat held a team building session in July to build capacity and reinforce a comprehensive vision of FAS mission, objective and role of each staff member and the relations with the staff of the other offices. FAS also held regular weekly staff meetings to review the work done and plan upcoming activities.

In March and September, coinciding with the sessions of the Human Rights Council, FAS staff attended a training session entitled "Introduction to the UN Human Rights System and the Human Rights council: how to use Monitoring Bodies and Special Procedures". This session, facilitated by the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva was valuable for the interns who seek in FAS an opportunity to be exposed to the work of the UN agencies and other international organizations.

In September, the Partnership and Fundraising officer attended a workshop organised by the Swiss Association of Fundraising, to learn new strategies.

In March, FAS' New York and Dakar Coordinators attended the Human Rights Council in Geneva. In October, the Programme Officer from Dakar came to the Geneva Office for a working visit. On these two occasions, FAS staff discussed ways to ameliorate the synchronization of work and discuss the programmes and future activities.

The full-time staff at the Secretariat in Geneva consists of the Executive Director, a Coordination Officer, a Finance Officer and a coordinator for the African Gender Forum and Award. FAS relied on the work of interns in the following functions: Partnership and Fundraising; Networking and Outreach; Information and Communication; Research; Monitoring and Evaluation and Webmaster.



Liaison Office, New York, USA

FAS' Liaison Office in New York was first set up in late 2004 to provide FAS with permanent representation in New York and at the deliberations of the organs and agencies of the UN system, as focal point. The Liaison Office in New York is represented by a Coordination Officer and one to four support interns in Research, Partnership, Networking and Communication.

The New York Office participated in the 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York in February; the Arria Formula on Women and Armed Conflict in Africa organised by the Government of France; the October Advocacy Week on Resolution 1325; and other activities organized by the Working Group on Peace and Security and other various UN Agencies.

Team Buildings / Staff Retreat, Mbodiène, Senegal



Fas staff at the two day team building retreat in Senegal.

FAS organized a two-day retreat in Mbodiène, Senegal in December, after the African Gender Forum and Award. The retreat was attended by the Executive Director and the staff of the three offices.

It was the occasion to discuss the organizational structure of FAS, both in terms of present limitations and future solutions, with the aim to strengthen the ties between the three offices and within each office for a better and more professional operational management. Overall, the goal was to clarify the organisational chart needed to fulfill the agreed new strategies.

Executive Board Meeting

FAS is assisted in its work by members of its Executive and Advisory Boards, Members and Associate Members. Selected in accordance with their outstanding achievements in the promotion of peace and the attainment of women's rights in Africa, FAS Executive Board Members contribute voluntarily to the implementation of FAS' programmes in the field and represent FAS at events essential for the fulfilment of its objectives. Members meet at a General Assembly every three years in a plenary session where Board members are nominated and general policies and activities are reviewed and planned.

The Executive Board meets at least every year to follow-up on programme implementation including financial and activity report.

The Executive Board met on 12th December on the margins of the second edition of the African Gender Forum and Award, which took place on the 10-12 December, in Dakar, Senegal.



It reviewed and adopted FAS' audited financial report and activities for 2007. The Board members discussed and analyzed the activities undertaken during 2007. In addition, it was an opportunity to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the members of the Board to strategize about the future activities of FAS and on a fundraising plan.

The Board also met on the margins of the 8th AU Pre Summit in Accra, Ghana to get an update on FAS activities and map a way forward for the organisation.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

At certain periods in 2007, the workload at the offices really pushed the capacity of the permanent staff. Despite the staff being qualified and committed to the principles that guide the organization, they found themselves challenged to effectively implement programmes. Support from teams of up to 5 interns, who work on a six-month basis, has been very valuable, but training and acclimatisation takes time when new groups enter. This turn-over of interns impacts negatively on the smooth running of the offices.

In order to effectively sustain its work, FAS needs institutional support. This will allow the organization to hire full time professionals to carry out its work in a more efficient manner.



6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The effectiveness of FAS' programme is ensured through the development of relevant monitoring and evaluation systems at all levels so as to influence the engendering of policies and programmes. Mechanisms are also supported to evaluate women's participation in advocacy and training on UN SCR 1325 becoming an important **guiding tool for FAS in making its assessments.**

FAS created the post of Monitoring and Evaluation intern at its international Secretariat to support the regional Office.

FAS' Monitoring and Evaluation system

FAS' Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system was developed and finally put in place in November 2005. The system was developed due to a need to create a systematic framework in order to facilitate and improve the work process and evaluate FAS' activities and functions. The current M&E system uses a number of different quantitative and qualitative tools to accomplish its objectives. These are implemented at the following level:

- **The Reporting Guidelines:** a set of guidelines and instructions concerning the objectives and outputs of various activities which FAS staff members use to guide them in systematically reporting, tracking and evaluating an activity or event.
- **The Event Activity Report:** the reporting guidelines are used to produce event/activity reports for all events attended by FAS.

Qualitative and quantitative assessment indicators are made visible and recorded for further evaluation.

- **The Annual Audited Accounts:** audited accounts are produced by an external auditor each year and are sent to all stakeholders who request them.
- **The Annual Financial Report:** the annual financial report provides more detail than the annual audited accounts. It includes a comparison of actual results against budgeted, expenses and revenues and by key objectives and projects.
- **The Annual Narrative Report:** the annual narrative report presents the results of the year's activities at each programme level and by function, with the inclusion of the year's achievements, constraints and opportunities. This report gives narrative detail on events which FAS organized, participated in, or attended during the year.
- **The Field Study and Assessment Tools:** FAS conducted a Ten Year Evaluation Study looking at its activities and evaluating its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that are shaping its future agenda.



FAS' programme is also systematically monitored through the following techniques:

1. Evaluation Form
2. Periodic field visits;
3. Technical meetings;
4. Bimonthly internal reviews;
5. Annual external reviews;
6. Reporting by FAS offices and focal points;
7. Regular visits to partners and partners agencies to share information on FAS' programmes, their successes, new challenges and the way forward.

Study on the Women's Movement for Peace and Security in Africa: 10 years of practice: an impact evaluation

In late 2005, FAS commissioned a study that would give a critical analysis of its work in the future. To undertake the study, four consultants conducted research and travelled to the field from January to February 2006, visiting Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, the Great Lakes region and Kenya. Briefing and debriefing sessions were held between each mission at the Dakar Office of FAS to discuss the outcome of the completed missions and prepare for forthcoming deployments.

An initial draft of the study was officially presented at the "Conference on Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of Women's Experience" which brought African women together (78 participants representing a total of 38 countries) and received feed back from the participants.

FAS is currently working on the finalized document through the assistance of member experts in the field with the intention of having it completed, published and disseminated in 2008.

The expected outcomes of the study are for women's peace groups to benefit from better knowledge of their mechanisms and dynamics in an effort to strengthen their participation to democratization processes. It will also help FAS produce new tools to advocate more effectively and to better meet emerging challenges that women's peace groups face.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

FAS has experienced several constraints regarding its monitoring and evaluation function. At the field level, it has been able to use some tools such as evaluations forms to collect the feedback from the participants of its initiatives.

Nevertheless, due to the organisation being understaffed, it has not always been able to analyse all the information in a timely fashion.

FAS is aware of the vital importance of this function, and looks forward to remedying this situation by improving the staffing of its offices. In addition, it expects to count on the support of the Wanjiru Kihoro Fellow to strengthen the research and analytical component of the position.



V. PANAFRICAN CENTRE FOR GENDER, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Background

FAS has established the Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) as a Centre for Excellence in Africa to provide advanced training and research in peace-building and development issues, with an emphasis on gender.

This office is based at its regional office in Dakar, Senegal.

Using FAS' existing partnerships with the University of Peace (UPEACE), of Costa Rica, and the Instituto de Empresa, of Spain, and the findings of its ten year evaluation study, the Centre undertakes research and documentation on conflict resolution and development issues to support its training function and further the economic empowerment of women in the Mano River and Great Lakes regions.

The Centre brings together practitioners, researchers and policy makers concerned with conflict resolution in Africa.

This facilitates the horizontal transfer of knowledge and enables them to share successes and challenges. Participants are drawn from governments, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Summary of Activities

a) Short Course Training

9-13 April: Building upon FAS' significant work in raising the capacity of women involved in peace-making, the organization has developed short courses programmes in partnership with UPEACE. One such course was the **2nd Short Course on 'Gender and Conflict: Human Rights and Transitional Justice'**, co-organized with UPEACE and in partnership with UNESCO' BREDIA, which successfully took place in Dakar, Senegal.

This short course was the second in a series of training sessions organised to build the foundation for a Master Programme in Gender and Peace building that the Pan African Centre is working on in collaboration with the Africa Programme of UPEACE.

The course was attended by 28 participants (19 women) from the Mano River region, including Cote d'Ivoire, the Great Lakes region, and Kenya. There was experience sharing amongst the diverse group.



Participants of the 2nd Short Course on Gender and Conflict



At the end of the five days of the short course, participants produced recommendations with the aim of improving their work in their respective organisations, and strengthening civil society organisations in Gender, Human Rights and Transitional Justice issues.

One of the enthused outcomes was the creation of an online discussion-forum for the participants from both the first and the second short-course.

This was to present an opportunity for strengthening the contacts made during the course; furthering sharing information and knowledge and a strategic occasion to reinforce the networking among organisations that, in their own area of influence, strive for the protection of women's rights and gender equality.

b) Training and Mentoring Programme

This is a project developed by FAS together with the Center for Diversity in Global Management at the Instituto de Empresa (IE) and supported by the Government of Spain.

The programme aims to work with 25 African women who have established business enterprises with strong growth potential. The objective is to build the capacity of the women to better manage and develop their businesses.

24-25 July: FAS and the Instituto de Empresa organized a two-day consultation meeting on the **‘Training and Mentoring Programme for Women-led Businesses Project’**.

The aim of the meeting was to better understand the modalities of the training and mentoring programme for women led-businesses in the selected countries: Liberia, South Africa, DRC, Mozambique, Senegal and Rwanda.

This two-day meeting was attended by 17 participants, including FAS staff.

It was agreed that FAS develops the selection criteria for the potential candidates to participate in the mentoring programme.

c) Selection Committee meetings

Two meetings took place: the 3rd Selection Committee on January 27th on the margins of the 8th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the **4th Selection Committee** on December 12th, following the Award ceremony, in Dakar (Senegal).

27 January: the 3rd Committee meeting, presided by Hon. Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan-African Parliament brought together the members with the objective of reviewing the Award 2007 candidate proposals and to elect the country recipient of the African Gender Award for 2007.

After the general discussions, the selection committee discussed the short listed candidates, Rwanda, Liberia and Botswana, and evaluated their performance and achievement, guided by the SDGEA.

On the government level, this means studying the countries success at implementing gender parity. The Rwandan President got the award.

12 December: the 4th Committee meeting was organized in the afternoon of December 12th following the celebration of the 2007 African Gender Award in Dakar, Senegal.

This meeting was an opportunity to assess the overall organization of the African Gender Award and also to review and advise on the strengthening of the Award process.



d) African Gender Forum and Award

10-12 December: FAS organized the second Edition of the African Gender Award and Forum in December. Meeting under the theme “**African women for Africa's development: Building partnership with the Diaspora**”, the combined events gathered more than 1,500 participants.



Opening panel, 10th December, African Gender Forum, UCADII, Dakar.

On **10-11 December**, 200 participants attended the Forum entitled “**African Women for Africa’s Development: Building Partnership with the Diaspora**”. This was an opportunity to discuss issues relating to Women and Migration focusing on the positive contributions of the diaspora to Africa’s development. Other topics of discussion were: Migration and the changing role of women; the economic dimensions of migration and the roles and responsibilities at policy level, among others.

The participants urged and encouraged the *African and Western Governments* as well as the *International Community* to promote the concept of migrants as social actors and vectors of change.

Other requests from the participants were for the governments to develop and strengthen a policy framework favorable to diasporan investments; and to engage women in the African diaspora in policy-making and economic development through the private sector.

The participants committed themselves to the following, among others to:

- Promote Africa as an equal global, bilateral and multilateral partner and not as an assisted continent;
- Collaborate with African governments and private sector by making Africa suitable for investments and new projects;
- Continue to promote the gender dimension in migration through research and advocacy;
- Involve selected African women, diasporan women and African descendants in the dialogue for positive utilisation of the diasporan resource base;
- Continue to advocate and support African governments in their efforts to ensure that policies are in place to retain young people and create incentives and economic opportunities through a gender equality perspective;

12 December: The ceremony of the Award, hosted by President Abdoulaye Wade at the National Theatre Daniel Sorano, where President Kagame was awarded, was attended by more than 1,200 guests.



Two other awards were given to the Private Sector and the Civil Society for their commitment to women's advancement - Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe for the Civil Society and the "Banque Populaire pour la Promotion de la Femme" for the Private Sector.

The ceremony acknowledged the presence of the Guests of honour of the Forum, African Dignitaries, the Senegalese Ministries and authorities, the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Hadjibou Soumare, Ambassadors, Regional UN Representatives and Multinational companies based in Dakar.

It included a welcome address by Hon. Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan African Parliament and Chair of the Award Selection Committee as well as the deliberation of the Forum's Conclusions and Recommendations presented by H.E. Mr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia.



H.E. President Paul Kagame and H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, pose for a picture with the Selection Committee Members



Partners

The 2nd Edition of the African Gender Award and Forum, was organised with the collaboration of the Ministry for Women, Family and Social Development, of the Republic of Senegal (“Ministère de la famille et de l’entreprenariat féminin”), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and The Diasporan Touch. It was supported by the African Union, NEPAD and the UNECA.

The event was financially supported by the Government of Spain; the Government of Italy; the Government of Portugal; OSIWA; the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Women Development Fund (AWDF); United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); and South African Airways.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

The constraints that were met for the coordination of the 2007 African Gender Forum and Award were due to the late confirmation of the dates, which had to be suitable to both President Kagame and President Wade.

Solving this situation was crucial in terms of planning the activities, communication strategy and mobilizing financial resources.

Since the success of the African Gender Forum and Award depends on the implementation of its conclusions, a task force has been established, including the Forum's Scientific Committee Members, the Coordination Members and the Forum's partners to set an action plan as recommended by the participants.

It is also clear that the commitment and support of the Selection Committee members, in terms of advocacy, promotion and fundraising activities are fundamental.



H.E. President Paul Kagame is awarded the African Gender Award by H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal.



H.E. Mr. Joseph N. Boakai, Vice-President of Liberia, presents the Civil Society Award Recognition to Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe (Ms. Thérèse Bishagara, President of Pro-Femmes, center) and Private Sector Award Recognition to "Banque Populaire pour la Promotion de la Femme" (Ms. Henriette Zimulinda, PCA of BPPF, right).



VI. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND WAY FORWARD

1. Challenges

FAS' challenges include:

1. Bridging the gap between African women leaders and grassroots women for constituency building and accountability
2. Building the capacity for women's positive leadership and encouraging the full involvement of young women peace builders
3. Taking systematically into account women's specific needs in reconstruction programmes by the African member-states and the international community
4. Reinforcing African traditional mechanisms for conflict management and developing gender sensitive early warning and early response mechanisms
5. Fostering the creation of an African network for peace to link with the Pan African Women's Movement and therefore, liaise with the global women movement to form a global platform for advocacy and knowledge sharing
6. Building the women agenda for peace that would address the engendering of the democratic transition, the post conflict reconstruction as well as the justice and reconciliation issues
7. Reconciling the need for justice and reparation with the need to rebuilding strong nation states
8. Linking the women agenda for peace with new emerging issues:

9. Increasing and sustaining the potential of the Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development on research, training and sharing of knowledge between grassroots practitioners and academics for the institutional sustainability of FAS
10. Mobilising enough resources for the implementation of the projects and programs that are deeply rooted in the priorities of FAS, its partners and allies

2. Lessons learned

At the international level, more work is needed to increase the capacity of grassroots women's groups, particularly those of Sudan, and their visibility at the Human Rights Council and the Security Council including the CEDAW Committee. An ongoing challenge, due to limited resources, is to bring women from the grassroots level to speak for themselves at these international gatherings.

The FAS New York Office has taken on the role of interlocutor between women's groups on the ground and the international community. Yet more financial and human resources are needed to strengthen FAS' programme at the international level.

Moreover, recurrent constraints include a shortage of funds, particularly in the form of long-term commitment, donor conditionalities and lack of human and logistical resources.



The volatility of conflict-torn countries presents FAS with obvious difficulties. Another constraint is the linkage between FAS and the networks it creates and its resulting dependence on them for the fulfilment of its programmes.

Reaching the end of 2007, FAS is facing challenges regarding institutional funding. On 15th August, Mrs Diop met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands. The discussion highlighted that the fruitful long-term partnership between FAS and the Netherlands would not be able to be pursued since a new law was voted by the Dutch Parliament in 2007 preventing the government from funding foreign based NGOs.

3. Way forward

Despite the fact that the Netherlands could not provide FAS with institutional funding, new funding possibilities might appear in 2008 through the 'MDG 3 Fund Investing in Gender Equality' financed by the Dutch government. FAS is also planning to apply for the European Commission's call for proposals. Simultaneously, a fundraising strategy will be established to advertise the new FAS Action Plan for 2008-2013 through Donor Round tables in New York, Geneva and Addis Ababa and through trips to donor countries.

Following the grant received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Finland**, FAS is planning to launch in the first half of 2008 two additional '**National Action Plans on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325**' in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Furthermore, FAS is determined to significantly develop a programme based on the concept note it submitted to **DFID** on Sudan entitled 'Engendering the Peace Process in Darfur, Sudan'. Among the planned activities, FAS would like to initiate a mission to map women's initiatives, to organize the 1st African Women's Consultation on Darfur followed by advocacy work at the international level.

In addition, FAS is in the process of creating a **Master of Arts in Gender and Peace-building** within the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development. The two main partners for this programme will be the **University for Peace** based in San José, Costa Rica and the **University Cheikh Anta Diop** based in Dakar, Senegal.

In 2008, FAS in collaboration with the Corymbo Foundation, will offer a unique Fellowship opportunity to a young African woman or man. The Fellow will have occasion to gain practice at the international level, including through work with the United Nations Human Rights Council, while actively participating in the activities of an NGO through research and writing. This experience will subsequently facilitate the transfer of knowledge to organizations in the field.

This year 2007 is the end of the four-year plan. An overall assessment for these four years will be done in which the three following points will be developed:

- Resource mobilization and financing
- FAS' activity implementation depends largely on the Governments' will
- Funding for permanent staff in Geneva.



VII. PARTNERS

FAS gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the following key partners:

- African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)
- The African Union (AU)
- Department For International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom Government
- The Ford Foundation
- The Global Fund for Women
- The Government of Finland
- The Government of Italy
- The Government of Luxembourg
- The Government of Mali
- The Government of the Netherlands
- The Government of Portugal
- The Government of Senegal
- The Government of South Africa
- The Government of Spain
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
- L'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
- The Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)
- The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)- Regional Programme for Africa
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- The University for Peace (UPEACE)



ANNEXES

1. Femmes Africa Solidarité

Background

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) is a women's non-governmental organization (NGO) working to engender the peace process in Africa, more specifically in the Great Lakes region and the Mano River region. Since its inception in 1996, FAS has worked to foster, strengthen and promote the **leading role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the African continent.**

FAS recognizes that women are disproportionately affected by violent conflicts; rather than perceiving women as passive victims, FAS acknowledges that women are active agents with skills, strengths, and the ability to bring about change. With this in mind, FAS works to strengthen the capacities of grassroots women's organizations so that they can participate fully in the processes of peace-building and conflict resolution in their countries and communities.

FAS' International Secretariat, based in Geneva, Switzerland, coordinates programmes in Africa and serves as a point of contact for international organizations, NGOs and partners. It also facilitates the mobilization of resources and maximize the visibility of African women's initiatives.

Additionally, FAS has a permanent representative in New York, located near the United Nations, to facilitate its presence at the international level, and has opened a Regional Office in Dakar in 2005, to guarantee effective collaboration with women's organizations in Africa. The three offices work in a coordinated manner to **link sub-regional, regional and international programmes**

FAS is headed by an Executive Director , an **Executive Board, an Advisory Board, and Members and Associate Member NGOs in 29 African countries.**

FAS has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**); Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (**ACHPR**); Consultative Status with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (**OIF**); Association Status with the United Nations Department of Public Information (**DPI**); and membership to the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (**ECOSOCC**). FAS also received an IOM observer status in November 2007 (Member to the General Assembly), and is Vice-President of the board of CONGO.



FAS also coordinates the “**Gender is my Agenda**” campaign and co-chairs the **Committee on the Status of Women’s Working Group for Peace in Geneva** - an organ of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CONGO). Further, FAS is a member of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in **New York** and is also a member of the **Gender Task Force of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)**.

FAS’ Executive Director is a member and Vice Chairperson of the **African Union Women’s Committee (AUWC)**, an advisory body to the Chairperson of the AU Commission on gender issues; and a member of the board of the Arab International Women’s Forum (AIWF).

Vision

FAS vision is to empower African women to assume a leadership role in peace building for sustainable development and to mainstream gender into policies and programmes relating to peace, security and development.

Mission

FAS’ mission is to:

- Promote and reinforce the critical role of women in conflict resolution and peace building in Africa;
- Strengthen women’s leadership capacities to play this role
- Advocate for increased attention to African women's concerns on the issues of peace and security;
- Strengthen women’s influence on relevant political processes, and promote gender mainstreaming in peace and security programmes at the national, regional and international levels.

Objectives

FAS seeks to meet the following objectives:

- To give value to women’s initiatives, enhance their capabilities and promote their rights as fully-fledged participants in peace making and peace building in their countries;
- To push for the creation of new social systems that allow women to have equal access to responsibilities and decision making;
- To build networks among women and strengthen their capacities as a group to enable them to make an impact in all spheres and at all levels;
- To encourage and support women in developing the self-confidence to participate in the struggle to institutionalize gender equality in national and sub-regional peace processes;
- To advocate for gender mainstreaming in national, sub-regional, regional and continental policies and programmes.



Strategies

In order to meet these objectives, FAS employs the following strategies:

- **Advocacy and lobbying** in a variety of forums, alongside local, regional, sub regional and international institutions, to promote greater involvement of women in decision-making processes and ensuring that their interests are taken into account;
- **Capacity Building.** Builds capacities of local women's NGOs through training and experience sharing;
- **Development of Networks and Partnerships:**
 - Mobilizes and encourages women to put forward their peace initiatives at all levels
 - Supports local women's NGOs to establish networks with various actors both within Africa and internationally, thus maximizing the use of resources;
 - Builds partnerships at the national, sub regional, regional and international levels on issues of common concern such as women's participation in peace processes, violence against women, child soldiers, refugee women, HIV/AIDS, and disarmament;
- **Research and dissemination of information on women's best practices for peace building in Africa.**

Moreover, FAS focuses on the following issues:

- **Promotion of Democracy through** workshops and training sessions in civic education. FAS has also monitored a number of elections, for example in Liberia, Sierra Leone and DRC.
- **Justice for Women - Justice for Humanity.** FAS is committed to the **pursuit of justice against perpetrators of war crimes and violators of women's human rights.** In keeping with this commitment, FAS develops and advocates for measures to ensure that **national and international legislation in Africa protects women's rights.** It also recognizes the link between justice for victims and lasting peace in communities. As part of this work, FAS participated in the drafting and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which includes a clause to address the culture of impunity and aims to establish mechanisms for justice.



2. Members, Committee and Networks

FAS is composed of Members and Associate Members of NGOs from 35 African countries. It has an Executive Board of 8 members and an Advisory Board composed of 10 eminent personalities. Members of FAS contribute voluntarily to the implementation of its programme in the field by conducting training seminars and participating in advocacy activities. Also FAS has set several support committees, composed of Members, partners and independent experts, which are consulted in the specific activities as a think-tank.

Members

Executive Board (8)

- **Awori** Thelma, Former Head of the Africa Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), President of Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange, Uganda
- **Baricako** Marie-Louise, Chair of the Executive Board of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), Burundi
- **Diop** Bineta, FAS Executive Director, Senegal
- **Jusu-Sheriff** Yasmine, Solicitor and Barrister, High Court for Sierra Leone, Focal Point for West Africa and the Mano River region
- **Maiga** Soyata, Vice-President of the Malian Association of Lawyers, Rapporteur on the Women Human Rights in Africa, Mali
- **Monekosso** Ticky, Consultant, Communications & Public Information Afromedia, FAS Treasurer, France
- **Ondziel** Julienne, Former President of the Executive Board of FAS, Focal Point for the Great Lakes region, Republic of Congo
- **Orleyn** Thandi, Former National Director of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), Lawyer, Focal Point for South Africa

Advisory Board (15)

- **Agrebi** Hon. Saida, President of Tunisian Mothers' Association, Member of the Pan-African Parliament
- **Aumeeruddy-Cziffra** Hon. Shirin, Ombudsperson for Children, Lawyer, Attorney General, Mauritius
- **Ba** Hassan, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Senegal
- **Derryck-Lowery** Vivian, Senior Vice-President and Director of Public Private Partnerships, Academy for Educational Development, USA
- **Hammad** Dr. Aleya, Secretary General, Women Defending Peace; Co-Founder-Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement; Former Deputy Director WHO, Egypt



- **Koubarath Osseini** Kadiatou, President of the National Federation of Women's Associations of Benin
- **Machel** H.E. Graça Simbine, President of the Foundation for Community Development, Mozambique
- **Mongella** H.E. Gertrude, President of the Pan African Parliament and Founder of Advocacy for Women in Africa, Tanzania
- **Perry** H.E. Ruth Sando, Former Acting Head of State of the Republic of Liberia
- **Rehn** Hon. Elisabeth, Former Vice-Secretary General of the United Nations, and Minister of Defense of Finland, Independent Expert for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- **Sahnoun** Ambassador Mohammed, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Africa, Algeria
- **Schori** Pierre, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
- **Tall** Hon. Aminata, Minister of State of the Republic of Senegal
- **Toure** H.E. President Amadou Toumani, Head of State of the Republic of Mali, President of the "Fondation pour l'Enfance"
- **Zuma**, Hon. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa

Associate Members (19)

- **Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA)**, Tanzania
- **Afromedia-Communication**, France
- **Association Congolaise de Lutte contre la Violence faite aux Femmes et aux filles (ACOVLF)**, Republic of Congo
- **Association Nationale de Soutien aux Enfants en difficultés et en Institutions (ANSEDI)**, Algeria
- **Association Sénégalaise de protection et de promotion des droits de l'enfance et de la femme (ASPRODEF)**, Sénégal
- **Cadre Permanent de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises (CAFECO)**, DRC
- **Caucus of Congolese Women**, DRC
- **Collectif des associations et ONG Féminines du Burundi (CAFOB)**, Burundi
- **Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA)**, Ethiopia
- **Femmes et Processus de Paix**, Burundi
- **Mano River Women Peace Network (MARWOPNET)**, Liberia
- **Mouvement des femmes pour la paix et l'unité nationale du Mali**, Mali
- **National Union of Eritrean Women**, Eritrea
- **Perry Centre**, Liberia
- **Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe**, Rwanda
- **Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC)**, Somalia
- **Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace**, Sudan
- **Tunisian Mothers' Association (TMA)**, Tunisia
- **Women as Partners for Peace in Africa (WOPPA-DRC)**,



Members (46)

- **Abdeljabar** H.E. Selma, Former Minister of Social Affairs of Libya
- **Ahmed** Halima, Secretary General, Parliament of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Nigeria
- **Akande** Jadesola (Prof.), Executive Director, Women, Law and Development Centre, Nigeria
- **Allafi** Hon. Agnès Maïmouna, Former Minister of Social Affairs of Chad
- **Amisi** Bertha, Former Programme Advisor, Research and Documentation, NPI Africa
- **Avemeka** Hon. Marie-Therese, Former Minister of Women Integration and Development, Republic of Congo
- **Aw** Eugenie Rokhaya, Directrice CESTI, Senegal
- **Balipou** Brigitte, President of the Children's Tribunal, Central African Republic, Chad
- **Barki** Aicha, President « Association Algérienne d'Alphabétisation "IQRAA" »
- **Basbas** Hibaaq Osman, President and CEO, Centre for Strategic Initiatives of Women, Sudan
- **Biyong** Pauline, President of the League for the Education of Women and Children, Cameroun
- **Camara** Ramata Tambadou, Jurist, Mali
- **Cissé** Catherine, Former Special Advisor in charge of External Affairs of the Prosecutor, International Court Tribunal, The Netherlands
- **Deigna** Nicole, President of NGO Repères, Cote d'Ivoire
- **Diall** Fatoumata, H.E., Ambassador, Human Rights Advisor to the President, Mali
- **Dyfan** Isha L., Sierra Leonean Barrister and women's rights campaigner
- **El Barki** Zeinab, Vice President, African Development Bank, Egypt
- **Eya Nchama** Blondine-Uwimana, Founder "Association REFUGE/ICYUGAMO", Rwanda
- **Fiankan-Bokonga** Catherine, Journalist, Cote d'Ivoire
- **Gamatié Bayard** Mariama, President of Femmes et Famille, Niger
- **Gawanas** Bience, Commissioner at the Commission of the African Union (AU), Namibia
- **George** Christiana Adokiye, Gender Expert, Hub for Rural Development in West and Central Africa, Nigeria
- **Goffri** Marie-France, Lawyer, Cote d'Ivoire
- **Goma** Yvonne, President of the Zambian Federation of Associations of Women in Business (ZFAWIB)
- **Kalinde** Sophie Asimenye, Former Permanent Observer of the Organization of African Unity to the UN in Geneva, Malawi
- **Kpegba-Dotsi** Kafui, Former Parliamentarian, Togo
- **Lampzey** Comfort, Gender Advisor, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Ghana
- **Leckomba Loumeto Pombo** H.E. Jeanne Françoise, Minister of Women Affairs, Republic of Congo



- **Loum** Elise, Member of PanAfrican Parliament, Chad
- **Mends-Cole** Joyce, UNHCR Country Representative in Namibia, Liberia
- **Miganda** Perpetue, Consultant and Member of CAFOB, Burundi
- **Mokoko** Safi Sow, Entrepreneur, Republic of Congo
- **Mujawamariya** Hon. Dr Monique, President, Mobilisation Enfants du Monde (MEM), Human Rights Consultant in Canada
- **Muller** Koulagna Oumoul, Director, Ets HIBISCU, Cameroon
- **Mumba** H.E. Florence, Judge at the International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, Zambia
- **Musa** Lilian, Former Director of Administration and Finances of Pith Helmet Industries, Zimbabwe
- **Olabisi** Bola, Founder and Director, Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network, UK
- **Pereira** Francisca, Former Minister of the Interior and Deputy at the National Assembly of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
- **Savane** Marie-Angelique, Member of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Senegal
- **Sebera** Marthe, Secretary-general and founding member of the Rwanda Women Leader's Caucus, Lawyer and member of Pro-Femme/Twese Hamwe, Rwanda
- **Simbizi** H.E. Appolonie, Conseillère, Bureau du Président de la République de Burundi
- **Steady** Filomena, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies at Wellesley College, Sierra Leone
- **Sutherland-Addy** Esi, Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, Ghana
- **Tekkle** Atsedewine, President of Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, Ethiopia
- **Teriba** Yetunde, Women Gender and Development Directorate, AU Commission, Nigeria
- **Yamo** Helen, Former FAS Coordinator, Kenya

Committees

Coordination Committee of the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development

- **Aw** Eugenie Rokhaya, Directrice CESTI, Senegal
- **Baricako** Germain, UN Mission in Sudan, Sudan
- **Butera** Dr Jean Bosco, Director of the UPEACE Africa Programme, Ethiopia
- **Coll-Seck** Awa Marie, Dr., Executive Secretary, Roll Back Malaria Partnership, Switzerland
- **Diop** Salimata Dieng, Head of Services, Sonatel, Senegal
- **Diouf** Pr. Ndiaw, Doyen Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques
- **Doucouré** Khadidja, CAEF
- **Fall** Général Pape Khalil, Former Chef d'Etat Major Général des Forces Armées, Ambassador of Senegal in the Republic of China
- **Gomes** Paulo, Former World Bank Executive Administrator, President of The Constelor Group Washington D.C., USA



- **Janneh** Abdoulie, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- **Kama** Mansour, President of the National Confederation of Employers of Senegal
- **Kebe** Cheikh Mbacké, Administrator-Director General, Kébé Holding S.A. Investment
- **Monnet Marguerite**, Psychologist, Consultant on Human Resources
- **Murithi** Dr. Tim, Senior Researcher, Direct Conflict Prevention Programme, Institute for Security Studies
- **Sall** Dr. Ibrahima, Codesria
- **Sarr-Sow** Fatou, IFAN
- **Wade** LT Colonel Mamane, Etat Major Général de l'Armée, Senegal

Selection Committee of the African Gender Award (14)

- **Aderinwale** Ayodele, Director, Africa Leadership Forum, Nigeria
- **Adjamagbo-Johnson** Kafui, Sub-Regional Coordinator, WiLDAF-WA, Togo
- **Agrebi** Hon. Saida, Honorable, Member of Parliament, President Tunisian Mothers Association, Tunisia
- **Akinsanmi** Titi, GTP Program Manager, Mindset Network, South Africa
- **Awori** Thelma, Former Head of UNDP Africa Bureau, Executive Board Member of the African Women's development Fund, President of Isis-WICCE, Uganda
- **Derryck** Vivian Lowery, Senior Vice President and Director of Public Private Partnerships, Academy for Educational Development, USA
- **Diop** Bineta, Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Senegal
- **Gomes** Paulo, Former World Bank Executive Administrator, President of The Constelor Group Washington D.C., USA
- **Gounden** Vasu, Founder and Executive Director of African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), South Africa
- **Janneh** Abdoulie, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission on Africa, Ethiopia
- **Mongella** Hon. Ambassador Gertrude, President of the Pan-African Parliament, Tanzania
- **Narh** Janet, Radio and TV Broadcaster, UK
- **Ondziel** Julienne, Practicing Lawyer, Former Rapporteur on Women's Rights, Congo, Former FAS Board Chairperson
- **Ouedraogo** Halidou, Former President of the Mouvement Burkinabé des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples, Burkina Faso

Geneva Task Force Members (13)

- **Bloem** Renata, Past President Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the UN(CONGO),
- **Coll-Seck** Awa Marie, Dr., Executive Director, Roll Back Malaria Partnership Secretariat,



- **Coulibaly Leroy** Sandra, Observateur permanente adjoint, Délégation permanente de l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- **Diouf** Pape Ndiaye, Professor , The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
- **Eya Nchama** Cruz Melchior, State of Geneva, Office of Integration
- **Hammad** Aleya, Dr., Secretary General, Women Defending Peace; Co-Founder-Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement; Former Deputy Director WHO
- **Maillefer** Danielle, Representative, Initiatives of Change International Caux Foundation
- **Monekosso** Ticky, Consultant, Communications & Public Information Afromedia
- **Ndiaye** Ndioro, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration
- **Payne** Ameena, Former Africa Programme Coordinator, University for Peace
- **Poncini Conchita**, President of the Non Government Organization on the Commission on the Status of Women in Geneva
- **Sahnoun** Mohammed, H.E., Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Africa
- **Tinde** Tina, Special Adviser on Gender Issues, UNHCR Headquarter

New York Task Force Members (6)

- **Collin Marks** Susan, Executive Vice President of Search for Common Ground
- **Davis** Dorothy, President Diasporan Touch, USA
- **Derryck** Vivian Lowery, Senior Vice President and Director of Public Private Partnerships, Academy for Educational Development, USA
- **Diop** Diobé, Entrepreneur, Director of Baobab Restaurant
- **Tulchin** Rachel, Former FAS Intern
- **Vogt** Margaret, Special Assistant to the UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs

Networks

Sub-regional

- *Mano River region*: Marwopnet Secretariat in Sierra Leone; Marwopnet Chapter in Liberia, Marwopnet Chapter in Guinea
- *Great Lakes region*: Cadre Permanent de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises (CAFECO) in DRC; Collectif Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe in Rwanda; Collectif des Associations et ONG Féminines du Burundi (CAFOD) in Burundi
- *Horn of Africa*: Save Somali Women and Children, in Somali; Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, Ethiopia; National Union of Eritrean Women, Eritrea; Sudanese Voice for Peace; Sudanese Women Forum



Network of the “Gender is my Agenda” campaign

Focal Points

Thematic

- *Governance:* Africa Leadership Forum (ALF),
- *Human Rights:* Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
- *Peace and Security:* Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), SaferAfrica
- *Health:* Roll Back Malaria (RBM), Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA), Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA),
- *Education:* Forum for Africa Women Educationalists (FAWE), African Network for the Campaign on “Education for All” (ANCEFA),
- *Economic Empowerment:* African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA)

Regional

- *Western Africa:* West African Women Association (WAWA)
- *Northern Africa:* Tunisian Mothers’ Association (ATM)
- *Southern Africa:* Foundation for Community Development (FDC)
- *Central Africa:* Association Congolais de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes (ACOLVF)
- *Eastern Africa:* Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA)

Other Organizations participating

- AAWORD, ABANTU for Development, Akina Mama Wa Africa, ANSEDI,
- Cadre Permanent de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises (CAFECO), CAFOB, Center For Human Rights (CHR), Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), CONAFED, Equality Now, FEMNET, International African Committee (IAC), International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Isis-WICCE, MARWOPNET, Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI), REPERES, Pan African Movement, Pro-Femmes, SSWC, Women’s Society of Alfateh

International

- Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), Geneva
- Working Group on Peace of the NGO Commission on the Status of Women, Geneva
- NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, New York



3. Acronyms

ACDHRS	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
ACHPR	African Commission for Human and People's Rights
APF	African Partnership Forum
AU	African Union
AUGD	African Union Gender Directorate
AUWC	African Union Women's Committee
AWDF	African Women's Development Fund
AWEPA	The Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa
CAFOB	Collectif des associations et ONG féminines du BURUNDI
CEB	Chief Executive Board
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CONGO	Conference of Non Governmental Organizations
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAW	Division for the Advancement of Women
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECOSOCC	The Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GIMAC	Gender is My Agenda Campaign
GLR	Great Lakes Region
GTY	German Technical Cooperation
HRC	Human Rights Council
IC/GLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
FAS	Femmes Africa Solidarité
MARWOPNET	Mano River Women's Peace Network
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NGOWG	NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
OSIWA	Open Society Initiative for West Africa
PAC	Pan African Centre for Gender and Development



SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality
UN SCR	UN Security Council Resolution
UN ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
UN	United Nations
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNOWA	United Nations Office for West Africa
UPEACE	University for Peace
WGDD	Women Gender and Development Directorate
WILPF	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
YWCA	Young Women Christian Association