



9th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
24 – 25 January 2007**

ADDIS CALL FOR SOLEMN IMPLEMENTATION

We, the Civil Society Organizations working across Africa and meeting at the 9th Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 24-25 January 2007 prior to the 8th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to follow-up on the “Gender is My Agenda” Campaign on the implementation of the *Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa* (SDGEA) organized by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) with the support of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);

Building upon the important work and achievements accomplished by African women’s networks under the initiative of the African Women’s Committee for Peace and Development (AWCPD) and FAS during previous consultative meetings in: Durban, June 2002 co-organized by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD); in Dakar, April 2003; in Maputo, June 2003 co-organized by the Foundation for Community Development (FCD); in Addis Ababa, June 2004 co-organized by the AU Gender Directorate; in Abuja, January 2005 co-organized by the Africa Leadership Forum (ALF); in Tripoli, July 2005 with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Libya; in Dakar, October 2005 co-organized by FAS; and in Banjul, June 2006 co-organized by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS);

Welcoming the presence at the meeting of **Honourable Mrs Getrude Mongella** President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) who opened the meeting and **Her Excellency Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa as well as the continuous input of **Mrs Graca Machel** to the mainstreaming gender agenda;

Thanking His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the AU Commission for his persistent commitment to the accelerated implementation of the SDGEA, adopted

at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2004; and the **UNECA** for its support in organizing the 9th Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU;

Recalling the commitment of African Heads of State and Government to gender equality as a major goal of the AU as enshrined in Article 4 (1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, in particular the decision to implement and uphold the principle of gender parity taken at the Inaugural Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa and its operationalization during the Second Ordinary Session in Maputo, Mozambique, July 2003, the SDGEA adopted at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2004, as well as the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in November 2005;

Bearing in mind our commitment to monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of the SDGEA in conformity with the guidelines developed by civil society;

Cognizant of the activities of our various thematic focal points on following-up and implementing the SDGEA in our respective fields;

Note with appreciation the following achievements:

1. The submission by the Chairperson of the AU Commission of the 2nd Progress Report on the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa pursuant to Article (13) of the SDGEA and the Synthesis of Reports from Member States on the Implementation of the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;
2. The decision of the AU to put in place a gender mainstreaming strategy and budget, with a view to promoting and facilitating gender responsiveness in the AU;
3. The decision of the AU to involve women from Sudan in the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks in Abuja in 2005;
4. The establishment of mechanisms for promoting good governance and socio-economic development and "best practices" demonstrated by the Republic of Rwanda as recognized in the report of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM);
5. The commitment of the Republic of Burundi to gender policies particularly through constitutional arrangements that require gender parity in all policy decisions;
6. The deployment by the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of South Africa of women in peacekeeping operations in various African countries;
7. The attainment of gender equality at primary and secondary levels of education in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Botswana, the

- Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of Namibia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the Republic of Seychelles, the Republic of South Africa, Swaziland, the Republic of Tunisia, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe;
8. The adoption by the Cabinet of the Republic of South Africa of a target of fifty percent representation of women at all levels of decision-making in all spheres of government;
 9. The commitment of Lesotho and the Republic of Namibia to the principles of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women through the organization of awareness raising programmes and national workshops aimed at accelerating its implementation;
 10. The activities undertaken by civil society organizations to further the aim of gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa including the work of members of the "Gender is My Agenda" Campaign and other organizations in governance, peace and security, human rights, health, education and economic empowerment.

Deplore the following unfulfilled commitments, two years after the adoption of the SDGEA:

1. That only nine of the fifty three signatory States of the SDGEA have submitted their annual reports on progress made in terms of gender mainstreaming in contravention of their expressed commitment as stipulated in Article (12) of the SDGEA, namely Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Burundi, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Lesotho, the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Tunisia;
2. The weakness of some of the reports submitted by Member States and their lack of indicators and statistical information needed to measure progress made, particularly on peace issues.

Make the following recommendations:

1. Member States should adopt the content of the SDGEA as the framework for the accelerated implementation of existing instruments and platforms for gender equality and equity at the national level in order to maximize the principles of the SDGEA.

To actualise this, the AU should:

- a. Encourage Member States to come up with National Strategic Plans for the implementation of the SDGEA;
- b. Engage National Parliaments to integrate the SDGEA into legislative framework through the enactments of laws that

promote the effective use of Affirmative Action in gender equality;

- c. Support the creation of Equal Opportunity Commissions in countries where they do not exist in order to promote and supervise gender parity principles, policies and programmes.
2. The AU Commission, through the Women, Gender and Development Directorate should develop a standardized reporting format and template to support the guidelines developed by the Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs that met in October 2005 in Dakar;
3. The Women, Gender and Development Directorate and the AU Gender machinery should be better resourced to effectively deliver their mandates. In this regard:
 - a. Adequate budget allocation should be provided for the gender mainstreaming programmes. Furthermore, all existing vacant positions should be filled without further delay;
 - b. The Chairperson of the AU Commission, through the AU Women's Committee, should organize an Annual Visitation Team for each of the five regions in Africa to engage the various actors in Member States on gender issues — especially the implementation of the SDGEA;
 - c. The AU should realign the gender programmes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the APRM and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with the principles, activities and targets enunciated within the SDGEA. The AU Commission should ensure that a more functional and effective linkage is forged between the Gender Directorate, NEPAD, the APRM, the RECs and other organs in the articulation and implementation of the AU gender policy and strategic plans.
4. The Assembly of the AU should, as a matter of practice and commitment to the SDGEA:
 - a. Encourage all Member States to submit an annual report on the SDGEA as agreed by the Assembly at the time of its adoption in July 2004;
 - b. Devote time during the Ordinary Session to report on policies and programmes being promoted in AU member State countries.
5. The Assembly should devote a major section of the next Annual Report on the SDGEA on actions, policies and programmes that have been undertaken by Member States in the area of the girl child education, HIV/AIDS and women, violence against women and the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Women's Rights;

6. The Assembly should urge the AU Peace and Security Council to appoint more women as Envoys, Representatives, Rapporteurs and Heads of Peace Negotiations; and also to create a gender desk in peacekeeping operations. In the same vein, women should be included and fully integrated in disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration (DDRR) and post-conflict reconstruction programmes across Africa;
7. The Assembly, through the AU Commission, should urgently organize a continental conference on the Economic Empowerment of African Women to articulate strategies to enhance the total well-being of African women;
8. The Chairperson of the AU Commission should formally report on progress made thus far on the establishment of the African Trust Fund for Women at the next AU Summit;
9. The Chairperson of the AU Commission should include in his annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa the activities of AU Commissioners in implementing the SDGEA in order to monitor progress at the regional level;
10. The Assembly and the AU Commission should develop frameworks that will promote brain gain rather than brain drain through special programmes and incentives that will bring back African experts and expertise — especially in the area of health care delivery and education;
11. AU member States should take concrete steps to accelerate the implementation of both the AU and the UN Convention against Corruption as a way of reducing the level of feminization of poverty and guaranteeing African women's rights to a sustainable livelihood;

Take the following commitments:

1. Undertake along with the AU Gender Directorate and further to the invitation of the President of the PAP, to work with the Gender Committee and Caucus of the PAP in the promotion and integration of the SDGEA in national laws in all African countries;
2. Acknowledge and recognize Member States who — in their own judgement and assessment — are implementing policies, laws and programmes conducive to the attainment of the goals and targets set out in the SDGEA;
3. Strengthen the “Gender is My Agenda” Campaign using available advocacy tools including the “Gender is My Agenda” website and other publications and communication strategies;
4. Continue to disseminate, advocate and mobilize in our different constituents with a view to accelerating implementation of all the objectives of the SDGEA;

5. Agree to strengthen the civil society shadow reports monitoring and evaluating implementation of the SDGEA by Member States in particular through the development of a common reporting framework and the articulation of specific indicators;
6. Support our sisters who are nominated to positions in support of gender parity as well as women in decision-making positions in carrying out the women's agenda;
7. Make a concerted effort to include men in all gender initiatives and gender parity processes for the full attainment of principals set forth in the SDGEA.

Adopted 25 January 2007
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PARTICIPANTS:

Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA)
Africa Gender Monitor
Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)
African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
African Union Commission Women Gender and Development Directorate
African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
Ahfad University for Women
Association de Lutte contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes (ACOLVF)
Centre for Human Rights (CHR)
Collectif des associations et ONG féminines du Burundi (CAFOD)
Comité Inter-Africain
Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA)
Ethiopian Nurses Association
Ethiopian Television
Fédération Nationales des Associations des Femmes du Benin
Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)
Gfm Radio & Ben TV Sky Channel 148
Government of Senegal Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender
Government of South Africa Department of Foreign Affairs
International African Committee (IAC)
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
International Criminal Court (ICC)
International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDAH)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)
Malian Association of Lawyers
Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET)
New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
ONG Repères
Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)
Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO)
PanaPress
Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe
Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA)
Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA)
Tunisian Mothers' Association (TMA)
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
United Nations Economic Commission Africa African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD)
University for Peace (UPEACE)
West African Women Association (WAWA)
Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)
World Vision
Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum



Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

THEMATIC FOCAL POINTS

- Governance :** Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)
Peace and Security: Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS),
African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), SaferAfrica
Human Rights: Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF),
African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
Health: Alliance pour la Recherche sur les Aspects Sociaux du Vih/Sida (SAHARA),
Society for Women and Aids in Africa (SWAA), Roll Back Malaria (RBM)
Education: Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE),
Campagne Internationale sur les Objectifs du Millénaire pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ANCEFA)
Economic Empowerment: African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS

- Western Africa :** Association des Femmes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (AFAO)
Northern Africa: Association des Mères Tunisiennes (AMT)
Southern Africa: Foundation for Community Development (FDC)
Central Africa: Association Congolaise de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes (ACOLVF)
Eastern Africa: Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA)

OTHER ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING

FEMNET, MARWOPNET, ABANTU for Development, Akina Mama Wa Africa, Centre for Human Rights, Equality Now, CONAFED, CGE, Pan African Movement, CAFOB, REPERES, EBWA, AAWORD, NPI, SSWC, ANSEDI, Women's Society of Alifateh, IAC

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

AU, ECA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

OSIWA

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