



## **17<sup>th</sup> AFRICAN WOMEN'S PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATION ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE AFRICAN UNION**

**January 24-26, 2011  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

### **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

We, representatives of African women's civil society organisations and African women leaders meeting under the umbrella of "Gender Is My Agenda Campaign" (GIMAC) at the 17<sup>th</sup> African Women's Pre-Summit on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from January 24-26 2011, convened by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) in partnership with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Union Commission (AUC), International Labour Organization (ILO) and IPAS with the support of the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Urgent Action Fund, Open Society Initiative (OSI), Nobel Women's Initiative, Agencia Espanola De Cooperacion Internacional, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Norway and Sweden;

**Welcoming** the decision of the African Heads of State and Governments to devote the 16<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the African Union Summit to the theme "Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values";

**Appreciating** the leadership of the African Union Commission and particularly its Political Affairs Department in ensuring that these important concerns receive the attention of the Heads of State;

**Appreciating** further the support of our various partners and the presence of Hon. Dr. Olivia Muchena, the Minister of Women's Affairs, Zimbabwe; Hon. Ms Awa Ndiaye, the Senegalese Minister of Gender Affairs, African and International Women's Associations; Hon. Gertrude Mongella former Pan African President; Hon. Mary Robinson, former President of the Republic of Ireland; Hon. Elizabeth Rehn, former Minister of Defence, Finland; and Dr Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Director, Roll Back Malaria Partnership; whose contributions called attention to the urgent need to integrate gender perspectives in key and current issues concerning the African Continent, including the elimination of violence against women, climate justice and women's economic empowerment;

**Reiterating** the determination and commitment of the African women's movement in keeping women's rights on the African Union's agenda through Pre-summit consultations;

**Recalling** the commitments of African Heads of State and Government to take all necessary steps to achieve gender equality in Africa;

**Recognising** the continued desire of the Heads of State and Government in implementing and reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) as reflected in the increase of Member States that have reported on it and those that have ratified the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

**Commending** the African Heads for adopting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) instrument that promotes shared values of the African Union;

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

**Welcoming** attempts by the African Union and the United Nations to resolve the conflicts in Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Guinea, Somalia and other parts of the continent;

**Reaffirming** GIMAC's commitment to monitor, evaluate and report on AU policies on women's rights, especially the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) (2003) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

**Recognising** the efforts of the African Union in declaring 2010-2020 as the African Women's Decade to further promote gender equality and the advancement of African Women in all spheres of life;

**URGE** the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and other stakeholders to consider and adopt the following recommendations:

#### **A. AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

1. Uphold the gender parity principle as a Shared Value in all continental, regional and national structures, and ensure that gender mainstreaming remains the cornerstone of all AU policies and programs;
2. Call upon countries to submit pending reports on the SDGEA in accordance with its reporting guidelines and review them as a way of demonstrating progress on commitments made to promote gender equality in Africa and to recognise the Member States that have made notable progress;
3. Organise the second Summit on Gender within the African Women Decade period to coincide with the SDGEA review
4. Encourage the elimination of violence against women, gender and social economy and gender mitigation and adaptation with regards to the effects of climate change as Shared Values;
5. Ensure the inclusion of at least 50 percent women in all peace processes, and promote their effective participation and leading role in mediation teams. Gender sensitive trainings for mediators should be organized to better address gender related issues;

6. Provide protection for the women peace activists especially in conflict and post conflict countries;
7. Urge countries that have not yet ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to do so by December 2011 and to spell out definite timelines on which to deliver this commitment by the proposed target date and those that have ratified to implement and report according to the stipulated guidelines;
8. Further urge those that have ratified to speed up domestication and implementation; taking into consideration that reporting guidelines have been adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and to submit their reports accordingly
9. Ensure the integration of women's issues related to climate change and climate justice in the AU position to the upcoming Durban Conference on Climate Change (COP 17);
10. Ensure that the African Women's Decade: 2010-2020 is given adequate funds to effectively implement agreed activities in our Member States;
11. Conduct studies to identify root causes of Conflict and strategies for future prevention;
12. Ensure Member States have strong political will and a coordinated approach and allocate funds towards a consolidated strategy for the elimination of violence against women, effects of climate change and gender and women's economic empowerment.

## **B. MEMBER STATES OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

1. Provide Gender and Women Ministries and all related mechanisms with adequate human, technical and financial resources to address the elimination of violence against women; effects of climate change and women's economic and social empowerment;
2. Adhere to existing legal and policy frameworks and adopt multi-sectoral strategies to address the elimination of violence against women; effects of climate change and women's economic and social empowerment as Shared Values;
3. Call upon all Member States to ratify and implement the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and governance in accordance with the commitments made;
4. Strengthen local justice mechanisms to effectively prosecute those responsible for gender crimes; and build the capacity of the security sector to provide adequate response and support to survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence;
5. Intensify awareness campaigns and develop and disseminate simplified, gender aware information and material on Shared Values;
6. Establish frameworks that provide an enabling environment for women and youth participation

in decision making on key issues on the African continent at the local, national, regional and international levels;

7. Conceptualise and develop a strategy on how to provide social protection, technical, infrastructural and legal support to women in the informal sector;
8. Follow up on the 16<sup>th</sup> GIMAC recommendations and the commitment to reduce maternal mortality in Africa, in line with the African Women's Decade theme for 2011;
9. Engage in Partnerships with women's institutions to support women in both the informal and formal sector to build their capacity to improve their enterprises.

### **C. GIMAC**

1. Develop a monitoring framework to assess progress made by the AU in the adoption and implementation of GIMAC recommendations and report findings at every GIMAC Pre-Summit;
2. Act as a platform to support and mobilise women to participate in all peace negotiations;
3. Target key actors, including humanitarian organisations, for partnership; and strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and GIMAC members to work on common strategies regarding elimination of violence against women, climate change/climate justice and women's economic and social empowerment;
4. Undertake research and share best practices including traditional knowledge and build professional partnerships amongst stakeholders to address the elimination of violence against women, impact of climate change and women's economic and social empowerment;
5. Organise global women solidarity missions to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations (Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan) to raise awareness, revitalise women's movements and support them to develop a common peace agenda on crucial issues and establish a team to monitor impact;
6. Lobby policy makers at Member States level on critical issues during the year before the AU Summit and utilise the Pre-Summit platform to firm up positions and garner support;
7. Establish mentorship programs for the younger women's generation to promote sustainability, strengthen youth networks and encourage their participation;
8. Advocate at national level for submission of reports by Members States on implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;
9. Collect and share information on existing African women mediators to be recommended to all mediation teams.

### **D. SPECIAL ISSUES**

### **On the situation in Cote d'Ivoire:**

Call on the African Union and ECOWAS to contribute to a speedy resolution of the post-elections crisis, ensure inclusion and participation of women in all peacemaking processes and call for an immediate stop to sexual and gender based violence and the prosecution of those most responsible for human rights violations.

### **Elections**

1. Call on all African countries preparing for elections to ensure that the electoral processes and outcomes are transparent and peaceful and ensure due diligence before, during and after elections and take women's concerns and needs into consideration;
2. Encourage all African women to aspire to elective offices and request governments to provide adequate security for voters before, during and after the elections.

Gender is My Agenda Campaign Network  
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