

## **MAPUTO DECLARATION ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE AFRICAN UNION**

### **Preamble**

We, the representatives of African women's organizations and networks working on gender and development issues, gathered on the eve of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, at a women's pre-summit meeting, convened by the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) in collaboration with UNIFEM (Southern Africa Regional Office), Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Centre for Human Rights (University of Pretoria), Southern African Development Community (SADC) Gender Unit, Forum Mulher, Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) Mozambique, and the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) in Maputo, Mozambique from 23 to 24 June 2003.

### **Welcoming**

- The recognition of the promotion of gender equality as a key principle and goal of the African Union; and
- The adoption, by Heads of State and Government, of the principle of 50% gender representation in the African Union.

**Affirming** our support for the outcome of meetings as embodied in the:

- Durban Declaration on Gender and Mainstreaming and the Effective Participation of Women in the African Union (30 June 2002); and
- Dakar Strategy on Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Effective Participation in the African Union (26 April 2003).

**Appreciating** the role and contributions of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development on the Continent.

### **Acknowledging**

- The establishment of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate in the office of the Chairperson of the African Union;
- The entrenchment of the Statutes of the African Union Commission, of the principle of gender equality in the recruitment of the Commission's senior staff and top management;
- The opportunity for civil society participation in the activities of the African Union through the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC); and
- The efforts of Heads of State and Government in their endeavour to address poverty through the New partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

### **Welcoming**

- The progress made in the elaboration of the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and
- The openness of the NEPAD Secretariat to the secondment of gender specialists and opportunities for gender mainstreaming.

**Concerned that:**

- Despite commendable action by Heads of State and Government in mainstreaming gender, there is need for concerted acceleration of the process;
- There is as yet no provision for a Specialized Technical Committee on Gender;
- The Women, Gender and Development Directorate is severely under-resourced;
- There is no mechanism for dialogue between women's organizations and networks and the key decision-making structures of the African Union;
- The Pan-African Parliament Protocol provision that at least one of the five representatives from each Member State must be a woman, is inadequate;
- There is an acute under-representation of women ambassadors and other plenipotentiaries accredited to the African Union;
- Despite the Continent having the highest incidence of maternal mortality in the world, legal, policy, programmatic and budgetary interventions are not commensurate with the gravity of the challenge;
- Certain discriminatory and harmful practices expose women to dying during pregnancy and birth;
- Discriminatory laws and harmful traditional practices continue to exacerbate the high incidence of HIV/AIDS, particularly among women and girls;
- Certain parts of the Continent are experiencing famine and Africa is become a dumping ground for genetically modified food and seeds;
- Women in agriculture face many constraints, including inadequate access to credit, information and the acquisition of skills;
- Despite the fact that women are responsible for up to eighty percent of the total food production in Africa, they generally lack access to, and control and tenure of, land; and
- War and conflict negatively impact on women in that among other things, it disrupts women's major source of livelihood and food security.

**Recognising the need:**

- To elaborate and implement an African Union Gender Policy and Declaration;
- For an effective gender mainstreaming strategy and efficient coordinating framework for managing gender issues on the continent;
- For sensitization on gender issues throughout the African Union; and
- To clarify the status and role of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development.

**Reaffirming** our commitment to building strategic partnerships at all levels and in the activities of the African Union, we hereby **recommend** the following to the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union:

#### **A. African Union**

1. That an African Union Gender Policy and Declaration, as well as a gender mainstreaming strategy and coordinating framework, are put in place as soon as possible;
2. That a Specialized Technical Committee on Women and gender be established under Article 14 of the African Union Constitutive Act; and
3. That adequate resources be availed for the work of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate.

#### **B. Participation of African Women in the Organs of the African Union**

1. That the Pan African Parliament Protocol should be amended to allow for at least two women representatives out of the five representatives from each member country;
2. That the Economic, Social and Cultural Council ensures gender parity in its membership; and
3. That a high level mechanism is provided for dialogue between women's organizations and networks and the key decisionmaking structures of the African Union.

#### **C. Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

1. That the Draft Protocol is adopted and the mechanism for ratification be put into place as to reinforce it as soon as possible;
2. That Member States consider withdrawing reservations entered to Articles of the draft Protocol with a view to strengthening the final Protocol.

#### **D. The New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD)**

1. That the establishment of a task team to ensure that specific issues faced by poor women are addressed in poverty reduction strategies, as envisaged in para 119 of the NEPAD, be expedited; and
2. The rapid implementation of paragraphs 132-137 of the NEPAD, pertaining to agriculture

#### **E. Maternal Mortality**

1. The adoption of concrete legal, policy and programmatic interventions to curb the high incidence of maternal mortality;
2. Prioritising the commitment of adequate financial resources to health care services and measures aimed at reducing maternal mortality, at a regional and national levels; and
3. Eradicating discriminatory and harmful practices against women that expose them to dying during pregnancy and birth.

#### **F. HIV/AIDS**

1. That all Member States establish as a matter of national security and stability, comprehensive laws and strategies to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
2. That HIV/AIDS policies and programming interventions take due cognizance of the gender implications of the pandemic.

## **G. Agriculture**

1. That Member States adopt and implement policies and legislation to ensure equal access to, and control and ownership of, land by women;
2. The introduction of measures to facilitate women's access to credit, information and skills training;
3. That Member States acknowledge that food security strategies imply necessarily the empowerment of rural women; and
4. The establishment of an African food bank reserve to be used in cases of emergency.

### **Done in Maputo, Mozambique on 24 June 2003.**

ABANTU for Development (Regional Office for East and Southern Africa Office)

Africa Gender Institute – University of Cape Town

African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

African Union – Women, Gender and Development Directorate

African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD)

African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)

Akina Mana wa Africa

Associacao das Mulheres Empresarias

Associacaon das Mulheres Juristas de Mozambique

Association Nationale de Soutien aux Enfants em Difficulte et em Institution (ANSEDI)

Association Tunisienne des Meres

Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

Center for Reproductive Rights

Commissao Africana dos Direitos Humanos e dos Povos

Commission on Gender Equality – South Africa

Development Bank of South Africa

Economic Commission of Africa – African Center for Gender and Development

Embassy of Finland, Maputo

Equality Now – Africa Regional Office

Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS)

Forum do ONG Femininas de Norte, Provincia da Zambezia

Forum for Africa Women Educationalists (FAWE)

Forum Mulher

Fundacao para Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC)

Gabinete Juridico da Mulher, Pemba, Mozambique

Ministerio de Coordinacao da Accao Social, Mozambique

Ministerio de Saude, Mozambique

Modeste, Societe Civile du Congo DRC et OPDAL  
Muleidi  
Office for the Status of Women, Northern Cape, RSA  
PACFA (First Lady's Office –Rwanda)  
SADC, Gender Unit  
SADC, Parliamentarians  
South African High Commission  
Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC)  
UNDP  
UNFPA  
UNHCR  
Uniao Geral das Cooperatives (UGC)  
WLSA, Mozambique  
WWGG  
Women and Law in Southern Africa (WiLSA)  
Women's Caucus, Assembleia da Republica da Mozambique  
Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)