

WILDAF WEST AFRICA

Newsletter

Women in Law and Development in Africa

N° 35 July 2008

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the readers of WILDAF West Africa Newsletter. This 35th issue suggests that you dwell on an important event on development aid: this is the 3rd High Level Forum scheduled for September 2008 in Accra, for the evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. To that effect, we publish the Declaration adopted by West African and Mauritania women on the Paris Declaration and Aid Effectiveness, as well as a text that can enable you understand the Paris Declaration.

Our sub-region is also affected by the cost of living phenomenon that badly hits people, particularly women who have huge responsibilities regarding the survival of their families. We suggest that you read the two (2) articles centred on the scope of the phenomenon and its impact on women's basic human rights, and the initiatives taken by women to bring government authorities adopt measures likely to make the basic commodities more accessible to people.

In the heading « Women of Honour », the WILDAF network pays a posthume tribute to **Late Jadesola Olayinka AKANDE**, (*Chair of WILDAF Nigeria*) an exceptional African woman, a comrade-in- arms who we are mourning since 29 April, 2008.

In this issue, the readers could also consult the network news, the new developments within the ECOWAS and the African Union.

As usual, we have compiled for you some elements on new publications on women's rights at sub-regional, African and international levels and some new publications on various topics.

Enjoy your reading and thank you for your faithfulness.

Kafui ADJAMAGBO-JOHNSON
Sub-regional coordinator

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**Also available on our
website:**

www.wildaf-ao.org/eng

Consultative meeting of West African women's organisations on Aid effectiveness and gender equality

From **25th to 27th June 2008** women from the civil society in West Africa met in Lome, Togo to better understand the principles and mechanisms of the Paris Declaration, to adopt a clear position which will be harmonised with the civil society from their countries and Africa's position.

The sub regional meeting is the first of a series of activities that will help the women of the civil society to influence the high level forum expected in September 2008 in Accra for the evaluation of the Paris Declaration. After the consultative meeting, the appointed representatives will participate in **the Accra women's meeting on 30th August 2008, in the civil society Forum from 31st August to 1st September 2008 and in the High Level Forum itself scheduled from 2nd to 4th September 2008** in order to make West African women's voice heard.

At the end of the meeting, the participants adopted the following statement. (*West African women statement and the press release are published on the site www.wildaf-ao.org*)

WEST AFRICAN WOMEN'S STATEMENT ON AID EFFECTIVENESS AND GENDER EQUALITY

We women from 15 West African countries and Mauritania, representing 33 organisations and networks of the sub region, at the West African Women's Consultative Meeting on Aid Effectiveness and Gender Equality, organised in Lome, Togo from 25th to 27th June

2008 by Women in Law and Development in Africa, (WILDAF) with financial support from UNIFEM Regional Office for West Africa and OSIWA (Open Society Institute for West Africa);

Having analysed the principles of the Paris Declaration and the draft Accra Agenda for Action (AAA);

Noting the endemic poverty of African women who represent more than 50 percent of the population, the role and place of women in the socio-economic development of our countries, and their voicelessness in decision making;

Yet acknowledging their commitments to poverty eradication and development

Recalling States' commitments through international instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); regional instruments including the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women and the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality; and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance;

Recognize that the review of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness offers opportunities to advance gender equality and women's empowerment;

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The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa				
Twenty Three (23) States have ratified it and 43 have signed it as 9 th November, 2007. Entry into force : 25 th November 2005				
WEST AFRICA	EAST AFRICA	Angola	CENTRAL AFRICA	NORTH AFRICA
BENIN	COMOROS	SOUTHERN AFRICA	Burundi	Algeria
BURKINA FASO	DJIBOUTI	LESOTHO	Congo	LIBYA
CAP VERDE	Ethiopia	MALAWI	Chad	
Côte d'Ivoire	Kenya	MOZAMBIQUE	Cameroon	
GAMBIA	Madagascar	NAMIBIE	Democratic Rep. Of Congo	
Ghana	Mauritius	SOUTH AFRICA	Equatorial Guinea	
Guinea	RWANDA	Swaziland	Gabon	
Guinea Bissau	SEYCHELLES	Zambia		
Liberia	Somalia	Zimbabwe		
MALI	Tanzania			
MAURITANIA	Uganda			
Niger				
NIGERIA				
SENEGAL				
Sierra Leone				
TOGO				
14	11	8	7	2
Number of countries for each region				
16	13	10	9	5
Number of countries which have ratified for each region				
9	4	6	0	1

To keep up to date on signatures and ratification, go to www.africa-union.org and check *Treaties, conventions and Protocols* etc. under **Official Documents** section.

WEST AFRICAN WOMEN'S STATEMENT ON AID
EFFECTIVENESS AND GENDER EQUALITY

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Affirming that Aid cannot be effective when it does not lead to sustainable development which implies, the centrality of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, social justice and environmental sustainability.

Also affirming that progress in the areas of gender equality, environmental sustainability respect for human's rights and good governance, that the draft Accra Agenda for Action recognises as "essential to obtain tangible results in development" can be accelerated through the Paris Declaration implementation, only if they are treated as sectors coming with progress indicators and specific resources allocated in national budgets.

Yet deplore that the Paris Declaration has not taken into account human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment leading to an absence of gender indicators to measure progress in line with international instruments.

Fully support the different positions from women rights activists and gender experts at the Consultation of Women's Organisations and Networks and Aid Effectiveness in Toronto, Canada in January 2008; from African women at the African Women's Regional Consultation on Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness in Nairobi in May 2008, and from UNIFEM;

Do hereby make the following recommendations to partner countries especially from West Africa, and donors, at the Third High Level Forum on Paris Declaration in Accra in September 2008;

On Ownership

The principle of ownership must be understood as meaning democratic ownership to include, states partners as well as citizens, parliamentarians and civil society organisations in particular women's rights groups.

States partners and donors must, to this end:

1. Recognise civil society and especially women's organisations as full partners in their own right and as partners in the development process. Governments and donors must interpret national ownership by elaborating on its implications in the context of international and regional women's rights and gender equality obligations in CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action and the African Union Protocol on Women.

2. Strengthen the capacity of women's rights organisations in order that they can influence the development process through integration of gender perspectives into policies, plans, programmes and budgets; and to enable them to play a key role in their implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

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FEMMES A L'HONNEUR



POSTHUME TRIBUTE OF THE WILDAF
To the Late

Prof JADESOLA AKANDE

The sudden departure of Professor Jadesola Akande is no doubt a great loss to our pan African movement and indeed the regional network of women in law and development in Africa. Jadesola Akande is a founding member of WILDAF.

She was one of those eminent women jurists who sowed the seed for the formation of Women Law & Development in Africa in 1985 at the Nairobi end of decade for women where the reality of the gap created between women and their rights was acknowledged as one of the major challenges affecting women's progress and development. Professor Jadesola Akande was also one of the few women who nurtured the formation of women law & development network at the consultative sub-regional level in Accra. She followed the process of the birth of the regional body in Harare in 1990 and has been one of the leading members providing and intellect towards the actualization of the WILDAF objectives.

Professor Akande was one of the exponents of legal literacy training of paralegals at the grassroots. She was also a consultant and co-author of resource materials at regional and sub regional levels. Notable amongst the publications she contributed to are: *Advocacy for a better implementation of women's rights, For a world free of violence against women, CEDAW made easy, and more recently the SERIES on: WOMEN AND GOVERNANCE- Training Manual for Women's Participation in Governance (Advocacy, lobbying, networking, coalition building and negotiation).*

An experienced trainer, Professor Jadesola has been a major resource person for projects on "sensitization and capacity building of judicial and extra-judicial stakeholders for the effective implementation of the rights of women in West Africa" and "Good governance women's participation in decision and policy making in Nigeria.

Until her death, Professor Jadesola Akande was an alternate board member representing Anglophone West Africa on the board of WILDAF regional body.

She was also the chair of WILDAF Nigeria board. On behalf of the board and members of WILDAF, we commiserate with the family of our dear sister Professor Jadesola Akande for this irreparable loss.

We also pray that God will give WILDAF and WILDAF Nigeria and its National coordinator Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi, the fortitude to bear this loss –

Amen.

Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson
WILDAF West Africa Sub-regional Office, Togo

Staggering rise in prices of basic commodities in West Africa

From 20 to 25 last April, the UNCTAD organised in Accra its 12th conference, and in a note published on this occasion, the organisation revealed that « since 2002 the prices of staple foods have been increasing after a sharp decrease from 1995 to 1997. The oil price has almost tenfold since 1999, where it was low. And since 2008, it passed the symbolic mark of 100 dollars and peaks today at 120 dollars ».

The index price of non combustible basic products set by the UNCTAD shows an increase of 107% since 2002. According to the analysis of the UN agency « The overall increase in prices was nurtured by the soaring prices of metals that increased by 224 percent since 2002 ».

Obviously, producing countries take advantage of the enormous financial resources generated by these products and among these countries the petroleum exporting countries are the better-off. As a continent rich in raw materials, could Africa take advantage of this new situation it has been suffering from for the moment? Ministers and high level officers who participated in the 12th UNCTAD in Accra were questioned on the issue.

The most crucial issue today is the staggering rise in prices of basic commodities. The situation was the root cause of several demonstrations and unrests that took place in several countries. When you go round markets in West African big cities you can notice an exaggerated rise in the prices of basic commodities that the leaders fail to control. This situation results in starvation with the poorest population groups particularly women, first victims of rising prices, because of their role as mothers, spouses, educators and hence caretakers of their families.

In **Benin** the price of a kilogramme of maize rose from F 150 to F 205; the price of rice rose from F 300 to F 450, the price of a litre of palm oil increased from F 500 to F 900, that of bean from F 300 to F 400, the can of sardines from F 250 to F 300 and the packet of sugar from F 250 to F 350.

In **Burkina Faso**, between December, 2007 and January, 2008, the prices of commodities rose by 10% to 67%. The price of a litre of oil increased from F 600 to F 900, or 50 percent increase and the price of a 50kg bag of rice formerly sold for F 14.500 increased by 13.8 percent. A litre of oil was sold for between F 850 and F 1000, up from F 650 formerly, while a kilogramme of meat increased from F 1400 to F 1800. The soap and milk prices also rose by 25 to 80 percent.

In **Ghana**, the recent shortages of basic foodstuffs pushed the inflation rate up to 14.2 %.

In **Niger**, according to the Statistics Institute on the harmonised index of consumer products, the fish and fruit prices rose by 14.4% and 2.6%. A 50kg bag of rice formerly sold at F 15,000 now sells for between F 17,000 and F 20,000.

The 100 kg bag of millet sells for F 15,000 against F 12,000; that of sorghum sells for F 14,000 instead of F 11,000, maize sells for F 16,000 against F 13,000.

Meanwhile the bag of cowpeas is sold at F 21,000 against F 12,000, while the basket of tomato increased from F 3,000 to F 3,500.

In **Guinea**, the readjustment of fuel prices at pumps, effective from 1 April, had some knock-on effects on markets. The price of rice rose from Guinea Franc 140,000 to Guinea Franc 160,000.

Togo was not spared by the phenomenon; inflation has impact on people's eating habits. Facing the soaring prices of basic commodities, a fair number of Togolese nationals are considering reducing the number of their daily meals. The bowl of maize formerly sold for F 250 rose to F 500 or an increase by 100%. A kilogramme of horse mackerel formerly sold for F 850 now sells for F 950.

The price of a litre of peanut oil increased from F 500 to F 700. The bowl of salt sells for F 1,000 against F 300 formerly while the price of cassava flour is set at F 500 instead of F 400. The price of a bowl of bean varies between F 1,000 and F 1,200 against F 750 formerly. The price of a litre of palm oil rose from F 700 to F 1,500. The carton of milk now sells for F 12,700 against F 11,900. The price of a baguette of bread sells between F 75 and F 100. The paste that was sold for F 350 is now sells for F 400 and the bag of rice is now at F 13,500 against F 11,500 on Togolese markets.

According to **Jacques Diouf**, General Director of FAO, the prices of foodstuffs shot up by 45 percent worldwide over the last nine months and there are serious shortages of rice, wheat and maize. According to him, emergency measures are deemed necessary to ensure that the short term negative consequences of foodstuffs rising prices do not affect the poorest in a more alarming manner.

Bibliography: PAMBAZUKA, Jeune Afrique l'Intelligent, Google, WILDAF-BSRAO.

Honorable Justice Sanji Monageng, nominee at the International Criminal Court

Honourable Justice Sanji Monageng, General Secretary of the African Commission of Human and People Rights is the nominee by the African Union to the post of Judge at the International Criminal Court. The WILDAF network and the members of the campaign "Gender is my Agenda" would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Madam Sanji and wish her success.

Consult her resumé at: www.wildaf.org

Impact of the high cost of living on women's rights: *experience of the Economic Committee of the « Women and Good Governance » coalition in Togo*

Since January 2006, within the framework of the implementation of the « Good Governance and women's participation in 7 West African countries » project, « Women and good governance » coalitions are working in the 7 countries participating in the project for the integration of women's priorities in the programmes, policies, plans and budgets. In Togo, the Economic Committee of the « Women and good governance » coalition has been carrying out actions since its establishment in order to improve women's economic situation. **Mrs AYI Colette** is the President of the Committee. With a view to assessing the activities of the committee and to linking the cost of living issue to women's economic rights, the editorial staff of WILDAF West Africa Newsletter approached her in order to better know her and get further information on the situation.

W.N. Good morning Madam, could you please introduce yourself?

Mrs AYI Colette: I am Colette AYIH, consultant in communication and leadership. I am also managing director of a shop located at Baguida (Ets Coach). In that capacity, I am member of the *Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises du Togo (AFCET)* (Association of Women Managers of Togo), which I represent at the « Women and good governance » coalition. In order to carry out these actions, this coalition is organised in five committees among which the « Women and economic power » committee that I chair.

W.N. We are aware that you are very involved in the « Women and good governance in Togo » coalition within which you chair the Economic Committee. Your Committee's priority was the cost of living in Togo, in which terms the issue of the high cost of living is posed in Togo?

A.Y.: The case of Togo our country with regard to the high cost of living is very worrying. Indeed, the prices

of basic commodities become exorbitant. In order to give an idea of the seriousness of the problem, here are some examples:

- 90cl Dinor oil sold for F 700 some months ago now sells for F 1,050
- the measure of maize formerly sold for F 205 now sells for F 850
- the price of 5kg of rice rose from F 2,500 to F 3,700
- the basket of smoked fish rose from F 350 to F 700
- the small can of powdered milk usually sold for F 1,700 F is now at F 2200

You admit with me that the difference is huge. Even pharmaceutical products become very expensive.

W.N. What are the consequences or impact of this situation on women's daily life?

A.Y.: The consequences are at various levels. First, within households, the Togolese woman could no longer afford two meals per day for her children.

Then at school, the pocket money is no longer sufficient for our children to eat adequately, the price of meals having increased. This results in all sorts of deficiency diseases and tensions within households.

Finally, social movements arise, problems in education, children drop out in order to help their parents in their farms; health problems: it is difficult for Togolese to have treatment for

simple malaria, the products being extremely expensive.

W.N.: What are the activities your committee has already carried out to that effect and what are the results achieved?

A.Y.: Our committee has initiated dialogue meetings with two ministries targeted to that effect.

- **The ministry of Trade:** we met twice the Minister and some members of his staff. Our step was aimed at suggesting the review of taxes on basic commodities, even their withdrawal in order to recoup them on luxury products such as champagne and others.

Results achieved: a ministerial committee comprising members of our committee was set up to review taxes and make concrete proposals, while taking into account the rules of WAEMU.

- **The ministry of Agriculture:** our approach was first of all meant to propose better redistribution of the maize stocked by the government, decentralisation of the points of sale, with the participation of our committee.

Secondly, it was meant to discuss the agricultural policy of the government in order to prevent maize shortage in the future. This could be achieved through the exploitation of cultivable lands through an irrigation project, as the case of a project successfully implemented in Burkina Faso.

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You are member of WILDAF/FeDDAF West African Network and wish to publicize your activities? Your initiative? Your association?

Send us your text (long or short, what counts is the content!) by e-mail to WILDAF West Africa. **The deadline for the reception of the texts is: June 1st 2008 (for July 2008 issue).**

Who are the Newsletter readers? The WILDAF West Africa Newsletter is distributed to WILDAF West Africa members in nine countries of the sub-region BUT ALSO to our partners in Africa, Europe, Scandinavian countries and America.

info@wildaf-ao.org

**Consultative meeting of West African women's organisations on
Aid effectiveness and gender equality**

WEST AFRICAN WOMEN'S STATEMENT ON AID
EFFECTIVENESS AND GENDER EQUALITY

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3. Strengthen the capacity of national gender mechanisms through adequate resource allocation and capacity building with a view to bringing their contributions to planning and budgeting as well as coordination, monitoring and evaluation of gender equality and women's empowerment mainstreaming in this aid effectiveness process.

On Alignment

There is a risk that gender equality and women's empowerment may be excluded from the development agenda if it does not constitute a priority clearly expressed in national policies. National programmes should reflect the felt needs of women and men and not imposed as national priorities

We consequently require that:

4. Gender budgeting must be promoted as a tool combined with general budget support and the sector wide approach.

5. The capacities of the ministries of planning and finance will be strengthened in gender mainstreaming, and gender sensitive budgeting.

6. Development assistance must also be seen to be channelled to addressing gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights concerns in our government systems, procedures and institutions. This should be reflected in budgetary allocations from the Ministry of Finance and in sector budgets.

7. Civil Society groups must track the money that has been used to implement gender equality and women's empowerment programmes within public financial management and procurement systems. Civil society organisations must measure the percent of aid directed towards gender equality, women's rights and human rights programming.

On Harmonisation

It is generally agreed that dialogue ensures that decisions taken meet the need of the different groups. To this end:

8. Joint donor working strategies must incorporate gender expertise to strengthen support for addressing gender equality and giving voice to the poor;

9. Within harmonization action plans, both partner governments and developing partners should agree to commit to address gender equality and women's empowerment in all sectors they fund;

10. Developing partners should do a gender analysis of countries in the West Africa sub-region; analyze the challenges that will prevent the sub-region from attaining the MDGs; and come to common agreements on how they will work with each other to address these issues and establish priorities that they will fund within the national development strategies and within sector programmes;

11. Joint missions and country analytical work should include gender advocates, experts and representatives of women's machineries.

On managing for results

Implementation of the Paris Declaration is monitored through a set of targets and indicators which assess public management systems, rather than impact of aid on development. Consequently:

12. We call on state parties to adopt new indicators that will allow monitoring and evaluation of the principles of ownership, managing for results and accountability from civil society.

13. The production of sex-disaggregated data must be planned and done on regular basis to serve as support for policy adoption, planning and budgeting as well as evaluation of the impact of policies and budget which are implemented in the partner countries.

14. The Paris Declaration monitoring system be improved by adding social and gender indicators already adopted in international agreements to assess gender equality and women's empowerment programming and financing.

On mutual responsibility

Openness and transparency from donors and partner countries, and multistakeholder mechanisms for holding donors and governments to account is necessary. To this end –

15. We call for the creation of an effective and relevant independent monitoring and evaluation system for the Paris Declaration and its impact on development outcomes.

16. We call on partner countries and donors to jointly account for gender equality issues to women, as the Paris Declaration is supposed to make aid effective in delivering the MDGS

17. Gender issues must be raised during sector, national development strategy and joint government and donor reviews.

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Rape of a married, pregnant woman and a mother of two children.

The Salé Appeal Court in Morocco discharged the rapist of a married, pregnant woman and a mother of two children on 30th April, 2008. The victim was raped, at the Avicenne hospital on 13th September, 2006, by a civil servant of the same hospital, while she was waiting to have an ultra-sound scan.

The democratic association of women in Morocco appealed to the Health Minister on 19th September 2008. The latter took the necessary measures, which ended up with the aggressor's apprehension, after the inquiry commission had thrown lights on the issue. A complaint has been sued before the King's attorney and an inquiry was opened by the Criminal Investigation Department, which ended in the detention of the aggressor.

However, the aggressor was discharged on October 15th, 2007, despite the Ministry of Health inquiry commission report, the minutes of the police, in which the aggressor recognized to have committed the same crime at the hospital and for which he went before the official duty committee.

For information visit the website:
<http://affairechlida.wordpress.com>

Gambian Parents arrested in Norway for genital mutilation affair.

The Gambian parents of five girls were imprisoned in Oslo, Norway having been guilty for genital mutilations (FGM) undergone by their children, revealed "Human Rights Service" (HRS). Indeed, this practice being formally forbidden by the Norwegian justice was practised on these five girls during their holiday trip in Gambia. So, the HRS jointly with the Oslo foreign office sent back the youngest girls (5 years and 3 years) in order to place them in reception centres in Norway. It is to indicate that female genital mutilation is not prohibited in Gambia and is even encouraged by the State.

Consult:

The female genital mutilation, punished henceforth by the law in Egypt

The Egyptian parliament amended a law according to which the authors of the traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) are condemned for a 3- month or a 2-year detention plus a 900-dollar fine. Indeed, it is the death of a 12-year-old girl who underwent this dangerous practice, which incited the Ministry of Health to condemn the female genital mutilation in all its forms. However, it is to indicate that the Moslem community opposes firmly to this decision.

www.afrol.com/articles/29278

Senegal pleads for the social welfare in Africa.

Mrs Awa Ndiaye, the Senegalese Minister of Family, women Entrepreneurship and Micro finance, emphasized on the importance of the social welfare in Africa during a three-day regional meeting of experts from western and central Africa, which was held in June, 2008 in Dakar. According to Mrs Awa Ndiaye, all sectors of the society have to benefit from the social welfare whether formal or informal. She thus called the African governments for the implementation of a system of social welfare effective and accessible to all.

www.afriquenligne.fr/afrique-de-l%27ouest/senegal/mme-awa-ndiaye-plaide-pour-la-protection-sociale-en-afrique-200806096210.html

Liberian International Colloquium

Liberia organizes an international colloquium on Leadership and women empowerment; the colloquium will take place in May, 2009 in Monrovia. All the organizations, which want to take part in this international event, are welcome. They have to register at Femme Africa Solidarité (FAS), who plays the role of accompaniment. Women organizations and young people are invited to participate.

Source: 12th Pre-summit consultative campaign of "Gender is my Agenda" in the framework of Gender implementation in the

Cape Verde towards the implementation of the gender parity principle in politics

The Cape Verde government has just appointed women to some posts of higher responsibility. Indeed, the current government which has just been set up, named several women Ministers. The government consists of the Prime Minister, 15 Ministers and 6 Secretaries of State. Women represent 50 % of the cabinet with eight women Ministers. They are as follows:

- 1 - Minister of State Reform and Defense - Mme CRISTINA FONTES LIMA (she is an activist)
- 2 - Minister of Finance - Mme CRISTINA DUARTE
- 3 - Minister of Justice - Mme MARISA HELENA MORAIS (member of Women's Lawyer Associations)
- 4 - Minister of Economy, Growth and Competitiveness - Mme FATIMA FIALHO
- 5 - Minister of Labour, Professional Training and Social Solidarity - Mme MADALENA NEVES (member of REDEMEC)
- 6 - Minister of Decentralization, Housing and Territory - Mme SARA LOPES
- 7 - Minister of Education and Higher Education - Mme VERA DUARTE (an activist and former President of Human Rights Commission)
- 8 - Minister in Charge of the Council of Ministers and Parliamentary Affairs - Ms. JANIRA HOPFFER ALMADA (member of the Women Lawyers Association).

WiLDAF congratulates the Cape Verde High authorities who have just taken a decisive step towards equal participation of women and men in public and political decision-making. It is to remind that this parity is the standard to which our States subscribed by ratifying the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Consult articles 9 and 13 of the Protocol concerning the issue.

Congratulations to our colleagues activists on the rights of women in Cape Verde for this achievement.

NETWORK NEWS

Consultative Meeting of West African Women's organizations on Aid effectiveness and Gender equality

The WILDAF network organised a consultative meeting on the Paris Declaration from 25th to 27th June, 2008 at Novela Star Hotel for women coming from 15 West African countries and Mauritania.

The meeting aims to mobilize West African women's organisations for a better participation in the review of the Paris Declaration for a consideration of their points of view under evaluation.

It will enable the participants to understand: the content of the Paris Declaration by putting it in its context of the global agenda for funding aid; its implications with regard to gender equality; to come up with a West African women's position. At the end of the meeting a declaration and an action plan have been adopted for the period starting from the Lomé meeting and the Accra Forum, the different meetings and activities to be held in Accra.

Distinction Prize for WILDAF/FeDDAF-Senegal

The chairperson of WILDAF/FeDDAF-Senegal, Mrs Mariame COULIBALY received an award during the 27th edition of the national fortnight women meeting in Senegal under the theme "Women access to the elective and nominative functions: challenges and strategies.

The award ceremony took place in the presence of several personalities, among which, the Prime Minister of Senegal, the Secretary General of the President, the Minister of the Family of Women Entrepreneurship and Micro Finance, the Head of the family department and more than two thousand people.

Benin: 65 women elected over 1,420 seats for town councillors

Only 65 women were elected town councillors out of the 1,420 seats up for grabs in the 20th April municipal and 1st May mayoral polls in Benin, according to the national electoral commission (CENA).

Despite the work of NGOs to have more elected women, there is still a low gender representation in decision-making circles. This can be attributed to the insignificant percentage of educated girls and also to the sociological influences which do not improve the advancement of women in Benin, noticed Mr. Patric Sètonджи, professor of Sociology at the University of Cotonou.

Indeed, the Beninese constitutional court accounts 2 women over 7 members, 6 women over 83 deputies in the National Assembly, 5 women over 22 Ministers in the government and 2 women prefects over six department prefects. Nevertheless, women represent more than 52 % of the population estimated at approximately 6.5 million inhabitants.

http://www.apanews.net/apa.php?page=show_article_enq&id_article=64783

WILDAF-Nigeria: Presentation of the alternative report of the civil society before CEDAW Committee

The 41st session of CEDAW Committee will be held from 30th June to 18th July 2008. Nigeria has to present its report on the implementation of CEDAW objectives (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women).

Women of the civil society, especially those of WILDAF-Nigeria have also in the framework, presented their report on the implementation of the engagements taken by states through regional and international women's rights institutions. They presented also an alternative report through which they talked about the success and the difficulties they faced in that vision.

Read the reports on the site: www.wildaf-ao.org

New WILDAF publication: Indicators for the evaluation of CEDAW and the Protocol implementation are now available.

WILDAF operates since 2006 on a project "Support to the implementation of CEDAW and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa" with the UNIFEM support. The beneficiary countries of the project are: Cape Verde, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

One of the actions of the project consisted in elaborating common and consensual indicators for the follow-up and evaluation of the effective implementation of the CEDAW and the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples's Rights on the rights of women in Africa, which the states mentioned above and the Civil society can use to evaluate the progress they made during the elaboration of their respective reports.

We are pleased to present you the final version of these indicators enriched and translated into English. WILDAF gives thanks to UNIFEM for its financial and technical support.

Get the indicators final version at www.wildaf-ao.org

12th Pre-summit consultative campaign of "Gender is my Agenda" in the framework of Gender implementation in the African Union

The last meeting of the "Campaign Gender is my Agenda / Le Genre est mon Agenda" has been held in Sharm El Sheikh "(Egypt)" from 21st to 22nd June 2008. In this occasion a statement and an alternative report were elaborated by the members of the campaign.

CEDAW Follow-up

CEDAW Committee to be held from 30th June – 18th July 2008. The following countries will present their reports: Iceland, Finland, Lithuania, Nigeria, Slovakia, Tanzania, Great Britain and Yemen.



AU – CSO Pre-summit meeting in Sharm El Sheikh

The African Union (AU) organized the AU-CSO pre-summit from 17th to 19th June 2008 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The meeting gathered more than 50 participants of the civil society. The Pre-Summit gave African CSOs the possibility to raise important issues relevant to the AU Summit in order to allow the Heads of States to accelerate the development process in terms of water and sanitation in Africa. It also focused on the obligation, challenges, duties and responsibilities of the Commission and the African Civil Society in the context of AU-CSO relations. It is to remind that this year's theme is "Water and Sanitation".

<http://europafrica.org/2007/05/09/au-cso-pre-summit-meeting-in-sharm-el-sheik-egypt-from-17-till-19-june-2008/>

Africa: WADE announces the creation of a federal government in January

The Senegalese president, Abdoulaye Wade, declared on 1st July in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt that a federal African government will be created next January. Twenty States were engaged to proclaim immediately the government of the Union. "Nobody dared to oppose that even though we know that some use unfounded arguments to discourage us", he declared when he was back from the African Union Summit.

Source : <http://tinyurl.com/4ksnqt>

AU pays tribute to Late AIMÉ CÉSAIRE

On 1st July 2008 in Sharm el- Sheikh, Egypt, Heads of State and Government paid tribute to late Aimé Césaire, poet and humanist native of Martinique, who died on last 17th April 2008 at the age of 94.

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SUR LE PROJET UE3

« Bonne gouvernance et participation
des Femmes dans sept (7) pays de
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The draft prepared by the AU ministers of foreign affairs related to a « special tribute to one of the most famous humanists of modern times, to he who devoted his life struggling relentlessly and with courage against slavery and colonialism, and for the emancipation of the black people in the world ".

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/3p7up8>

President Jean PING initiates reforms to the functioning of the AU

The eleventh summit of the African Union closed on 1 April at Sharm el-Cheikh, Egypt, was marked by the approval of the internal reforms that the new Chairperson of the Committee, the Gabonese national Jean Ping, plans to implement during his term.

These measures focus on the only criteria of competence, quality and experience, and aim at optimising human resources currently available at the Commission and at increasing performances.

Source : <http://tinyurl.com/4g4o2g>

The AU calls for a demarcation of borders in order to reduce conflicts

A vast demarcation program of borders, approved by the African Union (UA), was launched in order to enable Africa to put an end to its border conflicts.

The AU Peace and Security commissioner declared, after the 11th summit of the Pan-African organization, which ended July 1st, that the **Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU)** had signed a 40 - million dollars peace support program with the Italian government in order to support the regional border projects on the demarcation of borders.

<http://www.africanmanager.com/articles/117503.html>



ECOWAS / Spain: Agreement on the management of a development fund.

The Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS signed with Spain an agreement for the administration and management of a 10-million-euro Fund on Migration and Development, according to a communiqué of Panapress on Monday.

The fund, which will be managed by a 10-member steering committee, will specifically be dedicated to the ECOWAS Commission and member states in the development and implementation of the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration.

It is also aimed at supporting activities on migration and development in order to maximise the positive effects and limit the negative consequences of migration on countries, migrants and their families.

The agreement was signed on 1st July 2008 in Barcelona by the ECOWAS president Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas and the Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Angel Moratinos.

While expressing appreciation to the government of Spain, Chambas urged Spain to continue its collaboration with West Africa to further deepen its relations with the region for the benefit of their peoples. He also called on the Spanish private sector to invest in the region.

<http://www.africanmanager.com/articles/117618.html>

The Protocol to the treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament

No change (46 ratifications) and 48 signatures since the inauguration of the Parliament on 18th March 2004. It has been in force since 14th December 2003.

The Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council

There are 42 ratifications. 50 States are signatories. It has been in force since 26th December 2003.

The Protocol related to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

23 States ratified it and 49 States are signatories. It has been into force since 25th January 2004.

The Protocol on the Court of Justice of the African Union

Egypt ratified it on 11th August 2006. Only 13 out of 53 States have ratified the protocol and 39 countries signed it.

African Union: www.africa-union.org

Introduction: *Understanding the Aid Effectiveness Agenda from a Civil Society and Women's Rights Perspective.*

In 2005, Civil society organizations bore witness to the signing of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (PD) – history's most recent agreement by donor and recipient countries to reform the delivery and management of aid monies in order to strengthen its impact and effectiveness. In 2005, more than 106.8 billion USD flowed in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from bilateral and multilateral funding agencies to developing country governments. In fifteen years of aid allocation, the beneficiaries of these public monies have rarely been women who are receiving a very tiny proportion of overall ODA. Aid as a structuring device, process and resource has had debatable effectiveness in reducing poverty, promotion development and supporting women's rights.

The Paris Declaration was adopted in March 2005 at the High-Level Forum (HLF2) organized by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The PD is now being adhered to by approximately 25 donor countries, 80 recipient countries and around 25 multilateral institutions.

In September 2008 donor countries and recipient countries will meet for a High Level Forum (HLF3) in Accra, Ghana to assess progress in the implementation of the PD, and to agree a new "agenda for action" This will be the first opportunity for donor and recipient countries, and civil society organizations, to review the progress on the implementation of the PD.

In spite of the fact that the PD commits donor countries to a common set of principles and targets to achieve aid effectiveness, CSO are calling for a number of reforms and deepening of the aid effectiveness based on a number of general concerns including:

- **The new aid architecture needs** to be more comprehensive of all development stakeholders – particularly CSOs, including women's organisations and movements.

- **Too much focus on aid modalities:** The emphasis is too centered on the "plumbing" or mechanisms of the aid delivery system, not enough on reducing poverty and inequality as expressed in the Millennium Development Goals. Evaluating aid's effectiveness needs to be integrally linked to support for human rights, democratic governance, environmental sustainability and gender equality.

- **More clarity on the implementation of the PD principles:** An in-depth discussion of the meaning and impacts of the PD principles needs to take place, including the inputs of the CSOs particularly about the principles of ownership, alignment and accountability.

- **Limits in monitoring commitments:** Monitoring of the PD commitments in the lead up to Ghana must be fully transparent and inclusive of the civil society and women's rights organizations.

(Continued from Page 6)

18. Donors and partners countries need to direct resources towards strengthening capacity (of government, donors, CSO, women's organizations, parliaments) for enhancing mutual accountability for gender equality and women's empowerment.

19. Measure outcomes of gender mainstreaming and gender specific actions such as – access to health and education; changes in female employment and income; incidence of gender based violence and right to reparation; right to inheritance, property, land use; women's representation and participation in decision making

Fragile states

20. Special attention should be given to fragile states (states coming out of conflict, at war or post-conflict situations) regarding channelling specific aid to women's organisations to improve the lives of affected women.

We finally recommend:

21. That there is substantial increase of resources for women's rights organisations. Alignment should not be an obstacle for access by these organisations, from the smallest to the biggest, to predictable and multi-annual resources allowing them to play their watch dog and lobbying roles; and strengthen their capacities.

Done in Lome, on 26th June 2008

ORGANISATIONS THAT ARE SIGNATORIES TO THE STATEMENT.

1. Women in Law and Development in Africa – West Africa
2. Réseau de Développement et de Communication des Femmes Africaines (FEMNET)
3. Women in Law and Development in Africa – Bénin
4. Women in Law and Development in Africa – Burkina Faso
5. Women in Law and Development in Africa – Côte d'Ivoire

6. Women in Law and Development in Africa - Ghana
7. Women in Law and Development in Africa – Guinée
8. Women in Law and Development in Africa – Mali
9. Women in Law and Development in Africa – Nigeria
10. Women in Law and Development in Africa – Sénégal
11. Women in Law and Development in Africa – Togo
12. Réseau pour l'Intégration des Femmes des ONG et associations Africaines (RIFONGA) – Bénin
13. Associação Caboverdiana de Mulheres Juristas – Cabo Verde
14. Rede de Mulheres Economistas – Cabo Verde
15. Mouvement international des Femmes Démocrates (MIFED) - Côte d'Ivoire
16. Female Lawyers Association (FLAG) - Gambia
17. Network for Women's Rights (NETRIGHT)– Ghana
18. Coalition Nationale de Guinée pour les droits et la citoyenneté des femmes (CONAG-DCF) - Guinée
19. Association of Female Lawyers (AFELL) - Liberia
20. CAFO - Mali
21. Forum national pour la promotion des droits de la Femme FNPDF- Mauritanie
22. Association Mauritanienne de Lutte contre les Pratiques Néfastes agissant sur la santé de la femme et de l'Enfant (AMPSFE) - Mauritanie
23. Coordination des ONG et Associations Féminines Nigériennes (CONGAFEN) – Niger
24. ONG Dimol – Niger
25. Women's consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) – Nigeria
26. Women Advocate Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC) - Nigeria
27. Forum for African women educationalists – Sierra Leone
28. Women's Forum – Sierra Leone
29. Réseau Africain pour le Développement Intégré (RADI) – Sénégal
30. Consortium des Organisations Non Gouvernementales d'Appui au Développement - Sénégal
31. Réseau des Femmes Anciens Ministre et Parlementaires (REFAMP) – Togo
32. Groupe de réflexion et d'action Femmes Démocratie et Développement (GF2D) – Togo
33. La Colombe - Togo

MINISTERIES

1. Ministère de l'action sociale, de la promotion de la femme, de la protection de l'enfant et des personnes âgées – Togo
2. Federal Ministry of women Affairs, Abuja – Nigeria

Impact of the high cost of living on women's rights

(Continued from page 5)

Result achieved: At the level of this ministry, we have the feeling that every minister has his/her own policy regarding the management of the ministry and that there is no follow-up between the outgoing and incumbent minister. Nevertheless, we have obtained promises for setting up a task group with the committee for making concrete proposals.

Nevertheless, we have obtained promises for setting up a task group with the committee for making concrete proposals.

Today, we have concerns, because the ministers who were our spokespersons have been replaced when the cabinet was recently reshuffled. So, everything must start again. The minister of Trade stated that he is no longer in charge of price controls and any other issue relating to the problem of high cost of living. A committee should be appointed by presidential decree to that effect. We are disappointed and we have the feeling that nothing has been done until now, since the results achieved are challenged.

W.N.: We thank you Madam, for your availability and wish you every success in our activities.

A.Y.: I thank you in return and take advantage of your newsletter to wish courage to all the members of the coalition to resume our activities, because we have the duty to achieve results.

UN Security Council takes action against violence in conflicts areas.

The United Nations Security Council decided to take action against violence especially rape in conflicts areas.

By approving the resolution 1820 (2008) for that purpose, the UNO considers rape as " a war crime " and calls all parties involved in armed conflicts to take immediate actions in order to protect civilians particularly women who are often victims of such a situation. The Human Rights Watch appreciated such a resolution and even considered it as «a historic achievement» because the problem has been too often ignored. It is to remind that the 15-member Council unanimously adopted the Resolution 1820 (2008).

Source:

www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2008/06/06eb53781-2bc9-482f-8648-dde2142ddd6c.html

UNO organizes an online discussion on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men.

The United Nations Division for the advancement of Women organizes from 7th July to 1st August an online discussion under the theme "Women and men: Equal sharing of Responsibilities". The discussion aims to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the issue of equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the HIV/AIDS context, and also identifying Strategies that can improve gender equality in this regard.

To register, please click on the following link to fill out an online form:

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/forum/forum-register-daw-equalsharing.asp

OIF and the Genre en Action encourage the participation of francophone organisations at the 2008 AWID Forum.

The "Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie" (OIF), the Genre en Action Network and their partners intend to promote the active participation of francophone organisations working essentially on women's rights and gender equality at the next AWID Forum to be held from 14th to 17th November 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa. The objective of both organisations is to enable women organisations to raise problems concerning women such as violence in conflicts areas, female genital mutilation, food crisis etc. The meeting will thus be an exchange between the French speaking and the English speaking activists of women's rights and gender.

Source : AWID Carrefour

LIBRARY

New publication: Violence against women / CRI-VIFF

Following the national conference of CRI-VIFF, the book *Violences faites aux femmes* (Violence against women) has just been published at *Presses de l'Université du Québec (PUQ)*, under the supervision of S. Arcand, D. Damant, S. Gravel and E. Harper. Divided into 23 chapters in French, or in English, written by authors from about ten countries, it aims at sensitising the large public on this type of violence, which is a violation of the rights of the half of the humanity.

The document can be downloaded at:

www.criviff.qc.ca/colloque/pdf/resume_livre_vfaf_fr.pdf

WILDAF WEST AFRICA

Newsletter

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Que sais-je ? Parity / By Réjane Sénac-Slawinski

After being subject to debates on the relevance of resorting to the measures of affirmative action and on gender in the Republic, the word "parity" has become a consensual expression, almost a slogan, referring to the requirement of gender equity. This book questions the originality of French laws on parity, that are applied to political elections, particularly to municipal ones, with respect to the multiple strategies implemented in the world to compensate the chronic under representation of women in politics. It shows how the success of the word parity implicitly poses the problem of sexed order in our society.

New EWL DVD: Not for sale. View online

The film challenges the traditional views and myths on prostitution and sexual exploitation of women's bodies. View online at:

www.womenlobby.org/site/video_fr.asp