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Walking the Talk

Gender Equality in the African Union

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In the Spotlight:

Mainstreaming Gender in the AUC

African Shared Values bring to the fore the concept of African men and women working together to develop the region and to address the political, economic and social challenges that the continent faces. Gender equality is one of the shared values.

This is a joint publication



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

African Men and Women Working together for development

Message from
Litha Musyimi-Ogana
Director of the AU WGDD

Inspired by Africa's rich tradition of solidarity, the 16th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government dedicated a special debate to the theme "Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values". Defined in the Strategic Plan of the AU, Shared Values are those norms, principles and practices developed or acquired to achieve regional integration and are means to promote democracy, rule of law, governance and human and people's rights. The 16th Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa sought to discuss the main principles embodied in the Constitutive Act of the AU and one of the pillars of the AUC Strategic Plan (2009 – 2012) for achieving greater unity and integration in the region.

African Shared Values bring to the fore the concept of African men and women working together to develop the region and to address the political, economic and social challenges that the continent faces. Gender equality is one of the shared values.

In this context, I have the honor to mention two historic facts that will strengthen the women's rights and gender equality work in the region. Following the UN General Assembly's decision, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) became operational in

January 2011, bringing gender issues to a higher level in the work of the United Nations globally, and opening the opportunity for strengthening the close partnership with the African Union Commission within the framework of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme of the United Nations.

Equally, 2011 marks the first year of implementation of the African Women's Decade, where Member States will dedicate the next ten years (2010-2020) to the advancement of women with a strong support from the AU Commission.

This issue of Walking the Talk focuses on the efforts that the African Union has made to promote and mainstream gender equality in its programmes and throughout its Organs. The process builds on the relevant Commission's obligations outlined in the Constitutive Act of the AU, its Gender Policy, the implementation of the Fund for African Women and the African Women's Decade, as the basic mechanisms and instruments to implement an effective gender mainstreaming process in the Commission, and its actions in Member States and the Regional Economic Communities. The issue also includes a gender analysis over the decisions adopted during the last Heads of State and Government Summit in Addis Ababa.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER

Incorporating gender in AUC Departments, Programmes and Units

As gender equality is enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and strategy, all Departments and Directorates of the Commission are obligated to mainstream gender equality into their programmes and activities. The African Union Gender Policy adopted in 2009 provides the framework for the operationalization of the Assembly commitments on gender equality and is accom-

panied by a comprehensive Gender Action Plan that guides its implementation by the AU Commission and other AU Organs, the RECs and AU Member States.

This section highlights some actions taken as well as achievements by select Directorates of the AU Commission during 2010.

WOMEN, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

The African Union Women Gender and Development Directorate (AU WGDD) has the specific mandate to promote gender equality within and throughout the Union as well as within Member States by translating the policy agreements and instruments into measurable programmes and projects. It provides oversight by facilitating the development and harmonization of policy, facilitating co-ordination and initiating gender-mainstreaming strategies. The Directorate was created in the year 2000 under the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission. Mrs. Litha Musyimi-Ogana is the current Director.

The Directorate undertakes functions related to mainstreaming gender, advocacy, capacity development, research, monitoring and evaluation, development and harmonization of policy-making processes in the AU Organs, Member States and Regional Economic Communities. It is also mandated to mainstream gender throughout the Commission, as well as implement women's empowerment programmes in sectoral or cross-cutting areas.

ACTIVITIES

The AU Gender Policy, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 2009, was developed by the WGDD to guide and facilitate the implementation of the gender commitments in the region. Under this framework, the Fund for African Women was established as the mechanism to ensure policy implementation, by ensuring the investment of Member States in actions to reduce gender inequality and increase equal participation of men and women. Following this steps, the WGDD launched the African Women's Decade (2010 – 2020) in October 2010. The initiative has identified ten priority themes. Although AU Member States and their development partners, including civil society organization, will work on all ten themes in accordance with their respective mandates, the AU Gender Directorate and Ministers responsible for women affairs decided to assign one theme per year. Defining a



Launch of the African Women's Decade. Nairobi 2010

specific focus for each year is a strategic approach to raise the visibility of issues and achievements in the theme area throughout Member States, RECs, development partners, civil society and within AUC Departments. For instance, the theme of 2011, infant, child and maternal health, builds on the Campaign on Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) launched by the Department of Social Affairs, and integrating new initiatives into the campaign.

Regarding Peace and Security, the Directorate undertook the development of a gender-training manual to mainstream gender in peacekeeping operations. The activity is part of the implementation of regional and international commitments in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, and UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security. The manual is being developed in partnership with the Department of Peace and Security, with financial support of the Danish Government and the technical support of UN WOMEN.

The Directorate also has an important role to play regarding the ratification of all the international African legal instruments, such as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women. In partnership with women's networks, the Directorate engaged in advocacy with governments to ratify it. WGDD led a process in which Ministers responsible for gender and women's affairs reviewed and amended the Guidelines for reporting on the →

(...)Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, and successfully advocated for improved reporting. Because of the mentioned advocacy process in 2010, the AUC received 21 reports in contrast with the 18 presented in 2009.

Twice a year, the Directorate convenes a gender pre-summit to bring the voices of civil society organizations, women's rights advocates and development partners into the decisions of each Summit incorporating a gender perspective into the highest-level meeting in Africa.

For more information [click here](#)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Department for Social Affairs (DSA) is mandated to "serve as a focal point for planning, developing and harmonizing continental and regional policies, programmes and projects concerning labour and social development and culture with the view to building up capacities and promoting African integration and solidarity". The DSA has a particular focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized African citizens. The Department is headed by Commissioner Bience Gawanas.

The mandate and objectives of the Department are closely related to the promotion of gender equality in the areas of family policies, including sexual and reproductive health; the promotion and coordination of policies related to vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, refugees and the ageing; and the prevention of human trafficking with a particular focus on women and children. The Department is structured around five Divisions, namely: Health, Nutrition and Population; HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis; Social Welfare, Vulnerable groups and drug control; Labour, employment and migration; and Culture and Sport. The Health Division, HIV/AIDS, Social Welfare and Migration are fundamental to gender mainstreaming, since they are in charge of the AU campaigns on maternal health and human trafficking.

ACTIVITIES

Under the framework of the AU Gender policy developed by the AUWGDD, DSA launched the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) in May 2009. CARMMA, currently launched in 23 countries, built on existing frameworks such as the AU Policy Framework for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa (2005) and the Maputo Plan of Action (2006). Maternal and Child Health in Africa was also the main theme for the AU Summit in Kampala in July 2010. The DSA also coordinates and supports the monitoring and evaluation process of the endorsement and domestication process of public policy related to maternal health following the decision taken during the Summit. It is also worth noting that the African

Women's Decade led by the WGDD will build on CARMMA during 2011 by focusing on "Health, Maternal Mortality and HIV/AIDS".

Based on the Ouagadougou Plan of Action, the AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) has as its main objective to set the pace for the fight against trafficking in human beings and to make it a priority on the development agenda of the continent. The initiative has a special focus on women and children as vulnerable groups regarding human trafficking and violence. DSA has implemented numerous activities linked to AU COMMIT with respect to the AU Strategic Plan 2009-2012. The DSA is



Commissioner Gawanas at the African Union Commission during the UN WOMEN Executive Directors visit to Addis Ababa © UN WOMEN

advocating for the RECs to buy in, and so far ECOWAS, ECA as well as IGAD have launched the campaign. On the launch in the horn and the East of Africa, the Director of the Department urged "Member States to galvanise their commitments to the cause of the AU-COMMIT Campaign by ratifying the Protocol and implementing the Ouagadougou Action Plan". In the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and under the Labor and Employment sub-cluster, the Department works towards the implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, including the promotion of youth employment and economic empowerment. For 2011, the Department is in charge of leading the process to develop the frameworks on land rights and on the Protocol on Ageing.

For more information [click here](#)



The mandate of the Peace and Security Department (PSD) is to provide an enhanced institutional capacity for achieving peace, security and stability in Africa, through pro-active action and support to the efforts of AU Member States, within the framework of the larger African Union vision for a united, peaceful, stable and prosperous continent. Furthermore, the Department facilitates and ensures a more effective, efficient cooperation and coordination of initiatives within the continent, as well as the Regional Conflict Resolution Mechanisms and other international initiatives. The Department is composed of the following Divisions: Conflict Management (CMD), Peace Support Operations (PSOD), Defense and Security (DSD) and the Secretariat of the Peace and Security Council. Commissioner Lamamra Ramtane is the head of the Department.

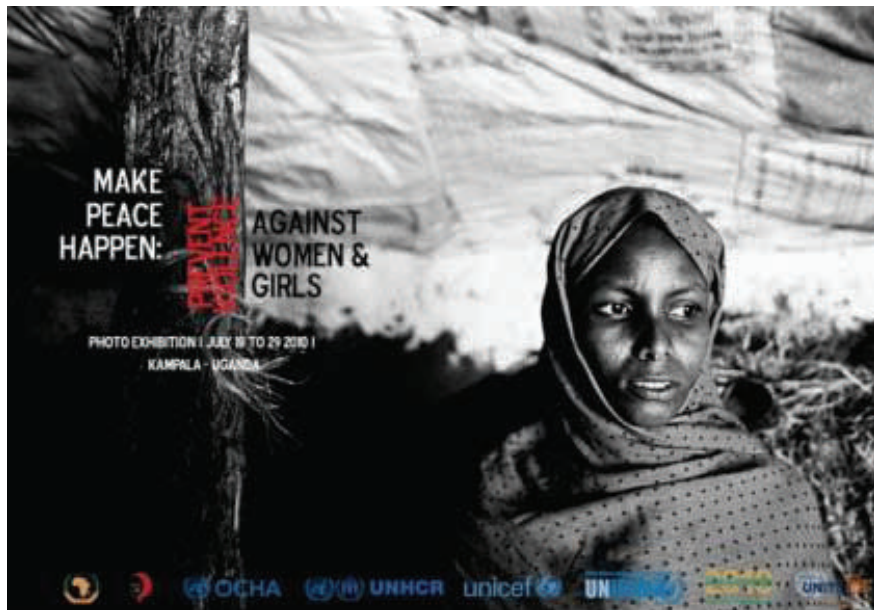
The overall objective of the PSD is the maintenance of peace, security and stability through the co-ordination and promotion of African and other initiatives on conflict prevention, management and resolution within the frameworks put in place by the UN and the AU. In this context, the Department has undertaken several actions to implement the UNSCR 1325 with a particular focus on prevention, protection of women in conflict settings and promoting the participation of women in conflict resolution, peace negotiation and peacekeeping missions. The PSD coordinates, on regular basis with numerous stakeholders, especially in relation with conflict management, a fact that has engaged the Department in the promotion of women's participation in the peace and security arena.

ACTIVITIES:

Following the proclamation of 2010 as the "Year of Peace and Security in Africa", adopted during the Special Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in August 2009 in Tripoli, the PSD lead an awareness raising campaign under the theme "Make Peace Happen". The initiative integrated a thematic focus on gender and youth in armed conflict, a link that

allowed the DPS to engage the UNSCR 1325 in the commemorative events including the presentation of the photo exhibition "Make Peace Happen: End Violence against Women and Girls".

The Department organized a photo exhibition at the margin of the XV Session of the AU Summit in Kampala, the AUC celebration of the International Day of Peace and Security in September, and at the 10th Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in October both in Addis Ababa. The department



Poster used for the Photo Exhibition "Make Peace Happen Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls" Kampala 2010. Part of the 2010 Year of Peace in Africa.

organized the exhibition in partnership with UNWOMEN, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA and ISIS WICCE, a Ugandan CSO.

The Department also plays a significant role in promoting women's participation in peace and security processes within the framework of the **Livingstone Formula** which encourages non governmental

organizations to participate actively in the efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, especially to deliberate on important issues of women and children in armed conflict. When required, such organizations may be invited to address the Peace and Security Council (in line with Article 20 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC of the African Union). The Formula also allows CSOs to provide technical support and early warning reporting to the AU. It was in this connection that In 2010, the Department convened the first open session of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) which was dedicated to the situation of women and children in conflict zones. During the Session, UN Agencies, CSOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross got the opportunity to bring to the PSC the voices of women in Africa, expressing the main challenges and areas where immediate action is required. The open session will now be convened annually.

Peacekeeping missions also tend to integrate the UNSCR 1325, 1880, 1888 and 1889 by recognizing the vulnerability of women and girls to sexual violence in conflict settings. The African Union / United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur worked with and incorporated the all women Rwandan peacekeepers →

(...) unit trained in gender perspectives, to aid their mission objectives of securing protection and security for vulnerable women in the region. UNAMID also has a Gender Advisory Unit that facilitates the gender mainstreaming action in the mission including early recovery, women's empowerment processes and the implementation of mechanisms to prevent sexual gender based violence. The African Union Mission to Somalia

(AMISON) has participated in the deployment process of female peacekeepers, at the time that capacity building and monitoring and evaluation programmes have been put in place. Taken as a preventive action on violence against women and girls, particularly sexual violence, the programmes have a special focus on Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees.

For more information [click here](#)

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) is mandated to contribute to the emergence of a political environment, in the African and international context, as a mechanism to promote sustainable development and the African economic integration. To that effect, the Department promotes, facilitates and coordinates democratic principles and the rule of law including the respect of Human Rights, civil society participation in the development process of the continent, and the achievement of durable solutions for addressing humanitarian crises. Ms. Julia Dolly Joiner is the Commissioner that leads the Department.

As mandated, the Department includes a strong component of gender mainstreaming into its work as it focuses on human rights and equal access, political participation of women in elections and policy processes, as well as addressing trafficking in women. The Department also deals with humanitarian assistance, with a focus programme to refugee women and internally displaced persons, coordinating its assistance with development partners and civil society organizations. The Department is comprised of two Divisions, namely the Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees, and Displaced Persons Division, and the Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Elections Division.

ACTIVITIES

As part of the implementation of the African Charter on Elections, Governance and Democracy, the Division of Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Elections, the DPA co-organized a sub-regional consultation on gender parity in political decision-making structures with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in November 2010, in Dakar, Senegal. By defining priority areas of action, the meeting outlined strategic measures to promote equal participation of men and women in political decision-making positions, as well as the prevention of violence against women during election. The meeting also looked at mechanisms to accelerate gender equality in political leadership, strategies and shared practices on the transformation of political processes to promote gender equality, and strengthening national and regional alliances that encourage accountability on gender equality.

Key issues such as access and transformative political spaces, and the utilisation of the African Women's Decade as a road map, led to the development of the report "Information kit on leveling the political field for gender equality in political processes: making gender mission critical within political parties". In part-nership with other REC, the Department will undertake similar processes and develop a common position for the region. In 2011, the DPA will focus on Eastern and Southern Africa.

In preparation for the XVI Session of the Heads of State and Government Summit of the African Union, the Department of Political Affairs undertook a consultation process that aimed to build consensus on how Shared Values (on Democracy and Governance) can accelerate continental integration. One of the forums was particularly dedicated to the inclusion of a gender perspective into the discussion of Shared Values. Mechanisms to implement the AU Gender Policy and other AU instruments were the main outputs of the meeting attended by Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs, CSOs and delegations from Member States.

The Department has also undertaken the development of the African Human Rights Strategy. Throughout the process, the Department has incorporated different perspectives through consultation with numerous stakeholders including Civil Society Organizations working in gender equality and the empowerment of women, some with support of UN WOMEN.

For more information [click here](#)



AU Electoral Observers during the Nigerian Elections 2011 © African Union website

GENDER RELATED DECISIONS TAKEN DURING THE JANUARY 2011 SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA



THE XVI ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

The XVI Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government took place in Addis Ababa from 30 to 31 January 2011, and the Executive Council Eighteenth Ordinary Session from 24 to 28 January 2011. In relation to gender equality and women's empowerment, the Assembly took the following decisions:

CONTINENTAL LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DECADE

Following the launch of the Decade in Kenya last October, the Assembly called on Member States to implement the ten themes of the African Women's Decade (AWD) in line with the Nairobi Declaration and the proposed Road Map, including through the Fund for African Women. It also reaffirmed the commitment to the initiative and called on development partners to support it. Finally, the Assembly requested regular report to the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE ABUSE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION

The Universal Jurisdiction Principle claims criminal jurisdiction over persons who alleged crimes committed outside of the boundaries of the prosecuting state regardless of nationality country of residence, or any other relation with the prosecuting country. It prevents and fights impunity in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, extrajudicial executions, war crimes, torture and forced disappearances, being those situations that greatly affect women and girls in conflict and post conflict settings. In this regard, the Assembly called Member States to respect international law and particularly the immunity of state officials. It also invited the countries that have not submitted to the UN Resolution on the Scope and Application of the Universal Jurisdiction Principle, to do so before 30 April 2011. It requested affected countries to present the list of pending cases to the Commission. It also called Member States to develop a common position regarding the abuse of universal jurisdiction for its presentation at UN level.

DECISION ON THE REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)

Considering the amendments to the reporting guidelines and implementation framework of the SDGEA by Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs and the Launch of African Women's Decade; the Assembly decides to adopt the amendments to Article 12 which are basically that:

- the Report will be focus on the period between previous report and the current one;
- it should mention fundamental changes that may have occurred affecting the implementation of the SDGEA after the last report;
- it will highlight any remaining obstacle to its implementation;
- it will report even if there is nothing new.

Member States are required to submit their reports once every four years; at least 13 Member States will submit their reports for consideration at the Summit of the Ordinary Session of Heads of State in January every year.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

The Assembly welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the regional legal frameworks regarding Peace and Security, reiterating the need for continued and intensified efforts towards the achievement of the objectives put in place. The Assembly called Comoros, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Tunisia to take immediate and effective actions to restore peace, governance and democracy according to the principles established in the constitution of the AU.

DECISION ON THE THEME OF THE EIGHTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN JANUARY 2012

The Assembly decided that the theme for the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union to be held in January/February 2012 will be "*Boosting Intra-African Trade*".

(continues on page 8...) →

UN WOMEN CELEBRATES ITS CREATION AT THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

UN Women, the newest UN entity, celebrated its creation at the African Union Summit on January 30, 2011. President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and other dignitaries joined UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet in a ceremony that featured the unveiling of UN Women's new logo.

UN Women integrates four existing UN organizations, with a greater concentration of resources and expertise expected to accelerate gender equality efforts. It will focus many of its efforts to support national programmes, including in the 48 African countries it currently supports. One early action will be to bolster the capacities of its existing network of country and sub-regional offices in Africa. Programmes will emphasize priorities in individual countries on issues where results can unlock progress across other areas: women's economic empowerment; leadership; peace and security;



(left to right) UN Secretary General, UN WOMEN Executive Director, President of Liberia and UNECA Executive Secretary during the "UN WOMEN logo unveiling ceremony" © UNWOMEN

ending violence against women and national planning. The new organization's main activities will involve advocating for gender equality, and providing expertise to assist countries in establishing policies, programmes and resources for achieving it. UN Women will work globally with UN Member States to forge international standards and goals for gender equality. It will also lead the UN system in coordinating the efforts of all other UN agencies in advancing gender equality in their programmes, increasing efficiency and impacts on women's lives.

The agreement to create UN Women came from a July 2010 UN General Assembly resolution. On 1 January 2011, the new entity became operational under the leadership of Ms. Bachelet, the former President of Chile. Her attendance at the Africa Union summit marked her first official visit outside UN headquarters in New York. The Entity was officially launch on February 24 2011 at the margin of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

For more information [click here](#)

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE TESTIFY BEFORE THE AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

Survivors of sexual violence from across Africa took to the floor 28 March to speak of their personal experiences and put forward their recommendations for action at the African Union Peace and Security Council's Second Open Session on Sexual Violence, Women and Children in Armed Conflict.

Women from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Kenya, Somalia and Ivory Coast spoke of their experiences of sexual violence before an audience of high-level representatives, delegates and civil society members. The group of women, in a joint statement, called for urgent action to enhance women's participation in peace processes and to end impunity by prioritizing women in the establishment of justice in the region. The women voiced their appreciation for the efforts that the AU has already put in place to answer to and prevent sexual violence, but recommended that the AU mobilize Member States to enforce the legal framework and provide medical care and psychological treatment to survivors.

During the event, Ms. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, called for a strong collaboration with the UN System to end impunity and to restore justice for victims of sexual violence. She further highlighted the important role that the AU's Peace and Security Council and the UN plays to combat the issue. From this moment on, conflict-related sexual violence [should] no longer [go] unreported, unaddressed or unpunished," Wallström said. "That will be our collective measure of success."

AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Lamamra Ramtane, highlighted the mechanisms put in place by the Commission on the issue, acknowledging the challenges. The Commissioner stressed the strategies that need to be established at all levels of the Department and the Commission.

At the session, the preliminary report prepared by and presented by the AU Panel of the Wise on "Mitigating Vulnerabilities of Women and Children in Armed Conflict" was presented.

The AU Peace and Security Council is the decision-making Organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa. It institutionalized the open session on Sexual Violence, Women and Children in Armed Conflict as a means to address the issue. UN Women supported the process in coordination with Oxfam, Femmes Africa Solidarité and Issis WICCE.

For more information [click here](#)

(coming from page 6)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN UNION CENTER FOR POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Assembly, requested the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to undertake a study on the objectives, structure, financial implications, and the location of the proposed centre, as well as to report to the forthcoming session of the Assembly.

DECISION ON THE RECOGNITION OF WOMEN AS RESOURCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AFRICA

The Assembly called upon Member States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify / accede to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and those Member States that have, to fully implement its provisions. It also called Member States to fulfill their commit-

ments, and comply with their obligations, under the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

It also requested Member States to redouble their efforts of ensuring the involvement of women in sustainable development and economic growth by promoting their participation at all levels and areas. The Assembly also requested Member States and RECs to utilize as much as possible the offices of the Pan-African Women's Organisation in their respective regions to highlight and enhance the contribution of women to the development of the Continent. It finally urged States to allocate resources that enable women to play their rightful roles in building African economy. The Commission should follow up on the implementation of this Decision and report regularly to the Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly through the Executive Council.

For the complete Decisions, Declarations and Resolutions of the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly [click here](#)

CSOs PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE— AU SUMMIT ORGANIZED BY GENDER IS MY AGENDA CAMPAIGN (GIMAC)



Members of GIMAC (Gender Is My Agenda Campaign) met from January 24 to 26 at the margin of the XVI Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

With input from civil society organizations that participate in this bi-annual meeting, the GIMAC pre-summit recommended that the AU Assembly should integrate the gender parity principle as a shared value. As a strong recommendation, GIMAC urged the Assembly to call for the implementation of stronger measures to eradicate violence against women and girls, and to integrate gender in mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce the impact of climate change as shared values. GIMAC worked also on Women and Peace and Security and made recommendation around the pillars of UNSCR 1325 (Prevention, Protection and Participation) and called for the enhancement of women's participation in all peace processes and the protection of women peace activists in conflict situation. Finally, GIMAC reaffirmed its commitments to lobby for the domestication and the implementation of legal

and policy frameworks while calling on AU Members States to adhere to existing frameworks and adopt a multisectoral approach for gender related matters. GIMAC Members affirmed their solidarity with Ivoirian Women and called the AU to resolve the conflict situation in Côte d'Ivoire.



GIMAC is also involved in the process of, reporting and reviewing the progress made regarding the implementation of some gender legal commitments in Member States through the Civil Society Organizations in each region and country (particularly concerning the implementation of the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa). Under this framework, the organization that coordinates GIMAC (Femmes Africa Solidarité) gives a Gender Awards each year to the president of the country that made the most important progress during the year. In 2011, H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, received the African Gender Award for her important role as a champion on women's rights and gender equality in the region.

For more information on GIMAC [click here](#)



Comments / Suggestions



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