



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

**July 10-11, 2012  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

We, representatives of African civil society organizations and African women leaders meeting under the umbrella of “Gender is my Agenda Campaign” (GIMAC) at the 20th African Women’s Pre-Summit on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 10-11 July 2012, convened by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) especially the Women, Gender and Development Directorate, with the support of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, UN Women, Urgent Action Fund (UAF), Ipas Africa Alliance, Sirleaf Market Women’s Fund, Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Norway and Sweden;

**Welcoming** the decision of African Heads of State and Government to devote the 19th Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit to the theme, “Boosting Intra-African Trade”;

**Appreciating** the support of the African Union Commission and particularly the Directorates of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Peace and Security, Women, Gender and Development;

**Having deliberated** on the urgent need to integrate gender and youth perspectives in key and current issues concerning the African Continent including Regional Integration and Intra-African Trade, Climate Change, Agriculture, Security, the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and Violence against Women (VAW) in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations;

**Reiterating** the determination and commitment of Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) members to monitor, evaluate and report on AU member states policies on women’s rights, particularly the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA-2004) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol-2003);

**Recalling** the commitment of African Heads of State and Government to take all necessary steps to achieve gender equality in Africa by implementing and reporting on the SDGEA, as reflected in the increased number of Member States that have reported on it and those that have ratified the Maputo Protocol;

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

**Welcoming** attempts by the African Union and the United Nations to resolve the conflicts in Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea Bissau, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic and other parts of the continent;

**Urge** the 19th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government and other stakeholders to consider and adopt the following recommendations:

## **A. AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES**

### **I. Ratifying the Maputo Protocol and Reporting on SDGEA**

- a. Member States who have not reported on SDGEA or ratified the Maputo Protocol to do so before the next African Union Summit, to show their commitment to gender equality and women’s rights in Africa;
- b. Consider holding a Second Heads of State Gender Debate during the January 2013 African Union Summit;

### **II. Boosting intra African Trade**

- c. Include women in trade negotiation processes, increase their access to trade-related information to enable them to identify new markets and opportunities, and harness their potential to meet trade quotas;
- d. Strengthen women’s capacity to participate in formal cross-border trade and protect women’s intellectual property rights, particularly on traditional handicrafts;
- e. Ensure gender balance in the leadership of private and public institutions engaged in influencing policy on trade and trade-related issues in Africa, and build capacity of policy makers and implementers to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into all trade policy dialogues and outcomes;

### **III. Women in Agriculture**

- f. Enact legislation for women to own land and property and accelerate women’s access to resources and services;
- g. Promote appropriate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) usage such as mobile phones and media to provide timely information on prices and markets to women in agriculture;

### **IV. Peace and Security**

- h. Ensure that women are included in conflict mediation processes and early warning mechanisms and that all parties be held accountable for crimes and violations, in

accordance with existing international laws and protocols on the protection of women and children in conflict situations;

- i. Criminalize and punish sexual and gender based violence and include sexual and reproductive health, including trauma management, in national and regional planning frameworks, as well as allocate funds for effective implementation;
- j. Take inclusive measures to resolve conflicts in Mali, Guinea Bissau, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and the DRC to contribute to a lasting peace and reconciliation process;
- k. Encourage all African women to aspire to elective office and call on all African countries preparing for elections to ensure the peaceful and transparent conduct of electoral processes and the participation of women;

## **B. AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

- a. Appoint an African Union Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security and deploy gender advisors to all AU peacekeeping and political missions, to ensure that women, peace and security concerns are integrated into all operations;
- b. Strengthen the collaboration with civil society particularly with women organizations and ensure the integration of gender concerns in outcome documents of the African Union;

## **C. GIMAC COMMITMENTS**

The GIMAC members present at the 20th AU Pre- Summit Consultative meeting made the following commitments:

- a. Utilize the SDGEA monitoring index to produce shadow reports and continue to recognize countries that are performing well in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment;
- b. Actively engage youth to participate in GIMAC activities;
- c. Conduct high-level women solidarity missions to conflict and post-conflict African countries including Mali, Guinea-Bissau, DRC and the Central African Republic.

Gender is my Agenda Campaign Network  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 2012