



Femmes Africa Solidarité

**Annual full day discussion on women human rights  
Women's human rights and the sustainable development agenda**  
17 June 2014

Thank you Mr. President,

FAS congratulates the UN Secretary-General for his commitment to eradicate poverty, and for the inclusive process leading up to the post-2015 development goals;

FAS has been an active contributor to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), co-chairing the thematic group on Challenges of Social Inclusion: Gender, Inequalities and Human Rights;

We welcome the dedicated pillars on people-centered development, peace and security in the African Union Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the proposed goal on gender equality in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Zero Draft;

Mr. President,

FAS joins other organizations in calling for strengthened references to commitments on women's human rights and peace in the SDG by including references to the UN Charter, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action, and the women, peace and security agenda.

Violence against women prevails, with 35% of women worldwide victims of violence, the majority in Africa. Recent acts of violence, from the kidnapping of the Nigerian schoolgirls by Boko Haram, to the inhumane treatment of pregnant women in Sudan and Pakistan, depict a future we cannot accept, for African women, and women worldwide.

We cannot fight poverty without empowering the backbone of our economy: in Africa alone, women produce 80% of all food and represent 43% of the agricultural labor force.<sup>1</sup> However, the insecurity of women's land rights persists;

Africa has shown progress in women's representation, but their involvement at the local level, as well as in peace processes remains flawed: since 1992, only 4% of peace agreement signatories have been women. FAS deplores the persisting poor implementation of UNSCR 1325 and emphasizes that the inclusion of women in negotiation and peacebuilding is crucial for the construction of a sustainable peace, a catalyst for sustainable development;

We urge the mainstreaming of both peace and gender throughout the SDG and the inclusion of specific targets on participation, prevention, protection, relief and recovery with a focus on gender, peace and security. As such, we strongly support a Peaceful Societies Goal;

We call for the promotion of land tenure and inheritance rights for women, access to credit and financial subsidies, and women's inclusion in natural resources management;

We emphasize the importance of sex disaggregation throughout the SDG and indicators to track disparities in economic, social, and environmental indicators;

Thank you for your attention

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<sup>1</sup> UN Women, UNEP, UNDP, PBSO. (2013) *Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential*