



Femmes Africa Solidarité

ENGENDERING THE PEACE PROCESS IN AFRICA

Report on Activities: January-December 2006



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INTRODUCTION

Further to its funding proposal entitled “Engendering the Peace Process in Africa: Strengthening FAS Institutional Capacity” 2004-2007, the seven main objectives of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) are as follows¹:

1. Advocacy & Capacity Building
2. Partnership
3. Networking
4. Research, Documentation and Information Dissemination
5. Information and Communication
6. Coordination
7. Monitoring and Evaluation

This report is prepared as a narrative for the activities of FAS from January to December 2006. It provides an overview of the activities undertaken by FAS in 2006 in furthering the objectives of its four-year programme on engendering peace processes in Africa. It describes the background, objectives and outcomes of sub-regional, regional, international and institutional-building activities. The report concludes by presenting a brief overview of FAS’s future direction in each programme area.

¹ For the purpose of this report, the objectives of FAS’s Institutional Building programme as laid out in the 2004-2007 Funding proposal are listed as follows: Advocacy and Capacity Building; Partnership; Networking; Information and Communication; Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation.



II. BACKGROUND

Introduction

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) that was founded in 1996 to **empower African women to assume a leadership role in peace building**. It also works to promote sustainable development and gender mainstreaming into policies and programmes relating to peace, security and development. In this regard, FAS's work is set in the larger context of promoting women's rights.

FAS functions as an interface organization working **with women's grassroots organizations** in support of engendering peace processes in Africa. It aims to enable grassroots women's organizations to impact and participate in decision-making processes at the national, regional, sub regional and international levels. FAS's work is focused primarily in the Mano River Union and Great Lakes sub-regions in the form of advocacy, training workshops, solidarity missions and capacity-building activities.

Vision

To empower African Women to assume a leadership role in peace building for sustainable development and to mainstream gender into policies and programmes relating to peace, security and development.

Mission

- Promote and reinforce the critical role of women in conflict resolution and peace building in Africa;
- Advocate for increased attention to the concerns of African women on issues of peace and security at the national, regional and international levels;
- Strengthen women's leadership capacities for more effective participation in conflict resolution, peace building and decision-making;
- Strengthen women's influence on political processes and promote gender mainstreaming in peace and security programmes at the national, regional and international levels.

Objectives

FAS seeks to meet the following objectives:

- To give value to women's initiatives, enhance their capabilities and promote their rights as fully fledged participants in peace making and peace building in their countries;
- To push for the creation of new social systems that allow women to have equal access to responsibilities and decision making;



- To build networks among women and strengthen their capacities as a group to enable them to make an impact in all spheres and at all levels;
- To encourage and support women in developing the self-confidence to participate in the struggle to institutionalize gender equality in national and sub-regional peace processes;
- To advocate for gender mainstreaming in national, sub-regional, regional and continental policies and programmes.

Strategies

In order to meet these objectives, FAS employs the following strategies:

- Mobilizes and encourages women to put forward their peace initiatives at all levels and to establish networks;
- Lobbies and advocates at all levels and in a variety of forums, alongside local, regional, sub-regional and international institutions, to promote greater involvement of women in decision-making processes and ensuring that their interests are taken into account;
- Builds capacities of local women's NGOs through training and experience-sharing;
- Supports local women's NGOs to establish networks with various actors both within Africa and internationally thus maximizing the use of resources;
- Builds partnerships at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels on issues of common concern such as women's participation in peace processes, violence against women, child soldiers, refugee women, HIV/AIDS and disarmament;
- Conducts research and disseminates information on women's best practices for peace building in Africa.

Activities

FAS engages in the following activities:

- Advocacy campaigns to ensure the visibility of women's best practices on peace, security and reconstruction and to contribute to political changes at all levels;
- Training programmes for African women on the issues of peace, security and development;
- Creation and development of networks among women's organizations;
- Organization of seminars to promote a team-building approach among women leaders around a common agenda;
- Participation in the process of initiating legal instruments for the protection and promotion of women's rights in conflict zones;
- Identification of programmes and building of partnerships around projects common to women;
- Monitoring and evaluation of activities relating to gender mainstreaming in decision making and in the promotion and protection of women's human rights according to the Beijing Platform of Action and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000);



- Resource mobilization for the implementation of women's initiatives on peace and post-conflict reconstruction;
- Research, documentation and communication, notably through the use of new information technologies;
- Advocacy to support women's economic empowerment in post-conflict situations;
- Resource mobilization for the implementation of FAS network initiatives;
- Promotion of a human rights-based culture.

Institution

The International Secretariat of FAS is based in Geneva, Switzerland. It serves as a contact point with international organizations, NGOs, UN institutions focused on human rights and donors. The location of the Secretariat in Geneva helps the organization **build partnerships, maximize resources and increase the visibility of women at the international level.**

FAS's Liaison Office in New York seeks to **maximize the visibility of African women's initiatives internationally** and establish and maintain partnerships and networks with NGOs, intergovernmental agencies and UN bodies. It also brings attention to women at the international level through the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), with whom FAS shares common aspirations and objectives. The New York Office also works closely with the **Security Council for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325** and with the CSW for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. It also seeks collaboration with the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

The **Regional Office for Africa in Dakar, Senegal**, which opened in 2005, ensures collaboration with women's organizations throughout Africa as well as the proper implementation of FAS's programmes in the Mano River Union, Great Lakes region and the African Union (AU), its organs and programmes. It monitors the implementation of the **gender parity principle** in the AU, as defined in the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women**. The Regional Office has also taken over the task of coordinating the resource mobilization activities for FAS's regional programme through its proximity to beneficiaries.

FAS is headed by an Executive Director who is assisted by the staff at the International Secretariat, the Dakar Office and the New York Liaison Office. The organization also has an **Executive Board, an Advisory Board, Members and Associate Member NGOs in 29 African countries**. The Dakar Office, headed by a Programme Officer, the New York Office, headed by a Representative, and the Geneva office, headed by the Coordinator, work in a coordinated manner to **link the sub-regional, regional and international programmes.**



FAS has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**); Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (**ACHPR**); Consultative Status with the International Organization of La Francophonie (**OIF**); Association Status with the United Nations Department of Public Information (**DPI**); and membership to the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (**ECOSOCC**).

It also coordinates the “Gender is my Agenda” campaign and co-chairs the Committee on the Status of Women’s Working Group for Peace in Geneva - an organ of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CONGO). Further, FAS is a member of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in **New York** and is also a member of the **Gender Task Force of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)**.

The Executive Director of FAS is a member and Vice Chairperson of the **African Union Women’s Committee (AUWC)**, an advisory body to the Chairperson of the AU Commission on gender issues; international advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and a member of the board of the Arab International Women’s Forum (AIWF).

Constraints and Opportunities

Given the environment in which FAS is engaged, the organization works within specific parameters that present opportunities and constraints, many of which are inherent to the work of NGOs. Recurrent constraints include a shortage of funds, particularly in the form of long-term commitment, donor conditionality and lack of human and logistical resources. The volatility of conflict-torn countries presents FAS with obvious difficulties. Another constraint is the linkage between FAS and the networks it creates and its resulting dependence on them for the fulfilment of its programmes.

Other developments, including the resolution of conflicts and consolidation of peace, present FAS with opportunities to move its peace agenda forward. These additionally bring international attention to peace initiatives, thus allowing FAS to benefit from partnerships with UN departments and agencies active in the field and in the promotion of women’s rights in Africa. As well, a favourable context has emerged from partnerships with NGOs and the African Union (AU) in gender mainstreaming. More relevant is the accessibility of women to the AU with the latter’s adoption of the gender parity principle in the Statutes of the AU Commission and the creation of the Women Gender and Development Directorate of the AU Commission.

New opportunities have emerged with the adoption of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) and the Protocol on Women’s Rights (2005) and at the international level further to Security Council Resolution 1325, the creation of the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

Another potential for FAS is the opening of the Dakar Regional Office and FAS’s PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development, both of which allow FAS to expand its office and increase its outreach capacity.



Faced with these challenges, FAS partners have engaged in strengthening its institutional support. In this regard and thanks to the support of the **Netherlands through the Theme based Co-financing Programme** and the **Ford Foundation**, the Regional Office in Dakar and the International Secretariat are functioning and the New York Office has opened. This long-term commitment has helped FAS re-organize itself.



III. ACTIVITIES

1. SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES

1.1 Mano River Region

Background

Dating back to 1996, FAS's work in the Mano River sub-region aims to strengthen the sub-regional approach to conflict prevention, management and resolution, helping to establish confidence and lay the foundations for sustainable reconciliation and reconstruction. By 2000, and in partnership with the African Union (AU) and other organizations, FAS created the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET), a network consortium of women's organizations from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea which advocates for and promotes the involvement of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in the sub-region.

Over the years, FAS's work in the Mano River area has focused on building the capacity of MARWOPNET as an effective network of women's NGOs on advocacy and conflict resolution through training workshops, evaluation missions and the provision of institutional support.

Many obstacles, which emerged during the course of the implementation of this programme, have obliged FAS to adjust its strategies in the sub-region.

Overall Objective

The overall programme is aimed at contributing to the efforts for engendering the peace and reconstruction process for the empowerment of women within the overall framework of the revitalization of the Mano River region through capacity building and institutional strengthening.

Specific Objectives of 2006

- Develop MARWOPNET's skills in research, documentation, information dissemination and communication strategies;
- Strengthen the capacity of MARWOPNET as a strong network in the Mano River region;
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the activities of MARWOPNET.



Summary of Activities

Taking into consideration the resources available, FAS has undertaken the following activities:

Institutional Support

Throughout the course of 2006, FAS organized several activities that sought to increase the institutional capacity of MARWOPNET. After years of setbacks, and attempts, the network **recruited an Executive Secretary and an Accountant** in its Sub-regional Secretariat, thus allowing it to enhance its institutional capacity for coordination and the implementation of its programmes.

In order to **revitalize the network**, FAS meets with the President of MARWOPNET Liberia and members of MARWOPNET Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In June 2006, for the first time, **MARWOPNET Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia attended a 10 year anniversary conference organized by FAS**, entitled ‘Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of women’s experience’, and **FAS’s Board** as well as a **General Assembly meeting**. Since then, the MARWOPNET Secretariat has submitted to FAS a grant proposal for its retreat and Board Meeting.

Advocacy

Four MARWOPNET members participated in the conference on ‘Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of women’s experience’, organized by FAS in June 2006. The conference presented an opportunity for the MARWOPNET representatives **to develop partnerships with regional, sub-regional and international bodies present, mobilize support for their programme and to share with other women their experience in peace-building processes of Sierra Leone and Liberia.**



H.E. Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia, led a large delegation of MARWOPNET Liberia that included Ms Ruth Sando Perry, former Acting Head of State of Liberia, the President of MARWOPNET Liberia, and delegates of MARWOPNET Guinea and Sierra Leone. H.E. Johnson-Sirleaf made a statement at the opening ceremony of the event on women and peace building. **Members of FAS met with H.E. Johnson-Sirleaf** to discuss the revitalization of MARWOPNET and peace in the Mano River sub-region.



The conference was attended by more than 100 participants including the President of Mali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, the Minister of State of Senegal and the former Minister of Defence of Finland.

In Senegal in October 2006, **FAS again met with H.E. President Johnson-Sirleaf** to address the revitalization of MARWOPNET in the Mano River as well as Sierra Leone's successful road to peace and stability, and Liberia's democratic processes and strategies for addressing the Guinean crisis. As a result of the discussions, it was decided that an **International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment and Leadership** would be organized in January 2008 to share the experiences of women in the region. **H.E. President Johnson-Sirleaf also reiterated her commitment** to work to bring peace to the three countries and to find solutions to the crisis in Guinea.

Capacity Building

FAS with the funding of African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) supported MARWOPNET in organizing a **peace caravan** to mobilize women from the Mano River region for advocacy campaigns in celebration of the inauguration of H.E. Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as the first female President of Liberia.



The peace caravan of **350 women** from MARWOPNET **Guinea and Sierra Leone** branches travelled to Liberia from Guinea and Sierra Leone where they were met by the **MARWOPNET Liberia branch**. In addition to enhancing interaction between Mano River women and leaders of the Mano River Union, the caravan linked grassroots women from the three countries to the MARWOPNET network by stopping along the way to sensitize rural populations on the democratization process in Liberia. Ben TV produced a documentary film on the forum and inauguration and members of MARWOPNET were interviewed.

The peace caravan gave way to a conference on **“Women Uniting for Change: in unity there is strength”** organized by the Ministry for Gender and Development of Liberia. FAS supported the participation of women from Cote d'Ivoire and members of the PanAfrican Parliament at the conference and facilitated the conference debate and discussions with Ellen Johnson on her future programme on Liberia.



Participant from Sierra Leone.

One representative of each MARWOPNET country attended a **short course on Gender and Peacebuilding**, organized in July 2006 in Mbodiene, Senegal, by FAS's PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development. The short course was a key opportunity for the network members to build their capacities to mainstream their peace and development agendas and network through an online interactive forum that has been designed for follow-up.

The MARWOPNET Secretariat sent a delegation of grassroots organizations from the three countries to participate in the workshop. Synergies between MARWOPNET and other participants from other were created.

Information, Dissemination and Communication Strategies

FAS has introduced MARWOPNET to Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), a key partner working on communication. OSIWA has been invited by FAS to participate in various MARWOPNET activities. OSIWA is financing the setting up of a radio program for MARWOPNET to reach its constituencies in the 3 countries.

Monitoring and Evaluation

FAS continued to monitor and evaluate the work of MARWOPNET as part of its **ten year evaluation study, assessing the impact of its activities in the African women's peace movement** within the last ten years.

Four consultants hired by FAS visited Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia (January 2006) to assess key peace and security concepts, impact assessment tools, a leadership bank and specific cases studies. Part of their work was presented at the conference on 'Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of women's experience', organized by FAS in Bamako, Mali in June 2006. The work is still in progress.



Partnership, Networking and Experiences Sharing

MARWOPNET was invited to participate in various activities organized by FAS at the regional and international level to share experiences and to network. These events included the conference on ‘Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of women’s experience’, in June 2006 in Mali and the **workshop on Gender and Peacebuilding**, organized in Senegal in July 2006. MARWOPNET also visited the FAS Regional Office twice, in July and October 2006.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

FAS has created a pool of women advocates and it will continue to further train women and men through its PanAfrican Centre.

The constraints that have been met were due to the lack of formalized relations and strategic partnerships between FAS and MARWOPNET in terms of programs and resource mobilization, such that the set of objectives for 2006 were only partially met.

The formalization of relations between FAS and MARWOPNET is of utmost importance through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will set out the roles, responsibilities and interests of both organizations.

FAS has redirected its training programme through the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development which will enable it to train women from other regions of Africa.

Training courses in journalism and conflict resolution were initially scheduled to take place in 2006. However, FAS Pan African Centre is planning to organise a regional short course in 2007 with women from other regions to enable them to develop skills in research, documentation, information dissemination and communication strategies.

Current challenges include the MARWOPNET Board Meeting where the Guinean crisis will be discussed; issues will be clarified including the signing of the MOU; and the MARWOPNET programme to reach grassroots women and how the network can be linked to Cote d’Ivoire will be considered.

Another priority area for FAS in the region is its Advocacy in UN Res. 1325, involvement in post-conflict reconstruction and women’s economic empowerment.

1.2 Great Lakes Region

Background

FAS has been actively working in the Great lakes region since 1997 to empower women and promote their participation in peace processes through advocacy and capacity-building measures. Its activities have focused on consolidating women’s organizations at the national level including in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with a view to mobilizing women to create a network in the sub-region that looks into cross-border issues impeding peace.



With the consolidation of women's networks in Burundi and Rwanda and the emergence of a more favourable security situation in the DRC, FAS has concentrated its efforts on supporting the Caucus and its evaluation. This year, FAS partnered with UN agencies such as UNDP, UNIFEM, MONUC and the Party of women's Affairs of DRC, and Trust Africa for the development of a women's platform in the DRC. This has led to the creation of the Cadre de Concertation in the DRC, a group of fifty women's organizations that focuses on peace, which paved the way for the creation of a sub-regional women's network within the framework of the International Conference on the Great Lakes (IC/GL).

FAS's objective of building a sub-regional women's network was also reinforced over the year by supporting the involvement of women from Burundi, Rwanda and the DRC in conferences, establishing parameters for the participation of women in the activities of the IC/GL and reinforcing the role of women from the Great Lakes region in all peace-building initiatives and liaising with women from the region.

Overall objective

The primary objective of the Great Lakes regional project is to develop a base of women leaders in the Great Lakes region who can effectively participate in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and create a sub-regional platform on which a lasting program can be built.

Specific Objectives of 2006

- Convene a strategic meeting between the women of the Great Lakes countries;
- Support national focal points and coordinate the three programmes.

Summary of Activities 2006

Supported by UN agencies, FAS seized the opportunity of the IC/GL initiative to undertake the following activities:

Institutional Building

In January 2006, FAS partnered with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Minister of Women of the DRC, and the Trust Fund to facilitate the creation of the **Cadre Permanent des Femmes Congolaises, which groups together fifty NGOs from eleven different provinces**. Following previous activities in the country, a consultant who was commissioned by FAS, helped to draft an agreement and political agenda based on the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action. The meeting elected the Cadre's board and defined its strategies. The Secretariat was subsequently opened and the Cadres started its activities. Equipment was provided in this respect.

Democratization - Women in the Elections of the DRC

With the Cadre formally set up, FAS supported by AWDF in July 2006 **helped women participate in the electoral processes during the country's presidential and legislative elections**. FAS recruited two consultants to facilitate dialogue with various women in the country and compile a list of political parties with gender-sensitive agendas.



Two members of FAS were invited to take part in the AU elections observation mission organized by the AU and the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie to observe the DRC's presidential and legislative elections in July 2006.

The work initiated by the Congolese women with the support of FAS and UN agencies has led to the inclusion of the gender equality in the Constitution of the DRC. But electoral laws did not reflect an absolute party principle. During the elections, women made up 4 of 33 presidential candidates. Of the 9,060 parliamentary candidates, less than 15% were women. Eleven of the 21 members of the plenary assembly of the Independent Electoral Commission in the DRC are women.

Networking and Experience Sharing

Twelve representatives from ten NGOs in the Great Lakes countries attended FAS's conference on 'Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of women's experience' in June 2006 in Bamako, Mali. The opportunity was used by the women to contribute to the debate on 1325 to share their experiences with other regions and liaise with various partners present and to mobilize support for their programmes in the Great Lakes region. They also participated in FAS's several meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Four consultants hired by FAS visited the Great Lakes (Burundi, Rwanda and DRC) in February 2006 to assess key peace and security concepts, impact assessment tools, a leadership bank and specific cases studies. Part of their work was presented at the conference on 'Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalization on 10 years of women's experience', in June 2006 in Mali and the workshop on Gender and Peacebuilding, organized in Senegal in July 2006.



Capacity Building

FAS also supported the participation of six representatives of women and human rights groups from the Great Lakes at the training workshop on Gender and Peacebuilding organized by the PanAfrican Centre in July 2006 in Mbodiene, Senegal. Participants coming from the countries of Burundi, Rwanda, and DRC in the Great Lakes took part in the short course that sought to provide training on democratization processes and capacity building.



Participants from the Great Lakes & Horn of Africa in field visit

Advocacy

The International Conference on the Great Lakes (IC/GL) was first established in 2000 to bring all the countries of the region together and agree on strategies for peace and prosperity. FAS has been engaged in the activities of the IC/GL since its launch, supporting the participation of national platform representatives and participating in all the meetings of the Conference as part of its sub-regional advocacy programme. This has formed a framework for the creation of a sub-regional women's network in the Great Lakes.

FAS participated in four meetings of the IC/GL organized in Congo-Brazzaville in January 2006, in Central African Republic in February 2006, in Rwanda in May 2006 and the Second Summit in the DRC in December 2006, in order to strengthen its partnership with the conference and harmonize its programmes. FAS also contributed to the adoption by Heads of State of the Plan of Action which integrated women's issues and funded the participation of three women from the region in the Summit meeting.

The IC/GL Summit saw the adoption of the Pact of Non-Aggression and the Plan of Action and designated modalities for setting up the Secretariat. This provided FAS with the space for it and representatives of the three platforms to bring the gender dimension to the Conference. Two representatives of FAS were granted Observer Status in the whole process.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

Although an agenda was adopted in the GL Conference, FAS's initial vision to focus only on 3 countries had to be re-adjusted to the UN/AU strategy that brought in many countries including Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.



Taking into consideration the objectives of the programme, FAS was able to network with platforms in the three countries, despite the size of the DRC, for the creation of a women's national platform that is representative of various groups.

In the coming year, FAS will focus its programme on the three countries working towards the implementation of a Great Lake initiative through a three year project on the implementation of National Action Plans on Resolution 1325 in the Great Lakes region.

2. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

FAS's activities at the regional level are focused on programmes to mainstream gender, particularly in the structures and mechanisms of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

2.1 African Union (AU)

Background

For years, FAS has been working with various partners to push forward an agenda aimed at increasing the inclusion of women at decision-making levels in Africa. These efforts have resulted in numerous achievements most notably the adoption of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the Protocol on Women's rights and the principle of gender parity in the AU Commission in 2002; all of which have impacted on other AU organs and key instruments on women's rights.

Within the framework of the series of consultative meetings on gender mainstreaming in the AU, organized by FAS and its partners, 2006 saw the official launch of the "Gender is my Agenda" campaign, further accelerating the implementation of a gender agenda and women's human rights in Africa.

In order to monitor and evaluate parity and instruments adopted, FAS initiated a series of eight consultations which culminated in the creation of the "Gender is my Agenda" campaign, a network of fifty-four women's groups, regional bodies, UN agencies and governments from twenty African countries.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of FAS's programme for mainstreaming gender in the AU is to mobilize and strengthen the capacity of women so they can contribute to decision-making processes in peace and development and to ensure gender equality in the design and implementation of African programmes via gender balance and gender mainstreaming.

Specific Objectives 2006

- Development of gender mainstreaming strategy and policies;
- Organize meetings prior to the AU Summit;
- Compile, publish and disseminate shadow reports on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA);



- Recruit a gender officer.

Summary of Activities

Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, Policies, and Mechanism

Over the years, FAS has been able to strengthen its partnership with the AU and increase its impact on the development of the AU's gender mainstreaming strategy and policies. 2006 saw increased opportunities for FAS to further implicate itself in the work of the AU Gender Directorate and participate in the design of the AU's gender mainstreaming tools.



African Union Gender Directorate Meeting

The advocacy work of women's organizations helped the Chairperson of the AU Commission set up the **African Union Women's Committee (AUWC)**, for which the Executive Director of FAS is the Vice Chair. The AUWC is mandated to conduct visits in war-torn areas as well as to revise States' reports on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. AUWC has met twice to review the program of the Gender Directorate and give advice on the Member States' Reports on the SDGEA.

Partnerships

Given its experience organizing pre-summit consultations since Durban 2002 and its coordinating role of the "Gender is my Agenda" campaign **FAS also became Coordinator for the activities of civil society organizations (CSOs) dealing with Gender issues during AU Summits** at a meeting organized by the Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union Commission which discussed modalities of collaboration between CSO partners and the Gender Directorate in monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa .

In addition, in June 2006, in Banjul, **FAS was invited to participate in a meeting organized by the Gender Directorate and the UNDP Regional Gender Programme for Africa. FAS became a member of the Steering Committee of the Network on Gender, Peacebuilding and Governance** which brings together African activists working for the promotion of gender. The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place within the framework of the AU Pre-Summit Women's Forum organized by the Gender Directorate (Directorate) and its recommendations on the theme discussed, "Promoting Gender-Responsive Governance in Countries Emerging from Conflict" were included in the work of the 7th AU Summit.



FAS also participated in a meeting of the AU **Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)**, in Ota, in June 2006. ECOSOCC is an advisory organ of the AU which provides for popular participation in the AU by promoting the participation of African civil society in the implementation of the policies and programmes of the AU.

The partnership with the AU Gender Directorate and the network of Gender is My Agenda Campaign in organizing joint meetings and drafting documents during consultative meetings, which were adopted by the AU organs contributed to the development of AU gender mainstreaming policies, strategies and programs.

Pre-Summits

Members of the “Gender is my Agenda” campaign organized the **8th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU** in Banjul on the margins of the AU Summit. The consultative meeting was facilitated by FAS, funded by the AU and chaired by the Vice-President of Gambia and facilitated by the ACDHRS (a focal point of the campaign). The meeting was the 8th of its kind and was designed to group women together to discuss regional gender programmes and strategies for the advancement of the gender agenda. The meeting brought together sixty-five organizations and institutions, (committed to the consolidation of peace, security and development in Africa with a focus on gender) to review and report on the progress made on gender mainstreaming and implementation of the Solemn Declaration.

The meeting was also used to strengthen the work of the “**Gender is my Agenda**” **campaign** which was first launched in 2005. The Campaign brings together women’s organizations and networks to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the thematic clusters of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. As a demonstration of their commitment to the advancement of the gender agenda, the members of the campaign adopted and distributed a monitoring and evaluation framework at the Banjul meeting which will serve as a reporting guideline. As well, initial shadow reports were presented. The Banjul Call for Action which called for Heads of States to produce their reports on the Solemn Declaration and for the AU Gender Directorate to be fully staffed was adopted and was brought to the attention of the AU Summit. The resolution adopted by AU Heads of State acknowledged this call from women’s organizations.



Participants with the vice-president of Gambia

The meeting also saw the organization of a press conference during the AU Summit during which members of the Campaign and FAS members were interviewed.

The next Consultative Meeting in 2007 in Addis Ababa will be used by Campaign members to launch their **shadow report on States' implementation of the SDGEA** that will be presented at the AU Summit and disseminated to a wider audience.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

Most of the planned activities at the regional level have been implemented. AU has recruited two consultants as gender experts; and FAS has recruited consultants to work with the AU during Pre-Summits, and with gender experts. The recruitment of a gender expert will require the availability of greater financial and human resources. FAS will continue to put pressure on the AU to recruit more personnel and gender experts at the Gender Directorate for the implementation of the various Gender instruments. FAS will seek to work more closely with peace and security of the AU.

2.2 NEPAD

Background

FAS has also worked to advocate for gender mainstreaming within NEPAD. The mechanisms and initiatives of NEPAD, including its Peace and Security Initiative, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, make NEPAD an important body for the promotion and implementation of programmes on women's participation in post-conflict reconstruction phases.

With the incorporation of NEPAD into the functioning of the AU, it is now important to build from the successes of the AU and develop a similar commitment to, and mechanism for, gender mainstreaming within NEPAD.



FAS participated in shaping the **gender agenda of NEPAD** and it was made a member of the NEPAD Gender Task Force, which is in charge of peace and security. Since becoming a member, FAS continues to support the **NEPAD Gender Task Force** in mobilizing and strengthening the capacity of women to contribute to decision-making processes for peace and development programmes and to ensure gender equality in the design and implementation of African programmes such as AU and its structures including NEPAD, ECOSOCC, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the APRM and the Protocol on Women's Human Rights.

Overall Objective

To achieve greater equality within the NEPAD programme

Specific Objectives 2006

- Development of gender mainstreaming strategy and policies;
- Organize meetings prior to the AU Summits;
- Compile, publish and disseminate reports;
- Recruit a gender officer.

Summary of Activities

FAS participated in a **technical working session of the NEPAD Gender Task Force** in Cairo in September 2006. The objectives of the session were to carry out a comprehensive needs assessment of NEPAD priority sectors, develop gender mainstreaming tools, guidelines and protocols to assist NEPAD in conducting gender audits, and to implement mechanisms to guide the gender mainstreaming work of NEPAD.

It also participated in the **Second Meeting of the Multi Stakeholder Dialogue** in Abuja in October 2006 to review, debate and explore mechanisms for the accelerated implementation of gender mainstreaming in NEPAD, particularly through the active participation of stakeholders. The report of the meeting was subsequently presented to the NEPAD Summit which met the following day.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

The most pressing challenge ahead is the understaffed NEPAD Secretariat which prevents NEPAD from furthering its gender programme. At the same time, the Pre-Summit consultative meetings, organized by FAS the AU and NEPAD Gender Directors to work with various stakeholders. Future efforts will be focused on seeking both human and financial resources for the gender programme of NEPAD.



3. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Background

Complementary and interrelated to its sub-regional and regional advocacy programmes, FAS's international advocacy programme is focused on advocating for women's rights in international forums by translating the concerns of African women's peace movement internationally and realizing the achievements of the international community in the African continent.

FAS's international activities remain focused on facilitating the participation of African women in decision-making processes bringing their concerns to the attention of the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the CSW so that the various instruments on women's rights are monitored and implemented.

FAS's Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) enable its International Secretariat in Geneva and its New York Liaison Office to take part in the deliberations of various UN bodies including the CSW, the Human Rights Council and the Security Council. Through its affiliation with the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO), FAS works toward the implementation of international instruments on women's rights such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). FAS's membership of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in New York, allows it to monitor the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in addition to advocating for the participation of women in conflict prevention.

The main strategy used by FAS is to bring women to the international events which FAS participates in so that they can speak for themselves.

FAS's activities for 2006 focused on advocacy, enhancing international awareness and commitment to engendering peace processes in Africa, and building the leadership skills of African women.

Overall Objective

Advocacy at the international level in order to incorporate African women's voices in decisions made concerning peace, security and development.

Specific Objectives for 2006

- Bring African women's concerns and efforts to the international arena through participation in international conferences and meetings;
- Educate African women on the mechanisms and functioning of international bodies which deal with the advancement of women and women's human rights;
- Monitor the implementation of international mechanisms on women's rights.



Summary of Activities

Advocacy

Human Rights Council

In March 2006, the UN Commission on Human Rights was transformed into the Human Rights Council in an attempt by the UN system to improve its ability to examine, monitor and respond to human rights violations worldwide.

FAS remained **actively engaged in the institutionalization processes** of the Council to ensure its improved implementation of international human rights instruments and advocate for African women's human rights at the international level. FAS participated in the consultative process and **attended seven preparatory meetings** of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as well as **four debriefings** organized by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CONGO), which also allowed for strategizing with other NGOs for the increased participation of NGOs in the work of the Council. FAS also **drafted a paper on the new Human Rights Council explaining the process, the procedures and NGO involvement and the gender perspective in its work, which was distributed to its members.**

Further, FAS advocated on women's issues during Council sessions to move the Council's gender agenda forward. FAS **delivered statements**, based on information from its partners in the field, calling for the inclusion of gender mainstreaming as a specific item on the agenda of the new Council. It also co-organized a panel on "Peace: Gender Equality and Development" which was held in parallel to the Council sessions.

In December 2006, in Geneva, FAS was also **invited to participate as a panelist** in a discussion organized by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty international on the situation on Darfur attended by ambassadors, accredited to the UN in Geneva, and various NGOs.

In a further attempt to involve the concerns of African women at the international level, FAS **delivered a statement at the Special Session on the Human Rights Council** on the plight of women in Darfur/Sudan. Its intervention called for a meaningful dialogue between local women's groups and traditional leaders and the inclusion of a gender perspective in the high level mission of the Human Rights Council to be deployed to the country. Consequently, **the Council appointed two women to form part of the mission, one of whom headed the mission.**



Commission on the Status of Women

FAS participated in the 50th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women from February to March 2006 focusing on “Women, Health, Education, and Work”. FAS partnered with women’s organizations including the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security and UNIFEM. At the same time, FAS used the opportunity of the CSW to **organize three panels**. The first panel was held on the theme of “Gender Perspectives in the Peace Building Commission”; the second panel discussions, which was organized in partnership with Delta Sigma- a diaspora Network- on “Delta & Femmes Africa Solidarité Day at the UN” were attended by the Ambassador of Senegal and the Special Advisor on Gender and the Advancement of Women. Discussions touched on African women’s issues and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. *The third panel on “Empowering African Women in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building (UN Resolution 1325)” was said (according to members of the South African Delegation and Ms. Larsen of OSAA and the Ghanaian delegation) to be one of the best events of the CSW organised by civil society.* It was facilitated by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Representative in Liberia, and attended by women from the Great Lakes and Mano River Regions. Staff from the three offices of FAS participated in these events as a way to strengthen **teambuilding among the three offices**. These panels were attended by more than 300 participants. The outcome of the meetings were shared at the NGO sessions during CSW. **FAS produced a documentary film on its activities during the CSW Session.**



FAS Round-table on Peacebuilding commission

Peacebuilding Commission

The establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in 2005 is of great importance for FAS’s gender mainstreaming work, particularly with the Commission’s selection of Sierra Leone and Burundi as its two first cases; they are two countries in which FAS has worked for many years. FAS **attended a meeting of the Commission** in October that discussed its work in Sierra Leone in order to be informed of, and involved in, the work of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. FAS will continue linking with the Commission in an attempt to ensure the involvement of women’s groups in its field visits and the incorporation of a gender agenda into its work. FAS also wrote a **paper on the Peacebuilding Commission to inform its network in the field about the Commission** and on opportunities for the participation of NGOs and women’s grassroots organizations in its work.



During the Session, FAS working group on Peace organized a Round-table with representatives of UN Agencies on the issue of a “Specialized UN Women’s Agency. The purpose was to ensure that gender perspective was included in UN’s peacebuilding efforts. Some of the points discussed include the position, mandate, partners, funding, impact on grassroots and gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation of its activities, and its link with the Human Rights Council. **A position paper**, drafted by FAS, on reforming the specialized UN Women’s Agency was circulated during the Round-table.

Partnership

CONGO

FAS is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), an association of 500 NGOs that facilitates the participation of civil society in UN debates and decisions. This important association allows FAS to further its relationship and cooperation with the UN, particularly the Human Rights Council and attend NGO Consultations with ECOSOC.

For example, 2006 saw the organization by the CONGO of various sessions designed to provide members with necessary information on the participations of NGOs in the newly established Human Rights Council. Having attended these meetings, FAS gained a **valuable insight into the procedures of the Human Rights Council**. This information will prove useful as FAS continues to present statements to the Sessions of the HRC as well as holding parallel training sessions and panel discussions.

NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Geneva

FAS is also a member of the Geneva NGO Committee on the Status of Women, (NGO/CSW), a body of the CONGO, made up of 60 international NGOs, which actively works to promote and monitor gender issues within the Human Rights Council, ECOSOC and the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the implementation of the CEDAW.

Through its affiliation with the NGO/CSW, FAS brings the perspective of African women to the fore by organizing and facilitating panels during the sessions of the Human Rights Commission/Council. In March 2006, it **delivered two statements on the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review and the Review Mandates and Mechanisms at the final session of the Human Rights Commission**.

Throughout 2006, FAS also **attended six meetings of the NGO/CSW** in Geneva on women’s human rights and empowerment within the work of the Human Rights Council and CEDAW. FAS further **participated in lobbying activities and assisted in preparing publications of the NGO/CSW** on Violence against Women and the transformation of the Human Rights Commission into the Human Rights Council.

Working Group on Peace in Geneva

As working group of the NGO/CSW, comprising several NGOs, the Working Group on Peace is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and **UN Security Council Resolution 1325**, which focuses on the rights-based approach.



As co-convenor of the Working Group, together with WILPF, FAS offers guidance and input in the conceptualization, preparation and implementation of its activities and draws attention to the experiences and concerns of African women at the international level. FAS's priority concern in 2006 was to highlight the concerns of women in **Darfur/ Sudan**. Through its links with women in the country, FAS organized various meetings and panel events aimed at sensitizing members of the Working Group on the situation of women in the region. As a result, the Working Group decided to focus its resources on monitoring the work of **the Human Rights Council** on women in Darfur/Sudan.

Another milestone for 2006 was the Working Group's ongoing development of a **booklet on grassroots women's best practices** for peace building which builds on women's experiences in Africa and other parts of the world.

NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in New York

The **FAS New York Liaison Office** strengthens FAS's membership of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in New York (NGOWG); a group of **11 NGOs** formed to monitor and advocate for the participation of women in the prevention of conflict, the protection of all civilians, and the full and rapid implementation of Resolution 1325 of the Security Council in 2000.

Most significant was the work carried out during **October Advocacy Week** which celebrated the **sixth anniversary** of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). Advocacy week gives visibility to the resolution and discusses modalities for its improved implementation by UN entities, UN Member States and civil society actors. For example, FAS participated in meetings organized by different partners working on women's issues such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). FAS also shared its experiences of the African women's peace movement in a **live worldwide radio broadcast organized by the International Women's Tribune Centre Office and Radio Fire**.

FAS was also asked to **make a statement** on behalf of fourteen Sudanese women's groups and human rights organizations at the **Arria Formula Meeting of the Security Council on the Role of Women in the Consolidation of Peace** which was organized by the UK Permanent Mission to the UN in October 2006. In recognition of her contributions to the meeting and her information on Sudan, **the Permanent Representative of the UK to the UN addressed a letter to the Executive Director of FAS** thanking her for her views on gender, conflict, and the Peacebuilding Commission.

"The success of the event was due in large part to the insightful and informative presentations made by you and your fellow panellists.... Thank you for your contribution and enabling us to make the most of this opportunity".

Letter addressed to Ms Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS from Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, Permanent Representative of the UK to the UN, 31st October 2006



In recognition of its role in the African women's movement for peace, FAS was invited to observe the proceedings of the **Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, held in October 2006**. Having attended this annual thematic debate, FAS was kept informed of the progress achieved in implementing Resolution 1325, particularly through the actions of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan. This information was of particular value for FAS in helping it with its programme on Resolution 1325 in the Great Lakes region.

FAS was also able to meet with **Friends of 1325**, a group of governments, and attended various events organized by the NGO Working Group and UNIFEM.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

This year, FAS was not able to support women's participation in international forum, due to the **UN reform process** and due to a **lack of resources**. However, it was able to network with other partners to bring the concerns of African women to the international debate. For example, while Sudanese women were not able to attend the Arria meeting of the Security Council, FAS managed to lobby on their behalf.

At the Human Rights Council, not many issues pertaining to African women were discussed due to the fact that the body was undergoing transformative change. Thus the only issue that featured prominently was **Darfur**.

FAS was able to produce **three main papers** to inform its African network on the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission and the UN agency for women.



IV. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING

Thanks to the support received from the Government of the Netherlands, FAS has been able to build its capacity by opening a Regional Office in Dakar and has established the PanAfrican centre for Gender, Peace and Development. FAS has **recruited 5 permanent staff** for the Dakar office who are charged with overseeing the advocacy and capacity building activities of the field. **A Programme Officer has also been recruited to lead the Dakar Office.**

1. ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

FAS has conducted successfully advocacy activities together with networks at the national, continental, and international level. The advocacy work is supported by position papers, statements, reports, campaigns led by its **92 members and affiliated members** positioned in **38 countries** of Africa. FAS's study on the women's movement for peace and security in Africa '10 years of practice', which provide knowledge on key peace and security issues and **UN Resolution 1325, the Protocol on Women's Human Rights in Africa and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa** is a guiding tool for advocacy program.

FAS participated in the AU Summit organised in **Khartoum in January 2006** and in **Banjul in July 2006**. The result of the advocacy work, at the regional level, was the adoption by the AU of the **Banjul Declaration**, emanating from the 'Gender is My Agenda Campaign' appealing to Member States to submit their reports on the SDGEA. The network is composed of **49 Organisations** focussing on thematic subjects and regions as well as partners such as UN agencies and **OSIWA**.

At the international level, the integration of FAS's activities in the Human Rights Council as well as in the Security Council on Sudan are milestones within the advocacy program. The two Working Groups on Peace and Security in New York and Geneva have amplified the work of FAS from the field and have influenced the **UN Mission to Darfur including the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights:**

Another FAS objective is to build the capacity of women through training on conflict resolution, leadership, women's rights and gender and peace building to allow them to influence policies and be effective participants in peace processes.



The training courses offered by its **PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC)** will be a catalyst to the training already offered in the field. **A coordinator has been recruited** to lead the training course at the regional office. The first training course with the **University for Peace** brought **30 participants** each from different African countries, benefiting from training sessions, seminars and field visits delivered by resource persons and professors from Africa, US and Australia.

The **PAC coordinator** supports the program activities in the Regional office in Dakar.

2. PARTNERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

Background

One of FAS's key priority areas is the development of strong partnerships and links with organizations and initiatives involved in peace building, around a common agenda for the empowerment of women, thus maximizing the use of resources. Over the years, FAS has built strategic partnerships with many stakeholders, including policy makers, implementers within governments and UN Agencies. These stakeholders for 2006 include the **AU, ECA, NEPAD**, the Governments of Senegal, Mali, DRC, and South Africa, **UNDP, UPEACE**, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (**OSIWA**), OIF, The **Global Fund for Women**, the **AWDF** and the **Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)**

Throughout the course of 2006, FAS further developed these partnerships and sought to identify new potential partners, such as **TICAD, Trust Africa, and UNDEF**, and programmes to support its programme for engendering peace processes in Africa.

Summary of Activities

TICAD

FAS continues to work with Japan, after discussions with JICA in Dakar, in its efforts to consolidate peace in Africa. FAS participated in the "Conference on Consolidation of Peace" organized by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in February 2006. FAS was asked to participate in the conference and make a **presentation on "the Current Situation and Issues of Peace Consolidation Efforts in Africa and gender perspective"**. FAS will continue to seek the consolidation of this important partnership with the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA0)

Government of Finland

In December 2006, **FAS signed a contract with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Finnish Government** for funding on FAS's project on "National Action Plan on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in three selected pilot countries in Africa". As part of FAS's regional programme in the Great Lakes region, the project will start at the beginning of 2007 for a period of three years with the aim of realizing women's full legal and human rights in peace and security. **FAS's project was one of 6 projects selected for funding out a total of 26 applications.**



Trust Africa

Trust Africa was launched by the Ford Foundation to support African NGOs. FAS was invited to add input into the newly established agenda of the Foundation. Opportunities also arose for the **strengthening of relations with Trust Africa**, an African foundation which supported its activities in the Great Lakes region. FAS is now discussing support for institutional building with Trust Africa. Throughout 2006, FAS attended activities organized by Trust Africa where it was able to offer its input into the agenda of Trust Africa.

AWDF

FAS participated in the setting up of the new agenda of AWDF in Accra where FAS was given an award. In July 2006, FAS also **received financing from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)** for its programme in the Great Lakes region from 2006 to 2007.

OSIWA

FAS is also strengthening relations with the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) which previously supported FAS's activities in the Mano River region. **Discussions are ongoing for OSIWA also supports FAS's regional programme in the AU. OSIWA is also funding the MARWOPNET radio program.**

UNDEF

Another positive development for FAS's partnership programme saw the **signing of a contract between FAS and the newly established United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)** for FAS's project on "Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the DRC". First created in 2005 as a UN General Trust Fund, UNDEF supports democratization throughout the world by financing projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participatory democratic processes. The **two year project** which begins next year, seeks to build the capacity of women in the DRC in order to ensure their participation in decision-making processes and the protection of their full rights.

DFID

FAS entered into discussions with DFID. The latter visited the Regional Office in Dakar in October 2006 to discuss the **development of a programme on Res. 1325** at the sub-regional level. FAS also met with DFID in Abuja in September 2006 for follow-up.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

Ongoing constraints faced by FAS in partnership include **long-term** commitments to provide the resources for the programmes. In this regard, FAS welcomed the three year project, which is being supported by the Government of Finland, and the two year project, funded by UNDEF to start next year. Nonetheless, more funding is required to strengthen the projects and ensure their sustainability.

The **Partnership and Fundraising function in the Geneva office** conducts research and locates possible partners in support of activities carried-out in the Dakar Office.



3. NETWORKING

Background

The third objective of FAS's Institutional Building activities, as laid out in the project proposal, is to develop strong networking relations with civil society organizations (CSOs) around a common agenda. FAS participates in networking activities with the aim of developing strong relations with civil society organizations and mobilizing resources to maximize voices at the decision-making levels and learning from the experiences of others on gender and women's empowerment.

In 2006, FAS members worked to coordinate, and link with networks and organizations committed to peace building, reconstruction and development initiatives in Africa.

Sub-regional	Regional	International
Existing		
MARWOPNET in Sierra Leone (Women's Forum), Guinea (COFEG), Liberia (LWI) Marwopnet Chapters in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone	Gender is my Agenda Campaign (49 women's groups, regional bodies, UN agencies and governments from 28 African countries)	CONGO (500 members)
Cadre de Concertation (includes 50 NGOs) in DRC		NGO/CSW (60 NGOs)
CAFOB in Burundi		Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in New York (11 NGOs)
Profemmes Twese Hamwe in Rwanda (48 members)		Working Group on Peace in Geneva (52 NGOs as of May 2005)
		ICRC – Geneva and offices in Dakar, Addis Abeba
		Roll Back Malaria (network-KVINNOFORUM)
		Arab Women International Forum; ICC; S.M. Foundation
New Networks		
		Network of African/Spanish Women
	African Women's Foresight Group (35 African Leaders)	



Summary of Activities

Network of African and Spanish Women

In 2006, FAS was able to develop many strong networking relations following meetings attended by FAS in Canary Islands. **It extended its networking programme to women in Spain** by taking part in the “Women for a Better World” meetings for the creation of a **Network of African and Spanish Women**. A joint initiative of the Governments of Mozambique and Spain, the Network seeks to promote the development, equality and empowerment of African women and reinforce dialogue between African and Spanish women. FAS participated in two meetings organized by the hosts with the aim of studying the situation of women in Africa and pushing forward with the network. At FAS’s recommendation, peace and security will be a thematic priority to be considered by the Network, in addition to the themes of health, education, economics, communication and culture and empowerment, as defined in the **Mozambique Declaration**”, which formally set up the Network. The Network is expected to become operational at its next meeting in March 2007.

Roll Back Malaria Network

FAS has also been working with Kvinnoforum (Sweden) and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM) since 2005 to bring African women working on health, gender and malaria, in particular those involved in monitoring the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, to join the RBM.

In March 2006, **FAS, RBM, Kvinnoforum and the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria organized a workshop** on malaria and gender with the aims of building a global network on gender and malaria, developing a global plan of action on advocacy and knowledge and contributing to a resource booklet on malaria and gender. Members of the network participated in the workshop and contributed to the “Guide to Gender and Malaria Resources” which was subsequently published in October 2006.

The RBM network is now part of the ‘Gender is my Agenda Campaign’ monitoring and evaluation, the AU Gender Policies, and programs.

ICRC

The Executive Director of FAS is a member of the Group of International Advisers of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In this capacity, she attends meetings of the ICRC, the last of which was held in August 2006 in Geneva. This enables FAS to share its experiences of African women’s initiatives for peace at the international level and keep abreast of peace and security humanitarian trends. Its membership of the Group of International Advisors has also facilitated its involvement in other humanitarian networks, including the CAUX Foundation and the Maurice de Madré French Fund. The ICRC is a strong networking partner, **and recently agreed to play a role in the future activities of FAS’s PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development.**



Key African Women Leaders

With the support of the Government of Spain, another milestone achieved in 2006 was the creation of the African Women's Foresight Group which aims to raise the profile of African women in governance. **The Group is headed by Ms Graca Machel, President of the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) and includes Gertrude Mangella, President of PAP, Ms Wangari Maathai, President of the ECOSOCC and H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia, Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS.** In September 2006, FAS and FDC hosted a meeting that brought together thirty-five African women leaders and experts to establish the Group. The Group will meet next in 2007 to assess the progress of its tasks and shape a long term strategy for creation of a governance Fund.

Arab Women Network

FAS continues to dialogue and exchange ideas and experiences with the Arab Women on women's human rights, their political participation and economic empowerment through the following networks: the **Arab International Women Forum**, the Suzanne Mubarak Foundation and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Pakistan. Member of FAS made a presentation on the PanAfrican Centre in Malaysia in January 2006.

Constraints and the Way Forward

FAS has identified the absence of a **regional strong network** in Africa that works on the **economic empowerment** of women as a major challenge. While these groups exist at the national level, there is no continent-wide network that is focused on the promotion and protection of women's economic rights. FAS believes that the creation of the Foresight Group could put in process the establishment of a network focusing on economic issues.

The **Networking function** in Geneva works closely with these networks on various activities to be undertaken together regarding a common ground basis. These activities are realised with a view to support of the program activities in Dakar.

4. RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

FAS consistently seeks to increase its knowledge of women's issues and enhance the impact of its advocacy activities on women and peace. As such, it attempts to improve research, documentation and information dissemination on its programmes and activities to foster and promote its peace-building and gender-mainstreaming initiatives. The effective use of the media is crucial in furthering these aims.

Three mains events at the African levels have mobilise the media as well as at the international level: FAS Conference on Gender, Peace and Development organised in Bamako, Mali in June 2006 where the **President of Mali, Amadou Toumani Toure** has received the **Tombouctou Award given by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia**, a FAS internal distinction on Peace; the PanAfrican Centre Course short course in July in Mbodiene; the Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming organised in Banjul in June 2006. See **FAS Press Book 2006 attached.**



Research and Documentation

FAS regularly keeps track of, and conducts research on, key issues and priority areas of its work. These include HIV/AIDS, the Beijing platform of Action, the UN Resolution on 1325 (2000), the SDGEA, the proliferation of small arms, violence against women and other thematic areas of relevance to the African women's agenda.

FAS commissioned four external consultants to undertake a study on the **Women's Movement for Peace and Security in Africa: 10 years of practice: an impact evaluation-with focus on 1325**.

The study involved **research and field visits** to the Mano River area, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa to document the contributions that FAS has made to international discourse on peace building from a gender perspective.

FAS also prepares position papers and regularly monitors developments in the women's peace movements from its offices and with the assistance of its members. In 2006, FAS undertook **five research papers** in preparation for its participation in conferences and **eight background research documents** for its different activities. It was also issued and translated booklets, reports, press releases and articles for its website and different documents related to its activities.

Information Dissemination

The effective use of the media can help FAS promote its activities and the impact of its programmes at the sub-regional, regional and international levels. Its communication strategy allows it to disseminate information to networks, members and partners and make its work visible to an international audience.

Press Releases and Information Notes

FAS staff members are regularly involved in drafting press releases and information notes which are disseminated to local and international media as well as FAS members, networks, and partners. These documents are posted on the Internet for broad access, to promote general advocacy and information sharing.

In 2006, FAS staff produced **seven press releases** and **eight Information Notes** in its activities. One article was reproduced by Byblos in their issue No. 4 together with an article on Caux Initiative of Change



Published by Byblos in 6 languages and 10,000 distributed in five-star hotels



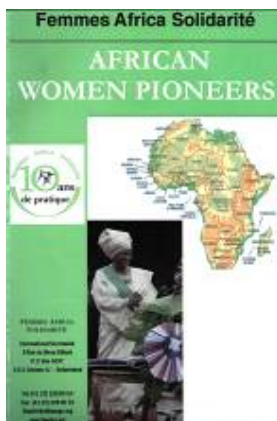
Publications and Information Tools

As well, the following publications and information tools were produced in 2006 and being distributed during FAS's events:

- 2000-2005 Report of Activities
- Brochure on FAS
- Study on the Women Movement for Peace and Security: 10 years of practice



- Report on African Women Pioneers
- Publication of the final report of the First edition of the African Gender Award and Forum



Films

- Documentary film “Nandi - the African Woman’s Struggle”
- Film on the 8th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU, June 2006
- Film of the workshop on the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development workshop on Gender and Peacebuilding, July 2006



5. COMMUNICATIONS

FAS used the media to promote its advocacy activities and impact, and foster women's peace initiatives. The various information tools that have been produced are disseminated through the press, website and internet to the various networks.

Liaison with Local and International Media

FAS established and strengthened existing relationships with local and international media agencies and offices by organizing TV and radio press conference, producing press kits for distribution to media representatives and conducting TV and radio interviews. Throughout 2006, **seven interviews** were held with FAS members on emerging issues by Frontpageafrica.com, Radio France Internationale (RFI), le Quotidien Newspaper and GFM/RADIO GOLD.

Website

In recognition of the importance of sharing information for advocacy purposes, FAS seeks to regularly update its website and better advocate and promote its work.

FAS is currently working on an updated version of its website.

Internet

FAS has created a database of members, networks, partners and media interested in its work which received FAS's news on a regular basis via internet.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

For 2007, FAS will work to implement a more coordinated communication strategy, which is currently being developed by the International Secretariat and the Regional Office in Dakar, and New York representative.

FAS has a **Communication Function** who is the focal point for media related activities. Also, a **website designer** is creating a new FAS website and regularly updates it. Both are supporting the programs carried-out in the regional office.

6. COORDINATION

FAS's coordination programme is aimed at strengthening the capacity of FAS as a strong mechanism for effective coordination and ensuring that its members work effectively and coherently. The coordination programme will also serve to reinforce the institutionalization of the **Geneva, Dakar and New York offices. The 3 coordinators of Geneva, Dakar and New York are permanent staff** of FAS and work in close collaboration.



FAS Staff and Offices

In 2006, FAS continued to strengthen its capacity in order to effectively coordinate its three offices. The Dakar Office saw its increased institutionalization through the **recruitment of permanent staff**, and the acquisition of **computers and other technical equipment**. In 2006, all three Offices were supplied with a computer for each staff member and **Skype accounts** to ensure daily inter-office communication, coordination and the transfer of knowledge. **Inter-Office visits** were carried out by FAS staff members.



2006 Dakar staff



2006 Geneva staff

FAS also conducted numerous team building workshops and trainings sessions to build capacity and reinforce a comprehensive vision of FAS's mission, objective and role of each staff member. Particular meetings focused on building FAS's advocacy capacity to influence policies and programmes on peace building and conflict prevention and its ability to strengthen the capacity of African women for sustainable peace and security. The Dakar Office organized **four teambuilding meetings** and several staff meetings throughout 2006. In Geneva, the International Secretariat held **eight teambuilding** meetings and several staff meetings. Other meetings to review the programme, mid-term evaluations, planning sessions and reviews of three month planning sessions were also held.



The **Regional Office** organized the training workshop of the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development on Gender and Peacebuilding in July 2006 in Mbodiene, Senegal and the 8th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union in Banjul, Gambia in June 2006 and the FAS tri-annual conference and General Assembly in Bamako. It also supported the regional and sub-regional programme and participated in various regional activities.

The **New York Office** participated in the 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in February 2006, the October Advocacy Week on Resolution 1325 and other activities organized by the Working Group on Peace and Security Council and various UN partners.

The **International Secretariat** participated in the various activities of the Human Rights Council, the meetings of the CONGO, the NGO/CSW and the Working Group on Peace as well as other meetings in Geneva.

The **full-time staff at the Regional Office** in Dakar consists of a Programme Officer, an Information and Communication Officer, an Administration and Finance Officer, a Coordination Officer, a Coordinator for the PanAfrican Centre and an Administrative Support Officer. The office had three interns throughout the course of 2006.

The **full-time staff at the Secretariat in Geneva** consists of the Executive Director, a Coordination Officer, a Finance Officer supported by the Government of Switzerland and interns in the following functions: Partnership and Fundraising; Networking; Information and Communication; Research; a Focal Point for the African Gender Award and Forum; Monitoring and Evaluation; and a Webmaster.

The **Liaison Office in New York** is represented by a Coordination Officer and four support interns in Research, Partnership, Networking and Communication.

All staff members participate in supporting advocacy, capacity building, networking, partnership and fundraising and communication activities in different parts of the world.

Executive and Advisory Board Meetings and General Assembly

FAS is assisted in its work through the dedication and commitment of its staff, members of its Executive and Advisory Boards and Members and Associate Members as its resource basis (92) who together represent 38 different countries.

Selected in accordance with their outstanding achievements in the promotion of peace and the attainment of women's rights in Africa, **FAS Board Members** contribute voluntarily to the implementation of FAS's programmes in the field and represent FAS at events essential for the fulfilment of its objectives. Members meet at a General Assembly every three years in a plenary session where Board members are nominated and general policies and activities are reviewed and planned. The Board meets at least every year in a Board Meeting to follow-up on program implementation including financial and activity report.



The most recent **Board and General Assembly** was organized in **June 2006 in Bamako, Mali**. It was attended by **9 members** of the Executive and Advisory Board. The outgoing Board reviewed FAS's audited report, FAS's work over the last five years and its planned programme of activities and fundraising strategies. It also discussed proposals for FAS membership and members to the Board to be presented at the General Assembly. The meeting formally ended with a press conference attended by national and international media.

At the General Assembly meeting, members of FAS reviewed its vision, mission, strategies, activities, and programs for the previous year and elected two new members of the Executive Board and new members of the Advisory Board in addition to approving the general programmes of FAS based on the recommendations emanating from FAS **Conference on Gender, Peace, Security and Development**. The General Assembly, which was attended by **twenty-seven of the forty-nine members of FAS and twenty new members**, also discussed the admission of new Members and Associate Members and financial and administrative issues.

At the meeting of the new Board, the new Chairperson of the Board was elected, replacing **Mrs Julienne Ondziel with Mrs Marie-Louise Baricako**. Follow up discussions were held on the recommendations of the General Assembly and FAS's programme of activities and fundraising issues and the **effective coordination of the network**.

Executive Board

- **Mrs Thelma Awori (Liberia)** Former Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) of the UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Mrs Marie-Louise Baricako (Burundi)** Chair of the Executive Board of FAS, Former Head of Department at the University of Burundi
- **Mrs Yasmin Jusu-Sheriff (Sierra Leone)** Solicitor and Barrister, High Court for Sierra Leone
- **Mrs Soyata Maïga (Mali)** Lawyer, President of the Malian Association of Lawyers
- **Mrs Julienne Ondziel (Congo)** Former Chair of the Executive Board of FAS, Lawyer, Former Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights for the African Commission on Human and People's Rights
- **Mrs Thandi Orleyn (South Africa)** Former National Director of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), Lawyer, Director of Routledge-Modise Attorneys

Executive Director

- **Ms Bineta Diop (Senegal)** Founder and Executive Director of FAS

Treasurer

- **Mr Hassan Ba (Senegal)** Advisor to the President of the Republic of Senegal



Advisory Board

- **Honorable Mrs Saida Agrebi (Tunisia)** President of Tunisian Mothers' Association, Member of the Pan-African Parliament
- **Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra (Mauritius)** Ombudsperson for Children, Lawyer, Former Attorney General, Former Minister of Women's Rights and the Family of the Republic of Mauritius
- **Mrs Vivian Lowery-Derrick (USA)** Senior Vice-President and Director of Public Private Partnerships, Academy for Educational Development
- **Mrs Graça Simbine Machel (Mozambique)** President of the Foundation for Community Development (FDC)
- **Honourable Ms Gertrude Mongella (Tanzania)** President of Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA), President of Pan-African Parliament
- **Mrs Kadiatou Koubourath Ossenii (Benin)** President of the National Federation of Women's Associations of Benin
- **Ms Ruth Sando Perry (Liberia)** Former Acting Head of State of the Republic of Liberia
- **Mrs Elisabeth Rehn (Finland)** Former Vice-Secretary General of the UN, Former Minister of Defence of Finland, Independent Expert for UNIFEM
- **Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun (Algeria)** Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Africa
- **Mr Pierre Schori (Sweden)** Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, Former Head of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
- **Honourable Ms Aminata Tall (Senegal)** Ministre d'Etat of the Republic of Senegal
- **His Excellency President Amadou Toumani Touré (Mali)** Head of State of the Republic of Mali, Former President of the Fondation pour l'Enfance
- **Honourable Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (South Africa)** Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa

Conference on Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of Women's Experience

In April 2000, FAS held its first conference focusing on linking women and advocacy to HIV/AIDS in Addis Abeba. **In June 2006, in Bamako, Mali, FAS organized its second "Conference on Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of Women's Experience".** Held under the Presidency of H.E. Amadou Toumani Touré, President of the Republic of Mali, the event benefited from the participation of one hundred and **seventy-eight participants representing a total of thirty-eight countries. Support was received from the governments of Luxembourg, Senegal, Mali, South Africa, and the Global Fund of Women.**

The overall objective of the conference was to bring African women together and capitalize on sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices while critically analyzing FAS's activities and setting strategies for the future of the African women's peace movement.



Several activities were organized as part of the Conference. An opening ceremony was held under the Presidency **H.E. Amadou Toumani Touré**, President of the Republic of Mali and included the participation of **H.E. Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf**, President of the Republic of Liberia; **H.E. Mr Ousmane Issoufi Maiga**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mali; **H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa; **H.E. Mrs Aminata Tall**, Minister of State of the Republic of Senegal; **H.E. Ms Diallo M'Bodji Sene**, Minister of the Promotion for Women, Children and Family of the Republic of Mali; **Mrs Toure Lobbo Traore**, First Lady of the Republic of Mali; and **Ms Ruth Sando Perry**, Former Interim Head of State of the Republic of Liberia, **H.E. Elisabeth Rehn**, former Minister of Defence of Finland. Also present were Ombudsperson from countries of the Francophonie, members of the Government of the Republic of Mali, representatives of the diplomatic community, African Union, Economic Commission for Africa, UN agencies and governments and FAS networks and partners.

The conference itself was used as a venue to share experiences and engage in dialogue on issues related to the women's peace movement. Several debates and panel discussions were held. The conference provided an opportunity for FAS to share with African women the outcomes of its **initial ten year evaluation study** as well as officially present the workshop programmes of its **PanAfrican Center for Gender, Peace and Development**.

The event was also used to celebrate the achievements of prominent figures towards peace and security in Africa through the **Tombouctou Award**, an internal distinction of Peace Makers. The award ceremony took place on the eve of the conference and honoured **H.E. Amadou Toumani Toure**, the President of the Republic of Mali, members of FAS's Executive and Advisory Board, women pioneers, peace mediators and FAS partners and members for their commitment to women's issues in Africa.

At the close of the conference, participants adopted the **Bamako Commitment** through which they pledged to work on a number of key ideas highlighting women's needs and concerns in particular sensitization of African governments to put in place an **Action Policy on Resolution 1325**.



The Bamako Conference helped FAS to lay down its future policy and strategy and receive direction on its orientations from women on the ground, including in the Great Lakes and the Mano River and other parts of Africa. It also enabled FAS to explore new approaches, for example in the Horn of Africa, the implementation of **UN Res. 1325 by African Member States, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and the Protocol on Women Human Rights in Africa**, and to emphasize capacity building through the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development by presenting it at the conference.

The meeting also brought to light new strategies for **economic empowerment** and the importance of **Resolution 1325** and its link with the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and the Protocol on Women's Human Rights in Africa.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

Particular constraints that were encountered included the lack of funding which is the reason why the meeting was not triennial as stated in FAS' three year funding proposal.

FAS will plan to hold its next meeting of the Executive and Advisory Board in 2007.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The effectiveness of FAS's programme is ensured through the development of relevant monitoring and evaluation systems at all levels so as to influence the engenderment of policies and programmes. Mechanisms are also supported to evaluate women's participation in advocacy and training with Resolution 1325 becoming an important **guiding tool for FAS in making its assessments**.

FAS created the post of Monitoring and Evaluation intern at its international Secretariat to support the regional Office.

FAS's Monitoring and Evaluation system

FAS's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system was developed and finally put in place since November 2005. During 2005, the system was developed due to a need to create a systematic framework in order to facilitate and improve the work process and evaluate FAS's activities and functions. The current M&E system uses a number of different quantitative and qualitative tools to accomplish its objectives. These are implemented at the following level:

- The Reporting Guidelines: a set of guidelines and instructions concerning the objectives and outputs of various activities which FAS staff members use to guide them in systematically reporting, tracking and evaluating an activity or event.
- The Event Activity Report: the reporting guidelines are used to produce event/activity reports for all events attended by FAS. Qualitative and quantitative assessment indicators are made visible and recorded for further evaluation.
- The Annual Audited Accounts: audited accounts are produced by an external auditor each year and are sent to all stakeholders who request them.



- The Annual Financial Report: the annual financial report provides more detail than the annual audited accounts. It includes a comparison of actual results against budgeted, expenses and revenues and by key objectives and projects.
- The Annual Narrative Report: the annual narrative report presents the results of the year's activities at each programme level and by function, with the inclusion of the year's achievements, constraints and opportunities. This report gives narrative detail on events which FAS organized, participated in, or attended during the year.
- The Field Study and Assessment Tools (the ten year evaluation study).



External Evaluators in FAS Regional Office

FAS's programme is also systematically monitored through the following techniques:

- Evaluation Forum
- Periodic field visits;
- Technical meetings;
- Bimonthly internal reviews;
- Annual external reviews;
- Reporting by FAS offices and focal points;
- Regular visits to partners and donors agencies to share information on FAS's programmes, their successes, new challenges and the way forward.

Study on the Women's Movement for Peace and Security in Africa: 10 years of practice: an impact evaluation

In late 2005, FAS commissioned a study that would give a critical analysis of its work in the future. The result forms the substance of a study documenting the contributions that FAS has made to international discourse on peace building from a gender perspective.

To undertake the study, **four consultants** conducted research and travelled to the field from January to February 2006, **visiting Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, the Great Lakes region and Kenya**. A briefing and debriefing sessions were held between each mission at the Dakar Office of FAS to discuss the outcome of the completed missions and prepare for forthcoming deployments.



The study includes a **leadership bank, case studies and impact evaluation** of participatory advocacy practices and a **conceptual analysis of key concepts and terms**. It analyzes the result of ten years of work in peace building and conflict management, identifying lessons learnt and best practices and designing strategies for future action.

The expected outcomes of the study are for women's peace groups to benefit from better knowledge of their mechanisms and dynamics in an effort to strengthen their participation to democratization processes. **It will also help FAS produce new tools** to advocate more effectively and to better meet emerging challenges that women's peace groups face.

More generally, women's civil society organizations in Africa and in other continents will be able to use the tools and best practices stemming from this evaluation study. It will allow them to enhance their struggle to decrease the gap between women and policy-makers, so that States and governments become responsive to their voices.

An initial draft of the study was officially presented at the "Conference on Gender, Peace and Security in Africa: Capitalizing on 10 Years of Women's Experience" which brought African women together (**seventy-eight participants representing a total of thirty-eight countries**) and **received feed back from the participants**. FAS is currently working on the finalized document through the assistance of member experts in the field with the intention of **having it completed, published and disseminated in 2007**.

FAS's regional office in Dakar has been evaluated by the Theme-based co-financing program by the Netherlands through the EOS consultancy. The evaluation focused on the Mano River Program. Unfortunately, the advocacy work of FAS in the AU was not visited. FAS took the outcomes and recommendations made from this evaluation, which were discussed during the Board Meeting in Bamako, as a learning process, and as future guidelines for FAS's work in particular in the Mano River Region.

Constraints And Opportunities

Risks factors

- Lack of political will on the part of governments and other actors involved;
- Lack of good communication between networks and their various constituencies;
- Unreliability of contacts and focal points;
- Donor fatigue and difficulties in obtaining adequate funds to implement FAS's Plan of Action;
- Negative forces beyond FAS's control that discourage key players from cooperating in the implementation of FAS's Plan of Action;
- Inability of trained women to reach grassroots women to enable them to benefit from the project.

Major obstacles

- The removal of cultural barriers preventing women from being accepted as equal partners with men at the negotiating table;
- Reaching a common understanding that gender is a development issue;



- The transmission of HIV/AIDS through violence against women in conflict;
- The need for the economic empowerment of women as a condition for development in post-conflict societies;
- Resource mobilization to cover the core budget.

Key challenges

- Getting more women into positions of power and decision-making;
- Creating the institutional mechanisms needed for the advancement of women;
- Involving women in conflict prevention and resolution;
- Increasing women's access to and use of information and communication technologies.

Opportunities

- Creation of African Union; AU Gender Directorate; AU Women's Committee; Parity Principle of the AU
- NEPAD-Gender Forum;
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000);
- UN Millennium Development Goals (2000);
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
- Protocol on Women's Human Rights in Africa
- 'Gender is My Agenda Campaign'



V. PANAFRICAN CENTRE FOR GENDER, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

1. BACKGROUND

FAS established the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) as a Centre for Excellence in Africa to provide advanced training and research in peace building and development issues, with an emphasis on gender. Using FAS's existing partnerships with other institutions and the findings of its ten year evaluation study in the development of the Centre's curriculum, the Centre undertakes research and documentation on conflict resolution and development issues to support its training function and further the economic empowerment of women in the Mano River and Great Lakes regions.

The Centre project was launched during the 1st edition of the African Gender Forum and Award, that took place in 1-2 May 2005, in Dakar, Senegal.



Groundbreaking of the Pan African Center for Gender, Peace and Development

HE Ms. Isatu Njie Saidy, Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia, blessing and praying for the new Center, and with the presence of Ms. Julienne Ondziel, Chair of FAS Executive Board (left end) and Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa



In 2004, the first meetings of the **Coordinating Committee**, a body composed of **7 experts** and **3 consultants** and **resource persons** set up to better define the objectives of the PAC and oversee the steps to be taken towards its establishment, were held. As well, FAS established partnerships with **UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNITAR on the PAC**, the curriculum of its programmes and its financial aspects.

In 2006, FAS further defined its partnership on the PAC's programme on Gender and Peacebuilding with the **United Nations University for Peace (UPEACE)** as the PAC held its first ever workshop. The PAC made gains in the establishment of a **Master's programme** and progress was made in formalizing partnerships with the **Instituto de Empresa in Spain** on the programme of the PAC on Economic Empowerment together with the **Government of Spain**. FAS is looking for partners for the PAC's programme on Governance and Leadership.

Members of the Coordinating Committee for the PanAfrican Centre on Gender, Peace and Development

- **Dr Awa Marie Coll-Seck** (Senegal) Executive Secretary, Roll Back Malaria Partnership, WHO, Switzerland
- **Ms. Eugénie Aw** (Senegal) Director of Centre d'Etudes des Sciences et Techniques de l'Information, Senegal
- **Mr Paulo Gomes** (Guinea-Bissau) Former World Bank Executive Administrator, USA
- **Mr Abdoulie Janneh** (Gambia) Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Ethiopia General Pape Khalil Fall (Senegal), Chef d'Etat Major des Forces Armées
- **Ms Salimata Dieng Diop** (Senegal) Head of Services, Sonatel, Senegal
- **Mr Cheikh Mbacké Kébé** (Senegal) Administrator-Director General, Kébé Holding S.A. Investment, Senegal
- **Mr Mansour Kama** (Senegal) President of the National Confederation of Employers of Senegal

Resource Persons for the Building

- **Mr Mayib CISSE** (Senegal) Architecture
- **Mr Abdoulaye Dramé** (Senegal) Architect, Maître d'ouvrage
- **Alousseynou Ndiaye** architect of the President's office

Resource persons for the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development

- **Mr Ibrahima CISSE** (Senegal) Business Plan
- **Dr Tim Murithi** (Kenya), Senior Researcher, Centre for Conflict Resolution, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- **Ms. Fatou Sarr Sow** (Senegal) Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire, University Cheikh Anta Diop



- **Ms. Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye** (Senegal) President of Femmes Socialistes, Senegal
- **Mr Pape Mbengue** (Senegal) Communication

2. TRAINING

Harmonization Workshop

FAS and UPEACE organized a **seminar in March 2006 in Dakar, Senegal** on the harmonization of curriculum in preparation for the workshop of the PAC. Attended by FAS staff and **UPEACE professors from Costa Rica**, the seminar presented **FAS's case studies** that emanated from its ten year evaluation study by the **external consultants**. At the closing of the meeting, it was agreed that both parties would prepare work towards an MA degree programme and work on the short course, during which FAS's case studies would be presented. A road map was drawn showing the various steps to be undertaken.



Harmonisation Workshop with UPEACE

Short Course on Gender and Peacebuilding

The first shortcourse of the PAC was organized by FAS in partnership with **UPEACE** in July 2006, in Mbodiene, Senegal under the topic of Gender and Peacebuilding. FAS's case studies were presented by the external consultant commissioned to undertake them. In total, **thirty participants each from different African countries participated in the course**, profiting from training sessions and seminars delivered by resource persons from Africa, the United States and Australia. As well, participants were able to take part in **a field visit to a military training centre** where they discussed Security Council Resolution 1325 and other international and regional instruments on women's rights, with soldiers.

In addition to training women on **key concepts of gender and peace building**, the short course created a forum to be used by participants for the exchange of dialogue and experience. As well, the content of the shortcourse was used by UPEACE to produce a teaching kit on "Gender, Peace Processes and Transformation in Africa" which will be used in subsequent training projects organized by its Department for Gender and Peace Education. In preparation for the next activities of the PAC, the shortcourse also identified participants who can continue with its trainings and undertake the Masters degree on Gender and Peacebuilding.



Participants at the Short Course in Mbodiène

Follow up on the courses

Course participants' **feedback** illustrates their commitment to utilize the skills acquired during the course, in their daily work, and in reporting and sharing information with FAS on peace building activities.

They provided **essays and committed to bring their acquired knowledge to the grassroots** level – commitments which will be followed up by the PAC. A website will be created to allow interactive dialogue among participants to continue.

FAS and UPEACE are also putting together **a toolkit on the course** that will be used by other trainers.

Master's Programme

FAS through the **PAC** has worked on partnering with the **UPEACE of Costa Rica**, and **University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal to develop** a Masters Degree programme. Since then, various meetings have been held with the Rector, the Director of the Reform of University of Cheikh Anta Diop and FAS.

Following the organization of the first short course, held in Mbodiene, FAS, UPEACE and University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) gathered for a meeting to draw **guidelines** in the process of implementation of the Masters Programme. A MOU will be prepared to be signed between FAS, UPEACE and UCAD.

Partnership with Empresa

Following the first visit of the Coordinating Committee, which was attended by the Director of the Empresa Institute, FAS and Empresa have worked on the development of the programme of the Centre in Economic Empowerment with an emphasis on post-conflict reconstruction. The project has been submitted to the **Government of Spain for funding**.



3. AFRICAN GENDER FORUM AND AWARD

Introduction

As a way of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of SDGEA, FAS has instituted a process of **selecting countries** that have best-performed in Gender Equality and women's empowerment.

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development, in conjunction with its partners, have instituted the **African Gender Forum and Award** which will take place every two years in Dakar, Senegal.

The African Gender Award was established in order to recognize and reward **African Leaders or Government representatives** who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women as outlined in the SDGEA adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union in Addis Ababa in July 2004.

The purpose of the African Gender Forum is to create **a platform to exchange ideas**, establish networks, and share experiences among women's groups in the African continent on issues related to politics, economics, society and gender. The Forum provides a space for African women's groups to examine their role in and impact on society, and to assess whether relevant policies, such as the **Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)**, are being implemented.

African Gender Forum

The 2005 Forum was held in partnership with the **Arab Women's International Forum**, on issues relating to globalization. It highlighted the fact that women's economic empowerment and gender-balanced leadership were vital aspects of maintaining peace.

In April 2006 **the report** on the **African Gender Forum and Award 2005** has been finalized and sent to the participants and to FAS members and its partners.



Participants of the African Gender Forum



Opening Ceremony of the African Gender Forum chaired by Hon Amb. Gertrude Mongella, President of Pan African Parliament, with the presence of H.E. Mrs. Viviane Wade First Lady of Senegal; H.E. Ms. Isatu Njie Saidy, Vice-President of the Republic of The Gambia; H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa; and Hon. Ms. Saïda Agrebi, Member of Parliament of Tunisia, President of Tunisian Mothers' Association

Based on the positive feedback from the first Forum, the one to be held in 2007 will feature a 'dialogue section' among African women (including the Diaspora and African descendants) on the social, political and economic implications of migration on gender. It is hoped that the discussions will assist in generating operational strategies that include the Diaspora.

The **funding proposal for the Forum** has been developed and will be submitted to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the African Union and NEPAD, the European Union (UE), UNECA, UNFPA, and the governments of Spain, Italy, and Portugal.

African Gender Award

The first **African Gender Award** (2005) was awarded to **President Wade of Senegal** and **President Mbeki of South Africa** in recognition of their work on gender equality and mainstreaming in the African Union (AU).



Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, accepting the 2005 African Gender Award on behalf of President Mbeki



President Wade offered his appreciation for this award, restated his commitment to gender equality, and expressed his belief in women's contributions to African development and peace.

The selection committee is composed of 14 individuals from representatives of African women's networks, the civil society, the private sector, FAS members and partners, and independent experts.

The Selection Committee met to discuss the selection criteria and activities of the 2nd African Gender Award, including fundraising activities in the margins of the Conference in Bamako in June 2006.

The call for nominations for potential recipients of the award started in June 2006, and nominations for final selection will be submitted to the Selection Committee Members soon. The Selection Committee meeting was to be held along with the 8th AU Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2007.

Selection Committee Members

- **H.E. Ms Gertrude Mongella**, President of the Pan-African Parliament, Tanzania
- **Ms. Julienne Ondziel**, Practicing Lawyer, Former Rapporteur on Women's Rights, Congo
- **Mr. Paulo Gomes**, Former World Bank Executive Administrator, Washington DC, USA
- **Ms. Vivian Lowery Derryck**, Senior Vice President and Director of Public Private Partnerships, Academy for Educational Development, USA
- **Mr. Abdoulie Janneh**, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission on Africa, Ethiopia
- **Mr. Vasu Gounden**, Founder and Executive Director of African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), South Africa
- **Hon. Ms. Saida Agrebi**, Member of Parliament, President of Association Tunisienne des Mères, Tunisia
- **Ms. Thelma Awori**, Former Head of UNDP Africa Bureau
Executive Board Member of the African Women's development Fund, Uganda
- **Ms. Titi Akinsanmi**, GTP Program Manager, Mindset Network, South Africa



- **Mr. Halidou Ouedraogo**, Président, Mouvement Burkinabé des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples UIDH, Burkina Faso
- **Mr. Ayodele Aderinwale**, Director, Africa Leadership Forum, Nigeria
- **Ms. Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson**, Sub-regional Coordinator, WILDAF-WA, Togo
- **Ms. Janet Narh**, Lawyer, Radio and TV Broadcaster & Producer
- **Ms. Bineta Diop**, Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Senegal

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

PAC has been able to start the training on the peace and post-conflict reconstruction program and need to engage in the leadership and governance training. The largest constraint faced by the PAC is the issue of getting the construction of the building ready, despite the fact that the Government of Senegal has provided it with property and **partial funds to cover the construction expenses of the building**. Therefore, the most pressing priorities are those of fundraising together with the Government of Senegal.

For this reason and because of the high costs in Dakar, the PAC organized its first training in Mbodiene, outside Dakar, Senegal.

At the same time, the PAC is garnering much attention. One hundred applications were received for the training workshop on gender and Peacebuilding in July 2006 for which thirty candidates were finally chosen. Applications were also submitted from outside of Africa. FAS and UPeace will approach donors together with a joint proposal for the coming programme.

Another constraint faced by the PAC is the need to recruit international as well as African trainers, and taking into consideration the language barriers that exist in Africa.

FAS hopes that the second edition of the African Gender Forum and Award will bring attention to the programmes of the PAC from the private sector.



VI. CONSTRAINTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND WAY FORWARD

Most prominently during the course of 2006 was the increase in the activities of FAS organized by the Regional office in Dakar, which raised the profile of FAS and gave it more recognition at the regional level. This also helped FAS to obtain more results in gender mainstreaming in the AU and be involved in the activities of the AU.

At the sub-regional level, ongoing issues must still be clarified with MARWOPNET. At the same time, FAS has begun working with individual countries in the Mano River area, for example in Liberia. FAS will continue to seek the involvement of Guinea in the sub-regional programme.

In the Great Lakes, FAS's project on "Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the DRC" funded by UNDEF will amplify FAS's work in the DRC. FAS's project on National Action Plans on the Implementation of Resolution 1325 in the Great Lakes funded by the Government of Finland will reinforce FAS's work in the region.

At the regional level the Gender is My Agenda Campaign working with the African Union has to reach grass-roots women, in this regard, efforts will be made to strengthen the coordination, the communication tools of the campaign as well as the focal points.

At the international level, more work is needed to increase the capacity of grassroots women's groups, particularly those of Sudan and Somalia, and their visibility at the Human Rights Council and the Security Council including the CEDAW Committee.

An ongoing challenge, due to limited resources, is to bring women from the grassroots level to speak for themselves at these international gatherings. The FAS New York Office has taken on the role of interlocutor between women's groups on the ground and the international community. Yet more financial and human resources are needed to strengthen FAS's programme at the international level.

As an interface organization, it is often difficult to create a space of dialogue and experience sharing with the grassroots level to amplify its work. The organization has sought to address this through the PanAfrican centre for Gender, Peace and Development which will attract grassroots women and trains them on issues of gender and peace building.

FAS' second "Conference on Gender, Peace and Security in Africa organised in June 2006, in Bamako, Mali, provided space to hold the General Assembly and the Board Meetings. This was an opportunity to look into these challenges and identify the way forward. A retreat for the Board will be organized in 2007 to look into the final evaluation of the overall programme of FAS and revise the proposal to start in 2008.



VIII. DONORS

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- **The Global Fund for Women**
- **The New Partnership for Africa's Development**
- **African Women Development Fund**
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