



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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FAS commends the “True Parity” introduced by Hollande

“It is with great pleasure that Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) recently became aware of the list of government ministers set out by François Hollande: A true parity with 17 out of 34 women ministers, is the first in French history, apart from the law from June 6, 2000” says Marie-Louise Baricako, FAS Executive Director, and continues: “Such news should be welcomed and loudly applauded because even though many commitments have been made and laws have been passed, the enforcement still leaves much to be desired”.

France is thus stepping up to the developments made by Rwanda, who has so far positioned itself as the role model, along with the Scandinavian countries who are not far from true parity.

As part of its mission, FAS calls for parity in government and other decision-making bodies at national, regional and continental levels in Africa, while ensuring women’s participation in decisions taken at the highest governmental and continental level. These efforts reflect the broader vision of FAS to ensure that African women play a leadership role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts for a peaceful and prosperous Africa. Through its program on gender equality within the African Union, FAS has influenced the adoption of the Parity Principle in 2002 by the Heads of State and African governments, a decision which was implemented in 2003 with 5 women out of 10 women commissioners being put in office. In 2004, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) was adopted by the Heads of State, under the leadership of the African Women’s Peace Movement coordinated by FAS.

Since then, the African Women’s Movement has continued to grow and deliver in regards to issues of gender equality. Currently, nearly 55 African NGOs constitute the network of the

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Gender Is My Agenda (GIMAC) coordinated by FAS, with the objective of monitoring the progress made by states and institutions in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration, and particularly in regards to gender issues and women's rights.

This gathering has further led to the adoption of national laws, such as the one implemented by the Senate of Senegal in 2010, calling for absolute gender equality in fully or partially elected assemblies.

“Obviously, the parity alone is not a guarantee of better governance, but we nevertheless hope that the French government will demonstrate how gender is an asset to any democratic society where human rights and the welfare of all prevail” concludes Ms. Baricako.

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