

Femmes Africa Solidarité



Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)

HQ in Geneva, Switzerland

Liaison Office in NY, USA

Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal

- Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC and Member of the African Union ECOSOCC.
- Observer Status with the African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACHPR).

FAS HISTORY

- 1996 **Creation of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)**, Geneva, Switzerland
Following recurrence of wars, eruptions of violence in Africa, and concerned by the negative impact on African women's lives, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) was created in December 1996. Its main purpose is to promote and strengthen African Women's leadership in conflict prevention, management and resolution. FAS established its International Secretariat in Geneva in order to facilitate the mobilization of resources and maximize the visibility of African women's initiatives.
- Feb. 1997 **Mission, Sierra Leone**
FAS sent four African women to gather information on women's participation to the peace process in Sierra Leone and then share it with constituencies involved in the peace process and with other African women. The mission strengthened the women's movement by improving their conflict resolution skills.
- July 1997 **Election Mission, Liberia**
FAS sent a delegation of 19 African women to conduct an election observer mission in Liberia designed to assist the electoral reconstruction of the country.
- Dec. 1997 **Peace and Solidarity Mission, Burundi**
FAS organized its first African women's solidarity mission to assess Burundian women's fundamental needs in terms of peace, to meet with women's networks working towards peace and it eventually brought women to the peace table.
- Oct. 1998 **3rd Round of Inter-Burundian Peace Negotiations, Arusha, Tanzania**
FAS supported this first participation of a Burundian women's delegation to peace negotiations. FAS' advocacy activities resulted in the nomination of two women as deputy directors of two commissions.
Meeting on Women's Leadership in Burundi's Peace Process, Cape Town, South Africa
FAS co-organized with Mrs Graça Machel a meeting to raise awareness among Burundian women leaders regarding the key role women play in peace processes so that they encourage grassroots women to get involved in capacity-building activities.
- Sept. 1999 **Peace and Solidarity Mission, Ethiopia and Eritrea**
FAS sent a mission while these countries were at war. FAS aimed to support women's initiatives for peace, to convince relevant actors that women must participate in the peace processes and to share women's experiences about conflict management and resolution.
- April 2000 **Conference on HIV/AIDS, Ethiopia**
FAS organized a conference which highlighted the link between HIV/AIDS and women's advocacy for peace. This event taught women's organizations how to raise awareness at the national and local levels.
- May 2000 **Creation of the Mano River Women's Peace Network - Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone**
The Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET) was born out of FAS's capacity building and advocacy programme involving the three countries of the region. Its early action prevented the outbreak of hostilities between the three countries by bringing their leaders back to the negotiating table. MARWOPNET was awarded the 2003 United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights.
- June 2001 **Dakar Consultation on the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR), Dakar, Senegal**
Women formulated strategies to push forward the adoption of a *Draft Protocol on the Rights of Women* in preparation to the WCAR due to take place in Durban.
Approval of the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Dakar consultation on the draft protocol, and adoption of the Dec. 38 and 39 LXXIV regarding WCAR.

Femmes Africa Solidarité

FAS HISTORY

- April 2003 **2nd AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Dakar, Senegal
Adoption of Dakar strategy on gender mainstreaming in the AU by African women's networks.
- June-July 2003 **3rd AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Maputo, Mozambique
Adoption of the Maputo Declaration and of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by African women's networks.
Implementation of gender parity principle with the election of 5 female commissioners/10 by the AU.
- June 2004 **4th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Adoption of "Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)" by African Heads of State.
Integration of African Women Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) into AU mechanisms.
- Jan 2005 **5th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Abuja, Nigeria
Creation of the Gender is My Agenda Campaign, a campaign aimed at coordinating the monitoring of States' implementation of the Declaration.
- May 2005 **FAS 1st African Gender Forum & Award (AGFA)**, Dakar, Senegal
The 1st Edition of the Gender Award granted President Wade of Senegal and President Mbeki of South Africa in celebration of their work towards gender equality and mainstreaming in the African Union (AU). The First Forum was on the Dialogue between Arab Women on Economic and Political Issues.
- May 2005 **Official Launch of FAS Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development**, Dakar, Senegal
FAS established and launched the Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development in 2004 in Dakar, Senegal, and the laying of the Centre's keystone took place on the occasion of the first AGFA.
- July 2005 **6th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Tripoli, Libya
Women Ministers adopted the Tripoli Commitment and launched the 'Gender is My Agenda Campaign'.
- Oct. 2005 **7th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Dakar, Senegal
Adoption by African Heads of State of an Implementation Framework of the Solemn Declaration (SDGEA) and the Guidelines for Monitoring and Reporting on the SDGEA, significantly involving civil society organizations.
- March 2006 **Seminar on the Harmonization of Curriculum for the Pan-African Centre on Gender, Peace and Development**, Dakar, Senegal
FAS and UPEACE developed a common curriculum, and provide an overview of the programme, content and timetable for the short courses as well as for the joint MA degree in "Gender and Peacebuilding".
- June 2006 **FAS Conference on Gender, Peace and Security: Capitalizing on 10 years of Women's Experience**, Bamako, Mali
FAS study called "The Women's Peace Movement in Africa: A study on 10 years of practice towards peace and security-building" was presented at a conference organized by FAS and presided over by H.E. Mr Amadou Toumani Touré, President of the Republic of Mali with the presence of the President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Hon. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa.
- June 2006 **8th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Banjul, Gambia
Official launch of the 'Gender is My Agenda Campaign'.
Adoption of the Banjul Declaration.
- July 2006 **Launching and Inauguration of the 1st Short-Course of FAS Pan-African Centre**, Mbodiène, Senegal
FAS and the University of Peace (UPEACE, Costa Rica) organized the first course of the Pan-African Centre on Gender, Peace and Development which was devoted to "Gender and Peacebuilding".

Femmes Africa Solidarité

FAS HISTORY

- Jan. 2007 **9th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
The members of the “Gender is my agenda” campaign officially launched the “Civil Society Shadow Report on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa,” which reported on States’ implementation of the Solemn Declaration - SDGEA.
Adoption of the Addis Call for Solemn Declaration.
- March 2007 **International Advocacy**, Geneva, Switzerland
On the margins of the 4th session of the Human Rights Council, FAS held a panel on ‘Women and War in Africa’, in which Professor Yakin Erturk (the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences) took part, where Sudanese women’s NGO were invited to share experiences, and deliver a statement on women’s situation in Darfur. In June 2007, FAS called for the protection of women in Darfur at the 5th session of the Human Rights Council, and urged the Sudanese Government to take action and commit to its promises.
- April 2007 **2nd FAS Pan-African Centre Short-Course**, Dakar, Senegal
Experts, researchers and university professors specialising in the field of gender and peace attended a short course on “Gender and Conflict: Human Rights and Transitional Justice”.
- June 2007 **10th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Accra, Ghana
This meeting was co-organized by FAS and the AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate (AUGD).
- Aug. 2007 **Launching of the project ‘Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the DRC. Engendering the Democratization Process’**, Kinshasa, DRC.
This project has received support from UNDEF. It aims to engender the democratic process in DRC to ensure full and equitable participation of women in all decisions and the protection of women’s human rights for a peaceful and sustained human development.
- Sept. 2007 **Eminent Women Mission for Ceasefire in Darfur led by Mary Robinson**, Eastern Chad
FAS Director, Ms. Bineta Diop, was part of a solidarity and fact-finding mission to Eastern Chad led by Mary Robinson, former Irish President and High Commissioner for Human Rights, aimed at lobbying for ceasefire in Darfur. The mission contributed to the UN General Assembly high level meeting on Darfur in New York in September 2007 and spoke at the UN Security Council on a Arria Formula, organized by France on 1st October 2007.
- Oct. 2007 **Election of FAS to AU ECOSOCC**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
FAS was elected as a member of the General Assembly, the highest decision-making body of the ECOSOCC (Economic, Social and Cultural Council) of the African Union (AU) whose primary purpose is to ensure the participation of the African civil society in the AU policy process. A total of 270 organisations from 44 African countries applied to run in the elections.
- Oct. 2007 **Roundtable Discussions of FAS Study**, Dakar, Senegal
FAS Study on the “Women’s movement for peace and security in Africa: 10 years of practice” was discussed among experts, practitioners and consultants. This study, undertaken by four consultants from different African countries, examines the implementation of monitoring and evaluation instruments, a Leadership Bank of women leaders in Africa, the definition of a ‘conceptual approach’ and case studies.
- Nov. 2007 **Peace and Solidarity Mission**, Ivory Coast
The African Union Gender Directorate (AUGD) and FAS sent a joint-mission to support the women’s participation in conflict resolution, in reconciliation and in the democratization process for sustainable peace in Ivory Coast. Members of the mission met with representatives from governments and civil society organizations, especially women’s networks.
- Dec. 2007 **FAS 2nd African Gender Forum and Award (AGFA)**, Dakar, Senegal
FAS and its Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (Dakar, Senegal) organized the second edition of the African Gender Forum and Award (AGFA) in December 2007. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda received the 2007 African Gender Award for his exceptional achievements in integrating women into Rwanda’s policy making institutions. The 2007 forum was devoted to “African Women for Africa’s Development: Building partnerships with the Diaspora”.

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- Dec. 2007 **Launching of the Plan of Action on the UN SC 1325 Implementation**, Bujumbura, Burundi
FAS co-organized with the umbrella NGO CAFOB and the Burundian Ministry of Human Rights and Gender a workshop to launch the plan of action on the UNSC 1325 implementation in Burundi. It represented an opportunity to discuss, among the main stakeholders (NGOs, Governments and International Community), the specificities of the plan from the Burundian context, to define their common priorities, and to create a task force to look after the implementation of the plan in Burundi.
- Jan. 2008 **Facilitation Workshops**, Dakar, Senegal
In collaboration with Instituto de Empresa, FAS organized a Facilitation workshop for the facilitators and consultants on the implementation of the project “Training and Mentoring Programme for Women-Led Businesses Project” in the field.
- Jan. 2008 **11th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Adoption of the 11th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting Solemn Statement and Recommendations.
- Jan. 2008 **African Women’s Consultation on Darfur**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
With the facilitation of FAS, an African women’s consultation on Darfur was organized in the margins of the 10th African Union Summit.
Adoption of the Sudanese Women’s Declaration on Darfur.
Adoption of a Plan of Action for Peace in the conflict-torn Darfur region of Sudan.
- Feb. 2008 **Launching of the National Action Plan on the UN SC 1325 Implementation**, DRC, Kinshasa
FAS received support from UNDP and the government of Finland for this National Action Plan. FAS organized a consultative Meeting with DRC government officials under the leadership of the ministries of Gender, Health and Justice. It allows the full participation of civil society organizations’ women leaders at the grassroots level through a holistic and participative approach. This programme aims to involve different institutions in the implementation of the Resolution 1325, working towards a common agenda for gender, peace and security in DRC.
- Feb. 2008 **International Advocacy**, New York, United States
Four panels were held on the margins of the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). FAS invited women’s representing NGOs and governments involved in FAS’ programmes to share experiences on FAS’ ongoing programmes during the three panels: ‘Women’s Empowerment in Africa: Women entrepreneur in post conflict situation’, ‘Women in 1325 and a Ten-Year Practice in Engendering the Peace Process’ and ‘Sudanese Women voices on Darfur Presentation of the Sudanese Women Declaration on Darfur’. In collaboration with OSAGI, FAS also organized the meeting ‘Walk our Talk for Women and Peace in Africa’ with representatives of governments and NGOs.
- March 2008 **International Advocacy**, Geneva, Switzerland
On the margins of the 7th session of the Human Rights Council, FAS held a panel discussion on ‘The Road to Peace and Justice: Sudanese Women speak about Darfur’, to which the Interim Steering Committee of the Sudanese Women’s Forum on Darfur contributed and which was followed by a statement condemning violence against civilians in Darfur, especially gender-based violence. FAS also trained the Sudanese women on regional and international instruments for gender equality. In collaboration with the mission of the United Kingdom in Geneva, FAS organized the meeting ‘Financing for Women, Peace and Security in Africa’, with ambassadors to the United Nations.
- June 2008 **First Training of the “Training and Mentoring Programme for Women-Led Businesses Project”**, Dakar, Senegal
After the selection process, 27 women from Liberia, South Africa, DRC, Mozambique, Senegal and Rwanda were invited to Dakar where they were trained by trainers of Instituto de Empresa
- June 2008 **12th AU Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming**, Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt
Adoption of the 12th African Women’s AU Pre-Summit Consultation Solemn Statement and Recommendations, by African women’s networks.