



Femmes Africa Solidarité

Regional Office

Immeuble Soumex- Mamelles
Appt. 1 et 2, 1^{er} étage
P.O. Box 45077 Dakar Fann
Dakar – Senegal
Tel: +221 33 869 8106
Fax: +221 33 860 20 47
Email: infodk@fasngo.org
Website: <http://www.fasngo.org>

Dakar, 8th September 2011

INFORMATION NOTE

By the Communication Officer

Ms. Bineta Diop, the Founder and Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), has been invited by the Liberian Government to celebrate the recognition of H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the winner of the 2011 African Gender Award, which was awarded to her in Dakar, Senegal in June 2011. The festivities, which are organized by the Liberian Government, will celebrate the African Gender Award at the Monrovia City Hall, Theatre Sinkor, Liberia on Friday, September 9, 2011 along with other distinctions and awards received by President Johnson Sirleaf.

The Liberian Government and Liberian women's organisations are celebrating H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of the Republic of Liberia in observance of the African Women's Day of Peace and for the Presentation and Unveiling of Prestigious Awards that the President has received in recent years from several organisations and international institutions around the world.

"After serving in many international organisations and advisory boards such as the International Crisis Group (USA) and Women Waging Peace (USA), President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf received numerous prestigious awards (...).Liberia is proud to have Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as President" said Honorable Vabah K. Gayflor, Minister of Gender and Development.

Some of the distinctions and awards include the African Gender Award given by the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) of FAS, in June 2011; the 2010 Friend of the Media Award from the African Editors' Union; the FAO CERES Medal (2008); the Crisis Group Fred Cuny Award for the Prevention of Deadly Crisis (2008); the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2007), the highest civilian honor bestowed by an American president.

Ms. Bineta Diop, referring to the Liberian President as the most recent recipient of the African Gender Award said *"A "gender revolution" has been triggered and international recognition of this is essential. This was the case a few months ago during the African Gender Forum and Award (AGFA) when we all convened, under the auspices of the Government of Senegal, to present the African Gender Award to one of our most active personalities and the first female president of the African continent who strives for the gender agenda, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf."*

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is the 24th President of Liberia. Under her leadership, the national budget of Liberia has grown from \$80 million in 2006 to more than \$350 million in 2010. More than \$5 million of private resources from international contributions were attracted to rebuild vital infrastructure – to build schools and clinics and markets and to foster scholarships. – *Liberian Ministry of Gender and Development Statistics.*

The African Gender Award recognizes the commitment of Heads of State, civil society organisations and the private sector in promoting gender equality and mainstreaming gender in their operations.

International Secretariat

8 rue du Vieux-Billard
P.O. Box 5037
1211 Geneva 11 – Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 328 80 50
Fax: (41 22) 328 80 52
Email: info@fasngo.org

New York Representative

777 United Nations Plaza 5th Floor
New York, NY 10017 USA
Tel: +1 212 687 13 69
Fax: +1 212 661 41 88
Email: infony@fasngo.org