



GIMAC COMMUNIQUE

Moving from Solemn Declarations to Solemn Deliverables

We, GIMAC participants of the 27th session of the Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) meeting in Addis Ababa on 17-18 January 2016 under the theme, *Looking towards 2020: Securing Women's Rights through Gender Equality and Silencing the Guns in Africa*;

Celebrated our diversity and common objective of advancing gender equality and the rights of African women, and welcomed the decision of the African Union Heads of State and Government to declare 2016 as the **African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women**.

Reaffirmed our commitment and efforts towards the full implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979).

Welcomed the adoption of Africa's Agenda 2063, taking into account the Declaration on 2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa's Agenda 2063 and the commitments made by Member States therein.

Appreciated the African Union Commission's decision to hold joint Gender Pre-Summits with the Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs, the Regional Economic Communities, development partners and GIMAC.

Noted with appreciation that the African Union has adopted and implemented a gender parity principle at the level of the Commission and in this regard, congratulated those Member States working towards parity and particularly those who have secured at least 30% of women in all levels of decision-making.

Reiterated our commitment to monitor the implementation of gender equality in Member States using the Solemn Declaration Index.

And further reiterated our deep concern with ongoing conflicts on the continent, particularly the situation in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Somalia, as well as violent extremism in Mali, Kenya and Nigeria, and recent situations of unrest as the case Burkina Faso, and the need to urgently address the root causes of these conflicts.

We further expressed our concern at the ongoing violence against women and girls in Africa, the limited resources made available to implement policies and actions to advance the rights of women, the ongoing challenges of transitional justice and access to justice for women and girls, the dire humanitarian situation of women in refugee and internally displaced camps and those migrating beyond their country borders.

We hereby present these recommendations to the African Union Heads of State and Government that:

- Member States that have not ratified or adopted the Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa (Maputo Protocol) do ratify it urgently and that Member States which are party to it provide the necessary financing and timebound mechanisms on implementation, monitoring and reporting, to accelerate the realization of human rights instruments already adopted.
- Member States consistently report on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and generate and share quality, user-friendly and accessible gender-disaggregated data to ensure transparency.
- Member States employ an inclusive approach to advancing women's human rights with a focus on the most marginalized groups of women, such as those living with HIV/Aids, disability, the elderly, ethnic and sexual minorities, adolescent girls and survivors of Ebola.
- Member States consider adopting a gender parity approach at the level of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission to demonstrate the Commission's commitment to the principle of gender parity.
- Member States should take meaningful actions to support the Continental Results Framework of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to the African Union Commission Chairperson to monitor the implementation of national and regional action plans and the 15-year global review on women, peace and security.
- Member States implement Article 10 of the Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa towards *Silencing the Guns by 2020* by reducing military expenditure significantly in favor of spending on social development in general, and the promotion of women's rights in particular.
- The African Union should accelerate the implementation of the Communiqué of the 565th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council to immediately intervene in Burundi in response to the grave circumstances and crimes against humanity inflicted on the Burundian population.
- Member States contributing troops to peacekeeping missions ensure to prosecute those suspected of sexual abuse and exploitation on missions.

- Member States prioritize the implementation of a multi-sectoral approach to ending sexual and gender-based violence.
- Member States generate qualitative and quantitative gender-disaggregated data and stories of the impact of illicit financial flows from Africa on youth unemployment, gender equality and women's empowerment, and to promote gender-responsive transformative financing, and particularly that the African Union and African governments commit to implement the recommendations of the Mbeki Report on Illicit Financial Flows.
- Member States recognize the role of women in sustaining the blue economy as a way of achieving economic growth for all and contributing to food security, water security and improvement of livelihoods and access to employment.
- Member States take an engendered approach in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Member States support the implementation of the Campaign of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Decriminalization of Abortion in Africa, and ensure universal access to affordable, quality health care for young women and adolescent girls including sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV-related needs of women and girls in all their diversity.
- Member States commit to end child, early and forced marriage and to prioritize girl's education at all levels and especially girls and young women in rural communities, and in conflict and post conflict countries. Invest in the education of girls particularly in science, technology engineering and mathematics.

Done on 18 January 2016
Addis Ababa