



*«Gender is my Agenda»*

**CIVIL SOCIETY'S GUIDELINES  
AND MECHANISM FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING  
AND EVALUATION OF THE  
SOLEMN DECLARATION ON  
GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA**

**International Secretariat**

8, Rue du Vieux-Billard,  
P.O. Box 5037,  
CH-1211 Geneva 11,  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 328 80 50  
Fax: +41 22 328 80 52  
Email: info@fasngo.org

**Website :**  
[www.fasngo.org](http://www.fasngo.org)

**Regional Office for Africa**

**Stèle Mermoz Immeuble  
Rose,  
Appt. No. 31C,  
P.O. Box 45077 Fann,  
Dakar, Senegal  
Tel: +221 860 20 48  
Fax: +221 860 20 47  
Email:fas-ong@sentoo.sn**

*From Solemn Declaration  
To Solemn Implementation*

- **Thematic focal points :**

1. **Governance:** Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)
2. **Peace and Security:** Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) et African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
3. **Human Rights:** Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)
4. **Health**
5. **Education:** Forum for Africa Women Educationalists (FAWE)
6. **Economic Empowerment:** African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

- **Regional focal points:**

- **Western Africa:** Association des Femmes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (AFAO)
- **Northern Africa:** Association of Tunisian Mothers (ATM)
- **Southern Africa:** Fundacao para Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC)
- **Eastern Africa:** Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA)
- **Central Africa:** Association de Lutte contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes (ACOLVF)

- **Contact: Femmes Africa Solidarité**

- **Other participating members:**

ABANTU for Development, Akina Mama Wa Africa, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Centre Africain pour la Démocratie et les Etudes des Droits de l'Homme (ACDHRS), Centre For Human Rights – University of Pretoria, Equality Now, Comité National Femmes et Développement (CONAFED), Commission on Gender Equality (CGE), Pan African Movement, CAFOB, REPERE, Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA), Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA), AAWORD, Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI), Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC), ANSEDI, Women's Society of Alfateh University Tripoli

- **Partners:**

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), the African Union (AU), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Commission for Human and People Rights (ACHPR), The Open Civil Society for Africa (OSIWA)

<p><b>International Secretariat</b></p> <p>8, Rue du Vieux-Billard, P.O. Box 5037, CH-1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland Tel: +41 22 328 80 50 Fax: +41 22 328 80 52 Email: info@fasngo.org</p>
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**Website :**  
**[www.fasngo.org](http://www.fasngo.org)**

<p><b>Regional Office for Africa</b></p> <p>Stèle Mermoz Immeuble Rose, Appt. No. 31C, P.O. Box 45077 Fann, Dakar, Senegal Tel: +221 860 20 48 Fax: +221 860 20 47 Email: fas-ong@sentoo.sn</p>
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## I. INTRODUCTION

The African Union (AU) has embarked on a new chapter of moving forward gender equality agenda in Africa, following the expressed commitment taken by Heads of States and Governments on gender parity. In July 2004, the African Union, under the leadership of Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the AU Commission, adopted the *Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa* (SDGE) at their Summit meeting in Addis Ababa. For the first time in history, a continental organization took ownership of gender mainstreaming at the highest level, prioritizing issues such HIV/AIDS, the recruitment of child soldiers, and the implementation of gender-specific economic, social, and legal measures, among others. The declaration called for the continued implementation of gender parity in the AU and at national levels, the ratification of the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*, and the protection of women against violence and discrimination. Furthermore, African Heads of State dedicated a large portion of the Summit to a dialogue on gender equality and incorporated the African Women Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) into its mechanisms – another milestone for women's effective participation was achieved, building upon the campaign for gender mainstreaming and the principles of women, peace and security as enshrined in the UNSC Resolution 1325.

The work to mainstream gender in continental organizations has been, and continues to be, a long process. For years, FAS, in collaboration with AWCPD, has worked to bring a gender perspective to the continent's agenda, specifically as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was transformed into the African Union (AU). The process began in Lomé, Togo (July 2000)

and then in Tripoli and Sirte, Libya (March 2001), and in Lusaka, Zambia (July, 2001). Here, members of FAS and the AWCPD pushed forward an agenda to increase the inclusion of women at decision-making levels.

Later, the AWCPD and FAS organized a vigorous campaign for gender mainstreaming involving many African women's networks. This resulted in the adoption of the principle of gender parity within the AU and the "Durban Declaration on Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Effective Participation in the African Union". The process included a series of meetings held in: Dakar (June 2001), Durban (July 2002), Dakar (April 2003), Maputo (July 2003) and Addis Ababa (June 2004). Following a string of milestones, African women are facing an incredible opportunity to effect positive change on their continent.

The AWCPD, FAS and African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) initiated a major drive to push forward a new agenda for gender mainstreaming with a "Strategic Consultation on Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Effective Participation in the African Union" held on the eve of the inauguration of the AU (Durban, June 2002). The Durban Consultation culminated in the adoption, by the new network, of the "Durban Declaration on Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Effective Participation in the African Union." The Durban Declaration was brought to the Committee Ambassadors and the Council of Ministers.

At the Session of the Heads of State and Government (Durban, July 2002), President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal put forward the Consultation's recommendations to the Assembly. President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, the Chair of this Session, firmly

supported President Wade's decision. The Assembly embraced the recommendations of the Durban Declaration and unanimously adopted a gender parity proposal in the Statutes of the AU Commission. This was truly a historic achievement, as the voices of African women had never been effectively represented at the continental body.

The adoption of the gender parity principle by the Heads of State Assembly in Durban was a landmark event, but those pushing for gender mainstreaming did not rest on their laurels, but rather mobilized to build on their successes. Momentum for the gender agenda only grew and a series of meetings envisioned even more ambitious and progressive action. To follow up on the Durban Declaration, FAS organized a strategic planning conference in Dakar, Senegal in April 2003. The conference brought together the network created in Durban in order to devise strategies for the institutionalization of a coordinating mechanism to further the goals of the gender mainstreaming campaign. A strategic plan of action, the "Dakar Strategy," was adopted at the conclusion of the conference and presented to His Excellency President Wade. The Dakar conference was an excellent interim meeting to decide which organization would lobby where in preparation for the next AU Heads of State and Government Summit.

The Durban Declaration and Dakar Strategy formed the basis of the Maputo Women's Pre-Summit (June 2003) organized by the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) in collaboration with FAS and under the leadership of Madame Graça Machel. The Pre-Summit produced the "Maputo Declaration." FAS and members of the AWCPD initiated a discussion with candidates for the post of Commissioner, with the aim of establishing a shared vision. At the

Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU (Maputo, July 2003), Africa saw its first visible achievement in complete gender parity in the African Union Commission, with the election of five female Commissioners out of ten. Moreover, the AU adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and dedicated itself to further elaboration of an AU policy and management system for gender mainstreaming.

Tangible results were realized at the Maputo Summit and the AU dedicated itself to incorporating gender mainstreaming further. Under the leadership of His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission, the AU set up an internal expert group to determine thematic priority areas for gender mainstreaming in Africa. H.E. Konare asked members of FAS and AWCPD to consult on this process. The expert group highlighted gender mainstreaming priority areas such as economic empowerment, human rights, education, health and governance/peace/security. With priority issues in hand, the expert group met with Heads of State in Africa to sensitize them on the priorities and prepare them for the Gender Debate at the upcoming Heads of State and Government Summit to be held in July 2004 in Addis Ababa.

Prior to the last AU Summit in July 2004, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), in collaboration with the AU, organized a two-day consultative meeting to share and discuss the AU Gender programme with a wide network of influential women. The meeting briefed women on gender development within the AU. The briefing enabled the women to fine-tune their strategies for the AU Heads of State Gender Debate. The adoption of the Solemn Declaration on

Gender Equality is a testimony to the hard work and investments of the women.

More than ever before, it is imperative to continuously monitor the progress made in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, as well as to facilitate dialogue and a revision of strategies on gender mainstreaming within the African Union. As a response mechanism, and in order to consolidate the gains and advances made so far, Femmes Africa Solidarité, the Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) and the Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union, jointly organized a two-day Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria in January 2005. At last, during the last pre-summit in Tripoli, in July 2005, women groups involved in the campaign for gender parity adopted this document entitled “ The Civil Society’s Guidelines and Mechanism for Implementation, monitoring and Evaluation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa”.

This Consultative meeting was the sixth of its kind, and followed upon several high-level events related to the gender parity to which civil society organizations were invited to contribute. Among them, we attended the AU Technical Consultation in Addis Ababa, in May 2005, the NEPAD Gender Task Force, in Johannesburg, in July and the meeting on women parliamentarians in Africa, in Tripoli, in September.

## **II. THE SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA**

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6-8 July 2004:

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various regional, continental and international instruments on human and women's rights, including the Dakar Platform for Action (1994), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW - 1979), the African Plan of Action to Accelerate the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action for the Advancement of Women (1999); the Outcome Document of the Twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000); UN Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

**Standing** by our Decision on gender parity taken at the Inaugural Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa implemented during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, 2003 through the election of five female and five male Commissioners;

**Noting with satisfaction** that our Decision on gender parity is a historic achievement that does not yet exist in any other continent or regional organizations;

**Re-affirming** our commitment to continue, expand and accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels;

**Determined** to build on the progress that we have achieved in addressing issues of major concern to the women of Africa;

**Taking cognizance** of the landmark decision to adopt the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, 2003;

**Noting** the decision of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to transform the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) into the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC), which will be located in the Gender Directorate and serve as an Advisory Body to the Chairperson on Gender and Development;

**Recognizing** that major challenges and obstacles to gender equality still remain and require concerted and collective leadership and efforts from all of us including networks working on gender and development;

**Deeply concerned** about the status of women and the negative impacts on women of issues such the high incidence of HIV/AIDS among girls and women, conflict, poverty, harmful traditional practices, high population of refugee women and internally displaced women, violence against women, women's exclusion from politics

and decision-making, and illiteracy, limited access of girls to education;

**Aware** of the policies and programmes we have put in place to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic as well as the current challenges in this campaign;

**Concerned** that, while women and children bear the brunt of conflicts and internal displacement, including rapes and killings, they are largely excluded from conflict prevention, peace-negotiation, and peace-building processes in spite of African women's experience in peace-building;

**Aware** of the fact that low levels of women's representation in social, economic and political decision-making structures and feminization of poverty impact negatively on women's ability to derive full benefit from the economies of their countries and the democratization process;

**Aware** of the digital divide between the North and the South, men and women and the role of information telecommunication technologies (ICTS) in the advancement of the gender issue as stated in the e-gender Forum Declaration of Tunis, May 2004 in preparation for the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2005;

**HEREBY AGREE TO:**

**1. Accelerate the implementation of** gender specific economic, social, and legal measures aimed at combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic and effectively implement both Abuja and Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other

Related Infectious Disease. More specifically we will ensure that treatment and social services are available to women at the local level making it more responsive to the needs of families that are providing care; enact legislation to end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS and for the protection and care of HIV persons, particularly women; increase budgetary allocations in these sectors so as to alleviate women's burden of care;

**2. Ensure** the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace process including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa as stipulated in UN Resolution 1325 (2000) and to also appoint women as Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the African Union;

**3. Launch**, within the next one year, a campaign for systematic prohibition of the recruitment of child soldiers and abuse of girl children as wives and sex slaves in violation of their Rights as enshrined in the African Charter on Rights of the Child;

**4. Initiate, launch and engage** within two years sustained public campaigns against gender based violence as well as the problem of trafficking in women and girls; Reinforce legal mechanisms that will protect women at the national level and end impunity of crimes committed against women in a manner that will change and positively alter the attitude and behavior of the African society;

**5. Expand and Promote** the gender parity principle that we have adopted regarding the Commission of the African Union to all the other organs of the African Union, including its NEPAD programme, to the Regional Economic Communities, and to the

national and local levels in collaboration with political parties and the National parliaments in our countries;

**6. Ensure** the active promotion and protection of all human rights for women and girls including the right to development by raising awareness or by legislation where necessary;

**7. Actively promote** the implementation of legislation to guarantee women's land, property and inheritance rights including their rights to housing;

**8. Take** specific measures to ensure the education of girls and literacy of women, especially in the rural areas, to achieve the goal of "Education for All" (EFA);

**9. Undertake to Sign and ratify** the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by the end of 2004 and to support the launching of public campaigns aimed at ensuring its entry into force by 2005 and usher in an era of domesticating and implementing the Protocol as well as other national, regional and international instruments on gender equality by all States Parties;

**10. Establish** AIDS Watch Africa as a unit within the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission who should render annual report on HIV/AIDS situation in the continent during annual Summits; and promote the local production of anti-retroviral drugs in our countries;

**11. Accept to** establish an African Trust Fund for Women for the purpose of building the capacity of African women and further request the African Union Commission to work out the modalities

for the operationalization of the Fund with special focus on women in both urban and rural areas;

**12. Commit ourselves to report annually** on progress made in terms of gender mainstreaming and to support and champion all issues raised in this Declaration, both at the national and regional levels, and regularly provide each other with updates on progress made during our Ordinary Sessions;

**13. We request** the chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit, for our consideration, an annual report, during our ordinary sessions, on measures taken to implement the principle of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and all issues raised in this Declaration both at the national and regional levels.

### III. THEMATIC CLUSTERS OF THE DECLARATION AND GUIDELINES

The Solemn Declaration can be divided in two parts. The first part (paragraphs 1-11) contains the actions on specific thematic areas while the second part (paragraphs 12 and 13) address reporting commitments of the African Heads of States on gender mainstreaming efforts in the continent.

In order to effectively monitor the SDG, the principles of the second part of the Declaration are assembled into six different thematic clusters as stated below:

#### CLUSTER 1: GOVERNANCE



#### OBJECTIVE 5:

**Expand and promote** the gender parity principle that we have adopted regarding the Commission of the African Union to all the other organs of the African Union, including its NEPAD programme, to the Regional Economic Communities, and to the national and local levels in collaboration with political parties and the National parliaments in our countries;

#### Targets

- AU, NEPAD and RECs at all levels apply the principle of gender parity
- Effective operation of the Gender Directorate in the AU
- Operationalization of the African Union Womens' Committee

#### Actions

- Training women for transformative leadership
- Compile a comprehensive directory of African women leaders
- Advocacy for the setting up of a documentation center in the AU Commission on gender
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework

#### Indicators

- Number of women in decision making bodies in AU organs
- Gender parity in the AU by 2015

#### Focal Point:

- Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)

## CLUSTER 2: PEACE AND SECURITY



### OBJECTIVE 2:

**Ensure** the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace process including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa as stipulated in UN Resolution 1325 (2000) and to also appoint women as Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the African Union;

### Targets

- Establish a group of women mediators
- Build partnership with the AU Peace and Security Council
- Popularize Resolution 1325 of the UN General Assembly among grassroots population
- Public Awareness raising on humanitarian laws

### Actions

- Organize training for women peace negotiators
- Develop a comparative database on gender participation in peace processes at national and regional levels
- Organize advocacy visits to appropriate governance institutions in order to increase women's participation in peace processes
- Sharing of best practices and success stories of women in peace building and conflict resolution.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework

### Indicators

- Number of women appointed as Special Envoys, Representatives and Rapporteurs for the AU on prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction
- Number of women appointed as head peace negotiators by 2007
- Increased level of gender parity and participation reflected at the national and regional initiatives, dialogues and actions on peace

### Focal Points

- Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
- African Center for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

## CLUSTER 3: HUMAN RIGHTS



### OBJECTIVE 3:

**Launch**, within the next one year, a campaign for systematic prohibition of the recruitment of child soldiers and abuse of girl children as wives and sex slaves in violation of their Rights as enshrined in the African Charter on Rights of the Child;

### OBJECTIVE 4:

**Initiate, launch and engage** within two years sustained public campaigns against gender based violence as well as the problem of trafficking in women and girls; Reinforce legal mechanisms that will protect women at the national level and end impunity of crimes committed against women in a manner that will change and positively alter the attitude and behaviour of the African society;

### OBJECTIVE 9:

**Undertake** to sign and ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by the end of 2004 and to support the launching of public campaigns aimed at ensuring its entry into force by 2005 and usher in an era of domesticating and implementing the Protocol as well as other national, regional and international instruments on gender equality by all States Parties;

**Targets**

- Incorporate the instruments on promotion of women rights in Africa into national legislation
- Raise public awareness on issues of women's rights and gender violence
- Popularize the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Right on Women's Rights
- Adopt and implement legislation to end the phenomena of child soldiers and forbid exploitation of young girls as sexual slaves.

**Actions**

- Conduct public campaigns on issues of women's rights and gender-based violence
- Translate the Protocol into local languages and disseminate it
- Carry out sensitization training and education workshops for security personnel with a mandate for women's rights using the Protocol and CEDAW
- Build alliances with members of parliament to initiate and lobby for bills on women's rights to be passed by national legislative institutions
- Disseminate and promote familiarization of the African Charter on Child rights among a general public
- Organize public campaigns on child soldiers and exploitation of young girls as sexual slaves
- Advocate for the setting up of rehabilitation centers for child soldiers and young girls victims of sexual abuse
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework

**Indicators**

- Number of national laws and legislations incorporating the principles of the African Charter by June 2006
- Number of new laws or amendments affected on to achieve women's rights

**Focal Point:**

- Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)

**CLUSTER 4: HEALTH**



**OBJECTIVE 1:**

Accelerate the implementation of gender specific economic, social, and legal measures aimed at combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic and effectively implement both Abuja and Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. More specifically we will ensure that treatment and social services are available to women at the local level making it more responsive to the needs of families that are providing care; enact legislation to end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS and for the protection and care of HIV persons, particularly women; increase budgetary allocations in these sectors so as to alleviate women's burden of care;

**OBJECTIVE 10:**

Establish AIDS Watch Africa as a unit within the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission who should render annual report on HIV/AIDS situation in the continent during annual Summits; and promote the local production of anti-retroviral drugs in our countries;

### **Targets**

- Provide treatment and social services to HIV positive women and women caregivers
- Enact legislation to end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS and for protection and care of HIV persons
- Increase budgetary allocation to the HIV/AIDS sectors

### **Actions**

- Organize sub-regional meetings with high-level policy makers on engendering national frameworks on HIV/AIDS prevention and management
- Conduct advocacy and lobbying missions on gender budgeting for HIV/AIDS
- Lobby national law makers to enact legislations to protect women living with HIV/AIDS
- Raise public awareness on preventive methods on HIV/AIDS and other related infectious diseases
- Advocate for setting up of mechanisms for care of HIV/AIDS orphans, and pregnant women
- Disseminate information on Abuja and Maputo declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases
- Facilitate and promote access to facilities, information and services to protect women from the HIV/AIDS infection
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework

### **Indicators**

- Level of access of HIV-positive women to anti-retroviral drugs
- Number of local legislations that protect women living with HIV/AIDS
- Level of budgetary allocations made available to provide support and treatment for HIV positive women and women caretakers
- Reduced number of deaths as a result HIV/AIDS and Malaria and other infectious diseases

### **Focal Point**

## CLUSTER 5: EDUCATION



### OBJECTIVE 8:

**Take specific measures** to ensure the education of girls and literacy of women, especially in the rural areas, to achieve the goal of "Education for All" (EFA);

### Target

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to all other levels no later than 2015
- Increase budgetary allocations to educational sector
- Promote science and technology

### Action

- Promote and enact the principle of Education for All
- Share best practices on child education
- Raise public awareness on removal of cultural barriers to close gender gaps
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework

### Indicator

- Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
- Ratio of literate females to males for 15 to 24 year olds

### Focal Point

- Forum for Africa Women Educationalists (FAWE)

**CLUSTER 6: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**



**OBJECTIVE 6:**

Ensure the active promotion and protection of all human rights for women and girls including the right to development by raising awareness or by legislation where necessary;

**OBJECTIVE 7:**

Actively promote the implementation of legislation to guarantee women's land, property and inheritance rights including their rights to housing;

**OBJECTIVE 11:**

Accept to establish an African Trust Fund for Women for the purpose of building the capacity of African women and further request the African Union Commission to work out the modalities for the operationalization of the Fund with special focus on women in both urban and rural areas;

**Target**

- Develop and implement legislation to improve women's rights to inherit land and property
- Conduct constitutional reforms to redress existing discriminatory property ownership laws towards women
- Promote right to work and equal pay for equal work for women
- Operationalize the African Trust Fund for Women

**Action**

- Organize training and mentoring workshops for young women on personnel and economic empowerment
- Conduct public campaigns and talk shows on women rights to inherit property and land
- Lobby national legislators to enact legislations to promote and protect women's rights to housing, property and land
- Advocacy for organizing consultation for modalities for establishing the Women's Trust Fund
- Public awareness raising on removal of cultural barriers on women's right /access to land, property, and housing
- Raise public awareness on CEDAW and other international instruments on right to development
- Organize capacity building training to increase women's marketability in the employment sphere
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework

**Indicator**

- Number of new legislations and land reforms that end discrimination against women
- Increased opportunities for women and girls for economic empowerment
- Percentage of women working at different levels in the job cadre

**Focal Point**

- Economic Empowerment: African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

#### **IV. MONITORING MECHANISMS OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION**

The program of the AU Pre-Summit that took place in Abuja, Nigeria, in January 2005, comprised a large review of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDG) principles and discussions on civil society monitoring strategies to assess the implementation process led by the Member States.

SDG action items are not new goals or targets. Rather, the SDG intersects with the existing international framework. What is innovative is that this is a continental commitment on gender equality that has a Peer Review Mechanism and input by civil society. This strongly reinforces the existing framework. The operational component of the SDG is unique.

The framework for civil society monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the Declaration is the following:

##### **A. National level**

- **Shadow reporting:** Same reporting as used for CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action.
- **Caucus Consultative Meetings and Review:** National CSOs and NGOs would strategize around their areas of interest within the SDG priorities. They would be required to act as pressure groups to implement the SDG. Input into the

shadow report would not only be strengthened by the actions and reports from these groups but would also be a continual reminder of governments to fulfill its commitments

- Formation of a National Civil Society Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NCSIM): **Membership of the committee would derive from representatives from the caucus consultative meetings and review. Their terms of reference would include:**
  - (a) **To provide counterpart reporting to the progress on SDG based on the input from the caucus;**
  - (b) **To assist government in preparation of national progress reports on the SDG that would be presented and discussed at the ordinary sessions of the AU.**
- **Issue Analysis Research:** This mechanism would be used at national levels to generate data and information on the direction of the implementation of the SDG. Implementation of each priority would be measured according to the degree of achievement of the targets and the indicators as earlier mentioned in this paper. National NGOs and CSOs with strong experience and focus in research and development would lead this process expected to provide realistic data.

**B. Regional level**

- **African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of the NEPAD:** There are similarities between this mechanism, UN Resolution 1325 and some of the priorities of the SDG such as priority 2 on involving women in peace processes. This mechanism can serve as an entry point and complementary implementation of the Declaration. The APRM comprises a consultation process with various stakeholders among which CSOs, which will have the opportunity to bring their own appreciation.
- **Women's Empowerment Index:** This mechanism is essentially a report on the Index on the Status of Women in Africa. The idea was a recommendation of the ninth annual international conference of the Africa Leadership Forum on Empowering Women for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Challenge for Politics, Business, Development and Leadership held in Accra in January 1997. The report compiled data on gender gaps in various leadership, occupational and educational categories and suggests two overall composite indicators as a measure of national progress towards women's advancement - Self Reliance and Empowerment. Self Reliance refers to women's individual capacity to advance in terms of
- **The Platform of the African Women's Forum:** This platform promotes dialogue and networking of Africa women on critical issues of concern for policy action. The platform could be utilized for discussion of the reports of the Heads of States and Government and could also offer a platform for mobilizing synergy and advancing cooperation for advocacy

with regard to the implementation of the priorities of the SDG.

- **AU and NEPAD level:** To verify the implementation of the principle of parity within AU, NEPAD, RECs, and other levels. Preparatory meetings, prior to AU Summits or NEPAD Task Force can be used as a framework for the review of the implementation of the Solemn Declaration.
- **Gender Forum and African Gender Award:** The celebration every two years of the Gender Forum constitutes a platform for dialogue between African women and women from other continents. It can also be used for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGGEA and award efforts done by Governments, intergovernmental agencies, NGOs, or other privates towards the realization of the principle of parity.

C. International level

- **UN Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):** The SDG contains a lot of the principles incorporated in the Convention and already monitored by it.
- **Beijing Platform for Action:** There are many similarities between the Platform and the SDG. This call for action is coordinated at the UN level through the Division on the Status of Women (UNCSW) which already relies on civil society actions for monitoring and evaluation of the progresses made towards strategic objectives contained in the platform.
- **The African Gender and Development Index (AGDI)** that ECA considers as a main item of its Report on women in Africa which is a component of the Economic Report on Africa and the Report on Governance. It may also serve as a common framework for evaluating the status of women across the continent.
- **The Millenium Development Goals (MDG),** and more specifically, the Objective 3 on the promotion of gender equality and empowerments of women that implies the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015, and also, the Objective 5 on the improvement of maternal health
- **The Security council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security** adopted in October 2000, in which the Council underlined the vial role of women in conflict solution, and mandated a review of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace building, and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution.

## *CONCLUSIONS*

Civil Society Organizations committed themselves to:

- Take collective responsibility to accelerate the advocacy campaign for the implementation of SDGE;
- Increase networking activities aimed at the implementation of the SDGE by identifying a focal point organisation in the thematic areas of the SDGE to facilitate further involvement of the local, national, regional networks;
- Continue strengthening the various partnerships with the AU Directorate, AU Commission, ECOSOCC, the Pan-African Parliament, other AU organs, the REC's and all international partners on the implementation of the SDGE;
- Consolidate and co-ordinate the various attempts by civil society organisations and networks to document the process of civil society that led to the adoption of the SDGE;
- Stimulate existing regional networks such as WAWA and initiate the formation of such networks where they do not exist to take ownership of the process and mobilize support from national organizations;
- Document the monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the SDGE according to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework developed;
- Convene an Annual Women's civil society Pre-Summit consultative meeting in July to inform each other on the progress made in the implementation of the SDGE ;
- Develop an annual progress report by civil society organizations on the implementation of the SDGE;
- Mobilise human and financial resources to implement activities around the SDGE;
- Thematic focal points will facilitate the process of reporting of reporting on the progress for input into annual report on the SDGE;
- Each of the participating organization will take responsibility to mainstream activities around the SDGE into their existing organizational work;
- Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) will continue the coordinating role by fundraising and appointing programme personnel for gender mainstreaming in the African Union;
- Focal point organizations will raise funds for specific activities in thematic areas and jointly raise funds for regional and continental activities;
- These commitments and decisions were gathered in an official document titled: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) arising from Tripoli Commitment for monitoring and evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (SDGE).

## APPENDIXES :

1. The Durban Declaration
2. The Dakar Strategy
3. The Maputo Declaration
4. The Abuja Consensual Agreement
5. The Tripoli Commitment

## Appendix 1: THE DURBAN DECLARATION



OAU

**AFRICAN WOMEN COMMITTEE  
ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**



ECA

### DURBAN DECLARATION ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND WOMEN'S EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE AFRICAN UNION

We, representatives of African civil society organisations, working on gender and development issues and meeting on the eve of the launch of the African Union, in a consultation on *Mainstreaming African Women's Vision and Effective Participation in the African Union*, organised by the African Women's Committee for Peace and Development (AWCPD) in collaboration with Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and the facilitation by the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 to 30 June 2002, in accordance with the Council of Ministers Resolution CM/Dec.579 (LXXIII 3) (February 2001, Tripoli, Libya);

**Welcoming and Congratulating** our Heads of State and Government on their decision and commitment to establish the African Union, to adopt the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) and the New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) programmes, as well as the efforts made towards the elaboration of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

**Recognising** African governments' commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (Article 4(1); in national, regional and international instruments – particularly the *Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action*, the *Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* – and other relevant decisions of the OAU Council of Ministers calling for consultation on the participation of women in the African Union;

**Acknowledging** the commitment of OAU/AU to involve African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Africa's development, which led to the OAU/CSOs meetings in June 2001 and June 2002;

**Building upon** the OAU Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union, held at the OAU General Secretariat from 25 to 27 May 2002;

**Convinced** that African women must seize the opportunity provided by the historical moment of the launching of the African Union to ensure their full and effective participation in its operationalisation;

**Reaffirming** African women's commitment to building strategic partnerships at all levels in these processes;

**Reaffirming** the importance of integrating a gender perspective in all policies, programmes and projects in line with Article 4 (1) of The Constitutive Act of the African Union;

**Hereby urge the 76<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to consider and recommend to the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU to adopt the following:**

**I- On the African Union (AU):**

1. Appointment of a Commissioner with an exclusive mandate on gender issues, equipped with adequate financial, human and material resources, for effective gender mainstreaming in the African Union;
2. Establishment of a specialised Technical Committee on Gender in accordance with Article 14 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. Operationalization of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD), established by the OAU in 1998, in the African Union, given its strategic role in Peace and Security in Africa;
4. Inclusion of a pan African women's network in the Working Group for the elaboration of the ECOSOCC Protocol; and,
5. Guarantee a gender balance in all the organs of the African Union within a reasonable timeframe.

**II- On the New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD):**

1. Establishment of a clearly defined mechanism for African women's representation within the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NEPAD;
2. Creation and the operationalisation of a Gender Technical Committee under the activities of the Programme;
3. Incorporation of a primary focus on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women in Africa under the section on "Conditions for Sustainable Development" of the Programme; and,
4. Incorporation of gender mainstreaming in sectorial priorities, goals and strategies of the NEPAD in line with the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action and the CEDAW;

**III- On The Conference On Security, Stability, Development And Cooperation In Africa (CSSDCA)**

1. Development of an appropriate framework for African women's participation in the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the CSSDCA;
2. Incorporation of gender mainstreaming in the conceptualisation and gender balance in the composition and operational modalities of the CSSDCA Unit and in the identification of national and regional focal points; and,
3. Adoption of a systematic monitoring mechanism as a means for ensuring compliance of African States with the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, CEDAW and the United Nations Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, Security and HIV/AIDS.

**IV- On the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on The Rights of women in Africa**

1. Adoption of appropriate measures to ensure the effective participation of appropriate Government experts, with legal background including women, in the Second Experts Meeting on the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa;

2. Adoption of strategic measures to ensure the effective participation of appropriate Ministers at the Ministerial Meeting on the Protocol following the Experts Meeting;
3. Ensure the conformity of the Protocol with existing standards set in regional and international instruments on gender equality and women empowerment; and,
4. Expedient adoption, ratification and enforcement of the Draft Protocol.

In the light of the foregoing, we, the representatives here present, hereby **PLEDGE** our commitment to fully support these commendable initiatives of the OAU and to work in strategic partnership to promote the ideals and principles of The African Union (AU); and,

**RESOLVE** to disseminate and popularise the provisions of the African Union, NEPAD, CSSDCA, the Protocol and other African political, economic, social and cultural development initiatives.

DONE IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA ON 30 JUNE 2002

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

1. AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES (ACCORD)
2. AFRICAN CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES (ACDHRS)
3. AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)
4. AFRICA LEADERSHIP FORUM (ALF)
5. AFRICAN WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (AWCPD)
6. AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION NETWORK (FEMNET)
7. COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUALITY – SOUTH AFRICA (CGE)
8. COMITE NATIONAL FEMMES ET DEVELOPPEMENT – DRC (CONAFED)
9. FEMMES AFRICA SOLIDARITE (FAS)
10. OAU WOMEN, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
11. WOMEN IN LAW AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (WILDAF)

## **Appendix 2: THE DAKAR STRATEGY**

### **Dakar Strategy on Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Effective Participation in the African Union & NEPAD**

We representatives of African civil society organizations and government working on gender and development issues participating in the a consultation on *Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Effective Participation in the African Union and NEPAD* organized by the Femmes Africa Solidarité from April 24-26, 2003 in Dakar, Senegal:

Welcoming and recognizing our Heads of States and Government on their decisions taken in Durban in July 2002 on gender mainstreaming in the African Union. We note with appreciation that Article 6 of the Statutes. Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Assembly provides that at least one Commissioner from each region shall be a woman that will lead to 50 percent representation of women at the AU Commission.

Further recognizing the establishment of a Gender Directorate in the Chairperson's Office to mainstream gender in all the portfolios of the Commission according to Article 12 of the Statutes as well the provision under Article 18 of the Statutes calling for gender equality in the recruitment of senior, professional and technical staff in the Commission;

Recalling the decision of the Heads of State and Government to ensure gender parity within the African Union, taking note of the up-grading of the Gender Division into a Directorate within the Office of the Interim Commissioner;

Noting with concern that the Gender Directorate is severely under-resourced both financially and in terms of human resources, thus constraining the process of gender mainstreaming in the African Union;

Also noting the decision AHG/Dec. 175 (XXXVIII) of the Assembly which approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation (CSSDCA) as a policy development forum, a

framework for the advancement of common values and as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the African Union.

Further noting that under indicators 22 and 27 of the MOU calls for increased participation of women in politics and decision-making as well as adoption and implementation of those instruments that guarantee the rights of women as entrenched in the *Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW);

Recognizing the importance attached to issues of peace and security in Africa, the Assembly of the African Union under Article 5 (2) of the *Constitutive Act* established a Peace and Security Council as a collective security and early warning arrangement to facilitate timely and efficient response to conflict and crisis situations in Africa to be supported by the Commission, a Panel of the Wise, a continental early warning system, an African Standby Force and a Special Fund; Noting with concern the absence of provisions for gender mainstreaming in the Peace and Security Council and urging the inclusion of women in the Panel of the wise as a matter of priority;

Noting further the adoption of a Declaration on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) decision ASS/AU/Dec.1 (I) by the Assembly of the African Union in Durban endorsing progress made in the implementation of NEPAD. Also note with concern that NEPAD in terms of process and content had not effectively mainstreamed gender concerns in Africa and thus a need for immediate action to ensure that this is done;

Acknowledging the African Union's recognition of the contribution of African Civil Society Organizations involving women and youth to Africa's development, calling on them to participate in all activities of the African Union through the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOC) as provided in the *Constitutive Act* of the African Union. Convinced of the need to ensure participation of African women's civil society organizations, call for 50 percent representation of women in ECOSOC to ensure gender parity;

Recognizing the importance attached to the effective participation of women in development by African leaders, request in particular President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, to use his good offices to mobilize his colleagues to actively promote the implementation of the objective of gender equality:

Reaffirming the commitment of African women to building strategic partnerships at all levels and in the activities of the African Union hereby recommends the following to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Heads of States and Government of the African Union:

#### **A African Union**

1. That a multiple track approach be used to implement gender mainstreaming within the African Union by constituting a task team comprising of the Gender Directorate, civil society and technical experts to develop a mechanism for gender mainstreaming.
2. That a delegation including the representatives of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) be sent to the Heads of States of Tanzania and Lesotho who are scheduled to speak on gender in the African Union before the Maputo Summit to lobby them on our concerns about mainstreaming.
3. Appreciating the role and contributions of AWCPD that the African Union and UNECA make a decision soon as to the location of the AWCPD in the African Union with the full knowledge of the value that the African women places in the AWCPD.

#### **B New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**

1. That dialogue be initiated between African women and the NEPAD Secretariat.
2. That the NEPAD Secretariat provides access to simplified information in order to encourage this dialogue.
3. In view of the insufficient level of gender mainstreaming in NEPAD that civil society organizations working on gender and NEPAD utilize the opportunity presented by the NEPAD Secretariat to second representatives to mainstream gender in all the activities of NEPAD.

#### **C Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

1. That the Draft Protocol be adopted and the mechanism for ratification be put into place.
2. That member states consider withdrawing reservations made on some key Articles of the Draft Protocol with a view to strengthening the final Protocol.

**D Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA)**

1. That all activities of the CSSDCA be strengthened, expanded, and be gender mainstreamed to ensure effective participation of women.

**E Participation of African Women in the Organs of the African Union**

1. That the Pan African Parliament (PAP) Protocol should be amended to allow for at least two women representatives out of the five representatives from each member state.
2. Recognizing the importance attached to peace and security in Africa, that the Peace and Security Council ensure that women are represented and participate effectively in its Panel of the Wise.
3. That the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOC) ensure gender parity in its membership.
4. That a Specialized Technical Committee on Gender be established under Article 14 of the *Constitutive Act* for effective mainstreaming of gender.

In light of the foregoing, we the representatives here present, hereby pledge our commitment to fully support these commendable initiatives of the African Union and will work in strategic partnership to promote the ideals and principles of the African Union.

Done in Dakar, Senegal April 26, 2003

Abantu for Development  
African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)  
African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)  
Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)  
African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD)  
African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)  
Equality Now-Africa Office  
Femmes Africa Solidarité  
Foundation for Community Development (FCD)  
International Alert  
SAFER Africa  
Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

**Appendix 3: THE MAPUTO DECLARATION**

**MAPUTO DECLARATION ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE AFRICAN UNION**

*Preamble*

**We, the representatives of African women's organisations and networks working on gender and development issues, gathered on the eve of the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government, at a women's pre-summit meeting, convened by the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) in collaboration with UNIFEM (Southern Africa Regional Office), Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Centre for Human Rights – University of Pretoria, Southern African Development Community (SADC) Gender Unit, Forum Mulher, Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) - Mozambique, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), in Maputo, Mozambique from 23 to 24 June 2003**

## ***Applauding***

- The recognition of the promotion of gender equality as a key principle and goal of the African Union; and
- The adoption, by Heads of States and Government, of the principle of 50% gender representation in the African Union

Reaffirming **our support for the outcomes of meetings as embodied in the:**

- **Durban Declaration on Gender and Mainstreaming and the Effective Participation of Women in the African Union (30 June 2002); and**
- **Dakar Strategy on Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Effective Participation in the African Union (26 April 2003)**

**Appreciating** the role and contributions of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development on the continent

## **Acknowledging**

- The establishment of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate in office of the Chairperson of the African Union ;
- The entrenchment in the Statutes of the African Union Commission, of the principle of gender equality in the recruitment of the Commission's senior staff and top management;

- The opportunity for civil society participation in the activities of the African Union through the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOC); and
- The efforts of Heads of States and Government in their endeavour to address poverty through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

## **Welcoming**

- The progress made in the elaboration of the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and
- The openness of the NEPAD Secretariat to the secondment of gender specialists and opportunities for gender mainstreaming

## **Concerned that:**

- Despite commendable action by Heads of States and Government in mainstreaming gender, there is need for concerted acceleration of the process;
- There is yet no provision for a Specialised Technical Committee on Gender;
- The Women, Gender and Development Directorate is severely under-resourced;
- There is no mechanism for dialogue between women's organisations and networks and the key decision-making structures of the African Union;
- The Pan African Parliament Protocol provision that at least one of the five representatives from each member state must be a women, is inadequate;

- There is an acute under-representation of women ambassadors and other plenipotentiaries accredited to the African Union;
- Despite the continent having the highest incidence of maternal mortality in the world; legal, policy and programmatic interventions are not commensurate with the gravity of the challenge;
- Discriminatory laws and harmful traditional practices continue to exacerbate the high incidence of HIV/AIDS, particularly among women and girls;
- Women in agriculture face many constraints, inadequate access to land, credit, information and the acquisition of skills; and
- War and conflict negatively impact on women in that among other things, it disrupts women's major source of livelihood and food security

#### **Recognising the need:**

- To elaborate and implement an African Union Gender Policy and Declaration;
- For an effective gender mainstreaming strategy and efficient co-ordinating framework for managing gender issues on the continent;
- For sensitisation on gender issues throughout the African Union; and
- To clarify the status and role of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development

**Reaffirming** our commitment to building strategic partnerships at all levels and in the activities of the African Union, we hereby **recommend** the following to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Heads of States and Government of the African Union:

#### ***A. African Union***

1. That an African Union Gender Policy and Declaration, as well as a gender mainstreaming strategy and co-ordinating framework are put in place as soon as possible;
2. That a Specialised Technical Committee on Women and Gender be established under Article 14 of the African Union Constitutive Act; and
3. That adequate resources be availed for the work of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate

#### ***B. Participation of African Women in the Organs of the African Union***

1. That the Pan African Parliament Protocol should be amended to allow for at least two women representatives out of the five representatives from each member country;
2. That the Economic, Social and Cultural Council ensure gender parity in its membership; and
3. That a high level mechanism is provided for dialogue between women's organisations and networks and the key decision-making structures of the African Union

**C. Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

1. That the Draft Protocol is adopted and the mechanism for ratification be put into place; and
2. That member States consider withdrawing reservations made on certain key Articles of the Draft Protocol, with a view to strengthening the final Protocol

**D. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**

1. That the establishment of a task team to ensure that specific issues faced by poor women are addressed in poverty reduction strategies, as envisaged in par 119 of the NEPAD, be expedited; and
2. The rapid implementation of paragraphs 132 –137 of the NEPAD, pertaining to agriculture

**E. Maternal mortality**

1. The adoption of concrete legal, policy and programmatic interventions to curb the high incidence of maternal mortality;
2. Prioritising the commitment of adequate financial resources to health care services, including maternal mortality, at a regional and national level; and
3. Eradicating discriminatory and harmful practices against women that expose them to dying during pregnancy and birth

**F. HIV/AIDS**

1. That HIV/AIDS policies and programming interventions take due cognisance of the gender implications of the epidemic

**G. Agriculture**

1. The establishment of an African food bank reserve to be used in cases of emergency

**Done in Maputo, Mozambique on 24 June 2003.**

## Appendix 4: THE ABUJA CONSENSUAL AGREEMENT

We, the Civil Society Organizations across Africa meeting at the 5<sup>th</sup> Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming of the African Union in Abuja, Nigeria, from 25-26<sup>th</sup> January 2005 prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Conference Heads of State and Government to organize follow up of progress made in the implementation of the *Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality*, as well as to facilitate dialogue and revision of strategies on gender mainstreaming within the African Union, under the auspices of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) :

**Recalling** the commitment of the African Heads of State and Government to gender equality as a major goal of the AU as enshrined in Article 4 (1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, in particular the decision to implement and uphold the principle of gender parity taken at the Inaugural session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2002 in Durban South Africa and its operationalization during the Second Ordinary Session in Maputo, Mozambique 2003, the decision to establish a Gender Directorate within the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission, the resolve to integrate the formal African Women Committee on Peace and Development into the organs or the Commission of the African Union as well as the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2004;

**Recognizing** their previous commitments to the implementation of Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the African Charter on the Rights of the Child and all other relevant international, regional and sub-regional instruments aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and promoting equality between women and men;

**Considering** their commitment to implement the UN Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other related infectious diseases as contained in the Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases; as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG); and the NEPAD programme;

**Commending** African Heads of States and Government who have signed and ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human Rights and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and reminding those who have not done so to take that action;

**Bearing in mind** the efforts of the AU in ensuring visibility of the gender machinery by the recent creation of a Gender Directorate within the Office of the Chairperson of the African Union;

**Bearing also in mind and building upon** important work already accomplished by the Women Networks gathered around the African Union process under the facilitation of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS);

*Aware* of the continued deprivation of women and the disadvantages that women face in access and control of resources and denial of economic opportunities;

*Determined however* to build on the momentum of these developments to ensure effective implementation of the Solemn Declaration instrument and promote gender parity;

*We applaud* the African Heads of State and Government for this memorable decision, which will bring a great change in the lives of the African women as well as the African population in general;

*We salute* the Commitment and the determination of the Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Alpha Oumar Konare, to make of the Gender parity a reality within the African Union.

**We commit ourselves to:**

Increase our networking and advocacy for the implementation of the Declaration at various levels of operation within our comparative advantage;

Partnership with the AU and its organs, the RECs as well as all international partners on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration;

Commit ourselves to develop a framework that we will use in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Solemn Declaration;

Document processes that lead to the adoption Solemn Declaration including action by civil society;

Explore how to integrate the Declaration into the Peer Review Monitoring mechanism of NEPAD:

Convening another regional forum as soon as possible to investigate progress in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration.

**We urge Member States:**

To effect the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;

To organize a meeting of the African Ministers of Gender to develop implementation strategies of the Solemn Declaration;

To ensure submission by July 2005 of a first annual report on progress made in terms of Gender mainstreaming as per paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Solemn Declaration;

To allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the Solemn Declaration.

**We urge the Commission of the African Union:**

To allocate adequate human and financial resources to the implementation of the Gender parity principle as well as the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

**We urge the International Community:**

To support the efforts of Africa in the implementation of NEPAD, the Millennium Development Goals and particularly the Gender programmes such as CEDAW, Beijing Platform of Action, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and all other development programmes agreed upon.

**Appendix 5: THE TRIPOLI COMMITMENT**

**Tripoli Commitment adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> Women's Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting**

We, the Civil Society Organizations working across Africa meeting at the 6<sup>th</sup> Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Tripoli, Libya, 1-2 July 2005 prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to follow-up on the implementation of the *Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality* (SDGE):

**Building** upon the important work and achievements accomplished by African women's networks under the initiative of the African Women Committee for Peace and Development (AWCPD) and Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) during previous consultative meetings in: Durban in June 2002 organized by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD); in Dakar in April 2003; in Maputo in June 2003 organized by the Foundation for Community Development (FCD); in Addis Ababa in June 2004 organized by the AU Gender Directorate; and in Abuja in January 2005 organized by the Africa Leadership Forum (ALF). In addition to the organisations above, participating networks committed to this campaign include: FEMNET, WILDAF, ACDHRS, WAWA, MARWOPNET, ATM, EBWA, Akina Mama Wa Africa, AWA, FAWE, Equality Now, ABANTU, AAWORD, NPI, SSWC, ANSEDI, Pan African Movement, CAFOB and other partners,

**Recognising**, the commitment of the Minister of Social Affairs of The Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in facilitating the 6<sup>th</sup> Women's Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting;

**Recalling** the commitment of the African Heads of State to gender equality as a major goal of the AU as enshrined in Article 4 (1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, in particular the decision to implement and uphold the principle of gender parity taken at the Inaugural session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2002 in Durban South Africa and its operationalization during the Second Ordinary Session in Maputo, Mozambique 2003, the decision to establish a Gender Directorate within the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission, the resolve to integrate the formal African Women Committee on Peace and Development into the organs or the Commission of the African Union as well as the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa adopted at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2004;

**Recognizing** their previous commitments to the implementation of Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Beijing Platform for Action; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the African Charter on the Rights of the Child and all other relevant international, regional and sub-regional instruments aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and promoting equality between women and men;

**Considering** their commitment to implement the UN Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other related infectious diseases as contained in the Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases; as well as the

Millennium Development Goals (MDG); and the NEPAD programme;

**Acknowledging**, the AU Gender Directorate Meeting of gender experts in May 2005 on developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality;

**Resolving**, to build on the momentum of the adoption of the SDGE by agreeing to partner in facilitating a process to monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of the SDGE;

We, the civil society organisations present in Tripoli at this 6<sup>th</sup> Consultative Pre-Summit Meeting commit ourselves to:

- Accelerate the launch of the advocacy campaign for the implementation of SDGE.
- Increase networking activities aimed at implementation of the SDGE.
- Continue to partner with the AU Gender Directorate, the AU Commission, Pan African Parliament; ECOSOCC and other AU organs; the REC's and all international partners on the implementation of the SDGE.
- Document the process of civil society activities in monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of SDGE.
- Convene an annual Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting in July ahead of the Assembly of the Heads of States and Government.

We urge Member States:

- To accelerate the implementation of the SDGE through the allocation of resources;
- To involve civil society organisations in the preparation of the reports on the progress of the implementation of the SDGE;
- To accelerate the ratification, entry into force and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's rights relating to rights of women in Africa.

We urge the Commission of the African Union:

- To operationalize the African Union Women's Committee.
- To report on the progress made with the allocation of human and financial resources for the implementation of the SDGE.

**Done in Tripoli, Libya on 2 July 2005**