CIVIL SOCIETY
SHADOW REPORT ON THE SOLEMN
DECLARATION ON GENDER
EQUALITY IN AFRICA

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
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FROM SOLEMN DECLARATION
TO SOLEMN IMPLEMENTATION

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INTRODUCTION

This book is a compilation of the shadow reports produced by various civil society organizations committed in the process of furthering gender mainstreaming in the African Union. The shadow reports are a means of monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress made in implementing the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), adopted by the African Heads of State and Government during the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union, in July 2004.

In order to do this, the articles contained in the first section of the Declaration are divided into six different thematic clusters. These clusters formed the focal point of research for the organizations, and were assigned as follows:

- **Governance :** Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)
- **Peace and Security :** Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), SaferAfrica
- **Human Rights :** Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
- **Health :** Social Aspects of HIV/Aids Research Alliance (SAHARA), Society for Women and Aids in Africa (SWAA), Roll Back Malaria (RBM)
- **Education :** Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA)
- **Economic empowerment :** African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa was a landmark event, as it was the first time a continental organization took ownership of gender mainstreaming at the highest level, prioritizing issues such HIV/AIDS and the recruitment of child soldiers. However, much work by FAS in collaboration with the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development and all the organizations now responsible for each cluster, had preceded and has followed the adoption of the SDGEA. This broad network organised, and participated in Pre-Consultative meetings which provided the forum in which the following declarations were made:

- Durban Declaration, 2002
- Dakar Strategy, 2003
- Maputo Declaration, 2003
- Women's Contribution to the Declaration on Mainstreaming Gender in the African Union, 2004
- Abuja Consensual Agreement, 2005
- Tripoli Commitment, 2005
- Dakar Commitment 2005
- *Gender is my Agenda Campaign*, launched 2006

Many of the principles enshrined in these declarations are now part of policies, programs and mechanisms of the AU: an example is the adoption of the *Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa*.

The present report, the first of a series, will be discussed during the 9th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting that will take place in Addis Ababa, 23-24 January 2007 and it will be launched during the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government.

For a wider dissemination, it will be posted in the website of the Campaign:

www.genderismyagenda.com

CLUSTER 1 : GOVERNANCE

Africa Leadership Forum

1. INTRODUCTION

Global recognition and support for the importance of women's participation and involvement in leadership and decision making has been prominent in series of United Nations international conferences and conventions on women and gender equality. Most prominent among these have been the Fourth World Conferences on Women (Beijing, China) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). These conferences have produced comprehensive legal frameworks aimed at promoting and achieving gender equality. Major outcomes of these efforts have been the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

While the Beijing PFA promotes the concept of gender mainstreaming as central and critical to inclusive and participatory development; CEDAW on the other hand emphasizes the importance of equal participation of women and men in public life. The convention builds on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which includes the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs either by voting for, or running as, a candidate for election and on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which asserts the right of all people to self determination. State parties to these conventions and agreements are obligated to ensure women's equal access to and equal opportunities in, political and public life, including the right to vote and to be eligible election.

Generally, there has been a minimal improvement occasioned by limited positive actions of few African states to increase women's participation in decision making by implementing their commitment to affirmative action, majority of African states have failed to take actions to ensure gender balance and accelerate women's participation in decision-making and leadership. Interestingly, most African states are signatories to the various treaties and conventions on gender equality but only very few states have demonstrated the capacity and will to translate their commitment into concrete actions. A priority aspect of these commitments was women's increased empowerment, especially as evidenced by women's occupation of leadership positions in government. Evidence so far indicates that most African governments are not so far making much effort towards their Beijing commitments. Equally, there is a concern that African countries should meet their commitments to give women equality of opportunity in law, under the law, and in administrative practice, according to their commitments under the UN *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW).

Although, African governments acknowledge that women's participation is critical to building democracy and fostering social progress, African leaders have not prioritized the development and implementation of national strategies towards achieving increased women's participation and representation in leadership and decision making positions. As a result, women are under-represented in decision-making positions in governments, civil society and the private sector in virtually all the African countries.

Consequences for states inaction and indifference to broadening the political space to involve women are primarily felt by women themselves. Women have remained for so long at the fringes of development so much that after decades of struggle for gender equality, women are convinced that they have to be in places where power exists or be in a position to negotiate a better deal for themselves. Also, with the current globalizing economy and opening up of borders, where power seems to lie with the state, markets and civil society; women's desire and demand to be in the mainstream of decision-making is understandable. Persistent discrimination against women in the critical area of decision-making has meant the loss of an important resource input in the development equation. The perspectives of half of the population in nation building, socio-economic transformation and reconstruction are neither included nor taken into consideration. Therefore, a key concern today to development is the role of women's leadership as a transforming force. For this to occur women have to be represented fully in leadership positions and should participate effectively in determining developmental choices and directions.

Several actions have been initiated and executed by both national and international organizations to encourage women's participation in leadership. However, most of these initiatives have targeted at capacity building for women politicians/ or women holding political offices to increase their effectiveness. While this is commendable, it nevertheless fails to address a critical need for enhanced information generation and tools targeted at building the advocacy and lobbying capacities of women groups and civil society to demand accountability from government with regards to their efforts in ensuring that their commitments to gender equality are implemented.

As part of the activities of the integrated programme on women empowerment, various civil society organisations working with some African Heads of State and the African Union Commission pushed for and eventually made the Assembly of Heads of States of the African Union to adopt a Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (SDGE). The SDGE is a reaffirmation of the commitment of the Heads of State to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (L) 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 and initiatives on human and women's rights. It specifically created a platform for the acceleration of the involvement of women in governance process at the continental, regional and national levels as shown in **ARTICLE 5 of the SDG which states that:**

"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".

In order to achieve and implement this article, governments and other political actors are expected to enact laws and put in place policies to promote equal participation of women and men in:
- the legislature
- leadership of political parties
- the executive branch of the State
- the judiciary
- local government etc.

Specific targets which are aligned with the terminal dates for the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were set for the particular article. These include:

- 50% female representation in all Organs of the African Union by 2015
- 50% of female representation in the Regional Economic Communities and National governments of countries of the African Union by 2015
- 50 % female representation in parliament and the judiciaries by 2015

This article is meant to be a review of the progress so far made in terms of implementation of the Governance component of the SD.

2. APPLICATION OF GENDER PARITY PRINCIPLE

2.1. Application in AU & RECs

The gender parity principle is the most feasible and quantifiable component of the SDG primarily because it deals with figures and gender features. A male prime minister can not be mistaken or misconstrue to be a female prime minister. Application and implementation of Gender parity principle thus provide the most potent platform for measurement and advocacy at all levels. The decision of the HOS to start the implementation of this principle with the AUC is thus a welcome development in the collective effort of African leaders to reverse the gender imbalance that has characterized decision making structures within the continent for more than forty years. Today the African Union is the only continental body that has maintained gender parity at its topmost decision making level.

The AUC at the time of it composition and selection of the its top officer in 2002 started with rigid application of gender parity through the selection of five female and male commissioners although both the chairperson and the deputy chairperson were male contrary to the spirit of the principle which expected one of the two positions to be occupied by a woman. Apart from these positions, two other organs of the Union; PAP and Interim ECOSOCC are headed by women.

At the level of Directors, gender parity can not be said to have been achieved. Below that level the situation is not too different and there appears that much work need to be done to step down the application of gender parity within the various cadre of the AUC and other organs of the Union.

With exception of SADC and ECOWAS, most of the RECs in Africa have not internalised the AU gender parity principle either as a concept or in terms of policy orientation. SADC which seems to be in the forefront made use of Beijing PFA as the framework for its Declaration. Part of the future work of the AU Gender Directorate should directed at bringing the RECs to effectively buy into the AU gender policies, programmes and strategic plans

2.2.   Application at the National Level

2.2.1. Country Reports.

At the time of writing this report, only nine or 17% of the member states of the African Union have submitted the mandatory report on the implementation of the SDGE. These are Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia

This performance in itself seem to be a set back for the implementation of the SDG since it is meant to demonstrate the political commitment of MS to the Declaration. The HOS were very emphatic in the declaration and committed themselves to produce an annual report to be submitted to the AUC

"Commit 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 level"

The implication of non-submission of the annual reports is numerous. It is an indication of our

   i.   Inability to evaluate the progress on the implementation of the SDG at the national level
   ii.   Violation of the collective agreement and contract between the Heads Of State and the people of Africa as it relates to gender equality
   iii. Desire to further disenfranchise and discourage African women who are mostly affected by the issues and concerns addressed in the SDGE
   iv.   Working towards a gradual demise of the objectives and principles guiding the adoption of the SDGE

Inspite of this low reportorial performance, a number of issues and challenges are discernible from some of the countries who submitted their annual report:

   1.   Though there are constitutional provisions that ensure participation of women in the political process and seeking of elective offices, the attainment of gender parity and the actual involvement of women seem to have been left in some countries in the hands of the political parties. In the absence of support from the male folks coupled with financial dis-empowerment, women's participation in decision making and governance process becomes very difficult and a game of chance.

2. Another example of weak policy framework in the implementation of gender equality is Ethiopia.

> *"The Civil Service Reform Programs also contributed a lot to women's participation in decision-making. Article 13 (1) of the Civil Service Proclamation No 262/2002 prohibits discrimination among job seeker on the basis of sex. The proclamation also incorporates an affirmative action by stating that preference shall be given to female candidates who have equal or close scores to that of male candidates"*

Knowing fully well that the number of women that ever get to job placement exercise are few as a result of accumulated discrimination which they suffer from childhood has numerically weakened their position, a better and more affirmative action will be required in Ethiopia to ensure and guarantee gender equality and parity.

3. A similar trend of constitutional provision for equality among all people and prohibition of discrimination is also seen in the case of Namibia. However the government has gone beyond this to enact Affirmative Action Act (No 29 of 1998). The AAA is an ambitious attempt which aims to bring about equality of opportunity in employment, improving conditions of the marginalized groups and eliminate discrimination in Namibia. The Act along with National Gender Policy in 1997 and the National Plan of Action on Gender in 1998 are being used to promote gender equality and parity in Namibia. For example equal numbers of men and women are being appointed as judges, and on international peace mission.

4. In Burundi Article 4 of the Electoral code of April 2005 and Articles 51 and 129 of the constitution are the legal guarantees to ensure parity in all policy decisions. Paragraph 1 of Article 129 of the constitution ensures a minimum of 30 percent of women in all political decision-making institutions. These constitutional arrangements, together with the government's commitment, have resulted in significant progress in women's participation in the public political space. However the necessary data to back up this claim was not provided in the report. It is important that subsequent reports specify the gains that have resulted from the various constitutional and legislative changes within the country political space.

5. Lesotho has of recent embarked on a number of policy measures aimed at ensuring gender parity and women's empowerment. One of these changes is

   Local Government Electoral Amendment Act in 2004 which reserves 30 percent of all electoral seats for women. The resultant effect of these changes is that today, 30% District administrators, secretaries and councillors are women. About 38% of the members of the Senate are women though the proportion at the National Assembly remained low at 14%. There are indications that the Government is working towards 50;50 parity as both the ruling and the opposition parties have 41% and 32% women's representation in the Executive committees.

6. South Africa perhaps more than all the countries that produced an annual report has the most comprehensive and forward looking legislative framework to ensure the promotion of equality and non-discrimination and to ensure that women's concerns are integrated into all areas of work.

   The South African Gender Machinery comprises the Executive i.e. the Office on the Status of Women (OSW) and Gender Focal Points (GFP) in National Departments, the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) as well as the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Improvement of the Quality of Life and Status of Women, both of which receives State budgetary allocations.

   The facilitative components of the Gender Machinery include:

I. The Executive, i.e. the National OSW, provincial OSWs and GFPs in national departments
II. The CGE, a Statutory Body
III. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Improvement of the Quality of Life and Status of Women

In addition to the facilitative structures, the South African Government considers gender mainstreaming the responsibility of all Cabinet Ministers, public sector officials and government agencies, whilst all human rights institutions established under the South African Bill of Rights, Section 9, have the responsibility to promote women's rights. This includes the Human Rights Commission as well as all Portfolio Committees within the Legislative.

The Gender Machinery also includes and involves civil society organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The National Gender Machinery therefore has a critical role to play in facilitating the process of women's empowerment and gender equality in the country.

The resultant effect of deployment of the machinery is that it created an enabling environment which made the South African Cabinet to adopt in 2006, a target of 50% representation of women at all levels of decision making in all spheres of government. The representation of women in political and decision-making positions in South Africa, in many areas, exceeds the initial 30% quota specified in CEDAW and SADC policy on representation in decision making though it is still lower than the 50% target of the African Union. This is illustrated clearly in the following examples:

Table 2.1   Women in Political and Decision-Making Positions in South Africa

	Cabinet Ministers	Deputy Ministers	Women Premiers in Provinces	Women MECs in Provinces
Number of women	12	9	4	29
Number of Men	16	12	5	61
Total Number	28	21	9	90
Percentage of women	**42.8%**	**42.85%**	**44.44%**	**32.2%**

In addition to this about 28% of all Ambassadors and High commissioners were women. At the level of the Senior Management Service of the SA Public Service, 2017 seniors managers out of 6727 managers were women representing 30 % of total. A target of 50% parity has been for the year 2009. At the level of Judiciary, there have been marked improvements over the 1994 figure though the current 15% seem to be the lowest when compared to other branches of Government in SA. However efforts are being made to raise the profile of women within the SA judiciary

7. The constitution of Republic of Senegal like the others also spoke about promotion of an egalitarian society that abhors all forms of discrimination on the basis of sex or religion and other forms of affiliation. In addition to this there is a National Strategic Plan of Action (2007-2016) that intends to promote gender equity and equality within the context of ensuring their effective contribution to development.

While these actions of the Government of Senegal are laudable and noble in orientation, subsequent report from the country will determine the level of political commitment of the government as it relates to gender equality and women's empowerment. The current statistics are as follows:

Table2.2 : Women in Political and Decision Making Positions in Senegal

POSITION	MALE	FEMALE
Cabinet Ministers	77.5%	22.5%
Advisers to the President	80.0%	20.0%
Adviser to Prime Minister	74.0%	26.0%
Magistrates	85.0%	15.0%
Ambassadors	91.4%	8.6%
Regional Counsellors	85.5%	14.5%
Municipal Counsellors	73.0%	27.0%

Source: Report of Republic of Senegal to AU on SDGE

It is obvious from this report that Senegal is far, in some instances, from the international standards of 30% representation and would need to concerted effort at all levels to increase the visibility of women in decision making and governance structures.

8. The Republic of Algeria is one of one the states in the North Africa that is making effort to increase the involvement of women in decision making process though their involvement is guaranteed by the constitution. For example in the last government, the following positions were occupied by women:
a. Cabinet Ministers: 3
b. Ambassador: 4
c. Governors: 2
d. Secretary General of Ministry: 1
e. Principal Private Secretaries: 4
f. Vice Governor of Central Bank: 1
g. President of Judicial Council of State: 1
h. President of Courts: 34
i. Judges ate Supreme Court: 6
j. Magistrate: 922 out of 2811 magistrates (34%)
k. Civil Service: 6,024 out of 13,737 (43.8%)
l. National Police Force: 7341 women.

Though the comparative figures for men were not shown in the report, it is very obvious that feasibility of gender parity in the near future is not in doubt especially at the level of judiciary and the national police force.

9.   In Mauritius, Women's representation in the current parliament 2005-2010 increased three fold from their 2000-2005 participation rates. Women account for less than 20 percent of political appointees in the different categories. In the national decision-making structure in public service, Mauritius has fulfilled both the 30 percent minimum stated in the Beijing Platform and the SADC Declaration. While this is commendable, subsequent report should be specific on policy measures being taken or planned to attained gender parity in the public service and strategies for the sustenance of the current achievement with the Beijing and SADC platform.

10.   In Tunisia, Items 5 and 16 of the Presidential Electoral Programme promote women's access to high-level decision-making positions. Item 5 of the Electoral Programme entitled "New Horizons for Women" reserves 20 percent of electoral seats for women. Similarly, Item 16 "Women: from Equality to Active Partnership" is aimed at getting a minimum 30 percent female representation in the public-political space. These measures resulted in over 20 percent of electoral seats being reserved for women in commune and municipal elections. While this looks like a major improvement on the previous attempt at mainstreaming

women into political process in Tunisia, it looks there was a disregard for the Beijing Platform of Action since no where was 20% specified as the minimum representation for women in decision making structures. Subsequent advocacy activities within the country should concentrate on the need to effect all the requisite changes that will effectively aligned the presidential electoral programmes with Beijing platform and the AU targets at all levels.

2.2.2   Representation at National Parliament

Effective Representation of women in the national parliament is important and very strategic in the context of influencing the legislative agenda and policy direction of the government especially those that promote gender equality and women's empowerment. It is also provide the opportunity to find out how the constitutionally guaranteed rights of women are being translated into empowerment and ascendancy in political decision making structures.

From the table below, it is possible assess the current situation on gender based representation across the continent of Africa:

I.   Rwanda remained the best country in the world with about 48.8% meaning the attainment of gender parity by that country will be difficult in the nearest future.

II.   Four countries, Mozambique, South Africa, Burundi, and Tanzania have already attained the international standards of 30% prescribed in the Beijing PFA while Uganda and Seychelles were 29.8% and 29.4% respectively

III.   In addition to these seven countries, five more countries attained 20% and above indicating that there are potentials within these countries to achieve the international standards through intensification of advocacy and liberalization of the political environment for women in those countries.

IV.   However if we go by the world average of 17.2% from single or lower house, then four other countries () can be counted among performing countries or countries.

V.   Only 5 out of 53 African countries had women as Presiding officers. These are Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe (Senate) and the Gambia. Though the PAP had a woman Presiding Officer, the number of women in the Assembly is very small compared to the number of men.

VI.   The implications of these various observations and trend are as follows:

   a.   Almost 68% of all the African countries performed below global average. Infact many of these countries, female representation at the lower or single houses is as low as10% meaning that the space remaining essentially closed to the women folk

   b.   The African regional average of 16.6% is a far cry from its goal of gender parity (50% female representation). This is a clear indication that African Parliaments are still male dominated. Concerted effort will be required by the political actors, the government and the African Union to improve on this record within the next ten years. This becomes imperative if one realises that in most African countries only two election cycles are possible between 2007 and 2015 which is the target date for the attainment of gender parity in Africa.

   c.   That the countries from the Southern and East African sub-regions are creating better access and entry points for women within the political and decision making structures. The bright prospects shown by these countries should be sustained and use as case studies and best practices for other African countries

   d.   The performance of countries from West African sub-region still very low and many of them fell below both the global and African regional average meaning the

searchlight on the implementation of gender parity should be focused on this sub-region

Table 2.3: Gender Based Representation at National Parliaments

African Ranking	World Ranking	Country	Lower or single House				Upper House or Senate			
			Elections	Seats*	Women	%W	Elections	Seats*	Women	%W
1	1	Rwanda	09 2003	80	39	48.8	09 2003	26	9	34.6
2	10	Mozambique	12 2004	250	87	34.8	---	---	---	---
3	13	South Africa [1]	04 2004	400	131	32.8	04 2004	54	18	33.3
4	16	Burundi	07 2005	118	36	30.5	07 2005	49	17	34.7
5	17	United Rep. of Tanzania	12 2005	319	97	30.4	---	---	---	---
6	18	Uganda	02 2006	332	99	29.8	---	---	---	---
7	19	Seychelles	12 2002	34	10	29.4	---	---	---	---
8	26	Namibia	11 2004	78	21	26.9	11 2004	26	7	26.9
9	37	Tunisia	10 2004	189	43	22.8	07 2005	112	15	13.4
10	40	Eritrea	02 1994	150	33	22.0	---	---	---	---
11	41	Ethiopia	05 2005	529	116	21.9	10 2005	112	21	18.8
12	46	Mauritania	11 2006	43	9	20.9	---	---	---	---
13	54	Guinea	06 2002	114	22	19.3	---	---	---	---
14	55	Senegal	04 2001	120	23	19.2	---	---	---	---
15	59	Equatorial Guinea	04 2004	100	18	18.0	---	---	---	---
16	60	Sudan	08 2005	450	80	17.8	08 2005	50	2	4.0
17	63	Mauritius	07 2005	70	12	17.1	---	---	---	---
18	"	Zimbabwe	03 2005	150	24	16.0	11 2005	66	21	31.8
19	69	Cape Verde	01 2006	72	11	15.3	---	---	---	---
20	72	Angola	09 1992	220	33	15.0	---	---	---	---
21	73	Zambia	09 2006	157	23	14.6	---	---	---	---
22	74	Sierra Leone	05 2002	124	18	14.5	---	---	---	---
23	77	Guinea-Bissau	03 2004	100	14	14.0	---	---	---	---
24	78	Malawi	04 2004	191	26	13.6	---	---	---	---
25	81	Gambia	01 2002	53	7	13.2	---	---	---	---
26	84	Liberia	10 2005	64	8	12.5	10 2005	30	5	16.7
27	85	Niger	11 2004	113	14	12.4	---	---	---	---

28	88	Burkina Faso	05 2002	111	13	11.7	---	---	---	---
29	"	Lesotho	05 2002	120	14	11.7	N.A.	33	12	36.4
30	91	Botswana	10 2004	63	7	11.1	---	---	---	---
31	92	Ghana	12 2004	230	25	10.9	---	---	---	---
32	93	Djibouti	01 2003	65	7	10.8	---	---	---	---
33	"	Morocco	09 2002	325	35	10.8	09 2006	270	3	1.1
34	"	Swaziland	10 2003	65	7	10.8	10 2003	30	9	30.0
35	"	Central African Republic	05 2005	105	11	10.5	---	---	---	---
36	96	Mali	07 2002	147	15	10.2	---	---	---	---
37	100	Gabon	12 2001	119	11	9.2	02 2003	91	14	15.4
38	102	Cameroon	06 2002	180	16	8.9	---	---	---	---
39	"	Togo	10 2002	81	7	8.6	---	---	---	---
40	105	Congo	05 2002	129	11	8.5	10 2005	60	8	13.3
41	"	Cote d'Ivoire	12 2000	223	19	8.5	---	---	---	---
42	106	Dem. Republic of the Congo	07 2006	500	42	8.4	08 2003	120	3	2.5
43	109	Somalia	08 2004	269	21	7.8	---	---	---	---
44	110	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	03 2006	468	36	7.7	---	---	---	---
45	111	Kenya	12 2002	219	16	7.3	---	---	---	---
46	"	Sao Tome and Principe	03 2006	55	4	7.3	---	---	---	---
47	112	Benin	03 2003	83	6	7.2	---	---	---	---
48	114	Madagascar	12 2002	160	11	6.9	03 2001	90	10	11.1
49	117	Chad	04 2002	155	10	6.5	---	---	---	---
50	118	Algeria	05 2002	389	24	6.2	12 2003	144	4	2.8
51	119	Nigeria	04 2003	360	22	6.1	04 2003	109	4	3.7
52	135	Egypt	11 2005	442	9	2.0	05 2004	264	18	6.8

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, November, 2006

3. GENDER DIRECTORATE

3.1 Status

The importance placed on gender equity, equality and desire to mainstream gender into all its programmes and activities led the African Leaders to devise a more effective management framework for gender issues in the continent. This renewed committed is first reflected in Article 4(1) of the Constitutive Act which mandate the Union to function in accordance with the principle of "promotion of gender equality", and, according to

Article 8 of the Statutes of the Commission of the Union, ultimate responsibility for gender mainstreaming within the Commission lies with the Chairperson. To facilitate execution of this mandate, Article 12(3) of the Statues provides that a mechanism "shall be established in the Office of the Chairperson to coordinate all activities and programmes of the Commission related to gender issues". The Women, Gender and Development Directorate, (Gender Directorate) is that mechanism - it is the vehicle via which the Commission advances the principle of gender equality through gender mainstreaming.

3.2 Operational Milieu

The AU Gender Directorate is structured in such a way to work with the models and approaches to gender and development. The Unit combines Women-in-Development and Gender-and development approach in crafting its entire programme such the needs of women at the two ends of development are effectively catered for in a comprehensive manner. In the first approach women are viewed as operating from a more disadvantaged position than men, and, therefore, seeks to remove the obstacles that women suffer. This is in order to empower women so as to enable them to compete on a level of equality with men. The second is a more holistic, all-encompassing gender-and-development approach, which seeks to ensure that women are part of mainstream activities as equal stakeholders with men. It was this procedure and operational milieu that eventually informed the preparation and the adoption of the SDGE as the continental framework that will guide and promote gender related programmes and activities within the Member States of the African Union

The first approach involves activities that include specialist women's empowerment programmes such as women and education; women and health; women and poverty eradication; women in agriculture; women, trade and the economy; women in the peace process; women in politics and decision-making; the gender dimensions of ageing, and women within the NEPAD process, among others

The second approach involves activities directed at ensuring that the Commission takes gender into consideration in all its work, so that the needs of both women and men are taken into consideration across the whole spectrum of AU activities, so as to enable both men and women to benefit equally.

In other words, both the women-in-development and the gender-and-development approaches being adopted by the Gender Directorate are informed by and drew from the African and Beijing Platforms for Action.

In terms of policy and institutional orientation, the AUC' Gender Directorate has put in place five different measures namely:

i.   Conduct of a gender audit exercise which has been completed
ii.   Development of a gender policy which when completed will serve as the continental framework for women's empowerment in Africa
iii. Development of five year gender mainstreaming strategic plan which is meant to assist the AU organs, AUC and the RECs in mainstreaming gender effectively to their programmes and policies
iv.   Introduction and commencement of a Course on Gender Responsive Economic Policy Making in Africa.
v.   Regular execution of various partnership and advocacy programmes with UN and other international organisations.

The following are the achievements of the Gender Directorate:

- Coming into force of the Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa
- A draft gender policy framework in place
- Appointment of Gender Advisor in Sudan in partnership with UNIFEM
- Holding a Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women and Gender which has become a feature of the AU conferences
- The inauguration of the AUWC
- Participation in the development of a gender-responsive post conflict and reconstruction framework
- Development of a course on gender mainstreaming for economic policy makers.
- Coordination of the African voice in New York on the review of the Beijing Platform of Action

- On-going gender audits of AUC Departments

3.3 The Challenges

Inspite of these initiatives, the Directorate and the AU gender machinery needs to be better resourced to effectively deliver its mandate. The gap between the directorate and the MS ministries in charge of women and gender needs to be closed as a way of ensuring free flow of information. Furthermore, the Directorate need to engage in more sensitisation and training of the staff of AUC, RECs and NEPAD on the main policy thrust of the AU as it relates its gender policy and strategic plan. One of the major areas that the Directorate should of concentrate is on the need to embark of advocacy campaign that will ensure constitutional and legislative realisation of the letters and the spirit of the SDGEA within the member states of the AU

4.0 THE AFRICAN UNION WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

4.1 AUWC's Operations

The African Union Women's Committee was inaugurated on April 28-29, 2006 with a selection of the Executives, adoption of rules of procedure and work plan. The AUWC is meant to be an advisory committee to the Chairperson of the AU Commission on women and gender issues. Its functions shall include to;

- Examine emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality of women and men and make recommendations to the Chairperson.
- Study progress in the implementation of the Heads of State and Government Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and other gender equality policies of the African Union, and make recommendations to the Chairperson of the Commission on their content and implementation.

The Committee is made p of 25 women and is expected to meet once in a year at ordinary session although there is provision for an extra ordinary session at the instance of the members.

After its first meeting in April 2006, the AUWC adopted a work plan which they hope to report on during the next AU summit as follows:

- Advocate for the early ratification and domestication of the African Women's Rights Protocol by those Member States who are yet to do so
- Identify and advice on emerging issues on women and gender issues
- Work for the rehabilitation of child soldiers
- Send a delegation to the Head of State of Liberia to show solidarity and support for her.
- Send High Level Women's Mission to Sudan to support women's participation in the peace process implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement
- Support women parliamentary candidates in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Assess Pan African Women's Organization's situation and determine its role in the broad women's movement and in relation to the AU
- Work with UNIFEM and UNDP to bring attention to violations of women's rights in the DRC
- Draw attention to the conflict in Northern Uganda and its impact on women's rights
- Identify good practices on women's rights and gender issues and bring them to the attention of the Commission for dissemination
- Highlight African best efforts to address HIV/AIDS pandemic

4.1 Possible Operational Adjustments

The launching and the inauguration of the AUWC is a welcome development by the CSO movement in Africa, there is however a need to take consider the following observations and recommendations relating to its operations:

i. While these activities are laudable, it appears that they are many and do not speak directly to the issues identified and emphasised within the SDGE which is

meant to be the framework of engagement for the AUWC and the Gender Directorate.

ii. Further more the membership of the Committee should be reviewed to include men since the committee is meant to work on issues affecting the situation of women or equality of women and men in Africa.

iii. Also the frequency of meetings should review. In the alternate clusters and sub-committees should be structured to meet frequently and engage more in field visits and advocacy activities on behalf of AUWC

5.0. MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to all the recommendations made under specific items and issues considered in the report, the following major recommendations are being submitted for consideration by the AUC and the CSOs involved in the implementation of the SDGE

1. Adoption of SDGE as the National Framework for the promotion of gender equality and equity at country level. In this regard, National Parliaments should be encouraged through advocacy and other means to integrate the SDGE into legislative framework of Member States. This way it would become mandatory for MS to report on it as expected in the declaration

2. The SDGE reporting format should be standardized as a way of creating room for inter-country and inter-regional comparative analysis. Since the indicators are known, it would not be difficult to create a template and format in this regard

3. The AUWC and the networks working on the SDGE should adopt **Index on Status of Africa Women (ISAW)** produced by the Africa Leadership Forum as one of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework and Advocacy Tool for the Governance Cluster of the SDGE.

4. The AUWC should device a framework that will effectively plugged into existing women's organisations and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Africa so that the inputs of AUWC into the works and programmes of AUC and Gender Directorate will reflect the concerns of African people at all levels

5. As part of the Advocacy activities of the AUWC, an **Annual Visitation Team (AVT)** should be raised to engage the various actors in the Member States on gender issues especially the implementation of the SDGE.

6. NEPAD & APRM Gender Component Programme need the injection of some modicum of activism in terms of relevance to the SDGE and the works of the Gender Directorate. Currently there is a delink between the works of the Directorate and these two important programmes of the AU.

7. The efforts of MS of AU deemed progressive and successful in the implementation of the SDGE should be acknowledged and recognised at regional and Global forums on Gender and development.

CLUSTER 2: PEACE AND SECURITY

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In its second article, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) states:

Ensure the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace processes including the prevention, resolution, management of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa as stipulated in UN Resolution 1325 (2000).

Appoint women as Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the African Union.

Most of today's conflicts are characterised by systematic attacks to the civilian population. Women and children constitute the majority of this population — sometimes, they have an active role in conflicts, as voluntary or involuntary combatants. In spite of this, they have only a marginal if any role in peace processes. Article 2 focuses on women's role in armed conflict and their contribution to conflict resolution through a direct reference to the most important document addressing the issue, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in October 2000.

The Resolution, "expressing concern that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict […] and recognizing the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation", endeavours to address the needs of women in all stages of peace and conflict and places particular emphasis on including women in conflict prevention. It demands the UN to expand the role of women in UN field-based operations; to provide gender training and materials on the protection of women; and to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, their role in peace building and the gender dimension of peace processes and conflict resolution.

The Resolution demands Member States to increase the number of women involved in decision-making processes in conflict prevention, management and resolution,, and to include a gender perspective in negotiating and implementing peace agreements. In addition, it urges parties of armed conflict to respect international law on the rights and protection of women and girls; to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, to support local women's peace initiatives, and to involve women in all stages of peace processes.

States, however, have the main responsibility for its implementation, both through contributing to the UN's efforts and through national measures. A growing number of States are in fact adopting and putting in place National Action Plans, but no African country is doing that. Unfortunately, with the exception of the annual report that the Secretary-General presents each year, no reporting mechanism is foreseen for monitoring the implementation of the Resolution. This gap is partially filled by the linkage existing among the Resolution and other continental and international instruments: the Beijing Platform for Action of 1995; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women of 1979 and its Optional Protocol of 1999. In the African continent, the gap has been filled by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of

1981 and its Protocol on Rights of Women in Africa of 2003. Since 2004, the Solemn Declaration and its reporting mechanism also addresses the wide challenge of Resolution 1325. In October 2005, AU Member states adopted an Implementation Framework of the SDGEA within which Targets, Actions and Indicators are enumerated for guiding their efforts.

Besides recognizing the importance of the document and the need to be 'on alert' about it, Civil Society Organisations have developed their own guidelines for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Declaration, thus producing their own Targets, Actions and Indicators. The two evaluating systems, although different, are not in opposition but complementary elements, providing a more comprehensive overview of the situation.

Targets:
- A group of women mediators and Special Envoys and Representatives is established for an effective and equal participation in peace processes,
- Partnership is built between the AU Peace and Security Council and Civil Society,
- The Resolution 1325 (2000) of the UN Security Council is popularized among grassroots populations,
- Public awareness raising on humanitarian laws is increased.

Actions:
- Organize training for women peace builders and peacekeeping forces,
- 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,
- Share 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 heads of peace negotiators by 2007,
- Increased level of gender parity and participation reflected at the national and regional initiatives, dialogues and actions on peace,
- Inclusion of a Gender Unit in peacekeeping missions.

METHODOLOGY

ACCORD, FAS and SaferAfrica are the Focal Points responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Article 2 on Peace and Security of the SDGEA. Accordingly, FAS prepared the present report, submitting it to ACCORD and SaferAfrica for their contributions. The report is based on the interim report presented by FAS during the 8th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting held in Banjul, in June 2006 and attempts to improve it, not only analysing recent developments, but by capitalizing on the experience of the three focal points in the Peace and Security realm. Thus, it includes findings, recommendations and conclusions of the "10 Year Evaluation Study" FAS carried out for assessing its 10 years of activities in training, networking and advocacy for and with African women, in order to empower and enable them to incorporate their unique perspectives into politics and peace processes at all levels.

The study analyses countries such as Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Somalia, highlighting successes of the women's peace movement in those countries. Furthermore, it explores the dimensions of women's leadership within and beyond the women's peace movements, showing the viability and importance of women leaders in promoting peace and rebuilding societies after conflicts.

FAS also has strong field experience from its peace initiatives in the Mano River and Great Lakes regions, thus developing a long-term and rights-based approach to conflict resolution.

Moreover, an important contribution to the present work derives from FAS' membership to the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security based in New York, which monitors Resolution 1325. FAS is also chair of the NGO Working Group on Peace based in Geneva and works closely with the UN Human Rights Council. These two working groups are important observation points for monitoring and evaluating the

implementation of UN SCR 1325 (2000) and, more generally, women's participation in peace and security activities. The expertise of ACCORD and SaferAfrica have also greatly contributed to this report.

INTRODUCTION

Conflict is often viewed as a cycle, which begins with prevention and then moves through phases of escalation, management, de-escalation, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction. Each stage of the conflict requires different approaches at international, regional, national and local levels.

The **conflict prevention** stage relies on mechanisms of early warning and risk analysis, as well as on education and community building initiatives aimed at promoting a culture of peace, and non-violent devices of conflict resolution. Once conflict has erupted, concerns of **human security and the protection of civilians** must be central to any conflict management strategy. This includes responding to the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, who are overwhelmingly women and children. In the process of de-escalation, **conflict resolution and peace-building efforts** must take thorough confidence building measures, negotiations and peace talks as well as grassroots efforts to build peace. Traditionally, these processes have focused on warring parties, thus excluding the concerns and contributions of women. However, peace-building activities must include all stakeholders in order to bring lasting peace. It is also important to recognize that the conflict cycle does not stop with peace negotiations. Rather, **post-conflict reconstruction** efforts that incorporate disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), and promote reconciliation are critical to preventing resurgence of violence. Thus, conflict prevention is a crucial component of the reconstruction process. Post-conflict reconstruction must also include sustainable development projects that promote the economic empowerment of women and rebuild the war-torn society.

Bearing this in mind, the present report focuses on the following main areas:

- Latest developments threatening regional peace and security,
- The inclusion of Gender Units in Peacekeeping Operations,
- IDPs and refugees,
- The inclusion of women in peace processes,
- The role of women in post-conflict reconstruction, specifically their inclusion in Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) programmes and in the political landscape.

Recognizing the role of different actors in gender mainstreaming within the Peace and Security realm, the report attempts to analyse efforts put in place by the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), Governments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Regional Peace and Security are threatened by several crises sharing common elements, such as the lack of effective democracy, authoritarian tendencies, and widespread corruption in managing the *res publica*. We are currently witnessing an escalation of national crises into wider, regional ones as a consequence of states' interdependency, vulnerability and incapacity to cope with such emergencies. Four geographical areas require special attention, namely, Central Africa, the **Horn of Africa**, **Central Africa**, the **Great Lakes** region and **Western Africa**.

As for **Sudan**, even if a positive development can be recorded in the eastern region, with the signature of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, peace is far from being attained. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in 2005 between the Government and the SPLA/M is hampered by an internal Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SPLA/M) crisis and by the lack of real engagement by the Government. It is unfortunate tjat women and civil society members were largely excluded from the peace process — both during negotiation and implementation. In addition, the transitional government, sworn in according to a power-sharing agreement and composed of various commissions, includes few women.

In Darfur, the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), signed in May 2006 between the Government and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, ends a 2-year negotiations mediation effort carried out by the AU. Civil society organisations such as the Sudanese Women Association in Nairobi (SWAN) and Sudanese Women's Voice of Peace (SWVP) have been active in promoting a common agenda for women in Sudan and training them to be more effective in the peace process. Thanks to the work of many women's organisations, along with Community Development Association, and thanks to the support of UNIFEM, the 7th round of talks, held in

Abuja, has been more inclusive of women. These women — referred to as the Gender Expert Support Team — worked with official women delegates from all negotiating parties to develop a common position paper on gender equality.[1] Thus, women were identified not only as victims, but also as actors actively working and contributing towards finding a durable peace agreement. More recently, the UN SC Resolution 1706 (2006), adopted in August, recalls the UN SCR 1325 and calls upon the Government of National Unity to take urgent actions to tackle gender-based violence in Darfur, and to effectively implement the "Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women in Darfur" formally launched in November 2005 by the Government.

The respect of human rights has been at the centre of attention of various bodies. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in its recent 40th Ordinary Session, held in November 2006, adopted the "Resolution on the Situation in Darfur", expressing its concern for the human rights violations perpetrated against civilian populations, as well as for the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. On December 13, the newly established UN Human Rights Council, during its fourth Special Session dedicated to Darfur, adopted a decision establishing a high-level mission to be sent to the Darfur region. Composed of five highly qualified persons, the mission has been requested to report to the Council on its findings, at its fourth regular session.[2] On that occasion, FAS made a statement denouncing the massive gender-based violence in the region and calling for the inclusion of gender expertise in the field mission. In addition, a parallel informal meeting has been organized by Amnesty International, International Federation of Human Rights Leagues and Human Rights Watch, entitled "Voices from Darfur: Relaying the Victims Account" in which several CSOs express their frustration about the continuing violence and the inability of the international community to actively intervene in defence of the civilian population.

Finally, during the recent Security Council Arria Formula Meeting hosted by the United Kingdom in November 2006, Ms Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS, read a statement on behalf of the Sudanese Women Peacebuilders. The document contained recommendations prepared by members of Sudanese women civil society and addressed to the Security Council delegation that visited Sudan in June 2006. The recommendations focused on three critical issues, namely, the adoption by the Sudanese Government of the Voluntary Work Act hampering the very existence of women's civil society organisations; the humanitarian situation, and in particular the urgency to put in place measures to combat violence against women through the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators; and finally, the voluntary return process. At the very heart is their demand for women's active participation in the decision making bodies established by the CPA and the DPA, but also their active participation in the Darfur Dialogue and Consultation process.[3]

Threats of other war crises continue. In spite of two peace agreements signed between **Chad** and Sudan to stop support to each other's rebel groups, the situation at the border remains very serious. A state of emergency was declared in November in Chad, and UN humanitarian agencies were evacuated due to security reasons, while an estimated 25,000 Chadian fled their homes, to be added to the estimated 200,000 Darfur refugees hosted in Chad. In addition, a rebellion in the northwestern region of the **Central African Republic** (CAR) emerged at the beginning of the year. Due to the low level of security, humanitarian agencies cannot operate there, leaving some 50,000 IDPs surviving on their own in the bush. The Government, after several civil society demonstrations and international pressure, recognized the seriousness of the internal situation and is now developing plans to stabilise the region and end the humanitarian crisis.[4] In fact, since 2003, the situation in the country has been relatively stable and the government has made strides towards consolidating peace. However, significant gaps in addressing the needs of women in the process of reconciliation remain an impediment to sustainable peace. Following the coup in late 2002 and the ensuing conflict, rape and other forms of gender-based violence were committed against women of CAR, mainly by members of the Movement for the Liberation of Congo. According to a report conducted by Amnesty International, "by July 2004 no one had been indicted in connection with the rapes that occurred in late 2002 and early 2003."[5] In its January 2006 report on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the CAR outlined a commitment to the protection of women but did not indicate

[1] "Women's Priorities in the Peace Process and Reconstruction in Darfur", document available at: http://www.amis-sudan.org/gender2.html
[2] http://www.ohchr.org/english/press/hrc/index.htm
[3] "Recommendations from Sudanese Women's Civil Society Organizations to the Security Council Delegation, 5-9 June 2006", document available at: www.womenpeacesecurity.org
[4] "Silent crisis in northwest lingers", IRIN, 7 June 2006
[5] Amnesty International: http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAFR190012004

concrete measures for implementation of this commitment, nor did it indicate its intention to sign or ratify the Protocol.[6]

With the exception of Djibouti, every country in the **Horn of Africa** has experienced armed conflict at some level in the past decade. Despite the regional dimensions of many of these conflicts, there has been limited activity to properly address the situation, as recently shown by Somali conflict where Ethiopia and Eritrea are backing opposing sides, thus continuing abroad their long-standing dispute. Women have a limited role in the public sphere due to traditional practices and cultural barriers, and efforts of women's organizations to increase their capacity to lobby for the participation in the peace process have failed: consequently, they have not participated in the formal peace process. To increase the capacity of women to lobby for the participation in the peace process in these countries, SC Resolution 1325 has been translated into Amharic. Women's Organizations have also been working to protect the interests of women in both countries. The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) is working to defend women's human rights and improve civil society throughout Ethiopia, and the National Union of Eritrean Women has been working for over two decades to improve the status of women in Eritrea.

Women in **Somalia** have made important contributions to the peace process in the country despite continued threats to their safety and security. Somali women illustrated themselves through innovative mechanisms such as by the creation of a 6th clan to allow their participation in the peace talks in Djibouti, even though they were again marginalized in the 2002 peace conference in Kenya. Still, women's civil society organizations under the leadership of Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC), did not back down and in 2004, Asha Hagi Elmi signed the Nairobi Peace Accord on behalf of civil society.[7] Despite this accord, the peace process in Somalia has failed to produce peace and security in the country. Women's groups, along with other civil society and business groups, have played a prominent role in initiating and supporting pre-disarmament encampments in Mogadishu. They have also been successful in convincing militia leaders in both Mogadishu and Kismayo to dismantle a large number of checkpoints and improve the security environment in those cities to some degree.[8] Furthermore, on February 23, 2006, the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Somali transitional Federal Government signed all remaining 17 treaties of the African Union that Somalia had not signed since the country has been in Civil War; in this regard Somalia became one of only four countries that have signed all the AU treaties.[9]

The Great Lakes region has been devastated by armed conflicts and humanitarian crises, the highest example represented by the genocide in Rwanda. To respond to them, in 2000 the UN Security Council called for a conference on peace, security, democracy, and development in the region with the aim of pushing African countries to find their own lasting solutions. From then on, a process started, involving all the leaders of the region and culminating with the adoption of the "Dar es Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy, and Development in the Great Lakes region", signed in 2004 during the First International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) Summit. The Declaration expresses the vision of the leaders to "transform the Great Lakes Region into a space of sustainable peace and security for states and peoples, political and social stability, shared growth, and development and cooperation". It is worthwhile stating that all stakeholders have been involved in the process — women, youth, and representatives from civil society and the private sector were invited to participate in the draft of the Programmes of Action and legal Protocols. Together with the Dar es Salam Declaration, they constitute now the "Pact of Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region", endorsed by the Heads of State and Government during their second Summit in Nairobi 14th and 15th December 2006.[10]

In **Uganda**, the points at the centre of the recent Juba Peace Talks are essentially five: cessation of hostilities; inclusion of LRA in national political and social life,; the resettlement of the large population of internally displaced; a formal ceasefire; and the definition of a DDR programme for LRA ex-combatants. In August, a cessation of hostilities was signed. It was renewed in early November but was interrupted in late November.[11] ISIS-WICCE, a Ugandan organisation, has recently delivered a message to the Juba Peace

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[6] www.achpr.org/english/state_reports/ car_state%20reports_ENG.pdf

[7] FAS Case Study, June 2006

[8] WomenWarPeace: http://www.womenwarpeace.org/somalia/somalia.htm

[9] Pambazuka : http://www.pambazuka.org/fr/petition/about.php

[10] http://www.icglr.org/F_END/events.asp

[11] http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=55747&SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=UGANDA

Talks mediator, Dr Riek Machar, on behalf of the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) which is supported by UNIFEM. The message stresses the efforts of Ugandan women in the peace process, but also raises the issue of women's representation at the peace table in order to ensure that the final agreement will include specific women's concerns. In fact, although Ugandan women Members of Parliament are acting as observers, women from conflict areas have had a marginal role so far.[12] But ISIS-WICCE has also been active in training women in Uganda on the use and implementation of SC Resolution 1325 to allow women to take a more active role in peacebuilding.

Another relevant attempt to solve the Northern crisis was carried out by Betty Bigombe, former government minister. Acting as chief mediator between the LRA and the Government, she received recognition from the government and the international community for her role as a mediator. Government actions to protect women and children in the north remain limited. During a recent trip to Uganda, the special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy indicated that "there was a particular situation with vulnerable girls in northern Uganda relating to sexual exploitation and violence."[13] Several international agencies and NGOs are on the ground in Uganda working to provide humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable populations in the camps. The Ugandan Government, however, recently passed a restrictive bill, raising concerns about tightening space for civil society engagement.

In **Burundi**, despite not having been invited to the Arusha peace talks (2001), women effectively lobbied and were recognized as permanent observers in the negotiations. As a result, 80% of their recommendations were incorporated in the Accords.[14] Still, only three out of twenty-nine members of the Arusha Agreement Implementation Monitoring Committee are women.[15] This small number of women overseeing the implementation of the peace agreement illustrates the government's failure to implement the commitment to gender parity in national peace actions enshrined in the SDGEA and severely limits the role women can play in the peace process in the country. Civil Society and International organisations continue to be active in Burundi and are working to both protect and empower women in the process of post-conflict reconstruction. The United Nations mission in Burundi (MINUB) has a gender advisor and UNIFEM and OCHA are active in addressing gender-based violence in Burundi; the Collectif des associations et ONGs féminines du Burundi (CAFOB) works to unite women of Burundi under a common agenda. In addition, the UN Peacebuilding Commission has recently established a country-specific group aiming at bringing together major institutional actors (AU, UE, UN specialized agencies), civil society and bilateral donors.[16] Unfortunately, a deterioration of human rights and political pluralism has been recorded during the last months, including arrests and summary executions of opposition politicians and suspected members of the rebel group FNL.

In the **DRC**, although women were not initially invited to the Sun City talks in 2002, Women Partners for Peace in Africa (WOPPA), in partnership with FAS and UNIFEM, brought together a coalition of women in Nairobi prior to the talks, to train them in negotiation and help them develop a common agenda. The Nairobi conference resulted in the formation of the Congolese Women's Caucus, which effectively lobbied for the inclusion of women at the peace table. Their lobbying efforts resulted in the inclusion of 25 women in the talks, not as delegates, but as experts.[17] Among the women's achievements at the Sun City negotiations was the establishment of a Ministry of Family and Women's Affairs. Women's lobbying also contributed to the adoption of the principle of gender parity in article 14 of the Constitution of the transitional government. During the recent elections women made up only four of 33 presidential candidates; and of 9,060 parliamentary candidates, less that 15% are women. Despite these defaults in gender parity, third parties are working to ensure the participation of women in the electoral process. Eleven of the 21 members of the plenary assembly of the Independent Electoral Commission in the DRC are women.[18] Additionally, continued support from FAS and UNIFEM in the DRC has helped Congolese women to further identify priority needs and create a national platform called the Cadre Permanent de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises, that represents women's branches from eleven provinces and elects their own national bureau and provincial

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[12] "Isis-WICCE delivers a message to the Juba Peace Talks Mediator, Dr. Riek Machar", document available at: http://www.isis.or.ug/news.php?p=1&id=82

[13] http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=53895&SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=UGANDA

[14] FAS Case Study, June 2006

[15] WomenWarPeace.org

[16] ICG Report, "Burundi: Democracy and Peace at Risk", Africa Report n°120, 30 November 2006

[17] FAS Case Study, June 2006

[18] www.sadcpf.org/documents/ Pre-Election%20Mission%20Statement.doc

branches. The UNDP Programme in the DRC has also developed a gender programme and is working with UNIFEM to ensure that women's needs and contributions are incorporated into development projects in the country.

Finally, the country that has suffered the tragedy of the genocide, **Rwanda**, has now become a positive regional and continental example of women's active contribution in post-conflict reconstruction. Women have played a critical role in the aftermath of the genocide of 1994. When the genocide ended in 1994, women made up over 70% of the society of Rwanda. The government of Rwanda has adopted a gender policy and has signed and ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. There is a ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in the government, as well as a woman chief justice of the Supreme Court, several women cabinet members, a woman head of the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission and a woman deputy police chief. Furthermore, women make up 48% of the national legislature, the highest percentage in the world.[19] Women's civil society groups and non-governmental organizations in Rwanda, such as Pro-Femmes and Federation of African Women Peace Networks (FERFAP), remain active in promoting the domestication of these instruments, training women in peace building and ensuring the continued participation of women in the processes of reconstruction and reconciliation.

Liberia is slowly beginning the process of reconstruction, after the Accra Peace Agreement, which Theresa Leigh-Sherman signed, representing civil society. Women have played a critical role in this process. At the national level, a Ministry of Gender was created in 2003 and Ruth Perry served as President of the interim government in Liberia. In November 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf became the first women to be elected head of state in Africa, and women now hold key ministerial positions in the government. International organizations and NGOs have been active in promoting the effective participation of women in the post-conflict reconstruction process. The United Nations Mission in Liberia established a Gender Unit in 2003 that is very active. It provided technical expertise on how to integrate gender perspectives. Input to the Electoral Law was provided to ensure that special measures that will allow women's full and equal participation in the upcoming elections are integrated. Successful advocacy by the OGA, the Ministry of Gender and Development, and women's organizations has resulted in an electoral regulation calling for 30% representation of women in the selection of candidates. To ensure the implementation of the provision, the OGA has been involved in various meetings with relevant partners and stakeholders to work out strategies to enhance women's political leadership.

The MARWOPNET of Liberia has been internationally recognized for its contributions to peace building in the country. Founded in 2000 by women from Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, it put forth an initiative to mediate the conflict and disagreement between Guinea and Liberia and dispatched a delegation to appeal to the feuding heads of states in the region believing that there would be no peace in Liberia without peace in the region. Other women's organizations, including the Liberia Women's Initiative and the Women in Peace Building Network (WIPNET) have also played key roles. Prior to the November 2005 elections, these groups were active in mobilizing women in the electorate and publicizing the list of women candidates, which was critical in advancing the role of women in the political sphere in the country. These and other local women's groups in Liberia, such as the National Women's Commission of Liberia (NAWOCAL), the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) and the Liberian Female Law Enforcers Association (LIFLEA) continue their work in "peace advocacy, micro-credit, skills training, trauma healing, advocacy on sexual and gender-based violence, legal advice and representation, leadership programmes, and research and activities relating to the reintegration of female ex-combatants".[20]

Like Liberia, **Sierra Leone** has only recently begun the process of reconstruction after nearly a decade of civil war. Although only two women were included in the peace talks in Lomé in 1999, women in Sierra Leone are making progress and beginning to gain more representation in government at the local and national levels and are involved in post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Currently, just over 14% of the seats in the national parliament are held by women.[21] In preparation for 2007 elections, Christina Thorpe was sworn in as the country's first female elections commissioner in May 2005.[22]

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[19] InterParliamentary Union, figures as of May 2006
[20] http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Liberia/Jan06/AWID_Sirleaf.html
[21] InterParliamentary Union, figures as of May 2006: http://www ipu.org
[22] http://www.themercury.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=284&fArticleId=2524367

Despite these gains, the effects of the war on women of Sierra Leone have not been adequately addressed in post-conflict reconstruction efforts. According to the latest report of the Secretary General to the Security Council (April 2006), Sierra Leone has been making steady progress towards maintaining international standards on human rights. More specifically, there has been a consistent trend towards respect for women's rights. There has also been increased awareness among women themselves about their rights; and according to the report, women are now claiming their rights more than ever. However, the existence of poverty, illiteracy, discriminatory laws and other forms of gender based discrimination and practices still need to be addressed in order to further improve the prevailing condition of women. In particular, the economic empowerment of rural women is a key challenge towards improving women's situation country-wide. The Government of Sierra Leone is taking steps towards addressing some of these challenges: an example is the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, where Ms Yasmin Jusu-Sheriff, member of FAS' board, serves as one of the five Commissioners.[23] In addition, with the assistance of UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, Women's and Children's Affairs "launched the Inter Ministerial Committee to boost the implementation of the anti-human trafficking legislation."[24] Civil society organizations, including MARWOPNET and Search for Common Ground have also been active in promoting the participation of women in the post-conflict reconstruction process, even using the power of the media.

In **Ivory Coast**, the conflict has severely threatened the security of women and children around the country. Despite this, the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire has not adequately included women: only one woman participated in the peace negotiations leading up to the Linas-Marcoussis agreement in 2003.[25] Since then, mediation by the AU has moved the peace process forward, but has not resulted in the formal inclusion of women in the process. Several women's groups are active, however, in promoting the participation of women in the democratic process. Nonetheless, the absence of mechanisms to unite them around a common agenda in order to overcome ethnic and regional lines is deplorable.

With tension still high, the UN SCR 1721, adopted on 1st November, backs AU's Peace and Security Council and ECOWAS suggestions to prolong the transitional period for 12 months, and to reinforce the Prime Minister's powers vis-à-vis those of the President. Appointed in December 2005 by African mediators, the Prime Minister is expected to speed up the peace process, in particular through the implementation of disarmament and dismantling militias programme, voter identification and the electoral process.[26]

In **Nigeria**, in the Niger Delta region U where dozens of oil workers have been kidnapped and pipelines have been attacked by the militant group MEND U the fragile security will adjoin the electoral violence ahead of the Presidential election scheduled for April 2007.

Nevertheless, there are some positive developments to be pointed out.

In **Angola**, a peace agreement was signed in August between the government and sectors of the Cabindan separatist movement, thus ending a long-standing conflict[27]. Moreover, in sight of 2007 general elections, the voter registration procedure has begun.

PEACEKEEPING MISSION OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

The UN, the AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) U such Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) U are the principal actors operating to create sustainable peace and security in the region. Through peacekeeping operations, the AU and the UN – through the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) – are often the very first to deal with political and social stabilisation, not simply by force but also through a real political process based on strengthening the rule of law, supporting an electoral process, economic and social development and confidence-building measures. Thus, they are the first to operate in protecting and enabling women to play a more active role. Since 2000, this task has become mandatory under the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, thus Gender Units are an integral part of peacekeeping operation's structures. Currently, there are seven peacekeeping missions around the continent, five of them having a Gender Unit responsible for integrating a gender perspective in all policies,

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[23] http://standardtimespress.net/cgi-bin/artman/publish/article_285.shtml

[24] http://www.peacewomen.org/news/SierraLeone/news.html

[25] US Institute of Peace: http://www.usip.org/library/pa/cote_divoire/cote_divoire_01242003en.html

[26] "AU hands down new peace blueprint", IRIN, 18 October 2006

[27] "Cabinda separatists ink ceasefire with Angola", Independent Online, 16 July 2006

processes and activities. Where there is not a full-time Gender Advisor, Focal Points have been given additional gender-related responsibilities, which is the case of UNMEE and MINURSO.

In October, the UN Security Council Resolution 1719 (2006), stated the end of the current peacekeeping mission (**ONUB**) and established the UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB). [28] The BINUB will operate particularly in the development sector, coordinating the work of all UN Agencies, but following an explicit mention of the UN SCR 1325, the political affairs section will include a full-time Gender Unit.[29] Nevertheless, the ONUB Gender Unit has been active particularly providing training for military and civilian staff on gender issues. In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Women's Welfare, several training sessions have been organised for potential women candidates, in order to improve their political and leadership skills.[30]

The UN Mission in Ivory Coast (**UNOCI**) Gender Unity, established in 2004, works on increasing women's participation in decision-making processes, particularly for including gender concerns in DDR programmes and in the preparation of the next elections. It has given its technical and financial support for the creation of a women's platform, bringing together and organising women's organisations for their effective and equitable participation in the electoral process.[31]

The UN Organization in DRC (**MONUC**) Gender Office works within and outside of the Mission U regular training sessions are given to mission personnel; and networks with civil society organisations are created.[32]

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (**UNMIL**) Office of Gender Advisor (OGA) is engaged in different areas such as gender mainstreaming in the DDR and electoral processes, the rule of law, sexual and gender-based violence. Concerning the DDR issue, its advocacy efforts have succeeded in the adoption of the term Women Associated with the Fighting Forces (WAFFs), a broader definition encompassing and recognising all roles women played during armed conflict, not only their role as combatants. In collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Development and women's organisations, it resulted in the adoption of an electoral regulation requiring 30% of women's representation in the selection of candidates.[33]

Originally established for supporting the implementation of the CPA, the UN Mission in Sudan (**UNMIS**) also supports the implementation of the DPA. Its Gender Office Unit, currently composed of six full-time officers, will open nine offices around the country, Darfur included. Amongst its tasks, there is the development of a gender action plan addressing the high rate of sexual and gender-based violence.[34] In addition, the AU Mission in Sudan (**AMIS**) Gender component has identified six elements to be prioritized in its work: women's participation in the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on the Conflict on Darfur; the inclusion of women's concerns and suggestions in the DPA; increase women's participation in the Darfur-Drafur Dialogue and Consultation; implementation of gender-related provisions of the DPA; coordination and harmonization of all gender-related activities; and technical support for AMIS operations in Darfur.[35]

On 1 January 2006, the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (**UNIOSIL**) replaced the former UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). Different from the former UNAMSIL, it is a peace building mission aiming to consolidate peace efforts and the preparation of elections. It is, however, directed and supported by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

IDPS AND REFUGEES
Civilian population is the first victim of armed conflict. Their attempt to escape the burden of such outbreak is at the origin of large masses of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the difference between them being if they cross or not state borders. Among the 23.7 million Internally Displaced Persons around the world, 12.1 million are in Africa, with West Africa as the most affected region in the continent.[36] Internal

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[28] ICG Report N° 120, Burundi: Democracy and Peace at Risk, 30 November 2006
[29] UN SCR 1719 (2006)
[30] http://www.unburundi.org/activities/gender_1.html
[31] http://www.onuci.org/genre.html
[32] http://www.monuc.org/news.aspx?newsID=728
[33] http://www.unmil.org/content.asp?ccat=gender
[34] http://www.unmis.org/english/gender.htm
[35] http://www.amis-sudan.org/gender2.html
[36] International Displacement Monitoring Centre: http://www.internal-displacement.org/

displacement is a complex phenomenon that can affect neighbouring countries, if not adequately treated U that is, it can be at once cause and consequence of internal and regional instability.

Several actors are involved: national governments, regional and international organisations, as well as civil society. Their work has to meet the non-binding Guiding Principles on Internal displacement, elaborated by the Commission on Human Rights in 1998. Several African countries have adopted them at the national level, at times incorporating them into domestic legislation as Angola did in 2001, one year before the end of the conflict, with the adoption of the Norms for the Resettlement of Displaced Populations.

In 2004, Nigeria established a National Presidential Committee on IDPs grouping together representatives of different institutions and several national agencies. Its main tasks are the coordination of actors and the elaboration of national policy. The recent draft of the National Policy shows the comprehensive approach used. Other countries, such as Liberia, Burundi and Uganda specifically mention them in national laws and policies.

If the engagement of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is well known and consolidated in the refugees' field, it is only recently that it has extended its mandate in order to include the protection of IDPs, since then partly carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross (as guardian of the Geneva Conventions). In fact, in 2005 after a wide debate focusing on the international community's failure to appropriately address needs and expectations of this large part of the civilian population, a comprehensive agreement was reached. It gives the UNHCR the lead responsibility to protect them.[37]

The engagement of civil society organisations is broad, often filling the gap created by states' weaknesses. NGOs played a vital role in Ivory Coast, where the ID population escaped to remote areas, difficult to reach and and where their identification was difficult because they were hosted by local communities.. Civil society organisations carried out various activities, such as providing shelter or starting identification procedures, and thus developing capacities and skills that should not be underestimated. Moreover, the example of the West African Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Network (WARIPNET) shows us how they are able to share their achievements and skills through their traditional networks, thus enlarging the number of actors able to cope with the issue.

Displaced women face two basic challenges: gender-based violence and equal access to services and participation in assistance programmes. Gender-based violence is the result of the breakdown of social order and its consequences on familial structures and relations, on traditional means of subsistence and on traditional sexual standards and practices. Violence is usually perpetrated inside the camps, even though women in Uganda and in Sudan were recently raped outside, while they were collecting firewood and grass. [38] Perpetrators are armed forces (including several cases with peacekeepers involved), criminals and private citizens.[39] Although there is a general attitude of impunity, some countries have adopted law and procedures to investigate and punish this crime U it is the case in Liberia and in Sudan, where the government in 2005 established a state committee on combating gender-based violence in southern Darfur. Here, rape and sexual violence have specifically been used to terrorize and displace rural communities. Amnesty International reports that rape is being used as a weapon of terror and "ethnic cleansing" U some women have been raped in front of their relatives, and other women have been forced into sexual slavery. Even after fleeing Darfur, women and girls in the refugee camps are still being raped and assaulted by civilians or militia members when collecting water, fuel or animal fodder. These high levels of rape have led to severe health consequences, including a risk of increased transmission of HIV/AIDS, physical injuries, and severe emotional trauma. Women's access to medical treatment is curtailed by cultural norms that stigmatize women who have been raped, discouraging them from seeking medical care. However, even if women do seek medical attention, clinics often lack the resources to provide necessary services, such as rape kits and emergency contraception. Sudanese law (Article 48) prevents doctors from treating rape victims with the 'morning after' pill without a referral from the police department. Doctors and health personnel can be arrested for violating this law; some have even been threatened in order to prevent them from providing these services.[40]

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[37] http://www.unhcr.org/protect/3b84c7e23.html

[38] http://www.womenwarpeace.org/sudan/sudan.htm

[39] http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004D404D/(httpPages)/953DF04611AD1A88802570A10046397B?OpenDocument

[40] http://www.now.org/issues/global/080105darfur.html

Nevertheless, rapes committed in the DRC, Sudan and Uganda are part of the cases investigated by the ICC as war crimes.[41]Regarding the access to reproductive health services, the main obstacles are the lack of healthcare infrastructures and insecurity, as well as prohibitive fees. Consequently, women often use traditional health caretakers.

Although the phenomenon is widespread through the entire continent, sometimes U due to natural disasters such as floods U special attention must be paid to specific countries.

In the **Horn of Africa**, the Eritrean government has started a programme for the resettlement of IDPs originating from the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ), one of the most fertile areas of the country. Unfortunately, there is no information about living conditions there, particularly about the presence of landmines. However, the still pending dispute with Ethiopia leaves about 40,000 persons unable to return home, as the issue is strictly linked to the political solution of the border dispute. Eritrea has recently decided to expel international NGOs and to block the UNMEE monitoring operations. In Ethiopia, only those officially recognized can be included in the government food-for-work programme.[42] There, a specific legislation approved in 2004, with the support of UNHCR, tries to cope with the high number of refugees originating from different neighbouring countries. As a consequence of floods and political circumstances, Somalia contributes to increasing the regional number of IDPs.

Sudan has an estimated 5 million IDP population, 1.8 million of them coming from Darfur. The signing of the CPA has allowed some of the IDP population to return home, however, the overwhelming majority of the 1.2 million IDPs who have returned since then, have not received international support. A big obstacle for a large-scale return foreseen by the UN and other international organizations is the lack of infrastructures and security conditions, particularly relating to the presence of landmines. In IDP camps in Darfur and Chad, sexual violence is an almost rampant problem. The need for investigation of reported cases of sexual abuse and rape and for strong actions to be taken against the perpetrators is urgent.[43]

In the **DRC** After the establishment of a power-sharing transitional government, most of the 3.4 million IDPs were reported to have returned home. However, the UN estimated that at least 1.48 million people remained displaced as of August 2006.

Uganda has an IDP population of about 1.7 million, mostly concentrated in the northern regions. In July 2005, a Ministry of Health survey revealed a high mortality rate in IDPs camps, but the government disputed these results. Recently, an emergency action plan has been prepared for the return of IDPs to their villages. The plan intends to move the displaced from large camps to smaller ones that are closer to their villages. [44]

In **Ivory Coast** the situation of some 750,000 IDPs is critical, especially in the northern and western regions, where access to basic social services is limited. Despite the government's commitment U through the assignment of focal points in the Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims, and the drafting of an IDP Action Plan U only a really functioning peace process can solve the issue once and for all.

In **Liberia**, although the IDPs return programme was officially closed in April 2006, some 28,000 IDPs remain in former camps. Those who have returned sometimes face the lack of basic social services or livelihood opportunities. There are serious concerns regarding sexual and gender-based violence, as well as violence stemming from disputes over land and property ownership U as Liberian law doesn't recognize the right to inherit land for those women who have been married in a traditional ceremony.

In Zimbabwe, the so-called Operation Restore Order, initiated in May 2005, has resulted in large-scale internal displacement, touching sme 570,000 persons. They are currently living in transit camps where they receive limited assistance. In December 2005, the AU Commission on Human and People's Rights

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[41] Ibidem

[42] http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/(httpCountries)/2CC10DD018E56104802570A7004B304F?OpenDocument&expand=2.1&link=18.2.1&count=10000#18.2.1

[43] Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in Darfur, presented at the 63rd Meeting of the the African Union Peace and Security Council held in New York, on September, 18 2006

[44] http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=55348&SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=UGANDA

condemned the operation and expressed concern over the continuing violations and the deterioration of the human rights situation. President Mugabe was urged to allow an African Union delegation for a fact-find mission.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES

Peace processes can be seen as starting points for rebuilding the social fabric of society. As every building exercise, the first stage is the most important, as it sets the basis upon which everything will depend, mainly future stability of the social construction. A social fabric cannot be stable if it refuses to include half of its constituency; i.e., women. It is not a matter of numerical inclusion , but rather of women's effective and active participation in each and every stage of the process, from peace talks to their implementation. Several past examples of male-dominated peace processes, that were blind to women's needs and expectations, resulted in failure societies where women's exclusion is the symptom of a general closure towards civil society. Unfortunately, lessons from the past have not been learned. Moreover, the inclusion of women in peace processes is not a question of numbers. They bring an added-value to the process. Women represent diverse societies that are able to agree around a common agenda, based on their experiences during conflict, and they can draft a strategy for the future.

In **Burundi**, despite women playing an important role during the Arusha Accords in 2000 and the incorporation of their recommendations in the Final Accord, their participation in the Arusha Agreement Implementation Monitoring Committee is only three out of 29. During the recent ceasefire agreement with the FNL rebel group, the eight-member delegation includes only one woman. A positive trend is noted as the Constitution calls for 30% of Parliamentary seats for women and in 2003 the National Policy on Gender was adopted. Of the 1000 women around the world nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, ten were from Burundi.

In **Ivory Coast**, only one woman participated in the Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement in 2003, The situation has not improved. Although the Constitution is not discriminatory in law, the security situation and the traditional patriarchal power's structure render their participation and mobilization more difficult. Nevertheless, the recent Security Council Resolution 1721 "encourages the Prime Minister to seek, as appropriate, the active involvement of civil society in moving the peace process forward". It also urges all relevant actors "to take into account the rights and resources of women and of gender considerations as set out in resolution 1325 (2000) as cross-cutting issues in the implementation of the peace process including through the consultation with local and international women's groups".[45]

In the **DRC**, the Sun City talks testify a positive example of women's mobilization. After a training session held in Nairobi on negotiation procedures and the subsequent formation of the Congolese Women's Caucus, they succeeded in including women at the negotiation table not as delegates, but as experts[46]. The major achievement was the adoption of the principle of gender parity in the Constitution of the transitional government (Art. 14), but there is still much to be done. During the recent elections, women made up only four of 33 presidential candidates; and of 9,060 parliamentary candidates, less than 15% are women.

Somali women have played an active role in the peace negotiation process ending with the signing of the 2004 peace accords and the formation of a Transitional Federal Government (TFG), based in Baidoa in 2004. As Somali society is divided along tribal line, they created a 6th Clan, the so-called Somali Women's Clan, to allow their participation in the process. In the 2004 peace conference held in Nairobi, Asha Almi, President of Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC) and current member of the Parliament of TFG, signed the Nairobi Peace Accord on behalf of the civil society.

In **Sudan**, not only have women and civil society been largely excluded in the peace negotiations that ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005; but their participation in its implementation is very low. Several commissions were established, amongst them the Constitutional Review Commission. After pressure from donors, a small number of women were admitted to this Commission.

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[45] UN SCR 1721 (2006)

[46] Women Parterns for Peace in Africa (WOPPA), in partnership with FAS and UNIFEM, brought together a coalition of women in Nairobi prior to the talk to train them. The continued support of FAS and UNIFEM, has brought to the creation of a national platform called Cadre de COncertation des Femmes Congolaises, representing women branches from 11 provinces.

Furthermore, only five out of 74 ministerial posts have been assigned to women.[47] Women have been excluded in the Darfur peace process as well. Because of the intervention of the AU and the international community, the way for women's inclusion has now been paved. Fifteen women were selected by their peers to attend the Abuja negotiations to press for the advancement of gender issues. Unfortunately, there are no guarantees for their implementation, nor quotas established for women's participation. [48] A humanitarian organisation, Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace (SWVP), established in 1994 by exiled Sudanese women living in Nairobi, is turning its attention to the situation in southern Sudan, and in particular, the exclusion of women from current processes and their protection with a focus on gender sensitivity in armed conflict. Aimed at promoting human and women's rights, peace and justice for women and children through peace building and advocacy in Sudan, SWVP is now responding to current challenges by fostering dialogue, mapping and sharing information, conducting consultations among military forces, and enhancing their capacity to take needed action.

WOMEN'S ROLE IN POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION

The signing of peace agreements sets in motion a long-term process aimed to establish and consolidate political and social order. Among the main challenges women face, there is the implementation of the agenda they have developed U the question is often strictly linked with the unity of the women's movement. Once the urgency of the war passes, they often begin to divide along party or ethnic lines, thus losing their strategic strength. This has, for example, been witnessed in Burundi. Among several actions that must be taken, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Repatriation programmes, and political participation should be analyzed through a 'gender lens'.

DDR Programmes
Conceived to build social cohesion, to sustain peace and reconciliation, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Repatriation (DDR) programmes more often deal only with the military and political dimensions. However, within a gender-based perspective, the interest in DDR programmes is two-fold: former combatants remain armed; violent crimes including rape and other forms of sexual abuse continue, even after the the signing of peace accords; and yet, on the other hand, women and girls may experience military life either as active combatants or as military cooks or sexual slaves. Therefore, a new notion of combatants should be elaborated, rejecting the common formula "one man, one weapon", setting aside the image of women as an exclusively vulnerable group, and including them in the DDR programmes.

Women in **Rwanda** played a significant role during the conflict. They could be counted as a small portion of the combatants, and also they carried out tasks including mobilizing funds for military, encouraging men to fight, and working within the military administration. After the conflict, an institutionalized process was set up to downsize troops U the Rwandan Demobilization and Reintegration Process (RDRP). The RDRP was implemented under the auspices of the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC). Interviews of women ex-combatants show them as disciplined and peaceful women. They are often called upon to resolve disputes. Currently, approximately 35 % of the Gacaca judges countrywide are women.[49] The Ndabaga Association is an NGO created for female ex-combatants, which represents 443 members from all different fighting forces. Having joined fighting forces at a very young age, many of them have not been educated and are now among the poorest in their countries. The situation of women in Rwanda is exceptional, not only because it is the result of exceptional violence, but also as a testimony to the value that women bring to politics.

In **Liberia**, OGA's advocacy resulted in the adoption of the term Women Associated with the Fighting Forces (WAFFs) rather than camp followers. WAFFs is a broader definition of women ex-combatants to include not only active fighters but also women who supported the fighters in any other role such as cooks, sex slaves, etc. Consequently, several assessment missions and sensitisation campaigns produced the disarmament and demobilization of 21,086 women.[50]

These, however, are exceptional cases standing beside a long list of failures.

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[47] UNIFEM: http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=316

[48] http://www.womenwarpeace.org/sudan/docs/sgreptosc30jan06.pdf

[49] http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Rwanda/Apr06/Women_Peacemakers.html

[50] http://www.unmil.org/content.asp?ccat=gender

In **Sierra Leone**, the Lomé Peace Accords does not refer to female combatants, who account for 12% of the total forces, according to calculations of the National Commission for DDR (NCDRR). Accordingly, DDR programmes did not adequately address the needs of women and girls. Small Girls Units (SGU) were usually used for scouting and pillaging villages. They were also dispatched (as Small Boys Units) to commit the worst atrocities. On the contrary, women and girls were "over-classified" as followers, slaves, domestics, etc.

The disarmament and reintegration of combatants is also a serious concern in **Burundi**. In April 2005, the UN Mission in Burundi reported that 7,282 former combatants had been disarmed so far and reintegrated into society, 6,315 of whom were men, 328 women and 639 children.[51] These numbers and the continued threats to the security of women in Burundi indicate that it remains a significant gap in the empowerment of women in peacebuilding and reconstruction activities in Burundi.

Disarmament programmes have not effectively addressed the needs of women and girls in **DRC** as well. A study conducted by the Save the Children in 2005, shows that girls make up to 40 % of all children associated with armed groups. Yet, less than 2 percent of children who come to reintegration programmes and interim care centres in the DRC are girls, leaving about 12,500 girls in armed groups.[52]

Women's political participation
The legacy of the genocide has had a strong impact on **Rwandan** women. They have now a central role not only because they are 54% of the adult population, but also because they are recognised as leading force in the reconstruction process. Several innovative mechanisms have been created in order to enable their participation in leadership structures: the 2003 Constitution, for example, requires 30% quotas for women's representation in political decision making posts and set aside 30% of seats in the Lower House for women emerging from a women-only voting system. Therefore, its National Assembly has the highest percentage of women in the world. [53] Nevertheless, the most important result they achieved is the overcome of the ethnic lines that were at the heart of the genocide: the Forum of Parliamentarian Women is the first cross-party in Parliament. After the genocide, women's NGOs tried to fill the vacuum, providing the population with a range of services to the population under a multi-ethnic umbrella organisation Pro-Femme/Twese Hamwe, established in 1992. Now, it coordinates more than 40 women's NGOs. They have organized consultations with the local population, their grassroots members, advised the government on issues of women in democracy, and promoted reconciliation through the Action Campaign for Peace initiative that requires all member NGOs to have a peace platform and programmes to promote peace and reconciliation. They set up a process for civil society's participation in the ratification of the new constitution, through a consultation process at with its NGOs members and women at the grassroots level.

In **Ivory Coast** there is an increasing structured mobilisation for peace and women's participation. The Coalition des Femmes leaders, the Plate Forme des Femmes pour gagner, the Organisation des femmes Citoyennes, the Association des femmes jurists, the Femmes d'Ebournie pour la paix, have been very active in mobilizing and sensitizing public opinion about peace and electoral processes. In the past, a women delegation, collected in the Plate Forme de la Société Civile, went to Accra in 2005 to advocate for women political participation and in particular for giving them at least 30% of seats. Nevertheless, women are facing 2 challenges: first, their mobilization is limited to Abidjan area; secondly, it is necessary to create a women national caucus requiring a common advocacy strategy. Thus, only the electoral process is open to women participation and it is there they have to play a more active role.

In **Liberia,** women's tireless efforts, rewarded in 2005 with the election of Presiden Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, have recently resulted in an electoral regulation requiring 30% representation of women in selection of candidates: in order to obtain it, women's organisations worked in partnership with the Office of Gender Advisor and the Ministry of Gender and Development.[54] Moreover, OGA is engaged in training potential women candidates on public speaking, advocacy and resource mobilization; in supporting women elected in Parliament and training political parties on how to accede to the electoral regulation to prevent women from being marginalized from decision-making position in party selections.[55] Moreover, international organisations and NGOs have been active in promoting the effective participation of women in the post-conflict reconstruction process in Liberia. The MARWOPNET of Liberia has been internationally recognized for its

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[51] WomenWarPeace.org

[52] http://www.womenwarpeace.org/drc/docs/drc_pfv.pdf

[53] InterParliamentary Union, figures as of October 2006.

[54] www.unmil.org/content.asp?ccat=gender

[55] http://www.unmil.org/content.asp?ccat=gender

contributions to Peacebuilding in the country. Other women's organisations, including the Liberia Women's Initiative and the Women in Peace Building Network (WIPNET) have also played key roles in training and mobilization of women in Liberia. Prior to the November 2005 elections, these groups were active in mobilizing women in the electorate and publicizing the list of women candidates, which was critical in advancing the role of women in the political sphere in the country. These associations continue their efforts in "peace advocacy, micro-credit, skills training, trauma healing, advocacy on sexual and gender-based violence, legal advice and representation, leadership programmes, and research and activities relating to the reintegration of female ex-combatants".[56]

Although only 2 women participated in the Lomé Peace negotiation in 1999, the following peace accord explicitly recognize their sufferences and recommends a full inclusion of women in the peacebuilding process "to enable them to play a central role in the moral, social and physical reconstruction of **Sierra Leone**".[57] They are currently beginning to gain more representation in government, both at local and national levels. An example is the appointment of Christina Thorpe in the Electoral Commission, in sight of 2007 elections. The Government is trying to establish the National Human Rights Commission. In addition, with the assistance of UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, Women's and Children's Affairs "launched the Inter Ministerial Committee to boost the implementation of the anti-human trafficking legislation."[58] The Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (NEWMAP) in Sierra Leone is making significant strides to improve the welfare and status of women in the country: they are also currently collaborating with the Mano River Peace Network (MARWOPNET) that involves Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.[59]

Excluded from the peace process culminated in the signing of the Lusaka Accord, in 2002, **Angolan** women are still facing high marginalization in political life. They cover only 15% of the National Assembly elected in 2002 and, as recently pointed out by the National Director for Women's Rights, they are under-represented in decision-making bodies: only 2 Ministerial Department are chaired by women, out of 29; and among the 45 deputy minister post, only 10 are occupied by women.[60] In July 2006, the Ministry of Family and Promotion of Women (Minfamu) promoted a two-days seminar for discussing and analysing the UN CEDAW. The event has seen the participation of representatives of political parties, female wings, religious organisation, civic association, NGOs.[61]

EVALUATION OF CSOS TARGETS, ACTIONS, AND INDICATORS

Targets:
- ✓ _A group of women mediators and Special Envoys and representatives is established for an effective and equal participation in peace processes_

Country or Region	Civil Society Organisation
Burundi	Collectif des Associations et ONGs Feminines du Burundi (CAFOB)
Democratic Republic of Congo	Cadre Permanent de Concertation de la Femme Congolaise (CAFCO)
Mano River region	Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET)
Somalia	Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC)

- ✓ _Partnership between the AU Peace and Security Council and Civil Society._
  UNIFEM and the Gender Directorate have built this partnership.

- ✓ _The Resolution 1325 (2000) of the UN Security Council is popularized among grassroots populations_
  Several efforts have been put in place for popularize Resolution 1325 (2000). In states where the UN Peacekeeping mission has a Gender Unit, popularization is strongly carried out by them. Otherwise, CSOs have a great role.

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[56] http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Liberia/Jan06/AWID_Sirleaf.html
[57] http://womenwarpeace.org/sierra_leone/sierra_leone.htm
[58] Ibid
[59] http://www.peacewomen.org/news/SierraLeone/July05/NEWMAP.html
[60] htt://all'africa.com/stories/200610200281.html
[61] http://www.angolapress-angop.ao/noticia-e.asp?ID=458033

As popularization means sometimes facilitate the comprehension of the document, translation in local languages is essential. Up to now, Resolution 1325 has been translated into the following African languages: Fongbe (Benin), Amharic (Ethiopia), Hausa, Ibo, Ijaw, Tiv and Yoruba (Nigeria), Ciluba, Kikongo, Kiswahili, Lingala (DRC), Wolof, Diola (Senegal), Shona (Zimbabwe), Ndebele (South Africa and Zimbabwe) , Kirundi and Kinyarwanda (Rwanda, Burundi), Swahili, Somali.

✓ *Public awareness on humanitarian laws is increased*
The International Committee of the Red Cross, the guardian of the main humanitarian laws, conducted a study entitled "Women Facing War". The challenge now is how to put this tool to use.

Actions
✓ *Organize training for women peace builders and peacekeeping forces*
Training of peacekeeping forces is part of the mandate of Peacekeeping Gender Units: they organizes training session for military, police and civilian personnel in order to make them ready to initiate activities integrating the gender approach in their areas of activites.

Moreover, CSOs have organized several training programmes; among the most recent there are:

- "Short course on Gender and Peacebuilding", held in Senegal, 16-21 July 2006: FAS in partnership with University for Peace (UPEACE) organised this first workshop attended by practitioners, researchers and individuals from institutes, regional and international organisations and CSOs in order to broaden their skills of gender and peacebuilding. Through workshops, lectures, discussions and field visits, the shourt course intended to discuss specific aspects of gender and peacebuilding; analyse gender relations during peace and conflict; empower women as actors of change.
- "Gender Equity in the Defence Forces in the SADC Region", held in Johannesburg, 27-29 November 2006: it was organized by the Chief Director Transformation Management of the South African Department of Defence in collaboration with SaferAfrica. This 5th African Women's Peace Table Seminar brought together approximately 120 representatives of the Department of Defence and members of armed forces from other SADC member states. The overall objective was to facilitate the alignment of national policies and practice on gender equity with regional standards and benchmarks. The outcome of the seminar was a comprehensive action plan that outlined a broad range of activities aimed at accelerating gender mainstreaming in the defence forces and enhancing regional cohesion in the promotion of gender equity across SADC countries.

✓ *Develop a comparative database on gender participation in peace processes at national and regional levels*
Within its "10 Years of Best Practices Study", FAS included a Leadership Bank section, for showcasing leadership roles played by women in organisations or as individuals in the peace, political and economic advancement processes. Drawing from personal stories of women, the study analyses and portrays the challenges and successes of women's leadership in their efforts to transform conflict and sustain peace in conflict-ridden zones.

✓ *Organize advocacy visits to appropriate governance institutions in order to increase women's participation in peace processes*
In an effort to enhance the role of women from the DRC in the process of peace in their nation, in general, and to support their effective participation in the inter-Congolese Dialogue, in particular, a delegation composed of eminent African women members of the AWCPD as well as members of FAS, participated in a mission of peace and solidarity to the DRC in December 2001. Led by Ms Ruth Sando Perry with the African Women's Development Committee for Peace and Development (AWCPD) and supported by UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNESCO, the mission gave visibility to the grassroots initiatives of Congolese women, helping them to draft their agenda in preparation for the elections.

In February 2004, a delegation of FAS members visited the three countries of the Great Lakes region, the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi in the context of the International Conference on the Great Lakes jointly organized by the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). Serving as a follow-

up to the different activities initiated in the Great Lakes region, the delegation visited FAS members and partners in the field including the Collectif des Associations et Organisations Féminines du Burundi (CAFOB) in Burundi and ProFemmes in Rwanda to assess the level of women's participation in regional initiatives such as the AU/UN International Conference on the Great Lakes. It also allowed for an overall assessment of their needs and priorities. Consequently, FAS was able to support CAFOB's preparation and participation in the AU/UN Conference.

✓ *Share best practices and success stories of women in peace building and conflict resolutions*
"*Women's Peace Movement for Peace and Security in Africa: 10 years of practice*": a FAS publication, this study outlines how peace processes have been positively engendered using a multi-faceted strategy inclusive of peace and solidarity missions; training sessions in the realm of capacity building and democracy and, finally, advocacy efforts.

From the various activities implemented by Isis-WICCE, many experiences and much knowledge and literature have been generated. This information is packaged in numerous forms of publications and disseminated to diverse activists, researchers, policy makers, academic and research institutions, and development partners at the national, regional and international levels. The regular publications include Women's World/Mondes Des Femmes, Women's Peace Monitor, and Impact Magazine. Other publications include research reports, training reports, position papers and advocacy materials.[62]

Indicators:

✓ *Number of women appointed as Special envoys, Representatives and Rapporteurs for the AU on prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction*
Mrs. Angela Melo serves as Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa

✓ *Number of women appointed as head of peace negotiators by 2007*
There are no African Union initiatives for appointment of women peace negotiators; however, the initiative of Ms Betty Bigombe, chief mediator in 2005 between LRA and the Government of Uganda must be recognized.

✓ *Increased level of gender parity and participation reflected at the national and regional initiatives, dialogues and actions on peace*

✓ *Inclusion of Gender Unit in Peacekeeping Missions*
African Union Mission In Sudan (AMIS) has a Gender Senior Advisor.
Five of eight UN peacekeeping missions around the continent have a Gender Unit.

FINAL REMARK
The present report has been prepared by the civil society according its monitoring framework. A particular attention has been placed on civil society initiatives in the realm of peace and security but the engagement of Member States is the ultimate target, as they have the most of the responsibility in implementing the SDGEA.

This civil society monitoring exercise comprise even their engagement in reporting about the DEGEA, as agreed in the Guidelines for Reporting adopted in 2005. Nevertheless, up to now only 9 states have presented their report. Among them, seven states have reported about Peace and Security: Algeria and Ethiopia have not treated the issue in their report. This is worrying particularly considering the Ethiopian involvement in the dispute with Eritrea and its recent escalation. Moreover, the other states have been not exhaustive in their reports, and more generally, they have not complied with the agreed Guidelines for Reporting.

Reports on Peace and Security have listed constitutional and legal framework, but anything has been said about "practical measures taken to ensure effective implementation of instruments and policies that promote women's empowerment and the protection of women's rights […], information about national institutions or

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[62] http://www.isis.or.ug/publications.php

machineries that exercise responsibility[…], the factual and practical situation[…], measures taken to implement each operative paragraph […], any constraints, restrictions or limitations[…]".[63]

Finally, no African countries have developed a National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Security Council Resolution 1325 and other international mechanisms, including the SDGEA must be domesticated and countries should develop National Actions Plans to implement these mechanisms and ensure the participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution processes and in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding activities

- Early action mechanisms must be put into place that promote the participation of women in conflict prevention and management activities in these countries

- Governments, international and regional bodies and NGOs must work to ensure that the needs and contributions of women are included in the processes of post-conflict reconstruction to promote sustainable development and lasting peace

- Further efforts must be made to establish a partnership with the AU Peace and Security Council and to ensure that more women are appointed as Envoys, Representatives, Rapporteurs and head peace negotiators

- Inclusion of women's need in DDR programmes, in particular by a revision of the consolidated formula "one man, one gun" and the inclusion of combatant associates and followers.

- Ensure impunity for gender-based violence committed during conflict and post-conflict situations, through the adoption of appropriate legislation, its timely application and the creation of special Police Unit.

- Ensure protection and empowerment of internally displaced women: Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement should be promoted and taken into account by all stakeholders involved, that is, national governments, peacekeepers operations and civil society organisations.

- Ensure active women's participation in peace processes and commissions established for dealing with its implementation;

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[63] "Guidelines for Reporting on the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa", adopted at The First African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women and Gender, Dakar, Senegal, 12-15 October 2005

THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES (ACCORD)

CONTRIBUTION TO SHADOW REPORT ON SDGEA

I. TRAINING WORKSHOPS HELD FOR AFRICAN WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS AND PEACEKEEPERS

a) Examples of Workshops held for African Women Peace builders

- **Conflict Mediation Training for Women Leaders in Bujumbura - July 2004**

ACCORD's Burundi Programme hosted a three-day conflict mediation workshop for Women Leaders in Burundi in July 2004. Participants included the Office of the President, Vice President, Ministry of Women's Affairs, President of the Constitutional Court, Members of Parliament, leaders in civil society and the corporate sector. The training enabled the women to share their anxieties in preparation for the forthcoming elections initially scheduled for October 2004. The women were willing to work together and overcome their perceptions and become mediators in bridging the conflict divide in their country. The women recognised their role as a pressure group to ensure Parliament set in place structures towards hosting elections in their country, such as electoral and constitutional commissions, electoral code of conduct, voters' register, electoral systems and reform.

- **Workshop for Sudanese Women, Oslo - March 2005**

Based on the spirit of the SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which call for the equal participation and full involvement of women in peace-building processes, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) to organise and facilitate a conference on Sudanese women and the peace process. The workshop reflected the different priorities and recommendations presented by the participants regarding women's inclusion and empowerment in the Sudanese peace process. Women from South Sudan with representatives from UNIFEM, Norwegian NGOs working in the Sudan, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, and two members from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) attended the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to gather women from South Sudan, representing various women's organisations and districts, in order for them to voice their priorities for sustainable peace in their country and how they envisage that the international community can support them to this end. The workshop took

place less than a week after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Nairobi on 9 January, the atmosphere was marked by optimism, but also awareness of the fact that winning the peace is highly dependent on the implementation of the agreement. The women acknowledged that although they were excluded from the negotiations, the successful implementation of the agreement demands the active participation of women, known to be the backbone of local communities. The women expressed great solidarity with the women of Darfur, as well as a desire to meet with women of North Sudan. For more information please visit http://www.nupi.no/IPS/filestore/Sudan_confpro.pdf

- **"Inclusive Security - Sustainable Peace" Workshop for Sudanese Women - May 2005**

Women activists demanded more involvement in the implementation of the southern Sudanese peace process that followed the 9 January comprehensive peace agreement reached between Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). The activists attended a workshop entitled "Inclusive Security - Sustainable Peace" which was organised by International Alert and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), from 11–13 May 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was attended by representatives of women's organisations from across East Africa who shared their experiences in conflicts in the region. For more information please visit http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Sudan/May05/inclusion.html

- **South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), Johannesburg - July 2005**

ACCORD's Deputy Director facilitated training sessions on the Role of Women in Conflict Transformation in Africa, in July 2005. SAWID is hosted by the Spousal Office of South Africa, Mrs. Zanele Mbeki.

- **Policy Seminar on Women and Peace building in Africa, Cape Town - October 2005**

The Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Southern Africa and Central African Regional Offices, co-hosted a policy advisory group meeting on "The Impact of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Africa" from 27 – 28 October 2005. For more information please visit http://ccrweb.ccr.uct.ac.za

b) Examples of Workshops held for Women Peacekeepers

ACCORD's Peace and Security Unit host a series of training workshops for peacekeepers in Africa and strive to attain 50 per cent participation of women at all workshops and incorporate into all courses, modules on Women as Peacekeepers, and Gender Mainstreaming in Policy-Making.

- **CIMIC Course for Female Peacekeepers (CCFP) - December 2006**

The African Civil Military Coordination (ACMC) Programme at ACCORD, in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), conducted a Civil Military Coordination (CIMIC) Course exclusively for female military, police, and civilian personnel who were serving or intending to serve in African peace operations. The CIMIC Course for Female Peacekeepers (CCFP), which was held from 11-15 December 2006, was a response to the fact that there exists a tendency for Troop Contributing Countries to under-nominate female peacekeepers for training courses. This may be attributed in part to the fact that there is a higher proportion of male peacekeepers serving in the field. Thus the CCFP initiative was in large part aimed at creating a momentum towards a general increase in the deployment of female peacekeepers to peacekeeping operations. The CIMIC function is an ideal vehicle through which to increase female representation as CIMIC is not necessarily a function that needs to be carried out by uniformed personnel, the majority of which are male.

Below is a bar graph of the representation of women in workshops hosted by ACCORD in the past three years: 2004 - 2006.

Gender Breakdown for Paricipants from 2004-2006
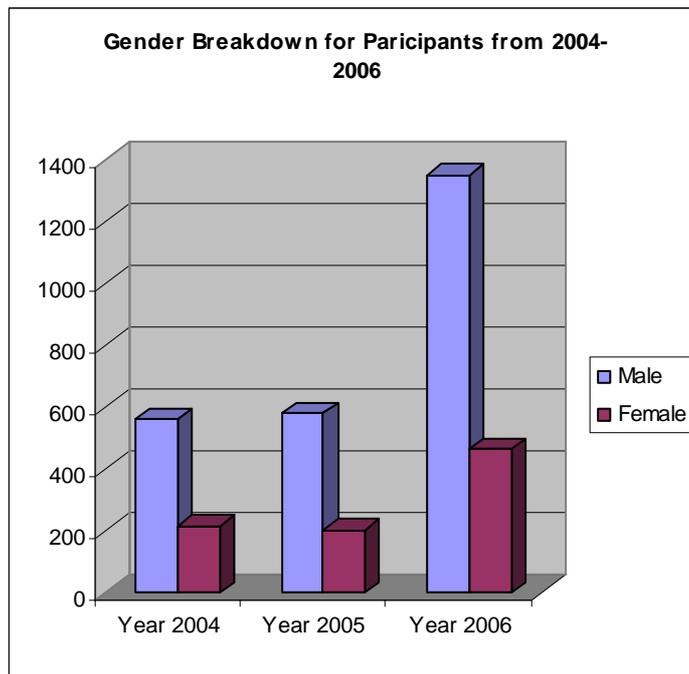
II. ADVOCACY TO INCREASE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES

- **Sudanese Peace Process in Darfur, 2004**

From 8–15 October 2004, Women Waging Peace hosted 16 Sudanese women peace builders for meetings, presentations, and events in New York and Washington, DC. The purpose of this conference was to raise the voices of women peace builders and urge the US government, the UN, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and think tanks to promote the inclusion of women in all efforts to bring peace to this troubled country. Recommendations were formulated by the delegation which they would advocate to the Government for, which can be accessed from:

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/doc/Sudan%20Recommendations%20final3.pdf

- **Peace Negotiations in Northern Uganda, 2006**

The peace talks in Juba between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan government have made great progress, with a formal cessation of hostilities, and an agreement signed on 26 August 2006. The Vice President of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) and Chief Mediator, Riek Machar, has played a critical role in bringing both sides to the negotiating table. The negotiations which evolved rapidly over five months, offers the best chance to end a twenty-year civil war that has ravaged the north of the country and spilled into Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique has recently been appointed as the UN Envoy for the LRA affected areas, which is seen as a positive step towards getting more high-level involvement in the talks and to play a more prominent role in the negotiations.

One of the criticisms of the talks has been that the women of Northern Uganda are not truly represented. Women are largely absent from the Government of Uganda and LRA official delegations. In light of this,

Ugandan women lit the Torch for Peace in Kampala in October 2006, supported by UNIFEM and women leaders from Uganda and Kenya. The torch was presented to Uganda's Minister of Gender Affairs and entrusted to Parliament after a march through the streets of Kampala. The women took a five-day solidarity journey to the southern Sudan capital city of Juba, to present the Peace torch to negotiators. The recent decision by Riek Machar to allow women from conflict areas to act as observers was welcomed. However, it is essential that the issues concerning the violations of women's rights and their needs for peace and reconciliation are raised and discussed at the negotiations. For more information please visit http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article/detail/9732/?PHPSESSID=5cfliegen3C;http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4374&l=1; http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article18573.

III. BEST PRACTICES AND SUCCESS STORIES OF WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

a) Women at the Peace Tables

Women are highly invested in preventing and resolving conflict, and have the capability to effect change, pave the way for peace, work across conflict divides, and act as agents in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.[64] While women are not allowed in specific situations to sit at the peace tables, they have become an effective part of peacebuilding initiatives, engaging in post-conflict reconciliation and playing active roles in the peace processes in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and the Mano River Union from Liberia and Guinea. Examples include:

1. **Burundi Peace Negotiations, Arusha 2000**: Burundi women were recognised as 'Observers' in the Burundi peace process, mediated by former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

2. **Burundi Peace Negotiations from 2002–2005**, mediated by former Deputy President Jacob Zuma and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, saw the full participation of women in the mediation proceedings that eventually led to the democratic transition of the country after 12 years of civil war.

3. **Inter-Congolese Dialogue, Sun City 2002:** DRC Women were received as 'Advisors' to the Inter-Congolese Dialogue in South Africa, in which they presented declarations and urged their men to end the conflict in their country. The women were trained by ACCORD and the training served as a platform for the women to collaborate efforts and set plans for action to sustain the peace agreement in their country.

4. **Inter-Congolese Dialogue, Sun City 2003:** Women and civil society organisations were incorporated in the all-inclusive peace agreement reached between contending parties, that saw a power-sharing agreement of four vice-presidents and President Joseph Kabila heading the Transitional Government.

b) Women as Successful Negotiators

Women are successful negotiators, very active in proposing constructive solutions, action-oriented and often willing to take innovative approaches to establish dialogue between polarised groups. They sometimes use unorthodox means such as singing to diffuse potentially violent situations. Examples include:

1. **Women of the DRC:** DRC women held one of the biggest rallies in the country, of over 10000 women and men, advocating for 30 per cent representation of women at all levels of decision-making in the constitution, according to the Beijing Platform for Action, 1995. The constitution of

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[64] Swanee Hunt '*The Critical Role of Women Waging Peace*' 2003:106. Columbia Transnational Law Journal April 14 2003.

DRC now incorporates equitable representation of women at all levels of decision-making in the country, and this was clearly depicted with 33 per cent of women Presidential candidates during the first multi-party elections ever held in the country in over 40 years.

2. **Women of Rwanda:** Twelve years after the end of the 1994 genocide, Rwanda still faces challenges such as poverty, illiteracy and HIV/AIDS. However the country has made significant strides towards establishing a democratic society. Having made several important contributions to their country's political system, women are at the forefront of post-genocide Rwandan public life. They are present in government at record levels with 49 per cent at all levels of governance, the highest in the world followed by Sweden's 44 per cent. Women's accomplishment include initiating reconciliation efforts, participating in drafting a new constitution, exercising influence in decentralization policies, and forming a cross party caucus in Parliament to continue to work on security issues.[65]

3. **Women of Sierra Leone**: Women of Sierra Leone fought on both sides of the Sierra Leone civil war. Although large numbers of women entered the war after being abducted, many also fought or received weapons training. Women have often led the reintegration process, accepting ex-combatants back into society and spearheaded the rehabilitation process for these former fighters.[66]

Women of Sierra Leone, through their diplomatic efforts, contributed to brokering peace between the government of Sierra Leone and RUF leaders, which were both complemented and preceded by women's civil society groups and national networks in Sierra Leone.[67]

Civil society initiatives during the peace process in the early 1990s in Sierra Leone laid the foundation for the creation of the civil society movement, the Mano River Women Peace Networks in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea (MARWOPNET). The women lobbied regional security organisations such as ECOWAS for the participation of women in peace processes, and trained women in negotiation and mediation skills within communities to facilitate their participation in peace processes in the region. They also issued public declarations, organised protests, and directly met with leaders across the region. In recognition of their important role in bringing warring parties to the table, MARWOPNET was a signatory to the August 2003 peace agreement in Liberia. The Union was awarded the United Nations annual human rights prize for their efforts in peacemaking in December 2003.[68]

4. **Women of Somalia**: Women in Somalia have played an important role in conflict resolution and have maintained close relationships, and have been able to facilitate peace processes by interceding between combatants and carrying messages of peace. The women united to oppose the war and formed the 'Sixth Clan' out of the five major clans in Somalia to pressurise their men and warlords to reach a peace agreement and set up an interim national government during the peace negotiations in Djibouti, after 10 years of a no-state government in Somalia. The role of the women was appreciated with political participation in peace and political processes.[69]

5. **Women of South Africa**: South African women were able to diffuse violence during Apartheid, and have continued to reconcile different interest groups in the new democratic South Africa, through the South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), hosted by the Spousal Office of South Africa, Mrs. Zanele Mbeki.

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[65] http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/32_case_studies.cfm
[66] http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/32_case_studies.cfm
[67] Civil Society Perspectives from the Mano River Union 2002:7, published by the International Peace Academy, New York, New York.
[68] "Civil Society Perspectives from the Mano River Union" 2002:7.
[69] Zakia Alim *"The Sixth Clan"* 2002, unpublished article by Member of Parliament, Somalia.

Women contributed immensely to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to address apartheid-era human rights abuses. Two important goals of the TRC were to grant amnesty to perpetrators of human rights abuses who disclosed the atrocities they committed; and to break the country's cycle of violence. Women were nurturing and compassionate commissioners and staff, and were emotional witnesses who addressed the suffering of others in their testimonies. They displayed the epitome of 'Ubuntu' – respect for humanity.[70]

Vital contributions of South African women were made in negotiating the transition to democracy and reforming the security sector as South Africa abandoned its policy of apartheid for a democratic state. Women from all walks of life – including anti-apartheid activists, African National Congress members and Umkhonto we Sizwe fighters, and women at the grassroots level – contributed to advancing a holistic comprehensive, and democratized "human security" framework. Other notable achievements include providing gender-based training to all defence Ministry personnel, appointing women to senior positions in the Ministry of Defence, and holding an annual gathering called "Women at the Peace table".[71]

6. ***Women of Wajir, Northern Kenya:*** The subtle persuasion of women from the Wajir Peace Group of Northern Kenya assisted in diffusing conflicts between ethnic groups, partially by keeping careful track of tensions in the market place and rumours.[72] The women formed the Wajir Women's Association for Peace, and realised they had to involve the Elders if the wider conflict was to be addressed. Their influence with concerned men led to the eventual resolution of the conflict for the benefit of all stakeholders.

IV. NUMBER OF WOMEN APPOINTED AS SPECIAL ENVOYS, REPRESENTATIVES AND RAPPORTEURS FOR THE AU ON PREVENTION, RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS AND POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION

There is no record of appointments by the African Union (AU) to these positions, but details exist for the role of African women in the United Nations:

- **Special Representatives of the Secretary General (SRSG)**

Out of **27** peace operations (peacekeeping and political and peacebuilding missions), there are currently no women appointed as Heads of Mission or as SRSG and there is only **1** woman in the position of DSRSG: In Afghanistan (UNAMA): DSRSG Ameerah Haq (Bangladesh), since June 2004. She was preceded by Eva Margareta Wahlstrom (Sweden)

Up to 2000, only 4 women had ever served as SRSGs.

- **Other Appointments**

There have been a number of women selected for high level and other appointments and African women, in particular, include:

- UN Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women – Rachel N Mayanja (Uganda);
- Gender Advisor in the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations – Comfort Lamptey (Ghana);
- Gender consultant with the office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Great lakes Region - Mary Okumu (Kenya);
- Gender Advisor in Sierra Leone - Theresa Kambobe (Zambian); and
- Gender Advisor at the UN Mission in the DRC - Amy Smythe (Sierra Leone).

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[70] http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/32_case_studies.cfm
[71] http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/32_case_studies.cfm
[72] S Anderson *op cit.* 1999: 230

- **Deputy Heads in AU Missions**

The Deputy Head of Mission for the AU mission in Sudan (now Acting Head of Mission) is Mrs. Monique Mukaruriza from Rwanda.

V. NUMBER OF WOMEN APPOINTED AS HEAD PEACE NEGOTIATORS

Betty Oyella Bigombe - Betty Bigombe has been involved in peace negotiations in Uganda to end the Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) insurgency since the early 1990s. Prior to taking on these negotiation initiatives, she was appointed cabinet minister in Yoweri Museveni's government for pacification of North and North-Eastern Uganda, resident in the North. She also was tasked with seeking a peaceful means to end the war in north and North-Eastern Uganda. Following the failure of a military solution, Bigombe initiated contact with rebel leader Joseph Kony. This initiative gave birth to what would become known as the "Bigombe 1 Initiative." Bigombe returned in 2004 for the "Bigombe 2 Initiative" that for the first time brought the LRA and government ministers face to face.

In 1994 Bigombe was named "Uganda's Woman of the Year" for her efforts to end the violence. She spent time providing technical support to the Carter Centre in the peace efforts between the governments of Uganda and Sudan. She then held a fellowship at Harvard University's Institute for International Development in Public Policy in 1997. Bigombe joined the World Bank in 1997 as a senior social scientist at the Bank's newly created Post-Conflict Unit and also worked with the Social Protection and Human Development Units.

SaferAfrica

Submission to the Shadow Report on Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa:

Gender Mainstreaming of the Defence Sector in the SADC Region

Across the SADC region, there is demonstrable evidence of an expanding consensus about the significance of women participation in the transformation of society. Key in this are the increasing commitments and efforts that target the promotion and empowerment of women viewed, correctly, as a matter of crucial importance to the character of societal development. The aspiration to expand the role of women is encompassed in the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development (1997), and reflected in the national constitutions of the countries in the region. Within this larger project are efforts aimed at promoting gender mainstreaming in the defence sector. This is viewed as essential for a number of reasons, including the imperative for and right to gender equality in all aspects of life; the need to incorporate women into the defence sector at national level in order to ensure their participation in regional peace and security measures, including peace support operations; the continental shift from an emphasis on state security to a focus on human security; and the need to improve the gender sensitivity of peace support operations in light of the increased participation and victimisation of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Within the defence sector, SADC countries are guided by the 2006 decision of the SADC Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) that sought to establish the status of women in the forces as a basis for formulating strategies to promote gender equity.

Comparatively though, women participation has been greater in the civilian sectors, with some countries almost attaining a parity between gender, compared to the security sector in general and the defence sector in particular. This reality poses critical challenges that require focused attention, particularly in view of the increasing role envisaged for the security and defence sectors in guaranteeing sustainable peace and development.

One structure that women in the defence forces of the SADC region have adopted to fast-track gender mainstreaming is the regional women in defence peace table, a forum that was launched to enhance the participation of women in the African Union and NEPAD peace and Security agenda. Supported and facilitated by SaferAfrica, the Women Peace Table offers women in uniform a valuable platform to share experiences and best practices on gender mainstreaming, reflect on strategies that can help them to attain gender equity, and ways of aligning practices within the defence sector with national policies, as well as regional and international standards and benchmarks.

Since it launch in 2003, the Women Peace Table, draws from UN Res. 1325 and the evolving AU frameworks for peace and security, in particular the AU peace and security agenda, as crystallised in the AU/NEPAD Consultations that SaferAfrica facilitated in 2003. It also draws inspiration from the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the AU Peace and Security, which elaborates the key peace and security areas and issues that women should engage in. In addition, it provides a basis for the participation of women in the evolving processes that are shaping the African peace and security architecture, including the creation and operationalisation of the key instruments for conflict prevention, management and resolution, such as the

African Standby Force and the Military staff Committee, the Continental Early Warning System, and the Panel of the Wise.

The SADC region has attained certain milestones towards the implementation of UN SC Resolution 1325. It is worth noting that participation of women in the defence forces has grown across board with some countries such as South Africa going beyond 20%. And while the number of women occupying decision-making positions in the security sector is very low, women form part of the highest decision making positions of generals in two SADC countries. Furthermore, over the years women have moved from the traditional support roles that they were associated with, to professional and technical masterings and trainings that make them pilots, engineers, commanders, etc. One very significant sign of progress is the creation of dedicated institutions to promote, support and/or monitor gender equity in the defence forces of several SADC Member States. Such structures are essential to ensure the translation of legal commitments into actual change.

Despite progress, a number of shared challenges face women in the defence forces of the SADC region. The most fundamental challenge, which extends beyond the defence sector, is the issue of gender stereotypes as well as traditional ideas of the military as a masculine domain. These stereotypes often manifest themselves as discrimination against women, in the areas of recruitment, training opportunities and promotion in the defence forces, which in turn contribute to the low numbers of women with high rank in the region. Another key challenge is the lack of a gender policy or strategy for implementation of UN SC Res 1325 in the defence forces. Even in countries where a national gender policy exists, there is rarely a specific implementation plan for the defence forces. Similarly, dedicated gender structures are often created without the necessary human and financial resources to accomplish their objectives.

In order to accelerate gender mainstreaming in the defence forces, dedicated structures with the requisite capacity should be charged with overseeing the development and implementation of gender policies with action plans. Until such time as women are represented equitably in the defence sector, quotas and other corrective are required to increase the percentage of women recruited, trained, retained and promoted in the defence forces. Accountability at the highest levels and regular reporting on progress are also critical, to ensure implementation legal commitments.

To accelerate gender mainstreaming in the defence forces of the SADC region, while transforming the security sector, in line with the human security framework that underpins the African peace and security agenda, a number of actions must be undertaken, at both national and regional level, to address social, institutional and other obstacles to gender equity in the defence forces. These actions could be adapted to other regions of Africa as well as to the continental level. The following are some of the key areas for action:

At national level:

a. Cultivation of political will, and domestication of international standards, including Res. 1325;

b. Mobilisation and allocation of resources for gender mainstreaming (human and financial);

c. Building strategic partnerships between security sectors, with leadership, and with civil society, especially the women constituency;

d. Elimination of the gender imbalance (through quotas, targeting of women and other affirmative action);

e. Building individual and institutional capacity to ensure gender mainstreaming; and

f. Analysis of gaps, through an audit of status, skills, needs and resources to determine targets and benchmarks.

At regional level:

a. Monitoring progress made by Member States;

b. Ensuring coherence across the region;

c. Capacity building and other support;

d.   Improving awareness of gender issues;

e.   Providing a forum for information sharing and networking;

f.   Providing regional leadership.

These issues were identified by the 2006 Women Peace Table for action and a resolution adopted for a review of progress made towards gender mainstreaming in each country to be undertaken in the next regional Women Peace Table to be held at the end of 2007.

For a full report of the proceedings of all Women Peace Table conferences, contact the Peace and Security Programme of SaferAfrica at ps@saferafrica.org

Prepared by SaferAfrica, Pretoria.
19th January 2007.

CLUSTER 3 : HUMAN RIGHTS

Please find the original of this document in the French version of the Shadow Report. The English version is being translated.

CLUSTER 4 : HEALTH

Please find the original of this document in the French version of the Shadow Report. The English version is being translated.

CLUSTER 5 : EDUCATION

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2006 is the final year of FAWE's Revised Strategic Direction (2002-06), as well as a year after the FAWE Mid-Term Review (MTR). During the year, FAWE made substantial contribution towards the worldwide goal of improving female education and also towards addressing emerging issues from the MTR. Since no single program or strategy can accomplish all the outcomes that FAWE aspires to address, efforts were made to focus on each of the four FAWE's Strategic Objectives. For example, significant efforts were made both at the Regional Secretariat and at the National Chapter (NC) levels to significantly and tangibly influence policy environment in favour of girls' education. A series of dialogues with ministers of education and other policymakers, as well as statements by government officials, reflected a growing awareness at the highest policy levels of the need to address gender imbalances in education. Similarly, many NC work programmes were drafted to specifically include definite tasks to improve girls' access, retention, performance and progression.

Advocacy through the media and the production of materials and manuals continued to maintain the visibility of FAWE and keep girls' education concerns on the continental and global agenda. A major success was the publication of different sets of materials aimed at influencing policy dialogues. Among the materials produced included FAWE Gender Responsive Pedagogy (GRP) documents, research papers by the FAWE Resident Guest Researcher Programme researchers, and FAWE publications (e.g. newsletters and calendars).

Demonstration of what works best at the NC level was advanced. Grants were disbursed to the various NCs to support their efforts towards implementation of demonstrative interventions. For example, bursary grants were disbursed to continue supporting the disadvantaged girls, while new efforts of training teachers using the FAWE's GRP modules was initiated. For example, in order to arouse interest among girls to pursue Science, Mathematics and Technology (SMT) subjects, FAWE conducted a series of gender responsive SMT teaching methodology training at the 11 SMT chapters. The trained teachers commenced lesson planning and teaching using the acquired techniques.

Efforts towards mainstreaming of FAWE's best practices were evident in Kenya, Tanzania, and Senegal. In both Kenya and Tanzania, efforts were targeted at mainstreaming FAWE Centres of Excellence (COEs) and Tuseme Girls' Empowerment model, while Senegal mainstreamed *Gender in Education*.

FAWE still featured in international arena. In most cases, they presented papers that highlighted the Forum's contribution towards curbing girls' inaccessibility to education in sub-Saharan Africa. Besides these fora, the NCs were trained in monitoring and evaluation, financial management and resource mobilization, as well as gender responsive pedagogy. These training sessions were implemented to answer some of the needs identified in the FAWE MTR.

The Forum's effort to forge and strengthen partnerships bore fruits at all levels. This was evidenced by the chapters' ability to mobilize their own funds from local and international donors. At the Regional Secretariat (RS) level, resource mobilization efforts included the organisation of the fourth Donors Consortium meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi. During this meeting, pledges for continual support for the planned activities were made.

As we get into a new year, FAWE will strive to have an implementable Strategic Plan (2007-12). Efforts are underway to draft this plan. A series of three sub-Regional workshops were organised where the NC

coordinators attended. The aim of the workshops was to solicit ideas from the coordinators on what they considered vital for inclusion in the new plan. Key issues that will need addressing include enhancement of activities recommended in the MTR, increased implementation of activities that promote SMT in schools, closer monitoring for impact of all the grants that FAWE has disbursed to the NCs, and mainstreaming of best practices within the NCs. The sections that follow outline FAWE's accomplishments in 2006.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006

FAWE Roundtable Meeting, Nairobi
FAWE organized a Roundtable meeting in January, which aimed at charting the way forward in response to the FAWE Mid-Term Review Report. Dr. Richard Sack, a consultant, prepared a synopsis and synthesis of the report and facilitated the roundtable. The discussion on the way forward was based on the four major areas emerging from the report as follows:
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Transparency and selection criteria
- Relations between the Regional Secretariat and the National Chapters
- Capacity building in the Regional Secretariat and the National Chapters

This roundtable meeting was expected to inform the Lilongwe roundtable (pre-donors consortium meeting) and help move the process of the discussion one step forward in the overall effort to chart out the way forward for FAWE and to provide the stakeholders an opportunity to have an input into the next FAWE Strategic Plan 2007-2011.

4th FAWE Donors Consortium Meeting
The 4th FAWE Donors Consortium Meeting was held in Capital Hill Hotel, Lilongwe from 6th – 8th March. It brought together ten (10) donor representatives from NORAD, UNICEF/ESARO, World Bank, ADEA, The Rockefeller Foundation, SIDA, UNESCO, UNICEF/WCARO and Ireland Aid. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the extent of the activity implementation of the 2005 Work Programme, as well as to deliberate on funding commitment for 2006. The Minister for Education gave the welcoming remarks. The meeting gave the donors the opportunity to visit one of the chapter's demonstrative interventions at Mitundu Secondary School.

New Centres of Excellence
In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, both FAWE Zambia and Chad launched new Centres of Excellence at Kamulanga Secondary School and Kelo respectively. Following the launch, vision workshops were conducted. The participants at the workshop included MoE personnel, local community leaders, parents, teachers, and students. This brings the total number of FAWE COEs to twelve.

ADEA Biennial in Libreville, Gabon
FAWE participated in the 2006 biennial meeting of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), which took place in Libreville, Gabon, from 27 to 31 March 2006 under the theme of **Effective Learning, and Effective Education and Training Systems**. FAWE organized a session on "**Equipping Teachers with Skills in Gender Responsive Teaching and Learning**", within the framework of the gender responsive pedagogy model. In addition, FAWE presented videos on gender responsive pedagogy recorded at AIC Kajiado Primary School, Kenya, FAWE Girls' School, Rwanda, and Mgugu Secondary School, Tanzania. The meeting was attended by Ministers of Education and Training, high-level representatives of multi- and bilateral organizations working in the field of development, representatives of NGOs, researchers, practitioners, and other education professionals in sub-Saharan Africa. After the meeting, and the side sessions, the Ministers of Education for Swaziland, Uganda, Zanzibar and Malawi expressed keen interest to have the Modules adopted in their educational systems and took copies for further discussions at home.

FAWE Executive Committee Meetings
Both the 33rd and 34th FAWE Executive Committee meetings were conducted in June and November in Kigali, Rwanda and Naivasha Kenya respectively. The agenda included a round table meeting on the Midterm report of the existing Strategic Plan, with a special emphasis on the way forward for the next Strategic Plan. The latter EC meeting reviewed the FAWE 2007 Work Programme and Budget and approved it.
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Mainstreaming FAWE Best Practices

The mainstreaming process was advanced in Kenya, Tanzania, and Senegal. In Kenya, extensive work with the Ministry of Education was realized, whereby the FAWE Kenya co-chaired the development of the Gender and Education Policy Draft, which has provided for the mainstreaming of Tuseme and Gender Responsive Pedagogy. Besides, the Kenya's Education Sector Strategy was drafted to guide the implementation of gender provisions in the Kenya Education Sector Support Programme 2005–2010 (Gender Investment Programme). In Tanzania, the Technical Committee conducted 3 meetings on mainstreaming, followed by development and approval of the Action Plans by the MOE. Follow-up on the 2 best practices – Tuseme empowerment and COE were being mainstreamed.

In-Service Teacher Training on Gender Responsive Pedagogy

In-service teacher training on the skills for a gender responsive school was undertaken at schools in 5 national chapter COEs – Burkina Faso's Dipeo, Gambia's Sambang, Kenya's Athwana, Tanzania's Mafinga, and Zambia's Kamulanga. Action Plans were developed and are currently being implemented at the COEs.

Sub-Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Training

In order to keep track and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the activities for FAWE in improving access, retention and performance for girls according to the FAWE Revised Strategic Direction 2002 – 2006, FAWE ensured that most of their national chapter staff were equipped with relevant skills on M&E. A total of four sub-Regional workshops were conducted in Mozambique, Mali, Burundi, and Liberia. A total of **69 persons** were trained in these workshops. Out of these, *19* were national chapter coordinators, *26* were NC Programme Officers, while 24 were resource persons. These resource persons were picked from the national chapters by the Executive Committee, and were meant to assist the chapters in monitoring the implementation of activities (*See Table for details*).

Venue	NCs in attendance	Number & Type of participants			TOTAL
		NC Coordinator	Resource persons	NC Programme Officers	
Mozambique	Tanzania, Kenya, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia	6	6	6	*18*
Mali	Benin, Mali, Guinea, Chad, Burkina Faso, Senegal. Togo, Gabon	7	9	8	*24*
Burundi	Comoros, Cameroon, Burundi, Madagascar	3	4	5	*12*
Liberia	Ghana, Liberia, Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone	3	5	7	*15*
TOTAL		**19**	**24**	**26**	*69*

PART 1: OVERVIEW

2006 is the last year for the FAWE's Strategic Plan (*2002-06*). In developing this Plan, FAWE was informed by lessons and best practices that have emerged from its work over the last ten years and, more importantly, the realization that progress towards implementation of the EFA goals as spelt out in the Dakar Framework for Action need to be greatly accelerated. FAWE still actively grapples with the enormous challenge of *ensuring accelerated action on the ground* to ensure not only increased access for girls, but also access to quality education, complete retention, and quality performance. The activities for 2006 targeted increasing access in 18 national chapters and strengthening the other 14. Further efforts were made in ensuring that the capacity of the national chapter personnel was enhanced for efficient implementation of the programmes, especially monitoring and evaluation. The national chapters' primary tasks were based on FAWE's four main strategic objectives, which were also categorized into four programmatic objectives (see box for details).

FAWE's Strategic Objectives
1. **Influencing policy formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in favour of increasing access, improving retention and enhancing the performance of girls.**
2. **Building public awareness and consensus on the social and economic advantages of girls' education through advocacy.**
3. **Demonstrating, through interventions on the ground, how to achieve increased access, improved retention and better performance of girls.**
4. **Influencing replication and mainstreaming of best practices from the demonstration interventions into broader national education policy and practice.**

Programmatic Objectives
1. **To increase access particularly of rural girls, the very poor, the geographically and culturally isolated and marginalized.**
2. **To continue to stimulate policy reform particularly ensuring gender provision in EFA and Education policies and plans.**
3. **To strengthen the capacity of 14 national chapters to acquire skills needed to promote girls' access, retention, and performance.**
4. **To influence the replication and mainstreaming of practices in girls' education into the national education systems and practice.**

The following section of the report provides a brief overview of the region-wide implementation and accomplishments of the strategic objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1: INFLUENCING POLICY REFORM

FAWE continued to stimulate policy reform particularly by ensuring gender provision in EFA and Education policies and plans. The following achievements were realized:

Review of Policy Documents

A Gender review of all policy documents undertaken, opportunities and gaps identified and shared with stakeholders in a workshop. The Draft Gender and Education Policy has been formulated and shared with stakeholder. Implementation strategies for the policy have also been developed. For example, the Rwanda Education policy was reviewed for gender responsiveness under the ANCEFA programme, thus making available the draft of the Gender in Education Policy. Similarly, in **Malawi** and **Zambia**, the analysis of gender gaps and opportunities in national policy documents was undertaken and reports submitted to stakeholders.

FAWE Resident Guest Researcher Programme (FRGRP)

The FAWE Resident Guest Researcher Programme (FRGRP), launched in 2004, is a programme that provides short-term grants to selected guest researchers from universities in Africa to conduct 3-month action research, based on themes identified by FAWE each year. The first phase of the programme, initiated in 2004, has produced three research reports now in press. These include:

1. *The Status of Women in University Functioning: A Case of Three Universities in Africa* by Dr. Edith M. Okiria from Makerere University, Uganda.
2. *A Conceptual Model for Intervention Strategies Towards Gender Equality in Science and Mathematics Using Constructivist-based Teaching Strategy* by Dr. Augustinah N. Duyilemi from Adenkule Ajasin University, Nigeria.
3. *Gender Differentials in Science and Technology* by Dr. Peter O. Ogunjuyigbe from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

For the 2005-06 period, three awards were granted and all the studies completed and submitted to FRGRP panel of reviewers for assessment. The table is a summary of the studies already completed.

Theme	Title of Study	Details of Author
Theme 1: Challenges of Reducing Impact of HIV/AIDS on Girls' Education	The Challenges of reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS on Girls' Dropout Rate in Primary Education in Tanzania: An Assessment of the Effectiveness of the Current Efforts and Methods	Dr. Aggrey Raphael Kihombo Senior lecturer Department of Economics Mzumbe University **Morogoro**, Tanzania
Theme 2: Sexual Harassment/Gender Violence in Institutions of Higher Learning	Sexual Harassment in Institutions of Higher Learning: Using the victims, the harassers and other stakeholders to develop a training manual for the Empowerment of Female students	Prof. Obert P Ndawi Faculty of Education Midlands State University P.O. Bag 9055 **Gweru,** Zimbabwe
Theme 3: The status of Girls' Education in sub-Saharan Africa: Five Years After Dakar	*Cultural and Environmental Influences on the Education of Girls in Mbororo Community in Cameroon*	Dr. Yuh Euphrasia Faculty of Education Department of Educational Psychology University of Buea, Buea, **Cameroon**

ADEA Biennale Meeting

The 2006 Biennale of Education was held in Libreville, Gabon, March 27-31. The theme of the meeting was **Characteristics, Conditions and Factors underlying Effective Schools and Literacy and Early Childhood Development Programs**. These Biennial Meetings are the high point of the activities and life of the Association. The main objective of the meetings is to encourage and sustain frank and open discussions between African ministers of education, development agencies, and other education professionals. This year's meeting built on lessons learned during the previous Biennale. It was envisaged that through this meeting, more exploration on how African education systems could improve the quality of education would yield fruits. FAWE's presence has been paramount in these meetings. The themes of the last seven biennials are as follows:

Year	Theme	Venue
1991	Textbook provision and library development in Africa	Manchester, UK
1993	Improving the Implementation of Education Projects in Africa through Ownership	Angers, France
1995	Formulating Educational Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa	Tours, France
1997	Partnerships for Capacity Building and Quality Improvements in Education in Africa	Dakar, Senegal
1999	What works and What's new in Education: Africa Speaks!	J'burg, South Africa
2001	Reaching Out, Reaching All--Sustaining Effective Policy and Practice for Education in Africa	Arusha, Tanzania
2003	The Quest for Quality: Learning from the African Experience	Grand Baie, Mauritius
2006	Characteristics, Conditions and Factors underlying Effective Schools and Literacy and Early Childhood Development Programs	Libreville, Gabon

OBJECTIVE 2: ADVOCACY

Advocacy Materials

As part of the advocacy campaign towards the promotion and advancement of girls' education, several advocacy materials were published and disseminated by the Regional Secretariat and the National Chapters.

Among the titles produced included: English version of FAWE News on Tuseme – **Vol. 13 No.4;** French version of "Speaking out – Girls' Voices" – **Vol. 13 No.3;** FAWE Ethiopia Newsletter 'TIMMAR'; FAWE Namibia Newsletter; and FAWE Zimbabwe Journal. FAWE's latest version of the newsletter – **Vol. 14 No. 1&2** echoed loudly FAWE's intentions of ***making visible the invisible***. For example, the passing of the Sexual Offences Bill into law in Kenya was seen to have a direct influence towards the achievement of EFA goals.

Exhibitions
A series of exhibitions were organised during the 4th Donors Consortium Meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi; the 33rd and 34th FAWE Executive Committee meetings in Kigali, Rwanda and Naivasha, Kenya respectively; and 3rd and 4th Management Committee meetings in Rwanda and Kenya. The main documents displayed were the FAWE News, Annual Reports, COE materials, posters and all the FAWE best practices booklets and CDs.

Website
FAWE has advanced the process of updating its website, which is meant to be full-fledged interactive and dynamic and wholly database driven. The address still remains – www.fawe.org. It is full of new publications and documents, details of FAWE membership and governance, posters, and programmatic activities within the National Chapters.

International meetings
Internationally, FAWE sought to influence and increase universal campaigns on girls' education. The participants presented papers and actively participated in key issues (see box below).

FAWE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Review of AU Decade of Education
FAWE participated in the above meeting organised by the African Union in Ethiopia in January. The aim of this meeting was to conduct a detailed review of the AU Decade of Education document.

NEPAD Meeting
In January, NEPAD organised a meeting in South Africa where FAWE's presence was paramount.

Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) Biennial Meeting
FAWE participated actively in the ADEA Biennial Meeting that was organised by ADEA and held in Gabon in March. During this meeting,

Launch of UNGEI West Central Africa Region
In April, FAWE in collaboration with United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) participated in the launch of the UNGEI West Central Africa Region. The launch was held in Dakar, Senegal.

EFA Meeting
Given that EFA is vital in FAWE's programmes, efforts were made by FAWE to attend and participate in the EFA meeting held in Bergen in May. In this meeting, issues still impeding the success of girls' education in sub-Saharan Africa were addressed.

Femme Africa Solidarité (FAS)
In June, FAWE actively participated in the 8th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU. This meeting was held in the Gambia

FAWE West African Chapters' Meeting
In May, Plan International in collaboration with FAWE organised a strengthening programme that brought together all the FAWE West African Chapters together. In this meeting, held in the Gambia, the chapters tackled matters that had potential in improving partnerships and programme implementation.

Other meetings included:
- Global Women's Network on Action for Children in Jordan in May.
- ANCEFA/FAWE Initiative Consultations in Tanzania in September.
- COL PCF4 in Jamaica in November.

Information Dissemination

FAWE's resource centre was continuously updated with information, including books, DVDs, CDs, journals, and pamphlets. New documents were acquired and disseminated to the national chapters. In addition, the existing databases, including national and regional statistics and results of research on education and other relevant information on female education from other partners, were updated.

Partnership

A lot of efforts were made by FAWE to strengthen the existing partnerships and create new ones. At the NC level, the members continued to enhance activities through strengthening of their partnerships with governments, agencies, universities, education agencies, NGOs, and donors. The main partners were UNICEF, Plan International and UNESCO.

OBJECTIVE 3: DEMONSTRATIVE INTERVENTIONS

Since FAWE National Chapters are the engines that drive FAWE, a myriad activities aimed at increasing girls' access were implemented. These activities included provision of grants, community sensitization programmes, promotion of Science, Mathematics and Technology (SMT) subjects among girls and teachers, collaboration with NGOs engaged in promoting girls' education, and support for countries in conflict or post-conflict situations. The following is a summary of the achievements.

Grants

During this reporting period, **4** new grants were awarded to the National Chapters (NCs). However, activities focused on monitoring the impact of already disbursed grants. Specific follow-up activities were advanced, including measuring the impact of the access grants earlier awarded. The grants that formed the focus of monitoring included **Conflict Grant** disbursed to *Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea,* and *Nigeria*; **General Access** awarded to *Cameroon* and *Benin*; and **SMT** grants disbursed to 11 chapters – *Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Mali, Cameroon, Burkina Faso,* and *Zanzibar*.

SMT

During the year, FAWE engaged in specific activities aimed at advancing SMT programmes in the 11 SMT countries. Among the activities included follow-up on the 3 SMT frameworks on SMT Gender Responsive Pedagogy, organisation of gender responsive science camps, and development of SMT databases. As a result of this effort, 313 teachers from 10 NCs were trained in the FAWE SMT frameworks. These included Cameroon – 36, Malawi – 33, Tanzania – 38, Mozambique – 51, Kenya – 40, Mali – 16, Burkina – 21, Zimbabwe – 18, Zambia – 36, and Zanzibar – 24 teachers. After the training, all these teachers came up with action plans from which the NCs developed proposals for funding from FAWE.

Higher Education

Follow-up and monitoring of the Higher Education grants was advanced. For example, Mid-Term Activity Reports were received and the 2nd tranche of grant disbursed to 6 Universities within 5 national chapters. The details are as shown.

Chapter	University	Topic of Study
Rwanda	Kigali Institute of Technology (KIST)	*Promoting Gender Equality at KIST*
Uganda	Islamic University	*Strategies for enhancing women's English and communication skills for upward mobility*
Ghana	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	*Towards Effective Role Modeling for Female Undergraduates in SMT Courses*
Nigeria	Adenkule Ajasin University	
Tanzania	University of Dar es Salaam and Mzumbe University	

Besides disbursement of second tranche of the grants, FAWE also ensured that other grants were disbursed to Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) for their pre-entry programme for female science students. As a result of this effort, reports were received from Tanzania on the project "*Beyond Access: Experiences of Women Participation in Higher Education in Tanzania*".

Girls Clubs
During the previous year, FAWE supported 120 schools and institutions and managed to reach upwards of 6,500 girls through the girls' clubs activities. As a continuation of these activities, FAWE, through the NCs conducted a series of girls' empowerment programmes. The key activities included life skills, adolescent reproductive health, empowerment techniques, guidance and counseling, and theatre performance among others.

Bursary Grants
FAWE continued to focus on the provision of bursary to the needy girls. A closer follow-up was done on the girls who had benefited earlier. However, only **6** NCs received additional bursary grants during the year and managed to assist **222** new **girls**. For example, Chad supported **15 girls**, Ethiopia – **15**, Malawi – **4**, Kenya – **11** (including 4 from UNESCO), Zanzibar **167**, and Tanzania **10 girls**. FAWE Zanzibar managed to support more girls since their bursary scheme focused mainly on the provision of meals for the hungry girls.

Centres of Excellence (COEs)
FAWE still maintained and worked with the existing 10 COEs. In addition, two new COEs were initiated in Kamulanga in Lusaka, Zambia and another centre at Kelo, in Chad. A closer monitoring of the already disbursed bursary grants was done. A total of 282 girls were tracked and their performance noted. The table shows the details of the number of beneficiaries within these COEs within the past two years.

Centre of Excellence	Beneficiaries (2005)	Beneficiaries (2006)
Hage Geingob – Namibia	15	16
Lufilyo – Tanzania	15	24
Mgugu – Tanzania	58	43
Mafinga – Tanzania	20	30
AIC Kajiado – Kenya	37	37
Athwana – Kenya	30	30
Sambang Upper Basic – Gambia	69	96
FAWE Girls School – Rwanda	6	6
TOTAL	**277**	**282**

Gender Responsive Pedagogy
A total of **65** teachers were trained into gender responsive pedagogy in Burkina Faso [7], Zambia [31], Kenya [19], and Gambia [8]. Following the training, these teachers decided to implement the skills acquired and embarked on the development of gender responsive lesson plans and teaching methodologies.

Situation Analysis
Situation Analysis and Assessment of the schools for gender responsiveness was undertaken for COEs in **Rwanda** (FAWE Girls' School), **Burkina Faso** (Dipeo), **Namibia** (Hage Geingob), **Tanzania** (Mgugu, Lufilyo and Mafinga) and **Kenya** (Kajiado and Athwana), followed by Action Plan development.

AGATHE
FAWE continued with closer monitoring of the Agathe Awards for Kenya, Guinea, and Burkina Faso. All the 1,126 girls earlier reached through this award were contacted through their schools. This tracking has enhanced the status of the impact of the grant.

FAME
Activities for the year focused on a closer follow-up of all the awards given. These awards are given as a token of hard work to female journalists who promote girls' access. Closer collaboration with the **12 journalists** (Kenya – 4; Ethiopia – 4; and Mali - 4) so far awarded for their efforts to promote girls' education was ensured.

Administrative Support
A total of **30** out of the total 32 available administrative support grants were processed and wired to the NCs to cater for their operational costs. The **2** NC Coordinators hired for Kenya and Swaziland were inducted in

Nairobi and have commenced work at their NCs. FAWE Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Nigeria moved offices into new locations to enhance Secretariat accessibility (by partners and donors) and improve programme implementations.

Strengthening Programme

Similarly, as part of the strengthening programme for the 14 NCs, activities were focused on 3-target areas, namely: functionality of the secretariat, governance, and implementation of programmes. Assessment of these NCs indicated that the secretariats have become functional since 8 out of the 14 NCs (*Ethiopia, Chad, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Guinea, Mozambique*, and *Malawi*) have functional secretariats. They are all equipped with functional telephones and faxes, computers, and basic communication equipment. In addition, all the 14 NCs managed to acquire office space and basic facilities. This has enhanced communication and implementation of activities. With regards to human resources, financial management, and communication systems, a total of 12 NCs have put in place all the necessary facilities and personnel (except Mali and Burkina Faso). Similarly, 12 NCs (except Rwanda and Malawi) conducted their annual General Assemblies. All the NCs had functional ECs, whose structures were well laid out (except Mozambique).

Programme Planning

In terms of programme planning, the NCs recorded significant achievements. All the 14 NCs now prepare annual workplans, based on their Strategic Plans. They also periodically submit quarterly and annual reports although there has been some problem of quality and failure to meet the deadlines. 11 NCs (except Mali, Namibia, and Chad) have functional Strategic Plans. These plans are carefully followed and used to develop annual workplans. 10 NCs have undertaken the demonstrative programme of Centres of Excellence (except Mali, Uganda, Malawi and Mozambique). All the 14 NCs have received training in M&E. The training included development of performance indicators, monitoring plans, data collection instruments and analysis methods, as well as basic skills into monitoring and evaluation. 5 NCs (Ethiopia, Namibia, Uganda, Malawi, and Tanzania) were trained in 2005, and are already applying the M&E skills. 11 NCs (Except Uganda, Gambia, and Mozambique) have undertaken the empowerment of girls' demonstrative intervention – TUSEME. To enhance gender responsive teaching, teachers in 10 COEs were trained into GRP. The teachers that were trained are already applying the GRP in their teaching. Guinea will conduct the same training in December. Last, but not least, in order to accelerate training and speedy monitoring of activities within the NCs, a pool of Gender Responsive Pedagogy, TUSEME and COE resource persons were trained and are currently being used to train different NCs.

OBJECTIVE 4: REPLICATION AND MAINSTREAMING OF BEST PRACTICES

The main thrust of this objective is to influence the replication and mainstreaming of best practices in girls' education into the national education systems and practice. During the year, FAWE managed to press for replication of their best practices in three national chapters – Tanzania, Kenya and Senegal. In **Tanzania**, for example, the Technical Committee conducted 3 meetings on mainstreaming followed by development of action plan that was completed and approved by the Ministry of Education. This was followed by close monitoring of the **2** best practices (Tuseme empowerment and COE) being mainstreamed. In **Kenya**, Technical Team was established to support mainstreaming best practices in girls' education. The chapter also chaired the Technical Committee on Gender and Education Policy in Kenya where the proposed policy draft was completed and shared with stakeholder. In total, 10 meetings of the Technical Committee were held, and the implementation strategy was developed. The chapter, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education kept a closer follow-up on their **3** best practices – Tuseme, COE, and Sexual Maturation that are currently being mainstreamed in the Gender and Education Policy. In **Senegal**, the chapter and their Ministry of Education strived to mainstream gender in the education system initiated. As a result of this effort, the MOE trained 44 education practitioners (Inspectorate from the 11 regions) who are meant to act as trainers within the whole education sector.

ANC EFA

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CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING EDUCATION FOR ALL IN AFRICA

Five years have passed since Dakar and there is still growing concern that 2015 targets will be missed unless urgent measures are taken by governments and donors to redress the inadequacies inherent in the implementation of the six Dakar goals.
On current rates of progress, African children will wait an other 150 years to enter the school gates.

Since the UN Millennium summit, the Dakar Framework for Action has been narrowed to two goals: promoting universal primary education (UPE) and promoting gender equity and empowerment of women. Despite donors' commitment to the achievement of these two goals, the support for most countries in Africa is disappointing.

The World Bank and International Monetory Fund (IMF) strongly influence national education policies in the continent through the overall context of Sector Wide Approaches (SWAPS) and the new Fast Track Initiative (FTI). The donor community encourages developing countries to formulate FTI plans that articulate sound sector wide programmes - integrated into broader PRSPs and national development priorities.

At regional level, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) adopted two of the Dakar goals: achieving UPE and ensuring improved quality education through curriculum relevance. NEPAD is supposed to be a catalyst and not an implementer but the reality is that there is more talk and papers than concrete actions in the field of development.

The Eighth Conference of Ministers of Education of the African member states (MINEDAF VIII), convened in Dar es Salaam in December, 2002, made strong commitments to mobilizing resources and political will to realize the EFA goals. The ministers resolved to increase investment in basic education to at least 20% of their national budgets. The reality is that all Ministers signed the Algiers Declaration, but the majority of countries are still between 5 -10% of national budget allocation to education. Communities are still cost-sharing the education service delivery with governments by providing labour, building materials, rehabilitation of infrastructure, paying cash for school fees and learning materials in many countries.

Conflicts and the HIV/AIDS pandemic are having a devastating impact on many countries in the various sub-regions and making attainment of the 2015 EFA targets in those countries more and more difficult to reach. IDP's (?) and orphans are another vulnerable group which requires more and more attention from governments and international partners. The reality is that only non governmental organizations target them through concrete actions because for the central governments, these are the hardest to reach.

Achieving EFA in Africa in year 2015 will require at least 4 Millions of qualified **AND** motivated teachers and this cost a lot of money, 80% of that money should come from African countries national budget.

The gender parity goal in 2005 has been missed by more than 65% of the African countries in sub-saharan countries, the index is very low in the majority of these countries (between 0.5 to 0.7)

The status of non formal education and adult education is critical in a continent where more than 60% of children drop out from schools every year and where more than 1/3 of children are missing an education (see some evidence advocacy related to literacy in Africa below)

Literacy is:

• A right still denied to nearly a fifth of the world's adult population.

• Essential to achieving each of the EFA goals.

• A societal and an individual phenomenon, with attention needed to both dimensions.

• Crucial for economic, social and political participation and development, especially in today's knowledge societies.

• Key to enhancing human capabilities, with wide ranging benefits including critical thinking, improved health and family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, children's education, poverty reduction and active citizenship.

THE LITERACY CHALLENGE HAS ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE DIMENSIONS, PARTICULARLY AFFECTS THE POOR, WOMEN AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS, AND IS MUCH GREATER THAN CONVENTIONAL MEASURES INDICATE:

• In absolute numbers, those without literacy skills are mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. Prospects for meeting the 2015 goal hinge largely on progress in the in Africa and Asia countries where 75% of those without literacy skills live.

• In relative terms, the regions with the lowest literacy rates are sub-Saharan Africa, South and West Asia, and the Arab States, all with literacy rates around only 60%, despite increases of more than 10 percentage points since 1990.

• Illiteracy is associated to a significant extent with extreme poverty.

• Women are less literate than men: worldwide, only 88 adult women are considered literate for every 100 adult men, with much lower numbers in low income countries such as Bangladesh (62 per 100 men) and Pakistan (57 per 100 men).

• 132 of the 771 million people without literacy skills are aged 15 to 24 (45% are in sub-saharan Africa), despite an increase in this group's literacy rate to 85%, from 75% in 1970.

• Direct testing of literacy suggests that the global challenge is much greater than the conventional numbers, based on indirect assessments, would indicate, and that it affects both developed and developing countries.

THE LITERACY CHALLENGE CAN BE MET ONLY IF:

• Political leaders at the highest level commit themselves to action. The current figures for Africa is a big shame (in Africa only 1% of national education budget allocated to literacy and non formal education)

• Countries adopt explicit literacy policies to:

Expand quality primary and lower-secondary education;
Scale up youth and adult literacy programmes;
Develop rich literate environments.

SCALING UP LITERACY PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS REQUIRES:

• Active government responsibility for quality adult literacy policy and financing as part of education sector planning.

• Clear frameworks to coordinate public, private and civil society provision of literacy programmes.

• Increased budgetary and aid allocations. Literacy programmes receive a mere 1% of the education budget in many countries. An additional US$2.5 billion a year to 2015 will likely be needed to make significant progress towards the Dakar literacy goal.

• Basing programmes on an understanding of learners' demands, especially their language preferences and their motivations for attending class, in consultation with local communities.

• Curricula that build on these demands, with clearly stated learning objectives and the provision of adequate learning materials.

• Adequate pay, professional status and training opportunities for literacy educators.

• Appropriate language policies, as most countries facing stark literacy challenges are linguistically diverse. The use of mother tongues is pedagogically sound but must offer a smooth transition to learning opportunities in regional and official languages.

DEVELOPING LITERATE ENVIRONMENTS AND LITERATE SOCIETIES REQUIRES SUSTAINED ATTENTION TO:

• Language policies.
• Book publishing policies.
• Media policies.
• Access to information.
• Policies to get books and reading materials into schools and homes.

Acquiring, improving and using literacy skills happens at all levels of education, and in multiple formal and non-formal contexts. Achieving each of the EFA goals depends strongly on policies that foster literate societies and set high standards for literacy, the foundation for further learning.

Ministers of Education in Africa have the responsibility to promote quality education for all on an equitable basis in order to ensure the proper exercise of the rights of learners to education and redress of any inequalities in the promotion of education but they cannot make this happen without the support of the Ministers of finances and the parliamentarians.

Ministers of finances and parliamentarians should increase and sustain education spending in line with the agreed regional target of 20% minimum of their national budget and 2/3 at least set a side for basic education. This increased government and donors spending should target the following areas:
-   Ensuring access to education for girls and children affected by HIV/AIDS
-   Empowering women by making gender equality a reality and not political rhetoric
-   Making education free, universal and compulsory
-   Improving the training, morale and status of teachers
-   Reversing the decline in spending on illiterate adults (women in particular) and out of school youth)

Monitoring the EFA progress in Africa remain a big challenge for both governments and the civil society organisations, ANCEFA since August 2006 has launched the Africa education watch process involving 16 countries in sub-saharan African into pilot country studies which will constitute in the next three years an independent citizen watch providing alternative data on education in the continent. (see ANCEFA website www.ancefa.org)

CLUSTER 6 : ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Please find the original of this document in the French version of the Shadow Report. The English version is being translated.

Gender is my Agenda
CAMPAIGN

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Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

THEMATIC FOCAL POINTS

Governance : Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)
Peace and Security: Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS),
African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), SaferAfrica
Human Rights: Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF),
African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
Health: Alliance pour la Recherche sur les Aspects Sociaux du Vih/Sida (SAHARA),
Society for Women and Aids in Africa (SWAA), Roll Back Malaria (RBM)
Education: Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE),
Campagne Internationale sur les Objectifs du Millénaire pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ANCEFA)
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 des Mères Tunisiennes (AMT)
Southern Africa: Foundation for Community Development (FDC)
Central Africa: Association Congolaise de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes (ACOLVF)
Eastern Africa: Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA)

OTHER ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING

FEMNET, MARWOPNET, ABANTU for Development, Akina Mama Wa Africa, Centre for Human Rights,
Equality Now, CONAFED, CGE, Pan African Movement, CAFOB, REPERES,
EBWA, AAWORD, NPI, SSWC, ANSEDI, Women's Society of Alfateh, IAC

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
AU, ECA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
OSIWA

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