



## **Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)**

**Achievements and Challenges: Drawing Examples from Mozambique**

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Mozambicans have regarded the commitment of the African Heads of States to mainstream gender in the political and development agenda as a great achievement for the continent. We have always acknowledged this achievement but at the same time recognized that the road towards total women emancipation was still long.

Mozambique has been a mix case of achievements and setbacks in promoting equality between man and women in different economic, social and political spheres of the country. Despite the improvements in the Mozambique Human Development Index, rating 0.398 in 2001 to 0.458 in 2006, when basic indicators are disaggregated by sex, it becomes clear that many women are clearly at a disadvantaged situation compared to men particularly when it comes to their participation in the decision making process.

A general overview of gender mainstreaming in all RECs and Nepad structures suggests that the progress is uneven. RECs are not making a consistent effort to bring women into its structures, even less in gender mainstreaming programs – economic and social – to ensure open and broad opportunities to address women's needs and rights. Economic empowerment, namely formal economy and agriculture sector are particularly neglected to bring women and women's issues to the center of policy making and implementation.

We, in Mozambique, have been optimistic fighters for gender equality and have been participating enthusiastically in the "Gender is My Agenda" campaign. The Foundation for Community Development (FDC) as the national focal point for this campaign has put to work a number of initiatives and activities towards the achievement of the goals of the campaign. FDC has successfully established the continental and national Gender Foresight Group and developed a Website for the Group. At national level the Foresight Group has conducted a number of studies to deepen our understanding on the complexities surrounding women and gender relations in the informal sector and as leaders in the different political, economic and social affairs. The results of the study are being used for policy advocacy purposes and serve as guide for gender related projects. Overall, the Mozambican government with the involvement of civil society and cooperation partners has managed to achieve some positive results and has stayed behind in others.

Our contribution to the civil society shadow report provides some basic insights of the countries' achievements and setbacks in the 6 focus commitment areas of the declaration namely (1) Peace and Security; (2) Governance, (3) Human rights; (4) Health; (5) Education and (6) Economic empowerment. We have not tried to be exhaustive in all aspects under review and we hope the elements and evidences we are providing can help consolidate the case we want to present in our report by highlighting case-specific issues.

## **CLUSTER 1: On GOVERNANCE**

### **ARTICLE 5:**

**Expand and promote the gender parity principle that we have adopted regarding the Commission of the African Union to all 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.**

- Mozambique has 37% of women in Parliament, standing above the SADC 30% goal, and being among the 10 best performing countries in the world;
- The Prime Minister is a woman;
- Currently, national government has 6 female Ministers, 4 Vice-Ministers and 6 Permanent Secretaries compared to only one Minister and 3 Vice Ministers in 1997;
- At provincial level there are currently 2 female Provincial Governors and 6 Provincial Permanent Secretaries out of 11 provinces and encouraging number in the efforts of promoting equal opportunities for women;
- Under the decentralization policy, women's opportunities to participate in local governance have widened. The decentralization process and the institutionalization of local consultative councils provided an opportunity for women to participate and shape the political and public life of their communities.

## **CLUSTER 2: On PEACE AND SECURITY**

### **ARTICLE 2:**

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

- Mrs Graça Machel was appointed member of the mediation team for Kenya by the then Chair of the African Union H.E. John Kufuor of Ghana;
- Mrs Machel, together with various Kenyan women's networks, set up a process where Kenyan women will play a central role in post conflict reconciliation and peace building in the Kenya.

## **CLUSTER 3: On HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **ARTICLE 3:**

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

### **ARTICLE 4:**

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

### **ARTICLE 9:**

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

- The Constitution of 1990 upholds the principle of non-discrimination, as does CEDAW which entered into force in Mozambique in 1997;
- To date, the laws that have been reviewed and that have a significant bearing on gender relations include the Land Law (1997), Labour Law (1998), Family Law (2005) and Commercial Code (2005);
- Mozambican Parliament ratified the Protocol on Protection of women's rights;
- Mozambican Parliament adopted in the current month of April 2008 three important laws on Child Abuse and Trafficking;
- Civil society organizations, including FDC played a pivotal role in the consultation process leading to the drafting of these laws;
- FDC hosts the secretariat of SANTAC (Southern African network against Child trafficking and abuse) which has been critical in coordinating the regional efforts to counter child trafficking;
- A national network CAME is very active to build awareness countrywide
- Forum Mulher (the largest national network of organizations working on gender issues) is currently spearheading a campaign to lobby for a bill that qualify domestic violence and gender based violence as a crime;
- Several CSOs formed the "*Todos Contra Violência*" initiative that established special units in some health facilities that provide specialized counseling services for victims of violence. Special units in police stations were created that offer various counseling services to victims of domestic violence and abuse;
- Various trainings have been organized for police officers and justice officials on human rights and women's human rights, both by civil society and government;
- In the context of the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the universal declaration of the human rights we have conducted a number of campaigns and debates on women rights. FDC has equally supported the participation of the Mozambican delegation to the 52<sup>nd</sup> UN meeting on the status of women in New York as well as in different AU and SADC summits and meetings.

#### **CLUSTER 4: HEALTH**

##### **ARTICLE 1:**

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

##### **ARTICLE 10:**

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

- The Parliament has recently approved a law that widen the protection of persons living with HIV;
- MONASO the national network of organization working against HIV/AIDS is organizing a national conference in June 2008 on HIV to take stock on

challenges facing the prevention, treatment and mitigation including protection of PLWA, orphans and child headed households;

- A broad consortium to “roll back malaria” has been established and it includes government departments, religious organizations, NGOs, trade and labour unions, etc.
- Mosquito nets have been distributed to pregnant women and children.

## **CLUSTER 5: EDUCATION**

### **ARTICLE 8:**

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

- Education levels have improved in recent years in Mozambique. However, gender gap is closing at first primary level (EP1) but not at higher levels<sup>1</sup>;
- Research shows (SIDA Mozambique Report 2007) that girls in urban areas are much more likely to attend primary school than girls in rural areas (75% versus 48% – 2003 data).
- Girls from the richest households are more than twice as likely to attend primary school. The correlation based on location, sex and wealth is even more pronounced for secondary education<sup>2</sup>.
- Similarly, literacy among urban women is more than three times as high as among rural women (65% versus 21.6%) – although less marked, there is also a significant gap between male urban and male rural literacy rates (84% versus 55%).
- Issues that continue to limit girls’ education levels are the low value ascribed to girls’ education, tensions between traditional and formal forms of education;
- Lack of safety at school (particularly the lack of adequate protection against physical abuse and rape), limited participation of women and girls in technical, vocational training;
- Challenges in this sector include improving the sector action plan for gender equality, curriculum reform, increase of community and parental involvement in school management;
- Challenges include as well increase in number of female teachers, more vocational training for girls and young women and measures to reduce sexual harassment and abuse in schools;
- FDC has also started a program of disseminating scholarship information for women as well as encouraging women to apply for positions at international level.

FDC, Maputo, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008

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<sup>1</sup> Data from 2005 shows that 3,4 million children were in EP 1 (of which 46,4% are girls), and that only 470 000 children attend EP 2 (of whom 41% are girls).

<sup>2</sup> Data from 2003 indicates that net secondary school attendance among children aged 13–17 is only 7.6% (15.6% for urban areas compared to only 1.9%); 8.4% among boys compared to 6.7% among girls; only 0.7% of boys and girls from the poorest households attend secondary school compared to 21.6% from the wealthiest households.