

THE TRIPOLI COMMITMENT

Tripoli Commitment adopted at the 6th Women's Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting

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

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

Recognising, the commitment of the Minister of Social Affairs of The Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arabe Jamahiriya in facilitating the 6th Women's Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We urge Member States:

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

We urge the Commission of the African Union:

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

Done in Tripoli, Libya on 2 July 2005