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The GIMAC is a unique network of African Women's organizations working to mainstream gender equality in the African Union and Member States

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **“27<sup>th</sup> GIMAC Pre-Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Union”**

#### Issues

Governance  
Peace and Security  
Human Rights  
Health  
Education  
Economic Empowerment  
Climate Change  
Agriculture

#### Focal points and Thematic members

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)

Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

Forum for African Women's Educationalists (FAWE)

Ipas Africa Alliance

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)

Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA)

Isis-Women's Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)

Abantu for Development

Foundation for Community Development (FCD)

West African Women's Association (WAWA)

#### Connect online

[www.genderismyagenda.com](http://www.genderismyagenda.com)  
Twitter: #GIMAC26  
Flickr: Femmes Africa Solidarité

The 27th Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Pre-Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Union took place on the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme “Looking towards 2020: Securing Women’s Rights through Gender Equality and Silencing the Guns in Africa”. This year’s theme is aligned with the African Union (AU) dedication of the year 2016 as “African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women”. The 27<sup>th</sup> GIMAC brought together over 150 delegates including AU officials, Women and Gender Development Directorate, UNECA representatives, leading Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on Gender in Africa and other interested groups in advancing women’s right in Africa.

In opening the conference, Madam Bineta Diop, President of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) remarked, “despite the major strides made in terms of adopting several resolution on women’s right in Africa, implementation by member states is still very weak. The GIMAC meeting is about synergy between various women oriented activities aimed at promoting the rights of women on the ground”. In line with this, Commissioner for Trade and Industry AU Commission, Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl also underscored that “the ground-breaking AU protocols on gender need to be domesticated and fully implemented by member countries.”

The meeting also addressed the commitment to women’s human rights as enshrined in Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Declaration on 2015 Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development Towards Africa’s Agenda 2063 through mobilizing civil society across Africa. The meeting further deliberated on the existing issues of women rights in Africa, governance, justice and accountability and ways of securing rights for young women in Africa.

Drawing from the two-day discussions, participants outlined key recommendation, which was presented to the AU Pre-Gender Ministerial Meeting, which took place on 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2016. The 27<sup>th</sup> GIMAC meeting pushed the need for member states of the AU to ratify and adopt the protocol on Women’s Right in Africa. It also urged states to consistently report on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

Participants also recommended for an inclusive approach advancing women's rights with a focus on the most marginalized group of women living with HIV/Aids, disability, the elderly, ethnic and sexual minorities, survivors of Ebola. Proposition was also made to reduce military expenditure significantly in favor of spending on social development and promotion of women's rights in particular. The need to generate a qualitative and quantitative gender-disaggregated data and stories of illicit financial flows from Africa on youth unemployment, gender equality and women empowerment was also emphasized. Furthermore, areas of intervention on sexual abuse and exploitation on peacekeeping missions, the need to recognize the role of women in sustaining the blue economy as a way forward to achieving economic growth, implementation of Decriminalization of Abortion in Africa Campaign and commitment to end child, early and forced marriage were forwarded.

The delegates also called up on member states to accelerate the implementation of the Communiqué of the 565<sup>th</sup> meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council to immediately intervene in Burundi in response to the grave circumstances and crimes against humanity inflicted on the Burundian population.

The GIMAC is a leading African women's civil society campaign dedicated to the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa/SDGEA (2004) and the respective thematic areas. The network strives to advance the implementation of commitments and goals enshrined in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa/Maputo Protocol (2003), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and other human rights instruments.