

The Dakar Commitment adopted at the 7th Consultation of Women 's NGOs

We, Civil Society Organizations from all over Africa, comprising : the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Africa Leadership Forum (ALF), Femme Africa Solidarité (FAS) Foundation for Community Development (FCD), FEMNET, WILDAF, ACDHRS, WAWA, MARWOPNET, ATM, EBWA, Akina Mama Wa Africa, AWA, FAWA, Equality Now, ABANTU, AAWORD, NPI, SSWC, ANSEDI, Pan African Movement, CAFOB;

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, in Dakar in April 2003, in Maputo in June 200, in Addis Ababa in June 2004, in Abuja in January 2005 and in Tripoli, in July 2005, in partnership with the AU and ECA, supported by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNIFEM, OSIWA and other partners.

Meeting at the 7th Consultative meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Dakar, Senegal, prior to the 1st AU Conference of Ministers responsible for Women and Gender that will take place from the 12th to the 16th of October 2005, in order to strengthen our contribution in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA).

Recall 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 both at regional and national level, as well as the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

Applaud the initiative taken by the ministers responsible for Women and Gender Equality in Africa, under the leadership of Ms. Aida Mbodj, the Senegalese Minister of Women, Development and Social Affairs to take ownership of the SDGEA by participating at this historic conference organised by the Gender Directorate of the African Union with the full support of His Excellency Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal;

Congratulate all States that have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa namely: Cape Verde; Comoros; Djibouti; Gambia; Lesotho; Libya; Malawi; Mali; Namibia; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; South Africa;

Reiterate our commitment to:

- Take collective responsibility to accelerate the advocacy campaign for the implementation of SDGEA;
- Undertake to prepare alternative reports, both at national and regional levels, in order to enrich the state reports as provided for by the SDGEA and to increase accountability in the process;

- Broaden networking activities, by involving more women groups at local and national level;
- Continue strengthening the various partnerships with the AU Directorate, AU Commission, ECOSOCC, the Pan African Parliament, The Economic Commission for Africa, the NEPAD, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and all international partners on the implementation of the SDGEA.
- Develop and strengthen the capacity of regional and thematic focal points to carry out the advocacy campaign in their constituencies, as well as document, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the SDGEA;
- Mobilise financial and human resources to support CSO processes in the implementation of the SDGEA;
- Continue to convene an annual Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in the AU, in July, ahead of the Assembly of the Heads of States and Government;
- Promote women leadership in Africa, at all levels of governance and decision-making.

Recommend to Member States:

1) Implementation of the SDGEA:

TO domesticate the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa by integrating it into their national laws. In that view, we ask Ministers Responsible for Women and Gender in collaboration with women parliamentarians to initiate and formulate such a bill and to follow-up that process at local and national level.

2. Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa:

A. Having noted that 6 countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Togo and Zambia have already adopted the legislation authorising the ratification of the protocol within their respective parliament; we hereby urge these States **to do** all the necessary to deposit the instrument of ratification at the African Union Commission not later than November 15, 2005 to ensure that their commitment made in paragraph 9 of the SDGEA relating to the entry into the force of the Protocol by end of 2005 becomes a reality.

B. We, further encourage all Member States that have ratified the protocol with reservations to remove those reservations and urge all others **to ratify** the protocol without delay and without reservations to enable all African women benefit from this instrument which will ensure their full accomplishment and participation in national development;

3) Funding of the implementation of the Solemn Declaration at national level:

that:

- 20% of resources realised from debt cancellation be allocated to activities directed towards the implementation of the Solemn Declaration.
- 5% of State resources should complement or supplement resources coming from the cancellation of the debt.

4) African Trust Fund for Women:

While commending Member States for taking the bold step of establishing a trust fund for women (paragraph: 11), we urge them **to** take all required measures to operationalize the African Trust Fund for Women by requesting the African Union Commission to accelerate the process by organising the proposed meeting of experts on this subject. Meanwhile, we recommend that States and their partners in development contribute towards the existing African Women Development Fund (AWDF) in order to fund activities related to the promotion of gender equality.

5) Promotion of women leadership in Africa :

As enshrined in paragraph 5 of the SDGEA that encourage States **to** expand and promote the gender parity principle within all bodies of the AU, including NEPAD :

- We ask the Head of states to encourage women's candidature for elections for public office, particularly that of the presidency. We urge States to use affirmative action in the realisation of the principle of gender parity.
- We ask the AU Commission to effectively ensure that the proposed expansion is reflected in the management of the 8 priorities of the NEPAD.

6) Consolidation of the implementation process

To approach the implementation of the SDGEA in consonance with other instruments and declarations on women including the MDGS, CEDAW, the protocol on the rights of women in Africa, the Beijing platform for action.

To support the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women by the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) by 2006 (UN Resolution 49/3)

that the African Union Commission accelerates the process of putting in place the African Union Women's Committee by nominating competent women

**Adopted in Dakar, Senegal
12 October, 2005**

List of participating networks to the process of « gender mainstreaming and effective participation of women with NEPAD and the AU »

I- DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, 30 JUNE 2002

1. Abantu for Development
2. African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
3. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
4. Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)
5. African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD)
6. African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
7. Commission on Gender Equality- South Africa (CGE)
8. Comité National Femmes et Développement –DRC (CONAFED)
9. Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
10. OAU Women, Gender and Development Division
11. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

II- DAKAR, SENEGAL 26 APRIL, 2003

1. Abantu for Development- Kenya
2. African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
3. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
4. Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)
5. African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD)
6. African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
7. Equality Now - Africa Regional Office, Nairobi; Kenya
8. Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
9. Foundation for Community Development (FCD)
10. International Alert
11. SAFER Africa
12. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

III- MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE, 24 June 2003

1. ABANTU for Development (Regional Office for East and Southern Africa Office)
2. Africa Gender Institute - University of Cape Town
3. African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
4. African Union - Women, Gender and Development Directorate
5. African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD)
6. African Women's Development and Communication Network, (FEMNET)
7. Akina Mama wa Africa
8. Associacao das Mulheres Empresarias
9. Associacao das Mulheres Juristas de Mozambique
10. Association Nationale de Soutien aux Enfants en Difficulte et en Institution (ANSEDI)
11. Association Tunisienne des Meres (ATM)
12. Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria
13. Center for Reproductive Rights
14. Commissao Africana dos Direitos Humanos e dos Povos
15. Commission on Gender Equality - South Africa

16. Development Bank of South Africa
17. Economic Commission of Africa - African Center for Gender and Development
18. Embassy of Finland, Maputo
19. Equality Now - Africa Regional Office, Nairobi, Kenya
20. Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS)
21. Forum do ONG Femininas de Norte, Provincia da Zambezia
22. Forum for Africa Women Educationalists (FAWE)
23. Forum Mulher
24. Fundacao para Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC)
25. Gabinete Juridico da Mulher, Pemba, Mozambique
26. Ministerio de Coordinacao da Accao Social, Mozambique
27. Ministerio de Saude, Mozambique
28. Modeste, Societe Civile du Congo DRC et OPDAL
29. Muleidi
30. Office for the Status of Women, Northern Cape, RSA
31. PACFA (First Lady's Office - Rwanda)
32. SADC, Gender Unit
33. SADC, Parliamentarians
34. South African High Commission
35. Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC)
36. UNDP
37. UNFPA
38. UNHCR
39. Uniao Geral das Cooperatives (UGC)
40. WLSA, Mozambique
41. WWGG
42. Women and Law in Southern Africa (WILSA)
43. Women's Caucus, Assembleia da Republica de Mozambique
44. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

IV- ADDIS ABEBA- ETHIOPIE, 29 June 2004

1. ACCORD- South Africa
2. Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
3. FEMNET- Kenya
4. Akina Mama Wa Africa- Uganda
5. Association for support to Women Entrepreneurs (ASAFE)
6. Equality Now- Africa Regional, Nairobi, Kenya
7. Nairobi Peace Initiative
8. FAWE
9. SAFER Africa- South Africa
10. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)
11. International Alert- Grande Bretagne
12. MARWOPNET
13. AFARD
14. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
15. Association des Mères Tunisiennes
16. Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA)
17. Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association
18. African Centre for Gender and Development ECA- (ACGD)

19. Interafrican Committee Against Traditional Practices
20. Foundation for Community Development (FCD)
21. Association des Femmes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (AFAO)- Sénégal
22. African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD)

V- ABUJA, NIGERIA, 26 January 2005

1. Women, Gender and Development Directorate- Addis Abéba
2. ACCORD- South Africa
3. West African Student Union- Nigéria
4. University of Pretoria (CHR)- South Africa
5. Equality Now- Africa Regional Office, Nairobi, Kenya
6. FAHAMU- Grande Bretagne
7. DRDC- Genève
8. CAFOB/FERFAP- Burundi
9. ONG Referes- Côte d'Ivoire
10. FEMNET- Kenya
11. Association des Femmes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (AFAO)- Sénégal
12. Third World Network- Ghana
13. Marwopnet- Libéria- Sierra Léone
14. Association des Mères Tunisiennes- Tunisie
15. NEPAD Secretariat –South Africa
16. Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe- Zimbabwe
17. S SWE- Somalia
18. WANEP- Nigéria
19. Africa Leadership Forum- Nigéria
20. RADDHO- Sénégal
21. Association des Mères Tunisiennes- Tunisie
22. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) - Gambia
23. Association of African Women for Research and Development (AFARD/AAWORD)

VII- TRIPOLI, LYBIA, 2 July 2005

1. President of the Pan-African Parliament
2. Secretariat of Social Affairs- Lybia
3. Femmes Africa Solidarité
4. Women's Society of Alfateh University Tripoli- Lybia
5. Lybian Women's Union
6. Lybian Women in Science and Technology (LWST)
7. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)
8. Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA)
9. Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)
10. Egyptian Business Women's Association (EBWA)
11. African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
12. Tunisian Mothers Association (TMA)

VIII- DAKAR, SENEGAL, 13 October 2005

1. Ministère de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat- Sénégal
2. Ministère des Collectivités locales et de la Décentralisation- Sénégal
3. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)- Gambia

4. Africa Leadership Forum (ALF)- Nigéria
5. African Women Development Fund (AWDF)-
6. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)
7. Association des Femmes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (AFAO)-Sénégal
8. Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)-Sénégal
9. Comité de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes (CLVF)-Sénégal
10. Association Sénégalaise pour la Promotion et la Protection de la Femme et de l'Enfant (ASPRODEF)-Sénégal
11. Collectif pour la Défense de la Famille-Sénégal
12. Association pour l'Education, la Santé et le Développement Durable Sénégal
13. Comité d'Action pour les Droits de l'Enfant (CADEF) Sénégal
14. African Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA) -Sénégal
15. Réseau Africain pour le Développement Intégré (RADI) Sénégal
16. National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)-Sénégal
17. Association des Femmes pour le Développement et la Démocratie en Afrique (AFEDDA)- Sénégal
18. COSEPRAT- Sénégal
19. AFARD- Sénégal
20. Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO)- Sénégal
21. PASEDA- Sénégal
22. SOS/Equilibre- Sénégal
23. FAWE/Sénégal - Sénégal
24. ASALFAE- Sénégal
25. Association Nationale de l'Alphabétisation et la Formation des Adultes (ANAFa)- Sénégal
26. Club Soxna- Sénégal
27. Réseau Siggil Jigéen- Sénégal
28. ACDI/Sénégal-
29. Oxfam/ Grande Bretagne- Sénégal
30. Association des Juristes sénégalais (AJS)- Sénégal
31. Centre Africain pour l'Education aux Droits Humains (CAEDHU)- Sénégal