

***RESOLUTION ADOPTED***

***BY***

1. THE AU PRE-SUMMIT WOMEN'S FORUM ON "PROMOTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE IN COUNTRIES EMERGING FROM CONFLICT"
2. THE SOLIDARITY FOR AFRICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS (SOAWR) FORUM ON ACCELERATING THE RATIFICATION AND DOMESTICATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA
3. THE 8TH PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE AFRICAN UNION – GENDER IS MY AGENDA CAMPAIGN NETWORK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA

***22-27 JUNE 2006***

***KAIRABA HOTEL, BANJUL, THE GAMBIA***

## **THE RESOLUTION**

We, the participants of the

1. The AU Pre-Summit Women's Forum on "Promoting Gender-Responsive Governance in Countries Emerging from Conflict";
2. The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Forum on Accelerating the Ratification and Domestication of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa; and
3. The 8th Pre Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union – Gender is My Agenda Campaign Network on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

**Recognising** the renewed commitment of the African Union Heads of State and Government to gender equality and the laudable efforts by the African Union Commission Women, Gender and Development Directorate, civil society organizations and international development partners,

**Acknowledging** the existence of instruments that promote women's rights in peace and conflict, namely the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Beijing and African Platforms for Action on Women and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325,

**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 Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) adopted at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2004, as well as the entry into force of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa,

**Commending** the Republic of The Gambia for removing the reservations previously placed on the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa,

**Further Commending** the Republic of The Gambia for supporting and facilitating the entire Women's Pre-Summit Consultative Meetings,

**Acknowledging** the ongoing efforts of African women organisations and networks across the continent to promote women's involvement in conflict resolution and peace-building processes,

**Bearing** in mind our commitment to monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of the SDGEA as well as to monitor the implementation of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa,

**Stressing** the importance of a well-coordinated African-led regional integration process, this ensures women's effective participation in intra-African trade and their economic empowerment,

**Reiterating** the importance of promoting well-anchored and effective regional mechanisms for conflict prevention and peace-building that are gender responsive and include women,

**Condemning** the continued abuse and violation of the rights of women and girls in Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Northern Uganda, and in all situations of armed conflict,

**Commends** the African Union Commission (AUC) for:

- The holding of the First AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs in October 2005;
- The establishment of the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC);
- The entry into force of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa in November 2005;
- The application of the parity principle in the AUC including the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and the Economic Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC); and
- The steps taken by the AUC to investigate the allegations of sexual misconduct by some soldiers of the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS).

**Committed to**

- Contribute to the reporting process of the SDGEA at the national level as well as at the level of the AU Commission;
- Establish a system of mentoring to promote the inclusion of youth in our programmes;
- Strengthening the women's movement in Africa;
- Encourage the participation of women in politics and advocate for the reform of electoral systems to facilitate their participation;
- Document lessons learned and best practices to share experiences in the different areas of intervention.

**Deeply concerned** about:

- The prevalence of violent conflicts and wars on the continent and the systematic abuse of women and girls therein;
- The ongoing impunity related to crimes against humanity and war crimes committed against women and children and the weaknesses of the transitional justice processes;
- The low and limited participation of women in decision-making in post conflict processes, despite the existence of instruments such as the AU Solemn

Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa and UN Security Council Resolution 1325;

- The rejection of the Protocol on the Rights of Women by the National Assembly of the Republic of Niger and the general slow process of ratifications, domestication and implementation across the continent;
- The low level of financing for women's initiatives in peace building and decision-making;
- The fact that two years after the adoption of the SDGEA;
  - The Establishment of the African Trust Fund for women has not yet been initiated;
  - The Parity principle has not been applied in the nomination and election of judges of the African Court on Human and People's Rights; and

## **HEREBY RECOMMEND**

1. The enforcement of the **gender parity principle** already adopted by the African Union and contained in the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa by the Organs of the AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States and in peace-building and governance processes; and the amendment of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) to allow for at least 2 women representatives out of five;

2. **Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa**, that

- Member States work towards universal ratification of the Protocol without further delay and urge those that have ratified it with reservations to withdraw them and proceed to its implementation in its current form;
- Member States that have ratified the Protocol take immediate steps to domesticate, implement and ensure that all national legislation is harmonized in line with the provisions of the Protocol;
- Member States put in place mechanisms to ensure that the Protocol is widely disseminated;
- The Republic of Niger, in particular, reconsiders the decision of its National Assembly to reject the Protocol in its entirety.

3. **Human Security**, that

- Member States work towards the elimination of all armed conflicts on the continent;
- The AU Peace and Security Council ensures the effective implementation of articles 10 and 11 of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, which concern the rights of women in conflict situations;
- The African Union, the RECs and Member States prioritize human security, with special attention on the elimination of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence including violence against children. Violence against women must not be tolerated in our countries, both in times of peace and during conflict;

- The AU, RECs, Member States and partners promote peace negotiations mechanisms where women are equitably represented and which respond to the needs of women;
- Heads of State and Government, the AU mechanisms and the International Community take urgent action to punish perpetrators of rape, sexual violence, exploitation and abuse of women and children in all conflict areas;
- Member States and RECs, with the support of the African Union, harmonise policy and legislation on women's property and land rights with special consideration for women affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence;
- Member States ensure women's access to land and to resources or profits obtained from extractive industries;
- Member States promote good governance and create a conducive environment to protect women's rights;
- Member States put in place and enforce mechanisms to combat impunity and corruption;
- Member States integrate human rights and peace education as well as life-skills into school curricula; and
- Member States ensure women's access to health care.

#### **4. Monitoring and Evaluation, that**

- The AU creates and maintains a comprehensive database of different pan-African Networks with the objective of harmonizing activities and facilitating the sharing of best practices on gender, governance and peace building;
- The AU and CSOs invest in documenting and promoting positive aspects of African culture which encourage and recognize peace and empower women and the girl-child;
- The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa be accompanied by a strong monitoring framework which assists active deliberation on country reports; and
- The Pan African Parliament, RECs and all National Parliamentary Assemblies provide input into the Heads of State and Government's annual reports on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

*Done in Banjul, The Gambia  
27 June 2006.*