



**REPORT OF THE  
33<sup>RD</sup> GIMAC  
PRE-SUMMIT  
CONSULTATIVE  
MEETING**





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# Acronyms



<b>AAPI</b>	African Artists Peace Initiative
<b>ACCORD</b>	African Centre for Constitutive Resolution of Disputes
<b>ACDHRS</b>	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights
<b>ALF</b>	African Leadership Forum
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AU/CIEFFA</b>	African Union International Centre for Girls and Women Education in Africa
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>AWPA</b>	African Woman Pioneer Award
<b>CARMMA</b>	Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa
<b>CBACC</b>	Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change
<b>CESA</b>	Continental Strategy for Education in Africa
<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>EBWA</b>	Egyptian Businesswomen Association
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
<b>EWA</b>	Empowering Women in Agriculture
<b>FAS</b>	Femmes Africa Solidarité
<b>FAWE</b>	Forum for African Women Educationists
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>GIMAC</b>	Gender is My Agenda Campaign
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IPAS</b>	IPAS Africa Alliance
<b>ISF</b>	Institute for Social Transformation
<b>ISIS-WICCE</b>	Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
<b>Maputo Protocol</b>	Maputo ProtocolProtocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity
<b>PAWO</b>	Pan- African Women Organization
<b>RECs</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>RMT</b>	Rozaria Memorial Trust
<b>SDGEA</b>	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SDI</b>	Solemn Declaration Index
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNAIDS</b>	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDs
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa



**UNFPA**  
**UNHCR**  
**UNSCR1325**  
**WGDD**  
**WHO**  
**WiLDAF**  
**YWCA**

The United Nations Population Fund  
United Nation High Commission on Refugees  
United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325  
Women, Gender and Development Directorate  
World Health Organisation  
Women in Law and Development in Africa  
The World Young Women's Christian Association



# Executive Summary

**The Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) held its 33rd Civil Society Pre-Submit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union and Member States on the theme: “Towards a Gender-Responsive Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement” from the 3rd to the 4th February 2019 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

**A**s part of the GIMAC's strategy to provide informed and collective inputs into the decision making process and outcome of the AU Summit, GIMAC organized a two day forum which brought together over 200 women and men to dialogue and exchange ideas around the issues of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons with special attention on women and girls. The forum was also intended to devise supporting mechanisms for youth and women returnees to create livelihoods and challenge Member States to create the economic opportunities for them to earn a living. During the two-day forum, participants and partners identified strategies and interventions that have continental implications to effectively address forced displacements.

The forum availed participants opportunity to identify and articulate key gender-specific issues, challenges, priorities and develop actionable commitments and recommendations related to forced displacement for consideration by Members States and African Union Commission (AUC). Key among the recommendations were:

**1. Member states to support young women in skills development and make it possible for women to occupy central leadership positions in decision-making and the management of programs in IDP and Refugee camps which must include the financing of women's specific needs**

**2. Integrate technology and access to internet to provide opportunities for young girls and women in refugee and IDPs and returnees**

**3. Facilitate meaningful engagement of refugees, returnees and IDP in policy formulation and implementation, climate change and technology as it plays a key part in migration.**

**4. Adopt policies and measures that prioritize comprehensive gender responsive local and national refugee frameworks that address empowerment mechanisms for refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees as well trafficked women with active involvement and support of the countries that serve as source, route and recipients.**

**5. Prioritize the ratification, adoption and implementation of key legal and policy frameworks, specifically the Kampala Convention and the Maputo Protocol to advance the protection of women's rights and eliminate harmful practices exacerbating the vulnerability of displace women and girls**

While the 2-day conference proceedings have concluded, the network and its partners and many of the participants continue to engage with the AU, RECs, member states and other stakeholders on the implementation of the recommendations; carry forward the messages that emerged from the conference including new emerging issues such as trafficking of girls for domestic work and sexual exploitation, climate change and sexual orientation.



# Context of the 33rd GIMAC

**The African Union Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa was adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, on 10th September 1969. The Convention entered into force on June 1974. In a bid to ensure and sustain the level of commitment of making an Africa free of refugees, the Assembly of the African Union declared 2019 as the “Year of Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced persons in Africa”. The year will be celebrated under the theme: ‘Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement’.**

**F**orced displacement in Africa is mainly due to conflicts, natural disasters, human rights violations or political instability in victim designated countries. This is believed to have resulted to over 12 million internally displaced persons while over 6.2 million refugees and asylum seekers is estimated because of above factors. This has resulted to a lot of setbacks for African Member States thus the need for a durable solution with the backing of legal frameworks, policies, structures, partnerships and concerted efforts to avert the challenges of Forced Displacements.

Women and girls who are forcibly displaced by conflict, natural disasters, economic reasons or other causes, face specific threats and diverse forms of gender-based discrimination, violence and human rights violations. Their access to legal protection, safety, gender-responsive assistance, a life of dignity and respect for their rights is often further undermined by factors such as age, disability, previous marginalized social position among others. While the risk is generally heightened during transit, this does not disappear once in reception centers, refugee camps, settlements or sites of internal displacement. Women and girls often report increased vulnerability and higher instances of personal insecurity, unmet hygiene needs, sexual exploitation, early marriages and limited access to safe and quality education at all levels, adequate protection, legal justice for sexual crimes, sexual and reproductive health information and services, livelihood opportunities among other challenges.

Migration policies play a key part in women’s experiences of displacement as they determine whether women and girls can safely migrate or access legal protection mechanisms on arrival. They affect the effectiveness of registration and documentation processes, which often leave out young girls and their specific needs, under-served women –particularly those in urban areas- and focus on the male heads of family. In addition, the often-under-funded humanitarian response does not sufficiently address the specific needs and concerns of displaced girls and women such as trauma relief. Nationality laws that discriminate based on gender, further increase the vulnerability of displaced women and their children who remain stateless and do not enjoy equal rights. The integration of refugees and related gender-specific issues in national development plans, therefore, has implications for progress in achieving gender equality, social and economic development in a way that benefits both the displaced women, families along with host communities.

It is this context, therefore, that provided a valuable entry point and opportunity for the 33rd GIMAC to reflect on the realities of forcibly displaced women and girls and to define durable gender-responsive solutions to forced displacement in Africa.

# Pre-GIMAC Youth Training on Advocacy (2nd February 2019)

**‘Understanding and Influencing the African Union on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced People.’**



Part of the participants who attended the GIMAC African young women and girls workshop in Addis Ababa on 2nd February 2019

**G**IMAC young women members led by the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and Rozaria Memorial Trust (RMT) in close collaboration with Plan International African Liaison Office, African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI), FEMNET and the African Union Youth Envoy held a one-day advocacy training workshop. The meeting was held in the margins of the 33rd GIMAC Civil Society Pre-Submit Consultative meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 2nd February 2019. The overall objective of the training was to equip young women and girls with knowledge and skills to understand key regional processes in influencing decision making among AU member States and GIMAC as well enhance their advocacy capacity to better position and address gender equality in all areas of life.



Ms Aya Chebi

Apart from the above aim, the network in line with the African Union Youth Charter's provisions prioritizes youth development as spelt out in the AU's development agenda. In 2018, the network adopted and institutionalized an inter-generational approach to its work. It committed to facilitating spaces for young women and girls' leadership to effectively participate in the GIMAC processes in addition to supporting a mentoring, leadership and skills building approach for young women and girls.

## ***Training Workshop Highlights***

To strengthen the capacity of the young women, the workshop identified emerging issues, challenges, gaps and best practices around child marriage, education, SRHR, technology, decision making, livelihoods and climate change from the constituencies they represented including refugee, returnee and internally displaced women and girls. While, the meeting was organized to expose young women to the current practices of evidence-based advocacy, it also looked at their capacities and agency to address issues that affect them.





Specifically, the meeting looked at deepening understanding on gender responsive education, ending child marriage, livelihoods and climate change, technology and decision making and SRHR and designing and developing advocacy strategies and key messages.

Also agreed on were tools and methodologies to be used in championing these efforts. It is expected that with the knowledge gained at the workshop, young women will be better placed to apply advocacy and lobbying as a collective in influencing improvement in solving Africa's challenges and contributing to the realization of Africa's Agenda 2063

As a result of the meeting, the young women developed a youth statement which was read during the opening session of the 33GIMAC meeting. Recommendations from the youth statement were adopted in the 33rd GIMAC recommendations which were shared with the WGDD office for channeling within the AUC for considerations as part of deliberations during the 32nd Heads of State and Government from all Member States.

# Pre-GIMAC Girls Advocacy Alliance Cocktail (2nd February 2019)

**GIMAC CSOs Training (Cocktail) on “Enhancing African CSOs capacity to monitor the status reporting and implementation of the Maputo Protocol among AU Members states”**



The objective of the cocktail was to discuss on enhancing CSOs capacity to monitor AU member states implementation of articles 4 and 13 of the Maputo Protocol.

CSOs present were presented with the guidelines and steps on the production of Maputo Protocol reporting cards on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Economic Exclusion (EE) of women and girls. CSOs capacities to use regional monitoring and accountability mechanisms to hold their governments accountable to the fulfillment of the Maputo Protocol were shared. The meeting also showcased some best practices in pushing for women and rights fulfillment at national level.

The meeting acknowledged the vast amount of work that needs to be carried out. CSOs present were asked to take the lead role in working on implementing the action points for the way forward from this meeting.



# Day One

## (3rd February 2019)

### ■ OPENING SESSION

**Moderator:** Mrs. Martha Muhwezi, Chairperson, GIMAC and Executive Director, Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE)

**Speakers :**

- Ms. Nicole Nyakong Ater Mayang, Young Woman Representative
- H.E. Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission
- H.E Mrs. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union Commission at the AU, Representing the Chairperson African Union Commission
- H.E Ambassador Morten von Hanno Aasland, Head of Mission and Permanent Representative of Norway to African Union and UNECA
- Mme Anass Kenda representing Hon. Chantal Safou Lopusa, Minister of Gender, Child and Family, Democratic Republic of Congo



**M**rs. Muhwezi made her welcome statement and spoke about the growth, transformation and achievements of GIMAC since its inception in 2002. One of these achievements is her advisory status within the ECOSOC, which has yielded more success in securing more commitments from the AU and member states. GIMAC, once a loose network platform has grown into a formidable 55 regional and international CSOs operating as one of the GEWE policy platforms within the AUC.

Further, the GIMAC Chairperson emphasised the need for GIMAC to further define her focus within a formalized structure which would increase her impact as a growing network with a high modicum of sustainability. To set the agenda for discussion, the Chairperson emphasized the need for economic freedom of women.

**“Africa must move away from talking about micro credit and micro enterprises for women! There is nothing micro about women”.  
Martha Muhwezi**

She thanked GIMAC partners, especially the AU and CSOs for their unflinching support, stating how proud GIMAC is to have contributed to the emergence of the first female AUC chairperson and acknowledged the recent appointment of the first ever female Youth Envoy of the African Union.

**Ms. Ater Mayang**, shared her experience that as a war survivor she was forced into early marriage and faced the harrowing experience of displacement because of civil war in her home country, South Sudan. She related her experience to the bizarre phenomenon faced by many women and girls in Africa who also lacked the voice to speak up. She narrated how forced marriage made her attempt suicide, and how she managed to escape from the marriage. In all her trying period no agency, whether government, non-government or faith-based assisted or spoke up against her ordeal, as these institutions are also gender biased. The only support she got was from her mother that enabled her return to school. In her words, “Our decision makers find it alright to buy big guns and kill our brothers, buy properties in

neighboring countries while finding it difficult to give the people of South Sudan basic services like health care and infrastructure”.

**Nicole** stated that her story is to give policy makers the perspective needed to understand what young girls go through as teenagers”. All they need is a voice to be heard. Girls need to be given the voice. Silence is not an option, for, in the end we will not remember the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends. She made the following recommendations:

- **open a databank on returnees and refugees and link them to support programmes that will aid their integration to the society**
- **Recognize exceptional leadership of young people in solving Africans’ problems and realization of Agenda 2063, including effective deployment of ICTs**
- **Increase access to SRHR and services for refugees, IDPS and returnees.**
- **Include comprehensive SRHR services and access to abortion. for preventing high abortion and maternal mortality by girls;**
- **Strengthen and expand laws defining rape and sexual assault;**
- **mainstream and strengthen implementation of policies and budgets to end child marriage;**
- **sensitize and train police and judges about sexual violence;**
- **Adopt comprehensive approaches to address SGBV and FGM**
- **Provide access to education services to cater for academic needs of refugees, returnees and displaced girls including acceptable curriculum.**

Nicole concluded by calling Heads of State, duty bearers and CSOs or groups to join the fight in combating forced and early marriage and any other forms of gender-based violence.



Professor Agbor

**H.E. Prof. Agbor**, started her speech by recalling the great impact of GIMAC’s work on the AU’s agenda. She stated that ‘... to mainstream gender through the adoption and ratification of the Maputo protocol, the adoption of the Solemn Declaration on gender equality in Africa, the Solemn Declaration Index (SDI), and the role of GIMAC’s traditional Pre - Summits among others advocacy’s activities.’

**Prof. Agbor** stated that education was the backbone of her department and was working to ensure effective implementation of Continental Strategy for Education in Africa (CESA) 16-25 and integration of the gender agenda to CESA which is being spearheaded by AU/CIEFFA working closing with FAWE. She emphasized that girls, women and youth are entitled to same opportunity of knowledge in science, technology and innovation as envisioned in Agenda 2063.

Reflecting on the theme of this year’s summit, Prof Agbor noted that the ‘.... African continent host over a third of the World’s forcibly displaced persons .... including 6.3 million refugees and 14.5 million internally Displaced Persons (IDPS). The continent has 5,509,900 asylum seekers and 712,000 stateless persons, yet we have a 1969 convention on the protection and assistance for IDPS and Refugees.’

She also expressed concern over the gaps in refugees response despite existence of the Kampala Convention. Prof. Agbor listed some of the challenges faced by women refugees from denial of their right to access and control of housing, land and marital property rights, exclusion from inheritance and lack of access to justice. She concluded by making the following recommendations :



- **adequate access to social and development services for displaced women;**
- **inclusion of women in in peace negotiation and discussion on humanitarian responses**
- **adequate protection of schools in refugee settings to encourage girls' retention in schools and their travel to school**
- **use of women's networks to ensure zero-tolerance culture for perpetrators of any abuse on women and girls especially those in refugee camps**

**Amb. von Hanno Aasland** pointed out that the SDGs are ambitious global goals that key developmental stakeholders are committed to, with the aim of not leaving anyone behind. He noted that despite these commitments, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons do not seem to reap some of these benefits from this social and economic development agenda in most Africa countries.

Amb. Aasland stated that short-term interventions are insufficient; more work needs to be done by GIMAC and other humanitarian agencies to find a more advanced response to displacement crises. Amb. Aasland expressed Norway's continued support to the efforts of GIMAC.

**Amb. Hyland**, shared Ireland's National Action Plan and emphasized her country's commitment to support refugees and displaced persons globally. She stated that of late, there has been a dramatic increase in displacements, years since the first Refugee Convention in Kampala by the OAU in 1969. Saddening is that the humanitarian response is gender blind, such that the sensitive needs of women and girls are overlooked as important humanitarian needs. She emphasized that mainstreaming gender issues is not enough, efforts must be made on targeted assistance for women and girls.

**Amb. Sonja** shared perspectives on Ireland's migration – both as a migrant recipient country as well as a country where its people were emigrating to other parts of the world and lauded the role CSOs played in transforming progress in Ireland's development. "We are the only country in Europe whose current population is lower

than it was a century ago. This is largely due to effects of migration. Although not forced but in search of better economic opportunities." The Ambassador buttressed the fact that women and girls are important channels for change. EU, countries such as Ireland support education and vocational training for women and girls, as well as supporting increased participation of women in peace process. Norway has launched a new strategy that has made her one of the biggest contributors of women peacekeepers globally.

On humanitarian responses, Ambassador Sonja advised that long term, durable solution must be sought, humanitarian agencies must work together, and host countries must increasingly be engaged. She also advised that nations must adopt the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework- an open-source tool designed to support the multi-stakeholder approach on refugee issues. African countries such as Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda have all agreed to apply the CRRF in their responses.

**Amb. Sonja** reminded all that nations must remember their pledges to the SDGs to leave no one behind, hence, refugees and the displaced must not be left behind on all opportunities. She concluded by stating that durable solutions are necessary for the implementation of SDGs as well as peace and security agenda for Africa. She commended the AU for this year's discourse on Refugees and IDPs as the thematic focus as much as she did in 1969.

**Mme Anass Kenda**, traced the root causes of humanitarian crises across Africa which are directly or indirectly linked to unfavorable economic conditions and hardship, lack of opportunities and the phenomenon of "returned wars". She stated that unless these conditions are critically addressed, Africa might not genuinely end refugee crises. Africa's inability to resolve disputes amicably has led to many families being thrown on the road without hope of the future. Women and children are the main victims of war

**"Conflicts in Africa needs to stop as children, girls and women deserve to live in peace".  
Ambassador Sonja Hyland**

and are mostly left with little choices but to flee their countries to other countries in search of peace. She narrated the distaste appalling view other worlds watch on their screens about Afri-

ca: The constant troubles of children fleeing; women and children carrying “jerricans”, and young men sitting under the sun along the road as symbol of underdevelopment. Other attendant challenges of famine, trauma, loss of hope of returning home, loss of loved ones, and other inhuman conditions also force young girls and women into prostitution.

She said the GIMAC Pre-AU summit must create solutions what will enable generating questions that the summit must answer: How do we ensure that GIMAC is listened to if we are not given the floor to speak out; how do we begin to listen and document the cry and agony of women, particularly those who have to bury their children during their journey of fleeing their homes. Further, the network should ensure that discussion on humanitarian challenges does not end with this 2019 conference. Refugee crises must be dealt with as a universal call, and women must be at the forefront of ending the crises. To achieve this feat, women should be given opportunity to mediate to avoid war. She concluded that women in leadership position need to be more involved in the decisions that concern them.

**H.E. Samate Cessouma**, acknowledged the great efforts women of Africa are putting into creating a peaceful and stable continent. She reminded the gathering that the AU declared 2019 as the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons is a commemoration of 50 years of AU's mission on Refugees in Africa.

She pointed out that the hope for a new Africa we want has been succinctly captured in the Aspiration 3 and 4 of the Agenda 2063 which specifically rededicate Africans towards good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, the rule of law and a prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena. The main triggers of internal displacement and refugee crises in Africa are as a result of weak governance structure, precipitated by political instability and the absence of conflict coping mechanisms. Hence the difficulties in tackling the phenomenon of forced displacements which needs action oriented and strategic interventions at every level.

Comm. Samate Cessouma concluded by stating that peace building, conflict resolution and socio-economic reconstruction are the key solutions to the humanitarian challenges in Africa. Getting these solutions right will accelerate the attainment of the Africa Agenda 2063.

## ■ SESSION I

### PRESENTATION OF THE 2nd SDI REPORT, AU REFORMS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE 32nd GIMAC SUMMIT "CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE: IMPACT AND WAY-OUT FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH"

**Moderator:** Mrs. Ngone Diop, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

**Panelists:**

- **Dr. Mahawa-Kaba Wheeler**, AUC Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD)
- **Dr. Olumide A. Ajayi**, Executive Director- Africa Leadership Forum

**F**eedback from 32nd GIMAC Summit: The session started with a screening of the "Video Report of the 32nd GIMAC Summit" held in January in Addis, Ababa- Ethiopia and Nouakchott, Mauritania on the margins of the AU Heads of State and Governments Summits in 2018.

**Dr. Mahawa-Kaba Wheeler** highlighted the various AU reforms on gender equality and the way forward for GIMAC, while informing participants that Decision 635 of the AU, has strengthened article 4L which is a decision calling for gender equality and 30% of youth representation at the African Union by 2025.

She affirmed that by 2025, there should be gender balance at all levels of the AU, and 35% of youth representation in all bodies of the AU.

In her analysis of what the AU has achieved so far, she stated that, "as of today, 51% of AU Directors are women which supersede that of 2012 at 29%," while in 2017 AU achieved 45% women Directors. Generally, women participation is just 35% with the hope of reaching the 50% goal in the coming years.

**To conclude Dr Mahawa stated that 'in our strive to achieve gender parity, gender balance must do more than the number of females. It must show in the organizational structure from top to bottom.'**

**Dr. Ajayi** reviewed the three-year progress report on the SDI launched in Kigali in 2016. He shared some of the progresses made by WGDD based on country reports on the status of women on various target articles of the SDGEA. GIMAC in 2004, while trying to lobby Member States (MS) to adopt the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), some clauses were

removed by the time it was presented at the AU. For instance, articles 10 and 12 which seeks to report the progress of MS on the SDGEA had been removed. GIMAC's continuous effort made H.E Thabo Mbeki who noticed this gap and insisted that the 2 clauses should be re-instated.

He presented the 2nd SDI report for the performance assessment of MS of the AU in the implementation of SDGEA the current report-maintained focus on the generation of three thematic indices on HIV/AIDs, Gender Parity and Girls Education as it was in the first report. The complimentary Solemn Declaration Score Card (SDSC) was used to assess the SDGEA report of 30 Member States whose reports were available to GIMAC at the end of November 2018. The Grand Index (GI) was also calculated as the geometric mean of SDI and SDSC assisted in profiling the high performing countries in this second cycle of the SDI report. The leading countries based on the evaluation were Namibia, Kenya, Zambia, Senegal and Rwanda in that order. Paucity of data and non-availability of some MS reports limited the scope and depth of the report.

One major innovation in the 2019 report is the documentation of good practices that MS have deployed in the implementation of the SDGEA which have produced or are producing gender sensitive impact in favour of women in those countries. The study also accommodated an advocacy document on article 8 of the SDGEA produced by a GIMAC partner; Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) adopted in Chapter 4. The objective behind this is to provide advocacy opportunities for GIMAC members, activists and other stakeholders to engage and encourage their Head of States to adopt these good practices to drive gender equality and rights of women.

The report showed that progress is being re-



corded in some areas, however concerted efforts are required in protecting women against the upsurge in Gender Based Violence (GBV), Human Trafficking, Slavery and lack of access to productive resources. The decision-making structures and space both at the AUC and MS level are still heavily skewed in favour of men except in some few cases where legal and policy support had helped African women to climb the ladder of equality in a rapid manner.

The post-election reversal in the women representation status in Seychelles calls for the use of appropriate legal instruments in ensuring sustainability in the promotion of gender equality in Africa. Giant strides were made in the reduction of prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS in some countries but anti-retroviral treatment coverage for women living with HIV/AIDS is still low when compared to that of men. Girls' enrollment in schools and progression rates have improved but efforts at retaining and re-entry for girls after school pregnancy need acceleration and spread across the continent. The preponderance of early child marriage in some countries continue to hinder the collective efforts being deployed to increase access for girls in both primary and secondary schools. Although AU/CIEFFA had developed some programmes to encourage and raise the interest of girls in STEM, a more holistic and continent-wide commitment and childhood awareness creation and attention will be required to achieve the desired results.

The report made some recommendations for a joint GIMAC-AUWGDD advocacy mission summarized below:

- **Undertake a visit to countries whose response to the commitments made under the SDGEA has been very weak to build their capacity and persuade them to develop appropriate strategies, policies and laws required for the implementation of the SDGEA;**
- **Engage government and stakeholders of countries serving as source, route and recipients of trafficked women with the aim of developing a legal framework for the rights protection and rehabilitation of female victims;**
- **a separate Women Rights Commission (WRC) be established as distinct legal entity from the existing Human Rights Commissions (HRCs) because many of them do not focus much on the rights of women.**

- **Convene a Special Session of the Heads of State of the AU on Acceleration of Political Participation of Women through active interventions that will compel Political Parties and Electoral Commissions across the continent to fund and integrate women to the electoral system from the national to local government level.**

#### ***Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:***

Following these presentations, participants commended the efforts and the target of the AUC on gender parity across all the departments and agencies of the AU. They were of the opinion adequate provision should be made for tracking of promotions and appointments within the AUC to ensure that gender parity targets remained on track. On the SDI report, the discussions centered on the need to make member states to provide better gender disaggregated data on specific articles of the SDGEA while the best practices shared in the report should be circulated among GIMAC members for effective advocacy within their communities and states. The panelists made some calcifications and provided additional insights to the issues raised on the floor. The key highlights and recommendations from this session included:

- **AUWGDD should regularly monitor and report on the implementation of Decision 635 of the AU on gender parity target**
- **To convene special SDI session to push for the acceleration of women involvement in electoral system from national to local level.**
- **Build capacities of CSO's to encourage proper data collection and reporting to perform SDI score reporting from the grass root to complement reports and data from government institutions**
- **Encourage member states to submit a structured report to help monitor their progress.**
- **Encourage member states in making sure SDI index is accurately shared and implemented**
- **National and regional CSO's should consider doing alternative shadow reports**

The session concluded with the official launching of the GIMAC 2019 Solemn Declaration Index and Scorecard Report.

## ■ SESSION II

### FOCUS ON GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

**Moderator:** Ms. Helen Kezie-Nwoha, Isis Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange

**Panelists:**

- **Prof Monica McWilliams, Embassy of Ireland**
- **Prof Cheryl Hendricks, African Institute of South Africa**
- **Ms. Michele Ayala Donfack, UNHCR**
- **Mr. Apollos Nwafor, Pan Africa Director of Oxfam International**



**P**rof. McWilliams presented on “engendering Displacement Solutions and Peace Processes in Northern Ireland” using her struggle as a case study. She narrated women struggle in Ireland, as a period when women were not democratically included in decision making processes. Ireland is also a war affected country for many years resulting to migration of most of its population. Women activists from CSOs decided it is over to be left outside and the situation changed for better. Building on her experience and commitment in changing the status quo where women political participation is a myth, they (women) came together to form a coalition within 6 weeks into electoral processes and contested and won three seats. She was among the only 3 women who were able to participate in decision making. “If we were not able to have a seat on the table, there would have not been any policies supporting women and girls”.

As chief negotiator in the Northern Ireland Peace Process, Prof. Mc Williams recalled how twenty thousand (20,000) people fled because of the violence at some point, most of whom were children and women including herself. She ex-

plained how powerful women coalition came to be through her efforts in working with existing networks of women CSOs who assisted in bringing gender analysis to conflict prevention and conflict resolution in Ireland. She stated that because of the Ireland conflict, over 80% of its population left the country and efforts are still ongoing to resolve ethnic and religious issues. Any effort to transform conflict, effort should be concentrated on DDR to transform the mind-set and attitude of the citizenry including individuals, non-state actors as well as policy makers. The Professor stated that CSOs must be included in the creation of innovative ideas to assist in humanitarian responses and resettlement. Civic forum should be created within the IDPs Camps to ease tracing and should include civic actors.

**Prof. McWilliams concluded by saying “Women’s rights are human rights” and that the Maputo Protocol might remain an aspiration unless it becomes the center of judicial precedence.**

**Prof. Hendricks** stated that at the center of forced displacement in Africa are issues of conflicts, crises of governance and lack of conflict pre-

vention mechanism to ensure conflicts are amicably resolved. Increase in returned wars started in 2010, this time around violent extremism surged, which created a rise in displacement. By implication, half of the numbers of refugee are women and children. She stressed the need for them to be accorded necessary and support. In presenting the dire situation, the Professor quoted world's refugee data currently standing at 68.5 million people who are forcefully displaced, and out of which, about 22 million are refugees, while 46 million are IDPs". She challenged African Heads of State to implement all the related legal instruments they ratified, while calling on countries currently battling huge refugee crises to begin immediate implementation: As at 2017, South Sudan had 1.4 million displaced people whilst DRC had 2.2million displaced people; 2 million refugees and battling level 3 emergency and 9.9 million people with food insecurity challenges. She advised that Africa take the following steps to cushion the refugee crises:

- **states to abide by signed protocols;**
- **adherence to the implementation of 1325; National Action Plans must include how the issue of IDPs will be handled;**
- **nations must begin to develop a comprehensive peace and security architecture;**
- **women must be at the forefront and active participation in the design of these programmes;**
- **women must get themselves better organized. Women can form the largest peace army and humanitarian agents in Africa;**
- **amplify women's voices;**
- **women should emulate social movements to bring about the change. Women must birth innovative ideas of effecting change and not just rely on Member States.**

**Ms. Donfack** stated that the number of displaced persons living in vulnerability and under protected shelter continues to increase. She highlighted UNHCR's mandate, stating that gender mainstreaming is a key component in promoting gender equality. he maintained that enormous gaps remain in their operations, while nations continue to seek durable solutions to refugee crises, Refugees return needs to be voluntary and in safety

and dignity. In the same vein, nations must avoid extensive legal framework and emphasis principle of non-discrimination, gender inclusion when admitting refugees.

Registration and documentation of IDPs is very important because many agencies either lack or never had any means of documenting IDPs. There is also a general lack of systematic documentation of women & girls. There is also a lack of access to civic registrations (birth, marriage, death) in camps, refugees especially women are the worst affected because they lack education and have low or little awareness of registration and lack of money to cover registration. Legal regime is discriminatory in line to birth registration, because during resettlement you need a passport; documentation is important to access voluntary repatriation. Recalling from her experience, humanitarian crises expose women and girls to additional protection risks; early marriage and human trafficking. Women and girls cannot have access to various facilities, work, livelihood opportunities, credit, education among others. She stressed the need for these returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons to be included in the National Development Plan of their respective countries.

In her recommendation, she called on member states to advocate for the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol and to align it to national laws.

**"there is nothing micro about women."**

**Mr. Nwafor** stated that women are at the heart of any violence. In many cases, women are used as tools for reduce stress for men, such that cases of sexual violence during wars are profound. He added that what is now called gender responsiveness would not be a conversation if women were put at the forefront in the initial planning stages.

He advised that in designing humanitarian responses, costing and budgeting needs to be higher and specific to adequately take care of facilities that ensure protection for women. In addition, the distance between where men and women sleep must be kept safe and inaccessible to unwanted persons so as not to expose women to rape. Women must be capacitated with adequate skills that does not just leave them at the level of basic livelihood, but enable



them to be leaders, adding that ‘there is nothing micro about women.’. For instance, on the issue of Continental free trade agreement, women will play leading role because 80% of cross border trade is done by women. But they are also subjected to harassment and bribes at the borders. He stressed the need to address emotional issues. Women have more emotional elastic limits than the men. What are we doing about the psychological support so that women's dignity is protected, and their hard work is recognised. Mr Nwafor called for creation of a sustainable plans beyond camps irrespective of the status of stateless persons, they have the rights. Mr Nwafor concluded by emphasizing the need to mainstream gender in all interventions relating to forced displacements.

#### ***Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:***

The exchanges that followed these presentations focused on the various dimension of conflicts and how women in different situations have always been at the receiving end and being left without any form of support. Participants shared their experiences and called on the panelists to respond to some of the issues raised by participants. The key highlights and recommendations from this session are summarized as follows:

- **Encourage member state in the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Kampala Convention which 46 countries have so far adopted;**
- **Stress the importance of gender specific responses towards forced displacements;**
- **Provide capacity strengthening to women and evaluate the quality of capacity provided;**

- **Provide psychological support for the young girls and women in the refugee camps;**
- **Put in place laws that will ensure women's ownership of land is enhanced;**
- **Place women at the forefront of decision making and implementation of policies especially women returnees and IDP's;**
- **CSO's should hold governments accountable to the protocols they signed pertaining to the issues of refugees and IDP's and align national laws with international laws;**
- **Urge States to put Burundi back into the peace and security agenda of the continent and take urgent and necessary action for quick resumption of the inter-Burundi dialogue that will return peace into the country**

## ■ LUNCH BREAK AND PRESENTATION OF THE AFRICAN WOMAN PIONEER AWARD 2019

**Mme Bineta Diop** moderated the award ceremony. She commended and congratulated the awardees for their leadership, innovation and dedication to the advancement of African women, gender and development. The award recipients were; H.E Aminata Tall, Chair of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, Senegal, Ms Bente Angell-Hanson, Former Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, Ms Liza Kimbo, Former Executive Director of IPAS, Mrs. Hendrina Doroba, Former Executive Director of FAWE and Chairperson of GIMAC.



From left to right: Mme Diop, Mrs. Doroba and Ms. Kabayo



Ms. Bente Angell-Hanson



Ms. Nyambura receiving the award on behalf of Ms Liza Kimbo

## ■ PRESS CONFERENCE



## ■ SESSION III

### FOCUS ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY COMMITMENTS AND THE GENDERED IMPACT

**Moderator: Dr. Mary-Ann Tibet, Executive Director MSD for Mothers**

**Panelists:**

- **Dr Nancy Kidula, WHO Regional Office for Africa**
- **Temitayo Erogbogbo, Director of Advocacy, MSD for Mothers**
- **Dr Margaret Agama-Anyetei, African Union Commission Department of Social Affairs Division of Health, Nutrition and Population**



**D**r. **Kidula** made a presentation on Implementing Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) to address maternal mortality in the context of forced displacement. She played a video play titled “PUSH” which detailed mothers pain during labor and delivery. Taking cognizance of the fact that maternal mortality death is a gender issue that affects only women, it has not received due attention despite being discussed and agreed upon by AU.

Governments should therefore be called upon to strengthen implementation of Maternal Death Surveillance and Response as a strategy for ending preventable maternal mortality in Africa. She enumerated the advantages of MDRS:

- **helps to identify and quantify type and reason of maternal deaths and assists in planning, resource mobilization and advocacy;**
- **identify type of maternal cases that are avoidable;**
- **due to a small percentage of reported maternal deaths, MDRS prevents illegality and strengthens the legal environment in the prevention of maternal mortality.**

**Mr. Erogbogbo** opened his discussion by sharing the activities and focus of MSD for Mothers which can be summarized as creating a world where no woman dies giving birth. He stated

that of every 800 women dying, two-third are in Africa, and 80% of these number live in humanitarian settlement. Every day, 507 women and adolescent girls die from pregnancy and child-birth complications in emergency setting. These various deaths and complications are preventable, and this is what is driving the interventions that come from MSD for mothers.

As part of the solution, Mr. Erogbogbo opined that adolescent girls must be able to shape programme design and implementation and accountability mechanisms that should be accessible to them.

**Dr Agama-Anyetei**, spoke on the AU’s Campaign on Accelerated Reduction on Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA). The Campaign currently focuses on four key areas:

- **Building on existing efforts particularly best practices;**
- **Generating and providing data on maternal newborn deaths;**
- **Soliciting stakeholder goodwill, including political commitment and mobilizing domestic resources in support of maternal and newborn health; and**
- **Accelerating actions to reduce maternal and infant mortality in Africa.**



**«We are here because more women are dying due to humanitarian crisis and we need to put the issue of maternal mortality on our agenda.» Mary-Ann Etiebet**

The speakers agreed on the need to track the implementation of maternal pre-natal surveillance response system (every death should be counted and investigated). It was emphasized that the continent move from policy to action as maternal deaths can happen to anyone. The session concluded by calling for stronger partnerships and improved reporting system.

**Dr Kidula said – “60% of deaths are occurring in refugees and displaced women, adolescents, poor and vulnerable women. The clarion call for the CARMMA campaign is that No woman should die while giving life!”**

#### ***Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:***

The discussions that ensued after the presentation centered around the waste and the losses that maternal mortality that Africa must coped with year in year out. Sharing their experience participant believed that more is required by the Member States in ensuring that Health Services are provided for women especially in the rural areas and IDPs camps where high percentage of maternal mortality are recorded across the continent. The AUC was challenged to intensify their efforts in ensuring that there is a rapid reduction in maternal mortality rates as CARMMA needs to increase its delivery tempo. The key highlights and recommendations from this session include:

- **Call to action to include MSDR indicators within the CARMMA;**
- **Work with women parliamentarians to include maternal healthcare issues in their agenda in parliament; especially gender sensitive budgeting;**
- **Need for comprehensive health care systems and clinical practices;**
- **Provide counselling and psychological services/center for women returnees and IDP's.**

## ■ SESSION IV

### FOCUS ON LIVELIHOODS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**Moderator:** Christina Kwangwari, International Project Manager, ActionAid International  
**Panelists:**

- **Ms. Asako Hattori UN OHCHR**
- **Ms. Agnes Leina Ntikampi of Il'laramatak Community Concerns talked on the topic "The Impact of Climate -related Displacement on Pastoralist women"**
- **Ms. Peace Ihuoma Chikoke of SWOFON Nigeria spoke on the topic "Mitigating the impact of Forced Displacement on Young Smallholder Women Farmers"**



**M**s. **Hattori** informed the meeting that climate change has impacted on people's lives. It is predicted that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approx. 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress. Such impacts erode living condition of people and is violation on fundamental human rights, people are forced to move. While some people are forced to move, others cannot even move, despite the hazards they face. She shared on how human rights, in particular women's rights, are relevant to responses to climate change and its relationship to displacement.

- **protect human rights, we need to prevent further global warming, in honor of the Paris Climate Agreement that commit states to prevent global warming to no more than 2C above pre-industrial temperatures by the end of the century;**
- **eliminating inequality and discrimination is key to reduce vulnerability to the impact of climate change, and vulnerable situations in the context of migration;**
- **the human rights of people who are compelled to move because of climate change must be protected. A key issue for the international community, including the AU, is to fully address the protection needs of all people who are compelled to move due to climate change, particularly those escaping from the**

**impact of slow-onset processes, and to design human rights-based and gender-responsive long-term solutions, especially when return is not a sustainable option;**

- **women and girls are not inherently vulnerable, but they are active agents for devising responses to climate change and migration. We should avoid categorizing women and girls as passive "vulnerable groups" in need of protection. Women and girls, and women's rights organizations and women human rights defenders, should be actively and meaningfully engaged and spaces for their participation should be protected;**
- **national courts as well as regional human rights mechanisms, such as the African Court and Commission on Human and People's Rights, have a role to play to safeguards access to justice and effective remedies to migrants and those displaced or relocated.**

**Ms Ntikampi** spoke on the impact of climate change on women pastoralists. Pastoralist women are already double marginalized firstly as women (gender disparities, workloads and socio-political standing) and then as a people living in marginal areas away from mainstream development and decision making at County and National levels. Locally, climate change has resulted into separation of families. In normal dry

season voluntary migrations happen and with the demand for children's education in immobile schools, the need for better healthcare for children and the elderly, the family is mostly separated.

The changes in the external environment of pastoralists due to effects of climate change have led to increasing frequency and intensity of drought and famine. For women, this has meant prolonged labor in accessing water and firewood for cooking energy. Climate change comes with the loss of livestock and displacement. It puts safety and security of pastoralists' women at stake, denying them of their social networks, cuts them off from their livelihood and production systems, separates families and disrupts education. Easing displacement because of climate change requires an integrated response involving more innovative thinking on appropriate humanitarian or development responses for pastoralist women facing climate-induced displacement.

The focus should be on ending displacement by reversing impoverishment and reinforcing local resilience of pastoral women on their livelihoods in a changing climate environment.

**Ms. Chikoke** gave an overview of the challenges faced by young women smallholders' farmers - especially access to land, training, capital and market. She affirmed that "No woman farmer no food on the table!". In agricultural value chain, women play key roles in the production, distribution, storage and marketing. In the household, women also play critical role in nutritional benefits for women, children and families. Despite the spate of violence, insurgency, terrorism that force people to leave and puts lives in loss of properties, communal clashes and inability to return to school there is no political will on the part leaders to address these impacts. She recommended the following:

- **increased investment in agriculture and action on sustainable credible agriculture to mitigate the effect of climate change;**
- **women to women solidarity through the creation of women's forums across parties;**
- **address the root causes of violent extremism in the African region particularly Boko Haram insurgency;**  
develop tailor-made programmes and initia-

- **tives targeting young women refugees and returnees to re-integrate them into the society.**

#### ***Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:***

Participants while contributing to the presentation pointed out that climate change has been devastating the environment and its impact on refugees and IDPS. Participants highlighted the tension between refugees and IDPS and host communities for scarce resources, food and energy. The key highlights that emerged from the discussions included:

- **Facilitate access to land, training, capital and market to supports the livelihoods of refugees, rreturnees and IDP's targeting women**
- **African Union member states should develop tailor-made programmes and invest in the green and blue industries with gender specific indicators**
- **African governments to invest in Agriculture in accordance with the CAADP Malabo Declaration towards a food secured Africa and sustainable agricultural practices that is climate smart.**
- **Mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation in national development plans and budgets**
- **Promote young women's participation in Agribusiness and Agropreneurship**
- **Champion Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBACC) in African countries with strong focus on the gender dimensions to Disaster Risk Reduction and Response**



# Day Two

## (4th February 2019)

### ■ SESSION V

FOCUS ON EDUCATION FOR IDPs AND REFUGEES

**Moderator:** Ms. Juliet Kimotho, Communications and Advocacy Assistant - Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE)

**Panelists:**

- Ms. Stella Kromanson - Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE);
- Ms. Victoria Egbetayo, Global Partnership for Education;
- Dr. Kebede Kassa Tsegaye, IGAD Program on Education, Science and Technology and innovation
- Mr. Jackson Nsabo, Save the Children (C) Regional Office for Africa in Ethiopia

**M**s Kromanson speaking from experience as a Sierra Leonean war survivor, once a refugee, gave a brief analysis on peace negotiations in which women were never involved, despite being the most affected. She gave the following recommendations:

- improve and increase humanitarian resources to include physical protection, education of refugees, medicare and psychosocial;
- local administration must work with peace

- support operations to create change;
- establish compensation mechanisms especially for collateral damage;
- AU should develop document to enable peace keeping incorporate vulnerable people;
- have gender experts to support mediators;
- train women in mediation and negotiation.



**Ms. Egbetayo** started her presentation with a video introducing the work of Global Partnership for Education. This was followed by a key statement from her buttressing the importance of Strengthening education systems and need to integrate displaced persons into sector plans. She called on government to recruit more and better trained teachers (female) in conflict and post conflict situations. She reiterated the benefits of educating displaced girls: Health be-

nefits – educated girls seek more SRHR, have healthier families; Enhances economic opportunities; Secondary education doubles women's earnings; Provides routine and normalcy in crises; Empowers, strengthens resilience, and builds agency; Reduces risk of child marriage; Reduces vulnerability to abuse, sexual violence and GBV. She urged States to involve young girls and women in decision making processes and create a conducive environment where they

can meaningfully participate in nation building.

**Dr. Tsegaye** gave a brief on the work of IGAD in line with the global goals on education. Innovative approaches need committed partnerships and he called on local chiefs and governments to encourage girls to acquire education. He noted that IGAD has developed monitoring frameworks to benchmark access to education for displaced persons. He also called on CSOs to push IGAD member states to implement the IGAD and the implementation of the Djibouti Declaration

**“Innovation is key to quality education thus the need for member states to incorporate Science and Technology in our schools through digitalization.”**  
**Dr Tsegaye**

**Mr. Nsabo** presented on “Idea Box” (IB) which is designed with customized technology to make learning easier. SC provides access to education for pupils, teachers and out of school children. The technology is a year old with an immediate impact of 30% increase in enrollment. “With IB, teachers use child friendly materials for pupils including cartoons” which improve learning during violent conflicts.

#### **Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:**

Education is key for every African child including those in war torn countries echoed the participants. For girls and women to realize their full potential, use of smarter technological innovations such as the ‘Idea Box.’

Participants called on for a rapid expansion of its use across IDP camps in Africa. Further, emphasis was made on host communities and governments were obliged to respect and respond to the needs of girls and women in refugee camps. and that necessary protect and infrastructure are provided by the host communities from time to time. In responding to issues raised by participants, the panelists made the following recommendations:

- **Governments need to invest in education technology to refugees, IDPs and returnees’ children who find themselves vulnerable to risks such as child labour, sexual exploitation, physical abuse, and early marriage and pregnancies.**

- **Develop and implement reintegration programmes for women and girls, child soldiers, to include provision of psychosocial support and Comprehensive sexuality education for those affected by conflict and displacement.**
- **Promoting peace building, protective measures and healing programmes, which may vary according to context and culture; and, reconstruction of, school infrastructure particularly menstrual hygiene facilities.**
- **Translate refugee/IDPs policies and guidelines to local languages and sensitive survivors of displacement on the same**
- **Strengthen education systems and integrate displaced persons into sector plans, working closely with host communities**
- **Strengthen data systems (collection, usage, sex disaggregated data) for gender responsive policy making to redress gender imbalances,**
- **Important to bridge the humanitarian and development divide to avoid reprogramming humanitarian aid, and so the immediate education needs of displaced populations are met.**



## ■ SESSION VI

### FOCUS ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

**Moderator:** Farirayi Gumbonzvanda, Youth Coordinator - Rozaria Memorial Trust

**Panelists:**

- **Ms. Valerie Dagnimisom Koutou, Save the Children/WILDAF**
- **Ms. Assitan Camara, Save the Children/WILDAF**
- **Dr. Eliya Zulu; African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)/International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)**
- **Ms. Leah Eryenyu, Akina Mama wa Afrika**

**M**s **Camara** decried the high rate of early marriage in countries such as Niger where 3 out of every 4 girls are married before they are 18 years. She stated that Africa needs to revisit its commitment to the girl child in accordance to the prohibition against child marriage in the Maputo Protocol and which is also consistent with its campaign to combat child marriage during the 16th Extraordinary Session in Kigali, Rwanda in 2014. Further, in 2015, the Heads of State and Governments of the AU announced that they had formally adopted an African common position on the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa. While acknowledging the efforts made by some African countries to outlaw child marriage, she challenged remaining member states to ban child marriage. Ms Camara made the following recommendations:

- **AU member States to develop national strategies and action plans aimed at ending child marriage;**
- **enact and implement laws that set the legal minimum age for marriage at 18 years of age or above, with no exceptions and applicable under all legal systems, and**
- **implement all continental policies and legal instruments relating to human rights, gender equality, maternal and child health, and harmful traditional practices for the empowerment and participation of girls and women in development.**

**Dr. Zulu** stated that one of the biggest challenges for the movement to end child marriage is how to take local solutions to child marriage and bring them up to scale so that it's not just girls in one community, but girls across a whole country can benefit. He stressed the need to have policies that support legal framework that are developed to respond to sexual violence as existing ones

are not producing the right results. Dr. Zulu reiterated that Child marriage is not only a violation of human rights but also a significant hindrance to Africa's development. He concluded with the following recommendations:

- **Sustained leadership and political will of the government is essential to ensuring an end to child marriage;**
- **Governments need to strengthen capacities to coordinate work across sectors, communicate clearly about what is happening, and allocate budget to address child marriage;**
- **CSOs are vital to the ensuring compliance to laws banning child marriage.**

**Ms Eryenyu** decried the overwhelming number of law and policies on sexual violence which are not followed up with commensurate implementation. She made a case that sexual violence is highly visible because of the number of laws and policies enacted, and yet invisible because women's experiences were ignored at the point of implementation. In emergency settings, food, water, and shelter take precedence over any other needs, at the expense of services for survivors of sexual violence.

**Ms Eryenyu** highlighted the lived experiences of survivors of sexual violence in emergency settings which included being abused by humanitarian workers in exchange for basic needs. She added that access to justice for displaced people and refugees is even harder because of their status as non-citizens or non-residents. In cases where gender desks are available to attend to survivors, the language barrier makes it harder for women to share their stories. She made the following recommendations in response to this situation.



- **Develop homegrown data to make visible the scale of sexual violence in forced displacement.**
- **Revise policies to align with regional and international policy frameworks buttressed by political will, as well as building institutions and capacities of duty bearers to respond to sexual violence in forced displacement.**

- **Earmark dedicated resources to purely combatting sexual violence as opposed to general women's rights. Furthermore, States should be compelled to allocate a prescribed percentage of national budgets to combatting sexual violence, in the manner of the Abuja Declaration.**



#### ***Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:***

Major highlights from participants discussions were that child marriage and violence against women continued to be a major challenge in many African communities and in many instances, it is driven by religious and traditional beliefs that are difficult to combat. The participants called for more aggressive campaign and laws that protect the girl child from the heinous crime and acts. The panelists agreed with some of the issues raised by participants and share their own views on the issues raised. The highlights and recommendations from this session is summarised below:

- **Progressively expand access to a recommended essential, integrated package of sexual and reproductive health interventions, and information ensuring that addresses the needs of refugee and displaced populations. Provide additional support and capacity building initiatives to vulnerable groups often marginalized, disadvantaged and subject to discrimination: protect the SRHR of displaced and refugee populations and strengthen services in humanitarian settings.**

- **Encourage data collection on sexual violence in refugee camps as part of the index to hold governments accountable**
- **Associate data with stories to put a more humane perspective to the cases of sexual abuses and properly respond to the statistics.**
- **Dedicate resources and funding in curbing sexual assault in humanitarian settings**

## ■ SESSION VII

### FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Moderator: Dr Amany Asfour, President - Egyptian Business Women's Association (EBWA)**

**Panelists:**

- **Ms Tressa Mapunga, African Union Commission**
- **Ms. Dorcas Yingura Zoogah, PRO Young Urban Women Movement (YUWM)**
- **Ms. Evelyn Aero, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**
- **Ms Joyce Mends-Cole, Former UNHCR Representative**



**M**s **Mapunga** informed the gathering that Entrepreneurship at the AU level is considered highly especially among young women refugees. The UNHCR works on integration especially for refugees and is interested in engaging women in markets with special attention to refugees and returnees.

**“Women farmers who would like to use the land for economic activities are constraint because of the Land tenure system in most of these countries. Issues of women accessing land and housing is very difficult thus the need for policy formulation that will empower women land ownership or accessibility.” Ms Aero**

She stressed that, women need markets, the network and capital which is key to reintegration and empowerment. She called to all stakeholders to join the campaign on ushering the “Africa We Want.”

**Ms. Zoogah** presented a personal story which reflected Dorcas left her parents’ house to go to the city to look for a job to pursue her education. She faced so many challenges but endured to make sure that she can pursue her dream. She was living on a \$1 job where she managed to pay for education and eventually graduated. On access to land, she explained that land acquisition for women in rural communities is very difficult as it is customary for only men to have access to lands. She called for a gender sensitive land tenure system that will improve access

for rural women to farm. She called on the AU to put pressure on member states to revisit the labor laws as majority of refugee girls are exploited at workplaces because of the bad labour laws.

**Ms. Aero** echoed the importance of economic empowerment for refugee women and shared NRC program with refugees.

Speaking on the issues around migrants, she called for more capacities to aid in the way migrants settle, while putting in place integration mechanisms for them to be accepted by host countries. She called on member States to put measures in place to accommodate women especially refugees access to the labour market while reiterating the importance of policies to support refugee integration. Citing Ethiopia as an example of a country that allows refugees’ access to livelihood; provide refugee women and girls and IDPs psychosocial support and counselling especially in refugee camps. She concluded by urging everyone to join the call to have member states devise policies that will give refugees opportunities to work and earn a living in host countries.

**“ all stakeholders should join the campaign on ushering the “Africa We Want.” Ms. Mapunga**

### ***Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:***

The participants argued that low economic status of women is the first impact of forced displacement and therefore it requires urgent attention whenever people are uprooted from their communities. The participants share their experience which showed that Women are hardly considered in land and housing allocation thus giving them unnecessary exposure to attack and insecurity in IDPS camps and host communities. The key highlights and recommendations from this session include:

- **Legislate and implement land tenure laws that will enhance women's land ownership and secure women's housing, land and property rights.**
- **AU to put pressure on member states to revisit their labour laws to make sure women are not exploited and sexually abused in workplaces and are able to have decent jobs especially refugees**

- **Provide women refugee and girls and IDPs psychosocial support and counselling especially in refugee camps**
- **Build capacities in receiving and integration of migrants and returnees in countries they are.**
- **Put in place proper mechanisms to help women access work markets.**
- **Develop refugees' skills through life skills training**
- **Help refugees in camps to start their own businesses (Start-ups)**



## ■ SESSION VIII

### FOCUS ON THE CONTRIBUTION GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PEACE PROCESSES

**Moderator: Dr Jean-Bosco Butera, Special Advisor and Chief of Staff - Office of the AU Special Envoy of Women, Peace and Security**

**Panelists:**

- **Col. Mor Diandame Mbow, African Union Peacekeeping Support Unit**
- **Lt. Col. Mohammadou Sao, Senegalese Ministry of Army Forces**
- **Nontyobeko Geabashe, ACCORD**



**T**he session started with a screening of a short video on Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS) Pan-African Centre for Gender Peace and Development pilot initiative on Mainstreaming Gender and Zero Tolerance for Violence on Women and Girls in operations of Senegalese Security and Defence Forces.

- **Col. Mbow** stated that the creation of security institutions in any nation is to secure order. Therefore, protecting the civilians is the sole responsibility of governments and that is why they have an army of soldiers tasked to protect and defend. The AU have policies on peacekeeping tasking member states to protect citizens especially women and children from conflicts. The African Peacekeeping Service is thus mandated with the responsibility of protecting women and children in conflict areas. AU Peace Support Operation in Africa are tasked with the mandate to protect lives and properties of the vulnerable.

Peacekeeping missions are deployed in conflict areas to maintain peace. Further, the mission seeks to ensure gender parity in a way that reflects some level of gender consciousness between men and women deployed to serve in missions. He shared an example of a peace mission in Mali as a case study where female peacekeepers were deployed with men and

it turned to be very fruitful. He welcomed the emerging policies and commitments made by AU Members State to mainstream gender in the Security and Defense forces which will consequently enable gender sensitive support and resources in conflict situations.

**Col. Mbow concluded by saying, “there is a need for mainstreaming gender in peacekeeping operations for the interest of protecting women and girls “**

In conclusion, he insisted that AU must implement policies that will prevent children from enrolling into armies or rebel groups, but this is only possible if member states champion the course especially host countries. He informed the gathering that AU is finalizing a working document that member states will agree and sign in protecting civilians.

**Lt. Col. Sao** spoke on the values and impacts of Gender Mainstreaming in the Armed Forces for Displaced Women and Girls with focus on Senegal as a case study. Senegal Armed Forces adopted a gender strategy framework in 2011 in line with the comprehensive National Strategy for Gender Equity and Equality of 2006. Despite these advances, the process of women’s integration into the Armed Forces faces institutional constraints. These constraints can be lifted through training and capacity building of staff at all levels - essential conditions - for expected changes towards gender effectiveness in the Senegalese Armed Forces.

In that respect an agreement was signed to implement the training programme with support from the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development and the British Government with focus on including gender mainstreaming in the armed forces. He said, Senegal is the 3rd largest contributing country to the peacekeeping

missions in Africa.

While in peacekeeping mission, Senegalese put women soldiers to help engage communities as they relate easily with them. He recognized the role of GIMAC is playing in Africa and empowering women and commended their efforts. He stressed the need for more awareness, advocacy and policy influence to be created around the gender perspective especially in peacekeeping missions and encourage other countries to adopt this practice he concluded.

**Ms. Gcabashe-Zondi** cited the case of South Sudan Peace talk where women were largely neglected in any form of peace talks as this is often the case in many mediation processes in Africa. Only three women are involved in peace negotiations and this is not because women lack the knowledge. Women remain largely neglected and marginalized in decision making processes for no genuine reason while most peace processes focus on protagonist leaving the main people who matters behind. She suggested the need to have gender experts to advise heads of states on peace negotiations.

She called on the AU to have diverse types of preparations that are Gender driven. She also urged for compensations to be accorded to victims with collateral violence. She said that the AU established FEMWISE aimed at supporting women, and she urged AU to put pressure on member states to enforce treaties they ratified on the protection of women and girls and other related laws.

#### **Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:**

The discussion that followed the presentation by the panellists was around the fact that the high number of refugees and IDPS in Africa is fuelled by intra-state conflicts which has led to the emergence of many IDP camps all over the continent. Women are the greatest number of victims and therefore they must be at the centre of all the peace negotiation and conflict resolution. Women, they argued should sit at the negotiation table as envisaged in UNSCR1325.

There is a need to look at the good practices that has worked and should be emulated in other conflict situation. The case of Senegal is a good example particularly as it integrates the experience and vision of women organization working on WPS. The partnership is strongly

recommended in another African countries. The women from Burundi raised concern about their situation and how the conflict continued to make life difficult especially their inability to lead and effectively engage in the resolution of the crisis. There were exchanges between the groups and a resolution that will forge a common vision among the women was proposed as part of the post-meeting engagement. Some of the recommendations from the discussion include:

- **The need for more resources and capacity building to support peacekeeping operations in Africa, with special focus on medical support to victims and enhance access to education for refugee, returnees and IDP's.**
- **Encourage member states to be involved in peacekeeping missions especially host countries.**
- **Allocate compensations to victims of collateral violence**
- **Strengthen corporations between CSOs, women organizations, media and governments.**
- **The need for recruiting female soldiers provided with needed trainings in peacekeeping missions as people in conflict areas resonates more with female than male soldiers.**
- **Raise awareness and build capacity in gender perspectives in peacekeeping missions with the contributions from CSOs and women's groups;**
- **The need to have gender experts to serve as main advisers in peacekeeping missions**
- **Create space for women mediators to deployment areas.**
- **Have different types of reparation that are gender driven**
- **AU should put pressure on member states to enforce treaties they ratified on the protection of women and girls and other related laws**
- **AU should intensify effort at resolving the major conflicts in Africa, especially the Burundi conflict by engaging women in the mediation and dialogues.**

## ■ LUNCH SESSION: LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL RESULT FRAMEWORK (CRF) OF THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN AFRICA



**T**he African Union Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (OSE) launched the African Continental Result Framework (CRF): Monitoring and Reporting Tool on the Implementation of the Woman Peace and Security Agenda in Africa (2018-2028) during the 33rd GIMAC Pre Summit Lunch Session.

The tool was developed over a period of 4 years beginning 2014 and was adopted in 2018 for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. ‘The purpose of the CRF is to ensure that there is an effective, articulate and organized way of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the WPS Agenda in Africa.’



## ■ SESSION IX

FOCUS ON ROLE OF MEDIA, ARTS AND SPORTS IN RETHINKING AND ACTING ON THE SITUATIONS AND NEEDS OF REFUGEES AND RETURNEES IN AFRICA

**Moderator: Ibrahim Ceesay; Executive Director – African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI)**

**Panelists:**

- **Ms. Salome Mbuga, The African and Migrant Woman's Network (AkiDwa)**
- **Ms. Marie Louise Baricako, Mouvement de Femmes et Filles pour la Paix et la Securite (MFFPS)**
- **Ms. Lydia Zigomo, Oxfam International**
- **Ms. Kamilia Ibrahim Kuku Kora, Founder, Nuba Women for Education and Development Association (NuWEDA)**



**T**he moderator, **Dr Awori**, opened the session stating that the panel would focus on displaced women's contributions and called for increased meaningful involvement of refugee and IDP women and girls in defining and implementing gender-responsive durable solutions to forced displacement.

**Ms. Mbuga** presentation addressed Refugee Women's Participation in Crisis Response Design, Implementation, Monitoring and Accountability. She highlighted some of the challenges encountered by displaced women such as loss of income, trauma and lack of access to services and employment.



Salome highlighted the importance of integration and economic empowerment for women migrants rather than charity. Also, initiatives are needed to develop adolescent girls' skills for leadership and participation in decision-making and create an enabling environment - family and community support for their engagement. She concluded with a strong emphasis on the importance of migrant women in contributing economically in host countries and in their countries of origin and what is most important is to remove the barriers for refugees who want to work and to enable those with skills and qualifications to use them.

**Ms. Baricako**, started by painting a graphic picture of the current situation in Burundi which she considered as worrisome and hitting hard on the 10 million citizens of the country. Data from showed that there about 1661 summary executions, 521 enforced disappearances, 9639 arbitrary arrests, 728 cases of torture and 180 cases of sexual violence against women and children (United Nations, 2018); 400,000 are refugees; 180,000 are internally displaced; almost 3.6million are in need of humanitarian assistance; nearly 1.68 million are food insecure people; while close to 70,000 children live in severe acute malnutrition (UNOCHA, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF). The implication of this is that 6 out of 10 million people (60%) of the Burundi population are seriously affected by the current crisis. It is worth considering the human and economic cost of this situation on the country and its people

According to Ms Baricako, the UNHCR has said that the crisis situation of Burundi is one of the world's most under-funded humanitarian crisis. This is in addition to the hard, frustrating and desperate situation which, Burundian me-



dia, youth, women, human rights defenders in diaspora endured on daily basis for the peaceful resolution of the Burundi crisis. The same applies almost to all those who disagree with the system, even inside the country. The cost of engagement is high in the face of limited resources and restricted advocacy space. She informed the meeting that Burundian's dream and aspiration is to see Burundi at peace. Burundi needs the brains, hands and minds of all its children to build, grow and increase its share in the East African Community Integration effort.

The confliction and mediation process need leaders of this continent to influence our government to realize that only Dialogue and not force, is the sure way to solve conflicts. The last EAC Summit held on 1st February concluded with no concrete action on Burundi. The inter-Burundian Peace Dialogue Facilitator, Former Tanzanian President, WB Mkaapa resigned from the process due to the lack of commitment and decisive support from the Heads of State and Government of the region. The geo-political situation of the region does not allow effective engagement at that level

She concluded by asking for solidarity from GIMAC members in promoting women-led mediation and resolution through the restoration of the inter-Burundian Peace Dialogue so that all the efforts so far made by the women in reaching out to partners, regional, continental bodies, the EU and the UN can yield a fruitful result.

**Ms. Kura** presentation introduced her organization and highlighted the work of NuWEDA whilst indicating the reasons why it was necessary to engage with the organization on displaced women and girls.



She informed the meeting that In June 2011, the civil war broke out again in South Kordofan region between the government and Sudan People's

Liberation Army/North. Bombardments of Kadugli and more than 40 towns, limited access to food, high incidents of rape by government militias, arbitrary arrests and forced military recruitment of women has made life terrible for families and forced 300,000-400,000 persons either to flee to Khartoum or seek refuge in South Sudan. Displaced families are living in poverty and women are heading the households. The majority have limited professional skills which leave them with limited and highly competitive employment opportunities like domestic work. There is no legislation protecting the rights of domestic workers by defining minimum wage, working hours, leave and terminal benefits. Her organization is coordinating an economic empowerment program with other civil society organizations with the purpose of organizing displaced women in cooperatives to advance their economic status through savings, acquaint them with small business skills, improve their access to loans and form a sort of informal trade union.

Ms Zigomo addressed emerging issues in the humanitarian sector stating the sector's efforts must respond to the needs of communities they serve.

At least 1 in 5 female refugees and IDPs have been subject to sexual violence, a number that is most likely greatly underestimated, taking into consideration the risk of social stigmatization and danger of reporting such experiences. She further stated that the numbers won't make sense without the stories of sexual violence committed against IDPs and refugee women and girls.

The gender-responsive solutions we are trying to come up with must not be solely around data, the lived realities and stories of the survivors matter. In the camps she visited, the recurrent stories, were host communities are the first responders and the rest of us come later and we don't acknowledge that enough.



consume content and can be used by member states to implement accessibility and can be

**“In the camps I visited, the recurrent stories were host communities are the first responders, the rest of us come later and we don’t acknowledge that enough” Ms. Lydia Zigomo**

**Ms. Zigomo** said ‘in humanitarian clusters meetings you never have the voices of those affected.’ She also observed that refugees and IDPs have skills and capacities that too often are not recognized nor acknowledged. She concluded by emphasizing the need to proactively share more examples, lessons and insights on how different models and approaches have promoted gender- responsive solutions aimed at protecting women and girls in IDPs and refugee camps.

***Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:***

The discussions that followed the presentation rested on experience sharing among the people with first-hand knowledge and contact with refugees and IDPs in different locations as well as victims. The various exchanges corroborated the presentations by the panelists. Issues of neglect by host communities, sexual harassment and forced marriages were very prominent in these discussions. Furthermore, the issue of displaced girls’ education and the skills that is required in ensuring their participation in providing durable solutions to displacement were also raised and discussed by the participants. The following recommendations came out of the session:

**▪Setting up of Special Adolescent Leadership Skills Development in Refugee Camps**

**▪ALWN should partner with Women in Diaspora for a coordinated mobilization of resources and support for Refugee women and girls in Displacement Camps**

**▪Appointment of a new Facilitator/Mediator and resurrection of inter-Burundian Peace Dialogue with adequate representation for women in the mediation and resolution process**

**▪Donors and International Organisations should provide resources and support for Burundian women in Diaspora in support of their advocacy and mediation activities**

**▪Education of adolescent girls is key and should receive priority among the Humanitarian agencies and host communities**

## ■ SESSION X

### FOCUS ON ROLE OF MEDIA, ARTS AND SPORTS IN RETHINKING AND ACTING ON THE SITUATIONS AND NEEDS OF REFUGEES AND RETURNEES IN AFRICA

**Moderator: Mr. Ibrahim Ceesay; Executive Director – African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI)**

**Panelists:**

- **Mr. Abiy Shimelis, Country Coordinator- African Artists Peace Initiative - Ethiopia**
- **Mr. Andre Keith, Media Engagement Manager - African Youth Commission**
- **Ms. Catherine Nyambura, Communications and Advocacy Officer - FEMNET**
- **Ms. Marie Sock, CEO AfriCare Group International and Founder - Saints Foundation**



The session started with a “Video Report” of the Pre-AU Summit event; 5th Arts4Peace Africa Annual Forum held from the 23 to 26 January 2019 on the Theme: “Rethinking and Acting On Situations and Needs of Refugees and Returnees in Africa”.

**Mr Shimelis**, presented some of the activities carried out by the AAPI Ethiopia at the national level, particularly its application through the Arts for Peace Campaign, Art Therapy and Cultural Diplomacy. He highlighted the application of the media, arts and culture in communicating the challenges and solutions of refugees amongst various levels of communities are key in the advocacy strategy, particularly at the frontlines of refugees’ settlements. Local radios can be utilized as effective tools to raise the awareness of host communities on how to best respond to the impacts of migration. Other creative channels such as sports and arts therapy can help bridge cultural gaps and help heal trauma for young IDPs and refugees.

**Mr. Andre**, spoke about the integration of creative art in the education system, which is important in ensuring the African Cultural Renaissance Charter is realized.

A strong implementation of intellectual property laws in member states that promote the ownership and rights of African stories will

need to support the content integration. Internet remains a critical platform that allows us to consume content and can be used by member states to implement accessibility and can be made affordable, especially in camps and areas of conflict. He emphasized the role of media literacy and engagement especially social media in rethinking and responding to the situations and needs of refugees, returnees and IDP’s in Africa. He called for access to ICT facilities and services in refugee camps and host communities.

**Ms. Sock** started by narrating her personal story on how she found it difficult to repatriate back to her home country The Gambia as a woman to support in the socio-economic development of young people. She runs an annual Youth Wrestling Competition in Gambia to engage youth returnees from Europe to build their self-esteem and create an enabling environment for youth leadership in sports entrepreneurship.

The Senegambian Beauty Pageant is a platform set-up by her organization to empower young women in Africa to showcase the African cultural heritage and raise awareness about the challenges facing young women and girls in Africa and the Diaspora. She stressed the need for governments, CSO’s and development partners to explore and invest in the cultural and sports industries for refugee, returnees and IDP’s.

**Ms. Nyambura** detailed how FEMNET use strategic communication and media engagements to champion women's rights and gender and development related issues. She stressed the need of empowering women refugees, returnees and IDP's to tell their stories using mass media and new technologies. She ended with a call to action on investing at all levels in resolving the plights of refugees and women migrants

#### **Discussions, Key Highlights and Recommendations:**

This session elicited a lot of reaction from the youth at the meeting who first thank GIMAC for giving them opportunity to use the platform to express themselves. Many of the participants argued that arts and music have a critical role to play in managing and dealing with humanitarian crisis. Part of the exchanges centred around access of refugees and IDPs to effective modes of communication so that they can continually be aware of the happenings around them while using it as means of integration to their host communities.

**"We need to encourage member states to implement local content production so we can have more African stories, told by Africans, in the African way". Mr Andrey**

Artists and Musicians can bring hope and information to IDPs and refugees. The panelists agreed with several of the suggestions and issues raised by the participants. The key recommendations from this session is summarized below:

- **Fundraising through local celebrity Artists by using their talents to communicate the issues of refugees and returnees both to governments and communities in a more creative approach.**

**Bridge the digital divide through public private partnership enabling digital access to network, internet and information in general.**

- **Establishment of local radio stations near refugee camps to better inform survivors on the political process and help provide reliable information and awareness creation on response mechanisms for host communities.**
- **Produce YouTube content videos focused on refugee plights, challenges, personal stories in camps and camp visits**
- **Social safety nets for rural, poor and vulnerable women and girls**
- **Scholarship for women and girls with disability to study professional courses in schools to enhance their access to public service**
- **Empower women and girls on life skills and defence strategies to deal with sexual exploitation and violence against women/girls when using social media**



## ■ CLOSING SESSION

**Moderator:** Afiwa Kafui Kuwonu, Senior Programme Officer, WILDAF

**Panelist**

- **Ms. Helen Kezie-Nwoha, Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)**
- **Mme Bineta Diop, Founder and Chair of the Board of Femmes Africa Solidarity (FAS), Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission**
- **Ms. Aya Chebbi, African Union Youth Envoy**
- **Mr. Adoumtar Noubatour representing Dr Mahawa-Kaba Wheeler, African Union Commission Director for Women, Gender and Development**
- **Ms Joyce Mends-Cole, former UNHCR Representative**
- **Dr. Olumide Ajayi, Executive Director, Africa Leadership Forum**



**T**he Launch of the *GIMAC Handbook* was held at the beginning of the closing session where a brief explanation was given highlighting its significance and purpose. Hard copies were distributed among participants and an online version will be available at the GIMAC website for download. The Handbook is intended to equip stakeholders with updated information of GIMAC's activities and progress in the context of its influence, engagements and covenant.

**Dr. Ajayi** on behalf of the GIMAC Steering Committee and Drafting Team read the key outcomes and recommendations of the 33rd GIMAC Summit which was adopted at the meeting with extended online engagement with meeting participants to finalize the key recommendations for onward submission to the African Union Commission as deliberations of the 33rd GIMAC Pre-AU Summit February 2019.

**Ms. Chebbi** expressed delight to be associated with the magnificent work GIMAC is doing while describing the platform as indispensable.

Ms. Chebbi said she was a volunteer all her life and still sees herself as one despite her position as a diplomat. This she believes landed her the

AU.

**'My volunteer and activism work have helped shaped my path and it is because of platforms like GIMAC that helped me to reach where I am today.'** Ms. Aya Chebbi, African Union Youth Envoy

Youth Envoy while recognizing the efforts GIMAC played to getting her selected among all the great contestants. She later took the participants through her campaign for the Youth Envoy stating it was a very long and difficult journey. She concluded by giving gratitude to the mothers in the room describing them as amazing and hardworking women who continue to defy the odds and changing lives across Africa. She encouraged participants to take the messages and lessons learnt in these two days to the grassroots while reiterating her office's support in empowering young women especially refugees.

**Ms. Kezie-Nwoha**, described the event as a success while urging participants to be the voices of GIMAC in their respective designations. She congratulated GIMAC for putting up a successful 33rd Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union.



**Mr. Adoumtar Noubatour representing Dr Mahawa-Kaba Wheeler**, noted the important work of GIMAC and her members in mainstreaming women rights and gender issues at all levels including the African Union Commission. He commended GIMAC for the consistency and assured the meeting of the support and partnership of his Directorate; including passing on the 33rd GIMAC Outcomes and Recommendations to the appropriate channels within the AUC for considerations as part of deliberations during the upcoming 32nd African Union Heads of States and Governments Summit in Addis, Ababa.

**Mme Diop**, gave the vote of thanks and expressed her sincere gratitude to all GIMAC Steering Committee and wider membership, including all partners, speakers and secretariat members of GIMAC. She expressed delight and pride in participating in the 2019 year's edition of GIMAC which she referred to as victory for women rights movement across Africa; and urged the African Union Heads of States and Governments to recognize and consider the outcome document of the forum.

## ■ **POST-33 GIMAC PRE-SUMMIT EWA HIGH LEVEL BREAKFAST MEETING (9TH FEBRUARY 2019)**

Since EWA's inception in July 2012, the EWA High-Level Breakfast Meetings have helped to give a voice to women farmers, amplifying their voices and giving them a seat at the table in decisions around agricultural development.

In furtherance of the growth of EWA's role as a facilitator of change and the need to do more, the 2019 High Level Breakfast Meeting was held on the margins of the 32nd African Union Summit of Heads of State in Addis Ababa. on 9th February 2019. It was chaired by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Republic of Nigeria and Patron of EWA. The meeting brought together partners, women farmers and other

stakeholders to discuss progress made so far and follow up actions to ensure the empowerment of women in the agricultural sector and mobilize more resources, support and commitment from donors and partners on the initiative.

At the end of the meeting EWA partners committed to champion the cause of the women farmers through the provision of information, technical support, network, space, finance, improved agricultural technologies, access to markets and enabling environments.

# Annexes

**33GIMAC Photos**

**33rd GIMAC Outcome Document EN| FR**

**Declaration on the African Union Theme of the Year 2019: “The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa” AUC Assembly Decision EN | FR**

**GIMAC 2019 Solemn Declaration Index and Scorecard Report SDI Part I| Part II**

**Africa Ministerial Pre CSW63 Outcome Document EN**

**GIMAC Handbook EN**



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