

give a roadmap for the effective operationalisation of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063.

2. The African Union Commission in partnership with UN Women and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations conducted a high level solidarity mission which took place in the framework of the Action Plan of the “African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)” initiative. The objective of AWLN is to create space for African Women to share leadership experiences and lessons learned in various areas, as well as to establish a fund focusing on accelerating the growth of African women-led businesses
3. During the reporting period the AUCWGDD led an initiative focused on raising awareness on violence against women and girls, and its negative consequences on individuals and community. This is to help AU Member States develop and implement legislation and policies to combat gender based violence and support the efforts of networks, public and private institutions that work to eradicate violence against women and girls.
4. The Chairperson of AUC initiated a positive step towards the institutionalisation of gender parity through the appointment of a Cabinet of Advisors that consists of 56% of Women. In spite of this however, there has not been a major shift in the overall gender representation from the 2016 situation which is 35% women and 65% men. Table 3 below gives further breakdown of the ratio of representation within the AUC:

Table 3: 2017 Ratio of Male and Female Composition in AU Organs

AU Organs/Institutions	Number of Men	Number of Women	Total	% Men	%Women
Assembly	54	1	55	98.8	1.8
Executive Council	45	10	55	81.81	18.18
PRC	44	11	55	80	20
Peace and Security Council	11	4	15	73.33	26.67
African Union Commission on International law	7	4	11	63.63	36.37
PAP Bureau	3	2	5	60.00	40.00
ECOSOCC Bureau	4	1	5	80.00	20.00
The Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR)	6	5	11	54.55	45.45

African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)	5	6	11		
African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)	4	7	11	36.37	63.63

5. To promote Women Human Rights, the WGDD convened different multi-stakeholder policy platforms on GEWE. These include, the 9th AU Gender Pre-Summit held in January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the margins of the 28th African Union (AU) Summit with the objective of defining critical priority areas of investment in young people, especially young women, to harness Africa's Demographic Dividend (DD) through leadership and civic participation for social and economic development.
6. Since girls' education is very critical to the growth of the African nation, measures have been in place by the AU/CIEFFA to retain more girls in school. One of such was developing strategies and networks with AU Ministries from different portfolios (beyond the Education field), CSO's, traditional and religious leaders, development partners, private sectors, media and young girls, men and women who are the key players in making sure girls in school especially STEM not just remain but also perform well in school.
7. On issues of Gender Equality, H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana was appointed as the first African Union Champion on Gender and Development to provide leadership and political support to the Chairpersons of the AU and African Union Commission (AUC) to deliver on their mandate to accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa.
8. The AU Leader on Gender and Development launched the Gender and Development Initiative for Africa (GADIA), which seeks to promote women's economic empowerment and political participation. Different forums on GEWE have been organized by the Commission in 2017 and MS which have not ratified the Protocol have been requested to do so.
9. Commitment of Member States to Annual Reporting of their

SDGEA implementation Status dropped from 52.83% in 2016 to 20.00% in 2017. The most consistent Member State which is up to date with its reporting, having submitted all its annual reports is Senegal, followed by Mauritius and Ethiopia. See table 4 below for reporting cycle performance of member states.

Table 4: Reporting Cycle Performance of Member States

Year of Submission	Reporting Year	Reporting Cycle	Number Of Countries	Percentage of Total (%)
2006	2007	1 st	1	1.85
2007	2008	2 nd	8	14.81
2008	2009	3 rd	7	12.96
2009	2010	4 th	3	5.55
2010	2011	5 th	24	44.44
2011	2012	6 th	3	5.55
2012	2013	7 th	8	14.81
2013	2014	8 th	14	25.92
2014	2015	9 th	15	27.77
2015	2016	10 th	13	24.07
2016	2017	11 th	28	52.83
2017	2018	12 th	11	20

2.2. Analysis of the Solemn Declaration Score Card (SDSC)

To generate the score card for each country, each article addressed in the country's SDGEA report was reviewed and a state that has either a policy or ratified law that addresses the article under review gets a score of 1 while a state that lacks a policy or ratified law is scored 0 even if they have programs and activities developed to address issues related to the article. The scoring was based on the template in table 1 which gives a total score of 12. The complete score card is analysed in Appendix V of this report. The highest score recorded is 11 which was attained by four countries namely; Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia and Senegal. This achievement represent 91.66% implementation performance by these countries. The outstanding article against each country is indicated in table 5 below.

Two states, Mauritius and Somalia have the least score of 3 or 25% implementation performance (See table 6). Member States like these ones required high modicum of advocacy focus and capacity building by AUWGDD and GIMAC to improve their performance

Table 5: Countries with the Highest SDSC and Outstanding Articles

S/N	COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST SDSC 11	OUTSTANDING OPERATIVE ARTICLE
1	Cote D'Ivoire	Housing Rights
2	Kenya	Housing Rights
3	Namibia	Gender Parity
4	Senegal	Human Trafficking

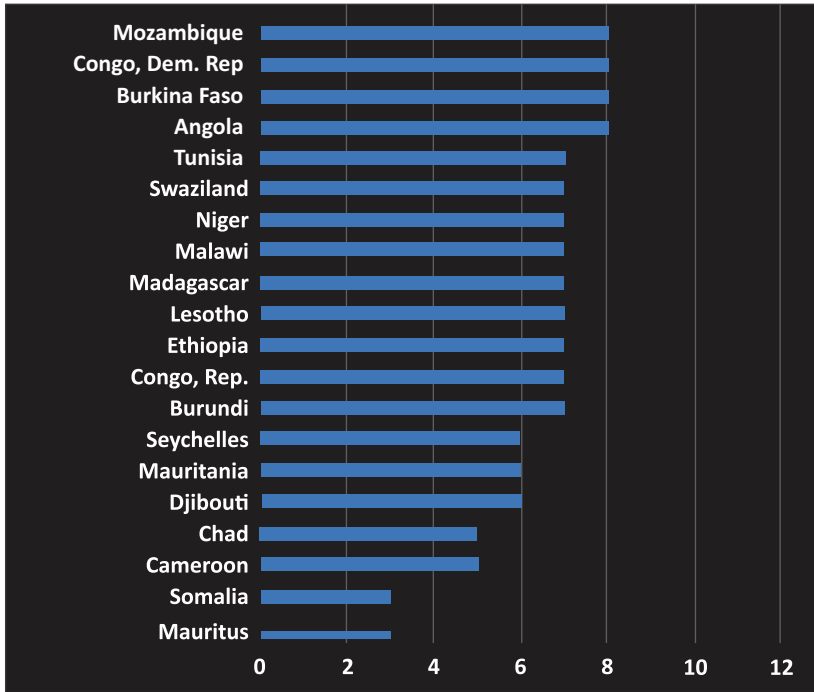
Table 1: Countries with the Lowest SDSC and Main Articles of Focus

Country	Mauritius	Somalia
ARTICLES OF FOCUS	HIV/AIDS	Child Soldiers
	GBV	GBV
	SDGEA Reports	SDGEA Report

Figure 1 below gives a graphical representation of the number of operative articles ratified by each country.

Figure 1: Number of Articles Implemented by Each Country

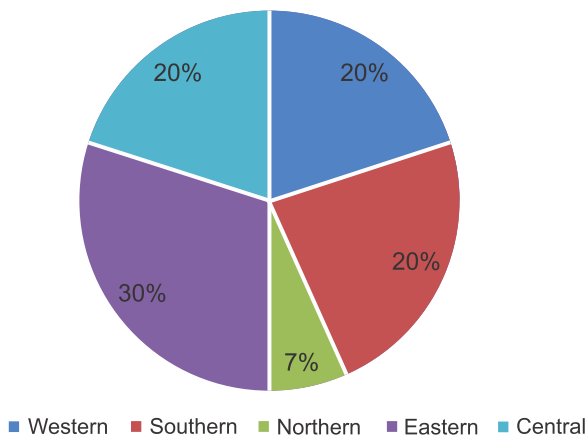




2.2.1. Regional Reporting Trend

The distribution of available SDGEA reports showed that 30% of them came from the East Africa region while 20% each came from West and Central Africa regions. The remaining 30% was shared between Southern and North Africa regions at the rate of 23% and 7% respectively. The trend is shown in figure 2 below:

Figure 2: Percentage of Regional Reporting Trend



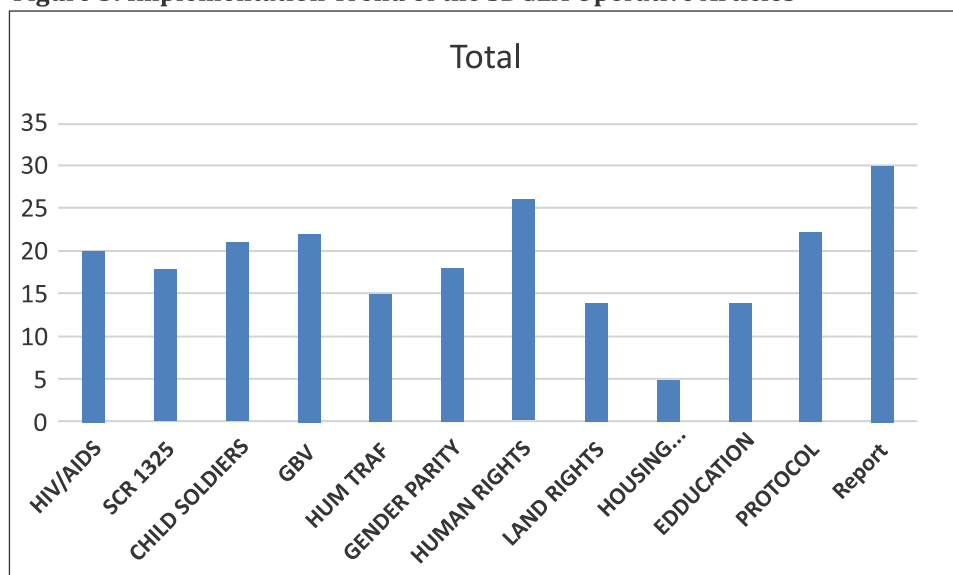
2.2.2. Overall Performance

Table 1: Regional Performance Distribution of the SDGEA Operative Articles

NUM BER	ARTICLE	REGION					TOTAL	PERCENT AGE	PERCENTA GE OF AU MEMBER STATES
		CENT RAL	EAST ERN	NORTH ERN	SOUTH ERN	WEST ERN			
1	HIV	6	4	1	3	6	20	66.67	36.36
2	SCR1325	3	5	1	3	6	18	60.00	32.73
3	CHILD SOLDIERS	5	5	1	5	5	21	70.00	38.18
4(GBV)	GENDER VIOLENCE	5	5	1	6	5	22	73.33	40.00
4(HT)	HUMAN TRAFFICKI NG	1	6	0	6	2	15	50.00	27.27
5	GENDER PARITY	3	4	1	4	6	18	60.00	32.73
6	HUMAN RIGHTS	6	7	2	6	5	26	86.67	47.27
7(LR)	LAND RIGHTS	0	4	1	6	3	14	46.67	25.45
7(HR)	HOUSING RIGHTS	0	1	2	1	1	5	16.67	9.09
8	EDUCATION	2	5	0	4	3	14	46.67	25.45
9	PROTOCOL	3	5	1	7	6	22	73.33	40.00
12	REPORT	6	9	2	7	6	30	100.00	54.55

Looking at the trend of implementation among the 30 MS, it is very obvious that the following operative articles received greater attention than others. These include:

1. Human Rights of women
2. Gender based Violence
3. Ratification and domestication of Maputo Protocol
4. Adoption of Child Protection laws
5. Adoption of Anti-Stigmatisation laws on PLWHAs

Figure 3: Implementation Trend of the SDGEA Operative Articles

2.3. Status of African Women based on Member States Implementation of SDGEA

The overview of the status of Africa Women and girls based on the implementation of the SDGEA is given below:

ARTICLE 1: The Thematic Focus of this Article is HIV/AIDS backed up with legislative commitment that will end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS

As at 2015, in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls and young women account for 25% of new HIV infections among adults, and women account for 56% of new HIV infections among adults. Harmful gender norms and inequalities, insufficient access to education, sexual and reproductive health services, poverty, food insecurity and violence, are at the root of the increased HIV risk of young women and adolescent girls².

When Parents are sick and die as a result of HIV/AIDS, the female child

² Karim A., Sengeziwe S., Cheryl B., 2016 *Preventing HIV Infection in Women – a Global Health Imperative! Clinical infectious diseases* : an official publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. 2010;50 (Supply 3):S122-S129. doi:10.1086/651483

bears most of the brunt; she is likely to withdraw from school particularly when the mother is sick. Due to lack of support, children lose the opportunity for education and for the maximum development of their potential.

This report showed that 20 out of 30 countries representing 66.67% of the available reports have put in place legislation that protect people living with HIV/AIDs (PLWHAs) and guarantee their rights like any other citizen without any form of discrimination. The African governments should therefore continue to strengthen initiatives that increase capacities of individuals, especially women and children, to protect themselves. Empowerment of women must move to the next level of well targeted, time-bound and well-funded programmes with measurable results³.

ARTICLE 2: The Thematic Focus of this Article is peace and security with focus on production of national Plan of Actions or other forms of legislative backing for the implementation of UNSCR1325.

The content of the UNSCR 1325 envisages full and effective participation and representation of women in processes including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflicts in Africa. Women and children are mostly affected by conflicts and disputes. And often times, there are no legislatures that promote their interests and protection at such times, and they are less involved in conflict resolutions and decision-making as obtainable in the 12 countries that are yet to comply with article 2. Sixty Percent (60%) of the reporting countries which represents 32.73% of the AU Member States have met this requirement as against 52.1% in 2016.

Africa continued to experience various kinds of conflicts; civil war in Somali, Sudan (Darfur Region), Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad, civil war in Libya and Sinai insurgency in Egypt. The emerging complex nature of conflicts in the continent is such that terrorists now target young women for abduction, indoctrinate them and use them as suicide bombers against their wish. Those who refuse are often made to suffer sexual violence of varying degrees. The inability of the Nigerian Government and the international community to fully rescue or even account for the remaining Chibok girls remains a

³ Elizabeth N., 2015 *HIV and AIDS in Africa and its impact on women and children*, United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

https://www.unicef.org/sowc08/docs/sowc08_panel_2_8.pdf

scar on the conscience of Africa. Rape continues to be a dominant weapon and recurrent decimal in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Sudan, among others. The 2016 Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security observed that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is a critical, yet under-utilized tool for preventing conflict and shaping more effective responses to today's complex crises. The global study conducted on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) provided evidence that women's participation contributed decisively to peace processes, justice and security, economic recovery and humanitarian assistance⁴. In spite of this, women are still largely side tracked in the implementation and resolution of conflicts and crisis in Africa. They also remain the victim and objects of attack in many conflict zones in Africa. Many experts believe that leaving women out of peace and security processes hinders communities from finding long-lasting peace. In times of conflict, women's vulnerabilities and unique needs are often forgotten during negotiations, which in turn limits the effectiveness of both peace and security agreements, and humanitarian responses⁵. It is for this reason that the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 has become an important platform for countries to fully integrate women into conflict prevention and resolution. However the response and commitment of AU MS remained abysmally low. In this report 18 out of the 30 countries analysed indicated that they have developed and are implementing a National Action Plan (NAP) for 1325. When taken within the context of those who have reported so far on 1325, this figure is low meaning many MS has no framework to engage and integrate women to their Peace and Security platform⁶ which further opens up women to impunity and all forms of violation and abuse during and after conflict. After seventeen years of its adoption, Africa should have posted a better result on 1325, and the time has come for more action on the part of MS to increase their level of engagement with the Office of Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (OSE/WPS) in building their capacity to effectively respond to the demands of 1325.

⁴ 2016 Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security, UNSC, S/2016/822, September 2016, Page 2

⁵ <http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2015/women-peace-security>

⁶ From Adoption to Measurement, 2016 Report of Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC)

ARTICLE 3: The Thematic Focus of this Article is recruitment of Child Soldiers with emphasis on the use of Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of a Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts.

About 40% of all child soldiers globally are active on the African continent, Africa has become the epicenter of the problem since 1975, providing the largest concentration of both conflicts and child soldiers.

In most situations, abduction is the most common method by which child soldier are recruited but for several other reasons some children voluntarily join the Armed Forces. Their choice to choose violence over peace was driven by “poverty, unemployment, vengeance, avoiding violence from the rival group, and the allure of the military life”⁷.

When a child soldier is female, they experience sexual assaults such as rape during conflicts. Statistics from West Africa indicate that 32% of girl child soldiers have been raped. Most of these girls contract sexually transmitted infections, are forced into abortion and are mostly anemic during pregnancy. In the case of eventual release of victims, upon return to their homes, girl child soldiers are often rejected, excluded and harassed. When her male counterpart returns to school, the girl child soldier will have to stay at home and baby sit children⁸. The Member States (MS) have a major role to play in ensuring these girls are rehabilitated and integrated back to the society with good education. Being a war victim should not preclude these girls from the school system.

Some countries in their SDGEA report explained that since there is no war or major conflict within the country, there hasn't been reason for recruitment of child soldiers. Hence, no cause to actively put in places a policy that speaks to a non-existent issue such as child soldiers. The critical issue however here is not about conflict situation alone but the need to proactively put in place laws that protect children especially the girl child from all forms of exploitation including early child marriage, sexual harassment, slavery and unwarranted use as soldiers. In all 21

⁷ Achvarina V., and Reich S., 2010 *No Place to Hide: Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Child Soldier Recruits*. In Gates, Scott and Reich, Simon (eds) *Child Soldiers in the Age of Fractured States*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, p. 56.

⁸ Snowden, Laura, 2016 "Girl Child Soldiers: The relevance of gender in preventing and responding to the use of child soldiers". Essay Contest 2016. Book 1. <http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/essay-contest-2016/1>

countries or 70% of the reports assessed stated in their reports to have adopted the optional protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child or have laws protecting and promoting the Rights of the Child.

ARTICLE 4: The Thematic Focus of this article is Gender Based Violence with focus on the use of appropriate legal instruments against GBV and trafficking of women and girls.

The issue of violence against women is obtainable everywhere across the globe. Violence against women is the violation of women's rights, and has both economic and social implications.⁹ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), violence affects millions of women in Africa. Although violence against women has begun to receive more attention globally over the last two decades, the scourge of violence against women in Africa particularly is still largely hidden.¹⁰ This is due to under-reporting because of the associated stigma which largely continues to indirectly fuel its spread across the continent. A vicious cycle that needs urgent attack is emerging which needs political and judicial attention of MS.

Violence against women goes beyond beatings. It includes forced marriage, dowry-related violence, marital rape, sexual harassment, intimidation at work and in educational institutions, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced sterilization, trafficking and forced prostitution.¹¹

It is reported that in Africa, there is a significant relationship between HIV infection and IPV, studies have shown that violence against female partners increases when a female partner is known to be HIV positive. Other factors influencing gender violence are; Low level of education, Low socio-economic status, Young age, History of violence and Alcohol

⁹ Alesina A., Benedetta B., and Eliana LF., 2016, "*Violence against Women: A Cross-cultural Analysis for Africa*," January 2016

¹⁰ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD), *Violence Against Women in Africa: A Situational Analysis*. September 2010, <http://www1.uneca.org/Portals/awro/Publications/21VAW%20in%20Africa-A%20situational%20analysis.pdf>

¹¹ Mary Kimni., 2007, Taking on Violence against Women in Africa. AfricaRenewal Online Magazine, July 2007

use by the perpetrator.¹²

In the last decade, Gender Based Violence (GBV) has been a major cause for concern within the Member States. This could explain why GBV ranked 2nd most adopted operative article among the countries whose reports were analysed for this article. Pointedly, 73.3% of the reporting countries have at least a policy that addresses violence against women. Four (4) countries; Burundi, Seychelles, Tunisia and Zambia who did not have a policy on GBV as at 2016 now have a policy. The Member States in Southern Africa have the highest number of states that have adopted this operative article.

Human Trafficking, which is a sub-set of article 4 posted a lower result compared to GBV, with exactly 50% of reporting states stating that they have a legislation that addresses protecting women from trafficking.

The attention being given by the MS is also a pointer to its endemic nature which requires the engagement of both gender, young and old in finding a lasting solution to this problem. Effective mobilisation of the traditional, conventional and religious institutions across the continent may be imperative as part of the community based solution to GBV.

ARTICLE 5: The Thematic Focus of this Article is Gender Parity Principle with focus on its adoption by government and other regional institutions using legislative and policy instrument to ensure ascendancy of women and representation in various decision making structures.

The decision of the AU Heads of State to adopt Gender Parity Principle in all the decision-making structures at the continental, regional and national level has been seen by some as a very great task that may be difficult to attain. It is a lofty ideal and going by the momentum this has gathered in the last ten years, it's obvious that it is a possibility.

Like the UN Women recently observed, African women's political leadership is on the rise. Increasingly visible in public life, African women continue to challenge long-held perceptions that decision-making is the preserve of men. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) data

¹²Shamu S., Abrahams N., Temmerman M., Musekiwa A., Zarowsky C., (2011) *A Systematic Review of African Studies on Intimate Partner Violence Against Pregnant Women: Prevalence and Risk Factors*. PLoS ONE 6(3): e17591. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0017591>

shows that women's representation in parliaments across Sub-Saharan Africa (23.8%) has outpaced that of Asia, Pacific and the Arab States.¹³ However these regions are not Africa's standard. The desire is to ensure and promote, in a sustainable manner, equitable representation of women which the AU has set at 50%.

In this report, about 20 out of the 30 analysed countries are putting or have put policy and legislative measures in place to promote gender parity in decision-making structures but the data analysed in the next chapter under Gender Parity Index showed the journey to parity is still far in many MS.

As Observed by the Chairperson of AUC in the 2017 SDGEA report:

“One critical inhibition is lack of alignment between constitutional aspirations, governance structures and the internal management practices of political parties in Africa. There is a huge disconnect between the internal operations of the parties and the desire to liberalise the political space for women's participation. So in a way women are still being denied the opportunity to exercise their rights in the political and electoral sphere in Africa. It thus appears that there are limited opportunities to enforce and create a conducive environment for effective political participation of women.”

What should therefore follow this kind of observation is for the AUC to actively engage the HOS on how to reverse the situation and get them committed to promoting gender parity in decision making structures at all levels.

ARTICLE 6: The Thematic Focus of this Article is on Human Rights of Women with emphasis on mechanisms that give women access and opportunity to protect their rights and seek redress when necessary.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights emphasizes the freedom of humans irrespective of their gender. Africa has been involved in almost all the activities of the UN, which has made it understand the complexities and dimensions of women empowerment.

One instrument that preceded the Maputo Protocol is the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW.

¹³. Sustainable Approaches to Supporting & Monitoring Women's Participation in Political Processes in Africa UN-AU Strategic Meeting, 2 July 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

From the United Nations treaty collections, 47 countries have signed the adoption of CEDAW, 86.7% have signed the ratification of CEDAW.

Twenty six countries or 86.7% of the 30 analysed in this report have been able to develop various legal instruments and policies that guarantee the rights of women in various areas including those relating to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), protection against violence and slavery, early marriage and access to land, especially in the rural areas, etc. In spite of these initiative and legislative actions, the rights of women are still being violated in many countries and patriarchy still weighs heavily on the attitude and bias against women in the implementation and application of these laws.

ARTICLE 7: The Thematic Focus of this Article is Land and Property Rights with focus on land and housing rights of women.

It is reported that globally, more than 400 million women farm¹⁴ while in sub-Sahara Africa 60%¹⁵ of women farm and they contribute to 70% of food production.¹⁶ Although many countries in sub-Saharan Africa recognize equal rights and non-discriminatory provisions in their Constitutions, women are still not accorded the same rights as men. Various factors, such discriminatory customary practices, marginalization in land governance, and gaps between national and regional policies that aspire to gender equality and the implementation of laws at the local level contributed to the sidelining of African women.¹⁷

This observation is largely reflected in the low number of 14 countries that reported positively on this article. This continues to be a challenge to African Women especially those in agriculture, as it would continue to aggravate women's poverty level and lesser opportunities to increase their farm income. Just as it was reflected in the 2016 SDI report, housing rights is the least adopted operative article in this 2019 report. Only 5 countries out of 30 that reported the existence of a law or policy that promotes the rights of women to housing facilities.

ARTICLE 8: The Thematic Focus of this Article is Girls Education

¹⁴ International Labour Organization's Key Indicators 2015

¹⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization 2016

¹⁶ Mary Kimni., 2012, *Women Struggle to Secure Land Rights*. AfricaRenewal Online Magazing, 2012

¹⁷ Godfrey Massay 2017, Africa's women are still waiting for equal inheritance rights. Women

Deliverance online June 21 2017. www.womendeliverance.org

with special emphasis on progression and extension of educational opportunities to those who are out of school system, as well as commitment of Government to EFA.

The attention given to Girl Child Education in terms of target or specific policy and legislative actions is still very low and weak in many African countries. Only 14 out of 30 countries developed girls-focused education programmes that are making impact and encouraging female education, reducing school drop-outs and retaining girls in school, especially girls in STEM. Due to these active programs, these countries do not see a need to put in place legislatures that address or promote girls' education thus putting sustainability at risk.

There are four dimensions of Women Empowerment: Economic, Political, Knowledge, and Psychological. The knowledge dimension is fostered formal education. Yet, structures of institutions in Africa are not safe and friendly for girls; school curriculum emphasizes academic subjects and avoids discussions around 'life skills'. The non-formal education setting has empowered women and girls more because it promotes critical reflections on gendered social norms and encourages corrective responses.¹⁸

The low participation of girls in tertiary education in Africa is attributed to many factors which include social and structural impediments such as sexual harassment and gender-blind institutional structures and leadership. Other factors are parental involvement, schooling cost, female involvement in household chores, school distance, early marriage and teenage pregnancy, and cultural beliefs (parents sometimes use the gender of their children to decide who gets more education so that children can give benefit in the future). For instance in Ethiopia, the higher up the educational ladder in the country the wider the gender disparity in favor of males become.¹⁹

Women's education is therefore a critical tool that brings about gender equality and their upliftment for sustainable development. With limited or no education, the space for women to contribute to development and influence on policies becomes small with little impact. African

¹⁸ Stromquist, N. P. 2015. "Women's Empowerment and Education: Linking Knowledge to Transformative Action." *European Journal of Education* 50 (3): 307–324.

¹⁹ Mergo, Lemessa. n.d. 2017 "Gender Disparity in Higher Education in Ethiopia." *Establishing, Enhancing and Sustaining Quality Practices in Education* 20 (28):

Governments should therefore plan some special policies to improve female education such as making education free for girls and giving them stipends.²⁰

ARTICLE 9: The Thematic focus of this article is on the ratification of the protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of women in Africa.

According to ACHPR, presently, Forty-nine (49) of the African Union Member States have signed the Maputo Protocol and forty one (41) have thus far ratified it and are bound to its provisions. Of these 41 countries, only a small number of States have domesticated the Protocol. Among the 30 countries whose reports were analysed, 22 countries had so far signed and ratified the Protocol. The next stage is to step up advocacy on domestication, awareness among women and performance measurement.

2.2. General Observations on the Quality and Content of SDGEA Reports from Member States

In the process of reviewing and assessing the MS reports on the SDGEA, a number of observations came to light on the quality and content of some of the reports. These are summarised as follows:

- I. We are of the opinion that some of the reports are not true reflection of the efforts of the MS in promoting gender equality and women's rights. Some foundational background relating to existing laws and policies were omitted in some MS reports as well as previous achievements and progress made in pushing for gender equality;
- ii. Some reports mixed up the various articles and did not respond to the demand of each of the articles. The MS need to put more articulation and skillful writers to work in order to produce good reports;
- iii. Non-participation of children in conflicts/war or lack of conflicts is not the response to article two, rather the article is meant to ensure that adequate legislation is put in place, like CRC, to prevent exploitation of young boys and girls during war;

²⁰ Shahidul, S.M. and A.H.M. Zehadul Karim (2015) 'Factors Contributing to School Dropout Among the Girls: A Review of Literature', *European Journal of Research and Reflection in Educational Sciences* 3.2: 25–36.

- iv. Policy and programmes are not same as and cannot be used to replace legislative actions and laws that are meant to drive the implementation of SDGEA;
- v. Some Member States presented bills in progress or waiting for presidential ascension as laws which should not be and cannot be used to earn a score under the Solemn Declaration Score Card (SDSC);
- vi. Some MS also used their constitutional provisions in place of laws that were meant to be enacted for specific women related issues. For example, almost all the constitutions in Africa are egalitarian and recognised equality of gender, race and religion yet the rights of women are violated in various degrees and dimensions in these countries;
- vii. It was generally observed that where MS did not engage in any activity relating to a particular article, they go general and tend to report on what is being done in gender neutral manner. It is important that MS state in direct and specific manner their responses to the articles of the SDGEA;

CHAPTER THREE

ANALYSIS OF THE THEMATIC INDEX AND THE SOLEMN DECLARATION INDEX (SDI)

3.0. Introduction:

The thematic indices utilized in this report put into recognition the framework of the SDI. Three indices were used in the calculating the SDI. When compared to the 2016 report, the indicators used were slightly different. All indicators were gender specific and were also a good measure of the country's performance selected in the thematic areas.

The following indicators were used:

- i. **HIV INDEX:** the two indicators selected are; the proportion of women living with HIV/AIDS (WLWHAs) with access to ARV in the population of women who are HIV positive, the second indicator being the proportion of women living with HIV/AIDS (WLWHAs) with access to ARV in the population of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs). Values of these indicators were extracted from the 2016 WHO HIV Country profiles (Source: <http://www.who.int/hiv/data/profiles/en/>). In addition to this, few other indicators which were not directly used in deriving the HIV Index were assessed to show trends in prevalence and access to ARV in Africa.
- ii. **GENDER PARITY INDEX:** The indicators used were same as those used in the SDI framework and 2016 SDI report. The two indicators used are; the proportion of women in lower parliament in case of Bi-Camera Legislature, the second one is percentage of women in ministerial or cabinet positions. (Source: 2017 Inter-Parliamentary Union Data.)
- iii. **EDUCATION INDEX:** All indicators used in analysing the educational index of 2016 SDI report were maintained in 2019 report. Female enrolment ratio, girls progression ratio from primary to secondary school and female (15-24 years) literacy rate. (Source: UIS 2018)

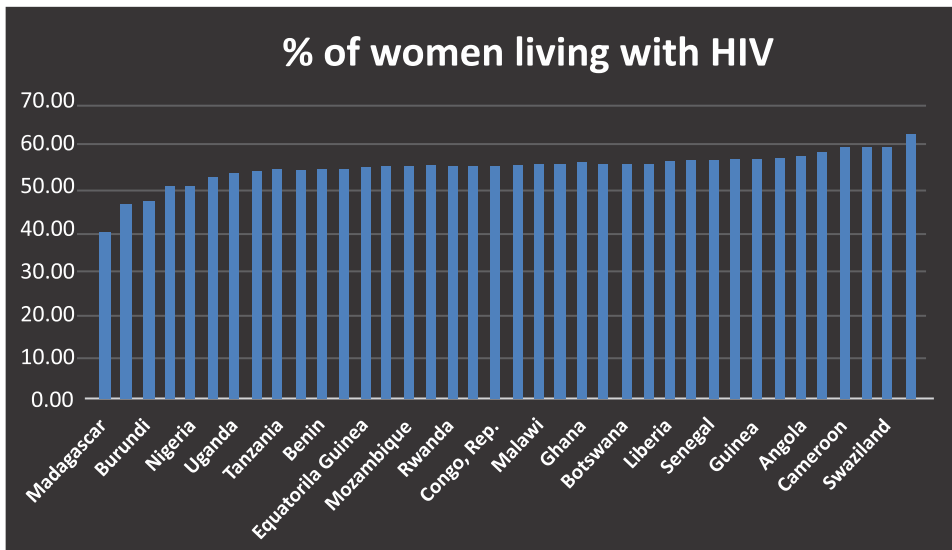
3.1. HIVINDEX:

From the analysis of the two indicators, the following were

concluded:

- i. There has been a drastic drop in HIV prevalence in African countries, with 15 countries having prevalence rate less than 1% and 20 countries with prevalence less than 10.00%.
- ii. Swaziland has the highest prevalence of 16.92%. Studies have also shown that despite the small population of Swaziland it has the highest prevalence in the world. This is followed by Botswana (15.65%), Lesotho (15.00%), while South Africa has prevalence of 12.68%. It is a relief to know that these countries with high prevalence have antiretroviral coverage well above 50% except for Lesotho with exact 50.00% coverage.
- iii. This analysis also shows that anti-retroviral coverage among PLWHAs in African countries though still low, it's quite higher than what was previously obtainable. For instance, Botswana has the highest coverage of 82.78%, Rwanda has 81.36%. while Swaziland has 77.73%.
- iv. At least 22 countries have ARV coverage higher than 50% among PLWHAs though none has been able to achieve the UNAID's target of 90% ARV coverage. Countries with the least coverage are Madagascar (5.48%), South-Sudan (9.70%) and Liberia (18.84).

Figure 4: Percentage of WLWHAs in Total PLWHAs



- v. Also, ARV coverage among women with HIV is high. Thirty four (34) countries have coverage above 50.00%. Benin, Uganda, Botswana, Cape Verde, South Africa, Swaziland have coverage as high as 95.00%. These are followed by Zimbabwe (93.00%) and Equatorial Guinea (90.00%).
- vi. Seventeen (17) countries have ARV Coverage among women less than 50%, for instance, Madagascar scored lowest with 3% coverage only. Madagascar also has the lowest ARV coverage among PLWHAs in Africa.
- vii. In spite of the observation in (vi) above, the analysis of the HI showed that the proportion of ARV coverage amongst PLWHAs on the whole is still skewed in favour of men meaning that the many African governments have not been able to achieve parity in the delivery of HIV treatment. None of the African countries has 50% equal representation of women and men among PLWHAs on ARV. For instance Swaziland only had 6.08% among WLWHAs on treatment despite its high ARV coverage among PLWHAs.
- i. The average score for HIV Index was generally low for all the regions. This index is really low because the percentage of WLWHAs among the population of PLWHAs on ARV was assessed. It became obvious that despite the fact that the proportion of HIV positive women among the population of PLWHAs is very high, percentage of WLWHAs on treatment among the population of PLWHAs on ARV is very low.
- ii. Western African has the highest index of 0.25, while North Africa has the least average of 0.14. The continental average is 0.21.

Figure 4: Africa HIV Index Average

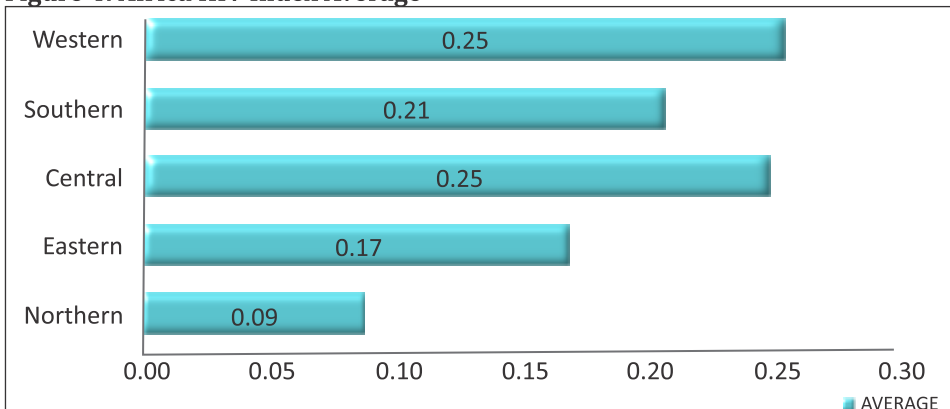


Table 8: Regional Analysis

REGION	AVERAGE	NUMBER OF STATES With Complete Data	NUMBER OF STATES
Northern	0.09	4	6
Eastern	0.17	12	14
Central	0.25	8	9
Southern	0.21	9	9
Western	0.25	15	15
AU States	0.19	48	53

3.2. GENDER PARITY

- I. Six (6) countries representing 11.10% of AU membership met CEDAW target at cabinet position level. No country met gender parity target set by AU in the SDGEA at the cabinet level. This is in contrast with the 2016 report where eight (8) Countries met the CEDAW target.
- II. AU Member States that met the CEDAW target of minimum of 30% had low women representation in the parliament; seventeen (17) countries led by Swaziland (87.50%) met and surpassed the CEDAW target. Nigeria has the lowest value of 5.60% followed by Comoros with 6.10% and Benin with 7.2% representation.
- III. Egypt which had the lowest level of representation of 2% in 2016 now has 14.90% representation of women in the parliament which is a major improvement and perhaps an indication that the decision making space are being liberalised in that country for the ascendancy of more women.
- IV. Fourteen (14) countries representing 25.50% of the African countries have achieved 50% of their journey to Gender Parity in the parliament. The highest achiever is Rwanda at 107.81% followed by Uganda 99.09%, then Swaziland with 95.94%. The implication of this data is that Rwanda has gone beyond parity and representation in parliament is now skewed in favour of women
- V. Fifteen (15) countries, that is 27.27%, achieved less than 30% of the Gender Parity target with Nigeria turning the lowest figure of 16.40% of the Gender Parity target.
- VI. Countries with less than 10% representation in ministerial level

are Djibouti (5.6%), Somalia (6.70%) and Equatorial Guinea (9.7%) as against six (6) countries in 2016.

VII. Southern African region has the best Gender Parity Index (GPI) with 0.57 average followed by 0.56 of Eastern Africa.

Table 9: Regional Distribution of Gender Parity Index (GPI)

REGION	AVERAGE	NUMBER OF STATES WITH COMPLETE DATA	NUMBER OF STATES
Central	0.34	9	9
Eastern	0.56	11	15
Northern	0.55	3	6
Southern	0.57	9	9
Western	0.34	13	15
AU States	0.47	45	54

VIII. Unlike the 2016 report where Central African region had the least average of 0.32, West Africa has the least score with 0.34% in this year report.

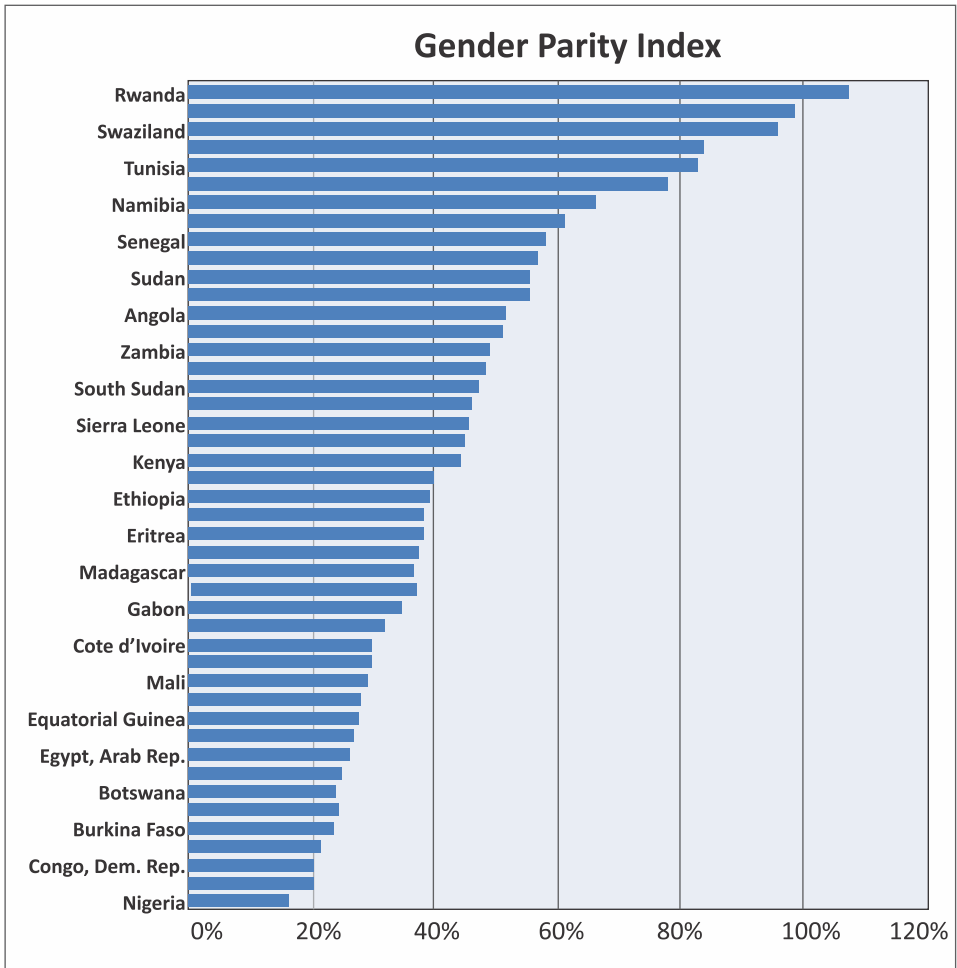
IX. Twenty two (22) countries had a considerable increase in the Gender Parity Index compared to year 2016. Swaziland increased by 70.50% moving from 24.44% to 95.94%. Also, Tunisia moved from 36.28% to 82.82% which is above 50% GPI achievement.

Table 10: LIST OF TOP 10 COUNTRIES WITH INCREASE IN GPI

S/N	COUNTRY	REGION	PROPORTION OF SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS	PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN MINISTERIAL LEVEL POSITIONS	2016 GPI	2019 GPI
1	Swaziland	Southern	87.5	26.3	0.25	0.96
2	Tunisia	Northern	74.24	23.1	0.36	0.83
3	Uganda	Eastern	66.89	36.7	0.64	0.99
4	Sierra Leone	Western	37.65	13.8	0.18	0.46
5	Zambia	Southern	18.0	33.3	0.32	0.49
6	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Northern	14.9	11.8	0.10	0.27
7	Congo, Rep.	Central	11.3	22.9	0.18	0.32
8	Sudan	Eastern	68.61	11.4	0.43	0.56
9	Sao Tome and Principe	Central	18.2	18.2	0.24	0.36
10	Malawi	Southern	16.7	22.2	0.27	0.39

These increases in GPI were driven by substantial increase in the proportion of women in the parliament which came from the last cycle of elections in many of these countries.

Figure 5: Country Gender Parity Index



3.3. Girls' Education Index (GEI)

Three (3) major indicators were used to calculate this index, namely; Female Enrolment Ratio, Girls' Progression Rate to Secondary school, Female Literacy Rate (15-24yrs). The current data available were used in the analysis. Outcome of the analysis shows that:

- i. Girls' progression from primary to secondary school is high with

all countries having progression rates higher than 52%. Kenya, Senegal, Sao Tome and Principe top the list with 100.00% while Uganda has the least progression of 52%. Only two (2) countries have progression rates below 60% compared to one (1) country in 2016 report;

- ii. Though countries such as Central Africa Republic, Chad and Niger have the least percentage of female literacy rates, girls' progression rate in these countries are still above 52%;
- iii. Countries that achieved 100% progression rate also achieved high literacy rate (among women 15 – 24 years) posting figures as high as 80%. Eight countries, with Niger being the least (15.6%), have literacy rates below 50% with Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Kenya and 12 other countries having literacy rates above 80%;
- iv. Sixty (60%) of West African countries have female literacy rate less than 60% while 47% are below 50% literacy rate. Of the 8 countries with literacy rates below 50%, West Africa accounts for 87.5% representing 7 of the 8 countries;
- v. The primary school female enrolment is generally poor; fifteen (15) countries which include Malawi, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Liberia and Senegal have enrolment rates above 50%. Guinea-Bissau has the least enrolment rate of 37.61%. This is in contrast with 2016 SDI report where 27 countries have enrolment rates above 50%;
- vi. Countries such as Seychelles and Kenya with really high Girls' Progression Rate and Literacy Rate have GEI below 80% because of their low enrollment of girls in Primary School;
- vii. From the GEI analysis, Namibia and Botswana have the best Girls' Education Index with 0.95 and 0.93 score respectively;
- viii. In summary South African Countries had the highest GEI average of 0.75, followed by East African Countries with 0.71 average, while North Africa scored 0.68 GEI average.

Table 11 : REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF GIRLS' EDUCATION INDEX

REGION	AVERAGE	NUMBER OF STATES WITH COMPLETE DATA	NUMBER OF STATES
Northern	0.68	4	6
Eastern	0.71	12	15

Central	0.65	8	9
Southern	0.75	8	9
Western	0.58	13	15
AU States	0.67	45	54

Table 12: Countries with GEI Above 60%

Country	Region	Girls Progression from Primary School to Secondary School (%)	Literacy Rate (Female 15+, %)	Primary School Enrolment (Enrolment to Grade 1 of Primary School, Female %)	GEI
Sierra Leone	Western	91.42	50.860	50.430	0.62
Madagascar	Eastern	72.62	75.300	49.400	0.65
Gambia	Western	94.92	56.120	50.920	0.65
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	71.08	79.710	47.940	0.65
Rwanda	Eastern	70.97	83.490	48.010	0.66
Malawi	Southern	84.39	73.390	50.240	0.68
Togo	Western	81.89	78.370	48.540	0.68
Burundi	Central	85.63	74.960	48.870	0.68
Lesotho	Southern	88.48	93.970	46.570	0.73
Kenya	Eastern	100	86.120	48.480	0.75
Tunisia	Northern	91.58	95.800	48.900	0.75
Mauritius	Eastern	90.28	98.560	49.940	0.76
South Africa	Southern	94.61	99.230	47.410	0.76
Sao Tome and Principe	Central	100	96.350	49.200	0.78
Cape Verde	Western	98.88	98.730	49.030	0.78

3.4. Composite Solemn Declaration Index

The composite SDI is a derivative of three (3) thematic focuses which are; HIV Index, Education Index and Gender Parity Index. The SDI is calculated by finding the geometric mean of these three thematic focuses for each country. This gives a composite indication of the SDI status of each country and region.

- I. The higher the value of the SDI, the better the performance of the countries in moving towards gender equality in the areas of these thematic focuses;
- II. Uganda emerged with the highest SDI score of 0.587, which is followed by Swaziland with 0.554. Table 13 below shows the SDI of the best 10 countries of the 54 AU Member States;
- III. Only 39 countries have complete data to generate an SDI value, other countries could not generate their own SDI values due to

data paucity;

- IV. On regional performance, the average composite SDI for Southern Africa region is 0.449 which turns out to be the highest of the 5 regions. The region with the least composite SDI average is North Africa with 0.28;

Table 13: 10 Countries with highest SDI Scores and their Regions

S/N	COUNTRY	REGION	EDUCATION	HEALTH	GENDER PARITY	SDI	CATEGORY
1	Uganda	Eastern	0.599	0.341	0.99	0.587	0.41-0.60
2	Swaziland	Southern	0.738	0.240	0.96	0.554	0.41-0.60
3	South Africa	Southern	0.764	0.248	0.84	0.542	0.41-0.60
4	Tanzania	Eastern	0.718	0.277	0.78	0.537	0.41-0.60
5	Rwanda	Eastern	0.658	0.202	1.08	0.523	0.41-0.60
6	Sierra Leone	Western	0.617	0.419	0.46	0.490	0.41-0.60
7	Namibia	Southern	0.953	0.181	0.67	0.486	0.41-0.60
8	Burundi	Central	0.679	0.266	0.57	0.469	0.41-0.60
9	Mozambique	Southern	0.527	0.278	0.61	0.448	0.41-0.60
10	Zambia	Southern	0.675	0.267	0.49	0.445	0.41-0.60

Table 14: REGIONAL COMPOSITE SDI AVERAGE.

REGION	AVERAGE	NUMBER OF STATES WITH COMPLETE DATA	PERCENTAGE OF AU STATES	NUMBER OF STATES
Northern	28.93%	3	50.0%	6
Eastern	37.63%	9	60.0%	15
Central	36.31%	7	77.8%	9
Southern	44.99%	8	88.9%	9
Western	36.30%	12	80.0%	15
AU States	37.83%	39	72.2%	54

3.5. GRAND INDEX

To generate the Grand Index, two (2) critical values were put into

consideration. These are; the composite SDI as seen above and the SDSC as seen in chapter two. As explained in chapter one, the geometric mean of the values of these indices were calculated for each country. Countries that have any or both of the values missing do not have a Grand Index with which they can be assessed or ranked. The following observations can be deduced from the Grand Index:

- I. Due to paucity of data, especially with the SDSC where only 30 countries have their data available as at the time of this study, only 24 countries have the complete data to generate their Grand Index;
- II. Of these 24 countries, Namibia has the highest Grand Index of 0.688;
- III. Namibia is closely followed by Kenya with 0.636. The list of the best ten performing countries can be found in Table 15 below;
- IV. Namibia recorded a very high SDSC score of 0.917 alongside Kenya, Senegal and Cote D'Ivoire and also a considerable high score of composite SDI thereby emerging as the best performing country based on the indicators used in this report;
- V. Just as it is with the composite SDI, the Southern Region is the best performing region with 55.08% of SDGEA covered in the region;
- VI. The overall performance of the countries assessed in this report and based on the selected indicators is 48.53%.

Table 15: 10 Best Performing Countries

COUNTRY	REGION	GRAND INDEX	RANK
Namibia	Southern	0.668	1
Kenya	Eastern	0.636	2
Zambia	Southern	0.609	3
Senegal	Western	0.606	4
Rwanda	Eastern	0.591	5
Cote D'Ivoire	Western	0.570	6
Swaziland	Southern	0.568	7
Mozambique	Southern	0.547	8
Togo	Western	0.528	9
Burundi	Central	0.523	10

Table 16: Regional Performance on the Grand Index

REGION	AVERAGE	NUMBER OF STATES WITH COMPLETE DATA	PERCENTAGE OF STATES	NUMBER OF STATES
Northern	42.25%	2	33.3%	6
Eastern	44.65%	5	33.3%	15
Central	43.55%	5	55.6%	9
Southern	55.08%	6	66.7%	9
Western	51.45%	6	40.0%	15
AU States	48.53%	24	44.4%	54