

# CHAPTER FOUR

## GOOD PRACTICES FOR EMULATION

### 4.0. Introduction

Women's emancipation and gender equality are the results of a complex process of eliminating obstacles, which often require deliberate practice of positive discrimination in favour of women.

This chapter on Best Practices is designed to provide a snapshot of the good practices as demonstrated in the implementation of commitment to gender equality, and as reported in the SDGEA syntheses on progress made in support of gender mainstreaming by Member States. Although this guide does not capture all the good practices being employed by Member States, it is however a useful tool for raising awareness on different approaches and will hopefully contribute to a common understanding on how to integrate gender equality and human rights in evaluation practice within the AU system and beyond – particularly important in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Selection is based on basic applicable instruments (legal/policy briefs) deployed by Member States in the implementation process and adapted to ensure participation of women and the most marginalized and discriminated-against groups.

It is hoped that readers will commit to ensuring that these steps are implemented in every African State, such that it represents the new minimum standard on offer in the future.

### 4.1. Selected Best Practices on Legal and Policy Measures

#### 4.1.1. Good Practices from Article 1:

##### i. MALAWI

The remarkable achievement by the government of Malawi is a case study. The scaling up of HIV and AIDS services, and the decline of HIV prevalence from 14 % in 2004 to 9.1% in 2016 is a good practice.

This feat was achieved through the Government effort which spearheaded mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS in national policies and

programmes. Government adopted the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT) through the adoption of the Option B+ where pregnant mothers, upon being diagnosed HIV positive, are put on lifelong ARV Treatment (ART).

In response to disparity, the government introduced 'moonlight' testing for couples at night in order to encourage men to access HTC, 'Door-to-door' testing, community based HIV services and Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision (VMMC) which was found to be favourable towards encouraging men to go for testing.

Through an HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Bill, a legislation that prohibits certain cultural practices that make people vulnerable to HIV infection was enacted. This helped to reduce women and girls' vulnerability as it is this group of the population that is more impacted by these cultural practices than men and boys. Malawi's rapid and successful ART scale-up critically influenced the HIV epidemic, reducing mortality, morbidity, and transmission.

Currently, 1 out of every 20 Malawi HIV-infected adults are now on ART; 275,000 deaths have been averted; and 1.4 million life-years have been gained, primarily among young adults in their peak productive life period.

In terms of health awareness, the government and civil society partners intensified efforts promoting youth friendly health services to provide sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services such as contraceptives, treatment for STI's, etc to girls and boys in a more friendly and conducive environment. A comprehensive condom strategy was formulated and popularized for both male and female condoms.

The Government has put in place and expanded programmes aimed at improving the maternal and child health of its population such as: Antenatal Health Services; Under 5 Clinics; Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI); Malaria Control Programme including provision of treated mosquito bed nets with special focus on pregnant women and under 5 children (free) and reducing cost of mosquito nets for rural people. In 2016 alone the government procured and distributed over 3 million mosquito nets.

#### **4.1.2. Good Practices from Article 2:**

##### **i. RWANDA**

In 2015, Rwanda became the world's second highest contributor of female police peacekeepers, including 85 women and 75 men who make up a supporting team including; doctors and mechanics. Women also represent 44.3% of the community mediators and 48% in access to Justice Bureau.

In the wake of the post-genocide era, Rwanda made this possible through the development of a second generation National Action Plan to implement UNSCR 1325 (2018-2020), which boosted the role of women in post-conflict reconciliation and peacebuilding.

This initiative has strengthened women's role in peace and security processes within and outside Rwanda, and under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion.

This also came in the wake of the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, a 7-year government programme and National Strategy for Transformation as a practical step to sustain and expand the registered gain from the first action plan, and set precedence in the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Rwanda women are playing a key role in promoting peace, unity and reconciliation throughout the process of nation building in Rwanda. At the grass roots level women play a visible role in the conflict management and justice structure.

## **ii. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**

In the DRC, adoption of the Law on the organization and functioning of the Congolese National Police, which includes gender mainstreaming in the criteria for recruitment into the police force., has made it possible for women to be promoted to the rank of general in the National Army and Police

In the DRC, women participate on an equal basis with men in the process for peace and security in the country, within the framework of various peace processes implemented in the country. Their participation is also ensured through their integration into the security forces, as well as in the public and private structures responsible for the implementation of peace and reconciliation programmes.

### **4.1.3. Good Practices from Article 3:**

## I. CHAD

In 2012, a total of 1174 minors were rescued from the armed forces and other security groups. A total of 938 minors of the demobilized groups were regularly cared for in transit and orientation centres, 48 others were directly reintegrated in their families and communities by the Ministry of Women, Social Action and National Solidarity.

Chad legislated to put an end to the recruitment and use of children by armed forces, and to ensure that the released children benefit from rehabilitation programmes in their communities. The implementation of this agreement mobilized several child protection agencies (Care International, JRS, ICRC, CCF, etc.).

A Presidential Directive **N°8/PR/EMP/2013** was adopted with the objective of preventing and putting an end to the recruitment of children by armed forces and groups (Article 2). It recalls Law N°011/PR/2006 on the general status of military personnel which in its Article 44 stipulates that the recruitment of soldiers, cadets in the gendarmerie, and nomadic guards shall be carried out through conscription, competitive examinations or by direct recruitment for Chadians aged 18 years and above (Article 2).

The Presidential Directive also provides for measures on the verification of age during recruitment as well as disciplinary and penal sanctions against any person guilty of recruiting and using children in the ranks of the armed and security forces of Chad (Article 4).

With the collaboration of other international agencies, a roadmap for Zero Tolerance Initiative for Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups was signed in 2013. The success of the campaign ensured the removal of the country from the black list of countries with children in their army in 2015.

### ii. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

From 4 October 2012 to 30 June 2013, the Government of the DRC removed from the armed forces and from armed groups a total of 2894 children, comprising 365 girls and 2 529 boys, among whom 1 538 were verified according to the observation and documentation mechanism and UN Security Council Resolution 612.

In the context of combatting the recruitment of child soldiers and the exploitation of girls as wives and sex slaves in violation of their rights, as



enshrined in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the DRC created legal arsenal provisions, as well as ministerial provisions and national mechanisms to protect children against the consequences of armed conflicts. These include:

- Law N° 09/01 of 10 January 2009 on the protection of children, which defines the child as any person below the age of 18, raises the age of marriage from 14 to 18 for girls, and condemns the recruitment of children into armed groups;
- The appointment of the Personal Representative of the Head of State charged with combatting Sexual Violence and the Recruitment of Child Soldiers into armed groups;
- The publication and implementation in 2014 of the Action Plan to end the recruitment and use of children in armed forces, signed by the Congolese Government and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

These minors all received medical assistance and psycho-social support, followed by reintegration into school. During the process, 4 817, including 713 girls, were reunited with their families or legal guardians. Within the context of multi-sectoral assistance, 1 806 child victims of sexual violence, comprising 1 768 girls and 38 boys, received assistance from the Government of the DRC and its partners. 61% of the victims were given medical care within 72 hours of the sexual assault.

#### **4.1.4. Good Practices from Article 4:**

##### **i. SEYCHELLES**

The Government of Seychelles achieved critical feat in 2 major areas namely:

- Enactment of Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act 2014- which criminalizes all forms of trafficking of adults and children, with a minimum sentence of 14 years' incarceration, while the sentence increase to a maximum of 25 years in case the victims are children.
- 2017 creation of a stand-alone piece of legislature that criminalises domestic violence in all its forms.

An outcome survey conducted by The Gender Secretariat, in collaboration with Genderlinks (South Africa) and the National Bureau of Statistics, presented most striking findings; over 40% of men confirmed that they had been victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) at least once during their lifetime compared to 58% women.

To ensure compliance to sustained public campaign, a number of advocacy programmes were organised. They include:

- Launch of Orange Day awareness campaign with Posters, Poems, and Essay Competition
- Promotion of Orange Day campaign in various government institutions and schools
- Presentation of Orange Day banners to the Judiciary, the National Library and Secondary Schools
- Male Empowerment Programme
- Public sensitization programme with captions such as “Unite for Peace: End Gender-Based Violence”.
- Development and introduction of a GBV Curriculum in post-secondary learning institutions in 2017

## **ii. LIBERIA**

Liberia has established Criminal Court “E” specifically for the prosecution of sexual offences including rape. The Act that established Criminal Court “E” also provides that in every city there is established a Court 'E' hearing sexual violence cases. This provision gives right to Circuit Courts across the country to hear SGBV cases at the county level. Specialized training in SGBV case management, care, prevention, as well as, proper reporting on SGBV cases have been provided for County Attorneys, Magistrates and Judges, City Solicitors, Prosecutors, Law Enforcement Officers, Health and Social Workers and Community Members across the country. Amidst the limited resource allocation, inadequate logistical support and lack of forensic laboratory, additional staff were hired to assist fast track SGBV cases at Criminal Court “E”. This has increased the number of indictment of rape cases from 9 in August term of court in 2014 to 121 during the May 2015 term of court. Discussions are ongoing for the establishment of at least one central forensic laboratory and training of national pathologists. The number of Judges in the Criminal Court E has also been increased from one to two. It is the anticipation of the Government that S/GBV prosecution will increase.

## **iii. BURUNDI**

The promulgation of Law N° 1/13 of 22/09/2016 on the Prevention, Protection of Victims and Abolition of Gender-Based Violence was a welcome development in Burundi. This revolutionary law goes to support the Criminal Procedure Code of 2009 and broaden the scope of

application of gender-based violence in all its forms. The Criminal Procedure Code revised in 2014 also conforms to the new Penal Code.

- i. The establishment of two GBSV focal points within the Judicial Police in High Courts has culminated in an exceptional classification and an expeditious processing of files relating to GBSV.
- ii. Public campaigns have been organised each year by the Government in conjunction with its partners; the following are worth mentioning among others:
  - The ***“16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women”*** Campaign since 2000;
  - The ***“Zero Tolerance”*** Campaign launched by His Excellency the President of the Republic in 2010;
  - The ***“We Can”*** Campaign organised in 2010;
  - The ***“Africa Unite”*** Campaign to put an end to violence against women launched by the United Nations Secretary General, that started at the national level on 10 March 2012 on Mount Heha which is the highest mountain in Burundi;
  - The ***“Tabara Tamar”*** Campaign to sensitize the population to combat violence against women with the help of biblical verses

#### 4.1.5. Good Practices from Article 5:

##### I. ETHIOPIA

To effectively promote gender parity and ensure that women are empowered in decision making, Ethiopia's National Election Board mandated in its Political Party's Registration Proclamation that support shall be granted to political parties on the basis of the number of women candidates nominated by the political party among other factors.

In addition, the most recent proclamation (2015) added that 15% of the total budget for political parties that meet the threshold of 30% women representation ). This is an increment from the previous support allocated for the same purpose.

Another advantage granted to women by the Board is the special media time on Radio or Television for campaign by any female candidate. A 10% of total media time in all media/print coverage is exclusively to women candidates.

This opportunity was strongly seized by the women candidates such that women's representation in the House of Representatives grew from 21.4% in 2005 to 27.9% by 2010. In the current parliament, the representation of women has grown to 38%, while women representation among electoral officials rose up to 40%. Representation in regional councils also grew with different variations reaching 40.2% in average and 50% in Woreda and Kebele councils. In all, a total of 1270 women candidates indicated interest to run for office in 2015 showing a sharp rise to the total of 927 women candidate in 2010.

Women in the executive and judicial branches also showed progress. Within the judiciary, women account for 43.4% of the judges; 21.3% in Federal High Court and 17.5% at the Supreme Court. Within the Federal Executive branches, women representation stood at 15.5%, while 22% account for women at the middle level.

## **ii. KENYA**

In Kenya, Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) which is anchored in law by the Preference and Reservation Regulation 2011 was originally introduced in 2012, when it set aside 10% of government contracts to be awarded to disadvantaged groups, i.e. young people, women or persons with a disability. These groups have the rights to own enterprises without competition from established firms. This percentage was increased to 30% in 2013. The AGPO policy also covers micro and small enterprises, citizen contractors and citizen contractors in joint ventures with foreign suppliers. This policy aimed at empowering women, young people and persons with disability, and has given them the opportunity to participate in government procurement.

### **4.1.6. Good Practices from Article 6**

#### **i. ETHIOPIA**

Over 12,000 vulnerable section of the society have benefitted from free legal aid scheme since 2010. Over 111 free legal aid centres were also created across the country. A number of higher educational institutions and the civil society also assist the legal aid centres to deliver free legal aid support. Organs of justice administration systems like the police and judiciary also serve as vanguards of women's rights. Each one of these bodies have dedicated gender directorate that are responsible for ensuring that women equitably utilize the services of these organs towards the protection of their human rights.

Ethiopia was able to achieve this feat by first ratifying and domesticating major international and regional instruments, including major women-specific laws like CEDAW without reservation, DEVAW and SGDEA. Ethiopia developed a national human rights action plan 4.1. with a special section on women and children.

Efforts were made to sensitize all major stakeholders at various levels with the content of CEDAW. The legal instruments were also translated into five local languages and made accessible to justice administration bodies in the country. With the law in place, national laws including constitutional documents and several subsidiary legislations prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender in every sphere of life in Ethiopia.

Extensive law reviews were also undertaken to ensure conformity of national laws with the commitment to gender equality as enshrined in international and regional treaties to which Ethiopia is a party to. These laws include family law, criminal law, pension law, inheritance law, land law, national laws and employment-related laws.

Operationalising this law, Ethiopia has taken measures to improve women's access to justice through free and low cost legal services as well as legal literacy programmes. The 111 free legal aid centres established across the country target vulnerable groups in society such as women who cannot afford legal counsel and hence cannot have fair access to justice.

#### **4.1.7. Good Practices from Article 7**

##### **i. ETHIOPIA**

Recognizing that women's disadvantage in the economic arena emanates from women's limited access to economic resources and others, the government reserved 30% of Federal Housing Scheme for women, while the remaining 70% is distributed equally between men and women. This resulted in 54% of women becoming beneficiaries of housing programmes in the capital city, while 47% of women own houses in regional states and 66% of women in rural areas own houses either alone or jointly with their husbands. To date, 60% of rural women own arable land for farming purposes.

To ensure its implementation, various legislative measures were put in place to guarantee women's equal

access to economic resources. Some of these laws include Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation, and the Revised Family Law (2000).

In addition, the national Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) strategy has a core goal of increasing the participation and benefit of women from the sector through the following process: job creation, training, access to finance, operational and market place services, market access (local and international), technology provisions, information and counselling services, etc. So far, result has shown the following:

- a. 41.2% of the over ten million jobs created in the sector were for women;
- b. 40.6% of training opportunities went to women, out of over three million trainees;
- c. Access to finance saw similar progress with 46.5% of overall beneficiaries being women;
- d. In regards to premises for operation and marketing products, 40.8% and 40% respectively of beneficiaries were women.

## ii. ZIMBABWE

The land reform programme introduced at the turn of the century sought, among other things, to mitigate the limited access to resources by women, through introduction of quotas in the access to land by women. The policy position is that women should constitute 20% of all those allocated large scale farming land also known as the A2 farming land. In addition, women were also entitled to apply for agricultural land in their own right under the A1 village schemes, a departure from the traditional norm wherein women only accessed land through their husbands, fathers or other male relative. This has empowered women to have control over land as a means of production.

**ZIMBABWE WIA:** To ensure full participation of women in the agriculture sector, the Government is promoting contract farming, cropping, animal husbandry, agro-dealership, and value addition by women farmers. Capacity development is also being carried out. The Government through the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development facilitated the formation of the Women in Agriculture Apex Board to help in coordinating women farmers' activities and mobilising women to participate in agriculture. The Apex



Board has structures from national down to ward levels. Approximately 18 000 women farmers are members of the Apex Board. Approximately 15 200 women farmers were mobilised and taken through a Master Farmer Training Programme which was jointly conducted by Agritex and Women in Agriculture Apex Board. The training resulted in improved farm management by women farmers and most of them have increased their targeted land size. More than 24 337 women farmers were trained in value addition of locally available resources such as fruits and agricultural products.

**Women's Development Fund:** A Women's Development Fund was established in 2010 as a means of addressing the lack of collateral for loans amongst women and the high interest rates being charged by banks. To date \$3 213 597.94 has been disbursed to 2 145 women's groups. The projects funded were from the following sectors: mining, cropping, bakeries, goat rearing, indigenous chickens, agro-dealership, honey production processing, garment making, leather products, crafts, beneficiation, cattle buying and selling, fruit vending and value addition. Nine vehicles were purchased for purposes of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded.

### **iii. WOMEN IN DISPLACEMENT: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS (Advocacy Activity of Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) on Article 7 of the SDGEA)<sup>21</sup>**

Twelve African countries experienced armed conflicts in 2014. Three additional countries -Burundi, Niger and Chad - were added to the list in 2015. And by 2018, new report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) revealed that since the beginning of 2017, about 2.7 million people have been displaced by conflict, violence or disasters, but have not crossed an international border.

In the first half of the year 2017, about 997,000 new internal displacements due to conflict were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), more than recorded in the whole of 2016, and 206,000 in the Central African Republic, four times the figure for the previous year. In all of these crises of displacement,

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<sup>21</sup> The Full advocacy document from Norwegian Refugee Council is in the appendix viii of this report.



omen will continue to be the direct victims of violence and humanitarian crisis as they become sole caretakers and burden bearer of children and elders as well exposed to sexual and gender based violence. This dire and clearly worsening situation demands a new approach that goes beyond humanitarian action to address the causes and long-term implications of internal displacement.

AU's 2019 agenda and theme "Year for Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in Africa: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement" creates renewed opportunity to advocate for increased respect for displaced women's rights. The fulfillment of women's socio-economic rights particularly in the context of displacement increases their resilience, coping capacity and ability to break the cycle of poverty.

Concerted advocacy efforts are needed to ensure that displaced women fully enjoy their rights, beyond the provision of assistance and protection to guarantee their empowerment and economic independence.

In the light of this, the NRC has come with some recommendations which she desires to push with GIMAC and other stakeholders within the context of HLP rights of women in displacement. The key ones are listed below:

- Establish a comprehensive strategy to ensure women have access to justice and particularly to legal documents pertaining to housing, land and property. Displaced women should be provided with other legal identity documents including residence documents to allow access to services and justice in response to the violations they face;
- Strengthen women's land tenure security by accelerating the provision of legal documents on land, housing and property and provide economic opportunities for women to strengthen their resilience and contribute to sustainable livelihoods through establishment of women's cooperatives among others;
- Monitor gender indicators and gather timely and accurate data on the displacement of women and the effects on their HLP rights and access to justice;
- Ratify, domesticate and implement key legal and policy frameworks, specifically the Kampala Convention and Maputo Protocol to advance the protection of women's rights and

eliminate harmful practices exacerbating the vulnerability of displaced women.

#### **4.1.8. Good Practices from Article 8**

##### **i. MALAWI**

The Government of Malawi continued implementing the Re-admission Policy for teen mothers to give them an opportunity to return to school upon delivery. This policy has helped over 25,000 teen mothers to go back to school since its formulation in 2011. The implementation of the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act 2015 facilitated the withdrawal of school going girls below the age of 18 from early marriages. Some of these girls were among the 2,465 girls who went back to school with the support of the mother groups in 2016.

NGOs such as Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE), Malawi Chapter, are directly supporting the girl child in ensuring that their rights are promoted and protected, and also ensuring that girls retention in schools is enhanced. In addition, admission in Teacher Training Colleges has been raised for female students to a minimum of 50% to raise role models for girls especially in rural primary schools where there are no female teachers.

##### **ii. ZAMBIA**

Government has formulated and is implementing the Re-Entry Policy that allows pregnant girls to go back to school after delivery. This is in an effort to reduce the gender gap between girls and boys in education. Other programmes implemented by Zambia to promote girl child education include:

- Establishment and continued implementation of a special bursaries scheme for female students at the public universities and technical colleges; and
- Implementation of a revised curricular which aims at eliminating gender stereotyping and encourages boys and girls to progress in education.

##### **iii. COTE D'IVOIRE**

Cote D'Ivoire launched Strategic Plan for Acceleration of Girls' Education: 2016-2018 which is giving more access to young girls to go to school. This has increased girls admission and more are being

encouraged to go to school.

#### **iv. SWAZILAND**

The “Take Your Daughter to Work” initiative aims to expose girls to different career options available. The Ministry of Education, through the Guidance and Counseling unit, partners with different organisations to facilitate this programme. The in-schools girls are brought on camp and different speakers, mainly females in male dominated fields deliver motivational speeches to them. Companies also give presentations about what the companies are about, the career options within the companies and what subjects are needed as prerequisites to have opportunities in those fields of work. After that, the girls select the companies they prefer to be attached to. The final stage is a feedback session from both the girls and the company representatives. Continuous follow up is provided by the Career Guidance officer at regional level and the school guidance teachers.

#### **4.1.9. Good Practices from Article 9**

##### **i. MALAWI**

The Malawi Government ratified the African Union Women's Protocol in 2005. Since then, the protocol has helped in the review of the Malawi National Gender Policy, the development and enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act 2015; Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act 2015; and the Gender Equality Act 2013. The protocol also informed the formulation of the National Plan of Action to combat Gender Based Violence (2015-2020) and various campaigns and programmes on women and children's rights.

The Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare in collaboration with development partners and donors has disseminated the AU Women's Protocol to various stakeholders such as Policy Makers; Parliamentary Committees of Legal Affairs, Women's Caucus, and Social and Community Services; heads of NGOs; members of the media fraternity; and community leaders. The main objective for dissemination is to build capacity of key stakeholders in understanding the protocol and solicit political will and commitment from policy makers towards the provisions of the protocol. These disseminations have taken opportunity of the commemoration of international days.

The government of Malawi presented the report on the implementation of the African Union Women's Protocol in Banjul, the Gambia in April 2015 and was commended for following reporting guidelines and also for domesticating the Protocol.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5. SUMMARY

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> report on the deployment of the Solemn Declaration Index (SDI) for the performance assessment of the MS in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). One major innovation in this report is the isolation and documentation of some selected 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 leading countries, based on our evaluation, are 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 beyond what is being presented.

Various analyses carried out in this study showed progress are being recorded in some areas. However, concerted efforts are required in protecting women against the upsurge in gender based violence, human trafficking, slavery and lack of access to productive resources by women. 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 has helped African women to climb the ladder of equality in ascendancy manner.

Giant strides have been made in the reduction of prevalence rates of HIV/AIDs in some countries, but anti-retroviral treatment coverage for Women Living with HIV/AIDs (WLWHA) is still low when compared to that of men. The girls enrollment and progression rates have improved but efforts at retaining and integrating pregnant girls back to school system 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.

### 5.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study made some recommendations. These include:

- i. The Member States should be encouraged to start using the new

AUWGDD reporting format because it provides opportunity for a greater display and evaluation of the activities of the MS in the implementation of SDGEA, including access to authentic data generated at National level;

- ii. In line with (i) above, MS should also update and ensure that appropriate data concerning their countries are published by the United Nations Agencies and other inter-governmental organisations;
- iii. In order to improve the quality of SDGEA report, a better inter-agency coordination will be required in some countries to give a good account of their activities as well encourage the engagement of skillful and professional writers;
- iv. A joint GIMAC-AUWGDD Advocacy Mission should be raised to:
  - a. 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;
  - b. 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 victims;
- v. In order for women to enjoy their full rights and be in a position to pursue these rights, it might be necessary to establish a separate Women's Rights Commission as distinct from the existing Human Rights Commission in many countries, which does not focus much on the rights of women;
- vi. Convening of a Special Session of the Heads of State of the African Union (AU) on Acceleration of Political Participation of Women through active interventions that compel political parties and Electoral Commissions across the continent to give room and ensure women are encouraged and well-resourced to be part and parcel of the electoral system from the national to local government level.

## 5.2. CONCLUSIONS

The Solemn Declaration Index continues to be a veritable tool in demanding for performance on the part of MS in the implementation of the SDGEA. It has also proved that it can

provide new advocacy and programmatic insight and focus for the GIMAC in her quest to push the frontier of gender equality in Africa. This report not only identified some high performing countries but also provided a new learning platform through the documentation of some good practices in the implementation of the of SDGEA by some MS. The AUWGDD needs to continue its collaboration with the GIMAC in ensuring that empowerment of women remain relevant in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



## APPENDIX I: Health Index

Country	Region	Total Antiretroviral therapy Coverage (%)	Data Year	ARV Coverage Among Women with HIV (%)	Data Year	HI	Categories
Algeria	Northern	3.79	2017	49.00	2017	0.1363	0.10-0.20
Angola	Southern	0.34	2017	44.00	2017	0.0386	0.10-0.20
Benin	Western	11.05	2017	95.00	2017	0.3240	0.21-0.40
Botswana	Southern	3.79	2017	95.00	2017	0.1898	0.10-0.20
Burkina Faso	Western	8.39	2017	83.00	2017	0.2639	0.21-0.40
Burundi	Central	8.40	2017	84.00	2017	0.2656	0.21-0.40
Cape Verde	Western	3.75	2017	95.00	2017	0.1887	0.10-0.20
Cameroon	Central	11.22	2017	74.00	2017	0.2881	0.21-0.40
Central African Republic	Central	12.34	2017	81.00	2017	0.3162	0.21-0.40
Chad	Central	9.95	2017	63.00	2017	0.2504	0.21-0.40
Comoros	Eastern	0.00		-		ICD	ICD
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	9.81	2017	70.00	2017	0.2620	0.21-0.40
Congo, Rep.	Central	3.22	2017	16.00	2017	0.0718	0.10-0.20
Cote d'Ivoire	Western	8.89	2017	73.00	2017	0.2548	0.21-0.40
Djibouti	Eastern	6.09	2015	19.00	2014	0.1076	0.10-0.20
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Northern	1.30	2015	15.00	2014	0.0442	0.10-0.20
Equatorial Guinea	Central	10.75	2017	90.00	2017	0.3111	0.21-0.40
Eritrea	Eastern	2.41	2017	37.00	2017	0.0945	0.10-0.20
Ethiopia	Eastern	3.98	2017	69.00	2017	0.1656	0.10-0.20
Gabon	Central	6.67	2017	76.00	2017	0.2251	0.21-0.40
Gambia	Western	12.30	2017	69.00	2017	0.2913	0.21-0.40
Ghana	Western	9.60	2017	56.00	2017	0.2319	0.21-0.40
Guinea	Western	6.41	2017	43.00	2017	0.1660	0.10-0.20
Guinea-Bissau	Western	12.61	2017	85.00	2017	0.3273	0.21-0.40
Kenya	Eastern	8.40	2015	80.00	2018	0.2593	0.21-0.40
Lesotho	Southern	4.91	2017	66.00	2017	0.1801	0.10-0.20
Liberia	Western	17.28	2017	70.00	2017	0.3478	0.21-0.40
Libya	Northern	#DIV/0!		-		ND	ND
Madagascar	Eastern	1.76	2017	3.00	2017	0.0230	0.10-0.20
Malawi	Southern	6.83	2017	84.00	2017	0.2396	0.21-0.40
Mali	Western	6.92	2015	35.00	2016	0.1556	0.10-0.20
Mauritania	Northern	3.08	2015	15.00	2013	0.0679	0.10-0.20
Mauritius	Eastern	3.60	2015	20.00	2014	0.0849	0.10-0.20
Mozambique	Southern	9.63	2017	80.00	2017	0.2775	0.21-0.40
Namibia	Southern	5.76	2015	57.00	2014	0.1812	0.10-0.20
Niger	Western	9.80	2017	52.00	2017	0.2258	0.21-0.40
Nigeria	Western	5.71	2017	32.00	2017	0.1352	0.10-0.20
Rwanda	Eastern	4.97	2017	82.00	2017	0.2019	0.21-0.40

Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic	Northern	#DIV/0!		-		ND	ND
Sao Tome and Principe	Central	#DIV/0!		71.00		ICD	ICD
Senegal	Western	6.60	2017	55.00	2017	0.1906	0.10-0.20
Seychelles	Eastern	0.00	2017	-	2017	ICD	ICD
Sierra Leone	Western	20.22	2017	87.00	2017	0.4195	0.41-0.60
Somalia	Eastern	3.37	2015	7.00	2013	0.0485	0.10-0.20
South Africa	Southern	6.49	2017	95.00	2017	0.2483	0.21-0.40
South Sudan	Eastern	14.95	2015	29.00	2017	0.2082	0.21-0.40
Sudan	Eastern	2.85	2015	7.00	2014	0.0447	0.10-0.20
Swaziland	Southern	6.08	2017	95.00	2017	0.2404	0.21-0.40
Tanzania	Eastern	9.11	2017	84.00	2017	0.2767	0.21-0.40
Togo	Western	9.57	2017	86.00	2017	0.2869	0.21-0.40
Tunisia	Northern	2.52	2015	38.00	2014	0.0979	0.10-0.20
Uganda	Eastern	12.23	2017	95.00	2017	0.3409	0.21-0.40
Zambia	Southern	8.61	2017	83.00	2017	0.2673	0.21-0.40
Zimbabwe	Eastern	6.11	2017	93.00	2017	0.2384	0.21-0.40