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**ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION SOLEMN
DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA**

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACERWC	African Committee of Expert on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGA	African Governance Architecture
AGRF	African Green Revolution Forum
ALPC	African Land Policy Center
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
ANC	African National Congress
ART	Anti-Retroviral Treatment
ARV	Anti-Retroviral
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUCIL	African Union Commission on International Law
AWA	AIDS Watch Africa
AWD	African Women's Decade
CAR	Central African Republic
CARMMA	Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa
CEFELC	Coalition of Women Leaders of Cote d'Ivoire
CNIDH	National Independent Human Rights Commission
CNLS	National AIDS Control Committee
COGTA	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Authorities
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of Parties on Climate Change
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DHET	Distance Education Programmes
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EOM	Election Observation Mission
FAW	Fund for African Women
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GARPR	Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GPS	Gender Pre-Summit
HEW	Health Extension Worker
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HLD	High Level Dialogue
HLP on GEWE	High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IRAPP	The IGAD Regional HIV/AIDS Partnership Program
IWD	International Women's Day
IWPF	IGAD Women and Peace Forum
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
LPI	Land Policy Initiative
MNCH	Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Services
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPoA	Maputo Plan of Action

MSLS	Ministry of Health for combating AIDS
MSSFE	The Ministry of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children
NAP	National Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NHI	National Health Insurance
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NPSP	New Public Health Pharmacy
NSF	National Strategic Framework
NSNP	National School Nutrition Programme
OAFLA	Organisation of African First Ladies Against HIV
OFACI	Ivorian Lobby for the Defence of Women's Rights
OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSAA	Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
PAP	Pan African Parliament
PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
PLHIV	Persons Living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PNILT	Government an Integrated National Programme against Leprosy and Tuberculosis
PRC	Permanent Representatives Committee
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PSVI	Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative
RAP	Regional Action Plan
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
REFJPCI	Network of Women Journalists and Communication Professionals of Cote d'Ivoire
RME	Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation
RMs	Regional Mechanisms
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SANAC	South African National AIDS Council
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SNL	Swazi Nation Land
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STC	Specialised Technical Committee
STI	Sexually transmitted infections
TB	Tuberculosis
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment for Women
UNAIDS	United Nations Body that coordinates global response to HIV/AIDS
UNAMID	United Nations Mission in Darfur
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission on Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VTC	Voluntary Testing Centres
WEEF	Women Economic Empowerment Fund
WGDD	Women, Gender and Development Directorate
WIMAFRICA	Women in Maritime in Africa
WIP	Women in Parliament

**ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION SOLEMN
DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ttenth (10th) report of the African Union (AU) Member States and the eleventh (11th) report of the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson are submitted pursuant to the obligations under Articles 12 and 13 of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), that enjoins Member States and the AUC Chairperson to report on progress made in the implementation of the SDGEA. The report provides an overview of the efforts made by the different AUC Departments, some Regional Economic Bodies (RECs) and AU Member States in implementing the various Articles of the SDGEA.

The report is divided into two parts. Part A, presents the AUC Chairperson's report, which looks at progress at the level of the AUC and includes an update from three RECs that submitted reports, namely COMESA, IGAD and SADC. Part B, is an overview of reports submitted by thirteen (13) Member States and tracks progress made, using the different SDGEA Article.

The Commission continues to make great strides in meeting its obligations under this instrument and several innovative policies and programmes have been implemented. Among others, the AUC launched the Campaign to end Child Marriages and also hosted the First African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa. The AUC Chairperson initiated the Africa Gender Score Card, which is a tool to measure progress and achievements of AU Member States on Gender equality. One of the landmark decisions of the AU (Assembly AU/Dec. 539 (XXIII)) was the adoption of the Theme for 2015 as "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa's Agenda 2063", by the AU Heads of State and Government during their 23rd Ordinary Session, held from 26 to 27 June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

There has also been significant progress in the implementation of the gender parity principle in the AUC. There is a general increase in women's representation in both higher and lower echelons of the Commission compared to the last three reporting cycles.

With regard to the Member States' implementation of the SDGEA, this report notes the inspiring progress made in meeting obligations under this instrument. For example, on the fight against HIV/AIDS, Ethiopia has established a Health Extension Programme where over 40,000 Health Extension Workers are deployed to communities to promote health education. Egypt has established hotlines where citizens can receive more information on HIV/AIDS.

On peace and security, Namibia has translated the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security into six (6) local languages and basic English, to make it more accessible to the public. Kenya has declared amnesty for children associated with the Al Shabab militia, as a means to facilitate their return and rehabilitation.

Regarding Gender-Based Violence (GBV), South Africa's Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCC) have increased their presence in the country. These are one-stop facilities introduced as part of the country's anti-rape strategy, aimed at reducing trauma for victims, improving conviction rates and reducing the cycle time to finalize cases. The UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, has recognized the Centres as the "world's best practice model" in the field of gender based violence management and response.

On girls's education and women's literacy, Algeria has introduced a solidarity school bonus for students from disadvantaged communities and distributes free books and uniforms. Regarding gender parity, during the 2015 elections, Cote d'Ivoire established a platform where female candidates could meet and engage with the citizens about the elections.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This tenth (10th) report of the African Union (AU) Member States and the eleventh (11th) report of the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson are submitted pursuant to the obligations under Articles 12 and 13 of the Solemn Declaration of Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA).

2. Article 12 of the SDGEA enjoins AU Member States to report annually and to provide regular updates during their Ordinary Sessions on progress made on gender mainstreaming and to support and champion all issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment at both national and regional levels. Article 13 of the SDGEA obliges the Chairperson of the AUC to submit an annual report for the consideration of the African Union Heads of State and Government on measures taken to implement the principles of gender equality and gender mainstreaming at the national and regional levels.

3. During the period under review, thirteen (13) Member States submitted their reports for consideration in the eleventh edition of the annual report of the SDGEA. These are Algeria, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Sahrawi Arab Democratic, South Africa, Swaziland and Tunisia.

4. To advance the implementation of the SDGEA, the AUC is guided by the AU legal and normative framework on gender equality and women's empowerment. Notably, Article 4 (L) of the AU Constitutive Act, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), the AU Gender Policy, the Fund for African Women (FAW) and the African Women's Decade (AWD) 2010-2020.

5. This reporting period is significant as it brings gender equality and women's empowerment to the forefront in the first year roll out of Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan. This is further reinforced by the decision of the AU Heads of State and Government to dedicate 2015 as the "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Agenda 2063".

6. This report is presented into two parts. Part A is the AUC Chairperson's Report and Part B is the Member States Synthesis report.

7. The AUC Chairperson's report provides highlights of how the AUC has implemented the SDGEA during the 2015 reporting cycle. A section is dedicated to a regional report on the SDGEA implementation.

8. The Synthesis report of Member States provides efforts put in place to implement the SDGEA by Member States.

9. The Chairperson's SDGEA report is structured into three (3) sections. Section 1 of the report will provide an overview of the African Union Commission's progress on the

implementation of the various SDGEA Articles. Section 2 provides an overview of progress made by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that have submitted reports on their implementation of the SDGEA, while Section 3 is the conclusion.

10. The Synthesis report of Member States is structured into three sections as follows:

Section I presents an article by article synthesis from the 14 Member States reports, highlighting best practices, while Section II includes an overview of individual reports by each Member State and contains details on each article reported on. Section III is conclusion and way forward.

SECTION I: OVERVIEW OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION'S PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGEA ARTICLES

11. The African Union Commission (AUC) reports on the thirteen (13) SDGEA Articles.

Progress on Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

12. In 2015, the AUC reviewed health policy instruments that subsequently informed the development of various Strategic Frameworks to provide continental guidance on health. These frameworks include, among others, the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030) that seeks to prioritize and invest in health through strengthened health systems, community engagement and fostering public private partnerships; the Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030) for the implementation of the Continental Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; as well as the Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030. All these frameworks mainstream gender as a key priority in addressing health and priority diseases on the continent.

13. The AU has adopted the Protocol on Integrating HIV interventions in African Union Commission Peace Support Operation to provide continental guidance on HIV/AIDS and peace operations.

14. The AUC's ongoing work on integrating HIV in Environmental Impact Assessments in Capital Projects has resulted in an increase of domestic resources allocated to health, thus contributing to improved service delivery for women and girls. Furthermore, the AUC's work in HIV and the Law provides continental guidance in addressing women and girls' rights.

15. The Commission continues to implement the African Union HIV and AIDS Workplace Policy, which embraces gender equality as one of its core guiding principles. The AUC provides equal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services for both women and men. Furthermore, the AUC implements a Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV Programme with very high coverage.

Progress on Article 2: Women in Peace Processes

16. In 2015, the work of the Office of the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security was guided by the Peace and Security Council Press Statement in the open session held on 16 December 2014, in which *“Council urged the AU Commission, through the coordination of the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to formulate a Continental Results Framework to monitor the implementation by AU Member States and other relevant stakeholders of the various instruments and other commitments on women, peace and security in Africa”*.

17. Regarding advocacy, among others, in June 2015, on the margins of the 26th Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government, the Office of the Special Envoy convened a High Level Panel with the participation of eminent persons, including the Right Hon. William Hague and actress Angelina Jolie-Pitt - Co-founders of the “Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI). The Panel recommended to work towards the establishment of regional centers of excellence on women, peace and security in Africa.

18. The office of the Special Envoy participated in the celebrations of the 15th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 at the Global Level in New York. In partnership with UN Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) and the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, the Office of the Special Envoy co-organized a High Level Panel and launched a booklet titled “The African Union: 15 Years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa: Stocktaking and Perspectives”.

19. On support to women’s groups, the Office of the Special Envoy implemented in July 2015, the following projects: launch of the IGAD Women and Peace Forum in October 2015; meeting of the South Sudan National Women’s Peace Platform in November 2015, to support the women of South Sudan to strategize on their role in the implementation and monitoring of the August 2015 peace agreement; in partnership with the Government of Chad and the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Sahel, supported the women of the Sahel to create a Forum bringing together women from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The Forum decided to create a Regional Platform of Women of the Sahel to be linked to the Secretariat of the G5 Sahel countries. In addition, it defined a road map of actions to be undertaken by the platform in the short and medium terms

20. Regarding policy implementation, the Special Envoy convened a meeting from 14 to 15 December 2015, with Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that have developed 1325 Action Plans. The purpose of the meeting was to share achievements, experiences, challenges, and building on their monitoring of implementation of 1325, to consider a draft continental results framework to capture performance on Women, Peace, and Security commitments at all levels.

21. Concerning capacity building, in 2015, the Office of the Special Envoy collaborated with two centres of excellence, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping

Training Centre and the Pan-Africa Centre on Gender and Development, to deliver high level training to over 40 women leaders in electoral observation and dispute mediation.

22. With regard to resource mobilization, in September 2015, the Special Envoy accompanied the AUC Chairperson to missions in Norway and Sweden to strengthen partnerships with the two countries that support the AUC's work on women, peace and security through the Gender, Peace and Security Programme. In the same resource mobilization efforts, the Special Envoy held discussions with the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who subsequently provided financial support to the Office of the Special Envoy for 2015/6.

Progress on Article 3: Child Soldiers and Abuse of the Girl Child

23. During the period under review, the Secretariat of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) conducted a continental study on the impact of armed conflict and crises on children.¹ Countries that were assessed include: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Libya, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic (CAR), Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia.

24. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU has since 2015 regularized the open session which is dedicated entirely to the protection of children's rights in the context of armed conflict.² This important initiative convenes representatives from relevant AU Member States, UN Agencies, child protection experts and representatives from regional bodies, bilateral and multilateral partners.

25. In line with the 2015 theme, the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa, kicked off its activities with a High-Level Breakfast on Ending Child Marriages in Africa, on the margins of the 24th AU Summit. A Declaration was adopted, which mandated the Campaign to develop an African Common Position on Ending Child Marriage to be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for consideration and adoption. Following the launch of the campaign, Malawi and the Gambia, passed laws criminalizing child marriages.

26. Many African countries have launched the Campaign to end Child Marriage. These include, among others Burkina Faso, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Malawi and The Gambia.³

27. From 26 to 27 November 2015, the AUC in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia and with the support from the Governments of Canada and the

¹ See <http://www.acerwc.org/> accessed on 14/05/2016 at 17h44

² See <http://www.acerwc.org/joint-open-session-psc-acerwc-on-children-in-armed-conflicts/> accessed on 14/05/2016 at 17h29 and <http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/peace-and-security-council-open-session-on-children-and-armed-conflicts> accessed on 14/05/2016 at 17h36

³ Report of the 26th Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 16 – 19 November 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, <http://www.acerwc.org/download/26th-ordinary-session-report/?wpdmdl=9637> accessed on 14/05/2016 at 16h16

UK, UNICEF and UNFPA organized the First African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa. The summit, attended by 52 AU Member States and 16 other countries from across the globe, aimed to secure and renew commitment from stakeholders, particularly from governments, the UN, traditional and religious bodies, as well as CSOs, poised to tackling child marriage programming, from a multi-sectoral approach, and call for investment in order to accelerate the end to child marriage.

28. The AU Special Rapporteur on Ending Child Marriages in Africa conducted promotional and advocacy interventions in Gabon and Mali where she raised awareness about the dangers of early child marriages, celebration of the Day of the African Child in Soweto, South Africa where she participated in a march and an inter-generational dialogue to end child marriage.

Progress on Article 4: Gender Based Violence (GBV)

29. The AU has adopted legally binding instruments and policies that promote the prohibition of violence against women. For example, the Maputo Protocol, which among others, protects women's rights to life, integrity and security of the person; elimination of harmful cultural practices; protection of women in armed conflicts and promotes the right to peace and dignity of women; Article 21 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child which obliges States Parties to eliminate harmful social and cultural practices, such as FGM, that affect the welfare, dignity, normal growth and development of the child; The Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children; and the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa.

30. AU Member States have promulgated legislation protecting women against gender based violence. For example, Sierra Leone's Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act protects persons entering into customary marriage from forced marriages in line with traditional customs and practices; Malawi, criminalizes sexual violence against women under its Penal Code and Domestic Violence Act; The Gambia, which records the high prevalence rate of female genital circumcision has, on 28 December 2015, adopted a law which criminalizes female genital circumcision; Liberia's Gender and Sexually Based Violence Act, provides for the establishment of a specialized Court to try cases of sexual violence; and Guinea Bissau and Angola have adopted Domestic Violence Acts which treat domestic violence as a public crime.

31. In 2015, the AUC launched a five year (2015 - 2020) Gender Peace and Security Programme, which is designed to serve as a framework for the development of effective strategies and mechanisms for women's increased participation in the promotion of peace and security.⁴

32. The AUC is implementing a joint AU-UN Framework on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-related Sexual Violence, in collaboration with the UN Special

⁴ <http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/african-union-launches-five-year-gender-peace-and-security-programme-2015-2020#sthash.DuGFEMyN.dpuf>, accessed on 24/05/2016 at 17h10

Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁵ The AU Liaison Offices and AU Field Missions are also addressing the issue on the ground, and have formulated and are implementing zero-tolerance policies and programmes on sexual violence, exploitation and abuse by AU troops.⁶

33. The African Union Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (SRRWA), has initiated a project on “Violence Against Women and its Consequences”, which aims to strengthen the capacity of African Governments and civil society to combat sexual violence and to protect victims. The SRRWA is developing Guidelines for Combating Sexual Violence, which will be a practical tool to support AU Member States to best comply with their obligations to combat sexual violence and its consequences, under regional and international instruments.

Progress on Article 5: Gender Parity

34. Table 1 below, reflects the current picture with regard to gender parity within the AUC. The statistics suggest a general increase in women’s representation in both higher and lower echelons of the Commission. But more needs to be done across the organization to increase parity especially where the 50/50 parity law does not apply automatically.

35. Gender sensitive practices were institutionalized to maximize the possibility of attracting qualified women to fill positions, such as head hunting and allocating additional 10 points to qualified women during the shortlisting exercise, and where both women and men are qualified the priority is given to women. As a result, the proportion of women in professional positions at AUC has increased to 29.5%. In 2015, the AUC had 32% women as staff members. About 37.5 % of employed women are in regular positions, while 35% of employed men are in regular posts.

36. Women have been appointed and elected to key strategic positions in the AUC. The Secretary General, Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff, three (3) out of five members of the Panel of the Wise, and four (4) out of eleven (11) heads of AU Liaison Offices, are women.

37. Gender focal points who are responsible for ensuring mainstreaming of gender in AUC Departmental and individuals work plans have been appointed.

38. The Office of the Deputy Chairperson has spearheaded the development of a Gender Action Plan, which includes, among others, development of a new work place gender policy, revision of staff rules and regulations to integrate gender equality, review of procurement manual, amendments of the HIV/AIDS Work Place policy and Medical Assistant Plan to reflect gender equality in the work place.

Table 1: 2015 Ratio of Male and Female composition at the AUC

Categories	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female ratio %	Male ratio %
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⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

Chairperson	1		1	100	0
Deputy Chairperson		1	1	0	100
Commissioners	5	5	10	50	50
D1	9	15	24	37	63
P6	4	20	24	17	83
P5	21	66	87	24	76
P4	20	52	72	28	72
P3	53	203	256	21	79
P2	63	136	199	32	68
P1	22	32	54	41	59
GSA6	18	14	32	56	44
GSA5	98	128	226	43	57
GSA4	102	23	125	82	18
GSA3	7	33	40	17	83
GSA2	14	1	15	93	7
GSB10		11	11	0	100
GSB9		18	18	0	100
GSB8	11	82	93	12	88
GSB7	2	112	114	2	98
GSB6	36	100	136	26	74
GSB5	20	17	37	54	46
GSB4		1	1	0	100
GSB1		2	2	0	100
Youth	16	19	35	46	54
Grand Total	522	1091	1613	32	68

Table 2 below reflects the current picture with regard to gender parity within the AU Organs in 2015.

Table 2: 2015 Ratio of Male and Female composition in AU Organs

AU Organ and its other institutions	Number			Rate (%)	
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Assembly	52	2	54	96%	4%
Executive Council	44	10	54	81%	19%
PRC	42%	9%	51%	82%	18%
Peace and Security Council	11	4	15	73%	27%
African Union Commission on International Law	8	3	11	27%	73%
PAP (Bureau)	3	2	5	60%	40%
ECOSOCC (Bureau)	4	1	5	80%	20%
NEPAD	3	2	5	60%	40%
The Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR)	9	2	11	82%	18%
African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)	4	7	11	36%	64%
African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)	4	7	11	36%	64%

Progress on Article 6: Women and Girls' Human Rights

- 39.** Inspired by the 2015 theme, the AUC Chairperson hosted a Debate on “Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063” during the opening of the AU Assembly on the margins of the 25th AU Summit in June 2015. The aim was to provide Member States with an opportunity to discuss challenges and share strategies for reaching targets set in Agenda 2063’s 10 Year Implementation Plan.
- 40.** Within the framework of the AU 2015 theme, the AUC hosted, from 10 to 12 June 2015, the 2nd High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (HLP on GEWE) focused on ‘Financial Inclusion of Women in Agribusiness’.
- 41.** The key output of the HLP and the Chairperson’s Debate was a Ministerial Declaration and a Call for Action on the 2015 theme, which was adopted by the 25th Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government. Subsequently, a Plan of Action was developed, with six (6) priority commitments outlining how each Department of the AUC will, within its sphere of influence, implement the Declaration. The priority areas are: enhancing women’s contribution, and benefit from formal agriculture/agribusiness value chains; women’s access to health; women’s economic empowerment; agenda on women peace and security; women’s participation in governance; as well as women and girls’ access to education, science and technology.
- 42.** The AUC further hosted the 4th High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights focused on ‘Women’s Equal Participation and Leadership in Political Parties’ from 7-8 December 2015. The High Level Dialogues are an Annual Dialogue and Flagship Initiative of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) that seek to create an open and inclusive space for dialogue, reflection and exchange.
- 43.** The HLD was preceded by a vibrant Youth Pre-Forum from 4-6 December 2015. The last day of the pre-forum was dedicated to building the capacities of young people in various areas including; transformative leadership, media engagement, campaigning and resource mobilization. Two studies were commissioned for the HLD - one looking at continental trends, challenges and prospects with regard to women’s equal participation and leadership in political parties in Africa, and a second looking specifically at the case of Rwanda.
- 44.** The Youth Engagement Strategy for AGA was formulated to ensure that young people, and in particular young women play a more active and meaningful role in governance processes in Africa.
- 45.** The AGA mainstreams gender in all its clusters. For example, in relation to electoral democracy, there is a deliberate effort to ensure that there is a 50% representation of women in all Election Observation Missions (EOMs) and to appoint women as Heads of EOMs.
- 46.** The Chairperson of the AUC embarked on a number of activities to strengthen women’s human rights and thereby contribute to the implementation of the SDGEA. Among others, following the Chairperson’s call for the establishment of a continental

platform of action and common agenda of gender in the maritime sector, the “Women in Maritime in Africa (WIMAFRICA) was established in July 2015. Its aim is to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women at all levels in the maritime and blue economy, including in education, trade, logistics and fisheries.

47. The AUC Chairperson initiated the Africa Gender Score Card, which is a tool to measure progress and achievements of AU Member States on Gender equality. The inaugural edition, collaboratively developed by the AUC and the United Nations Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA), was first introduced at the 25th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 14-15 June 2015. Based on the Scorecard, the AUC Chairperson launched the Gender Scorecard Award in 2015, to recognise improvement and inspire good practices and encourage Member States to achieve as many indicators as possible in the Scorecard.

48. The AUC Chairperson was also involved in several other strategic outreach interventions to promote the rights of women. These include, among others, the following:

- ⇒ At the invitation of the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, attended the G7 Forum Dialogue with Women in September 2015, where discussions focused on women’s political participation, women’s economic empowerment, and new opportunities for women in a digital world as well as women and health. The Declaration adopted called on leaders from the business, political and academic sectors as well as civil society to foster women’s political, economic empowerment, and urged the G7 to make women’s issues a permanent feature of its agenda.
- ⇒ Poverty is Sexist Campaign, organized by “ONE”, a worldwide campaigning and activist organization with a mission to end extreme poverty and preventable disease in the world. The AUC Chairperson addressed the meeting and advocated for the promotion of gender responsive environment and practices, as well as the enforcement of human rights, and women’s empowerment commitments made at international and continental levels.
- ⇒ Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment- A commitment to Action, on the margins of the UN General Assembly, in September 2015, where the Chairperson spoke about Agenda 2063’s vision and priorities with regards to women in Africa, which include the education of girls, the modernization of agriculture and involvement of more women in business.
- ⇒ Meeting on Women Peace and Security, at the invitation of the President of Chile, H.E Mrs. Michelle Bachelet and Prime Minister of Norway, H.E. Mrs. Solberg. The Chairperson addressed the meeting on how governments, the UN and civil society can advance women’s rights globally.

- ⇒ The Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP), the WIP Mexico Summit, held from 7 to 9 October 2015, which addressed crucial issues such as the Post-2015 development Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ⇒ The Chairperson's official visits to Norway and Sweden in September 2015, identified areas of cooperation on women and youth, giving priority to agriculture value chain, education and skill development, the blue economy, as well as women, peace and security.
- ⇒ The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Authorities (COGTA)'s Meeting on Women in Leadership in Durban, South Africa, in August 2015, enabled the Chairperson to encourage COGTA to conduct a study relative to women mayors, and traditional leaders at the provincial, regional and national levels with the view to expanding the indicators of AU Gender Score Card.

49. The AUC institutionalized the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Gender and Women's Empowerment, which is a statutory body comprised of AU Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs. The first meeting of the Gender STC was held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, in November 2015 and concluded in January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

50. The AUC has led the creation of an enabling policy environment to accelerate the improvement of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) through the adoption and implementation of key policies and the initiation of important programs. These include, among others, the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), the Maputo Plan of Action (MPoA), and the 2009 Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA).

51. CARMMA has played a significant role in garnering high-level political support for MNCH challenges, and since its establishment, it has been launched in 45 African countries. It has generated a wealth of information on MNCH in Africa, including the online African Health Statistics data platform www.africanhealthstats.org, which is a ground-breaking data visualization tool to track the commitments of the MPoA and the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action Toward Universal Access to HIV and AIDs, Tuberculosis (TB), and Malaria Services in Africa.

52. In Implementing the Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines, the AUC in collaboration with UNECA, developed a programme on Biofuel for Transport and Households and conducted seven (7) case studies with a special focus on Bioenergy for women empowerment and productive use of energy in rural areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Mauritius, South Africa, Burkina Faso and Cameroon. Three regional capacity building workshops on bioenergy and women's empowerment were conducted. Expanding the implementation of bioenergy programmes not only contributes to eradicating extreme hunger and poverty, but it also promotes gender equality and women's empowerment.

53. The AUC takes part in international forums to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and to ensure the integration of the AU's positions on gender equality and women's empowerment in global decision-making processes. Key among those is the 59th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60) held in March 2015, in New York, USA. The AUC contributed to one of the key outcomes of the meeting, namely, the adoption of the SADC resolution on women, the girl child and HIV.

54. The AUC has also partnered with UNDP to implement a regional project on "building an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment and political participation in Africa. During the period under review, the AU/UNDP Partnership implemented activities under two keys areas, i.e. governance and women's empowerment.

Progress on Article 7: Rights to Land, Property, Inheritance and Housing

55. The AUC's implementation of this Article is informed by the 2009 AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa and the Land Policy Initiative (LPI). Through a tripartite partnership involving the AUC, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), projects related to advocacy, land allocation to women, capacity development as well as research and knowledge generation were conducted during the period under review.

56. Regarding advocacy, the AUC, UNECA and AfDB Consortium through the Land Policy Initiative, undertook a number of advocacy initiatives to promote, and engage key stakeholders and constituencies on women's land rights. These include, among others, the High-Level Conference on "Feeding Africa – An Action Plan for African Agricultural Transformation", held in Dakar, Senegal, from 21 to 23 October 2015; The 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security held at FAO in Rome from 12 to 15 October 2015; The Parliamentary Panel on land-based legal frameworks held with the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and AGRA during the African Green Revolution Forum in (AGRF 2015); The Global Landscapes Forum held on 6 December 2015, as a side event to the Paris Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP 21); as well as the World Bank Annual Conference on Land and Poverty.

57. On land allocation for women, the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, held on 9 October 2015, recommended for AU Member States to commit to the target of 30% allocation of land to women, and to secure women's land rights through legislative reforms and other mechanisms. The STC further endorsed the transition of the LPI to the African Land Policy Center (ALPC). The Center will have a dedicated program on women and land that will steer processes aimed at achieving the 30% target by 2025.

58. With regard to capacity development, a gender strategy has been developed, which will assist in mainstreaming gender in the LPI Programmes. On research and knowledge generation, a report on 'Access to Land and Strengthening Land Rights of

Women in Africa” was published in 2015. The report explores factors limiting women’s access to land and further recommends ways that this may be addressed. The study is also an advocacy tool to strengthen women’s land rights in Africa.

59. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and various development partners are supporting the development of regional value chains. However, the level of knowledge about what works and what does not work in terms of developing cross-border regional agro-food value chains in Africa, with a gender perspective, still needs to be improved. To try and make inroads and create opportunities for women, a workshop was co-convened by the AUC and the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa. The purpose was to attempt to fill this knowledge gap and to support a more coordinated and coherent approach to accelerate regional agro-food value chains development.

60. In 2015, the AUC Chairperson launched the “Hand- Hoe to the Museum Campaign”, which promotes women’s access to and control over new technologies and to have a platform to work on modernized and mechanized agriculture. As part of this campaign to retire the hand-held hoe to the museum, the AUC Chairperson gave a symbolic donation of 54 tillers to AU Member States.

61. North of Mali is facing a complex situation of economic, social and cultural upheavals, with devastating impacts on the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable populations. Women strive to meet their basic needs and regain their productivity jeopardized by the political crisis that the region is facing as well as periodic climate shocks. To contribute to the rehabilitation efforts of the region, the Chairperson provided resources to support female returnees, who are classified as internally displaced persons. The project supports women's grassroots associations through organizational capacity-building, and encourage members to undertake micro-entrepreneurship/ income-generating activities. These not only empower women economically, but they also contribute to the social development of the community.

Progress on Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

62. The AUC conducted five studies on girls’ education/inclusive education in five regions of Africa. This project is part of a collaboration with UNESCO and its objectives are to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning with other Member States, strengthen the practice-policy-research connections, inform teacher education institutions to rethink the way teachers are trained, and inform policy dialogue in light of post-2015 sustainable development goals.

63. These case study compilation will contribute to bridging the gap amongst practice, research and policy in the area of girls and women’s education and will add to the global knowledge data base for inclusive approaches to teaching and learning.

Progress on Article 9: Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

64. Sierra Leone ratified the Maputo Protocol, which brings to 37, out of 54, countries that have ratified the Maputo Protocol.

65. The AU Policy of 2009 provided for AU Member States to achieve full ratification of the Protocol by 2015 and domestication by 2020. From the above and at the current pace of ratification, this goal of universal ratification will not be reached by 2020.

66. According to a report of the AU Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (SRRWA)⁷, almost all African countries that have ratified the Protocol have developed gender policies and have adopted specific laws in areas such as family law, health, education and the judiciary. For example, the newly-adopted constitution of Kenya addresses violence against women, stereotypes, discrimination, nationality and poverty; the Namibian constitution recognises Maputo Protocol as part of Namibian domestic laws, which makes the rights and freedoms provided in the Protocol enforceable in Namibian judiciary and quasi-judicial bodies; and South Africa, whose constitution guarantees women equal protection and benefit of the law;

67. According to Article 26 of the Maputo Protocol, States are requested to report on administrative and legislative measures taken to implement their obligations under the Protocol. The African Union Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa developed Guidelines for State Reporting under the Maputo Protocol. As of the 57th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR in November 2015, the only countries that have incorporated the Guidelines during their state reporting are Malawi and Nigeria during the 56th Ordinary Session of the Commission in April 2015 and Burkina Faso at the 57th Ordinary Session of the Commission in November 2015.

Progress on Article 10: Establish an AIDS Watch Africa (AWA)

68. Since the creation of AWA, many achievements have been made though concerted efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. The AIDS Watch Africa High Level Advocacy on the implementation of the three pillars of the AU Roadmap, has contributed to significant progress by various Member States in strengthening health systems and thus contributing to improved access to services for women and girls. The three strategic pillars are: Diversified Financing; Access to Affordable and Quality Assured Medicines and Enhanced Health Leadership and Governance. One of the key results in the pillar on Diversifies Financing is “investment targets for AIDS, TB and malaria, met by 2015”.⁸

Progress on Article 11: Establish an African Trust Fund for Women

⁷ The report was given as part of a presentation on the “State of Ratification of the Maputo Protocol” during the AU Ministerial Consultation Meeting held on 18 March 2016, on the margins of the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in New York, USA. <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/special-rapporteur-on-rights-of-women-in-africa-presentation-for-csw-implementation.pdf> accessed on 14/05/2016 11h49

⁸ Roadmap on shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria Response in Africa, p11, http://sa.au.int/en/sites/default/files/AU%20Roadmap%20Shared%20Responsibility%20Global%20Solidarity_3%20July%202012%20final.pdf accessed on 14/05/2016 at 20h13

69. The 2015 theme for the Fund for African Women (FAW) was “Education, Science and Technology”. Of the 125 project proposals received by the AUC under this theme and reviewed by the FAW Steering Committee, 10 projects were selected for approval, 75 projects were advised to provide additional information prior to approval, one (1) project was withdrawn by the Ivory Coast, and 39 projects were rejected.

70. One of the key decisions adopted by the AU Heads of State and Government during their 15th Ordinary Session held in Sandton in July 2015 was their commitment to implement the 2010 Decision of 1% contribution for the FAW.

Progress on Article 12: Commitment to Annual Reporting

71. Out of the 54 AU Member States, the following six countries are yet to submit their initial reports on the SDGEA: Cape Verde, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, and Guinea Bissau. Table 5, below shows the frequency of reporting by Member States from 2006 to date.

72. The data below reveals that seven (7) countries are reporting for the second time. These are: Egypt, Madagascar, Kenya, Mozambique, Burundi, Swaziland and Tunisia. Three (3) countries are presenting their third periodic reports, namely: Cote d’Ivoire, South Africa, Saharawi Arab Democratic. Four (4) are submitting their fourth. These are: Algeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia and Namibia.

73. The slow pace of reporting is noted with concern and has been highlighted in previous reports of the SDGEA. Table 4 below reveals that the highest number of reports ever received on the SDGEA was during the 2009/2010 reporting cycle, when 23 Member States deposited their annual reports. This may be attributed to the capacity building workshop on SDGEA reporting conducted by AUC. While that is commendable, it is still inadequate as it fails to reach the simple majority of AU Member States that have adopted the SDGEA and are obligated to report on the instrument. While every effort will be made to support Member States, including in convening capacity building workshops and other awareness raising processes, it is ultimately the responsibility of Member States to demonstrate commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment by reporting as per the terms of the instruments they have adopted. The AUC recognizes the reporting challenges that Member States experience and will explore ways to simplify reporting.

Table 3: frequency of reporting by Member States from 2006 to 2015/6

Year	Initial reports Submission	Second report Submission	Third report Submission	Forth Report Submission	Fifth Report Submission	Sixth Report Submission
2006 (2007 Summit) (9 Countries)	Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia (9 countries)					
2007 (2008 Summit) (7 Countries)	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Rwanda (7 countries)					
2008 (2009 Summit) (3 Countries)	Niger, Zimbabwe (2 countries)	Senegal (1 country)				
2009 (2010 Summit) (23 Countries)	Benin, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, The Gambia, Gabon, Liberia, Libya, Seychelles, Swaziland, Togo & Uganda (13 countries)	Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria and Togo (11 countries)	Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritius & Senegal			
2010 (2011 Summit) (3 Countries)	Zambia (1 country)	South Africa & Rwanda (2 countries)				
2011 (2012 Summit) (8 Countries)	Equatorial Guinea, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Tanzania (3 countries)	Congo, Zambia, and Seychelles (3 countries)	Namibia (1 country)	Senegal (1 country)		
2012 (2013 Summit) (14 Countries)	Botswana, Guinea, (2 reports), Madagascar, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Sudan (6 countries)	Cameroon, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Uganda, Zambia (4 countries)	Algeria, Rwanda, Nigeria, (3 countries)		Senegal (1 country)	
2013 (2014 Summit) (15 Countries)	Angola, Comoros, Eritrea, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and South Sudan (7countries)	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Djibouti. (4 countries)	Algeria, Cameroon, Namibia & Seychelles (4 countries)			
2014 (2015 Summit) (13 countries)		Comoros, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Zimbabwe (6 countries)	Niger, Ethiopia, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic & Togo (4 countries)	Nigeria Mauritius (2 countries)		Senegal (1 country)
2015 (2016 Summit) (14 countries)		Egypt, Madagascar, Kenya, Mozambique and Burundi Swaziland and Tunisia (7 countries)	Cote d'Ivoire South Africa, Sahrawi Arab Democratic (3 countries)	Algeria, Cameroon Ethiopia & Namibia (4 Countries)		

Progress on Article 13: Submission of Annual Progress Reports on SDGEA Implementation

74. The AU Commission Chairperson has complied with the obligation to provide annual reports on the progress of implementation of commitments made under the SDGEA. This is the Chairperson's eleventh (11th) report to the AU Assembly.

SECTION II: OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGEA ARTICLES BY REGIONAL ECONOMIC BODIES

75. This section provides a brief overview of the implementation of the SDGEA in three Regional RECs. These are Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Progress by COMESA

76. The Gender and Social Affairs Division of COMESA and FEMCOM coordinates programmes on the promotion of women's rights, and economic empowerment of women in the Region. During the period under review, COMESA has undertaken capacity building of professionals in gender mainstreaming and developed a number of policy and legal frameworks on gender equality, women's empowerment, and social development.

77. For the specific articles of the SDGEA, five areas are reported: HIV/AIDS and Health including the local production of Anti-retroviral Medicines and Commodities; Peace and Security: Gender Parity in the COMESA Secretariat and COMESA Institutions; Women's Human Rights; and the Fund for African Women.

78. COMESA has developed programmes, policies and strategies on HIV/AIDS and TB. These include, a Multi-Sectoral HIV and AIDS Programme, regional HIV/AIDS Policy and Health Framework to accelerate implementation of both Abuja and Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, TBs, and the 90-90-90 strategy to end AIDS by 2030.

79. The sub-regional body has appointed women on the COMESA Committee of Elders on Peace and Security. In addition, COMESA is implementing a Trading for Peace Project, an initiative that promotes protection of women traders in the Great Lakes Region.

80. A Social Charter has been developed, which provides for the protection of women's rights to development, including access to land, property and inheritance, and protection from gender-based violence and other harmful cultural practices such as child marriages and human trafficking.

81. The COMESA Gender Policy provides for gender equity in recruitment but does not provide special measures to ensure application of the gender parity principle to

ensure progress towards the achievement of the 50/50 gender parity of male and female staff at all levels both at Secretariat and COMESA Institutions. The Table below shows the current picture with regards to the ratio of female to male employees within COMESA Secretariat and COMESA Institutions.

Table 4: Ratio of Female and male Staff at COMESA Secretariat as at March 2016⁹

Category	Female	Male	Total	Rate %	
				Female	Male
Executive Management	1	2	3	33.3	66.7
Professionals	35	82	117	30	70
Other Staff	80	69	149	54	46
Total	116	153	269	43	57

COMESA has established the Women Economic Empowerment Fund (WEEF), which seeks to enable women to access finance and related services, including capacity building in business management and market access for women entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses.

Progress by IGAD

82. Through the IGAD Regional HIV/AIDS Partnership Program (IRAPP), which ended in June 2015, many life-saving HIV/AIDS activities were carried out focusing on cross-border mobile populations, internally displaced persons, refugees host communities, etc. The program had made interventions in 48 intervention (health) centers covering about 10 million people in the all Member States.

83. The IGAD Secretariat conducted an Orientation Workshop and Launch of the Board of the IGAD Women and Peace Forum (IWPF) from 24th to 25th October 2015 in Djibouti. The events were also used to conduct elections of the Board Executive Council to coordinate the overall tasks of the Forum.

84. Since the IGAD Secretariat developed a Regional Action Plan (RAP) on the Implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 in 2011, it has been involved in advocacy campaigns for Member States to develop and implement their National Action Plans.

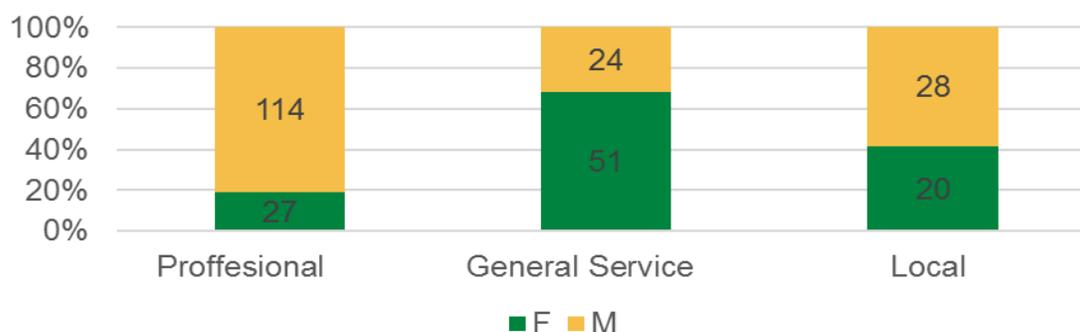
85. The IGAD Secretariat carried out policy dialogues with Member State and other stakeholders involved in the management of migration in the region. The dialogues were aimed at raising awareness about trafficking in persons for sexual purposes and the abuse of migrant domestic. The IGAD Secretariat established and leads a Regional Coordination Mechanism on Migration.

86. IGAD Secretariat conducted Election Observation Missions in Uganda and Djibouti, where special attention was paid to the participation of women in the electoral processes.

⁹ Source: COMESA Staff list presented to the Extra Ordinary Policy Organ Meetings held in March, 2016, Lusaka

87. Out of the 264 staff compliment, 98 (37%) are women and 166 (63 %) are men

Table 5: Ratio of female and male Staff at IGAD



Progress by SADC

88. In 2015, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was reviewed and aligned to the United Nations Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the AU Agenda 2063 as well as the Beijing + 20 Review Report. The review of the Protocol also necessitated the review of its monitoring tool, i.e. the Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) Framework, to align it to the targets of the SDGs as well as to the SADC Guidelines for Monitoring Protocols and the Associated Policy Instruments.

89. The review of the 10 Year SADC Strategic Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2009-2019) was successfully conducted. Based on the review, the Mid-term Review report, the Revised Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, and the Lessons Learnt Booklet, which documents lessons from combating trafficking in persons in the SADC region, were validated by the Member States. The review resulted in the documentation of effective practices in the region in combating trafficking in persons.

90. The SADC Regional Research on Trafficking in Persons was finalised during the time under review. Printing and dissemination of the research report will be done in the 2016/2017 financial year. The research report is an important tool for providing factual data on the actual trafficking in persons, particularly on the nature, magnitude and extent of trafficking in persons in the region.

SECTION III: CONCLUSION

91. The AUC has made great progress in implementing its own obligations related to the SDGEA. Among others, it has developed progressive legislative, policy and institutional mechanisms at a continental level, which provided the necessary direction and guidance for Member States to develop country-specific mechanisms to implement the SDGEA.

92. While AUC Departments, Organs, RECs and Member States are commended on the positive developments in implementing the SDGEA, it is important to acknowledge that the AUC understands the many challenges that still persists that hinder the full realisation of this, and other instruments making up the AU Gender Architecture. 2016 being the African Year of Human Rights with a Particular Focus on Women's Rights, presents yet another opportunity for all stakeholder to step up efforts towards promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. On that note, the AUC commits to continue supporting the efforts of Member States to be able to meet their obligations under the SDGEA.

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**TENTH SYNTHESIS REPORTS OF 13 AFRICAN UNION MEMBER
STATES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION SOLEMN DECLARATION
ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA**

**TENTH SYNTHESIS REPORTS OF 13 AFRICAN UNION MEMBER
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

INTRODUCTION

1. The tenth (10th) Annual Synthesis Report of the African Union (AU) Member States is submitted pursuant to the obligation under Article 12 of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, that requires Member States to report annually and to provide regular updates during their Ordinary Sessions on progress made on gender mainstreaming and to support and champion all issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment at both national and regional levels. The thrust of the report is on administrative and legal frameworks as well as policies and programmes that Member States have put in place to implement the SDGEA.
2. The 2015 SDGEA Synthesis Report is comprised of reports from the following thirteen Member States: Algeria, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, South Africa, Swaziland and Tunisia.
3. Egypt, Madagascar, Kenya, Mozambique, Swaziland and Tunisia are reporting for the second time, while, Cote d'Ivoire, South Africa, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic are presenting their third periodic reports. Algeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia and Namibia are reporting for the fourth time.
4. Since reporting on the SDGEA commenced in 2006, 48 Member States have submitted their country reports, while six (6) countries are yet to submit their initial periodic reports.
5. This report is divided into three Sections. Section I presents an article by article synthesis from the 13 Member States reports, highlighting best practices, while Section II provides an overview of individual reports by each Member State and contains details on each article reported on. Section III is conclusion and way forward.

SECTION I: CONDENSED ANALYSIS OF SYNTHESIS REPORT

6. This section provides an article by article synthesis of Member States' reports, capturing some best practices on how the SDGEA has been implemented at country level.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

7. All thirteen(13) countries that have submitted SDGEA reports have reported on this Article. From the analysis of the report, it is apparent that the HIV/AIDS prevalent rates have either stabilized or reduced in all countries.

8. Among the strategies employed by Member States to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and other related infectious diseases, includes the following: Egypt has set up a hotline on HIV/AIDS as an awareness raising and preventative tool against HIV/AIDS; Ethiopia has established a Health Extension Programme where over 40,000 Health Extension Workers are deployed to communities to promote health education; and Swaziland strengthened integration of Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission (PMTCT) with Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) services, in an effort to address all the four (4) prongs of PMTCT.

9. To strengthen the fight against malaria, Cote d'Ivoire distribute free mosquito nets impregnated with insecticide to households across the country.

Article 2: Women in Peace Processes

10. Ten countries namely, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland have submitted reports.

11. The Namibian Government has simplified and translated the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security into six (6) local languages and basic English, to make it more accessible to the public. To enhance the awareness of gender in peace missions, the Peace Mission Training Centre (PMTTC) of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), has integrated gender in the curriculum of all courses offered by the Centre.

12. Member States have appointed women to strategic positions in the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs. For example, Kenya has appointed women Cabinet Secretaries to the ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Devolution and Planning, while South Africa has women appointed as ministers of Defence and International Relations and Cooperation (Foreign Affairs). Madagascar has established the Association of Malagasy Female Artisans of Peace, to engage Malagasy women in the conflict resolution process, and to combat violence against women and girls.

Article 3: Child Soldiers and Abuse of the Girl Child

13. Eight countries have reported on this Article. These are: Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

14. Many of the countries have taken concrete steps to promote and protect the rights and wellbeing of children through different pieces of legislation. Rehabilitation Centres and programmes have also been established to facilitate the rehabilitation and effective reintegration of child soldiers back in the communities.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

15. The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic did not report on this Article.

16. The countries that have reported have made significant strides in legislative and policy reforms to address GBV. Some countries, such as Egypt and Swaziland have established hotlines to report and/or receive more information about GBV, while others like Swaziland uses arts and culture edutainment to raise awareness and to promote the involvement of young men in gender equality and the fight against GBV and HIV/AIDS.

17. Namibia is implementing the Zero Tolerance Media Campaign on GBV and Human Trafficking called “Stop it to Stop it”, which uses mass media such as radio drama, TV, and social media to increase awareness about these challenges. Madagascar has established the Listening and Legal Advice Centres (CECJ) managed by both government and civil society, to assist women victims whose rights have been violated to find justice.

18. South Africa’s Thuthuzela Care Centres have strengthened presence in the country. These are one-stop facilities introduced as part of the country’s anti-rape strategy, aiming at reducing trauma for victims, improving conviction rates and reduce the cycle time to finalize cases. In Algeria, an inter-sectoral committee made proposals for the amendment of the Penal Code by introducing new provisions aimed at tightening sanctions against the perpetrators and prosecuting any violence committed against women, especially domestic violence. A guide has been developed to provide psychological counselling for women with social problems, including victims of violence.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

19. Egypt did not report on this Article. An assessment of the reports received reveals that AU Member States have put in place both legislative and administrative measures to promote the gender parity principle at a national level.

20. To promote the participation of women in politics, Ethiopia has established an innovative incentive approach where political parties which nominate women candidates, receive higher portions in the apportionment of government financial support. There are also special campaign funds by the National Electoral Commission for women candidates to encourage women to stand for office. The National Commission also provides supplementary funds for parties nominating women candidates.

21. Kenya has introduced gender friendly “Model and Quality Citizen Service Delivery Centres” called *Huduma Bora*, which are one-stop centres offering eighteen (18) services from ten (10) government agencies. In the South African Defence Force, there is a 26% women representation in critical musterings, which includes women in air space control (34%), air crew (8%) anti-air craft (25%), artillery (25%), combat navy (11%), engineers (12%), medical professionals (59%) nursing (75%), technical (11%) and technical air (12%).

22. In 2015, Cote d’Ivoire, opened women to serve in the police. The country has also established the National Council of Women chaired by the President of the Republic and the National Observatory of the Equity and Gender under the Prime Minister.

23. In Algeria, women judges make up 42.24% of the total number of judges. The parity principle is included in the different strategies and action plans developed and implemented, such as the National Strategy for Women. Mozambique has a woman as Prosecutor-General of the Republic, appointed in 2014. In 2015, the percentage of women in the judiciary was 38% in Tunisia.

Article 6: Women and Girls' Human Rights

24. Twelve countries outlined measures that have been instituted to promote women's human rights. The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic did not report under this Article.

25. Ethiopia has established programmes which helps to protect the rights and welfare of its citizens living abroad, such as the capacity building interventions of associations of women working in the Middle East. Algeria has established an alimony fund, which is a special fund for divorced women exercising the right of custody of their children, who are confronted with problems of recovering alimony intended for the upkeep of the children, due to the refusal or inability of the father to provide payment.

Article 7: Rights to Land, Property, Inheritance and Housing

26. All but three countries, i.e. Algeria, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and Tunisia have reported on this Article. While countries have recorded great strides in realising the rights of women to land, property and inheritance, many have also noted the challenges encountered between statutory and customary laws in accepting women's land, property and inheritance rights. For example, in Kenya, although the constitution and legislation provides for women's land ownership and rights of inheritance, women still own only 1% of land.

Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

27. All reporting countries have taken concrete steps to promote girls' education and women's literacy. Many countries provide free education or free primary and secondary school education such as , Ethiopia and Namibia, which enhances the possibility of girls to obtain education.

28. The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic has 81% of women as teachers, directors, educators and administrative staff in the education sector. In Ethiopia, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Madagascar, schools were made girls'-friendly through the construction of separate latrines for girls.

29. Member States such as Cameroon and South Africa have schools feeding programmes where learners receive free meals. In Tunisia, the Ministry in charge of Family and Women's Affairs has developed a national plan to fight against school drop out by signing MOU with Ministries of Interior, Culture, Education and Transport to support students' access to education with limited challenges.

Article 9: Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

30. Of the thirteen countries that have submitted reports on the SDGEA, only five (5) have ratified the Maputo Protocol. These are Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

**SECTION II:
COMPREHENSIVE SYNTHESIS REPORT OF MEMBER STATES
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGEA**

31. This section provides an overview of the SDGEA implementation by each country that has submitted a report for this eleventh edition of the Synthesis Report. The section will only cover SDGEA Articles where Member States have reported progress undertaken during the 2015 reporting cycle.

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and related infectious Diseases

32. People eligible for Antiretroviral therapy have free access to Antiretroviral drugs in Reference Management Centres.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

33. In accordance with the instructions of the President of the Republic during the celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) on strengthening legislation in the area of violence against women, an inter-sectoral committee made proposals for the amendment of the Penal Code to introduce new provisions aimed at tightening sanctions against perpetrators and to prosecute any violence committed against women, especially domestic violence in its different forms.

34. A guide has been developed to provide psychological counselling for women with social problems, including victims of violence, and to oversee various social and economic integration arrangements established by the State to improve women's welfare.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

35. The parity principle is included in different strategies and action plans such as the National Strategy for Women. Women account for 75% in the national solidarity and family sector and 37.55% in the labour, employment and social security sector.

Article 6: Women and Girls' Human Rights

36. Algeria has amended several codes such as the Penal Code as well as the Nationality and Family Code. For example, sexual harassment has been made a criminal offence; a mother of Algerian nationality may transmit her nationality to her children of a foreign father and to the latter; and the legal age of marriage has been set at 19 years for both sexes.

Article 8: Girls' Education and Women's Literacy

37. To guarantee the right to education for all, particularly for girls, the Government has introduced a series of measures, including among others, a solidarity school bonus to three million students from disadvantaged backgrounds, distribution of free textbooks and school kits (backpacks, aprons and school supplies), opening of school canteens and provision of school transport.

Article 9: Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Right on the Rights of Women

38. Algeria has not ratified the Maputo Protocol

Republic of Cameroon**Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases**

39. ARV treatment is free and available in the different regions

Article 2: Peace and Security

40. Women played an active role in some areas which had inter-ethnic conflicts, women played the role in the restoration of cohesion and social harmony.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

41. Cameroon has taken preventive measures to combat the economic exploitation of children.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

42. In law, there is no discrimination between men and women regarding participation in public and political life. However, in practice, there is a disparity in the representation of women in Parliament, political party leadership positions, executive, judiciary and local government.

Article 7: Land, property and inheritance rights

43. In Cameroon, women have the same rights as men to inheritance, although socio-cultural practices are not favorable to their application. However, positive developments were observed. For example, women are increasingly becoming heads of households and traditional leaders, giving them the power to make decisions in the management of land issues and heritage.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

44. Cameroon has ratified the Maputo Protocol.

Republic of Cote d'Ivoire**Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases**

45. In 2015, there was a slight increase in the budget for health in the order of 6.95%, out of which 0.12% was allocated to the fight against HIV/AIDS. Concerning Tuberculosis, free consultations in localities without medical facilities for pregnant women is provided and capacity building for various stakeholders to ensure proper management and control of infections, has been conducted.

46. To curb the spread of malaria, three (3) million nets have been distributed in twelve (12) health districts of Abidjan. Although Côte d'Ivoire did not record any single case of Ebola, the Government protection and health monitoring measures remain in force and awareness raising messages continue to be broadcast through TV and radio. Mobilization for combating Hepatitis B has been enhanced, with the availability of treatment in the New Public Health Pharmacy (NPSP).

Article 2: Peace and Security

47. A National Solidarity and Social Cohesion Policy have been developed and validated. Manuals have been produced to raise awareness on solidarity and social cohesion. A social cohesion project for the period 2015-2016 was developed. It is expected to be executed by the ministries in charge of security and solidarity, in conjunction with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

48. The Ministry of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children is implementing the social cohesion and peace platform in the western regions to enable young women, wives and mothers, to serve as actors of social cohesion and peace.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

49. Women who still engage in the practice of excision are tried and sentenced. Ivorian courts enforce laws against early and forced marriages. The Ministry of Solidarity, Family,

Women and Children (MSSFE), has set up networks of men and women leaders in risk zones (West and Centre) to combat GBV, in general, and harmful traditional practices, especially female genital mutilation (FGM), in particular.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

50. Two important institutional mechanisms were established, namely, the National Council of Women chaired by the Head of State and the National Observatory of Equity and Gender under the Prime Minister.

51. A number of women's organisations came together to establish a Forum called *Présidentielle 2015 : Les Femmes s'engagent et veulent se faire entendre* - "Presidential Election 2015: Women are engaged and want to be heard". This was a platform for meetings and exchanges between women and the various candidates about their vision and the place they give to women in society.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

52. The country organised eight (8) awareness campaigns involving 837 persons, to build their capacity on their rights to land, property and inheritance.

Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

53. Côte d'Ivoire has built new high schools and other institutions with boarding facilities for girls in each region. School canteens have been established and toilets for female students in coeducational institutions have been built.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

Côte d'Ivoire has ratified the Maputo Protocol.

Arab Republic of Egypt

Article 1: HIV/AIDS other related infectious disease

54. The Egyptian Government has prepared a strategy for health and has established 27 centers to raise awareness of the gravity of HIV/AIDS. Egypt has set up a hotline where citizens can receive more information on HIV/AIDS.

Article 2: Peace and Security

55. Women in Egypt are not involved in peace negotiations, however, they participate in processes to disseminate a culture of tolerance and peace.

Article 4: Gender-based violence

56. The Government of Egypt has prepared a comprehensive Bill to protect women from violence. A Protocol of Cooperation has been signed between the Ministry of Interior and the National Council for Women to promote and protect the rights of women. The Egyptian government has established a unit dealing with GBV and there are also programmes to educate students and journalists about VAW.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

57. Women now represent 23.1% in the National Council for Human Rights.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

58. Egypt has established equal opportunities units in 29 Ministries to ensure women's right to work.

Article 7: Land, property and inheritance rights

59. Egyptian women have rights to own and to inherit land. At the time of submission of the report, the National Council for Women was in the process of submitting a proposal to the government for the criminalization of non-delivery of legitimate inheritance for women.

Article 8: Girls Education

60. The Egyptian National Council for Women is working jointly with the General Authority for Literacy to launch several initiatives for women's literacy in small villages.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

61. Egypt has not ratified the Maputo Protocol.

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**Article 1: HIV/AIDS and other Related Infectious Diseases**

62. The country has adopted an innovative response to the community's needs for basic health services through the Health Extension Programme (HEP). The programme is designed as a vehicle to bring key maternal, neonatal and child health interventions to the community with a goal of reducing maternal and child mortality. The Programme deploys Health Extension Workers (HEW) to communities to promote health education. The government is providing a free pre-cervical cancer examination services. Nutrition

programmes have also been started to improve the nutritional status of women in their reproductive age, lactating women and children.

63. The Federal budget makes specific allocations for women's access to health services. As a result, in 2014/15, anti-natal care (ANC) reached 98%, post- natal care (PNC) 66%, skilled delivery 41%, CPR prevalence 41.8%, family planning services 60%, and maternal mortality has decreased to 420/100,000, child mortality has gone down to 55/1000, and women's HIV/AIDS prevalence has dropped to 1.6%.

Article 2: Peace and Security

64. Various legal and policy frameworks as well as institutional mechanisms have been put in place in the overall peace and security architecture of the country. These structures have gender directorates/ units that are responsible for mainstreaming gender in their respective work. The House of Federation has developed the National Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines to ensure women's full participation in all stages of the Federation Department's peace process, including in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements. At regional and local levels, Peace Committees or Joint Woreda Task Forces have been established to manage conflicts and women participate as members of these structures.

Article 4: Gender Based Violence

65. The country has recently adopted a National Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) strategy with action plans to address the widespread problem of Violence Against Women (VAW). One of the successful approaches to engage communities has been through using religious leaders in teaching about the harmful effects of HTPs. The religious leaders use scriptures to clarify religious position on HTPs and give blessings and support to health workers and the police. Religious leaders and institutions from both the Ethiopian Orthodox Christian and Islamic Affairs Council have forbidden the practice of child marriage. Ethiopia has established the National Alliance to end Child Marriage and FGM/C and has hosted the Ethiopian National Girl Summit. A one stop center that facilitates an integrated legal, psycho-social and health service delivery for women, children and youth victims of sexual violence has been established, and is operational in five regions.

66. The revised criminal code provides for rigorous punishment of up to twenty years for trafficking of women and children. The government has established a National Mobilization Taskforce led by the Vice Prime Minister. A new proclamation "Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Proclamation" has been approved by Parliament. A Special Police Unit and a Prosecution Unit handle all cases of human trafficking, including trafficking in women. In addition, a weekly radio program creates awareness about trafficking in human. The Child Parliaments are used as part of awareness raising on trafficking.

Article 5: Gender Parity

67. Women's representation in the Federal Parliament has increased to 38.8% in 2015. The Deputy House Speaker is a woman and women are represented in Parliamentary structures like permanent committees. The representation of women at Regional Councils is also growing albeit with some regional variations. The figure is above 30% in six (6) of the nine (9) regional states. Women representation has reached 50% in Woreda and Kebele councils.

68. Over the years, women's representation in the labour market has progressively increased. Female employment in both formal and informal sectors of the economy reached 69% of the female labor force. Female civil servants comprised 41% of the civil service employment. Available data in the formal sector shows that 64.2% constitute female employees. In the informal sector, women constitute 51%. Although the proportion of women in the formal sector is high, the positions held by women are low level positions: women hold 71% of the clerical and fiscal jobs and 51% of the custodial and manual jobs, while their share in administrative/ professional and scientific job categories is lesser.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

69. Measures are being taken to improve women's access to justice through free or low-cost legal services as well as legal literacy programmes. Women's associations have been established who undertake advocacy and provide free legal services and legal literacy for women. Human rights education is provided through the regular curriculum where students take civic education classes, starting from primary through to higher educational institutions. Human rights education is one of the mandate areas of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission with a dedicated Commissioner for this purpose.

70. Trainings on the rights of women prisoners, juvenile delinquents and children detained with their mothers, was provided to prison administration personnel. To improve the social and economic endeavours of people with disability, mobility aid equipment such as wheelchair, walking aid, crutches and walking sticks were given to disabled people of whom 40% were female. Additionally, to enable sectors to provide efficient service to people with hearing disability, sign language training has been given to relevant personnel.

71. The country has adopted a Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) strategy and the convention on domestic work that addresses gender issues. As a result, 48.4% of women have benefited from MSE, of which women are engaged 65% in micro, 26% small and 10% in medium enterprise.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance

72. The agricultural sector incorporates gender perspectives into the various crop strategies such as wheat, teff and value chain strategies. Model female farmers are awarded for their outstanding performance. Women are also increasingly becoming house owners, particularly, in urban areas where housing schemes have been introduced with special provisions benefiting women. The Federal housing scheme reserves 30% of

constructed houses for women and the remaining 70% are given equally to both men and women. From the total beneficiaries of the housing programme in the capital city, 54% are women.

Article 8: Girls Education

73. Government has dedicated a special budget for promoting female education. The gender gap was also addressed through targeted measures that were taken to improve girls' access to primary education. These include: awareness raising programs on the importance of girls education; schools were made to be girls' friendly through the construction of separate latrines for girls and the assignment of female teachers and heads to provide close support to girls; rolling out of girls' clubs in schools as well as provision of tutorial, guidance and counselling services targeting female students. The women development army groups function as promoters of adult education in their respective communities, where illiterate women within the network are encouraged to attend the programme.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

74. Ethiopia has not ratified the Maputo Protocol.

Republic of Kenya

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

75. Kenya is implementing various policies and guidelines on HIV/AIDS. These include, among others: the Kenya Aids Strategic Framework of 2014/15 to 2018/19, which seeks to provide guidance for addressing the epidemic in Kenya taking cognizance of administrative arrangements. In recognition of the disparities of the HIV epidemic, Kenya has launched the Kenya HIV Prevention Revolution Road Map: a Count Down to 2030, which addresses the gaps in the current HIV response and seeks to catalyze HIV prevention, with the ultimate goal of reducing new HIV infections to zero by 2030.

Article 2: Peace and Security

76. The country has established the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Offences Division in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to manage and prosecute cases of GBV.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

77. The Government has made efforts to provide resources towards rehabilitation of child soldiers, traumatized girls and women in conflict zones of the country. The Government has established gender help-lines, GBV shelters/rescue homes, legal aid

clinics, psychosocial support services as well as rehabilitation and settlement services, especially to women and young girls in IDP camps.

78. To prevent impunity and to ensure justice for victims of sexual offences, the country has issued detailed Sexual Offences Regulations, to enhance sentences for sexual offenders and to authorize the establishment of a Dangerous Sexual Offenders' DNA Data Bank. The Regulations allow profiling of sexual offenders and the safe keeping of their DNA-related data for their entire lives. National Guidelines on Rape and Sexual violence management have also been developed.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

79. The Government, through the Directorate of Gender and in collaboration with development partners and civil society, is implementing a campaign targeting community elders, women leaders and the youth to educate them on the dangers of GBV. The police have been trained by UN Women and the Federation of women lawyers to manage and prosecute perpetrators of GBV.

Article 5: Gender Parity

80. At the Cabinet level, women Cabinet Secretaries comprise 31, 6%, and hold strategic portfolios such as, foreign affairs and international trade; defence, as well as commerce and tourism. At the county level, women county commissioners constitute 36.2%. At the judiciary, the deputy chief justice and the chief registrar of the judiciary are women. The Court of Appeal consist of 30.8% women and the High Court 40.7 %. Women are at the helm as chairpersons of four (4) of the key national commissions. These include: the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights; National Gender and Equality Commission; Salaries and Remuneration Commission; and Public Service Commission and the Budget Controller.

Article 6: Human Rights of Women

81. Human rights education has been provided for law enforcement agencies and cases of abuse are brought before the courts.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

82. Although the Constitution and policies such as the Land Policy and the Land Registration Policy are in place to allow women to enjoy their land, property and inheritance rights, there are still many constraints on the ground. For example, cultural beliefs about property ownership and limited income sources for women prevent them from acquiring and owning land. Inadequate sex-disaggregate data prevents the Government from planning appropriately for the needs of women in regard to property.

Article 8: Girls' Education and Women's Literacy

83. The Government's gender responsive interventions in the education sector, include free primary education and affirmative action policy in university admission for girls. Other targeted interventions to increase enrolment and retention include, among others, boarding schools for nomadic communities; free day secondary education; provision of sanitary towels; as well as the prevention of girls from early marriages.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

Kenya has ratified the Maputo Protocol.

Republic of Madagascar**Article 1: HIV/AIDS and other Related Infectious Diseases**

84. Through the National AIDS Control Committee (CNLS), the Government conducted specific studies to target the needs of women, including the study on gender and sexual behaviour and the influence of customs and traditions on sexual behaviour in a gender perspective. Eleven (11) Voluntary Testing Centres (VTC) were set up. Private religious and secular organizations are involved in the psychosocial care of people affected and infected with HIV.

85. In a bid to reduce maternal mortality, current efforts focus on enhancing emergency obstetric care, through training of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in areas with difficult access. The programmes also raise awareness of pregnant women on the importance of making the four ante-natal visits and to give birth in health centres with skilled personnel.

Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

86. The proportion of girls to boys in school is almost equal with an average of 96 girls for every 100 boys. The proportion of girls to boys at primary and secondary levels is respectively 49% to 51%, while at university level there are 46% of girls against 54% of boys. Separate toilets have been built for girls and boys in schools.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Madagascar has not ratified the Maputo Protocol.

Republic of Mozambique**Article 1: HIV and AIDS and other related diseases**

87. Some measures have been adopted, aimed at putting an end to the discrimination of people living with HIV and AIDS. These include, among others testing, counselling, treatment services as well as jobs creation and income generating activities for women living with HIV and AIDS.

88. The social and clinic assistance services have been extended to patients living far from the clinics, through the establishment and extension of the care services and home visits throughout the country with the massive participation of civil society and women organizations.

Article 2: Peace and Security

89. Mozambique advocates for the inclusion of women in the processes of peace building and conflict resolution. Women participate in meetings, seminars and in capacity building exercises in the areas of peace and security as well as in election observation missions at national and international levels.

90. In the defence and security forces, women are represented, participating as recruits, sergeants, and training senior officers. Military Training to women represent 18.6% at the School of Sergeants, 15.7% in the Military Academy, 7.7% abroad and 2.9% in the training of senior officers.

Article 4: Gender Based Violence

91. Mozambique has taken legislative, administrative and institutional measures to address gender based violence. Among others, the country has established twelve (12) centres of assistance for victims of domestic violence, which provide integrated services, such as social support, health, justice and protection, contributing towards the improvement the inter-institutional coordination and access to the services of assistance to the victims. There are 216 centres of assistance at police stations including, 24 offices which assist women and children victims of domestic violence. There are eleven (11) and thirteen (13) of those centres in provincial capitals and district headquarters, respectively.

92. In order to improve the quality of service, a total of 912 professionals have been trained, including 43 forensic medical doctors, who were deployed in all provinces, 18 technicians from the Institute of Assistance and Legal Patronage (IPAJ), personnel from the Ministry of Home Affairs, including District Commanders and from Police Stations.

Article 5: Gender Parity

93. Mozambique is taking significant steps towards attaining the principle of parity between men and women at the level of leadership and decision-making. Since 2010, the

Parliament has been led by a woman. With regard to women in the judiciary, Mozambique has a woman Prosecutor-General, and there is 30.5% of female Judges and 44% of Deputy Prosecutor-Generals. In the health sector, 51.3% of medical doctors are women.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

94. Mozambique has ratified the Maputo Protocol.

9. Republic of Namibia

Article 2: Peace and Security

95. The Namibian Government has simplified and translated the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security into six (6) local languages and basic English, to make it more accessible to the public. The country participated in the SADC peacekeeping training and exercises in preparation for the SADC Standby Force, which will form part of the African Standby Peacekeeping Force.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

96. The Government has promulgated the Child Care and Protection Act No.3 of 2015. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, in collaboration with key stakeholders, are in a process of developing Regulations for its implementation.

Article 4: Gender Based Violence

97. During the period under review, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare have on-going human trafficking programmes focusing on the followings: prevention (awareness raising); developing comprehensive legislation; as well as training of frontline professionals such as police officers, immigration officers, custom excise officers and social workers on human trafficking, standard operation procedures, and psycho social support of human trafficking victims.

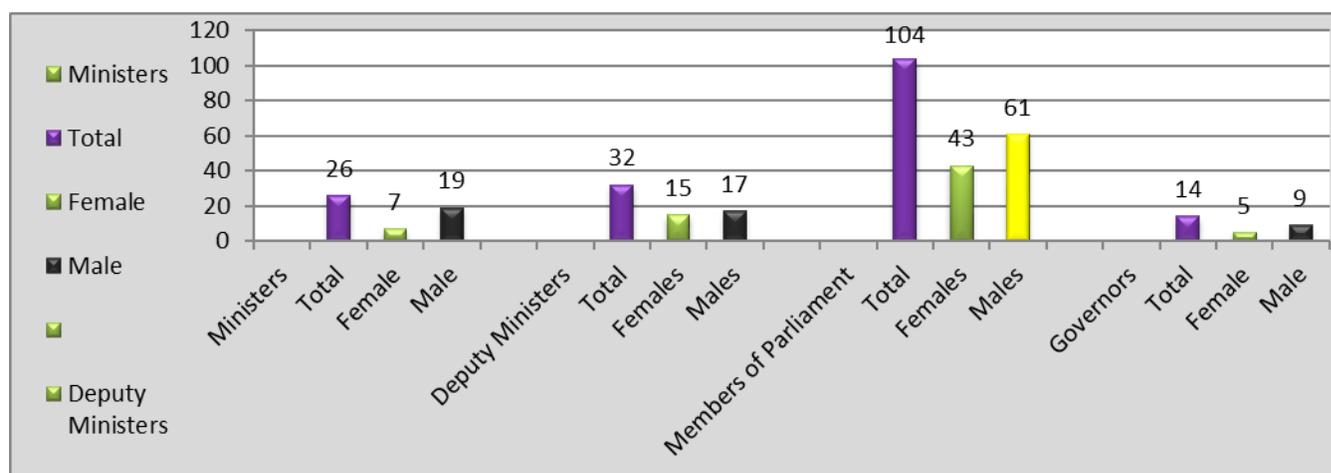
98. The Zero Tolerance Media Campaign on Gender Based Violence including Human Trafficking which started in 2009 was revamped in 2015 and has become an ongoing national campaign in Namibia under the theme "Spot it to stop it". The campaign focuses on two areas i.e. gender based violence and human trafficking and uses mass media to increase awareness and engage the audience on the issues.

99. The Government and key stakeholders are in the process of drafting the National legislation on human trafficking. Progress has been made in this regard; several consultative meetings took place with the assisted of UNODC. Currently human trafficking cases are prosecuted under the Prevention of Organized crime.

100. The newly promulgated law on Child Care and Protection, Act No.3 of 2015 has a dedicated chapter dealing with the prohibition of child trafficking, prosecution and sentencing of child traffickers and protection, care and support of survivors of child trafficking.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

101. In Namibia, the proportion of women in Parliament increased significantly from 25% in 2010 to 46% in 2015, as demonstrated in the table below. Women's representation and participation in decision-making and managerial levels have shown improvement since the previous reporting cycle. Three Ministries, i.e. of Veteran Affairs, of Information Communication Technology, as well as of Health and Social Services, have achieved the 50/50 threshold by recruiting equal numbers of women and men in their management cadre.



102. There is gender parity (50/50) with regard to women representation in foreign missions. However, very few women are appointed as ambassadors and as minister councillors. They are mostly appointed in supportive roles.

Portfolio	Total	Male	% Male	Female	% Female
Ambassadors/High Commissioners	30	22	73%	8	26%
Councillors/ Minister Councillors	12	9	75%	3	25%
First Secretaries	41	27	66%	14	34%
Second Secretaries	22	6	27%	16	73%
Third Secretaries	23	0	0%	23	100%
Total	122	61	50%	61	50%

103. The general improvements in women's representation may be attributed to the reviewed Constitution and Manifesto of the ruling party in 2014, which required fifty-fifty (50/50) representation of men and women in all party structures.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

104. Namibia has ratified the Maputo Protocol.

10. Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

105. Saharawi women's presence in Parliament increased from 4.95% in the first and second mandates, to 6.93% during the third mandate and reaching 11.76% in the fourth mandate. This growth continued reaching 13.72%, 24% and 34% in the fifth, sixth and seventh mandates, respectively. Saharawi women have thus marked their strong presence in Parliamentary life in Western Sahara.

106. The proportion of representation of women in local councils is 98%. Also, there are 4 women Ministers in the Saharawi Government.

Article 8: Girls Education

107. The percentage of women in all cycles of the education system exceeds that of men. Women constitute 81.20% of teachers, directors, educators and administrative staff in the education sector.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

108. Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic has not ratified the Maputo Protocol.

Republic of South Africa

Article 1: HIV and AIDS and other related infectious diseases

109. South Africa's National Health Act provides for free health care service for all citizens, pregnant women and children under 6 years, at hospital level, which has resulted in enhanced access to primary health care services for all South Africans. The Government has reviewed and updated the National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Tuberculosis (TB).

South Africa accelerated the implementation of key health programmes such as the provision of Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART); the prevention of mother-to-child-transmission of HIV; and HIV counselling and testing. Access to life saving anti-retroviral

(ARV) treatment has improved the life expectancy for women in the country. The country provides free fixed-dose combination of Antiretroviral (ARV) medication, which is one tablet instead of three pills a day.

Article 2: Peace and Security

110. The Gender Specialist of the Peace Mission Training Centre of the South African Defence Force (SANDF) is responsible for integrating gender into the curriculum of all courses provided by the Training Centre. SANDF has deployed women in uniform for border safeguarding and are able to apprehend illegal immigrants, arrest criminals, recover stolen cars, weapons, livestock, and copper cables and confiscates drugs. Gender conferences are held to address challenges women experience during deployments of troop and also to empower women for future deployment.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

111. The country, in line with the Constitution and Bill of Rights, prohibits recruitment of children into armed forces or any form of violation of children's rights during conflict, either in South Africa or in any other country, especially where it is serving in a peace-keeping or conflict resolution capacity.

Article 4: Gender Based Violence

112. South Africa has put in place and implemented a comprehensive legislative framework that looks at addressing violence against women and girls in all its manifestations and in its myriad of forms. Priority has been accorded to sexual offences and domestic violence, and considerable attention has been given to crimes such as trafficking in women and children and child pornography. Some specific areas targeted by the law include issues of bail, sentencing, victim empowerment and integrated responses to gender based violence.

113. Government in conjunction with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has also been running the Ndabezitha Project, which seeks to train traditional leaders and court clerks on domestic violence matters in rural areas. Government has also produced braille public education material to raise awareness of court users who are visually impaired on the Domestic Violence Act, Maintenance Act, and the Children's Act. The Government has introduced a court preparation programme called "Ke Bona Lesedi", which means "I see the light", is a designed to address fears and concerns of child witnesses going to court.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

114. South Africa has made great strides in ensuring women's involvement in political and decision-making processes. For example, at a legislative level, the SA Electoral Act requires every registered party and candidate to respect the rights of women and to communicate freely with parties and candidates, facilitate full and equal participation of women in political activities, ensure free access for women to all public meetings, marches,

demonstrations, rallies and other public events and take all possible steps to ensure that women are free to engage in political activities.

115. At a political level, the African National Congress (ANC) is the only political organization that has adopted the 50/50 quota at a party level. This has resulted in a number of women participating in Parliament from the ruling party. South Africa currently has a 43% of women representation in cabinet. The country has also reported 41% representation of women in Parliament and 34% representation of the judiciary. Women make up almost 40% of the Senior Management Service in the public service and overall women comprise more than 50% of employees in the Public Service.

116. Women head strategic portfolios such as Commissioner of Police; Public Protector; CEO of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange; Chairperson of statutory commission; Governor of the Reserve Bank, speakers and deputy speakers of Parliament. In addition, women Ministers have held important portfolios previously occupied by men such as: Defense; International Relations and Cooperation; Mineral Resources; Small Business Development; as well as Science and Technology.

117. With regard to representation of women in the Judiciary, the number of Women Judges has risen to approximately 34% in 2015. At the time of submitting this report, there were approximately 40% women magistrates in South Africa, with most of them located as Regional Court Presidents.

Article 6: Human Rights of Women

118. South Africa is a signatory to a range of international, continental and regional instruments that inform equality, empowerment of women, promotion of women's rights and dignity as well as protecting children's rights.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

119. The South African Government is fully committed to actively promoting the implementation of legislation to guarantee women's land, property and inheritance rights including their rights to housing. In this regard, legislation that guarantees women's access to and control over land and property has been enacted and continues to be implemented.

120. However, the country acknowledges the delays in fully implementing some of the legislations related to women's rights to land, property and inheritance. In this regard, the Government has developed a Green Paper on Rural Development and Land Reform, to strengthen existing policies and legislations towards addressing the concerns, needs and development of people in the country.

Article 8: Girls education

121. South Africa is tirelessly pursuing transformation measures in all aspects of education, including those aimed at the advancement of girls and women. Legislative, policy and institutional mechanisms have been set up to promote girls' and women's

access and rights to education, including adult education. There are Adult Education and Training Centres, which offer programmes to adults and out-of-school youth, which culminate in the General Education and Training Certificate qualification equivalent to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 1 and the Senior Certificate (Grade 12).

122. The achievement of education for all has been fast tracked by national education policies that greatly impacted on access to learning. They include the introduction of the No-Fee Schools Policy, the National School Nutrition Programme and other programmes aimed at retaining learners in schools that have led to dramatic increases in both primary and secondary school enrolment.

123. Government has embarked on several strategies to promote school safety. The Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Sexual Violence and Harassment was distributed to all schools.

124. South Africa has several programmes to provide a comprehensive response to gender based violence in schools. These programmes have been institutionalized in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements in the Life Orientation Curriculum across all grades and bands.

Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

125. South Africa has ratified the Maputo Protocol.

Kingdom of Swaziland

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and other Related Infectious Diseases

126. The Government has implemented various programmes to address HIV/AIDS. For example, the PMTCT, STI and ART services are decentralized to the peripheral clinics, reaching a total coverage of 88% - this has enabled 86% HIV positive pregnant women to receive ARV prophylaxis; piloting of Treatment and Prevention (ART) for all who test HIV positive; inclusion of sexual health education in schools and in the education policy; as well as improved laboratory service coverage, with the placement of over 60 Point of Care (POC) CD4 machines.

Article 2: Peace and Security

127. Swaziland is free from conflicts and civil wars. Internal disputes are resolved through dialogues.

Child Soldiers and Abuse of the Girl Child

128. The Ministry of Education and Training has introduced a Life kills Programme in the curriculum. In addition, the Ministry has addressed education access barriers through the

introduction of free primary education and at the time of reporting to the AUC, was piloting a Guidance and Counselling Programme in schools with a view of up-scaling and encouraging girls to take up entrepreneurship opportunities.

Article 4: Gender Based Violence

129. Swaziland has established institutions that aim at preventing and responding to VAW. These include, among others: the Domestic Violence and Support Unit in all police stations across the country; the Child friendly courts to provide specialized trial of children's cases; and the One Stop Center for abused women and girls, which provides psychosocial support, legal counselling and access to Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). In 2015, the Government commissioned a study on the drivers of violence against children, to give guidance on the root causes of violence for purposes of planning, budgeting, programming and other mitigation strategies to prevent violence in Swaziland.

Article 5: Gender Parity

130. Currently, women constitute 15% representation in Parliament, 25% in Cabinet and 12% in local government. At the time of submitting the report, the country was developing a national strategy to increase women's participation and representation in politics and decision-making. Consultations with women at grassroots areas have been conducted, which has helped to identify the challenges that women face during elections.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

131. The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland has established the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration as per section 164 of the national Constitution. The Commission deals with all matters pertaining to violations of human rights, particularly where public officials are concerned.

132. The Government in collaboration with civil society organizations organizes gender consortium and gender forums. These are human rights public awareness and legal aid training for community groups, where citizens receive civic education on the tenets of the constitution, inheritance rights, land and property rights. Support is also provided to communities and women in particular on the right to access clean water and sanitation facilities.

Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

133. The Ministry of Education and Training has introduced a Life skills Programme in the curriculum. Barriers to access to education have been addressed through introduction of free primary education. The Ministry of Education and Training has developed a gender sensitive primary school curriculum to ensure that girls are enrolled in mathematics, science and ICT.

134. The Government has embarked on a programme of recognizing schools as centres of excellence for care and support (INQABA, meaning the FOTRESS). This programme has

six pillars: protection and safety; psychosocial support; food security, water and sanitation; health; prevention of violence and HIV through life skills education.

Article 9: Ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and people's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Swaziland has ratified the Maputo Protocol.

4. Republic of Tunisia

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and other related infections diseases

135. The National Office of Family and Population supports early diagnosis of breast cancer by clinical examination and provide health information, especially sexual and reproductive health in collaboration with the media.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

136. The Ministry in charge of Family and Women's Affairs is preparing a draft law for combatting violence against women.

Article 5: Gender Parity

137. In 2015, the percentage of women in government was 18% and in the judiciary was 38%.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

138. According to the Human Development Report, the percentage of female professionals in small and medium companies in Tunisia is 6.5% compared to 20.6% for men. For that reason, the Ministry of Family and Women's Affairs created within the development scheme for 2016 -2020, a program which will deals with the financial support of women's projects.

Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

139. There is no discrimination for boys and girls, all children have equal opportunities in education. Due to some cultural practices, there are cases of girls who drop out of school. However, the percentage is low at 6.3%. The Ministry in charge of Family and Women's Affairs has put in place a national plan to fight against school drop out by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministries of Interior, Culture, Education and Transport to make sure that all facilities are available for children to attend school without challenges.

PART III: CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Concluding comments

140. As has been noted in the thirteen country reports, progress has been achieved in the implementation of the SDGEA. There has been a reduction in the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, increased women's participation in peace and security, education, politics and public affairs and awareness on women's human rights has increased. There is also greater awareness about the dangers of Harmful Traditional Practices, particularly child marriages due to the AU campaign to end such practices.

141. However, challenges still persist that hamper the attainment of full gender equality and women's empowerment in the continent. These include, among others: constitutional texts containing provisions that subjugate constitutional equality to religious principles or which exclude family and customary law from constitutional non-discrimination clauses; inadequate financing of gender equality programmes; lack of expertise in Gender Responsive Budgeting; economic exclusion of women and financial systems that perpetuate the discrimination of women; low representation of women in politics and public decision-making spaces and including political party machineries that hinder women's equal participation in political leadership; entrenched patriarchal values that exclude women from land and property ownership as well as inheritance; and gender-based violence including harmful cultural or traditional practices.

The Way Forward

142. Although all 13 countries have made great strides in achieving gender equality, there is still a lot to be done for African women to fully enjoy the rights that are provided for in all the progressive gender instruments that the AU has adopted. For example, there is a need to invest in gender equality education, that not only provides knowledge and skills, but that is specially geared at shifting negative attitudes about gender equality and the role of women in society. Women should no longer have to justify their rights, but it should be clearly understood and accepted that women's rights are human rights. This will go a long way towards achieving greater gender equality in Africa.

143. The AUC should take advantage of the Declaration of 2016 as the Year of Human Rights, with a particular focus on the Rights of women, to encourage AU Member States to make extra effort in implementing their gender equality and women's empowerment obligations.

144. For Member States that have ratified the Maputo Protocol, the AUC should support efforts towards domestication and implementation of the instrument, while for those who are yet to ratify, the AUC should support efforts towards ratification, either through country visits, or capacity building interventions.

145. To encourage reporting on the SDGEA and other AU gender instruments, the AUC should engage in continuous advocacy and convene regular capacity building interventions for Member States especially, for gender focal points, planning and report-writers in the Ministries responsible for gender and women's affairs. The Guidelines for Reporting on the SDGEA must be updated and be part of the capacity building interventions with Member States to assist in developing and submitting reports.

146. Regarding gender budgeting, regular dialogues should be convened with Ministries of Finance and Planning to raise greater awareness and build capacity for gender budgeting.

Onzième Rapport de la Présidente de la Commission de l'Union Africaine sur la Mise en Oeuvre de la Déclaration Solennelle sur l'Égalité entre les Hommes et les Femmes en Afrique (SDGEA)

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