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**TENTH REPORT OF THE AUC CHAIRPERSON ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU SOLEMN DECLARATION
ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACHPR -	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights African Women's Rights Protocol – The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
AGOA -	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AMISOM –	African Union Mission in Somalia
AMU–	Arab Maghreb Union
APSA –	Africa Peace and Security Architecture
AU –	African Union
AUC –	African Union Commission
AU/CIEFFA -	The International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa
AWA –	AIDS Watch Africa
AWD –	African Women's Decade
AWTF –	African Women Trust Fund
BDC –	Business Development Centres
Camfed –	Campaign for Female Education
CAP –	Common Africa Position
COMESA –	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSOs –	Civil Society Organizations
DIC –	Department of Information and Communication
EAC –	East African Community
ECCAS –	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSOCC–	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECOWAS –	Economic Community of West African States
EU –	European Union
FGM –	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV –	Gender-based Violence
GPSP –	Gender, Peace and Security Program
HIV/AIDS -	Human Immunodeficiency virus/Acquired immune Deficiency syndrome
ICT –	Information, Communication and Technology
IEC –	Information, Education and Communication
IGAD –	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IOM –	International Organization for Migration
NAP –	National Action Plan
PAP –	Pan African Parliament
PRC –	Permanent Representatives Committee
REC –	Regional Economic Community
RM –	Regional Mechanisms

SADC –	Southern Africa Development Community
SDGEA –	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SME –	Small and Medium Enterprises
TIP –	Trafficking in Persons
UN –	United Nations
UNAIDS –	The United Nations Body that coordinates global response to HIV/AIDS
UNDOC –	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDP –	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA –	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF –	United Nations Children Fund
UNSC –	UN Security Council
UN Women–	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment for Women
VAW –	Violence against Women
WGDD –	Women, Gender and Development Directorate
WHO –	World Health Organization

**TENTH REPORT OF THE AUC CHAIRPERSON ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE AU SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER
EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This tenth annual report is being submitted pursuant to the obligation under Article 13 of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) which enjoins the Chairperson of the Commission to submit an annual report for the consideration of the Heads of State and Government on measures taken to implement the principle of gender equality and gender mainstreaming at national, regional and continental levels.

2. Thirteen (13) country reports (Comoros, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe) were received for consideration in the tenth annual report on the SDGEA. While the Chairperson's report provides an overview of the status of African women and girls in 2014, a synthesis report is included reflecting progress countries have reported including mention of best practices and other interesting experiences shared by these countries.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. Progress on Gender Equality in Africa continues to be seen in gender parity while slight changes are registered in other commitment areas. By and large women and girls continued to be discriminated against and violence against them has not reduced in any significant way. Some member states have adopted policies and taken measures to address violence perpetrated against women and girls but without proper follow-up and enforcement of law perpetrators usually go unpunished. In some instances impunity also is a factor that contributed to the lack of action. Member states are urged to double their efforts at ending violence and discrimination against women whether it takes place in the context of law or in practice.

4. Child marriage is another critical area demanding urgent attention. World statistics confirm that Africa has the worst figures in child marriage cases. The AUC Chairperson, in recognition of this problem has in May 2014 launched a continental campaign to address child marriage. In this regard she has also appointed AU Goodwill Ambassador to support the Commission and member states in their efforts to end child marriage. The AUC Chairperson also welcomes the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage by the African Experts on the Welfare and the Rights of the Child. She further welcomes the member states that have launched national campaigns against child marriage and urges all other member states where child marriage is a huge problem to also give urgent attention to this problem. The Government of Niger's announcement to host the first ever Girl Summit in Africa in November 2015 dedicated to ending child marriage is indeed timely and the Commission is grateful for this important initiative the member state is taking.

5. Women, peace and security also remain a major concern and the AUC Chairperson has appointed a Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to provide guidance and support to the Commission as well as concerned member states. The new Special Envoy, Madame Bineta Diop visited countries in conflict - Central Africa Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan and Somalia – in 2014 and has provided some salient recommendations that are being followed on. The AUC Chairperson appeals to member states to support the work of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and to address recommendations that come up as a result of her missions.

6. In respect to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, there is no progress registered unfortunately since the last report on the SDGEA. The remaining 18 member states (Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Niger, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, The Sudan and Tunisia) are yet again urged to prioritize this matter and urgently deposit their instruments of accession. The AUC welcomes that in January 2015 Tunisia signed the Protocol with a determination to follow it up with accession to the instrument. The 36 countries that are state parties to the Protocol are equally reminded to take action to realize their obligations under this human rights instrument including reporting to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights using the reporting guidelines that the Commission has provided. To-date Malawi remains to be the only state that has met its reporting obligation under the Protocol.

1. African Union Commission Progress on Implementing the SDGEA Articles

7. Under this section two areas are reported: Gender parity in the AUC and other AU organs, and the Trust Fund for Women.

Progress on Article 5: Gender Parity in the African Union Organs

8. Table I¹ below offers the current picture with regards to gender parity within the AUC. .

¹(Source: African Union: www.africa-union.org)

Table I: Ratio of Male and Female composition at the AUC

Grade	Number			Rate (%)	
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Chairperson	0	1	1	0	100%
Deputy Chairperson	1	0	1	100%	0
Commissioner	4	4	8	50%	50%
D1	13	4	17	76%	24%
P6	10	3	13	77%	23%
P5	40	15	55	73%	27%
P4	13	9	22	59%	41%
P3	80	23	103	78%	22%
P2	67	42	109	61%	39%
P1	16	7	23	70%	30%
GSA	93	82	175	53%	47%
GSB	131	35	166	79%	21%
TOTAL	468	225	693	68%	32%

The current picture on numbers and percentages of men and women in AU organs

9. Table II² below provides the current situation regarding women's representation in the various AU organs. The ACHPR continues to enjoy the highest number of women representation while all other organs fall short of the 50:50 parity rule endorsed in the AU Consecutive Act. All the other organs, with the exception of the Assembly which is determined by outcomes of national elections, need to do better in increasing the number of women's representation to meet the required 50:50 parity.

Table II: 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%

²Source: African Union: www.africa-union.org

PRC	46	8	54	85%	15%
AUC	424	206	630	67.3%	34%
Peace and Security Council	13	2	15	87%	13%
PAP (Bureau)	3	2	5	60%	40%
ECOSOCC (Bureau)	12	8	20	60%	40%
The Court of Justice	9	2	11	82%	18%
African Commission on Human and People's Rights	5	6	11	45%	55%

Table III: Ratio of Male and Female composition in senior positions in the Regional Economic Communities

No.	REC	Number			Rates (%)	
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
01	AMU	10	1	11	91%	9%
02	COMESA	9	4	13	69%	31%
03	EAC	5	1	6	83%	17%
04	ECCAS	4	1	5	80%	20%
05	ECOWAS	6	3	9	67%	33%
06	IGAD	7	1	8	87.5%	12.5%
07	SADC	1	1	2	50%	50%

Member States:

10. Table IV below provides the statistics on women's representation in Parliament in both lower/single and upper house/Senate in AU Member States. Countries are ranked according to their achievements. In 2014 the top 10 ranked as leading in women's representation are Rwanda, Seychelles, Senegal, South Africa Namibia, Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Uganda and Algeria. Countries that made significant progress are Namibia which jumped from a ranking of 17 last year to 5th position and Equatorial Guinea which has moved up in ranking to position 20 compared to 36 in last year's ranking. On the other hand Malawi is noted to have fall down to position 28th as compared to its ranking of 18 last year. Other member states have either maintained their positions or slightly increased or decreased in ranking.

Table IV: 2014 Africa Classification and Comparison with 2013 Ranking³

African context			Lower or single House				Upper House or Senate			
Rank 2013	Rank 2014	Country	Elections	Seats	Women	% women	Elections	Seats	Women	% women
1	1	Rwanda	9 2013	80	51	63.8%	9 2011	26	10	38.5%
2	2	Seychelles	9 2011	32	14	43.8%	---	---	---	---
3	3	Senegal	7 201---2	150	64	42.7%	---	---	---	---
4	4	South Africa	5 2014	400	166	41.5%	5 2014	54	19	35.2%
17	5	Namibia	11 2014	104	43	41.3%	11 2010	26	6	23.1%
5	6	Mozambique	10 2014	250	99	39.6%	---	---	---	---
8	7	Angola	8 2012	220	81	36.8%	---	---	---	---
7	8	United Republic of Tanzania	10 2010	350	126	36.0%	---	---	---	---
7	9	Uganda	2 2011	386	135	35.0%	---	---	---	---
9	10	Algeria	5 2012	462	146	31.6%	12 2012	144	10	6.9%
10	11	Zimbabwe	7 2013	270	85	31.5%	7 2013	80	38	47.5%
14	12	Tunisia	10 2014	217	68	31.3%	---	---	---	---
11	13	Cameroon	9 2013	180	56	31.1%	4 2013	100	20	20.0%
12	14	Burundi	7 2010	105	32	30.5%	7 2010	41	19	46.3%
13	15	Ethiopia	5 2010	547	152	27.8%	5 2010	135	22	16.3%
14	16	Lesotho	5 2012	120	32	26.7%	6 2012	33	9	27.3%
15	17	South Sudan	8 2011	332	88	26.5%	8 2011	50	5	10.0%
19	18	Mauritania	11 2013	147	37	25.2%	11 2009	56	8	14.3%
16	19	Sudan	4 2010	354	86	24.3%	5 2010	29	5	17.2%
36	20	Equatorial Guinea	5 2013	100	24	24.0%	5 2013	73	10	13.7%
20	21	Eritrea	2 1994	150	33	22.00%	---	---	---	---
n/a	22	Guinea	9 2013	114	25	21.9%	---	---	---	---
21	23	Cape Verde	2 2011	72	15	20.8%	---	---	---	---
25	24	Madagascar	12 2013	151	31	20.5%	---	---	---	---
23	25	Kenya	3 2013	350	69	19.7%	3 2013	68	18	26.5%
	26	Sao Tome and Principe	10 2014	55	10	18.2%	---	---	---	---
29	27	Togo	7 2013	91	16	17.6%	---	---	---	---
18	28	Malawi	5 2014	192	32	16.7%	---	---	---	---
26	29	Libya	6 2014	188	30	16.0%	---	---	---	---
30	30	Chad	2 2011	188	28	14.9%	---	---	---	---
27	31	Gabon	12 2011	120	17	14.2%	12 2014	102	19	18.6%
30	32	Somalia	8 2012	275	38	13.8%	---	---	---	---
31	33	Guinea-Bissau	4 2014	102	14	13.7%	---	---	---	---
28	34	Burkina Faso	11 2014	90	12	13.3%	---	---	---	---
33	34	Niger	1 2011	113	15	13.3%	---	---	---	---

³ Source – Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), October 2013

34	35	Djibouti	2 2013	55	7	12.7%	---	---	---	---
37	35	Zambia	9 2011	158	20	12.7%	---	---	---	---
35	36	Sierra Leone	11 2012	121	15	12.4%	---	---	---	---
22	37	Mauritius	12 2014	69	8	11.6%	---	---	---	---
38	38	Liberia	10 2011	73	8	11.0%	12 2014	30	3	10.0%
39	39	Ghana	12 2012	275	30	10.9%	---	---	---	---
44	40	Botswana	10 2014	63	6	9.5%	---	---	---	---
41	40	Mali	11 2013	147	14	9.5%	---	---	---	---
45	41	Gambia	3 2012	53	5	9.4%	---	---	---	---
40	42	Cote d'Ivoire	12 2011	251	23	9.2%	---	---	---	---
42	43	Democratic Republic of Congo	11 2011	492	44	8.9%	1 2007	108	5	4.6%
43	44	Benin	4 2011	83	7	8.4%	---	---	---	---
46	45	Congo	7 2012	136	10	7.4%	10 2014	72	14	19.4%
47	46	Nigeria	4 2011	360	24	6.7%	4 2011	109	7	6.4%
49	47	Swaziland	9 2013	65	4	6.2%	10 2013	30	10	33.3%
48	48	Comoros	12 2009	33	1	3.0%	---	---	---	---
n/a	n/a	Central African Republic	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
n/a	n/a	Egypt ²	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
n/a	n/a	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

* Figures correspond to the number of seats currently filled in Parliament

1 - South Africa: The figures on the distribution of seats do not include the 36 special rotating delegates appointed on an ad hoc basis, and all percentages given are therefore calculated on the basis of the 54 permanent seats.

The Judiciary

11. The table below reflects information received from the member states listed. Information received last year from member states remains unchanged to the Commission's best knowledge. The table has been updated to include member states that have submitted their information in 2014.

Table V: Number and percentage of women in the Judiciary in comparison to men

No.	Country	Date of information	Number			Rates (%)	
			Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
01	Algeria	29 August 2012	2,585	1,690	4,275	60%	40%
02	Angola	September 2013	209	94	303	69%	31%
03	Ethiopia	26 September 2012	111	23	134	83%	17%
04	Eritrea	14 January 2014	1,301	399	1,700	23%	77%
05	The Gambia	November 2014	36	19	55	65%	35%
06	Ghana	17 September	36	9	45	80%	20%

		2012					
07	Guinea	2012	129	19	148	87%	13%
08	Kenya	September 2013	23	9	32	72%	28%
09	Mauritius	October 2014	30	40	70	43%	57%
10	Mozambique	November 2013	n/a	n/a	n/a	69%	31%
11	Nigeria	December 2011	633	200	833	76%	24%
12	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	2012	150	80	230	65%	35%
13	Seychelles	2013	10	6	16	62.5%	37.5%
14	South Africa	13 September 2012	1048	656	1704	62%	38%
15	Tanzania	2012	12	19	31	39%	61%
16	Togo	6 September 2012	254	29	283	90%	10%
17	Zambia	14 September 2012	757	132	889	85%	15%
18	Zimbabwe	2014	n/a	n/a	n/a	50%	50%

Table VI: Number and percentage of women in Government in comparison to men

No.	Country	Number			Rates (%)		No.	Country	Number			Rates (%)	
		M	F	Total	F	M			M	F	Total	F	M
01	Algeria	28	6	34	18%	82%	28	Libya	19	1	20	5%	95%
02	Angola	23	8	31	26%	74%	29	Madagascar	26	6	32	19%	81%
03	Benin	24	4	28	14%	86%	30	Malawi	15	3	18	17%	83%
04	Botswana	15	4	19	21%	79%	31	Mali	28	3	31	9%	91%
05	Burkina Faso	25	3	28	11%	89%	32	Mauritania	21	8	29	28%	72%
06	Burundi	17	7	24	29%	71%	33	Mauritius	22	3	25	12%	88%
07	Cameroon	44	7	51	14%	86%	34	Mozambique	19	5	24	21%	79%
08	Central Africa Republic	14	11	25	44%	56%	35	Namibia	20	7	27	26%	74%
09	Cape Verde	12	8	20	40%	60%	36	Niger	22	3	25	12%	88%
10	Chad	33	12	45	26%	73%	37	Nigeria	26	8	34	24%	76%
11	Cote d'Ivoire	27	5	32	17%	83%	38	Rwanda	21	12	32	34%	66%
12	Comoros	9	2	11	18%	82%	39	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	20	4	24	17%	83%
13	Congo	36	4	40	10%	90%	40	Sao Tome & Principe	14	3	17	18%	82%
14	Djibouti	21	3	24	12%	88%	41	Senegal	18	2	20	10%	90%
15	Democratic Republic of Congo	29	2	31	6%	94%	42	Seychelles	11	3	14	21%	79%
16	Egypt	34	6	40	15%	85%	43	Sierra Leone	28	3	31	10%	90%
17	Equatorial Guinea	25	5	30	17%	83%	44	Somalia	24	3	27	11%	89%
18	Eritrea	16	4	20	20%	80%	45	South Africa	21	15	36	42%	58%
19	Ethiopia	24	4	28	14%	86%	46	South Sudan	16	5	21	23%	77%
20	Gabon	19	4	23	17%	83%	47	Sudan	27	5	32	16%	84%
21	The Gambia	16	5	21	23%	76%	48	Swaziland	15	5	20	25%	75%
22	Ghana	18	6	24	25%	75%	49	Tanzania	37	7	44	16%	84%
23	Guinea Bissau	13	5	18	28%	72%	50	Togo	23	6	29	21%	79%

24	Guinea	28	6	34	18%	82%	51	Tunisia	25	3	28	18%	82%
25	Kenya	14	6	20	30%	70%	52	Uganda	26	7	33	21%	79%
26	Lesotho	25	3	28	11%	89%	53	Zambia	17	6	23	26%	74%
27	Liberia	13	7	20	35%	65%	54	Zimbabwe	26	4	30	13%	87%

Source: (1) official government websites. Figures include only head of government and ministers; and (2) information provided by member states to the AUC.

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

12. In November 2004, the Heads of State and Government adopted the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) in which Article 11 calls for the establishment of an African Trust Fund for Women. Further to this, at their 8th Ordinary Session in January 2007, the AU Heads of State and Government adopted the Decision AU.Dec.134/164 (VII) on the establishment of the African Women's Trust Fund (AWTF) and requested the Commission to hold a Continental Conference of Experts from Member States to discuss the viability of the Trust Fund and report back, with the view of operationalizing the Fund.

13. The Fund was officially launched by the Assembly of Heads in January 2010 and the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) was put in charge of its operationalization and serve as the secretariat of the Fund for African Women under the leadership of AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women.

14. In 2014, the WGDD developed the Call for proposal with focus on the AWD's third Theme namely "Environment and Climate Change". WGDD organized a meeting during 3-5 December 2014 for Ministers (the Committee of 10 in short C10) and Steering Committee of the Fund for African Women to debate the Call for Proposal on the identified Theme. Following the meeting the Call for Proposal was circulated to Member States and only 62 projects were received from Member States.

15. These projects will be reviewed by the Steering Committee on 14-16 May 2015 to be approved by the Committee of 10 AU Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs.

16. In Addition, the AU Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs decided, during the consultative meeting held on 10 and 12 March 2015, in merging of 59th session of CSW, to select the theme n°4 namely "Education, Sciences and Technology" as a Theme for 2015. WGDD is developing the Call for Proposal for the submission of projects under this Theme. The Call for proposal will be discussed during the technical meeting on 14-16 May 2015.

17. During 2014 and 2015, the C10 approved 62 projects under the Theme "Agriculture, Food Security and Environment, 27 projects under the Theme n°1 on "Fighting Poverty and Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women and Entrepreneurship", to be funded by the Fund for African Women.

18. The Internal Audit started the assessment of the Fund for African Women as decided by the Executive Council in June 2014. The result will be presented during the Summit January 2016.

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

19. 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 tenth report to the AU Assembly.

20. Additionally this report captures the various initiatives taken by the Commission in advancing gender equality in Africa as detailed below.

Gender Equality Initiatives at the African Union Commission

21. In connection to the annual reporting on the SDGEA and in line with Article 13 of the Executive Council which mandates the AU and its organs to pursue programs and projects that will ensure Gender Equality in Africa, the various department of the AUC undertook several initiatives during 2014. These are elaborated below.

Office of the AUC Chairperson

22. In line with AU's African Women's Decade (2010-2020), the Maputo Protocol, the Millennium Development Goals, and responding to Africa's development priorities and emerging challenges, the project, **Building an Enabling Environment for Women's Economic Empowerment & Political Participation in Africa**, is aimed at testing new modalities and fast-tracking implementation of prioritized support to women's economic and political empowerment including (a) youth and women's participation and representation at all levels; (b) improving women's economic empowerment – women in business; (c) improving women's productivity – women in agriculture; and (d) integrating gender analysis and its related results in institutional plans, budgets and monitoring systems.

23. Below are some of the project initiatives implemented in 2014 and currently underway in 2015:

1. Training of women in agribusiness- In partnership with UN Women and AUC Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture; the project facilitated the training of 130 Women in agri-business under the theme "Moving From Business by Necessity To Entrepreneurship By Choice". The training on sustainable agriculture was undertaken in two phases, the first phase saw 80 women trained at the Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership in Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya and second phase benefited 50 women in partnership with the Songhai Centre in Benin. Through the training, the programme has been able to benefit hundreds of

women who are part of the agricultural value chain by ensuring value addition to their products. The trained women were also assisted in designing business development plans so that they can access agro-based loans. In collaboration with DIC, Gender Directorate and other strategic departments the project is working on producing a documentary featuring African women in the agriculture and agro processing sector.

2. Held a Pre-Summit Stakeholder's Consultation with Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs and CSOs in January 2015 on the AU theme "Year of Women Empowerment Development towards Africa Agenda 2063 which Meeting came up with a Communiqué with clear six (6) priority areas produced by the Ministers for Gender, CSOs, RECS, UN agencies on the implementation of the Theme for 2015 and beyond. These 6 Priorities are below:
 - Decision-making and leadership;
 - Reproductive health and women's Rights
 - Agriculture, Food Security and Environment;
 - Financial inclusion and economic empowerment;
 - Education, ICT, Science and Technology;
 - Peace and security.
3. A was submitted to the Heads of State and Government for consideration.

The office of The Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security

24. This office, headed by Madam Bineta Diop, was established in January 2014 with the mandate to promote and protect the rights of women and in particular those affected by conflicts. Madam Diop's appointment came at a crucial time to strengthen the resolve of the Chairperson of the African union Commission "to ensure that the voices of women are heard much more clearly in conflict resolution and peace building".

25. In carrying out her mandate, The Special Envoy conducted solidarity missions with the women of The Central African Republic, Somalia and Nigeria in support of their endeavours to finding solutions to issues affecting women and children and to enhance the participation of women in decision-making processes.

26. The Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security submitted her report to the Chairperson on the various activities including Salient recommendations as following:

In The Central African Republic:

- Support Quick Impact Projects to alleviate the socio-economic challenges faced by Women and Girls.

In Somalia:

- Urge the Highest Somali Authorities on the need to increase the participation of women of Somalia in the reconstruction process
- Support the women of Somalia to prepare for the elections in 2016 with the view to achieving a higher representation in the country's decision-making structures
- Stress the AU zero-tolerance policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

In Nigeria:

- Support the “Women, Peace and Security Network of Nigeria” in their efforts to Bring to an end terrorists activities, rescue the 219 CHIBOK girls and indeed other abducted victims, return them to their families while also calling for the end of all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

27. The Special Envoy is also focusing on ways to close the gap between the various policy instruments on women, peace and security and their implementation. In this regard, the Special Envoy convened a consultative meeting of women's groups and experts followed by an open session of the Peace and Security Council that deliberated on the situation of women in a number of conflict-affected countries and the implementation deficit.

Department of Peace and Security

28. The Peace and Security Programme, in its effort to contribute to the implementation of global and continental framework on women empowerment in conflict and post conflict settings developed in 2013 a strategy to mainstream gender into the Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The mainstreaming strategy was supported by an action plan and specific activities to ensure gender mainstreaming into the work of the Department and Divisions. In that context, gender Focal point have been identify in each of the department's Divisions and Unit.

29. The following activities highlight some of the key achievements of the Peace & Security Department in promoting women empowerment, participation in peace and security:

- The AU Panel of the Wise, the preventive diplomacy arm of the Union, includes three women out of five members, its current Chairperson also happens to be a woman;
- The AU Panel of the Wise' report on “Eliminating violence against women and children in armed conflict through accelerated implementation of existing frameworks”, to be submitted to the Assembly of the Union in June 2015 on the situation of Women and Children in Armed Conflicts, is central to engaging the Peace and Security Council on regular evaluations of the

Commission collective efforts in protecting vulnerable populations and improving their participation at the negotiation table;

- Contributing to the Commission's efforts on applying more scrupulously the principle of gender parity for AUC elected/appointed officials, especially in the field of peace and security. For instance, by increasing the number of women amongst the AU Special Representatives and Special Envoys. Since 2014, the number of AU Special Representatives has gone from 1 to 8 in the field;
- The appointment of a Special Envoy, Ms. Bineta Diop, as advocate at the highest level on issues of women, peace and security and on leveraging the AU efforts in addressing issues of women empowerment, participation and protection in conflict and post-conflict settings;
- In the area of Peace support operation, in addition to instituting a Zero tolerance policy on Sexual exploitation and abuse, the Commission has taken a systematic stand of investigating allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse by AU troops.

30. Additionally, in order to systematically address issues of gender, women empowerment, peace and security, the Peace and Security Department (PSD) launched a 5 year Gender, Peace and Security Program (GPSP) (2015-2020) to serve as a framework for the AUC and partners to work jointly at the political, advocacy, and programmatic levels in this area. The Programme is to support the development of effective strategies and mechanisms for women's increased participation in peace and security and enhanced protection in conflict and post conflict situations.

Department of Human Resources, Science, Technology and Innovation

31. In promoting gender equality the department focuses on three approaches including annual awards in recognition of distinguished African women scientists with a view to encouraging more women to enter the field; promoting education for women and girls including scholarships for young women and enrolling young women in the AU's Youth Volunteer program. Hence; on the 19th of December 2014, Africa celebrated the outstanding achievements of African Women Scientists by awarding prizes to 4 distinguished women under the prestigious AU Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards at regional level, which is dedicated to women.

32. This Regional Award component of the AU Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards is an annual event implemented by the Regional Economic Communities in collaboration with the African Union Commission.

Department of Economic Affairs

33. Central to the department's initiatives were building African women's entrepreneurship skills, providing them a platform for business networking and policy advocacy for women economic empowerment. These included:

- Convening of the Africa-Turkey Women Entrepreneurs Trade Bridge in February/March 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey, in collaboration with TUSKON;
- Dedicating a high-Level Panel to women entrepreneurship under the topic "*enlarging the economic opportunities for women in Africa*" during the 7th Africa Private Sector Forum held in December 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. Key recommendations from the session were among others ; AUC to use its political weight in policy dialogue to encourage African authorities to undertake business environment reforms in African countries among others addressing constraints for African Women that limit their capacity to participate in the economy as entrepreneurs.

34. Under the leadership of the Commissioner for Economic Affairs the department is tasked with coordinating activities related to the AU's 2015 theme: "2015 - Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063".

The Department of Trade and Industry

35. In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the department convened the First African Women Business Linkages Forum of the African Union from 18 to 20 August, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the Forum was to bring together more than hundred women from across the continent involved in various economic sectors in order to share experiences and build networks for enhanced development of their businesses and consequently Africa's socio-economy. The theme of the Forum was "Building Linkages to Break Barriers.

Department of Social Affairs

36. The Best Practices on Elimination of HIV/AIDS from mother to Child transmission was carry out with the support of UNICEF in five countries from the five regions "Tunisia, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda and Chad.

2. Overview of the state of African Women and Girls

Article 1: *HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases*

37. Currently, women and girls account for about 50% of the global population living with HIV/AIDS, though there are varying epidemiological trends by region and country concerning the most affected populations. A woman is infected with HIV every minute.⁴

⁴ "Women and HIV/AIDS." Avert. 2013. see <http://www.avert.org/women-and-hiv-aids.htm>

According to the 2008 World Health Organization ("WHO") estimates, however, the number of women living with HIV/AIDS globally has been steadily increasing over the past ten years.⁵ Young women aged 15-24 are particularly at risk, as they account for 22% of all new infections and are twice as likely as young men to become infected.⁶ Additionally, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age.⁷

38. The Sub-Saharan African region is among the most affected, as women account for 60% of the population living with HIV/AIDS.⁸ International organizations have posited several reasons that explain this high statistic, including cultural norms that encourage men to have multiple partners, sexual violence against women, and barriers to HIV/AIDS testing, including fear of loss of economic support and accusations of infidelity. Throughout the region, there is a significant lack of education regarding HIV/AIDS and sexual health in general.

39. However, the lack of comprehensive knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among young women is a global problem. According to the 2008 UNAIDS global statistics, only 38% of women globally have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Further, women living with HIV/AIDS may be unable to access essential medications. According to the UN Millennium Development Goals 2014 Gap Report, in 2013, essential medications were available in only 55% of facilities in the public sector, and medications may be out of reach financially for many women living with HIV.⁹

40. Malawi, which has some of the highest HIV prevalence in the world, has been quite successful in reducing the rate of new transmissions of HIV, accounting for a 73% reduction since 2001.¹⁰ This success can be partially attributed to large-scale governmental press campaigns to reduce transmission, the expansion of voluntary testing, and condom promotion and distribution.¹¹ Similar efforts in other countries in the region, such as Botswana (71% reduction since 2001), Namibia (68% reduction since 2001), and Zambia (50% reduction since 2001), have also proved effective.¹²

41. In a response to this epidemic, UNFPA has released key strategies to counter the rise of HIV/AIDS among women, including promoting gender equality, empowering women to access their human rights, increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services, working to end violence against women, working to prevent mother-to-child transmission, advancing the rights of women living with HIV, and involving men in changing behaviour that puts their partners at risk.¹³ Thus, community response, education, and empowerment of women to address their sexual health are all key steps in reducing HIV/AIDS in vulnerable female populations.

⁵ WHO Gender, Women, and Health http://www.who.int/gender/hiv_aids/en/.

⁶ (UNAIDS. UNAIDS World AIDS Day report 2011).

⁷ (WHO. Women and health: Today's evidence tomorrow's agenda. 2009).

⁸ (http://www.who.int/gender/hiv_aids/en/)

⁹ (http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014_Gap_Report/MDG%20Gap%20Task%20Force%20Report%202014_Press%20Release_English.pdf).

¹⁰ <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2012/november/20121120prresults>

¹¹ <http://www.avert.org/hiv-aids-malawi.htm>

¹² (<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2012/november/20121120prresults/>)

¹³ <http://www.unfpa.org/hiv/women.htm>

Article 2: Peace and Security

42. Conflicts continue to ignite in the continent with heavy tolls on women and children. Additionally terrorism acts by armed groups Boko Haram (Nigeria) and Al Shabaab (Somalia) have increased the levels of risks and the negative impact of violence on families in particular women and children. This means affected countries are diverting investments from economic and social development to deal with prevailing insecurity and new threats posed by terrorism.

43. In areas where conflict prevails, women and girls are the most vulnerable demographic.¹⁴ Recently, more reports of women and girls being raped by African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) soldiers have surfaced. Many of the women and girls attacked were fleeing violence, and lived in camps for internally displaced persons. Some of the girls abused were as young as 12.¹⁵ One case of rape of a minor by a Ugandan AMISOM soldier is before the Ugandan military courts.¹⁶ Human Rights Watch published a report detailing the abuse that took place on two AMISOM bases in Mogadishu. The report highlights the tactics that the AMISOM soldiers have used, including coercion, violence, and trading sex for food and medicine.¹⁷

44. Many human rights groups highlight the lack of proper reporting mechanisms or punishment of perpetrators as a reason for continued use of sexual violence in conflict zones. Sexual violence continues to be the biggest fear of women in conflict zones. The International Rescue Committee has reported that in some areas, up to 2/3 of the women they are assisting in the Central African Republic have experienced sexual assault at least once. Women are particularly fearful of assault when they are doing daily activities such as gathering firewood or water, or using toilets without locks.¹⁸

45. This year Libya recognized women who were raped during conflict as war victims. Libya is now offering compensation to women who were raped during the 2011 uprising against Muammar Ghaddafi. Pro-Ghaddafi forces used rape as a way to spread fear. This is important to the victims of sexual violence in Libya as they will be given assistance that may help them overcome the social taboo of rape.¹⁹ This recognition and remuneration is also important to women globally, as it is one of the first times a government has assisted female victims of sexual assault during wartime in a predominately Muslim country. Despite the advancements made, women will continue to be pawns in conflict zones as long as they are considered second-class citizens.

¹⁴ Women in Conflict Zones at Risk of Violence, Discrimination. Voice of America. Lisa Schlein. July 18, 2014. <http://www.voanews.com/content/women-in-conflict-zones-at-risk-of-violence-discrimination/1960714.html>

¹⁵ African Union Troops 'Raped' Girls in Mogadishu, Somalia. BBC Africa. September 8, 2014. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29108400>

¹⁶ Uganda: AMISOM – Grim Tales of Rape. All Africa. September 10, 2014. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409100186.html?page=2>

¹⁷ "The Power These Men Have Over Us". Human Rights Watch. September 8, 2014. <http://www.hrw.org/node/128407>

¹⁸ Sexual Violence Biggest Fear for Women in Central African Republic, Says International Rescue Committee. International Rescue Committee. March 6, 2014.

¹⁹ Libya to Compensate Women Raped During 2011 Uprising. Reuters. Ghaith Shennib. February 19, 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/19/us-libya-rape-idUSBREA111PT20140219>

Article 3: Child soldiers and abuse of the girl child

46. Many women and girls are still being targeted in conflict zones. Women are used for sex and as pawns to achieve military gains. In April, 2014, more than 200 schoolgirls in Chibok, Nigeria were kidnapped from a school by Boko Haram. Kidnapping of women is becoming a more popular tactic of militant groups because it highlights the enemy's vulnerability. To this day, the majority of the kidnapped girls have not been found. At least one case of a Chibok girl being used as a suicide bomber for Boko Haram has been confirmed.²⁰ This is a very disturbing development that calls for urgent attention including intensifying protection for girls that are at risk.

47. Girls are still actively recruited to be soldiers for militant groups. Recruitment in general has increased in the past two years because of intensified conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are unique challenges faced in rehabilitating girl child soldiers. They are more reluctant to come forward than boys, and negotiating their release from armed groups is more difficult. Women and girls are often treated as 'wives' by armed groups, and become part of the group's 'family'. Some women have children as a result of their sexual enslavement; the pregnancy then makes it more difficult for the woman to escape. The women and girls are expendable to the armed groups, and often they are the first to be abandoned prior to surrender.²¹

Article 4: Violence Against Women

48. According to a United Nations situation analysis report on violence against women in Africa, it is the ".....the most widespread and socially tolerated of human rights violations, cutting across borders, race, class, ethnicity and religion." The impact of gender-based violence (GBV) is devastating and impacts negatively on many lives including the victims of GBV. The study further points out that GBV and its consequences is a significant obstacle to reducing poverty, achieving gender equality and ensuring a peaceful transition for post-conflict societies.²²

49. In 2013 WHO released a new report, *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence* that generated compelling evidence that show that violence against women is a global health problem. The report which was done in partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the South African Medical Research Council rates Africa as having the highest (45.6%) prevalence in intimate partner and non-partner sexual violence for all women of 15 years or older. Furthermore, the worst affected countries with 36.6% prevalence were cited as Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho,

²⁰ Boko Haram Used Schoolgirl as Suicide Bomber. World Mag. Angela Lu. September 19, 2014. http://www.worldmag.com/2014/09/boko_haram_used_schoolgirl_as_suicide_bomber

²¹ Briefing on the Recruitment and Use of Children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. July 31, 2014. Child Soldiers International. http://www.child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=778

²² <http://www1.unece.org/Portals/awro/Publications/21VAW%20in%20Africa-A%20situational%20analysis.pdf>

Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The study attributed challenges in data collection to fear of stigma which prevents many women to report and the fact that very few countries are documenting Sexual violence against women or collecting data systematically.²³ AU member states need to heed to the various recommendation made by this important study and address sexual violence against women and girls.

Article 5: Gender Parity

50. There have been both positive and negative sides to women's political participation in African countries. Although all 54 African nations have granted women's suffrage,²⁴ and they all allow women to run for and hold political office, women in Africa still face many obstacles in taking up electoral and political positions. Although not historically known for upholding principles of gender equality, Africa has shown signs of improvement over the last few decades. For example, the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*, which called for gender equality in politics among numerous other aspects of life, was enacted in 2005.²⁵ And an African nation, Rwanda, even has the world's highest ratio of women in a parliament with females filling 51 of 80 seats of the Chamber of Deputies.²⁶ This is in part because of a parity law passed in Rwanda, and a similar law was passed in 2010 in Senegal.²⁷ It is not a surprise then to see Senegal has the world's 6th highest percentage of women in a parliament with 42.7%.²⁸ And Africa saw its first female head of state assume office in January 2006 when Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became President of Liberia.²⁹ And more recently, two other women have been elected as Presidents of their respective nations: Joyce Banda of Malawi and Catherin Samba-Panza of Central African Republic.³⁰ However, this is not the typical scenario across Africa. As Rwanda rounds out the top of the list of parliamentary female percentages, African nations are spread out across the spectrum. Egypt, for example, is ranked 140th as of 2012 with only 2% female membership.³¹

51. While more African women are able to achieve positions in government, it is not necessarily the same as achieving influence. In fact, women are generally appointed to positions of less prestige and less influence.³² Instead of positions in areas such as economics and defense, "more than half of all women (53.95 percent) are appointed to portfolios that concern government's social welfare functions in areas like education,

²³ <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564625/en/>

²⁴ Women Suffrage and Beyond. http://womensuffrage.org/?page_id=203

²⁵ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/women-protocol/#9>

²⁶ Republic of Rwanda. <http://www.parliament.gov.rw/home/>

²⁷ Hirsch, Afua. *Has Senegal's gender parity law for MPs helped women?* The Guardian. Nov. 15, 2012.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/nov/15/senegal-gender-parity-law-mps-women>

²⁸ Women Suffrage and Beyond. http://womensuffrage.org/?page_id=1330

²⁹ Nobel Peace Prize for 2011. http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2011/press.html

³⁰ Arriola, Leonardo and Martha Johnson. *What influence do women wield in African governments?* Washington Post. May 14, 2014. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/05/14/what-influence-do-women-wield-in-african-governments/>

³¹ Women Suffrage and Beyond. http://womensuffrage.org/?page_id=1330

³² Arriola, Leonardo and Martha Johnson. *What influence do women wield in African governments?* Washington Post. May 14, 2014. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/05/14/what-influence-do-women-wield-in-african-governments/>

family affairs, community development, and culture.”³³ Arguably, this system exists like this because traditionally men have had powers of position and offer other high power positions to other influential men in order to create powerful ties.³⁴

52. Even with more women getting into any type of government position, the current state of African women in politics is still not very attractive. Women face political discrimination and intimidation more often than men.³⁵ They are also less likely than their male counterparts to be registered to vote and to actually vote.³⁶ This may in part be because of a lack of education; “across 34 nations, 26% of women reported never having any formal education.”³⁷ Lack of education, general discrimination,³⁸ and cultural fears/restrictions³⁹ all work to prevent African women from becoming fully integrated into the political system. And it should be remembered that generalizations for the entirety of such a vast continent is risky;⁴⁰ statistics can also be somewhat misleading.

53. During the Women in Parliament Global Forum Annual Summit 2015 the AUC plans to hold a side event on Emerging issues on the Participation of Women in Elections in Africa. This will benefit women from countries due for elections in 2015 and 2016 and will target prospective candidates, already sitting; civil society organisations specialized in women’s political participation and young women to ensure that women from countries due for elections in 2015 and 2016 and beyond have a platform for targeted networking, campaign tactics, engagement of media and how to finance for elections. The AUC also plans to convene a high level dialogue on Participation of Women in Politics targeting political party leaders in Africa.

Article 6: Women’s Human Rights

54. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that out of the 20.9 million forced laborers worldwide⁴¹, almost 11.4 million are women and girls.⁴² Africa has 3.7 million forced laborers, which amounts to 18% of the global total.⁴³ 2.5 million of these are victims of forced labor and 800,000 of forced sexual exploitation.⁴⁴ The ILO further estimates that Africa generates an estimated \$13.1 billion in profits from this forced labor annually, with the vast majority, \$8.9 billion, from forced sexual exploitation.⁴⁵

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Chingwete, Anyway; Samantha Richmond; and Carmen Alpin. *Support for African Women’s Equality Rises*. March 24, 2014. Afrobarometer. http://www.afrobarometer.org/files/documents/policy_brief/ab_r5_policypaperno8.pdf

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Powell, Anita. Report: African Women Remain Unequal in Work, Politics, Education. March 31, 2014. Voice of America. <http://www.voanews.com/content/report-african-women-remain-unequal-in-work-politics-education/1883124.html>

³⁹ Hirsch, Afua. Has Senegal’s gender parity law for MPs helped women? The Guardian. Nov. 15, 2012.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/nov/15/senegal-gender-parity-law-mps-women>

⁴⁰ Women Suffrage and Beyond. http://womensuffrage.org/?page_id=203

⁴¹ The ILO definition of forced labor includes both forced labor and sexual exploitation.

⁴² International Labour Office, *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour*, May 2014. P. 7. Available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ *Id.* at 17.

⁴⁵ *Id.* at 13.

55. African, children are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking because of poverty, lack of access to education, unemployment, family disintegration, and aids orphaning.⁴⁶ Women are also vulnerable because of poverty, rural-urban migration, unemployment, shattered homes, and displacement.⁴⁷ Tragically, HIV/AIDS is both a cause and consequence of human trafficking in Africa.⁴⁸

56. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has identified three main types of human trafficking: trafficking in children for farm labor and domestic work inside and across countries; trafficking in women and young persons for sexual exploitation mostly outside the region; and trafficking in women from outside the region for sex in South Africa.⁴⁹ In west and central Africa, women and girls are trafficked for commercial sex within Africa and to Europe.⁵⁰ In fact, UNICEF estimates that 200,000 children are trafficked in West and Central Africa annually, many of which are recruited or given by parents for domestic work in Africa and the EU.⁵¹

57. In eastern Africa, Ugandan women and girls are abducted from conflict zones and forced to serve as sex slaves to rebel commanders, while Kenya serves as both a source and transit route for women and girls to Europe.⁵² In southern Africa, women and children are trafficked for sexual exploitation both internally and to destinations such as South Africa and Europe.⁵³ South Africa also serves as a destination for female sex slaves from countries such as Hong Kong, China, Eastern Europe, and Russia.⁵⁴

58. In its most recent Global Report on Trafficking in Persons in August 2012, the UNODC reported that sixteen African countries had partial or no laws criminalizing human trafficking.⁵⁵ In the 2014 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, the US State Department stated that Africa enacted seven new or amended legislations in the previous year to combat human trafficking.⁵⁶ While this progress is significant, the reality is that Africa still has a long way to go to protect its women and girls from human trafficking. Unfortunately, no African country was ranked Tier 1 in the TIP Report, meaning that no country met the minimum standards for preventing human trafficking, prosecuting traffickers, and protecting victims as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.⁵⁷ Moreover, ten African countries were ranked at Tier 3, the worst ranking, meaning that they do not fully comply with the minimum standards for combating human trafficking and are not making significant efforts to do so.⁵⁸

⁴⁶ *Id* at 80.

⁴⁷ *Id* at 80.

⁴⁸ *Id* at 81.

⁴⁹ International Organization for Migration, *Data and Research on Human Trafficking: A Global Survey*, 2005. P. 76. Available at http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Global_Survey.pdf.

⁵⁰ *Id* at 78.

⁵¹ *Id* at 77.

⁵² *Id* at 78.

⁵³ *Id* at 79.

⁵⁴ *Id* at 78.

⁵⁵ U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. P. 83. Available at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf

⁵⁶ U.S. Department of State, *2014 Trafficking in Persons Report*. P. 59. Available at:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/226844.pdf>.

⁵⁷ *Id* at 59, 62.

⁵⁸ *Id* at 57.

Article 7: Rights to Land, Property and Inheritance

59. The right to property and land includes the right to acquire, use, and dispose of any property obtained through inheritance or one's own labor. Property is important for social status and economic and food security. Women have a unique relationship with the land as they are its primary users, but cultural customs prevent them from land ownership. Women continue to lag behind men in property ownership and rights in most African countries. In many rural communities where subsistence farming is crucial to survival, land rights are an important part of economic security.

60. Rwanda is a bright spot in land ownership equality, thanks to the government's focus on gender equality. Rwanda's Department of Land and Mapping found that women own most of the registered plots in the capital of Kigali. Since 2007 Rwanda has worked to implement the Land Tenure Regularization Program that set out to title every plot of land in Rwanda. This program was designed to help decrease gender inequality in land access, encourage economic growth through property ownership, and provide a legal framework for land ownership. In rural areas of Rwanda, like most rural areas of Africa, traditional law undermines women's ownership and use of land.⁵⁹

61. Customary laws are not the only impediments to land ownership by women. In Zambia, many landowners on the outskirts of cities are being pushed out by developers who anticipate price rises with urban growth.⁶⁰ In some countries land ownership for women has improved greatly. However, in rural areas, customary law still prevents many women from owning their own land.

62. In 2015, the AUC Chairperson's Office is planning **High-level Policy dialogue** on Women's Access to Land and Ownership targeting traditional leaders. The outcome of this important dialogue will be communicated in the next report on the SDGEA.

Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

63. As of 2011, as few as 64% of girls and young adult women in Africa were literate in certain regions.⁶¹ Additionally, between 23% to 40% of girls in Africa have pursued a secondary education, and even fewer have continued on to some kind of post-secondary education.⁶² When compared to the percentages of literacy in boys and young men (73% to 95% depending upon the region⁶³), and the percentage of young men who receive secondary education (up to 43%)⁶⁴, it is clear that for some, gender has a serious influence over the chances of a continued education.

⁵⁹ Landesa: Secure Land Rights for Rwanda's Women are Critical for Families in the Nation. Global Land Tool Network. <http://www.gltln.net/index.php/our-news/partner-news/481-landesa-secure-land-rights-for-rwanda-s-women-are-critical-for-families-and-the-nation>

⁶⁰ The Social Tenure Domain Model in Zambia. Global Land Tool Network. <http://www.gltln.net/index.php/our-news/gltln-news/477-the-social-tenure-domain-model-in-zambia>

⁶¹ UNICEF Data on Literacy. <http://data.unicef.org/education/literacy>

⁶² UNICEF Data on Secondary Education. <http://data.unicef.org/education/secondary>

⁶³ UNICEF Data on Literacy. <http://data.unicef.org/education/literacy>

⁶⁴ UNICEF Data on Secondary Education. <http://data.unicef.org/education/secondary>

64. Women in Africa face several obstacles when it comes to obtaining and continuing their education. The first of these obstacles is the dearth of educational facilities in general. In more rural areas, students must travel extreme distances every day in order to attend school. Additionally, if circumstances prevent families from being able to pay for every child's education, families generally choose to spend their available money on educating boys. This is due in part to the gendered division of work in some areas; girls and women are expected to be responsible for household work, while boys are expected to become providers and heads of household.⁶⁵ There is less incentive to educate girls when people hold the perception that any sort of education beyond a rudimentary level is wasted on a population that is relegated to domestic work around the home. Additionally, the schools themselves are not very accommodating to female students. The lack of separate toilet facilities for girls and boys may make the usually simple routine of going to the bathroom extremely difficult or even impossible.⁶⁶ With the onset of menstruation, the lack of private and sanitary accommodations can cause girls to skip several days, which sets them substantially behind their schoolmates.⁶⁷ A lack of separate toilets also puts young girls at risk of sexual abuse by their classmates and teachers.⁶⁸

65. It has been shown that improving the quality and duration of girls and women's education has a positive effect on the whole of society. Recently, the demand for more girl-friendly accommodations in schools has increased. Where those developments have been made, enrolment rates for girls have increased.⁶⁹ UNICEF has been instrumental in raising and applying funds to these improvements for schools. In Nigeria, improvements in sanitary facilities for girls are credited for the over 60% enrolment rate for primary school-age girls. The same is true for Guinea's increasing enrolment rate.⁷⁰

66. Other organizations, such as Camfed, provide resources to girls in need throughout the course of the girls' education. Additionally, they provide them with practical training post-education, and assist them in finding employment.⁷¹ Connect to Learn is another organization that offers some girls a three year scholarship, and connects schools with schools in other countries as well as many different educational resources.⁷²

67. Providing women and girls with educational opportunities equal to those received by boys and men puts women on an equal footing with men. When this occurs, women are empowered not only to provide for themselves and any family they might have, but also to ensure that they are able to control their own lives.

⁶⁵ Our Africa. <http://www.our-africa.org/women>

⁶⁶ Our Africa. <http://www.our-africa.org/women>

⁶⁷ New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/22/world/africa/22iht-ethiopia.html?_r=0

⁶⁸ Women News Network. <http://womennewsnetwork.net/2007/08/28/educate-a-woman-you-educate-a-nation-south-africa-aims-to-improve-its-education-for-girls/>

⁶⁹ New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/22/world/africa/22iht-ethiopia.html?_r=0

⁷⁰ New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/22/world/africa/22iht-ethiopia.html?_r=0

⁷¹ Camfed. <https://camfed.org/what-we-do/>

⁷² Connect to Learn. <http://connecttolearn.org/about-us/mission>, <http://connecttolearn.org/Our-Work/Scholarships>

68. The International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) is a specialized institution of the African Union since 2004, dealing with women and girls' education following Decision Assembly/AU/DEC.44 (III). The centre is located in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The CIEFFA staff structure was approved in 2012, and the new Coordinator was recruited in 2014.

69. AU/CIEFFA's mandate is to provide leadership in the promotion of girls and women's education in Africa, in view of their political, economic, social and cultural empowerment. The mission of AU/CIEFFA is to ensure that all girls and women have access to quality education and stay in schools until at least the end of secondary level in view of acquisition of required knowledge, skills and values for informed decision-making and problem-solving to enhance their contribution to poverty alleviation, a peaceful world and sustainable development.

70. The greatest challenge for CIEFFA has been both human and financial resourcing. The Centre's 2015-2016 strategic priorities with a focus on policy advocacy are:

- a) Legal framework for Rights of girls and women in schools and universities;
- b) Gender-responsive curricula in schools and universities;
- c) Retention of girls in schools.

Article 9: Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

71. No progress that been made in the number of countries that have ratified the Protocol. The figure remains to be 36 out of 54 member States of the African Union ("AU").⁷³ The Office of the AU Legal Counsel convened meetings for member states that are lagging behind in ratification of AU treaties including the Protocol but alas those countries that have attended those consultations have not by year-end deposited their instrument of ratification.

72. 2014 marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the SDGEA and the lack of progress on ratification is very discouraging news. 33% of member states continue to have not acceded to this basic human rights instrument thereby failing to honor their commitment under article 9 of the SDGEA. The Chairperson, therefore, strongly urges the remaining 16 countries listed below to expedite the deposit of their instrument of ratification and to share with the AUC what challenges they are experiencing that prevents them from taking this critical step.

Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Niger, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, The Sudan and

⁷³ <http://www.fidh.org/en/Africa/African-Union,288/women-s-rights-in-africa-18-countries-are-yet-to-ratify-the-maputo-13644>

73. The Chairperson is encouraged by member states (Benin, Kenya and Senegal) that have started to embrace a multi-sectoral approach to ensure fulfilment of their obligations under the Protocol and requests them to share good practices and learning from their experience. Other state parties to the Protocol are urged to prioritize domestication and implementation of the Protocol and create an enabling environment for African women to enjoy the rights provided therein.

3. All Africa Progress on Article 12: Commitment to Annual Reporting

74. The table below provides an overall picture of the status of reporting by Member States while the table that follows shows the frequency of reporting by Member States from the period 2006 to 2014. Unfortunately, only one country representing 2% has consistently submitted its report annually. This country, Senegal, ought to be commended and other member states are encouraged to follow Senegal's example.

Countries that have to-date reported	Countries that have not reported
Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Dem Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, The Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe	Cape Verde, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Guinea Bissau
48	6

(Source: African Union: www.africa-union.org)

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,	Algeria, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia,	Burkina Chad, Ghana,	Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritius		

Year	Initial reports Submission	Second report Submission	Third report Submission	Forth Report Submission	Fifth Report Submission	Sixth Report Submission
	Libya, Seychelles, Swaziland, Togo and Uganda (13 countries)	Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria and Togo (11 countries)	and Senegal			
2010 (2011 Summit) (3 Countries)	Zambia (1 country)	South Africa and 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 and Seychelles (4 countries)			
2014 (2015 Summit) (13 countries)		Comoros, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Zimbabwe (6 countries)	Niger, Ethiopia, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and Togo (4 countries)	Nigeria and Mauritius (2 countries)		Senegal (1 country)

V. CONCLUSION

75. Africa has done great things to advance gender equality since the adoption of the SDGEA. While we celebrate gains made we realize that progress is not evenly taking place in the continent and that the pace of progress is slow. There is urgent need to double efforts and build on these gains. As the AU dedicated 2015 to African Women's empowerment towards Agenda 2013 it is critical that some concrete gains are ensured in the course of the year for women and girls to enjoy their rights. All member states are encouraged to dedicate their next report to highlighting outcomes realized in their quest to advance women's empowerment.

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**SYNTHESIS OF REPORTS OF 13 AU MEMBER STATES ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU SOLEMN DECLARATION
ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

**SYNTHESIS OF REPORTS OF 13 AU MEMBER STATES ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU SOLEMN DECLARATION
ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report is based on the progress made by the thirteen fifteen AU Member States that had submitted their respective reports with regard to the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) in 2014. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the progress that has been made as well as the implementing challenges experienced at different stages so far.

2. The African Union Commission, Women, Gender and Developpement Directorate is charged with a broader mandate to promote respect for gender equality and the protection, development and attainment of gender equality in Africa. Part of its mandate is to monitor the implementation of the international and regional conventions, covenants and charters signed; acceded to, and ratified by African Union Member States.. These instruments include amongst others the Millennium Development Goals (MDCs), arising from the Millennium declaration, adopted by 189 of 192 member states of the United Nations.

3. The Declaration identified HIV, peace, security and development, including environment, human rights and governance, as the main global development challenges. The Declaration resolved amongst other things, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as an effective way to combat poverty, hunger and disease, stimulate sustainable development.

4. The declaration consolidated a set of inter-connected goals into a global agenda in the form of eight MGGs:

- ❖ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- ❖ Achieve universal primary education;
- ❖ Promote gender equality and empower women;
- ❖ Reduce child mortality;
- ❖ Improve maternal health;
- ❖ Combat HIV and AIDs, malaria and other diseases;
- ❖ Ensure sustainable development;
- ❖ Develop global relationships for development.

**SYNTHESIS OF REPORTS OF 13 MEMBER STATES THAT SUBMITTED
REPORTS IN 2014 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU SOLEMN
DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA
(SDGEA)**

I. INTRODUCTION

5. With reference to the previous reports, the synthesis of the 2014 country reports on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) is in fulfilment of one of the obligations committed to by the Heads of States and Governments in adopting the instrument in 2004. The SDGEA was adopted by AU Heads of State and Government at their July 2004 Summit. The SDGEA is divided into six thematic areas that include Health: Peace and Security, Governance, Human Rights, Education and Women's Empowerment. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 of the Constitutive Act of the AU.

6. The 2014 report is the ninth since reporting on the African Union's gender equality instruments started in 2006. The thrust of the report is on the administrative and legal frameworks for the promotion of gender equality in each Member State that submitted its report for 2014, and the policies and programmes that have been formulated to ensure the implementation of the articles of the SDGEA.

7. The 2014 synthesis reports are from Comoros, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic,,Senegal , Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe,..... Overall, 48 Member States have sent in their country reports, while six countries are yet to submit their initial periodic reports for analysis as shown in the table below:

Countries that have reported to-date	Countries that have not reported
Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Dem Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe	Cape Verde, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Guinea Bissau
48	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 and Uganda (13 countries)	Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria and Togo (11 countries)	Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritius and Senegal			
2010 (2011 Summit) (3 Countries)	Zambia (1 country)	South Africa and 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)		
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2013 (2014 Summit) (15 Countries)	Angola, Comoros, Eritrea, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and South Sudan (7 countries)	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Djibouti. (4 countries)	Algeria, Cameroon, Namibia and Seychelles (4 countries)			
2014 (2015 Summit) (13 countries)		Comoros, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Zimbabwe (6 countries)	Niger, Ethiopia, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and Togo (4 countries)	Nigeria and Mauritius (2 countries)		Senegal (1 country)

8. In order to capture the content as well as highlight best practices in the reports, this document is divided into two major parts.

9. Part I presents an article by article synthesis from the 13 Member States comparing their performance per article while Part II includes the summary of the report submitted by each Member States and contains details.

PART I

II. CONDENSED ANALYSIS OF SYNTHESIS REPORT

Article 1- HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

10. Thirteen Member States reported on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) in 2014. These countries are: Comoros, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Sahrawi Arab Democratic , Senegal , Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe. The HIV/AIDS prevalent rates have either stabilized or reduced in all reporting countries.

Article 2- Peace and Security

11. All thirteen member' States have submitted a report regarding the Peace and Security Commitment. These countries have taken measures in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. , With support from the Peace-building Fund of the United Nations system, Comorian women are now integrated into the management of conflicts through: The training of 501 "Peace Mediators" to act in their respective localities (85 Mwali, 201 in Ndzuwani and 215 in Ngazidja) and The establishment of 16 Peace Committees (3 Mwali, 5 Ndzuwani and 8 Ngazidja) to institutionalize the involvement of women in community reconciliation.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

12. Four countries Comoros, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Senegaldid not report on this Article. However, in Sierra Leone the Commitment 3 regarding Child Soldier is not applicable in this country because the recruitment of persons in the Armed Forces and Police service stipulates that they must be 18 years. In the meantime the following countries: The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria and Togo have taken respectively concrete steps to promote, protect the rights and wellbeing of the child through different piece of legislations; Niger will be launching during the year 2015 a campaign for systematic prohibition of the recruitment of child soldiers and abuse of Girl Children as wives and sex slaves.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

13. All thirteen countries reported on activities being undertaken to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The issue of female genital mutilation and other traditional harmful practices were listed by Mali and The Gambia as GBV offences.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

14. All reporting countries made submission on this article w Ethiopia has put in place a legal frameworks including adopting international conventions guaranteeing equal pay for equal work as well prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex in the labor market. In Liberia , there is a New Act that states that no Political Party list of elected officers and candidates for public office shall contain less than 30% and more than 70% of any gender.

Article 6: Women’s Human Rights

15. All reporting countries outlined measures that have been instituted to promote women’s human rights.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

16. All reporting countries except the Mauritius, noted the difficulties encountered between statutory and customary laws in accepting women’s land, property and inheritance rights.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women’s Literacy.

17. All reporting countries noted that in spite of the various measures that have been instituted to ensure parity in the school system, girls are still disadvantaged due to entrenched socio-cultural values against their education. School drop-out is key factor accentuated by poverty, including feminized poverty.

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

18. Comoros, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Senegal did not report on the Maputo Protocol. In Niger, so far there is no Progress regarding the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right, on the Right of Women in Africa.

PART II

III. COMPREHENSIVE SYNTHESIS REPORT OF MEMBER STATES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGEA BY COUNTRY

A. THE UNION OF COMOROS

Article 1: HIV/AIDS AND RELATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

19. Despite a low prevalence of HIV / AIDs, that is 0.025%, the Union of Comoros has included the fight against STI / HIV / AIDS among the concerns of the Comorian

Government. It is one of the seven major strategic areas and 35 priority programmes of the Accelerated Growth and Development Strategy (SCA2D) which presents the vision of the Comorian government in the development of the country for the period 2015 - 2019. The Comorian Government is also committed to contributing to the fight against STI/HIV/AIDS with national resources, including those from debt reduction under the Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) to carry out priority health programmes including the fight against AIDS.

Article 2 : Peace and Security

20. The Union of The Comoros has benefited from the post-conflict fund, set up by the UN Secretary General to assist countries emerging from crisis and avoid a return to violence. Thus, a programme for peace-building and PBF (Peace-building Fund), DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) projects and another on the role of women in national reconciliation and peace- building have been established in The Comoros. A training programme for women mediators has been developed, followed by the establishment of a peace committee.

21. Since 2011, with support from the Peace-building Fund of the United Nations system, Comorian women are now integrated into the management of conflicts through:

- The training of 501 "Peace Mediators" to act in their respective localities (85 Mwali, 201 in Ndzuwani and 215 in Ngazidja);
- The establishment of 16 Peace Committees (3 Mwali, 5 Ndzuwani and 8 Ngazidja) to institutionalize the involvement of women in community reconciliation.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

22. No submission made on this article.

Article 4: Gender Based violence

23. Gender-based violence is a reality in The Comoros: One in three women is a victim of physical violence from their spouse, according to a qualitative study on gender-based violence conducted at the national level in 2006. Women experience physical and financial abuse, as a result of their divorce, and physical and psychological abuse (insults, abuse) by their own families (husbands, fathers, uncles, brothers, fiancés) or in-laws. Since repudiation and divorce are considered a disgrace to the woman and her family, the responsibility is almost always attributed to the woman. A few statistical data provide an overview of the situation.

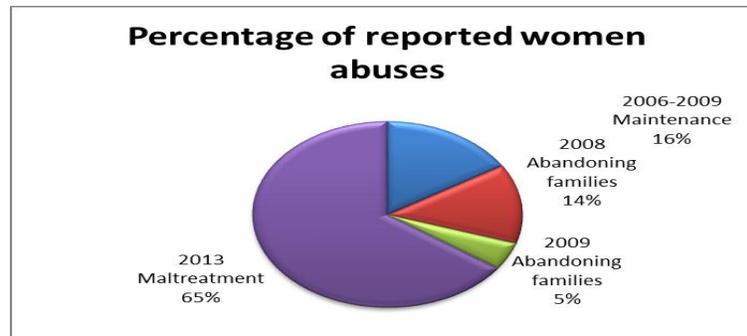


Figure 1: Percentage of reported women abuse in Comoros (2006-2013)

Source: Ministry of health and Gender Promotion (2014)

24. From the Figure 1 it was found that the percentage of reported cases of women abuse as far as the abandoning of families was concerned, there was a net decline of 9% (from 14% in 2008 to 5% in 2009.).

25. While the leading cause of women abuse in the Comoros were reportedly :Food Maintenance and Maltreatment with a percentage ranging from 16% for food maintenance to Maltreatment at 65% between 2006-2013.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

26. Traditionally, Comorian women are excluded from the public decision-making circle but this is beginning to change, thanks to the mobilization of civil society organizations, and actions brought by the Joint Gender Project which provided technical support to promote women candidates in the last election and train candidates in communication skills, leadership and organization of election campaigns The Gender Empowerment Index (GEM) is estimated at 0.303 in 2003 according to the NHDR. The parliamentary representation rate was only 2% for women, against 98% for men. This rate has not changed following the recent parliamentary elections and only one woman was elected councilor in the island of Moheli, seat in the National Assembly. Regarding administration, women in executive and senior management positions represent only 28% against 72% of men. Similarly, women, middle managers and technicians represent only 29% against 71% for men.

27. In the executive bodies of the Union as Islands, women, though underrepresented gradually participate; the proportion of women in senior positions in institutions has increased from 7.4% to 21.2% between 2000 and 2010. Since 2011, there were 2 women Ministers against 1 in 2007 and none between 2008 and 2011; at the governorate level, there were 4 women commissioners including one in Ngazidja and 3 at Ndzouani against 2 between 2011 and 2014. In state companies and technical positions, encouraging appointments are also recorded.

Article 6: Women 's Human Rights

28. Children, boys and girls, from all social categories and ages, are also victims of physical, sexual and psychological abuse. More than 700 cases of violence on minors were reported in the crisis services of the three Islands since they opened in 2004. Among the most disturbing violence identified is sexual abuse which is widespread both in the family environment, school (public, private or Koranic school) and in detention institutions, in the community and workplace. It is worth pointing out that despite these abuses, women are not protected. Girls are more affected by this phenomenon than boys. The "code of silence" or "taboo" aspect seems to be observed by both the victims themselves, by their families, by the Comorian authorities, development partners and civil society organizations.

Article 7: Land , Property and inheritance

29. No submission made on this article.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

30. No submission made on this article.

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

31. No submission made on this article.

B. FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

32. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has been demonstrating commitment to address gender inequalities that deter long lasting changes and equitable development by creating conducive legal, administrative and policy environment in the country. There favorable policy and legal environment for Ethiopian girls and women.

33. International and regional conventions ratified, protocols signed, agreements and commitments entered are integral part of the 1995 FDRE constitution; among others articles 25,34,35 and 89/7 of the constitution affirm equality in all spheres and protect fundamental rights of women. Article 35 of the constitution grants women equal rights with men in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres and provides them with affirmative action to redress the legacy of enequality they suffered.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases

34. There is an overall reduction in HIV and sexually transmitted infection. This is accompanied by an increase in utilization of services showing increased levels of awareness and action among the population. Clients using voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) have reached 11.965.533 from 564.321 between 1998 and 2012/13. The percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women who received efficacious ARV therapy or

prophylaxis to prevent Maternal Child Transmission (MTCT) has reached 42,9%. Ethiopia has achieved the target set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for reducing the prevalence rate. The MDGs target was set at 2.5% while Ethiopia has already reduced the prevalence to 1.5% in 2011. Regarding Tuberculosis (TB) follow up the detection rate stood at 58,9% and treatment success rate at 91,4% in 2012/13. Further improvements were recorded with TB cure rate reaching 70,3% in 2012/13.

Article 2: Peace and Security

35. The government has also taken steps to enhance women's role in conflict prevention and resolution through the design and implementation of gender responsive training manual and provision of continuous training to women associations' leaders and women worker. The aim here is to engage them in peace keeping structure. Accordingly, women's participation has increased in peace keeping committees established at local levels. Utilizing the current expansion of women development group to reach the grassroot women efforts are made to enhance their involvement in social, economic and political sphere including in peace building.

36. With regard to peace keeping, Ethiopia is the number one ranked country in terms of women participation in peace keeping and the force exclusively consisting of women peace keepers in Cote D'ivoire is contributed by Ethiopia. Women participation in Police and Defense forces is significantly increasing in the government structure. This is the result of various capacity building interventions in terms of short term training and scholarships. Women are also becoming active participants in community policing at all levels and workplace conflict resolution.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

37. No submission made on this article.

Article 4: Gender –Based Violence

38. The Government of Ethiopia has adopted, ratified and further revised various legislation and policy documents specifically addressing violence against women. Notable among these are: the revised criminal law (2005), the revised family law(2000), Strategic Plan for an Integrated and Multi-Sectoral response to VAW and child Justice in Ethiopia (2009) focusing on prevention, protection and response mechanism and the recently adopted National Strategy on Harmful Traditional Practices(2013).

39. The legal and policy frameworks criminalize all acts of violence against women including all forms of harmful traditional practices and provide sanctions for their practice. Specialized structures within law enforcement bodies dedicated to addressing VAW have been established. The major ones: Child and women protection in police stations.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

40. Women's representation in the labor market has progressively increased over the years. The female employment to population ratio shows an increasing trend from 37,5 in 2009 to 42.6 in 2012. 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.

41. In the informal sector, women constitute 51%. Although the proportion of women in the formal 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 was lesser.

42. The country has put in place appropriate legal frameworks, including adopting international conventions, guaranteeing equal pay for equal work as well as prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex in the labor market.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

43. Ethiopia has ratified and domesticated major international and regional human rights instruments: both general as well as women specific. Major women specific instruments include CEDAW which was adopted without reservation. The country has developed a national human rights action plan with a special section of women and children.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance

44. One of the major achievements recorded in the economic sphere is the enhanced economic empowerment of women from improvements in access to and control over productive resources like land through certification and property ownership. Increased access to and control over productive resources, is significantly improving women's economic empowerment. Towards this achievement, the government has adopted the right mix policy and legal reforms to ensure women's equal access to productive resources such as land and property.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

45. The government, through successive policies and legislation, has been taking measures to ensure equal access to education at all levels to girls and boys, women and men. The country's education and training policy, the basis for 4 subsequent education sector development programs, stipulates the need to mainstream gender in the curriculum, grants special attention to the participation of women in recruitment, training and assignment of teachers and addresses gender responsive resource distribution within and for the sector. In the second cycle of primary education(grades 5-8), girls' net enrolment increased from 46.9%-49.2%. At secondary level (first cycle from grades 9-10), gross enrollment has shown increase over the five years period. **Article 9:**

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women.

46. No Submission was made on this article.

C. REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases**

47. The Government of The Gambia has accorded high importance to implementing measures to effectively address the issues of malaria, HIV, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases. Policies geared towards socio-economic development have been formulated and adopted which takes into account population growth as well as the demographic needs of the population. As in other sub-Saharan Africa countries, malaria and HIV are among important health problems which negatively impact on the development of The Gambia.

48. The present 2007-2020 National Health Policy Framework (NHPF) captures the socio-economic symbiotic relationship. It seeks to "promote equity (both gender and territorial) in access and affordability of quality health services, maintain ethics and standards, promote health system reforms and improve staff retention and client satisfaction. Other health sector policies currently being implemented include the National Health Policy, National HIV/AIDS Policy, the National Nutrition Policy and the National Population Policy and Plan of Action. These health policies and programmes have significant impact evident in the tremendous increase in government hospitals, effective, accessible and affordable, reproductive health services, low prevalence rate of HIV as well as the decline of infant mortality rate.

Article 2 : Peace and Security

49. Efforts are being made geared towards attaining the UN Secretary General's target for 50% female representation at managerial and decision making levels of peace support operations. Security institutions in the country such as The Gambia Police force have several women at or above the Superintendent rank.. The Immigration Department has had at least three High ranking women officers while the Prisons sector also boast of two senior women Officers, including a female officer who ascended to the apex rank of Commissioner.

50. The Gambia National Army also has demonstrated gender sensitivity in the senior command echelons.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

51. The state in fulfilling its obligations, has enacted legal instruments and formulated policies for the protection of children in The Gambia including the Children's Act of 2005. The Act was promulgated to ensure the effective enforcement of ACRWC through the incorporation of their provisions into national law, so that it can create legally

enforceable obligations in which government can be held accountable. The Act is the most comprehensive piece of child rights legislation that contains all laws relating to the right, welfare and care of children in The Gambia. It harmonises all the laws that previously existed in the country in relation to children. It also filled in the gap in the Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia which lacked detailed provision on child and the issue of children.

Article 4: Gender Based Violence

52. The trafficking in Persons Act 2007 is being enforced. This is a comprehensive piece of legislation that addresses, amongst other things, the menace of trafficking in women and children, the main purpose of the Act is to prevent, suppress, and reintegrate victims of trafficking.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

53. The Women's Act under section 15 as highlighted earlier provides for temporary special measure to be adopted. This section imposes an obligation on every organ, body, public institution, authority or private enterprise aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women. This section becomes more relevant in the political arena and decision making at all levels, where women are not legally barred from participating effectively on equal footing with men but may not be able to do so due to cultural bias in favour of men, stereotypical perception of the role of women. Gambia Women constitute 58% of the electorates (2003 Integrated Housing survey Results), but only 10% of representation in the National Assembly are found to be women. There are 5 women of which 2 are elected and 2 nominated by the President. Thus of female parliamentarians is well below the 30% goal.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

54. The Gambia has ratified all the major International and Regional addressing the human rights of women. Both the National women's policy-1999 to 2009 and the National Gender Policy and women Empowerment 2010-2020 were based on the principles enshrined in CEDAW, the Beijing Platform of action, the African Protocol on the Rights of women and Declaration.

Article 7: Land and , property and inheritance

55. The Sharia Law is applicable for Muslims, statutory law for Christians and customary law for persons who are traditionalist. This means that apart from a few mandatory exceptions contained in laws like the women's Act, 2010 and the Children's Act, 2005, the applicable family law to people of The Gambia is dependent on one's personal law.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

56. The National Education Policy 2004-2015 provides provisions of education that is non-discriminatory and taken cognisant of gender equity. The Education Policy further lays special emphasis on gender and increased equitable access to basic, senior secondary, tertiary and higher education. It also focuses on enhancement of access to early childhood development centres and literacy programmes, with specific emphasis on girls in underserved regions and other disadvantaged groups in the population.

57. Emphasis is also laid on equity in the geographical distribution of schools and community needs with the focus on the elimination of gender disparities. It prescribes that government should mainstream gender concerns at every stage of the education process towards the realization of the gender parity and equity goals within the policy period.

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

58. The Republic of The Gambia signed and ratified the Women's Protocol in 2003 and 2006 respectively. The Gambia has also gone in domesticating the Protocol to the Women's Act 2010. The passage of this Act is quite historic and commendable for The Gambia as a nation. It serves as a source of hope, peace, and prosperity for both men and women in the Gambia as it recognises and gives legal effect and force to The Gambia's international legal obligations and commitments made towards upholding the legal status of women.

D. REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

59. Liberia has made considerable gains in its post conflict reconstruction recovery. Two successful multi-party democratic elections have been held and the country has enjoyed nearly a decade of peace and security. The economy that was virtually collapsed is being revitalized and all the necessary reforms and policies are being formulated. The reconstruction of basic and productive infrastructures, as well as the restoration of the rule of law, particularly the protection of the inalienable rights of all citizens and foreign residents is well on course. To this end, the Government has developed specific policies and programs to meet the specific needs of women and children to ensure that they are no longer discriminated against.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related infectious Diseases

60. The Government developed a ten-year National Health and Social Welfare Policy and Plan (NHSWPP), covering the period 2011 to 2021. The Vision of the Policy is to ensure a healthy population with social protection for all, while the Goal of the Policy is to improve the health and social welfare status of all people in Liberia on an equitable basis.

61. The Policy contains specific strategies for the prevention, treatment and care for HIV and AIDS, malaria, Tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases. In response to the need to actively involve people living with HIV and AIDS in the national HIV and AIDS response strategy, the National AIDS Commission in collaboration with UNAIDS established the Liberia Network of People Living with HIV (LIBNEP+).

62. The Network works closely with four associations and thirty (30) support groups in all fifteen Counties of Liberia. Government continues to develop strategies aimed at improving HIV prevention and control. HIV and AIDS Focal Points have been set up and strengthened at each Ministry and Agency to mainstream HIV and AIDS into projects and programs at those Ministries and Agencies.

Article 2: Peace and Security

63. Liberia has developed and is implementing a National Security Policy. The Policy seeks to increase public confidence in the security forces through the recruitment of qualified security personnel via transparent and equitable vetting processes. This is intended to reflect Liberia's diverse ethnic, gender and religious representation in line with international standards, promoting accountability, ethical behavior and professional conduct under a democratic civilian control.

64. Actions and programs are designed to attract more women into the Security Sector: The Government has appointed females at strategic Missions and Embassies, among which are the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, as well as the Embassy in Ethiopia, Germany, South Africa, and Japan respectively. Liberian women are also holding positions at the African Union, ECOWAS and the World Bank, among others.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

65. The Government has established The Liberia Children Representative Forum to promote children's participation in making decisions that affect their wellbeing. The Forum monitors, investigates and reports on child rights violations and abuses and represents all children in Liberia at national and international children's conferences. The Children Assembly is represented at the county and district levels through the County and District Children Assemblies. The County and District Children Assemblies advocate for the voices of children to be heard on issues affecting the wellbeing of children and also monitor, investigate child rights violations at the county and district levels to Children Parliament at the national level. Since the outbreak of EVD in Liberia, members of the Children Parliament have been involved in creating awareness and sensitizing children across the country on the prevention of the virus.

Article 4: Gender –Based Violence

66. A National Gender Based Violence Action Plan has been developed to prevent and respond to GBV cases in Liberia. The Plan provides for a holistic approach to addressing GBV issues in Liberia. The Plan is divided into five pillars: Coordination, Health and Psychosocial, and Protection and Security In order to ensure an effective

coordination of GBV activities in the country, a National GBV Taskforce has been established, which is chaired by the Ministry of Gender and Development.

67. In addition GBV Taskforces are also established at the County level and consists of all Organizations involved in GBV activities. The Pillars meet once a month to discuss and strategize on addressing GBV issues, while the National Taskforce also meets once a month, during which time issues arising from the Pillar meetings are addressed and decisions are taken as to what needs to be done to ensure GBV survivors receive appropriate services and care, as well as employ strategies to prevent GBV.

Article 5 : Gender Parity Principle

68. The women of Liberia, through the Liberia Women Legislative Caucus have taken steps to increase women's participation in the political process. The New Act to amend the New Electoral Law of Liberia, section 4.5 adding there to subsection 6 under the caption "Nomination of candidates with Respect to Gender Equality in Political Process", has been amended and passed into law by the National Legislature.

69. The New Act states that no Political Party list of elected officers and candidates for public office shall contain less than 30% and more than 70% of any gender. The Women Legislative Caucus was instrumental in ensuring the passage of the Act. Meanwhile, the women are vigorously advocating for the inclusion of the gender parity principle into the Constitution which is currently under review.

Article 6 : Women's Human Rights

70. The Government of Liberia is concern about women equal rights with men; this is evidenced by the adopting and acceding to many Regional and International women's rights Instruments, as well as developing laws and putting in place appropriate legislations to address inequality.

71. The Regional and International Instruments are the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women and Children, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UNSCR 1325 and the ILO Convention 187 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, while the National legislations are the Children's Law, the Rape and Inheritance Laws, the Draft Domestic Violence Law and the review of the Constitution which is presently ongoing.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance

72. The Government has established the Land Commission by an Act of the National Legislature. A National Land Rights Policy was adopted and endorsed by the Cabinet in 2013. The Policy was developed through nationwide consultations with the active participation of women at both the national and local levels. In collaboration with the Land Commission, the Ministry of Gender and Development established the Women's Land Rights Taskforce to ensure that women's right to land ownership was taken into consideration.

73. The Women's Land Rights Taskforce is chaired by the Ministry of Gender and Development and comprises of relevant Ministries and Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Local and International Organizations. In addition, a Women's Land Rights Desk has also been set up at the Ministry of Gender and Development. The Desk will provide information to women on land issues as well as educate them on their rights under the law to own land.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

74. The Government developed an Education Reform Act of 2011 which continues to further build on the premises made in the Girls' Education Policy of 2006 and aims at: Free and compulsory primary and Junior Secondary education for students in all public schools, the recruiting and training of more female teachers, providing counseling in schools for girls, ensuring and effecting appropriate sanctions against male teachers who commit sexual abuse and assault of girls in schools, offering life skills at school to raise the self-esteem of girls so they can say no to sexual abuse and increasing the availability of scholarships for girls.

75. The Girls' Education Policy, developed in 2006, was revised in 2013 to take into consideration present realities and to align with the new Education Reform Act which advances girls' education at the regional, national, and local levels with workable strategies and interventions. Chapter 2 of the Girl's Education Policy states that the Central Government and local authorities shall implement all provisions stipulated in the Girls' education Policy to address social and cultural barriers to Girls' Education as a means to empower girls and women.

Article 9: Protocol To the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women

76. The Government of Liberia ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of Women in Africa on December 14, 2007. Since its ratification, the Government through its line Ministries and Agencies as well as partners continue to create awareness and educate the public about the provision of the protocol.

77. Several sensitization sessions have been held involving chiefs, elders, women and youth groups, as well as Magistrates and some law enforcement officers in four counties. Plans are underway to review and revise the work plan to fast track the implementation. (find out ratification of the Protocol).

E. REPUBLIC OF MALI

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and other Related Infectious Diseases

78. HIV/AIDS prevalence in Mali was found at 2.2% among 88,5% of pregnant women in 2011. In response to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Mali, a new Strategic Framework for the 2012-2017 period was developed after an evaluation of the

previous Strategic plan of 2010. The current Strategic Framework was set to guide the national response to HIV/AIDS. A National AIDS Commission has been established and the Ministry of Health has put in place supportive legal and policy structures for the care, prevention and protection from HIV/AIDS infection. Voluntary testing centres and home-based care are available all over Mali as well as an institutional and juridic support.

Article 2: Peace and Security

79. Due to the generalised insecurity in the northern part of the country caused by terrorist as well as criminal activities as result of two major factors: the collapse of Lybian government in 2012 and separatist operations led by the National liberation Movement of AZAWAD (MNLA), the government of Mali has embarked im a capacity building for both the security forces and the army.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

80. The government of Mali is signatory of regional and international conventions that prohibiting the recruitment and use of child soldiers as required by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612. Mali has put in place relevant legal frameworks, policies and programmes to ensure the ratification and implementation of all international conventions on the protection of children against all forms of violence, exploitation, discrimination, and trafficking and abuse.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

81. The government is developing and implementing legislation criminalising domestic violence. Observatories on gender-based violence have been established at the national, central and departmental levels. Also, legal clinics and legal aid centres managed by NGOs provide services to female victims.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

82. The government of Mali has been encouraged to continue improving on women's representation in decision-making organs of the state. There's no legislation on gender quota on political women's political participation. However, as a result of advocacy by NGOs on the issue, there has been an increased in the level of participation of women in public affairs.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

83. Social protection policies for vulnerable groups, especially women and girls, are being implemented. The Mali has ratified all regional and international Conventions on women and children's rights and their Optional Protocols.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

84. In Mali there are still persistent inequalities between women and men with regard to land ownership. Only 20% of women were found to be land owners compared to 80% of men. (Agricultural Census 2007).

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

85. Free primary education as well as various social and health programmes are built in the school system to increase the levels of enrolment and ensure retention and completion rates. In its bid to revitalize the educator sector, the Government has initiated concrete actions to ensure primary education for all children.

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

86. The government of Mali has signed and ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. The government, in collaboration with different stakeholders, is working on the modalities for the domestication of the Protocol.

F. REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

87. The Government of the Republic of Mauritius has committed itself to improving gender equality and women's empowerment aligned to both international and regional declarations, plans of actions and policy frameworks that include the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. Over the last months, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has sustained its actions towards promoting the socio-economic and political environment of women in order to attain gender equality.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases

88. The National AIDS Secretariat which is the coordinating authority against the response to HIV/AIDS pandemic is currently implementing its third National HIV Strategic Framework 2013-2016. Gender Equality is one of the guiding principles of the strategic framework and it is implemented by different partners that include the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and the National Women's Council.

Article 2: Peace and Security

89. No new submission was made on this article.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

90. No new submission was made on this article.

Article 4: Gender –Based Violence

91. In line with pillar 2 of the Costed National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence which refers to “capacity Building of Service Providers in the rehabilitation of survivors and perpetrators”,the Ministry has suatained its awareness raising programme whereby some 1.107 stakeholders were reached for period January to September 2014.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

92. The Government of the Republic of Mauritius has taken bold initiatives for more women to reach the highest level in the hierachy in decision making instances as well as to join the political arena.In a bid to attain gender parity in the political arena, a training of trainers was organised in July 2012, to enhance the capabilities of women from the different polical parties as well as officers of the Ministry to train women aspiring to join politics.

Article 6: Women’s Human Rights

93. For this pillar which concerns the Human Rights of Women, this Ministry through the gender Unit has been active in regatd to information, education and Communication programmes pertaining to legislations.Four regional activities pertaining to legal literacy were conducted this year.Some 875 women have been sensitized on two legislations namely the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act of 2012 and Legal Aid.In addition, a compendium on key international and regional human rights instruments related to Gender and Development was produced and distributed to all stakeholders to be used as a tool for mainstream gender in policies and programmes.

Article 7: Land ,property and linheritance

94. No submiission was made on this article.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women’s Literacy

95. Education is an essential tool for ensuring that equality of gender prevails,non-discriminatory education between both girls and boys is only a first phase in this process.It is vital to ensure equality at all stages in life,whether it is transition from education to training or from education /training to work or from work to working at home or self-employment.with the goal of making women agents of change and empowering women to participate in decision-making, it is essential to include an element of equality in all endeavours.

Article 9: Protocol To the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women

96. No submission was made on this article.

G. THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases

97. Health coverage : physical accessibility (0-5 Km) of the population to structures offering the Minimum Package of Activities (MPA) is not progressing enough. The rate is still low compared to the expected target of 57% in 2012 from 46.91% in 2011 to 47.48% in 2012 Only Agadez and Niamey have reached the national target with 64.37% and 98.39% respectively.

98. The lowest rate was observed in Zinder with 37.12%. Inadequate staff partly explains this situation. Fight against HIV / AIDS: At this level, the following activities have been carried out: voluntary testing and care (PEC) by ARVs for children, pregnant women and adults, support of resistance in children and adults (1st and 2nd line), cotrimoxazole prophylaxis for pregnant women, adults and children of HIV-positive women, testing and care of STIs.

Article 2 : Peace and Security

99. The authorities of the 7th Republic have made security their primary concern. In fact, the establishment and existence of institutions such as the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic, the National Council for Political Dialogue, the High Authority for Peace building is consistent with this policy. Moreover, Niger has begun its process of developing and implementing the Action Plan of Resolution 1325 in the ECOWAS region.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

100. Texts regulating recruitment into the army and those prohibiting the recruitment of children, laws to prevent and punish trafficking and exploitation of women and girls as well as offenses relating to child rights are still in force. It is worth underscoring the revision of the Labour Code in 2012 through Law No. 2012-45 of 25 September 2012 which prohibits any forced or compulsory labour, while at the same time, it takes into account the worst forms of child labour Under Article 4 of the said Act, "Forced or compulsory labour" is prohibited.

Article 4: Gender-based Violence

101. In Niger, several legal mechanisms to protect women at all levels and to end impunity for crimes against women have been implemented from 2011 to 2014. The Constitution, in its Article 14, provides that "no one shall be submitted to torture, to slavery or to cruel, inhuman or degrading abuse or treatment. Any individual or agent of the state, who is found guilty of acts of torture or of cruel, inhuman or degrading abuse or treatment in the exercise of or on the occasion of the exercise of their functions, either at his own initiative or under instructions, shall be punished according to the law. "In 2014, Niger has initiated the process of developing a National Strategy against GBV the

objective of which is to contribute to the reduction of gender-based violence through the strengthening of the institutional framework and intervention mechanisms.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

102. The Constitution of 25 November 2010, in particular Articles 8 and 9, confirms the participation of all citizens in public and political life regardless of gender, social, racial, ethnic, religious origin and under conditions of equality. It also recognizes the freedom of association, religion, expression, voting and eligibility as provided for by law. In order to strengthen the representation of women in decision making bodies, the Government of the 7th Republic created in 2011, a Department for the Promotion of Women's Leadership within the General Directorate for the Advancement of Women and Gender.

103. Since its inception, the Department has carried out several capacity building activities for national and local elected women, revision of the law on quotas is on the rise, development of a leadership programme to address challenges in the participation of women in political and public life, establishment of a national network of elected women and validation of the Action Plan.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

104. As part of efforts for effective implementation of the various agreements relating to the promotion and protection of human rights and to which Niger has acceded, advocacy actions, raising of awareness, training for the popularization of the contents of the said conventions also continued. In order to better promote women's rights, a code of legal texts on Human Rights and Gender has been developed to popularize and make known the legal instruments which embody human rights, to facilitate ownership and use by all users, including women and children. Since 2012, each year, Niger celebrates the International Day of the Girl, giving the opportunity to organize activities for their benefits.

105. The Ministry of Population, Women's Advancement and Children's Protection in collaboration with UNFPA, initiated the adolescent initiative programme to develop common solutions to problems faced by adolescents (health, education, poverty, violence human rights). The programme aims to fight against forced marriage and delay teenage pregnancy. It affects around 250,000 teenagers between 2014 and 2018, that is, one-eighth of all adolescents in the country.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance

106. In Niger, the problem of women's access to land is acute. Although religion entitles women to inherit a half-share, the religious share is not applied. In this respect and in order to promote the rights of women, the Government through the Ministry of Population, Women's Advancement and Children's Protection, and with the support of partners, has developed six (6) preaching modules, core trainers were trained in each region to conduct awareness campaigns on various issues contained in the modules including the issue of women's inheritance of land.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

107. A sectorial programme of education and training has been developed and adopted. The Sectorial Programme of Education and Training (FSAP) is based on the macroeconomic framework of the Programme for Economic and Social Development (PDES). It takes into account the guidelines of PDES in education and training under which the educational policy of Niger reaffirms the commitments made by the President of the Republic in his programme of revival of Niger to make education and training his priority and that of his Government. In Niger only 28.7% of women are literate. The government is stepping up efforts to increase the literacy rate in general and women in particular.

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

108. In Niger, there is still no progress regarding the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the Rights of Women in Africa has still not developed in Niger.

H. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases**

109. There has been tremendous progress in the area of HIV/AIDS. The prevalence rate dropped from 5.8% in 2001 to 3.1% in 2012 although there are regional variations. Furthermore, Nigeria has experienced; 33% decrease in new HIV infection since 2001, 29% decrease in AIDS – related deaths since 2005, 52% decrease in new HIV infections in children since 2001 and 40% – fold increase in Anti-Retroviral (ARV) therapy between 2002 and 2012. The National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) continue to provide technical support to State governments to develop and implement HIV/AIDs plans, programmes and services. . As at 2012, Nigeria has achieved three MDG targets one of which is reversing the trend on HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Article 2: Peace and Security

110. National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security was launched in 2013. It focuses on 5 Pillars vis Prevention, Participation, Protection, Promotion and Prosecution. Two Nigerian women from MDAs had their capacities built and were trained to become trainers in peace building.

111. They have been added to the ECOWAS data bank of women in peace building. Furthermore about 30 women were trained by the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) on skills in conflict resolution and peace building in communities across the country. Two zonal networks on women in conflict resolution and peace building were formed during the reporting period.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

112. Peace Building, Demobilization, Disarmament and Reconstruction Programme between 2011 and 2013 focused on street and indigent children called Almajiris who are usually recruited as foot soldiers for perpetuation of acts of terrorism especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria in April 2012 announced the establishment of 89 Almajiri Model and 13 girl-Child Schools. In 2013 – 64 out of the 89 Almajiri schools were completed and handed over to state governments. While 5 out of the 13 girl-child schools has been completed. The objective is to take them out of the street and rehabilitate them through sound education and vocational training.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

113. Nigeria continued to make great progress in the fight against human trafficking., This is largely as a result of effective deployment of appropriate strategies and collaboration with national and international agencies involved in movement of people and goods. In 2012, a total number of 1,106 human trafficking victims were rescued and rehabilitated while the number for 2013 stood at 178 victims.

114. The Act that set up the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) continues to be an effective instrument in the prosecution of people involved in human trafficking in Nigeria. About 25 people were prosecuted for human trafficking related cases in 2012 while the number of persons prosecuted for 2013 was 44 persons. On Gender Based violence, the National Assembly is on the verge of passing a law on Violence against Persons (VAP) which will effectively criminalise gender based violence. Furthermore a large percentage of the states have passed laws on Female Genital Mutilation.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

115. Although women representation at the elective decision making structures continue to be low at the federal, state and local government level, efforts are being made to compensate for these obvious gaps through executive appointments. A major step in this regard is 31% representation at the Federal Executive Council which incidentally is the highest since independence as well as the appointment of the First Female Head of the Nigerian Judiciary (Chief Justice of Nigeria). In order to rectified the discrimination against women in electoral process, the Women Political Empowerment Offices were established in six geo-political zones of Nigeria. Furthermore, the Nigerian Women's Trust Fund was created and used to assist about 500 female candidates during the 2011 General Election. A similar arrangement is being put in place for the 2015 election.

Article 6: Women Human Rights

116. On Human Rights of women, there are concerted efforts at the national and state level to address existing practices and actions that promote discrimination against

women. The National Coalition on Affirmative Action (NCAA) working with other stakeholders has submitted a bill titled “Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill” to the National Assembly. Furthermore a lot of States within the federation now have laws relating to equal opportunity, practices against widows and widowers, harmful practices against women and special people’s law.

Article 7: Land , Property and Inheritance

117. The challenge facing Nigerian women in terms of access to land and inheritance rights continued to receive attention at the highest level through active involvement of women focussed NGOs who are providing several platforms to educate all the concerned stake holders about the need to eliminate discriminatory practices in customary laws.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women’s Literacy

118. Enrolment of the girl child in school continues to record increases across the country and efforts are being made to increase female retention ratio from primary to secondary level.

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

119. Although, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women has not been domesticated, some key elements of it relating to human trafficking, land rights and gender based violence are being implemented and supported by necessary policy frameworks.

I. REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases

120. The Government of Senegal has developed second phase of a nine-year National Health and Social Welfare Policy and Plan (PNDS), covering the period 2009 to 2018. The Vision of the Policy is to ensure a healthy population with social protection for all, while the Goal of the Policy is to improve the health and social welfare status of all people in Senegal on an equitable basis. The Policy contains specific strategies for the prevention, treatment and care for HIV and AIDS, malaria, Tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases.

Article 2 : Peace and Security

121. Senegal has developed and is implementing a National Security Policy. The Policy seeks to increase public confidence in the security forces through the recruitment of qualified security personnel via transparent and equitable vetting processes. This is intended to reflect senegal ’s diverse ethnic, gender and religious representation in line with international standards, promoting accountability, ethical behavior and professional

conduct under a democratic civilian control. Actions and programs are designed to attract more women into the Security Sector.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

122. No new submission was made on this article.

Article 4 : Gender –Based Violence

123. National Gender Based Violence Action Plan has been developed to prevent and respond to GBV cases in Senegal. The Plan provides for a holistic approach to addressing GBV issues in Senegal. The Plan is divided into five pillars: Coordination, Health, Psychosocial, Protection and Security in order to ensure an effective coordination of GBV activities in the country.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

124. Efforts undertaken by state structures and civil society to raise awareness and build the capacity of women on female leadership have enabled women to be more active in politics.

Article 6: Women’s Human Rights

125. As part of efforts for effective implementation of the various agreements relating to the promotion and protection of human rights and to which Senegal has acceded, advocacy actions, raising of awareness, training for the popularization of the contents of the said conventions also continued. In order to better promote women's rights, a code of legal texts on Human Rights and Gender has been developed to popularize and make known the legal instruments which embody human rights, to facilitate ownership and use by all users, including women and children.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance

126. The Law and Family Code poses the principle of women's right to access and own land to have their own heritage and personally manage their property. For rural women, the article on the establishment of rural communities poses a condition for access to the land: it can be assigned to anyone who actually operates.

127. The Agro-Pastoral law proposes that a reform on the land policy measures to facilitate access to land and credit to women and young people be implemented including the strategic pillar on Promoting Social Equity in Rural Areas.

128. Despite some inequity, rural women have always been the Government’s priority. Thus, various projects and programs have made major changes in women's lives. Currently, there is a program designed to benefit rural women to acquire small equipment to help them in their daily work (millet mills, grain, fruit and vegetables processing, milk storage, etc.).

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

129. The Government of Senegal is a signatory to many international conventions aimed at achieving the Universal Basic Education (UBE), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education For All (EFA) goals of access to and the elimination of gender inequality in basic education. Gender equality in education is protected under the national policy on women which stipulates compulsory enrolment, retention, completion and transition to higher levels of all girls in schools together with the expansion of “second chance” education for all through non-formal education provision.

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

130. No new submission was made on this article.

J. REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases**

131. HIV prevalence in Sierra Leone increased from 0.9% in 2002 to 1.5% in 2005. It appears the epidemic peaked in 2005 with a national prevalence of 1.5% and remained the same in 2008 (DHS 2008). The survey estimated a national HIV prevalence of 1.5% among the general population aged 15–49 years. The prevalence rate for men was 1.2%, while that for women was 1.7%. Female prevalence peaked at 30-34 years (2.4%), while their male counterparts peaked at 45-49 years (2.1%).

132. There were no consistent patterns of HIV prevalence by age among either women or men; rather the levels fluctuated by age group. Prevalence was found to be higher in urban areas (2.7%) than in the rural areas (1.2%). Compared with the previous population-based sero-prevalence survey of 2005, there was no change in the national prevalence rate and the same prevalence pattern was exhibited for the sexes and the settlement patterns.

Article 2: Peace and Security

133. The Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs has concluded the 2nd phase of a project on Gender and Security Sector Reform aimed at enhancing community women's participation in the security sector. The trainings will ensure that women are involved in the Chiefdom Security Sector Committees (CHISECs), District Security Sector Committees (DISECs) and the Provincial Security Sector Committees (PROSECs).

134. As part of the deliverables for the project, we want women to take advantage of the caveat “any other two persons can be co-opted as members as proposed by the Chairperson and agreed by members” as the entry point for women in these security sector apparatus. The other component of the training is to capacitate them on the

International, Regional and National Instruments linked with gender and security sector reform.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

135. This is not applicable in the Sierra Leone situation. The recruitment of persons in the Armed Forces and the Police stipulates that they should be above 18 years.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

136. As referenced in the last report, the government in 2012 ensured the passage of the Sexual Offences Bill into law, the development and official launch of the National Action Plan on GBV; National Referral Protocol on GBV. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and its partners have intensified public campaigns on the Sexual Offences Act and the related plans and protocols.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

137. The 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 section 31 guarantees every citizen being eighteen years (18) of age and above and of sound mind, the right to vote and be voted for in all elections – local and national and public referenda. By extension thereof, the Constitution provides that no Sierra Leonean regardless of sex, religion, ethnicity, property or other qualifications be denied the right to hold any public office, form or belong to a political party of his/her choice.

138. However this constitutional provision is not enjoyed equitably by women and men in practice. In general, internal party operational modalities and candidate nomination procedures favour men to the disadvantage of women. In addition, attitudinal and cultural perceptions that resist women's appointment into public leadership positions continue, among other challenges, to militate against women in this arena. Furthermore, the barriers that prevent women from embarking on a political career are both practical (lack of time, money or literacy level and training) and psychological (lack of confidence, fear of failure, and dislike of the culture of politics).

139. To enhance women's participation in decision-making, Section 95 (2c) of the Local Government Act 2004 provides that within every District, the Ward Development Committees i.e. the level closest to the community pursues a statutory 50/50 gender balance affirmative policy.

140. Women participating in all spheres of governance in Sierra Leone was found at 15% while male was at 85%. The majority of women still experience marginalisation in public spheres in Sierra Leone.

141. It is evident that enabling policies, strategies and programmes need to be put in place to enable and accelerate women's advancement to positions in the public sector.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

142. The high rates of teenage pregnancy and early marriage have had a severe negative effect on the health, education and life opportunities of girls. The proportion of women age 20-24 years who have had a live birth before age 18 is 38 per cent. The persistent problem of early marriage violates child rights and the law; it contributes to the high rate of teenage pregnancy and its associated health and socio-economic problems (16 per cent of girls aged 15-19 were married before age 15 in 2010). Government has developed and launched a National Strategy on the reduction of Teenage Pregnancy in Sierra Leone (2013-2017).

Article 7: Land , Property and Inheritance

143. The government of Sierra Leone has put in place a strategy for Land Management with an overarching aim to :

- Improve and strengthen the existing land administration system and land laws;
- Institute reforms in relation to regulation that govern the way in which land ownership rights and obligations are determined;
- Ensure and promote participation of local communities and relevant stakeholders in planning, design and implementation processes, with special emphasis on gender equality;
- Support programs for improved landscape management to sustain long-term land productivity.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

144. Girls in Sierra Leone face barriers to education, including high rates of early marriage, teenage pregnancy, extra fees and sexual exploitation. Girls living in rural areas face a particularly elevated risk of child marriage. There is gender disparity in secondary education.

145. Government is focused on ensuring that by 2018 access to primary education will be 'fee free', and access to all levels of education will be greatly improved. Targeted programmes to encourage attendance by the most marginalized would have commenced alongside those designed to address access, particularly for children in the lowest wealth quintile, differently-able children, girls and young women.

Rates	Primary (Girls)	Junior Secondary (Girls)	Senior Secondary (Girls)
Gross Enrolment	122% (118%)	62% (55%)	32% (24%)
Gross Intake	121% (115%)	59% (53%)	26% (21%)
Repetition	16% (16%)	13% (14%)	13% (15%)
Gross Completion	76% (73%)	49% (41%)	26% (17%)
Transition Rate	77%	54%	

Table 1; Rates of School enrollment in Sierra Leone in 2012

Source: School Census Report Volume 1 and Draft CSR

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

146. The Government of Sierra Leone is committed to the provisions enshrined in AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Sierra Leone is a signatory to the Protocol and has made efforts to undertake community sensitization and popularization of the Protocol to the populace of the country before taking the instruments to Parliament for ratification and subsequent implementation of its provisions.

K. SAHARAWI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

147. In Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, the principle of gender equality in terms of rights and duties derives from the valued status the woman had in the nomadic community and from the Saharawi traditions that grant the woman an exceptional social status. To preserve her dignity, violence against her is strictly prohibited in any way, shape or form. Thereafter, deep social and economic transformations had taken place, which had an impact on the status of the woman in the family circle as well as in the community, all of which had culminated in the State's planning for woman's promotion through the right to free and mandatory education to all young women, which opened doors to women from all walks of life.

Article: 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases

148. No new submission made on this article.

Article 2: Peace and Security

149. No new submission made on this article.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

150. No new submission made on this article.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

151. The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic is in an exceptional case, given that the Kingdom of Morocco is occupying an important part of its soil and whereby the Saharawi citizens are enduring flagrant human rights violations, especially women, as in any conflict zone in the world thus Saharawi women are victims of rape, abuse, torture, imprisonment and kidnapping because of their stance on freedom and independence

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

152. The political participation of the Saharawi woman is growing in a constant and progressive manner at the local level, whereby women at the local councils account for more than 98%, and at the municipal level women comprise the 100%, in the parliament women account for 34% and they prefer to work at the regional level, which is known as the base of the pyramid, due to domestic duties.

153. At the top of the power pyramid, we shall find 04 female ministers in the government; moreover 04 women are members of the national secretariat, which is the highest nomination of leadership elected every four years.

Article 6: Women 's Human Rights

154. No new submission was made on this article.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance

155. No new submission was made on this article.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

156. No new submission was made on this article.

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

157. No new submission was made on this article.

L. REPUBLIC OF TOGO**Article 1: HIV/AIDS and other Related Infections Diseases**

158. Several measures are taken to offer to the population a greater comfort as regards to health.

159. Law n°2010-018 of 31 December 2010 modifying that of 2005 protecting people living with HIV/AIDs devotes a section for the protection of the women.

160. Among pregnant women, the prevalence of the HIV/AIDs passed from 4,8% to 3,6% between 2003 and 2012.

161. In 2013, the prevention and the transmission of the HIV/AIDs of the mother to child were reinforced. Among 165 809 detected pregnant women, 4 531 was seropositive (2,73%). 4 478 of these seropositive women (98,83%) took the ARV. The national strategic Plan to fight against HIV/AIDs 2012-2015 was validated in 2012. Togo also has a national strategic plan 2011-2015 to fight malaria.

Article 2: Peace and Security

162. The presence of the women in the process of peace and of resolution of the conflicts was noticed.

163. The Commission truth justice and reconciliation has 11 members including 04 women. To date, 31 military women are in peacekeeping operation, 18 in Republic of Côte.d'ivoire and 13 in Mali. Women's organisations have been actively involved in mobilising public opinion and participation in UN resolution 1325.

Article 3: Child soldiers

164. Although the use of child soldiers is not an issue in Togo, Togo has ratified The Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of the Child, concerning the involvement of children in armed conflicts, ratified; the Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of the child concerning the sale of children child prostitution and pornography featuring children and the African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the child.

Article 4: Gender Based Violence

165. The violences are related to marital violences, the sexual harassment, the rape, the forced marriage, the female genital mutilations (MGF), etc.

166. A national programme on the control of gender-based violence and care for victims has been set up by the government in active collaboration with women's NGOs. The establishment of the programme has resulted in the strengthening of mechanisms for the control of gender based violence and harmful practices, and for the protection and care of victims. Significant success has been recorded in the control of violence against women, in particular prevalence of FGM.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle :

167. The number of women at the Parliament has increased.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

168. In addition to the ratified texts, Togo is committed to harmonizing its national legislation with International and Regional Conventions promoting and protecting human rights in particular those of the women and the girls.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

169. Togo has a National Land Policy which gives women access to land. But the coexistence of customary law and modern law, constitutes an obstacle to women being able to enjoy these rights.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy: Education

170. For the girls to have access to the school and to remain there, several measures and actions are taken, in particular improvement of the school environment, intensification of the fight against violences in educational circle, especially with regard to the girls.

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

171. Togo has ratified the Protocol and is now popularising the contents.

M. REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**Article: 1: HIV/AIDS and Related Infectious Diseases**

172. The comprehensive roll out of Anti-Retro Viral (ARV) Therapy (ART) by the Government of Zimbabwe has seen over 75% of those living with HIV/AIDS access ART at minimal cost/for free. There has been a significant increase in the number of people with access to ART.

173. Most of those on ART are women, (women make up 60% of those on ART) which are consistent with the facts that indicate that women have more and correct information on HIV/AIDS because they are likely to seek health services during pregnancy and the successes of the PMTCT programmes. The incidences of malaria have been reduced by half between 2009 and 2011. This is a result of increased access to correct drugs for malaria and tuberculosis at most public health institutions.

Article 2: Peace and Security

174. No new submission was made on this article.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

175. No new submission was made on this article.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

176. The Constitution of Zimbabwe recognizes the entitlement of every person to respect of life, bodily integrity and security of the person. The Constitution in section 52 guarantees the right to personal security, importantly acknowledging that “every person has the right to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes (a) freedom from all forms of violence from public and private sources.” This is an important provision in that it is true that women suffer violence both in the private and public spheres.

177. 140. In 2010, Government launched the Campaign to extend the 16 Days to 365 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence underpinned by the Zero Tolerance to Gender Based Violence. The Campaign is promoting the 4Ps concept which focuses on Prevention, Protection, Participation and programmes. As part of the campaign, information on Domestic Violence Act and other laws have been translated in local languages and distributed to rural, communities.

Article 5: Gender Parity Principle

178. This has been exhibited by the continued support that the Zimbabwe Defence Forces and Zimbabwe Police Service continue to give the international community in terms of peace keeping personnel, and this has included the seconding of very senior women officers to peace keeping missions.

179. Further, Zimbabwe by virtue of being part of the United Nations, has adopted UN Resolution 1325, hence the actions to ensure that peace keeping missions adhere to the requirements of Resolution 1325. This resolution obligates the government to ensure that in addressing conflict, gender parity and the concerns of women and girls are taken into account in any response to conflict, including ensuring that gender perspectives are constantly taken into account in any conflict resolution initiative.

Article 6: Women ’s Human Rights

180. The new Constitution contains comprehensive non-discrimination clauses in 56, Equality and non-discrimination, that eradicates all the laws policies and programmes that discriminate unfairly on the basis of sex, gender, marital status, pregnancy, disability. The Constitution in Section 80 also includes an expanded Declaration of Rights with a section on Women’s Rights

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance

181. The Government fully recognises the rights of women to own land, farming inputs and other property and women have been beneficiaries of the land reform programme that the country undertook. The Government adopted a Broad Based Women’s Economic Empowerment Approach. The approach provides a systematic way of mainstreaming women in key economic sectors through establishment of empowerment targets, mobilisation of financial resources and capacity building for women’s effective

economic participation. The framework is designed to serve women from all backgrounds and to be applied across all sectors, hence broad-based.

182. The Administration of Estates Act [Chapter 6:01], was amended, by Amendment Act No. 6 of 1997, to bring in the following changes to inheritance practices:

- a) The surviving spouse(s) and the children of a deceased person are his or her major beneficiaries, as opposed to the heir, who was mainly the eldest son.
- b) The matrimonial home, whatever the system of tenure under which it was held and wherever it may be situated, remains with the surviving spouse. This includes household goods and effects.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

183. The Constitution provides for the right to free and compulsory basic education, as well as the right for equal access to education, by all children in Section 271. This section of the Constitution also calls for the provision of education opportunities equally between girls and boys.

184. Zimbabwe has traditionally maintained high literacy rates at 97.5%², with literacy rates remaining quite over the years. One of the successes and key interventions that the Zimbabwe government has undertaken in implementing gender equality is facilitating access to education for the girl child as part of addressing women's discrimination..Zimbabwe has empowered women through its education policies at all levels.

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

185. No new submission was made on this article.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

186. The thirteen country reports submitted for the ninth reporting cycle of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa 2014 outlined the various measures that the countries: Comoros, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe have instituted to promote gender equality in their various countries.

187. While all reporting countries noted a reduction and/or stabilization in the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS/ among the general population, a much higher rate was reported among pregnant women. HIV/AIDS has a female face in all reporting countries. In relation to Article 2, all the countries who reported on it have instituted

various measures in line with United Nations Security Council 1325 and 1820 to ensure the protection of women in both peace and war time.

188. The same observation was noticed in relation to Article 6 on Women's Human rights. While most of the reporting countries have yet to enact laws on Article 5, those with laws on the provision have not always adhered to it. Despite legislative and Constitutional guarantees on women's land, property and inheritance rights, entrenched patriarchal values have stymied government's efforts in all reporting countries. All reporting States have instituted wide-ranging measures in the implementation of Article 8 on Girls Education and Women's Literacy.

189. While a lot has been achieved in the these countries, challenges such as resistance towards the notion of gender equality, the existence of inequalities in national laws, inadequate financing of gender equality programmes, low representation of women in politics and public decision –making spaces, increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS and sexual violence continue to affect the success of the African Union's gender equality instrument in the reporting countries.

2015

Tenth Report of the AUC chairperson on the Implementation of the AU Solemn Declaration on gender equality in Africa (SDGEA)

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