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الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: [www. www. au. int](http://www.wwww.aau.int)

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**COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFRICA,
PARTICULARLY THE ROLE OF SECURITY ORGANS IN ENDING
IT/ALGIERS PLATFORM ON THE ROLE OF SECURITY ORGANS IN
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**
(Item Proposed by the Republic of Algeria)

**COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFRICA,
PARTICULARLY THE ROLE OF SECURITY ORGANS IN ENDING
IT/ALGIERS PLATFORM ON THE ROLE OF SECURITY ORGANS
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(Item Proposed by the Republic of Algeria)

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I. Context and rationale for convening the 5th General Assembly of Kigali International Conference Declaration:

1. In line with efforts geared towards the achievement of gender parity and combatting violence against women and girls, and the «UNiTE to End Violence Against Women» (UNiTE) Campaign, launched in 2008 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, the 5th General Assembly of the Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD), was held from 7 to 8 March 2016 in Algiers, to reaffirm previous commitments aimed at protecting women and girls against all forms of violence.

2. The 5th General Assembly of the Kigali International Conference Declaration took place in a context strongly marked by the increasing recognition of the role of security organs in efforts aimed at ending violence against women and girls in Africa, in accordance with the Kigali International Conference Declaration of October 2010 on the theme.

3. It should be recalled that the KICD General Assembly was established as «a decision-making platform containing recommendations calling upon governments, the civil society, women's organizations, private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces to end violence against women and girls».

4. Convened as a follow-up to previous KICD General Assemblies, and inspired by **the theme of the African Union for 2016 «Year of Human Rights, with particular focus on the Rights of Women»**, as well as the UN Campaign to combat violence against women, the ultimate goal of the 5th General Assembly of the Kigali International Conference Declaration was to better understand the issue of violence against women and girls in terms of a human rights based approach consistent with existing international standards.

5. In accordance with the strategic guidelines provided for by the Kigali International Conference Declaration of 2010, the 2nd and 3rd KICD General Assemblies, were held in 2012 in Burundi and in 2013 in Bénin, respectively. It was on the occasion of the 4th General Assembly held in Kigali under the theme: «UNiTE to End Violence Against Women» that Algeria was selected to host the 5th KICD General Assembly. This choice was in keeping with the consistent efforts made by the Government of Algeria, under the leadership of the President of the Republic, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, to promote the fundamental rights of women in general, and combat the violence they could be victims of, in particular.

6. The selection of Algeria was also an acknowledgement of the high level of professionalism and modernization achieved by the Algerian Police Force, which makes use of state-of-the-art technologies and resources in discharging its missions, with full respect for human rights, thanks to the new momentum provided mainly by the establishment of the African Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL). The convening in Algiers of the 5th KICD therefore reflected the willingness of Algeria to contribute, together with all African countries, to the dynamics of sharing experiences and best practices in that area.

7. Considering the importance of working to protect women and girls against gender-based violence, the 5th KICD General Assembly was meant to send a strong message to further encourage reforms initiated by African police institutions in the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights, particularly the rights of women.

8. In line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 on the promotion and respect of human rights, as well as Objective N°5 of Agenda 2030 providing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels, the Algiers KICD General Assembly recalled that violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights and an offence to human dignity, while reiterating the determination of participating States to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of such violence.

9. Indeed, although defined in particular in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981), the Constitutive Act of the African Union (2001), the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004), the fundamental rights of women are still seriously undermined by the violence to which they are all too often the victims. Therefore, the representatives of African Police forces participating in the Algiers meeting considered new measures to provide adequate responses to the many forms of gender-based violence, inspired by the experiences and approaches developed by African countries, as well as the expertise of the competent UN agencies and experts.

II. Outcome of the 5th General Assembly of the Kigali International Conference Declaration:

10. In accordance with the objectives/targets of the Kigali International Conference Declaration of 2010, the Algiers meeting was tasked with defining key actions with a view to ending violence against women and girls in Africa. In this respect, the deliberations of the meeting culminated in the adoption of **the Algiers Platform on the Role of Security Organs in Ending Violence against Women and Girls**, containing the following recommendations:

In the legal and regulatory area:

- Adaptation of the respective national legislations to conform to ratified international human rights treaties ;

- Updating of the legal framework on violence against women and girls throughout the African Continent with a view mainly to facilitating investigations, legal proceedings and care for the victims;
- Elaboration of national programmes of action aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women by 2030 based, among other things, on guidelines on dealing with identified cases, within the framework of the response of security services to achieve the objectives of sustainable development;

In the area of professionalization of organs in charge of enforcing the law:

- Organization of training courses for officials responsible for implementing the law on preventing and combatting violence against women and girls throughout the Continent, on the basis of international instruments on human rights, incorporating relevant experiences and best practices in that area;
- Development of the professionalism of African security organs with a view to strengthening their effectiveness by promoting the different partnership formulas and improving data collection for the elaboration of adequate policies for ending violence against women and girls;
- Fostering policies for the recruitment of women at all levels of security organs, while ensuring that women have access to posts of responsibility;
- Promotion of exchange of information and the synergies of partnerships between all stakeholders at national level for better definition of the objectives of the prevention culture, effective promotion of justice and combatting impunity;

In the area of cooperation and sharing of experiences and good practices:

- Improvement of cooperation between security services, with support from AFRIPOL, particularly in terms of exchange of information, capacity building, sharing of experiences and good practices, and the development of databases, including data on violence against women and girls, provided for under the 2016-2018 Plan of Action;
- Call upon the entire United Nations System, governments, the civil society, women's organizations, the private sector and the media to join forces to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, with the involvement of men in the initiative;
- Build upon approaches developed by UN experts, plans and other strategies implemented in different countries to end violence against women and girls;

- Harmonization of Standard Operation Procedures, joint training and simulation exercises in order to end violence against women and girls;
- Continue to share accumulated expertise in combatting violence against women and children. In that context, the General Assembly considered the model one-stop centre «ISANGE One Stop Centre», as a successful practice for prevention and support to women who suffer from gender-based violence in Rwanda, as well as the Algerian experience based on the national multi-sectoral strategy combining the mobilization and synergy of several actors;

In the area of mobilization, particularly at the African level:

- Launching of an African media campaign to create awareness about violence against women and girls in cyberspace in order to mitigate its impact on potential targets;
- Renewal of the commitment of Member States to implement the Call for Action of the African Union Campaign to end violence against women and girls.

11. Lastly, the 5th General Assembly of Kigali International Conference Declaration, while expressing its gratitude for the support provided by the Governments of Algeria, Rwanda and Uganda to end violence against women and girls, appreciated the offer of the Republic of Rwanda to host the first convention of its kind in November 2016, and to the Republic of Uganda for agreeing to host the 6th KICD General Assembly on the Role of Security Organs in Ending Violence against Women and Girls in 2017.

III. 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union:

12. In light of the above, it is proposed that the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in accordance with the theme of the Year 2016, endorse the recommendations contained in the Algiers Platform on the Role of Security Organs in Ending Violence against Women and Girls and therefore adopt the document, in accordance with applicable procedures.

**5TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KIGALI
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DECLARATION (KICD)**

Résidence El Mithak / Algiers, 07 and 08 March 2016

**ALGIERS PLATFORM ON THE ROLE OF SECURITY ORGANS
IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

We, the Directors and Inspectors General of African Police Forces:

Recalling that violence against women is a violation of human rights and an offence to human dignity;

Committed to the Global Campaign (2008-2015), «UNiTE to End Violence Against Women», launched on 25 February 2008 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization;

Expressing concern over the complexity of situations resulting from the diversity of socio-economic and cultural factors, therefore requiring a global approach to violence against women and girls;

Reaffirming the mobilization of countries on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the role of women in peacebuilding;

Determined to end impunity for the perpetrators of violence against women and girls;

Stressing that effectively combatting violence against women requires a synergy of action between organs responsible for enforcing the law, institutional partners, the civil society, the media, etc.;

Considering the firm commitment of organs responsible for enforcing the law in African countries, represented by the present Assembly, to put an end to violence against women and girls and all forms of impunity;

Welcoming the significant progress made in many African countries in adapting the policy, legal and operational frameworks, for the prevention of violence against women and girls, care for victims, promotion of justice and reparations to victims;

Further noting the pertinence of the recommendations from previous General Assemblies of Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) on the role of security organs in ending violence against women and girls:

Recommend, by the present Algiers Platform, as follows:

- Adaptation of the respective national legislations to conform to ratified international human rights treaties ;
- Updating of the legal framework on violence against women and girls throughout the African Continent, with a view mainly to facilitating investigations, legal proceedings and care for the victims;
- Organization of training courses for officials responsible for implementing the law on preventing and combatting violence against women and girls throughout the Continent, on the basis of international instruments on human rights, incorporating relevant experiences and best practices;
- Development of the professionalism of African security organs with a view to strengthening their effectiveness by promoting the different partnership formulas and improving data collection for the elaboration of adequate policies for ending violence against women and girls;
- Fostering policies for the recruitment of women at all levels of security organs, while ensuring that women have access to posts of responsibility;
- Promotion of exchange of information and strengthening of the synergies of partnerships between all stakeholders at national level for better definition of the objectives of the prevention culture, effective promotion of justice and combatting impunity;
- Improvement of cooperation between security services, with support from AFRIPOL, particularly in terms of exchange of information, capacity building, sharing of experiences and good practices, and the development of databases, including data on violence against women and girls, provided for under the 2016-2018 Plan of Action;
- Calling upon the entire United Nations System, governments, the civil society, women's organizations, the private sector and the media, to join forces to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, with the involvement of men in the initiative;
- Building on approaches developed by UN experts, plans and other strategies implemented in different countries to end violence against women and girls;
- The imperative need to harmonize Standard Operation Procedures, joint training and simulation exercises in order to end violence against women and girls;

- Continue to share and disseminate accumulated expertise in combatting violence against women and children. In that context, the General Assembly considered the model one-stop centre «ISANGE One Stop Centre», as a successful practice for prevention and support to women who suffer from gender-based violence in Rwanda, as well as the Algerian experience based on the national multi-sectoral strategy combining the mobilization and synergy of several actors;
- The elaboration of national programmes of action aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women by 2030 based, among other things, on guidelines on dealing with identified cases within the framework of the response of security services to achieve the objectives of sustainable development;
- The launching of an African media campaign to create awareness about violence against women and girls in cyberspace in order to mitigate its impact on potential targets;
- The renewal of the commitment of Member States to implement the Call for Action of the African Union Campaign to end violence against women and girls;
- Express their gratitude for the support provided by the Governments of Algeria, Rwanda and Uganda to end violence against women and girls, appreciate the offer of the Republic of Rwanda to host the first convention of its kind in November 2016, and to the Republic of Uganda for agreeing to host the 6th General Assembly of the Kigali International Conference Declaration on the Role of Security Organs in Ending Violence against Women and Girls in 2017.

Algiers, 08 March 2016

2016

Combating violence against women and girls in Africa, particularly the role of security organs in ending it/Algiers platform on the role of security organs in ending violence against women and girls (Item Proposed by the Republic of Algeria)

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