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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SYNTHESIS OF REPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES

INTRODUCTION

African women seized the opportunity of the transformation of the OAU to the AU to lobby for greater inclusion of women in the Constitutive Act and the transition process. Their efforts resulted in the decision by the OAU Council of Ministers to support consultations to better define the role of women in the transition process. Thus, the gender parity principle in the appointment/election of the top leadership of the Commission was adopted by the AU Summit in South Africa in 2002. A decision was also taken that led to the creation of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate to mainstream gender in all activities and programmes of the Commission.

2. The gender parity principle was concretized in 2003 at the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State (HOS) and Government in Maputo, Mozambique, with women accounting for 50 per cent of elected Commissioners. Also, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women was adopted with the objective of making the African human rights system more gender responsive.

3. To further its objective of promoting gender equality at the continental level, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at their 3rd Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004, adopted the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). The SDGEA reaffirms the commitment of the Heads of State to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (L) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various international, regional, and sub-regional instruments and initiatives on women's rights.

4. In the SDGEA, the HOS and Government agreed to promote gender equality and women's rights in nine thematic areas namely: HIV/AIDS and other related infectious diseases; peace and security; children's rights; gender-based violence; women's human rights; land, property and inheritance rights; education; and, to ensure and the signing and ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION'S (AUC) EFFORT AND PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE SDGEA

5. The following activities were undertaken by the AU Commission, as part of its institution-strengthening programme:

- **The Gender Audit-** The Commission has completed a gender audit of the AU Commission by the end of 2006. The Audit indicated that although some progress has been made, much more needs to be done in order to achieve the AU's commitments and objectives on gender equality and women's

empowerment in Africa. The AU Commission commits itself to implement the recommendations of the gender audit in its next strategic plan.

- **The Gender Policy-** The development of the AU's gender policy is at an advanced stage. When the policy is adapted it will provide a framework for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in Africa.
- **The Five Year Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan-** The development of a Five Year Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan (GMSP) has been completed for the Social and Political cluster of Departments. The plan will provide a framework for AUC, Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), AU organs and Member States in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment as well as contribute to the operationalization of the Gender Policy.
- **Building Internal Capacity to Mainstream Gender-** The Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) in collaboration with UN African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), has piloted a course on gender responsive economic policy making in Africa and produced a handbook on good practices in mainstreaming gender in different sectors.

6. **Partnerships and Advocacy-** The WGDD has collaborated with CSOs, international organizations, RECs and other AU Directorates to address gender and women's empowerment issues in Africa. In collaboration with its partners, the WGDD launched an Advocacy Campaign on Younger Women's Higher Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and on Strengthening Women's Voices in Peace Processes, among others.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

7. The First AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Women Affairs and Gender held in October 2005 in Dakar, Senegal adopted the Guidelines for Reporting, and an Implementation Framework on the SDGEA by AU Member States. Thus, the Guidelines and Framework are intended to provide guidance regarding the implementation of the SDGEA, as each country has its own national plans for implementing various international commitments. The timeframe for the actions is five years, and this will be reviewed every five years.

8. The implementation of the SDGEA will require Member States to:

- Strengthen the political will to achieve gender equality at the local, national and regional levels;
- Incorporate a gender perspectives into the planning processes of all ministries and departments of government and integrate gender dimensions into all phases of sectoral planning cycles, including analysis, development appraisals, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes, projects and budgets;
- Build in a gender perspective in national development frameworks;

- Empower and increase the capacity and resources of national gender machineries;
- Forge links between government, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to ensure a co-ordination of efforts and resources; and
- Strengthen and simplify systems for institutionalized collection and use of sex-disaggregated data in statistical analysis, to reveal how policies affect women and men differently.

9. Member States are also encouraged to include information on the implementation of the SDGEA in their reports for the African Peer Review Mechanisms on progress towards gender equality under all objectives of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

ASSESSING THE COUNTRY REPORTS AND BEST PRACTICES

10. It can be argued from the 16 submitted country reports (**Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia**); that the principle of gender equality is now part of the political discourse and/or agenda of reporting governments. In addition to constitutional guarantees, each of the submitting country has at least one institutional mechanism and/or policy framework to ensure the achievement of gender equality in their respective countries.

11. The adoption of the SDGEA reinforced earlier commitments agreed to by African governments. Legal reforms and programs to control the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to promote and protect women's human rights have been instituted in various sectors of the society. Women's representation in politics and decision-making positions and girls enrolment rate in the primary school sector have increased. National programmes and legislation to protect the rights of children have been enacted. International, regional, sub-regional and national instruments have been translated into local languages and disseminated to the public. A lot of progress has been made since the adoption of the SDGEA but a lot more needs to be done to ensure that gender equality is part and parcel of daily life on the African continent.

i) Institutional Mechanisms to promote Gender Equality

Best Practice:

Article 132 of the Algerian Constitution prioritizes all ratified international conventions over national laws; Article 19 of the Burundian Constitution states that all international conventions are integral part of the constitution and their applications are not subjected to restrictions.

ii) Article 1- HIV/AIDS and other Infectious Diseases- Most of the HIV/AIDS programmes and legislation failed to address the issue of discrimination and/or stigmatisation. In the case of Namibia that has developed a comprehensive policy addressing this problem, the policy is yet to be adopted by the government.

Best practice:

Namibia's constitution includes a Bill of Rights that address HIV/AIDS as a human rights issue; an HIV/AIDS charter in employment and education to protect HIV/AIDS victims is in place. Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius and Senegal have criminalized the wilful transmission of HIV/AIDS. Mali provides free ARVs to people living with HIV/AIDS and commemorates December as national HIV/AIDS month. Cote d'Ivoire's declaration of 2006 as the year for the accelerating the control of HIV/AIDS. The change of PMTCT to PPTCT to address gender related stigmatization in Nigeria.

iii) Article 2: Peace and Security- Despite UNSC 1325 (2000), most reporting countries completely ignored the issue of women's representation and participation in conflict resolution and management.

Best Practice:

The South African government forged partnerships with NGOs to implement UNSC 1325. In addition, the governments of Ghana, Namibia, Mali, Rwanda and South Africa have included women in peace-keeping missions and in preventive diplomacy.

iv) Article 3: Child Soldiers- Although most our reporting countries have not experienced the horrors of civil wars and the recruitment of child soldiers, all countries should launch a campaign on the issue because of the increasing use of mercenaries in civil conflicts all over the continent. Member states with laws that contradict international provisions on child's rights should revise their laws to take cognizance of these principles.

Best Practice:

In addition to its international commitments and constitutional guarantees protecting children, the governments of Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and Rwanda have initiated programs to end child soldiering in their countries. Signing of cross-country agreements by Mali and Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho and South Africa and among 10 ECOWAS countries to stop trafficking in person and child labour and Nigeria's enactment of a national anti-trafficking law and establishment of an agency to monitor the implementation of the law.

v) Article 4: Gender-Based Violence- Most of the initiatives on gender-based violence focus primarily on legislation with very few corresponding program and/or projects to back up legislation. The challenge for most governments is how to marry legislation, the provision of support services and advocacy programs for women to know their rights and access these services.

Best Practice:

The South African government extended the annual 16 Days of No Violence Campaign Against Women to a year round activity in 2006. Since 2004, 6th February is commemorated as national day against FGM.

vi) Article 5: Gender Parity Principle- Women's participation in decision-making positions is low. Governments should put into practice the AU parity principle in the election and appointment of women in politics and public decision-making positions.

Best Practice:

The South African government adopted the gender parity principle in 2006.

vii) Article 6: Women's Human Rights- All reporting countries have signed and/or ratified various international, regional and sub-regional instruments promoting and protecting women and children's rights. Some have translated these instruments into local languages and disseminated them widely. However, most of them have not enacted laws to further these commitments.

Best Practice:

Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Rwanda and South Africa have translated into local languages and distributed national, sub-regional, regional, and international instruments promoting women's human rights.

viii) Article 7: Women's property rights- All reporting governments have put in place measures to promote women's property rights, but most have failed to abrogate customary laws that violate this right. Moreover, most reports do not provide statistics on the number of women that have accessed credit facilities or own land.

Best Practice:

South Africa abolished the rule of primogenitor in inheritance practices; 49 per cent of beneficiaries of the government's housing subsidy were women. In Algeria, 76.2 per cent of recipients of craft-related funding were women, 22,315 women obtained their farmers card and were thus able to access funding.

ix) Article 8: Education- All country reports indicated increased enrolment in primary and secondary education for girls and women's adult literacy rates, and outlined the programs and/ or projects that were put in place to effect such changes.

Best Practice:

The Algerian government provides free school supplies, lunches and transportation and since the 2000/2001 school year, 2000AD (Algerian Dinar) is given to every child in the public school system.

x) Article 9: African Protocol on Women's Rights- Countries that have not ratified and/or domesticated the Protocol should be urged to do so in the shortest possible time.

Best Practice:

The willingness of all reporting countries to ratify and/or domesticate the Protocol shows their commitment to the principle of gender equality.

THE WAY FORWARD

12. Country reports should provide for comparisons to be made on the progress being achieved. Sex disaggregated data should also be provided for comparative analysis and for monitoring progress. Legislations should be updated in line with the SDGEA and other commitments and more current statistics provided. Although the AU advocates partnership in the implementation of the SDGEA, most national reports lacked inputs from NGOs.

13. As already observed, considerable success has been noted in the implementation of the SDGEA as well as several challenges. In order to move the SDGEA agenda forward, there is need to first, increase the number of countries submitting their annual reports to the AU for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process. This can be done by mobilizing country representatives to the AU to convey the importance of submitting annual SDGEA reports to the AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate. This should be followed up at the sub-regional level with the gender focal points in the RECs. The AU Women's Committee has a role to play in this connection.

14. In relation to the issue of NGOs participation in the SDGEA process, the AU has to popularize the Declaration widely among African NGOs, moving beyond its traditional allies to incorporate a broad segment of women's groups across the continent. This initial step should be followed up by encouraging NGOs to have annual forums and submit shadow reports to the AU for consideration.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE SDGEA IN 2004

This section is an analysis of developments in the efforts of African governments to implement gender equality measures since the unanimous adoption of the SDGEA by African HOS and Government in July 2004. The report pays special attention to constitutional, legal and administrative frameworks that have been put in place as well as practical measures taken to ensure the effective implementation of instruments and policies that promote women's empowerment, the protection of their rights and supports gender equality.

This report, the second in the series of Reports expected from Member States on the implementation of the SDGEA, is a synthesis of country reports from **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Rwanda**. This brings the number of countries that have submitted their first reports to only 16; as a synthesis of country reports from Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia were considered by the Summit of January 2007.

A) THE REPUBLIC OF BURKINA FASO

THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Article 1 of Burkina Faso's 1991 Constitution prohibits gender discrimination. The Ministry of Women Affairs, the gender focal points in the various ministries, the national gender policy, and the 2006-10 Action Plan on women are Burkina Faso's institutional mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

The National HIV/AIDS and STI Council, chaired by the President and the Permanent Secretariat, are the coordinating bodies for HIV/AIDS control. The government's HIV/AIDS control program includes a national AIDS policy, a standard and guide document on voluntary testing, counseling and care and the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). Burkina Faso has 86 Voluntary Testing Centers (VCT) and 6 mobile VCT units. Forty three (43) of the country's fifty five (55) health districts are implementing the PMTCT program. The country's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate dropped from 7.17 per cent to about 2 per cent.

Since 2004, the Malaria prevention activities include the promotion of and sale of subsidized treated bed nets, preventive interval treatment of malaria with Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (Fansidar), reorientation of the activities of traditional birth attendants and environmental sanitation. In relation to TB, the government provides free screening and care in all the health districts.

Article 2: Peace and Security

Burkina Faso has participated in both UN and AU peace missions by sending military, gendarme and police contingents to Haiti, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, among others.

Article: Child Soldiers

Burkina Faso has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Burkina Faso signed but is yet to ratify the statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Implication of Children in Armed Conflicts. At the local level, Article 33 of the general statute of the armed forces prohibits the recruitment of people under 18.

Article 4: Violence Against Women

Burkina Faso has ratified several international and regional instruments (see details in Commitment 6) which are the bases of its national legislation on the protection of women and girls against violence. At the national level, the Constitution forbids discrimination and recognizes the principle of equality among all Burkinabe; the Criminal Code include clauses banning physical, psychological, sexual or moral violence against women. The general principle for the redress of grievances for acts of violence is noted in Article 1382 of the Civil Code. The Persons and Family Code provides protective measures against domestic violence, such as separate residence, separation from bed and board, divorce, annulment of bigamous marriages, and support payment in case of divorce or separation from bed and board, among others.

In addition to the above, the government has in the last two years built more departmental courts in the eleven (11) judicial jurisdictions and created nine (9) more jurisdictions to bring justice closer to women.

Article 5: Gender parity

The government's development priorities as outlined in its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) reiterate its commitments to equal opportunity in civil and political rights between the sexes. Despite this guarantee, women's representation in politics and public decision-making bodies is low. Currently, there are 5 women out of 35 Ministers, 3 out of 13 Governors, and 18 out of 359 Mayors of urban and rural communes.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

To ensure the promotion and protection of women's human rights including their right to development, Burkina Faso has signed and/or ratified a number of international and regional instruments on women's human rights. Among these are the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; the

Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment; the CEDAW and its optional protocol; the additional protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

As part of the government's sensitization program, CEDAW and its optional protocol were translated into the country's three national languages and field trips were made to the rural areas to sensitize women on citizenship and women's human rights issues.

Article 7: Rights to Land, Property and Inheritance

The Agrarian and Land Reform law and the Urban Development Code enacted in 2006 do not discriminate against women. Article 62 of the Urban Development Code law states that "urban or rural lands in the National Estate should be allocated without distinction based on sex..."

In order to enhance the land security of the underprivileged (women, youth), the following measures were recommended as part of the government's poverty reduction strategy:

- Develop and adopt the implementing instruments of the Agrarian and Land Reform (RAF);
- Development of a communication strategy to disseminate the Agrarian and Land Reform and its regulations;
- Implementation of specific measures relating to women's access to land, shallow waters, and perimeters developed by the state;
- Develop an operational strategy for land security in rural areas through capitalization of ongoing pilot projects; and.
- Guarantee women's access to credit facilities.

Article 8: Education

As part of its commitment to advance women's status through education, the National Assembly adopted the Framework Law on Education which emphasized basic education as a priority. As part of this project,

- A ten year plan basic education plan for the 2000-2009 cycle was adopted in July 1999;
- A girls' education department was established in the Ministry of Education;
- The institution of equal admission quota for boys and girls in satellite schools and non-formal basic education centers;
- *The "1000 girls" project, a training center for girls under the "National Commitments" program was established. 1000 girls have been trained and integrated 1000 girls into working life since its launch in June 1994;
- An action plan for the girl child has been developed; and
- The distribution of free textbooks.

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

The Protocol was ratified it on June 09, 2006.

B) THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

In Cameroon, the national Constitution, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, sectoral gender committees in various government ministries and the local chapter of the Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians are the country's institutional and legal framework for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

As part of the government's HIV/AIDS program, a National AIDS Control Committee was established; the sale of subsidized ART drugs adopted and the PMTCT program was introduced in 2000. Currently, there are 462 sites covering 64 per cent of health districts.

The Roll Back Malaria program is coordinated by a Central Technical Committee with a permanent national secretariat as well as provincial units. The program's focus is on the interval treatment of malaria among pregnant women, the distribution of free treated bed nets and insecticides in all the country's health districts.

Article 2: Peace and Security

Cameroon has given preference to women's applications for appointment in the United Nations system and the AU. As a result, Cameroonian women were appointed as a judge at the International Criminal Court on War Crimes in Rwanda and Trade and Industry Commissioner at the AU respectively.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

Cameroon has signed and ratified the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts and Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the additional protocol on the Convention Against Transnational organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking of Persons, especially Women and Children.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

A draft Bill on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence is awaiting parliamentary signature. This Bill complements provisions in the Criminal Code as it deals with offences such as FGM, and sexual harassment which are ignored in the Code. The government has also adopted an Action Plan on FGM. In addition, the Ministry of Women's Affairs

organizes socio-legal clinics to inform women about their rights and the various legal instruments and/or mechanisms available to seek redress.

Article 5: Gender Parity

The government of Cameroon instituted a 30 per cent quota system in favor of women to bridge the gap between women and men in Parliament, and decision-making positions in political parties, the executive, judiciary and local governance. Furthermore, the government has mandated all political parties to rank women high on their electoral list. In addition, a draft Bill Code of Persons and Family to ensure gender equality within the family is awaiting parliamentary signature.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

Cameroon has ratified virtually all international and regional instruments on women's rights and gender equality. The ratification process on Protocol on the Rights of Women has been initiated. The Social Development Sectoral Strategy adopted in 2005 includes a program to sensitize judges and civil servants in charge of enforcing the law on women's human rights. The labor code recognizes the principle of equal pay for equal work.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

The government has developed institutional mechanisms, programs and project aimed at creating an enabling environment for women to exercise their property rights.

Article 8: Education

The government of Cameroon has introduced a number of measures to reduce the educational disparity between boys and girls and promote gender equality:

- The development and implementation of an Education Sector Strategy which embodies gender equality concerns;
- The abolition of fees in public primary schools in 2001;
- The establishment of a Gender Committee in the Ministry of Education;
- Introduction of a 40 per cent quota in favor of girls in the disbursement of scholarship;
- Free distribution of text books and support to families;
- Introduction of gender-sensitive curricula and text books; and
- The provision of scholarship to the best female students in public examinations to promote female excellence.

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

The Ministry of External Affairs has initiated the ratification process of the Protocol.

C) THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Articles 1 and 2 of Cote d'Ivoire's second Constitution of August 2000 reaffirmed the country's commitment to gender equality. The Constitution also forbids torture, physical and psychological violence, mutilations and degradation of women. The Ministry on the Status of Women whose mission is to coordinate gender equality interventions, ensures the implementation and follow-up of government's international obligations and national policies on the protection of the family, the promotion of women and gender equality. Toward this end, a Women's White Book, National Action Plan, a gender policy and a Directorate of Gender Equality were adopted and established respectively.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

The Ministry of AIDS control, the National AIDS Council, the Interdepartmental AIDS control Committee as well as various decentralized bodies and a National HIV/AIDS Control Policy are the government's institutional mechanisms to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As part of its HIV/AIDS control program, the government of Cote d'Ivoire established 18 VCT and 95 PMTCT sites across the country; reduced the cost of ARVs to CFA 3,000 per quarter in 2005; adopted a National Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children; conducts IEC programs on the use of condoms among women, men, the youth and military contingents stationed in the country. In addition, medical and paramedical staff were trained on STI/HIV/AIDS care. The government declared 2006 "the year for the acceleration of the prevention of HIV/AIDS" as part of its efforts to combat the spread of the disease.

A National Malaria Control Program was adopted in 1997. Usage of the treated bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria rose from 4 to 7 per cent between 2001 and 2002.

Due to the increasing incidence of tuberculosis between 1999 to 2001, the TB control was removed from the National AIDS/STD/TB Control program and established as an autonomous program in 2001.

Article 2: Peace and Security

The government, through the Ministry of the Family, Women and Children organized a retreat on "Gender and Peace" in March 2004 for community-based leaders and women's civil society to strengthen their capacities in the management of conflict and post-conflict situations.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

The government of Cote d'Ivoire has signed and ratified most of the International Conventions on the protection of children. These include

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified in 1991);
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (ratified in 2002);
- Additional Protocol I to the Conventions of Geneva (ratified on September 20, 1989)
- Additional Protocol II to the Conventions of Geneva (ratified on September 20, 1989);
- ILO Convention N° 182 against the Worst Forms of Child Labor and its accompanying Recommendation 190 (ratified on February 7, 2003), as well as
- The definition and implementation of programs for the demobilization and reintegration of associate children
- The sensitization of armed groups and forces on the protection of children in times of conflict; and
- The implementation of the ratification process for the .additional protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

In addition, the Chief of the New Forces issued a statement on the demobilization and reintegration of Child Soldiers, in accordance with UN Resolutions 1539 and 1612. With support from UNICEF, Cote d'Ivoire embarked on its demobilization program for child soldiers in 2004.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

In addition to its international obligations, Cote d'Ivoire has enacted several laws prohibiting violence against women. These include Law No 98-757 of December 23, 1998 forbidding FGM and Law No. 98-756 of December 23, 1998 supplementing the the Criminal Code on sexual harassment and early or forced marriage. Decree No 2000-133 of February 23, 2000 reorganizing the Ministry of the Family, Women and Children, established a National Family, Women and Children's Commission, a National Committee on Violence against Women and Children and a Regulation and Protection Directorate. A National Committee to Fight Child Trafficking and Exploitation was also created.

On September 1st, 2000, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali signed a bilateral cooperation agreement to stop trans-border child trafficking. A permanent monitoring commission was put in

place under this agreement. On July 25, 2005, a Multilateral Cooperation Agreement in the fight against Child Trafficking in West Africa was signed by ten States of the West-Africa sub-region.

Article 5: Gender Parity

At the national level in 2005, women constituted 20 per cent of the economic and social Council, six (6) per cent of the Supreme Court judges; 12 per cent of judges at the Constitutional Court, 16.66 per cent of members in the Transition Government and a vice-chair of the National Assembly. At the local level, women were 0.178 per cent of district governors and presidents of General Councils; and 8.37 per cent vice-presidents of districts and vice-presidents of General Councils.

Due to this great disparity in decision-making positions, the Transition Government in 2006 committed itself to pursuing the principle of gender equality. This commitment was concretized with the creation of the Central Directorate of Gender Equality. The mission of the Directorate is to ensure the implementation of the policy of gender equality and equity at all levels and to promote the Gender approach.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

With the exception of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Cote d'Ivoire has ratified most international conventions on gender equality and women's rights. These include CEDAW ratified in 1995; the ILO Conventions 138 (in 2002) and 159 (in 1999); the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (2002) and the ILO Convention 182 (2003). The labor code recognizes the principle of equal pay for equal work for both women and men. In civil law, women have the same legal recognition and rights as men.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

Women have the same rights with men to access land and documentary titles. These rights are reinforced through Law No. 64-375 of October 7, 1964 modified by Law No. 83-800 of August 2 1983 on Civil Marriage Code. Law No. 64-379 of October 7, 1964 on succession and Law No. 64-380 of October 7, 1964 on gifts inter vivo and wills regulate the rights of the surviving spouse. Article 8 of the Succession Act recognizes the rights of the surviving spouse (widow/widower) to inherit in full the property of the deceased. Also, Law No. 98-750 of December 1998 recognizes the rights of the surviving spouse to rural land.

Article 8: Education

The provision of Basic Education Act was adopted in 1997 within the framework of the National Plan for the Development of Education and Training. This principle makes schooling compulsory until the age of 16 for all children in Cote d'Ivoire, without discrimination.

In primary education, the number of pupils for the year 2001-2002 was 2,113,836 including 914,700 girls, or 43.27 per cent. In 2004, the number of pupils in the government controlled area was 1,624,349 pupils including 722,672 girls or 44.48 per cent. In the other areas, it was 433,578 pupils of which 206,079 or 47.52 per cent were girls. The dropout rates in 2001-2002 among girls in CE2 or 4th grade was 7.5 per cent and in CM1 or 5th grade it was 9.8 per cent compared to 4.6 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively for boys. The Transition Rate in 6th year is particularly low. In 2001-2002 it was 39.1 per cent for boys and 36.1 per cent for girls.

Based on the above, the government of Cote d'Ivoire adopted the Education Sector Support Training Project in 1999 to increase the gross schooling rate for girls to at least 90 per cent by 2010; established the girls' education and training unit within the Directorate of Extra Curricula and Cooperative Activities; provides free textbooks and manuals to the underprivileged and established the Miss Mathematics Contest to encourage girls to study scientific and technical disciplines.

These efforts resulted in an increase in the Gender Parity Index in primary education from 0.77 per cent to 0.81 per cent between 1997-2000.

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

Since Cote d'Ivoire has signed but not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women.

D) THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Ghana's constitutional provisions are in line with CEDAW's provisions and they provide the constitutional basis for gender mainstreaming and equality. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, the National Council for Women and Development, the gender desk officers in the 138 District Assemblies and gender focal persons in government ministries, departments and agencies are also part of the country's institutional mechanisms for gender equality.

Article 1 HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

The Ghana AIDS Commission is in charge of the government's HIV/AIDS program. Towards this end, the Commission has undertaken various projects and programs to control the spread of HIV/AIDS such the integration of HIV/AIDS into sexual and reproductive health services and the safe motherhood program. In addition, efforts at awareness creation, control and management, care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS has been intensified. These combined efforts have resulted in the reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalent rate to 2.7 per cent.

Although the provision of treated bed nets is below the Abuja target of 60 per cent by 2005, coverage has improved significantly as it rose from 3.3 per cent in 2002 to 25 per

cent in 2005. The government's aim is to reach 80 per cent coverage by 2010. A national guideline on inter-nutrients preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy has been adopted; the government routinely distributes treated bed nets to pregnant women and under fives, provides mosquito screens on windows and doors, repellents, indoor residual spraying, limited larviciding and advise on environmental management.

To combat the spread of TB, an awareness creation project dubbed "Strengthening Community Capacity to Manage Tuberculosis" was launched in 2004.

Article 2: Peace and Security

Women account for 11.5 per cent of Ghana's peacekeeping contingents. The Ghana government has initiated programs to protect the rights of refugee women and children especially from sexual abuse and economic exploitation.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

The Recruitment of child soldiers is an uncommon practiced in Ghana. Ghana has ratified the convention against the recruitment of child soldiers. Promulgated a law against ritual servitude, a traditional practice where young girls are kept in shrines to atone for crimes committed by male members of their families. In collaboration the NGOs, the government organizes sensitization programs periodically on the negative impact of war and the use of small arms.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

Legislation to prohibit negative cultural practices such as ritual servitude, harmful widowhood rites and FGM has been passed. A Human Trafficking Law has also been passed and the government is implementing the ECOWAS Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons while developing its own National Plan. A draft Domestic Violence Bill is awaiting Parliamentary signature. However, there is a domestic violence and victim support unit within the Police force and the government observes the 16 days of activism on Violence Against Women annually.

Article 5: Gender Parity

The government of Ghana has demonstrated its commitment to the principle of gender equality by appointing women to head strategic and sensitive posts. For example, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Statistical Services, Immigration, the National Development Planning Commission, National Population Council, the Ghana Chamber of Mines and the National Employers Association, among others.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

As part of the Ghana government's effort at promoting human rights, it established the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice and the Legal Aid board. The Commission monitors human rights violations and has intensified its educational

programs especially in the area of women's human rights. Government's efforts are being complemented by literacy programs undertaken by civil society organizations working on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

A draft Property Rights of Spouses Bill prepared by the Attorney-General's Department in 2002 is being fine tuned to take into consideration women's land rights. A Land Administration program aimed at streamlining land administration to remove barriers to land acquisition and address gender issues in land ownership, access and control is now in place. The provision of affordable housing is one of the goals of the on-going housing policy review program.

Article 8: Education

Measures taken to ensure the education of girls and improve women's literacy level especially in the rural areas are among others:

*Establishment of a girl's education unit to facilitate and advocate for the education of the girl-child;

* Development of an Education Strategic Plan (2003-2015) that include a program in favor of girls, such as the abolition of school levies.

Consequently, there has been some achievement in the reduction in the gender gap at enrolment in primary schools. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) improved slightly from 0.91 to 0.93 and the Net Enrollment Ratio (NER) GPI from 0.95-0.97 at the national level. At the district level, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) showed that 29 districts were on course and 5 were above parity while the NER GPI showed that 57 districts were on course and 7 were above parity. In terms of adult literacy, women accounted for 60.3 per cent of graduants from non-formal education in 2003.

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

No submission was made in relation to this article.

E) THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Articles 1-21 of the Malian Constitution clearly articulate the principle of equality and non-discrimination. The Ministry of Women, Children and Family is entrusted with the mission of improving the status of women, ensure their protection and promotes their rights and that of the child and strengthen the family unit.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

As part of its Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative, Mali agreed to invest 1.3 billion CFA annually to purchase ARV reagents and other laboratory consumables. As a

result, the government has since 2004 provided free ART treatments to people living with HIV/AIDS. Also, an Act establishing rules on the prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS was passed by the National Assembly in 2006 and is awaiting Presidential approval. The month of December is commemorated as “National HIV/AIDS Month.”

A national Malaria Program has been in existence since 1993. The adoption of this program has resulted in the implementation of the Bamako Initiative, tax exemptions for treated bed nets, promulgation of sanitation and living environment policy, training of traditional birth attendants and the declaration of an annual malaria eradication day. The national TB program was established in 1995 by law No. 095/MS-PA-SG. TB treatment is free.

Article 2: Peace and Security

At the international level, Mali has ratified the statute of the International Criminal Court. At the local level, the government of Mali has allowed women to participate in national and regional peace negotiations; nominated a female ambassador Special Envoy of the President of the Republic to the United Nations and the African Union, in charge of Human Rights issues; supported women’s organizations engaged in peace in the distribution of food and clothes to refugees and displaced people; and women receiving returnee families.

In relation to peacekeeping missions, three women soldiers and two women superintendents have been part of the Malian Contingents (1 soldier in Liberia, two in Congo in 2005 and 1 superintendent as observer in Congo in 2005).

Article 3: Child Soldiers

At the International level, Mali has ratified the following Conventions on the Rights of the child:

- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (Act N° 98-28 of July 20, 1998);
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts (Ordinance n° 01-407 of September 20 2001);
- The UN Convention against transnational organized crime to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Act n° 02-020 of June 03, 2002).

Mali signed the multilateral cooperation agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa, was signed on 27th July 2005.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

Although there is no law on violence against women, however, assault and battery are recognized in the Criminal Code as crimes against women. The government also listed the following among others as some of the abuses Malian women endure;

1. Sexual violence through rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
2. Psychological violence through gender-based expressions and insults, lack of respect for women, attempts at downgrading, devaluing, humiliating, belittling of women;
3. The psycho-physiological violence that appear through women's abandonment by their husbands for many years for migration purposes;
4. Institutional violence through culturally accepted practices such as levirate, sorority, forced or early marriages, repudiation in conformity with the Muslim law, certain forms of widowhood practices, abduction of women, barter trade of women, change in matrimonial option, forced wearing of the Chador.

Article 5: Gender Parity

Missing from submitted report.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

Missing from submitted report.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

Missing from submitted report.

Article 8: Education- Incomplete Submission

Primary education is compulsory and free. To reduce the disparity between boys and girls, the government introduced various programs to accelerated girls' education. Some examples are:

- Reduction in charges related to schooling among poor families to improve school attendance of girls;
- Gender-sensitive curriculum development
- Provision of educational supplies and teaching materials to schools (50 per cent in primary schools and 25 per cent in secondary schools)
- Convert community-based schools into public/communal schools
- Construction of 2350 classrooms on average per year for the first cycle and about 1000 for the secondary cycle...

It should be noted that since 2000, all the new infrastructures are equipped with separate latrines (girls-boys).

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

Mali ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on January 13, 2005 by ordinance and the instrument was registered on February 13, 2005.

F) THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

Chapter IV Sections 42 (l), (a), (b), (2) and (3) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution provides for non-discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity, age or circumstances of birth against all Nigerian citizens. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) is the national gender focal machinery and is in charge of implementing the national the gender policy and the National Centre for Women's Development (NCWD), a parastatal under the FMWA is responsible for promoting women's advancement through research, training and documentation.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

The national campaign against HIV/AIDS is led by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) chaired by the President is charged with ensuring multi-sector and multi-level participation of relevant stakeholders. HIV/AIDS control is integrated into the country's Primary Health Care System. Nigeria's HIV/AIDS control program includes free medical care/subsidized drugs, public enlightenment programs, provision of HIV testing kits to all citizens irrespective of sex; establishment of Voluntary Counseling and Confidential Testing (VCCT) centers have been established alongside the introduction of PMTCT in most states of the federation. Provision of home/community based care and support services People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) including their families. To address the gender related stigma associated with the program and encourage the participation of men, the program has been renamed Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT).

Article 2: Peace and Security

Nigeria has ratified the AU Constitutive Act and the ECOWAS Protocol on Peace, Security, Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution in West Africa. To further its obligations, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) was established with a female director as head of the Department of External Conflict Prevention and Resolution. The department's main focus is on post-conflict peace building in Africa (including Nigeria). Gender mainstreaming and the specific problems of women and children during conflict and war situations as well as in relation to peace building are adequately addressed by the agency.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

The official age for recruitment into the Nigerian Army is 18 years, thus making it illegal and impossible for children to be directly recruited into the Armed Forces. Section 34 of the Child Rights Act enacted in 2003 complements this provision. Members of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria are sensitized on the use of children in war situations as part of their professional training.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

The Federal Ministry of Justice completed a draft Bill on the - Elimination of Violence in 2006. The Bill has been sent to the National Assembly and reflects Nigeria's International obligations. Some State House of Assemblies have enacted legislations to prohibiting violence against women.

The Federal Ministry of Health has since 2004 commenced the commemoration of 6th February as annual 'Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Day'. The FMWA also commemorates the annual 16 days of Global Activism on Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women (25th November-10th December).

In relation to the issue of trafficking, the Federal Government enacted the 'Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003'. Parallel laws are in place in states where the problem is endemic. The Federal Government has also established the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on Human Trafficking and Child Labor and the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to enforce the law and monitor the trafficking of persons.

Article 5: Gender Parity

Section 42 of the 1999 Constitution, guarantees every Nigerian (women and men), the rights to freedom from discrimination and the freedom of association, which by extension includes political association and participation. Women constitute about 19 per cent of members of the Federal cabinet in comparison to 12 per cent four years ago. Presently, women represent 22 per cent of Federal Permanent Secretaries as against about 10 per cent in 2003.

On the elective front, there is a marginal increase in the number of women elected into both the Upper & Lower Houses of the National Assembly. In the National Assembly, there are four (4) women out of 109 senators and 21 women out of 360 members of the Federal House of Representatives. Of significance is the number of female Deputy Governors, which has increased from 1 to 4. Furthermore, 2 out of the 36 State Houses of Assembly speakers are women; there are 47 women Local Government Chair out of 774.

In 2005, the first female justice of the Supreme Court and the first female Police Commissioner were appointed.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

The Nigeria Human Rights Commission was established as the country's human rights ombudsman. The Nigerian Government has signed and ratified all international and sub-regional treaties and conventions in respect of women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. At the local level, various state governments have enacted laws protecting women's human rights. For example,

- a) The Enugu State of Nigeria 2001, No. 3 on: - The Prohibition of Infringement of a Widow's and Widower's Fundamental Rights law;
- b) The Edo State Criminal Code (Amendment) Law 2000 cap. 48 on the Prohibition of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls;
- c) The Zamfara State Sharia Penal Code law of 2000, Vol. 1, No. 4, Sections 207 to 239 equally seeks to protect women and young girls from all forms of cruelty, sexual, labor and economic exploitation as well as trafficking;
- d) Bauchi State Hawking by Children (Prohibition) Act 1985, cap. 58;
- e) Ebonyi State Law 010(2000) on the Abolition of Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children; Edo State Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prohibition Law 2000;
- f) Cross-River State Girl-Child Marriage and Female Circumcision (Prohibition) Law of (2000).

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

Section 43 of the Constitution guarantees every Nigerian (man or woman) the right to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in Nigeria; whilst section 44 guarantees the rights of every Nigerian to his/her movable or immovable property. Similarly, the Land use Act, 1978 also confers general powers to own real property upon both men and women. Through these provisions, all Nigerians regardless of sex are in principle, entitled to landed or other movable property.

Article 8: Education

The Child's Rights Act passed in 2003, reinforces government's commitment to provide free and compulsory education for every Nigerian child up to junior secondary school level. Furthermore, section 15(6) of the same law prescribes punishment for parents or guardians who prevent a child from attending and completing his/her education. Universal Basic Education and other Related Matters Act, 2004 (UBE) also reiterates the rights to compulsory, free, and universal basic education. The Federal Government of Nigeria has designated a special fund for implementing Millennium Development Goal 3 to facilitate gender equality in education and the acceleration of girls' education.

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

The Protocol on African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa has been signed but is yet to be domesticated as part of Nigerian law.

G) THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Rwanda's legal and institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality include both state and civil society organizations. The state institutions include the 1993 Constitution, the Ministry of Gender and Family Affairs, the National Women's Council, the national Coordinating Committee and the Permanent Executive Secretariat for the Follow-Up of the Beijing Platform of Action, the gender monitoring office, national gender policy and gender focal points. The civil society institutions are the forum of Rwanda women parliamentarians and Pro-Femmes Twese, the umbrella organization of women's NGOs.

Article 1 HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

Since 2003, Rwanda has made significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic through a multi-sector and multidisciplinary decentralized strategy. The 2005-2009 National Prevention Plan against HIV/AIDS was developed in 2005. VCT sites have increased significantly- from 150,000 in 2003, to 340,000 in 2004 and to 640,000 in 2005. The number of PMTCT sites has also increased significantly from 56 in 2003 to 160 in 2005. Pregnant women under prophylaxis increased from 14 per cent in 2003 to 28 per cent in 2005.

A five strategic plan for 2005-2010 was developed as part of the National Malaria Control Program.

Article 2: Peace and Security

Women represent 29 per cent of people within GACACA Courts¹. Rwandese women are among the armed contingents of the Rwandan Patriotic Army and the National Police in peacekeeping missions in Khartoum and Darfur in Sudan. They are also included in the United Nations Civil Police to be deployed in various peace keeping missions all over the world.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

Rwanda ratified the convention of the Child in 1990, the Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in 2000, and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts in 2002, but is yet

¹ Local court in charge of crimes committed during the 1994 genocide.

to sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court². Rwanda has not amended its Labor Code to reflect Article 3(d) of the ILO Convention prohibiting children under 18 from performing harmful work.

With UNICEF's assistance, the Rwanda government started its demobilization program in 1997.

Law No. 27 protecting the rights of children was promulgated in 2001. Article 19 forbids military service for children less than 18 years of age. In relation to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, a national policy for orphans and other vulnerable children was adopted in 2003.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

In addition to its international commitments to protect women from gender-based violence, Rwanda enacted laws at the national level to reinforce these obligations. Law No. 27 of 2001 defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 years. The law protects children from violence especially rape and prescribes punishments for such violations. Rape of children below 14 years is life imprisonment, for those between 14-18 years a fine of imprisonment of up to 25 years. If the rape victim dies or is infected with an incurable disease, the rapist is sentenced to death. Laws No 08 of 30/8/1996 and 40/2000 of 26/01/2001 classify rape and sexual torture as category one crimes and as such, perpetrators are sentenced to either death or life imprisonment depending on the gravity of the offence. A draft law on prevention and protection of all forms of gender-based violence is being developed by Parliament.

Article 5: Gender Parity

The 2003 Constitution prohibits all forms of gender-based discrimination and recommends that least 30 per cent of all positions in public decision-making institutions are reserved for women. Further, Law No. 42 of 5 December 2000 establishing the local council election body includes a quota of at least 1/3 of women to be placed on the electoral list. As a result, Rwanda has the highest number of female politicians globally - 48.8 per cent.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

In relation to women's rights, Rwanda has, in addition to CEDAW adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and has ratified other instruments related to rights of women and children, including:

- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Marriage Age and Registration of Marriages;
- Convention on Women's Political Rights;
- Convention for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Exploitation of other People's Prostitution;

² This treaty includes recruitment and use of children less than 15 years of age in hostilities as a war crime.

- Convention on Married Woman's Nationality;
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;
- African Charter of Human and People's Rights and its Protocols related to Women's Rights ;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor;
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- Optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

At the level of national legislation, Law No. 04 of 12/03/99 established the National Human Rights Commission; Law no 22 of 12/11/99 supplementing Book I of the Civil Code and Part Five regarding matrimonial regimes, liberalities and successions, enables women to choose their preferred matrimonial regime and allows the girl-child to inherit property her parents as her brothers. N° 29 of 03/12/2004 on Rwanda's Nationality Code gives a woman married to a foreigner the right to pass on her nationality to her children.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

In addition to Law N° 22/99 of 12/11/1999 , Organic Law No. 08/2005 of 14/07/2005 establishing Rwanda's land regime allows gender equality in terms of access to land. Women as well as men have the right to access, own and exploit land and all children, boys and girls, have equal rights to land inheritance. The government is planning to establish a Land commissions and its composition will be gender-mainstreamed to ensure that it is useful to both men and women at all levels of decision-making regarding land rights.

Article 8: Education

The major goal of the Government in its Vision 2020 for education is to achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE) by 2010 and subsequently Basic Education for all by 2015. Achievement of both goals depends on addressing the problem of high dropout and repeat rates which are higher among girls than boys.

Rwanda's literacy rate stands at 52.4 per cent. The government policy is to increase the literacy rate to 85 per cent by 2010. To achieve this goal, literacy training would be provided to 500,000 people every year until 2010.

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

Rwanda adopted and ratified the Protocol to African Charter of Human and People's Rights related to Women's Rights in Africa. The signature of this regional instrument took place on 11 July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique; its ratification by the Presidential Order N° 11/01 took place on 24 June 2004.

The Protocol and other regional and international instruments for the protection and promotion women's rights such as the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW Resolution 1325 and SDGEA have been translated in Kinyarwanda, the national language.

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EX.CL/ 376(XII) - a

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

Third Report of the AUC Chairperson On the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

1. Introduction

This is the third annual report to the Heads of State and Government on progress in implementing the **2004 Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)**, in accordance with the reporting requirements agreed in Article 13 of the Solemn Declaration. This report looks at progress made during the past year, identifies key issues arising and makes recommendations for the focus of action during the coming year.

Section 2 of this report provides an **Executive Summary**, focusing on the key issues and their implications for action. The full report may be found in Sections 3-7.

Section 3 looks at the **AU Commission Progress on Implementing the Solemn Declaration**, in terms of the improved capacity of the Commission, on the regional consultation process, and on actions taken to encourage improved implementation of the Solemn Declaration.

Section 4 provides an overview of **Country Progress in Implementing the Solemn Declaration**, by summarising the overall pattern of the Country Reports which have been received during the past year, looking at progress in implementing each of the SDGEA Articles, as the basis for identifying examples of best practice which might be worthy of emulation, as well as making a critical analyses of the present level of progress. There is some consideration of how to improve the reporting system in order to improve the number and quality of reports.

Section 5 looks at **Progress in Gender Mainstreaming** at both country and regional levels, with a special focus on the problems of ensuring the country and regional development plans incorporate sufficient identification of relevant gender issues, and appropriate intervention strategies to effectively address these issues.

Section 6 assembles some detailed statistics to provide **Measures of Gender Equality** for all Africa, using selected indicators that are of particular relevance for measuring progress in implementing the Solemn Declaration. These indicators are used for inter-country and inter-regional comparisons, and to look at the pattern of change over time. The figures are used to identify key issues, including the key issues of how to collect better and more comprehensive information for better quantitative measures of progress.

Section 7 brings together the main **Recommendations** that are suggested for addressing all the key issues that were identified in the previous sections of the report.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Introduction

The Executive Summary provides an overview of the main points in the AU Chairperson's third annual report on implementing the SDGEA, which looks at progress made during 2007. The Summary focuses on the main elements in the reporting framework, which is concerned with reporting **progress**, identifying **key issues**, and making **recommendations**. However, in order to highlight the report's implications for action, this Summary puts emphasis on the **recommendations**.

2.2 Progress Report

2.2.1 African Union Commission Activities

The Commission has continued to build its institutional capacity to guide and encourage the process of gender mainstreaming at the country and regional levels, especially by further strengthening the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD), which is the focal point for all gender related activities within the AU.

The WGDD has been active in promoting and facilitating regional conference discussion on gender mainstreaming within various aspects of regional governance – within the African Union itself, within parliamentary legislation, economic policy and planning, peacekeeping, and in the rehabilitation of girl soldiers. Such consultations have been useful in identifying some of the obstacles to SDGEA implementation, and strategies for better implementation. Some of the main lessons learned from such consultations are reported here.

Some progress has been made on the formulation of an AU Gender Policy while the Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan have been developed for the Social and Political clusters of AU Departments.

2.2.2 Country Reports

Despite the commitment of Member States to make annual reports on progress in implementing the SDGEA, only 9 reported in the period 2005-6, and 7 during the present reporting period of 2007, leaving 37 countries that have so far not met their commitment under Article 12 of the SDGEA. This low level of reporting makes it difficult to use these Country Reports to provide a satisfactory overview of regional progress.

Better progress is seen on the implementation of Article 9 requiring ratification of the **Protocol to the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**, where 23 countries have ratified, another 23 have signed but not ratified, and only seven have neither signed nor ratified.

2.2.3 Progress on Gender Mainstreaming

Country Reports generally show a strong element of gender mainstreaming within educational programmes. There is a high awareness of gender gaps in formal school enrolment as an important issue, and there is evidence of longstanding measures and development programmes to address this issue.

However, there is also a general pattern in Country Reports of not adequately describing the gender specific aspect of programmes in other socio-economic areas that are equally important to the SDGEA. For example, whereas Article 1 calls for gender specific measures in HIV/AIDS programmes, a Country Report will typically describe a national HIV/AIDS programme without reference to any gender specific measures, or even without any identification of specific gender issues that need to be addressed.

In general, Country Reports show a relatively high level of legislative intervention to secure equal rights for women, by comparison with a much lower level of activity in measure and programmes to secure these legal rights in practice.

2.2.4 Standard Indicators as Measures of Gender Equality

Especially because Country Reports have so far provided a low coverage of the overall African situation, Section 6 uses a selection of globally available statistical indicators as measures of gender equality for all African countries. Whereas Country Reports are intended mainly to recount **actions** taken to implement the SDGEA, the all-Africa indicators provides the prospect of measuring the **results** of such actions, in terms of the changing political and socio-economic status of women in Africa.

The results clearly show a high level of gender equality in the area of education (as measured by gender gaps in school enrolment) by comparison with a relatively low level of gender equality in political empowerment (as measured by gender gaps in parliament and ministerial positions). However, women's political empowerment has improved markedly over the past twelve years (the figures show an all-Africa average of only 7 women to every 100 men in top-level political positions in 1995, but rising to 17 women to every hundred men in 2007). However, these overall figures mask large differences between countries and regions.

The figures also show that there is no correlation between women's level of education and their representation in high level political positions. Some countries have very high levels of women's education even at the tertiary level, but very low levels of women's political empowerment. Conversely, some countries with relatively low levels of women's enrolment in education nonetheless have high levels of women's political empowerment.

2.3 Key Issues Arising

The key issues arising from the various forms of progress report are:

- Too few countries are responding to their commitment to write annual reports on their progress in implementing the SDGEA;
- Especially because of the poor response in country reporting, there is lack of an overall all-Africa picture of progress on implementing the SDGEA;
- Country Reports show insufficient identification of the gender issues which need to be addressed, or the gender specific measures being taken, or which need to be taken;
- Country Reports are lacking in identification of areas of difficulty and obstacles to progress;
- There is no statistical evidence for the widely held assumption that more education for women is an effective strategy for improving women's level of political representation;
- Women's level of political representation is highest in those countries where governments have taken direct affirmative action to increase their level of representation.

2.4 Main Recommendations

2.4.1 Recommendations for Improved Country Reporting

It is recommended that:

- Urgent steps need to be taken to encourage and enable reporting from those countries which have not yet submitted baseline Country Reports.
- The AU will devise incentives to motivate member states to meet their obligations on SDGEA reporting;
- Country reports should recognised difficulties and obstacles being faced in implementing the SDGEA, and in should include a 'milestones of implementation' to show stages of implementation, from legislative action through to programme planning, action and outcomes, for the various aspects of the SDGEA;
- Reporting should include a peer review report, which could be achieved by incorporating a stronger gender element mainstreamed within the current system of APRM reporting within NEPAD;
- The AU will make it easier to compile and write the report by providing a standard format questionnaire to ensure that all relevant information and quantitative data is provided;

2.4.2 Recommendations for Improved Country-Level Implementation of the SDGEA

There is a need for:

- Ratification of the African Charter's Protocol on Women's Rights by those countries which have not yet done so;

- Carrying out dissemination and popularization of the Protocol by translating it into local languages;
- Mobilisation of human resources in multidisciplinary teams to better clarify all aspects of the Protocol and conduct sensitization campaigns through the media;
- Domestication of the provisions of the Protocol into statutory law;
- Harmonisation of customary law with statutory law, and therefore to ensure that there is no infringements of women's rights within customary law and traditional practice;
- More action to move from legislative provision on women's rights, to implement programmes of action to ensure that these rights are accessible in practice;
- AU facilitation of national consultations between women parliamentarians and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs);
- Identification of the practices of gender discrimination which stand in the way of implementing the commitments of the SDGEA and the Protocol;

2.4.3 Recommendations for Improved Gender Mainstreaming

It is recommended that:

- The AU will provide a practical 'how to' gender mainstreaming manual, to provide advice and methods on how to recognise and address gender issues in development planning, for all stages of the planning cycle;
- Attention to gender issues should be mainstreamed within the APRM assessment process, and not isolated a separate consideration. The APRM should include an explicit interest in all of the gender issues, which are the subject of commitments in the SDGEA and the African Charter's Protocol on Women's Rights.

2.4.4 Recommendations for Improved Monitoring of the Status of Women in Africa

It is recommended that:

- The present system of country reporting on the SDGEA should be allied to, or include, a periodic provision of country-level data on quantitative indicators to measure progress in those areas most important to SDGEA;
- That this monitoring of progress on key indicators will be achieved by alliance with the ECA *African Gender and Development Index* which the ECA is currently rolling out in a first batch of African countries;
- That the national gender machinery in each country should be asked to provide annual or biennial data on an agreed list of essential indicators, as the basis for periodic AU Reports on overall progress on improved gender equality, with inter-country and inter regional comparisons.

African Union Commission Progress in Implementing the SDGEA

Background: AU Commission Progress Prior to 2007

In the period 2004 – 2006, i.e. the period prior to the present 2007 reporting year, the AU Commission carried out the following foundation activities for establishing the basis for SDGEA implementation:

- **Reporting** – In compliance with Article 13 of the SDGEA, the AU Chairperson produced annual reports in 2005 and 2006 on Progress in SDGEA Implementation during the period 2004-2005 [EX.CL/170 (VII) and EX.CL306 (X)]. The 2006 Chairperson's Report included an overview of the nine Country Reports received during 2005 (in compliance with Article 12 of the SDGEA), and a more detailed Synthesis of these First Reports was attached to the Chairpersons 2006 Report as an appendix [EX.CL.306 (X)-b].
- **The Gender Audit** - The Commission completed a gender audit. The audit indicated that although some progress has been made, much more needs to be done in order to achieve the AU commitments and objectives on gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. The AU Commission committed itself to implement the recommendations of the Gender and Audit in the forthcoming strategic plan.
- **The Gender Policy** – The Commission initiated discussion on the development of the AU gender policy. This AU policy will provide the framework for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in Africa.
- **The Five Year Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan** - The Commission also developed of a Five Year Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan (GMSP) for the social and political clusters, aimed at providing a framework for AUC, RECs, AU Organs and Member States in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, as a means towards the operationalization of the Gender Policy.
- **Building Internal Capacity to Mainstream Gender** – Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD), in collaboration with UNIDEP, piloted a course on gender responsive economic policy making in African and produced a handbook on good practices in mainstreaming gender in different sectors.
- **Partnerships and Advocacy on HIV/AIDS** - The WGDD has collaborated with CSOs, international organizations, RECs and other AU Directorates in its efforts to address gender and women's empowerment issues in Africa. In collaboration with partners, WGDD launched an Advocacy Campaign on Younger Women's Higher Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

- **Guidelines for Reporting and Implementation** - The First AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Women Affairs and Gender held in October 2005 in Dakar, Senegal adopted the Guidelines for Reporting, and an Implementation Framework on the SDGEA by AU Member States, setting out a timeframe of five years for action, and for review after every five years.

AU Commission Progress during 2007

The mandate of the WGDD is to spearhead the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment within the Commission and other organs of the African Union (AU) and its Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as among Member States, through mainstreaming gender issues in all its programmes as well as implementing special programmes to ensure the fulfilment of women's rights as provided for by the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the SDGEA.

During the year 2007 the main activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the SDGEA were as follows:

- **Reporting** - Despite requests to Member States to submit their reports for submission to this January 2008 Summit, during the year 2007 reports were submitted by only seven Member States. Therefore, to date, the Commission has received baseline Country Reports from only sixteen countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia). A synthesis of the latest seven Country Reports is made available separately, whereas a general overview of the findings from these seven Country Reports is provided in Section 4 of this present Report.
- **AU Gender Policy and Mainstreaming Strategy** – Although it was originally envisaged that the AU Gender Policy would be ready during 2007, more time and consultation was found to be needed than was originally envisaged. It is now expected that the Policy will be ready for approval and publication in 2008.
- **Strategies for Ratifying the Protocol** – The WGDD organized a Regional Consultation on Strategies for Accelerating the Ratification of the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Women held in Tunis, 2-4 April 2007. This consultation identified the various obstacles standing in the way of both ratification and implementation of the Protocol, and in the light of these difficulties made detailed recommendations to Member States and the African Union.
- **Advice on Implementing the SDGEA** – The WGDD organized the Second Meeting of the African Union Women's Committee, which serves as an advisory body to the Chairperson of the AU Commission on gender and

gender development related issues. The meeting made detailed recommendations for the improved implementation of the SDGEA.

- **Lobbying and Advocacy** – A Conference on the Role of Parliament in the Popularization and Implementation of the SDGEA was organized at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 10-12 October 2007. The main objective of the Conference was to identify strategies that could be put in place to popularize and implement the SDGEA through national Parliaments and the Pan African Parliament, with the of making the SDGEA more known and its content mainstreamed into the work and programmes of National Parliaments.
- **Gender Mainstreaming** - The Gender Directorate in collaboration with the “Gender is my Agenda” Campaign Network of women’s groups and organizations coordinated by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) organized, from 23 to 24 June 2007, the 10th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) on the margins of the 9th AU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Accra, Ghana. They also discussed the theme of the 9th AU Summit, “Grand Debate on the Union Government” and recommended the inclusion of the gender parity principle in the new Constitutive Act of the Union Government and maintain it in all the Organs, Structure and Programmes of the African Union Government, RECs and National Governments.
- **Gender Orienting Economic Policies** - The African Union Commission, in collaboration with UN-IDEP, organized the 2nd AU Course on Gender Responsive Economic Policy-Making in Africa from 3rd –14 December 2007 in the premises of the AU Commission. This Course had the objective of filling the capacity gap of African economic policy makers, budget planners, development practitioners and policy advocated in designing and implementing gender sensitive economic policies and programmes. It also sought to bridge the knowledge gap of the economists on gender issues and to improve the economic literacy of gender experts.
- **Women’s Voice in Peace-Making** - As part of the African Union’s efforts in strengthening women’s voices in peace processes, especially in countries in conflict and emerging from conflict and following the requests coming from Côte d’Ivoire women’s associations and authorities, the African Union Commission, including WGDD, together with Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) undertook from 18-21 November 2007 a Preliminary Peace and Solidarity mission in Cote d’Ivoire. The objective of this preliminary mission was the analysis of the situation in Cote d’Ivoire in order to prepare the High-Level Peace Mission that will be composed by a delegation of eminent personalities who will be nominated by the Chairperson of the Commission. The High-Level Peace Mission is planned for the beginning of 2008.
- **Rehabilitating Girl Soldiers** - From 6 to 7 December 2007, the WGDD, in collaboration with Peace and Security Department organized, in Kigali,

Rwanda, a Workshop on The Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Female Ex-Child Soldiers/Captives in the Great Lakes Region. The workshop aimed at assessing the situation of female ex-child soldiers and combatants in the Great Lakes Region, and developing policy recommendations on the subject in question, and in other thematic issues such as HIV and Violence Against Women and Children.

- **Gender Training Manual for AU Peacekeepers** - WGDD is in the process of developing an AU Gender Training Manual for AU Peacekeeping Operations in order to train peacekeepers in Human Rights, focusing on gender-based violence, in order to be able to investigate and report on violence of women's rights and to provide effective protection.

AU Commission Progress on Implementing SDGEA Articles

In addition to the SDGEA Articles where Member States make commitments, there are particular Articles that require action by the African Union Commission. Progress on the implementation of these Articles is summarised below.

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

In addition to the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa's (SDGEA) Articles where Member States make commitments, there are particular Articles that require action by the African Union Commission. Progress on the AUC implementation of this Article is summarised here below. To demonstrate that efforts are being made to ensure that the gender parity principle is being applied in the recruitment of staff in the AU Commission.

Staff of AU by Grade and Sex

Grade	Number			Rate (%)	
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Chairperson	1	0	1	100	0
Deputy of Chairperson	1	0	1	100	0
Commissionner	3	5	8	37.5	62.5
D1	12	6	18	66.7	33.3
P6	4	3	7	57.1	42.9
P5	35	13	48	72.9	27.1
P4	20	12	32	62.5	37.5
P3	69	16	85	81.2	18.8
P2	52	22	74	70.3	29.7
P1	5	1	6	83.3	16.7
GSA	95	100	195	48.7	51.3
GSB	127	28	155	81.9	18.1
Total	424	206	630	67.3	32.7

3.3.2 Progress on Article 10: Establishing an AIDS Watch Africa Article 10 of the SDGEA established AIDS Watch Africa. It will be recalled that AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) was established at the 2001 Abuja Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infections, to promote advocacy for action at the level of Heads of State and Government as well as for mobilization of local and international resources. The Members of AWA include the Heads of State and Government of Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda. The AU Commission Chairperson is also a Member of AWA.

Originally operated from Abuja, AWA was relocated to the AU Commission in July 2004 within the Social Affairs Department. The AU Commission HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan and the AWA Strategic Framework were developed and, among the others, proposed responsibilities for each Member to spearhead. These responsibilities were formally allocated at the AWA Meetings held in Khartoum, Sudan in January 2006 and Banjul, the Gambia in July 2006. At the Banjul Summit, a decision was taken that Advisors to AWA Heads of State and Government meet biannually. The Advisors will, therefore, meet to discuss how each will effectively coordinate the responsibilities of his/her respective Heads of State and Government.

From 19 to 20 February 2007 at AUC Headquarters, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia, AU Commission Department of Social Affairs and Bureau of AU in collaboration with UNAIDS organized the second meeting of Advisors on HIV/AIDS to AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Heads of State and Government.

The main objective of the meeting were:

- To share experiences since the meeting of September 2006
- To finalize the framework for an advocacy plan for AWA member, Head of State and Government and AU Commission Chairperson
- To finalize a collective Action Plan for AWA Advisors and Partners to utilize in facilitating AWA advocacy, monitor and follow up the implementation of AWA Strategic Framework and capacity building for the AWA Secretariat

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

Activities are under way to ensure the establishment of the African Trust Fund for Women. According to the decisions number 8 (Doc EX.CL/306(X) of Assembly of the African Union on January 2007, the Commission of the African Union was mandated to organize a Continental Conference on the Economic Empowerment of African Women. The process for the preparation of this conference has already started and is scheduled to be held in February 2008 in Malawi. In order to prepare the content part of the conference the NEPAD Secretariat in conjunction AU Gender Directorate and ECA are already conducting Baseline study on the participation of women in the economy. In the meantime, the Gender Directorate is in the

process of developing the Terms of Reference for the study on African Trust Fund for women. The results of this study will be to present during the conference known mentioned.

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

The Chairperson of the AU has complied with the obligation to provide annual reports on SDGEA progress, not only in this present 2008 report, but also in the previous two previous reports of July 2005 and January 2007 (see also the heading ‘Reporting’ in Section 3.1 of this present report).

3.4 Key Issues for Improved Action by the AU Commission in Implementing the SDGEA

The main issue arising from this Section of the Report is the low level of reporting from Member States, where only 16 of 53 member states have so far reported. This means that the Commission has not yet been able to put together a comprehensive overall picture of the status of women in Africa with respect to the specific SDGEA commitments. Such an overall picture is needed to provide the basis for identifying the priorities for action, and as the basis for a co-ordinated All-Africa campaign to improve gender equality throughout the region.

Even in the 16 Country Reports so far received, adequate information is often missing on the present situation of gender equality, and on progress on gender specific actions called for by the SDGEA.

Further aspects of this issue of lack of reporting, and its ramifications, are discussed in the following Sections 4, 5 and 6 of this present Report.

3.5 Recommendations for Improved Implementation of the SDGEA and Ratification of the Protocol on Women’s Rights.

3.5.1 Recommendations for Improved Implementation of the SDGEA

The African Union Women’s Committee, in their meeting of April 2007 (see also Section 3.2, above) made 16 recommendations for improved implementation of the SDGEA:

- The AU should facilitate the missions to be undertaken by the AUWC to convince Heads of State to submit reports on the SDGEA and to ratify the Protocol on women’s rights, as spelt out in the Work plan;

- The AU should urge member states in their reporting to be more action-oriented and more forthcoming with regards to the challenges encountered. In this connection, the WGDD is requested to elaborate guideline questions;
- The AU should devise incentives to motivate member states who report adequately;
- The AU member states need to devise strategies to capacitate financially and educationally relevant Ministries responsible for gender;
- The AU should facilitate the harmonisation of processes such as SDGEA, Protocol on women's rights, NEPAD Peer Review, CEDAW, UN Resolution 1325, MDGs etc;
- The AU should devise ways of sensitising Parliamentarians on the importance of the SDGEA;
- The AU should facilitate national consultations with women parliamentarians and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs);
- The AU is requested to ensure that Gender Equality is one of the main themes at the Summit thereby inciting Heads of State to consider the reporting requirement more seriously;
- The AUWC in collaboration with the WGDD should put in place mechanisms to popularise the SDGEA, and each member prepare an advocacy plan to be submitted at the next meeting;
- The AUWC should be represented at the next regional meeting of the Ministers responsible for women affairs and at the next PAP meeting;
- The AUWC should interact with the NEPAD Peer Review Committee, the PAP, and development partners to support the national efforts on the implementation of the SDGEA;
- The WGDD should devise strategies to work closer with other regional structures such as NEPAD and with relevant NGOs;
- The WGDD needs to work with the gender ministries to identify the gender machinery at the national levels in order to establish focal points for the implementation of the SDGEA;
- The WGDD should work in collaboration with the media and CSOs to identify achievements and constraints linked to the reporting and implementation of the SDGEA and devise strategies to implicate the Heads of State in the reporting activity;
- The WGDD should be reinforced to enable it function efficiently
- The WGDD should devise ways of creating a gender unit/component within each department/directorate of the AU.

3.5.2 Recommendations on African Union Strategies for Accelerating the Ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

The Regional Consultation on Strategies of Accelerating the Ratification of the Women's Protocol, held in Tunis in April (see also Section 3.2, above) made recommendations on actions the African Union should take for accelerated ratification of the Protocol:

- Regularly post on its website any information relating to developments on the status of ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women;
- Organize regular regional consultations bringing together governments, experts, representatives of the civil society and networks of women's associations engaged in advocacy for the ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in the region concerned;
- Refer to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in development policies and plans, as an obligation for good governance;
- Assist countries to mobilize the necessary resources from donors for campaigns for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol;
- Build the capacities of the Solidarity on African Women's Rights (SOAWRs) to enable it to fully play its role in Member States for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol;
- Use the expertise of SOAWRs to instil dynamism into mobilization campaigns in Member States on the ground for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

4 Latest Country Reports on Implementing the SDGEA

4.1 Current Level of Base-Line Reporting

So far, in the period 2005 to 2007, the AU has received only sixteen of the fifty-three Country Reports which should have been submitted during this period. Therefore, although we may find some shortcomings in seven reports during 2007, we should remember our main concern that only 30% of countries met their obligation to submit reports (as agreed in Article 14 of the SDGEA).

Each country's first report has the purpose of providing baseline data from which future progress can be measured. The lack of reports from the majority of countries makes it difficult for the AU to monitor and evaluate overall African progress, and to identify the main regional issues which need to be addressed. It is especially for this reason that this present report has included Section 6 on *Measures of Gender Equality in Africa*, which attempts to put together an overall All-Africa picture by using data from selected indicators which are available from international organisations with country-level world-wide information.

4.2 Overview of the Latest Country Reports (for Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Rwanda)

This section provides an overview of the content of the latest seven Country Reports by looking at the institutional machinery for implementation, and the present level of progress in implementing each article of the SDGEA. (An overview of the nine reports submitted before January 2007 is provided in the previous Chairpersons Report dated January 2007).

The overview of Country Reports here follows the same pattern as in the previous Chairperson's Report, of providing an overview of progress in implementing each Article of the SDGEA, and giving an example of good practice for each Article.

A more detailed account and synthesis of the Country Reports may be found in the AU Report on the *Synthesis of First Reports of Member States on the Implementation of the SDGEA*, which includes not only a more detailed account of the seven reports considered in this present Report, but also includes a synthesis of the nine Country Reports received in 2005-6 (Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia).

4.2.1 Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Gender Equality

Overview. In all of the seven countries there is a high level of institutional development, arising especially from countries' earlier assent of various international conventions and declarations, especially CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration. Typically there is an institutional framework which includes a government ministry of gender (or for women), which is connected to gender focal points in other ministries, and a national gender policy. In principle, therefore, all countries would seem to have a fairly strong institutional framework for implementing the SDGEA.

Best Practice. Rwanda reports the most comprehensive institutional framework, where state institutions include the Ministry of Gender and Family Affairs, the National Women's Council, the Permanent National Secretariat for the Follow-Up of the Beijing Platform of Action, the Gender Monitoring Office, the National Gender Policy and Gender Focal Points. Rwanda is the only one of the seven countries being reported here to include civil society organisations as part of the national institutional framework, mentioning the Forum of Rwanda Women Parliamentarians, and Pro-Femmes Twese, the umbrella organisation of women's NGOs.

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

Overview: This Article requires gender specific economic, social and legal measures, gender equality in the provision of services, and action to end discrimination against women living with AIDS. But the most notable aspect of the seven country reports is the lack of attention to the gender specific focus of Article 1. Instead there are general descriptions of programme for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB, with little or no information on gender issues, or gender specific action. Instead, there is a small amount of information on sex-differentiation, such as provisions for pregnant women, and provision for Prevention from Mother to Child Treatment (PMTCT).

Best Practice: Since all the seven reports showed little or no focus on the requirements for Article 1, there is no example of best practice.

4.2.3 Article 2: Peace and Security

Overview: The seven country reports show very limited focus on the Article 2 commitment to ‘full and effective participation of women in the peace process’. One report, Burkina Faso, gives information on country participation in peace processes without any information whatsoever on women’s role, or their level of participation. Apart from Ghana, other countries mention aspects of women’s participation, but without any quantitative information on the level of participation or their roles.

Best Practice: The most relevant, definite and quantitative information comes from Ghana, whose report states that women account for 11.5 per cent of Ghana’s peacekeeping contingents.

4.2.4 Article 3: Child Soldiers and Abuse of the Girl Child

Overview: Although some countries made fairly lengthy submissions on this Article, none of them showed any evidence of the ‘campaign for systematic prohibition’ against child soldiers and girl children as sex slaves that was called for in the Article 3. Two countries, Burkina Faso and Cameroon, went no further than listing the relevant international Conventions which they have ratified. Two countries, Mali and Nigeria, mentioned that the problem of child soldiers was not currently a local problem. Only Ghana reported on the problem of girl children being used as sex slaves, reporting that the country had ‘promulgated a law against ritual servitude ... where young girls are kept in shrines to atone for crimes committed by male members of their families’. Apart from this statement, there is no focus on gender issues in the sections of the seven Country Reports concerned with Article 3. Only Rwanda gives the numbers of girls amongst the child soldiers demobilised, but does not identify the gender issues faced by these girls, nor mention any special gender specific measures involved in girls demobilisation and rehabilitation.

Best Practice: Cote d’Ivoire and Rwanda gave clear quantitative information on action to demobilise and rehabilitate child soldiers. For example, the Cote d’Ivoire reports the existence of a National Disarmament, Demobilisation Programmeme for child soldiers which began in 2004, and estimates that there are still 4,000 child soldiers in the country.

4.2.5 Article 4: Violence Against Women

It is clear from all seven country reports that much needs to be done in this area, and that none of the countries reported organising the ‘sustained public campaigns against gender violence’ which are called for in Article 4. Six of the seven countries currently have no adequate law to proscribe common forms of gender violence, but four of these (Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, and Rwanda) have bills being drafted, or currently before parliament, to outlaw all forms of gender violence.

Best Practice: Article 4 calls for the ‘reinforcement of legal mechanisms to protect women’, which entails ensuring that there are adequate regulations, administrative and organisational mechanisms and procedures to ensure that women’s rights given in law are actually accessible, and therefore that existing laws on women’s rights are actually

operationalised. In this regard, Cameroon provides a good example, where the government has adopted an Action Plan on Female Genital Mutilation, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs organises socio-legal clinics to inform women about their rights and the various legal instruments and mechanisms available to seek redress.

4.2.6 Article 5: Gender Parity

Overview: The key questions here concern the proportion of women in parliament and holding ministerial positions, and whether the government has instituted a quota system to improve women's representation. According to the Country Reports, government instituted quota systems are operating in Rwanda (33% women) and Cameroon (30%), although the latest figures for Cameroon on women in parliament (14%) and in ministerial positions (10%)³ would seem to indicate that the Cameroon quota system is either not yet operational, or is otherwise ineffective. In Cote d'Ivoire political parties are left to set their own quotas for female parliamentary candidates, which for one party (the PDCI) is only 10%. The other four countries make no mention of any quota system. The Country Report from Mali has no information on the situation with respect to Article 5. None of the countries provide any identification of the discriminatory practices or other obstacles which stand in the way of women's participation in the political process.

Best Practice: Rwanda is by far the most successful country in the group of seven, with a percentage of women in parliament of 48%, as a direct result of a government instituted quota system requiring at least 30% women in all public decision making institutions.

4.2.7 Article 6: Women's Human Rights

Overview: This Article requires a state party to actively promote women's rights by legislation and awareness raising. However, all reports show a lack of focus on the requirements of the Article, and instead a focus on listing the relevant international conventions which have been ratified, or the existence of a Human Rights Commission, and the Country Report from Mali says nothing at all on the situation with respect to Article 6. However, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Ghana do briefly mention programmes concerned with increasing awareness on women's rights, and Nigeria and Rwanda list recent legislation directed at protecting the rights of women and girls.

Best Practice: Rwanda reports a new law of 1999 that establishes women's rights in marriage, allowing a woman to choose her matrimonial regime, and allows a female offspring to inherit property from her parents as would her brother. A 2004 law gives a Rwandan woman married to a foreigner the right to pass her nationality to her children. These examples are important in two respects: firstly in the domestication into local law of provisions in international conventions; secondly in the reform of customary law of marriage, which is not kept separate from constitutional and statutory provisions.

4.2.8 Article 7: Rights to Land, Property and Inheritance

³ See the tables in *Appendix 2* of this report for the proportion women in parliament and ministerial positions, represented as a 'gender index' rather as 'per cent women'.

Overview: The Article requires action on the implementation of legislation designed to protect women’s right to own and inherit property. However, the country reports are too much concerned with describing existing laws, rather than efforts to implement these laws. The report from Cote d’Ivoire lists laws that give women rights to own property, but then states that ‘in practice, Ivorian women are unable to exercise these rights due to entrenched patriarchal customs’. Rather similarly, the report from Nigeria reveals that, several State laws prohibit the owning of property by unmarried women, and one State law which denies property rights to women married under customary law. However, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana and Rwanda do include brief information on some administrative measures being taken, or planned, to protect women’s property rights. Mali makes not report on the situation with respect to Article 7.

Best Practice: Ghana reports a Land Administration Programme aimed at streamlining land administration to remove barriers to land acquisition, and to remove barriers and address gender issues in land ownership, access and control.

4.2.9 Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

Overview: Here, in contrast to the above seven Articles, the Country Reports now all show a clear identification of the gender issue (of gender gaps in school enrolment), and most reports are generous in their provision of quantitative data on gender gaps, and on the various measures being taken to close these gender gaps. Perhaps it is easier to report in an area of considerable success, the result of a long international development interest in Education for All, the Education of the Girl Child, and the current Millennium Development Goal No.3. The generally high proportion of girls in school in these seven countries, particularly at primary and secondary levels, is typical of all Africa (see also the tables in Appendix 2 of this report). Cameroon reports an administrative intervention of ‘a 40 per cent quota in favour of girls in the disbursement of scholarships’, whereas 40% for girls would actually seem to indicate a bias in favour of the boys who receive 60%. Perhaps we should assume that 40% for girls is an improvement on previous practice, when girls were more seriously discriminated against.

Best Practice: There is a general tendency in these reports to concentrate on successes, rather than admitting problems. A better example is to be found in the Rwanda report, which admits that ‘there is a glaring disparity as girls represent 39.1% of enrolment in higher learning institutions’.

4.2.10 Article 9: Ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter of Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

Overview: The status of the seven reporting countries, with respect to the Protocol on Women’s Rights, is as follows:

Neither signed nor ratified Signed but not Ratified Ratified

Nil	Cameroon Cote d'Ivoire	Burkina Faso Ghana Mali Nigeria Rwanda
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(See Section 4.3, below, for the full All-Africa list of countries which have signed and ratified)

According to Article 9, all countries agreed to sign and ratify the Protocol by the end of 2004. Article 9 further requires those who have signed and ratified to launch campaigns by the end of 2005 to ensure the entry into force of the Protocol, and to usher in an era of domestication and implementation of its provisions. However, Burkina Faso does not report any progress on implementation, and Mali states that 'although the National Assembly is yet to adopt the law, civil society organisations are using and disseminating the Protocol to their constituents'. Of the three reporting countries that have signed and ratified, only Rwanda reports initial progress on implementation.

Best Practice: Rwanda reports that the Protocol has been translated into the national language of Kinyarwanda, and that dissemination to 30 districts of the country has begun, directed at Executive Secretaries, the National Women's Council, and various civil society and religious organisations.

4.3 All Africa Progress on Article 9: Ratifying the Women's Protocol

So far 23 countries have ratified the *Protocol to the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*, as shown below. In 2007 the Protocol was ratified by three additional countries: Angola, Ghana and Tanzania, representing rather slow progress in the ratification process.

The present status with respect to ratification of the Protocol is as follows:

Countries which have neither signed nor ratified	Countries which have signed but not ratified	Countries which have ratified
Botswana Central African Republic Egypt Eritrea Sao Tome and Principe Sudan Tunisia	Algeria Burundi Cameroon Chad Cote d'Ivoire Congo DR Congo Equatorial Guinea Ethiopia Gabon Guinea-Bissau Guinea Kenya Liberia	Angola Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Comoros Djibouti Gambia Ghana Libya Lesotho Mali Malawi Mozambique Mauritania

	Madagascar Mauritius Niger Sahwarhi Arab Dem. Rep. Sierra Leone Somalia Swaziland Uganda Zimbabwe	Namibia Nigeria Rwanda South Africa Senegal Seychelles Tanzania Togo Zambia
7	23	23

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

4.4 All Africa Progress on Article 12: Commitment to Annual Reporting

Article 12 requires all 53 member states to make annual country reports, although 37 countries have so far not submitted any Country Report:

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

	Zimbabwe
16	37

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

4.5 Key Issues in Country-Level Implementation of the SDGEA

Following the critical overview of the latest seven Country Reports provided in Section 4.2 above, this section identifies the key issues arising.

4.5.1 The Difficulty in Moving to Implementation

To varying degrees, the lack of progress all of the seven Country Reports implicitly suggest that, except in the area of gender equality in education, the implementation of SDGEA is difficult. This is despite the general pattern that the institutional machinery is in place for gender mainstreaming within the legislative process, for administrative mechanisms, for gender oriented planning, and for mounting the gender-focused programmes which are called for, not only by the present SDGEA, but also by other previous conventions and declarations (notably CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action).⁴ But although national gender policies have been put in place, and sometimes even new laws, it is clear that there is a general stumbling block when it comes to actually planning and implementing programmes for women's advancement.

It is very noticeable, in these country reports, that when an Article calls for a particular programme of action, the report shows a general tendency to reiterate the conventions ratified and the laws in place which would allow this programme of action to take place, but there is usually no adequate report of any gender-focused programme of action actually taking place.

The single exception to this general tendency is in improving girls' representation within school enrolments, where there has been progress on longstanding international commitments, and where progress continues to be made.

This situation points to the need for identifying the particular obstacles that actually stand in the way of implementing the SDGEA.

4.5.2 The Lack of Identification of Gender Issues

The seven Country Reports did often include brief reports of country programmes of action, in such areas of HIV/AIDS, Peace and Security, Child Soldiers and Violence Against Women. However, such reports were largely irrelevant to the requirements of the SDGEA because the reports were almost entirely gender-neutral, and did not provide information on the gender specific elements required by the Articles of the SDGEA.

⁴ See Appendix 1 on the level of ratification of CEDAW and CRC by African States.

This lack of identification of specific gender issues, and lack of mention of gender oriented action to address gender issues, indicates a lack of gender mainstreaming within important national programmes, despite the existence of national gender machinery which is supposed to exist precisely to ensure the gender orientation of such programmes.

Even in the area of increased school enrolment for girls, where there has already been considerable success, there is a lack of identification of gender issues arising. For example, there is no identification of the problem of gender gaps in enrolment for science and maths classes in secondary school, and majority of males enrolled in science and engineering subjects at tertiary levels of education.

The problems lack of gender mainstreaming is considered further in Section 5 of this report.

4.5.3 The Lack of Identification of Omissions, Difficulties and Obstacles

It is clear from these seven Country Reports that there is a strong tendency to try to give the impression of good progress, even if this means avoiding a full report on the question that is being asked. Whereas it may generally be laudable to try to defend the record of one's own country, it is also necessary to admit where the situation is not satisfactory, where progress is poor, and where the record shows omissions, problems and obstacles.

For example, in the case of Article 1, on the subject of gender specific measures within HIV/AIDS programmes, the seven reports contained brief summaries of national HIV/AIDS programmes, which included almost no mention of gender specific measures, let alone any identification of the many gender issues which actually needed to be addressed.

Here it would seem to be necessary for the authors of a Country Report not to feel threatened by the reporting process, or to feel that a full disclosure of the situation would be 'letting down' their country.

4.5.4 The Small Number of Countries Reporting

It is perhaps because of this tendency to conceal rather than reveal problems that there is such a small proportion of countries that have so far reported.

This suggests the need for the AU to cultivate a more encouraging and supportive approach, emphasising that these are problems common to all countries, and we can all help each other and learn from one another, if we first admit our problems.

As is also discussed below, a peer-group system of reporting, and discussion of problems, may provide a better reporting framework and system for the identification and exploration of problems, the provision of advice for better progress, and the

identification of various forms of best practice for developing more practical and effective implementation strategies.

4.5.5 Obstacles to Ratification of the Protocol on African Women's Rights

The Regional Consultation on Strategies for Accelerating the Ratification of the **2003 Protocol to the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women**, held in Tunis in April 2007 (see Section 3.2, above) identified the following country-level obstacles to the ratification of the Protocol on African Women's Rights:

- Socio-cultural and religious constraints which constrains societies in an outdated conservatism;
- The confusion between the African Charter on Women's Rights Protocol and the **1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**;
- The lack of, or difficulty in communication between the government and the civil society, which is the root cause of the poor sharing of information concerning the African Charter on Women's Rights Protocol;
- The inaccurate interpretation of the provisions of the African Charter on Women's Rights Protocol, which is the cause of its rejection by some sections of the population;
- The inadequacy of civic education of the populations and difficult access to adequate information, particularly for women, as well as ignorance of the rights that protect them;
- The opposition to change on the part of the civil society in some countries of the Continent;

4.6 The Potential of Peer Review for Reporting on SDGEA

As is also discussed later, at Section 5.3 of this report, there is potential for using the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of NEPAD as an additional way of reporting on progress in implementing the SDGEA, or even to integrate SDGEA reporting within the APRM.

Such a peer review style of reporting has the potential for addressing some of the issues raised above, and especially to counter the natural and understandable tendency for the reporting country to be defensive and hesitant about admitting limitations, lack of progress and obstacles.

The APRM has two main legs: first the Country Self Assessment Report, which is followed by the Country Review Mission Report. These form the basis for discussion between the two parties, and a subsequent agreement on the main problems, and the recommendations for action.

To take an example of this type of APRM process, we here take a look at excerpts from the 2006 APRM Report on Kenya, focusing on the sections concerned with discussing gender and AIDS:

Legally, women are not adequately protected under the law. They are often excluded from inheritance settlements, particularly if married, or given smaller shares than their male counterparts. The practice of wife inheritance in some communities restricts a woman's right to choose her mate and places her at a high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. Perhaps the most affected women are widows.

[Excerpt from Kenya Country Report in Kenyan APRM, p157]

Statistics have shown that more women [than men] are infected with HIV/AIDS in Kenya. According to the Kenya National AIDS Control Council, out of the 1.4 million Kenyans living with HIV, about two-thirds are women. In the 15-24 age range, the gender difference is more pronounced, with female prevalence nearly five times higher than for males. The Country Review Mission recognises the efforts made by the National AIDS Control Council to integrate gender concerns into the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan. It is noted, however, that some special needs for women have not yet been sufficiently addressed. Examples include empowering women and unmarried girls to practice abstinence, and the popularisation of condoms for women to enable them to freely decide on the most appropriate contraceptives.

[Excerpt from Country Review Mission Report in Kenyan APRM Report, p158]

The above excerpts would seem to illustrate the potential for the APRM process to produce both country and peer review reports that are more forthright and helpful on the subject of gender issues in HIV/AIDS, by comparison with the seven SDGEA Country Reports (see Section 4.5.3, above).

4.7 Recommendations for Country Implementation of the SDGEA

4.7.1 Recommendation for Improved Country Reporting

In the light of the above identification of key issues, the following recommendations are given in order to improve the comprehensiveness and quality of reports, and especially to encourage and enable more countries to meet their obligation to report:

- Countries will be provided with more detailed advice on reporting, especially to encourage and enable reports to identify the specific local gender issues relevant to a particular Article. Information is also needed on actions being taken to address gender issues, and problems and obstacles being faced.
- As countries report on the obstacles they are facing in implementing the SDGEA, there is need for more definite information and analysis on the types of obstacle, such as belief systems and types of discriminatory practices including customary practices, and also to relate this to the specific intervention strategies being considered to address these obstacles.

- Guidelines on reporting should request, for each SDGEA Article, a brief account of ‘milestone progress’, to report the progress along a sequence of steps along the line of legislation-administrative procedures-policy-planning-implementation-evaluation.
- The WGDD should provide a standard questionnaire, requesting the latest data on key indicators on women’s status (see also Section 6.8.5 and 6.8.6 of this report).
- Country reports would benefit by including a peer review process, where gender specialists from other African countries would be called in to comment on a draft Country Report, and to make their own independent observations and suggestions for the production of a final report.
- For incorporating a peer review process into country reporting, there is the prospect of integrating SDGEA country reporting within the APRM of NEPAD. However, if this is to be done, the APRM itself needs to exhibit improved mainstreaming of attention to gender issues. By this means, gender reporting could be mainstreamed within the general system for reporting on progress in the area of good governance, human rights and socio-economic development.

4.7.2 Recommendations for Action by Member States for Protocol Ratification

The Regional Consultation on Strategies for Accelerating the Ratification of the **2003 Protocol to the African Charter of Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women**, held in Tunis in April 2007 (see Section 3.2, above) made recommendations to Member States for accelerated ratification of the Protocol, among which were:

- Carry out dissemination and popularization of the Protocol by translating it into local languages;
- Conduct sensitization campaigns in all sections of the population taking into consideration the respective socio-cultural, religious and political sensitivities with a view to creating an environment that is conducive to the ratification of the Protocol;
- Conduct a concerted sensitization campaign with all components of the civil society;
- Mobilize human resources in multidisciplinary teams to better clarify all aspects of the Protocol;
- Conduct sensitization campaigns through the media by transmitting clear, targeted messages that are accessible to all citizens.

5 Progress on Gender Mainstreaming

5.1 Progress in Gender Mainstreaming at the Country Level

Gender mainstreaming within a programme requires that the gender issues within a situation, and within problems being addressed, should be recognised so that action is taken to address these gender issues as an integral part of the programme. Gender mainstreaming is not a new strategy, but has long been the prescribed method for

integrating a concern with gender issues within the development process, especially since the 1995 *Beijing Platform for Action*. Gender mainstreaming is also the main overall implementation strategy for ensuring that all development programme can play their part in addressing SDGEA goals.

The overview of seven Country Reports in Section 4 reveals a strong element of gender mainstreaming within educational programme, where there is a high awareness of the gender issue of gender gaps in school enrolment, and there is evidence of longstanding measures and development programme to address this issue.

However, this attention to gender issues in girls' education (in reporting on Article 8) is not reflected in the reporting on other Articles where Member States have been asked to implement gender specific measures. On the contrary, for these other Articles there is a general pattern in Country Reports of failing to adequately describe the gender specific aspect of programme which are called for by the SDGEA. For example, whereas Article 1 calls for gender specific measures in HIV/AIDS programme, a Country Report will typically describe a national HIV/AIDS programme without reference to any gender specific measures, or even without any identification of specific gender issues that need to be addressed. Such reports provide a strong indication that gender has not been sufficiently mainstreamed within the programme being described.

The general lack of gender-specific information in Country Reports is evidence of a well-known general trend that, despite international commitments, gender mainstreaming is very overlooked in country and regional development planning. At the country level, the focus on gender mainstreaming has been mainly at the level of institutional capacity building, in the form of a women's/gender machinery linked to focal points in sectoral ministries. In practice, however, this institutional mechanism has not led to sufficient gender mainstreaming within national development plans and their accompanying sectoral plans.

Undoubtedly this poor progress in gender mainstreaming is due, in part, to the lack of political will that has hitherto affected all aspects of action in implementing action on gender equality. But in the case of gender mainstreaming, there is also undoubtedly a crucial technical aspect to the problem, in that many development planners are genuinely lacking in knowledge of how to recognise and analyse gender issues, and of the process for integrating a concern with gender issues into the process of planning, implementation and evaluation.

Therefore, it is important that the African Union plays its part in disseminating the knowledge and skills, and the good examples of gender mainstreaming, which can enable gender mainstreaming to be better implemented at the country level. One very important potential vehicle for such dissemination is the NEPAD, which is in the process of developing and implementing regional development programme in all sectors. This report therefore now turns to consider gender mainstreaming within NEPAD, and its potential as a vehicle for promoting gender mainstreaming.

5.2 Progress in Gender Mainstreaming within NEPAD

NEPAD has recognised that its first plan⁵, published in 2002, was comprehensively gender blind. It exhibited the lack of attention to gender issues which has been outlined above as being typical of many development plans at the national level. However, this inadequacy was soon recognised⁶, and NEPAD set up a Gender Task Force to advise on how to introduce gender mainstreaming within NEPAD programme.

As a consequence, NEPAD is now in the process of publishing a ***Manual on How to Mainstream Gender in NEPAD Programme***, which provides technical guidance for planners, implementers and evaluators on how to incorporate a focus on gender issues in all aspects of development programme.

Since NEPAD is the central development initiative of the African Union, it would seem that the NEPAD initiative on gender mainstreaming has the potential for providing the entry point and the vehicle for enabling and popularising gender mainstreaming as the developmental strategy for addressing SDGEA goals.

5.3 Incorporating Peer Review within Monitoring Gender Mainstreaming

Just as NEPAD planning would seem to provide a potential vehicle for improving the gender orientation of development planning at the national level, so it may similarly be able to incorporate an improved interest in gender mainstreaming within the present ***African Peer Review Mechanism*** (APRM).

In NEPAD's 'Preconditions' for 'Democracy and Good Political Governance' there is the acceptance of '*a binding obligation to ensure that women contribute on a basis of equality to the political and socio-economic development in our countries*'. Similarly, under 'Socio-Economic Development' there is the commitment to '*ensure gender equality and ensure the full and effective integration of women in political and socio-economic development*'.

It follows that the APRM, as it looks at the level of compliance with these two principles, should encompass much of the interest of the AU in monitoring progress on gender mainstreaming. Further more, just as the AU is looking for periodic country reports on SDGEA monitoring, so the APRM process begins with an internal country report. However, the APRM has the added value that the internal country report is followed by a peer review, which includes recommendations for improved performance in various aspects of governance.

⁵ New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) CD. Released for NEPAD Communications & Marketing Workshop, January 2002. www.nepad.org,

⁶ Assessment of the Gender orientation of NEPAD, in Peter Nyong'o et al (eds), 2002, New Partnership for Africa, NEPAD: New Path, Heninrich Boll Foundation, Nairobi. Collection of papers presented at a meeting of the African Forum for Envisioning Africa, 26-30 April 2002, which provided a multi-disciplinary assessment of NEPAD

Given that APRM is already an AU process, there would seem to be scope here for avoiding overlap between SDGEA and APRM reporting process, with the potential advantage of including the important element of peer review within the SDGEA reporting process.

5.4 Key Issues

The overall key issue is the lack of adequate gender mainstreaming in development planning at regional and national levels. Since gender mainstreaming is the main implementation strategy for addressing SDGEA goals, it must be a key focus for action.

5.5 Recommendations

Improved gender mainstreaming with NEPAD programme, and AU utilisation of the NEPAD Manual on Gender Mainstreaming, should be key entry points for promoting improved gender mainstreaming at regional and national levels.

Similarly, reporting on gender mainstreaming should be made a more explicit component within the APRM. This would then provide the AU with reports of progress towards improved gender mainstreaming, with a system of peer review to provide advice on how to improve, and with examples of best practice for other countries to emulate.

6 Measures of Gender Equality in Africa – Selected Indicators

6.1. Measuring Present Levels of Gender Equality

This section looks at the status of women in Africa by looking at measures of gender equality in different socio-economic areas, as found in the various available global statistics on the status of women. Such figures therefore provide us with the prospect of measuring progress in implementing the SDGEA in terms of actually measurable results, rather than the progress in actions to achieve these results (which have been considered in previous sections of this report).

However, such global statistics are subject to severe limitations: firstly global figures for various indicators to measure women's status have not been collected, or are otherwise unavailable; secondly that, even where available, figures for some indicators are so incomplete as to be useful for inter-country comparisons; thirdly, global statistics on socio-economic indicators are always out of date, due to the time taken to collect and compile the figures. For example, the most recent figures in the 2007 UNDP Human Development Report are for 2005, and some indicators are based on figures for earlier years. The problem of the limitations in available statistics is discussed in more detail in Section 6.8.5, below

The time lag between collecting and publishing global statistics means that the latest available figures published in 2007 cannot measure progress between 2004 (when the

SDGEA was adopted) and 2007, since these 2007 figures actually show the position in 2005, or sometimes for earlier years if figures for 2005 were not available. Therefore the figures published in 2007, presented in this present report, should instead be taken as the *baseline situation* at the time of the adoption of the SDGEA, and therefore the position from which future implementation may be measured.

Appendix 3 gives details of the definitions of indicators used in this Section 6, and also of the sources of data for each indicator.

6.2 Measures of Women's Access to Contraceptives (Table 1)

Table 1 shows figures for women's access to contraceptives, for all African countries. This is expressed as a percentage of women in the 15-49 age group who have access to contraceptives. The latest figures available, for 2000-2005 are compared with earlier figures for 1986-1993.

These figures provide an important measure, and baseline figure, for progress on Article 1 of SDGEA which is partly concerned with addressing gender issues in HIV/AIDS programme. The level of women's contraceptive use gives an indirect and partial measure of their ability to protect themselves from HIV infections, and is also used as one of the measures of women's reproductive health.

The figures in Table 1 show considerable variation, with contraceptive use being prevalent amongst 64% of women in Algeria, but only 3% in Chad. The overall figure for all Africa is 28% for 2000-2005, against 21% in 1986-1993, indicating a rise of only 7% over a twelve year period. This indicates rather slow progress.

**Table 1: Contraceptive Prevalence among Women Ages 15-49
for all of Africa, Divided by Country (%)**

	2000-2007	1986-1993	Change
Algeria	64	47	17
Angola	6	-	
Benin	19	-	
Botswana	40	33	7
Burkina Faso	14	8	6
Burundi	16	9	7
Cameroon	26	16	10
Cape Verde	53	-	
Central African Republic	28	-	
Chad	3	-	
Comoros	26	-	
Congo, DR	31	8	23
Congo, Rep.	44	-	
Côte d'Ivoire	15	-	
Djibouti	-	-	
Egypt	59	46	13
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	
Eritrea	8	-	
Ethiopia	15	4	11
Gabon	33	-	
Gambia	10	12	-2
Ghana	25	13	12
Guinea	9	-	
Guinea-Bissau	8	-	
Kenya	39	33	6
Lesotho	37	23	14
Liberia	-	6	
Libya	45	-	
Madagascar	27	17	10
Malawi	33	13	20
Mali	8	5	3
Mauritania	8	3	5
Mauritius	-	75	
Morocco	63	42	21
Mozambique	17	-	
Namibia	44	29	15
Niger	14	4	10
Nigeria	13	6	7
Rwanda	17	21	-4
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	29	-	
Senegal	12	7	5
Seychelles	-	-	
Sierra Leone	4	-	
Somalia	-	-	
South Africa	56	50	6
Sudan	-	9	
Swaziland	28	20	8
Tanzania	26	10	16
Togo	26	12	14
Tunisia	63	50	13
Uganda	23	5	18
Zambia	34	15	19
Zimbabwe	54	43	11
Average	28	21	7

Note: Sources for data in this table, as for all other tables in this report, are to be found in Appendix 3.

However, women's use of contraceptives has risen markedly in some countries, such as Uganda, where prevalence rose from 5% to 23% over the twelve-year period. This was undoubtedly due to aggressive marketing and popularisation of condom use, as part of a government led national campaign to combat HIV/AIDS.

6.3 Explanation of the Measures on Gender Equality (in Table 2)

This section explains the use of indicators of various aspects of gender equality which are used in Table 2. The indicator of women's use of contraceptives, considered above, was presented separately because it is not an indicator of gender equality. (This is because it was not possible to find figures on prevalence of use of contraceptives amongst women *relative to* prevalence amongst men).

Only eight essential indicators of gender equality have been chosen *because data in other areas is too incomplete for adequate inter-country comparisons*. These eight indicators of gender equality are arranged in three thematic areas:

<u>Thematic Area</u>	<u>Indicator measures Gender Equality in:</u>
Education:	Literacy Primary school enrolment Secondary school enrolment Tertiary school enrolment
Economy:	Activity rate Estimated earned income
Empowerment:	Ministerial positions in government Seats in parliament

The figures for each indicator (in each column) show the female share as a ratio. In each column the Gender Equality Index provides a measure on a scale of 0-100, where 0 means the female share is zero, and where a figure of 100 shows complete gender equality, i.e. where females have an equal share with males.

For example, in primary school enrolment, an Equality measure of 0 means that there are no girls enrolled, and all pupils are boys. Conversely, a gender Equality measure of 100 means that girls have their equal or fair share of the enrolment (according to their proportion in the school-age population). In looking at these indicators of gender equality, it should be noted that education gender indexes are important for measuring progress on SDGEA Article 8 on gender parity in education. The empowerment gender index provides a measure of progress on Article 9 of the Protocol on African Women's Rights, which is concerned with increasing women's participation in the political and decision making process.

Table 2: Value of Gender Indexes for All of Africa, divided by Country

	Gender Indexes											
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
Algeria	92	98	106	128	106	45	34	40	11	8	9	52
Angola	75	-	78	66	73	81	62	72	6	18	12	52
Benin	56	81	49	25	53	62	47	55	19	9	14	41
Botswana	104	100	109	100	103	67	31	49	27	12	20	57
Burk. Faso	66	80	71	46	65	87	66	77	15	18	16	53
Burundi	92	91	74	38	74	99	77	88	11	44	27	63
Cameroon	-	85	80	66	77	65	49	57	11	16	14	49
Cape Verde	-	98	109	104	104	45	35	40	19	18	18	54
C A R	67	66	-	19	51	79	61	70	10	12	11	44
Chad	42	70	33	14	40	85	65	75	12	7	9	41
Comoros	-	85	76	77	79	67	51	59	-	0	0	46
Congo, DR	81	78	58	-	72	65	50	58	13	9	11	47
Congo, Rep.	-	120	84	19	74	68	52	60	15	8	11	49
Côte d'Ivoire	74	80	57	-	70	-	-	-	17	9	13	42
Djibouti	-	81	66	73	73	64	48	56	5	12	9	46
Egypt	88	95	92	-	92	27	23	25	6	2	4	40
E. Guinea	100	90	57	43	73	56	43	50	5	22	13	45
Eritrea	-	85	66	15	56	64	45	55	18	28	23	44
Ethiopia	-	93	70	32	65	79	60	70	6	28	17	51
Gabon	-	99	86	-	93	75	57	66	12	14	13	57
Gambia	-	100	84	24	69	69	53	61	20	10	15	49
Ghana	86	101	91	53	83	94	71	83	12	12	12	59
Guinea	57	84	54	24	55	91	69	80	15	24	20	51
G. Bissau	-	71	55	18	48	66	51	59	38	16	27	45
Kenya	101	101	101	60	91	78	83	81	10	8	9	60
Lesotho	-	106	156	127	130	63	52	58	28	31	29	72
Liberia	-	78	57	76	70	-	-	-	14	14	14	42
Libya	-	99	120	110	110	40	30	35	-	8	8	51
Madagascar	94	100	-	89	94	92	70	81	6	9	7	61
Malawi	-	105	89	55	83	95	73	84	14	16	15	61
Mali	-	78	60	45	61	87	68	78	19	11	15	51
Mauritania	82	105	89	34	78	65	50	58	9	22	15	50
Mauritius	102	102	102	126	108	54	41	48	8	21	14	57
Morocco	75	94	85	81	83	33	25	29	6	12	9	40
Mozambique	-	91	78	49	73	102	81	92	13	53	33	66
Namibia	103	106	132	88	107	74	57	66	19	37	28	67
Niger	44	73	66	34	54	75	57	66	23	14	19	46
Nigeria	-	86	84	53	75	53	41	47	10	8	9	43
Rwanda	98	104	89	62	88	95	74	85	36	92	64	79
ST & Principe	99	98	111	-	103	40	30	35	14	2	8	49
Senegal	70	96	75	-	80	69	54	62	21	28	24	55
Seychelles	101	101	106	-	103	-	-	-	13	31	22	62
S. Leone	63	71	71	40	61	60	45	53	13	15	14	42
Somalia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	9
South Africa	-	100	111	121	111	58	45	52	41	49	45	69
Sudan	84	83	94	92	88	33	25	29	3	22	12	43
Swaziland	103	101	113	106	106	43	29	36	13	12	13	52
Tanzania	94	99	-	48	80	95	73	84	8	44	26	63
Togo	76	86	48	20	57	56	43	50	20	8	14	40
Tunisia	96	101	110	140	112	38	29	34	7	30	18	55
Uganda	86	100	90	62	85	92	70	81	23	42	33	66
Zambia	91	102	80	46	80	73	55	64	25	17	21	55
Zimbabwe	-	102	93	63	86	76	58	67	15	20	17	57
Average	83	92	84	62	81	68	52	60	15	20	17	52

Note: Sources for data in this table, as for all other tables in this report, are to be found in Appendix 3.

6.4 All-Africa Measures of Gender Equality (Table 2)

Table 2 shows the values of the gender equality indexes for all African countries. If we look at the average values of the equality index for all Africa, we find there is a distinctive overall pattern that gender equality is relatively high in education but low in empowerment, and with gender equality in economic activity taking a value in between.

But from country to country, this pattern varies considerable, particularly in the relationship between women’s education and political empowerment. For example, Algeria has an education gender index of 106, but an empowerment index of only 9. By comparison Guinea-Bissau has an education gender index of only 48, but a relatively high empowerment gender index of 27.

Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa are notable as having higher levels in their Overall Gender Equality Index, presumably as a result of their successful policies of affirmative action to increase the proportion of women in decision making positions both within the legislature and within government.

Chart 1: Gender Equality Indexes for Africa, 2007

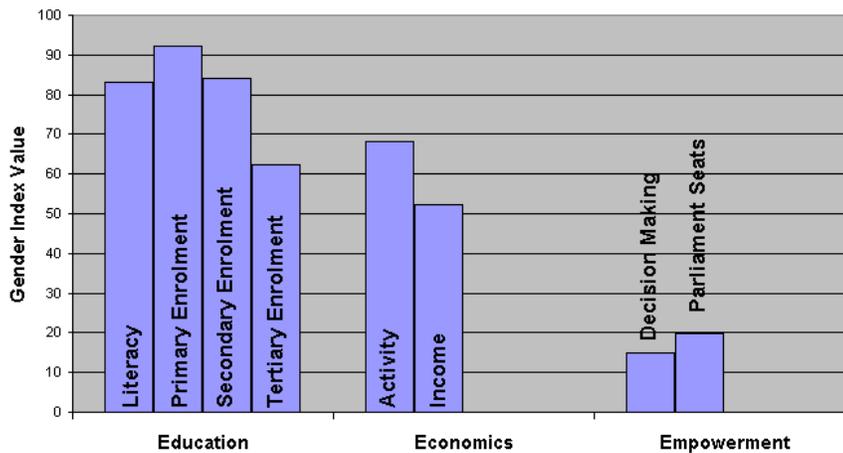


Chart 2: Gender Equality Indexes for Africa, 1995 and 2007

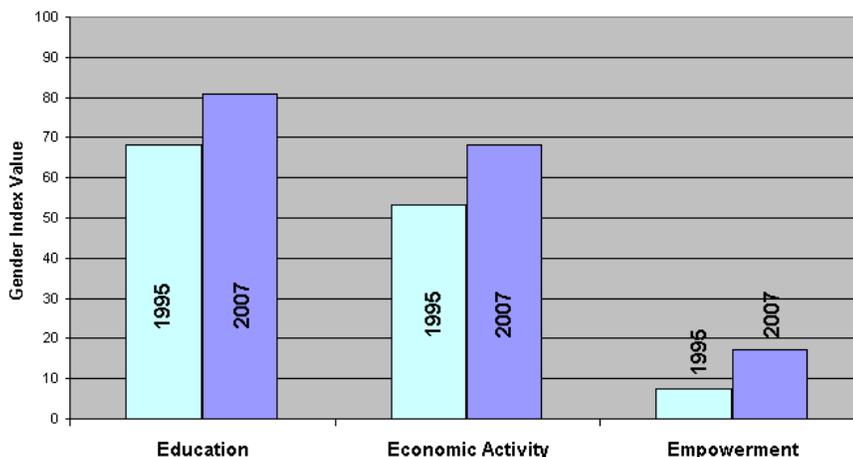


Chart 1, above shows the all-Africa averages for the eight gender indexes. Chart 2 shows how the overall gender indexes have changed between 1995 and 2007.

Chart 2 and Table 3 show that, although the all-Africa average empowerment gender index has a rather low value of 17 in 2007, it has risen from the very low level of only 7 in 1995. This is a *proportionately* higher rate of increase than the other two indexes, for education and economic activities, over the twelve-year period.

Table 3: Rate of Improvement in Gender Equality, All-Africa, 1995-2007, divided by Thematic Area

	Education	Economy	Empowerment
1995, Average Gender Index (from Table 2i)	68	53	7
2007, Average Gender Index (from Table 2h)	81	60	17
Increase in Index, 1995-2007	13	7	10
Per Cent Increase, 1995-2007	19%	13%	142%

NB: Tables 2h and 2i are to be found in Appendix 2.

From this point of view, the figures for the past decade do show a startling improvement for empowerment over the past twelve years. By 2007 there is only one country in all Africa (Comoros) without a single female member of parliament. But in 1995 there were *fourteen* countries which had no female members of parliament.

However, limitations in the indicators may also give an exaggerated and over-optimistic picture of women's advancement since 1995. For example, the Empowerment Gender Index of 17% tells us nothing about the actual level of *influence* of women in parliament and government, or the extent to which they can use their positions to push legislation and policies for gender equality. It should also be noted that the overall Empowerment Index of 17 (Table 3) derives from a combination of an Index of 20 for seats in parliament, but only 15 for positions in government (Table 2h). This suggests that women do not get their proportionate share of positions in government, relative to their position in parliament.

Similarly, an overall Gender Equality Index of 60 for the Economy in 2007 (Table 3), masks the extent to which men may have monopolised the decision making positions within the economy. Such considerations point to the need for the availability of more comprehensive data if we are to get a more precise picture of the features of gender inequality, and be able to point more precisely at the important issues which need to be addressed.

Even in Education, the very high level of gender equality shown in these indexes may mask inequality at the more qualitative level. For example, the high levels of females in

tertiary education probably masks high male majorities in enrolment to university schools concerned with entry to prestigious professions such as law, medicine, science and engineering.

Such considerations point to the limitations in the quantitative indicators being used here, and the need for more qualitative assessments for a better picture.

6.5 Regional Differences in Measures of Gender Equality

Chart 3 shows the value of the Overall Gender Index, divided by economic region. Here the regional divisions are Africa’s seven Regional African Communities: AMU, CEN, ECA, ECCSA, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC. (COMESA has been omitted because it is a free-trade grouping rather than development community, but also because the seven RECs already cover all African countries, with several countries represented in more than one REC).

Full information on the gender equality indexes for each region, from which Charts 3 and 4 have been drawn, may be found in Appendix 2.

Chart 3: Overall Gender Index, divided by Regional Economic Community, 2007

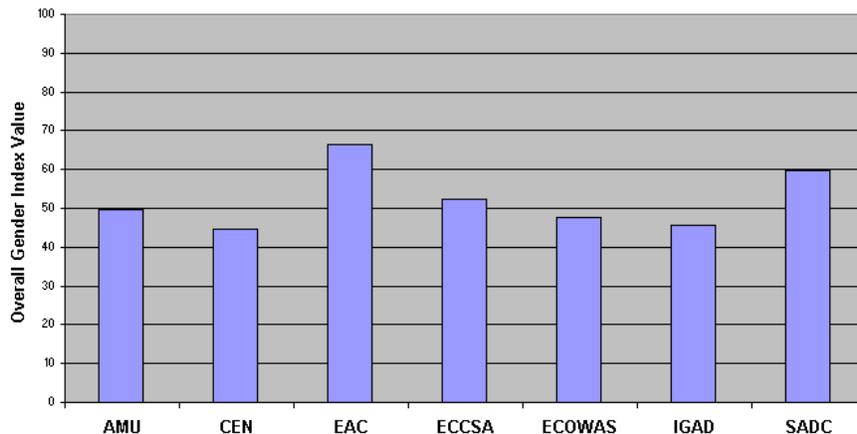


Chart 4: Gender Indexes, divided by Thematic Area and Regional Economic Community, 2007

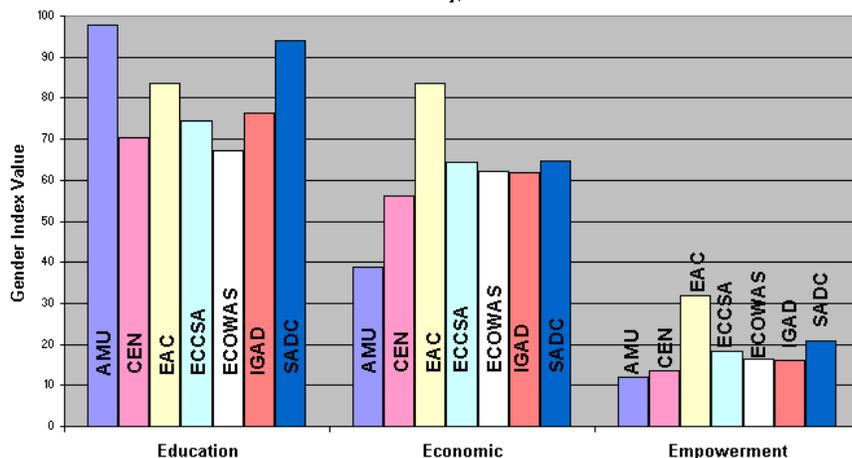


Chart 3 does not show any great differences in the overall gender equality index between one region and another. The ECA has the highest value of 66, whereas CEN has the lowest value of 44. However, as can be seen from Table 2, these averages mask differences between countries in the region which are larger than the differences between regions.

More informative, therefore, is Chart 4, which separates the regional differences for all of the gender equality index averages in the areas of education, economy and empowerment. Here again we see the high-medium-low relationship between the values of indexes as we move from education to economy to empowerment, and this relationship remains true for all seven regions.

As we also saw in Table 2, Chart 4 also points to the apparent lack of relationship between women’s education and women’s empowerment. For example, the AMU has the highest education gender index score of 98, but the lowest empowerment score of 12.

6.6 The Relationship Between Education and Empowerment

Throughout the above commentary on the gender equality statistics, it has been suggested that the figures are strongly suggestive of lack of correlation between figures for gender equality in the area of Education, by comparison with the figures in the area of Empowerment. This is seen by some countries having a very high level for gender Equality in Education, but very low gender Equality in Empowerment. Conversely, some countries with relatively low figures for gender Equality in Education have achieved relatively high figures for gender Equality in Empowerment.

For this reason, figures for Education, Economy and Empowerment were put to a correlation test, using the Pearson Correlation Coefficient, to test if there is any statistical correlation between the gender equality figures for Education and Economy, and for Education and Empowerment.⁷ The results of applying this statistical test to the All-Africa figures are shown in Table 4, below.

Table 4
Degree of Correlation between Education Index and Other Indexes
for All-Africa, 2007

	Pearson Correlation Coefficient	
	Education – Empowerment	Education-Economy
1995	0.01	-0.14
2007	0.14	-0.37

⁷ A Pearson Coefficient of +1.0 indicates a positive one-to-one relationship between one variable and the other. A value of -1.0 indicates a negative (inverse) relationship between one variable the other. Conversely, a Coefficient result in the area of +0.5 to –0.5 indicates a lack of any meaningful level of correlation.

Table 4 clearly shows that there is no correlation between the Gender Equality Indexes for Education and Economy, nor between the Gender Equality Indexes for Education and Empowerment.

Although much faith has been put into women's education as a driver for women's advancement in the economy, and for women's empowerment, the above figures indicate that there is absolute no statistical evidence to support any such relationship. This is a key finding, the implications of which are discussed below.

6.7 Key Issues

6.7.1 Lack of Causal Relationship between Education and Empowerment

The above evidence of lack of correlation between women's education and their empowerment (Table 4) means that there is no statistical evidence for a causal connection between women's education and their advancement into decision making positions. This finding seems to undermine the implicit assumption which underlies both the intervention strategies of Article 8 of the SDGEA and No.3 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that education is the main route to women's empowerment.

In addition to the lack of statistical evidence for a causal relationship, there is also the statistical fact that gender equality is already highest in the area of education, with an overall Education Gender Equality Index of 81 for All-Africa in 2007, where the Empowerment Gender Equality Index is only 17 (see Table 2). This disparity should surely point to the importance of focus on matters of women's advancement where gender equality is lowest, rather than in the area where gender equality is highest.

6.7.2 The Role of Gender Discrimination in Holding Women Back

The faith in women's education as a means for their advancement is obviously premised on the assumption that women are being 'held back' from participation in decision-making positions by lack of education. However, the figures of Table 4 refute this hypothesis.

The only alternative explanation is that women are in fact being held back by various forms of discrimination, which are in fact well known, and deserve more focus for attention and action if better progress is to be made. Some of these forms of discrimination are still entrenched in law, particularly where customary law or Sharia law operate in parallel with statutory law, and even take precedence in some areas, such as preventing women from participating in public or political activity. In addition to the law, discriminatory practices remain embedded in administrative regulations and customary practice.

The above analysis therefore points to the importance of removing all discriminatory practices which stand in the way of women's access to decision making positions both within the economy and within government.

6.7.3 The Need for Affirmative action for Women’s Empowerment

The statistics show that the Empowerment Gender Equality Index is much higher in those countries which have instituted legalised affirmative action to increase the proportion of women within parliament and government. This clearly points to the best practice of direct intervention to overcome ingrained discrimination by policies of affirmative action, rather than waiting for the effects of (evidently ineffective) interventions of increased education for women.

Where discriminatory practice is very ingrained, and where it will therefore probably take a long time to remove, affirmative action is the alternative strategy for bridging the gap. Moreover, it is a strategy which will put women into the decision making positions where they are better placed to act as the agents of change for accelerated removal of discrimination against themselves, and against their sisters.

6.7.4 Identifying Countries for Examples of Best Practice

As already noted, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa are notable as having higher levels in their Overall Gender Equality Index, presumably as a result of their successful policies of affirmative action to increase the proportion of women in decision making positions both within the legislature and within government.

Conversely, there are other countries which apparently exhibit best practice in women’s access to education, even up to the tertiary level, but which are also examples of the lowest levels of women in decision making positions. Given this startling gap between women’s levels of education and empowerment, it must be assumed that these are countries with very high levels of discrimination in women’s access to public life, and countries where there are as yet no effective policies to either remove such discrimination, nor policies of affirmative action to overcome the effects of such discrimination.

Need for More Reliable Statistics

The reliability of statistics used in this report is limited by having been collected from figures published by international agencies which collect global statistics in specialised areas (e.g. UNESCO for education, International Parliamentary Union for parliaments).

If such global statistics are examined closely, particularly by reading the lengthy explanatory footnotes which accompany such statistics, it will be found that the figures are often out of date (for example by taking the most recent data available in place of current data). Of course such published socio-economic and demographic statistics are always out-of-date to some extent, because of the time taken to collect, collate, analyse and publish the data. However, the process of collecting and publishing global data obviously compounds such delays.

Where current data was not available for a particular indicator and country, the figure given may be based on statistical projection from earlier data, or other forms of estimates.

Even with the inclusion of such estimates, the figures for some difficult countries are entirely missing, since there is insufficient information even to make an estimate. Even a small number of omissions from a list of data means that the data loses its usefulness as a means for inter-country comparison.

For much of the socio-economic data published in such global statistics, the figures for particular indicators are characterised by a large proportion of gaps in the data. That is why this report is based on a rather limited number of indicators, in the area where the data is more comprehensive, and therefore useful for inter-country comparisons.

If the African Union is to obtain more complete, reliable and up-to-date figures on gender equality, it is important that there should be recognised focal points in each country who provide statistics from institutions within the country, or who are otherwise charged with the task of collecting the raw data in the areas where essential data is missing.

The basis for such an approach has been provided by the ECA's formulation, in 2004, of the African Gender and Development Index. This Index is similar to, but more extensive than the indexes used in this present Report. In addition to defining quantitative statistical measures, the ECA Index also defines qualitative 'milestone' indicators for monitoring country progress in implementing international conventions. The ECA Index is the product of field testing in 12 countries, and is now being 'rolled out' in several countries. However, the ECA Index remains at the stage of defining suggested indicators and indexes, and the next stage would be use it as the basis for compiling and publishing a Gender Equality Index for individual countries, and then for all of Africa.

Need for Standard Indicators for Measuring Women's Progress

The above mentioned ECA Index is based on 42 quantitative indicators, and may prove overly labour intensive in data collection, and unnecessarily detailed for AU monitoring of progress on SDGEA.

What is needed for SDGEA monitoring is a gender index based on a smaller number of essential indicators, and requiring limited data collection. This index should be based entirely on data available from existing institutions within every country, so that the statisticians compiling the data should not need to collect raw data themselves. If those compiling the statistics for an index have to collect raw data themselves, this is a formula for ensuring that the task gets out of hand, and for the index to be completed too late, or not at all. In other words, there is need to concentrate on simple, limited and obtainable data, rather than aiming for the ideal but unobtainable.

Recommendations

The above statistical findings have implications for improved intervention strategies for implementing the SDGEA, and for better statistical monitoring of the status of women in terms of gender Equality.

In terms of improved intervention strategies, it is recommended that:

- Emphasis should be put on direct interventions to improve women's representation in economic activities, and in decision making positions in the economy and the government;
- Direct interventions in the short term should concentrate on affirmative action to improve the level of women's representation;
- Direct interventions in the long term should concentrate on the elimination of all practices which discriminate against women in their access to decision making positions.
- Countries which have not yet done so should ratify the ***Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa***, since this protocol makes clear commitments to eliminating discrimination (Article 2) and affirmative action for women's access to decision making (Article 9)
- AU action in the near future should concentrate on pushing country-level implementation of the above aspects of the SDGEA, and of monitoring action on these aspects in terms of country level implementation activities, and statistics showing indications of progress.

In terms of improved statistics for monitoring outcomes of success in implementing the SDGEA, it is recommended that:

- The AU should introduce a short list of required data and simple gender index indicators, for annual or biennial production of data on success in SDGEA implementation, and with special focus on data in the area of women's increased occupation of decision-making positions in the economy, legislature and government.
- The AU should provide a guideline of advice on methods for data collection, processing, presentation and publication of statistical progress reports on SDGEA implementation.
- The AU should work in collaboration with the ongoing work of the ECA in the utilisation of the African Gender and Development Index, especially for a co-operative effort to produce data focused on SDGEA implementation.

Overall Recommendations for Action on Key Issues

The identification of key issues and suggested recommendations in the previous sections of this report lead to the following main recommendations:

7.1 Recommendations for Improved Country Reporting

In order to improve country reporting, it is crucial that:

- Urgent steps need to be taken to encourage and enable reporting from those countries which have not yet submitted baseline Country Reports.

In addition, it is recommended that Country Reports:

- need to include better recognition of difficulties and obstacles being faced in implementing particular aspects of the SDGEA;
- should include a ‘milestones of implementation’ style of report, to show the level of completion of the various stages of implementation, from legislative action through to programme planning, action and outcomes, for the various aspects of the SDGEA;
- should be supplemented by a peer review report, which could be achieved by incorporating a stronger gender element mainstreamed within the current system of APRM reporting within NEPAD;
- should be made easier to compile and write by providing a standard format questionnaire to ensure that all relevant information and quantitative data is provided;

7.2 Recommendations for Improved Country-Level Implementation of the SDGEA

The current level of progress on SDGEA commitments, and advice from regional consultations, indicate the need for:

- Ratification of the *Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa* by those countries which have not yet done so;
- Carrying out dissemination and popularization of the Protocol by translating it into local languages;
- Mobilising human resources in multidisciplinary teams to better clarify all aspects of the Protocol and conduct sensitization campaigns through the media;
- Domestication of the provisions of the Protocol into statutory law;
- Harmonisation of customary law with statutory law, and therefore to ensure that there is no infringements of women’s rights within customary law and traditional practice;
- More action to move from legislative provision on women’s rights, to implement programme of action to ensure that these rights are accessible in practice;
- AU facilitation of national consultations between women parliamentarians and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs);
- Identification of the practices of gender discrimination which stand in the way of implementing the commitments of the SDGEA and the Protocol;

- Put priority focus on affirmative action to increase the proportion of women in legislative assemblies and ministerial positions.

7.3 Recommendations for Improved Gender Mainstreaming

Better gender mainstreaming is needed to ensure focus on the specific gender issues which must be a focus of interest programme on HIV/AIDS, abuse of girl children, violence against women, and in peace-keeping activities. In particular it is suggested that:

- The AU will provide a practical ‘how to’ gender mainstreaming manual, to provide advice and methods on how to recognise and address gender issues in development planning, for all stages of the planning cycle;
- Attention to gender issues should be mainstreamed within the APRM assessment process, and not isolated a separate consideration. The APRM should include an explicit interest in all of the gender issues which are the subject of commitments in the SDGEA and the Protocol.
- The APRM should include the objective of assessing the adequacy of gender mainstreaming within a government administrative system, and within a country’s development process.

7.4 Recommendations for Improved Monitoring of the Status of Women in Africa

In addition to the present system of Country Reporting needs to be supplemented by a system of monitoring progress standard indicators of gender equality. Whereas Country Reports, as currently conceived, recount country level **actions** to meet SDGEA commitments, standard indicators can measure the **outcomes** from these actions, in terms of improved gender equality in different political and socio-economic areas.

More specifically, it is suggested that

- The present system of country reporting on the SDGEA should be allied to, or include, a periodic provision of country-level data on quantitative indicators to measure progress in those areas most important to SDGEA;
- That this monitoring of progress on key indicators could be achieved by alliance with the ECA *African Gender and Development Index* which the ECA is currently rolling out in a first batch of African countries;
- That the national gender machinery in each country should be asked to provide annual or biennial data on an agreed list of essential indicators;
- That, based on the country inputs on essential indicators provided by country-level reporting, the AU should publish a biennial statistical report of progress on the gender equality indicators which are of particular relevance for progress on implementing the SDGEA and the Protocol on Women’s Rights.

APPENDIX 1
Ratification by AU African States of UN Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Conventions on the Rights of Children (CRC) and their Protocols.

	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women		Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	
	A	B	C	D
Algeria	2*	-	2	2
Angola	2	2	2	2
Benin	2	1	2	-
Botswana	2	2	2	2
Burk. Faso	2	2	2	2
Burundi	2	1	2	2
Cameroon	2	-	2	1
Cape Verde	2	-	2	2
C A R	2	-	2	-
Chad	2	-	2	2
Comoros	2	-	2	2
Congo, DR	2	-	2	-
Congo, Rep.	2	-	2	-
Côte d'Ivoire	2	-	2	-
Djibouti	2	-	2	1
Egypt	2*	-	2	2
E. Guinea	2	-	2	2
Eritrea	2	-	2	2
Ethiopia	2*	-	2	-
Gabon	2	2	2	2
Gambia	2	-	2	1
Ghana	2	1	2	1
Guinea	2	-	2	-
G. Bissau	2	1	2	1
Kenya	2	-	2	1
Lesotho	2*	2	2	2
Liberia	2	1	2	1
Libya	2*	-	2	2
Madagascar	2	1	2	2
Malawi	2	1	2	1
Mali	2	2	2	2
Mauritania	2	-	2	2
Mauritius	2*	1	2	1
Mozambique	2	-	2	2
Namibia	2	2	2	2
Niger	2	2	2	2
Nigeria	2	2	2	1
Rwanda	2	-	2	2
ST & Principe	2	1	2	-
Senegal	2	2	2	2
Seychelles	2	1	2	1
S. Leone	2	1	2	2
Somalia	-	-	2	-
South Africa	2	2	2	2
Sudan	-	-	2	2
Swaziland	2	-	2	-
Tanzania	2	2	2	2
Togo	2	-	2	2
Tunisia	2*	-	2	2
Uganda	2	-	2	2
Zambia	2	-	2	-
Zimbabwe	2	-	2	-

Key: (A) CEDAW. (B) Optional Protocol of CEDAW. (C) CRC. (D) Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
(1) Signature. (2) Ratification. (-) No Signature.
* Ratified with reservations or declarations.

Appendix 2

Values of Gender Equality Indexes for All of Africa, Divided by Country and Regional Economic Community

Table 2a: AMU Region - Gender Indexes, divided by country 2007

	Gender Indexes											
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
Algeria	92	98	106	128	106	45	34	40	11	8	9	52
Libya*	-	99	120	110	110	40	30	35	-	8	8	51
Mauritania	82	105	89	34	78	65	50	58	9	22	15	50
Morocco*	75	94	85	81	83	33	25	29	6	12	9	40
Tunisia *	96	101	110	140	112	38	29	34	7	30	18	55
Average	86	99	102	99	98	44	34	39	8	16	12	50

* Countries that belong to more than one regional group.

Table 2b: CEN Region - Gender Indexes, divided by country 2007

	Gender Indexes											
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
Benin *	56	81	49	25	53	62	47	55	19	9	14	41
Burkina Faso	66	80	71	46	65	87	66	77	15	18	16	53
Central Africa	67	66	-	19	51	79	61	70	10	12	11	44
Chad*	42	70	33	14	40	85	65	75	12	7	9	41
Comoros	-	85	76	77	79	67	51	59	-	0	0	46
Côte d'Ivoire*	74	80	57	-	70	-	-	-	17	9	13	42
Djibouti*	-	81	66	73	73	64	48	56	5	12	9	46
Egypt	88	95	92	-	92	27	23	25	6	2	4	40
Eritrea*	-	85	66	15	56	64	45	55	18	28	23	44
Gambia*	-	100	84	24	69	69	53	61	20	10	15	49
Ghana*	86	101	91	53	83	94	71	83	12	12	12	59
Guinea*	57	84	54	24	55	91	69	80	15	24	20	51
Guinea-Bissau	-	71	55	18	48	66	51	59	38	16	27	45
Liberia*	-	78	57	76	70	-	-	-	14	14	14	42
Libya*	-	99	120	110	110	40	30	35	-	8	8	51
Mali*	-	78	60	45	61	87	68	78	19	11	15	51
Morocco*	75	94	85	81	83	33	25	29	6	12	9	40
Niger*	44	73	66	34	54	75	57	66	23	14	19	46
Nigeria*	-	86	84	53	75	53	41	47	10	8	9	43
Senegal*	70	96	75	-	80	69	54	62	21	28	24	55
Sierra Leone*	63	71	71	40	61	60	45	53	13	15	14	42
Somalia*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	9
Sudan*	84	83	94	92	88	33	25	29	3	22	12	43
Togo*	76	86	48	20	57	56	43	50	20	8	14	40
Tunisia*	96	101	110	140	112	38	29	34	7	30	18	55
Average	70	84	72	51	70	64	49	56	15	14	14	45

* Countries that belong to more than one regional group.

Note: In all of these tables, 1 to 8, information missing from the chosen source is represented by a dash (-). For the sources of information use

Table 2c: EAC Region - Gender Indexes, divided by country 2007

	Gender Indexes											
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level (F/M)	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
Burundi*	92	91	74	38	74	99	77	88	11	44	27	63
Kenya*	101	101	101	60	91	78	83	81	10	8	9	60
Rwanda*	98	104	89	62	88	95	74	85	36	92	64	79
Tanzania*	94	99	-	48	80	95	73	84	8	44	26	63
Uganda*	86	100	90	62	85	92	70	81	23	42	33	66
Average	94	99	89	54	84	92	75	84	18	46	32	66

* Countries that belong to more than one regional group.

Table 2d: ECCSA Region - Gender Indexes, divided by country 2007

	Gender Indexes											
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
Burundi*	92	91	74	38	74	99	77	88	11	44	27	63
Cameroon	-	85	80	66	77	65	49	57	11	16	14	49
Central African	67	66	-	19	51	79	61	70	10	12	11	44
Chad*	42	70	33	14	40	85	65	75	12	7	9	41
Congo, Rep.	-	120	84	19	74	68	52	60	15	8	11	49
Congo, DR*	81	78	58	-	72	65	50	58	13	9	11	47
Equatorial Guin	100	90	57	43	73	56	43	50	5	22	13	45
Gabon	-	99	86	-	93	75	57	66	12	14	13	57
Rwanda*	98	104	89	62	88	95	74	85	36	92	64	79
Sao Tomé and	99	98	111	-	103	40	30	35	14	2	8	49
Average	83	90	75	37	74	73	56	64	14	23	18	52

* Countries that belong to more than one regional group.

Table 2e: ECOWAS Region - Gender Indexes, divided by country 2007

	Gender Indexes											
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
Benin*	56	81	49	25	53	62	47	55	19	9	14	41
Burkina Faso*	66	80	71	46	65	87	66	77	15	18	16	53
Cape Verde	-	98	109	104	104	45	35	40	19	18	18	54
Côte d'Ivoire*	74	80	57	-	70	-	-	-	17	9	13	42
Gambia*	-	100	84	24	69	69	53	61	20	10	15	49
Ghana*	86	101	91	53	83	94	71	83	12	12	12	59
Guinea*	57	84	54	24	55	91	69	80	15	24	20	51
Guinea-Bissau*	-	71	55	18	48	66	51	59	38	16	27	45
Liberia*	-	78	57	76	70	-	-	-	14	14	14	42
Mali*	-	78	60	45	61	87	68	78	19	11	15	51
Niger*	44	73	66	34	54	75	57	66	23	14	19	46
Nigeria*	-	86	84	53	75	53	41	47	10	8	9	43
Senegal*	70	96	75	-	80	69	54	62	21	28	24	55
Sierra Leone*	63	71	71	40	61	60	45	53	13	15	14	42
Togo*	76	86	48	20	57	56	43	50	20	8	14	40
Average	66	84	69	43	67	70	54	62	18	14	16	48

* Countries that belong to more than one regional group.

Table 2f: IGAD Region - Gender Indexes, divided by country 2007

	Gender Indexes											
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
Djibouti*	-	81	66	73	73	64	48	56	5	12	9	46
Eritrea*	-	85	66	15	56	64	45	55	18	28	23	44
Ethiopia	-	93	70	32	65	79	60	70	6	28	17	51
Somalia*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	9
Sudan*	84	83	94	92	88	33	25	29	3	22	12	43
Uganda*	86	100	90	62	85	92	70	81	23	42	33	66
Average	91	91	81	56	76	68	55	62	11	21	16	46

* Countries that belong to more than one regional group.

Table 2g: SADC Region - Gender Indexes, divided by country 2007

Gender Indexes												
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
Angola*	75	-	78	66	73	81	62	72	6	18	12	52
Botswana	104	100	109	100	103	67	31	49	27	12	20	57
Congo, DR*	81	78	58	-	72	65	50	58	13	9	11	47
Lesotho	-	106	156	127	130	63	52	58	28	31	29	72
Madagascar	94	100	-	89	94	92	70	81	6	9	7	61
Malawi	-	105	89	55	83	95	73	84	14	16	15	61
Mauritius	102	102	102	126	108	54	41	48	8	21	14	57
Mozambique	-	91	78	49	73	102	81	92	13	53	33	66
Namibia	103	106	132	88	107	74	57	66	19	37	28	67
Seychelles	101	101	106	-	103	-	-	-	13	31	22	62
South Africa	-	100	111	121	111	58	45	52	41	49	45	69
Swaziland	103	101	113	106	106	43	29	36	13	12	13	52
Tanzania*	94	99	-	48	80	95	73	84	8	44	26	63
Zambia	91	102	80	46	80	73	55	64	25	17	21	55
Zimbabwe	-	102	93	63	86	76	58	67	15	20	17	57
Average	95	99	100	83	94	74	56	65	17	25	21	60

* Countries that belong to more than one regional group.

Table 2h: All Africa - Gender Indexes, divided by Regional Economic Community 2007

Gender Indexes												
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
AMU/UMA	86	99	102	99	98	44	34	39	8	16	12	50
CEN-SAD	70	84	72	51	70	64	49	56	15	14	14	45
EAC	94	99	89	54	84	92	75	84	18	46	32	66
ECCSA/CEEAC	83	90	75	37	74	73	56	64	14	23	18	52
ECOWAS	66	84	69	43	67	70	54	62	18	14	16	48
SADC	95	99	100	83	94	74	56	65	17	25	21	60
Africa	83	92	84	62	81	68	52	60	15	20	17	52

Table 2i: All Africa - Gender Indexes, divided by Regional Economic Community 1995

	Gender Indexes											
	Education					Economic			Empowerment			Overall
	Literacy ratio (F/M)	Net primary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Net secondary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Gross tertiary enrolment ratio (F/M)	Education Gender Index	Activity rate ratio (F/M)	Estimated earned income ratio (F/M)	Economic Gender Index	Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level	Ratio of Seats in Parliament (F/M)	Empowerment Gender Index	Overall Gender Index
AMU/UMA	60	85	73	65	71	22	-	22	4	2	2	32
CEN-SAD	53	71	60	43	56	50	-	50	6	5	6	37
EAC	65	97	79	63	76	75	-	75	14	9	11	54
ECCSA/CEEAC	67	79	61	39	65	60	-	60	10	6	8	41
ECOWAS	50	69	59	37	53	57	-	57	7	8	7	39
SADC	76	100	91	62	84	57	-	57	12	9	10	50
Africa	62	84	72	52	68	53	-	53	9	6	7	42

Appendix 3

3.1.1 Definition of Education Gender Indexes

Education Gender Index: the average of the Literacy ratio, the Net primary enrolment ratio, the Net secondary enrolment ratio and the Gross tertiary enrolment ratio.

Literacy Ratio: the number of literate females between the ages 15 to 24 for every 100 literate males between the ages 15 to 24.

Net Primary Enrolment Ratio: the ratio of the net female primary enrolment rate to the net male primary enrolment rate, expressed as a percentage. The net female primary enrolment rate is the ratio of the number of females enrolling into primary school, at the primary school age group, to the total number of females in that age group. The net male primary enrolment rate is defined similarly.

Net Secondary Enrolment Ratio: the ratio of the net female secondary enrolment rate to the net male secondary enrolment rate, expressed as a percentage. The net female secondary enrolment rate is the ratio of the number of females enrolling into secondary school, at the secondary school age group, to the total number of females in that age group. The net male secondary enrolment rate is defined similarly.

Gross Tertiary Enrolment Ratio: the ratio of the gross female tertiary enrolment rate to the gross male tertiary enrolment rate. The female tertiary enrolment rate is the ratio of the number of females enrolling into tertiary education to the total number of females in the theoretical age group for tertiary education. The theoretical age group for tertiary education is the 5 years that follow the secondary school age group (this definition is according to the UNDP 2007 Human Development Report). The male gross tertiary enrolment rate is defined similarly.

3.1.2 Definition of Economy Gender Indexes

Economic Gender Index: the average of the Activity rate ratio and the Estimated earned income ratio.

Activity Rate Ratio: the ratio of female economic activity to male economic activity, as a percentage. Female economic activity is defined as the share of the female population, aged 15 and older, who supply, or are available to supply, labour for the production of goods and services (as defined in the Social Watch Report 2007 www.socialwatch.org).

Estimated Earned Income Ratio: Ratio of estimated female earned income to estimated male earned income, as a percentage. Because of the lack of gender-disaggregated income data, female and male earned income are crudely estimated on the basis of data on the ratio of the female nonagricultural wage to the male nonagricultural wage, the female and male shares of the economically active population, the total female and male population and GDP per capita in PPP US\$ (Purchasing Power Parity). The wage ratios used in this calculation are based on data for the most recent year available between 1996 and 2005 group (according to the UNDP 2007 Human Development Report).

3.1.3 Definition of Empowerment Gender Indexes

Empowerment Gender Index: the average of the Ratio of Positions at ministerial level and the Ratio of seats in parliament.

Ratio of Positions at Ministerial Level: this is the number of females in a ministerial position for every 100 males in a ministerial position.

Ratio of Seats in Parliament: this is the number of females with a seat in parliament (or the lower house of parliament) for every 100 males with a seat in parliament (or the lower house of parliament).

3.1.4 Overall Gender Index

This is defined as the average of the Education Gender Index, the Economic Gender Index and the Empowerment Gender Index.

3.2 Sources of Statistical Data

Contraceptive Prevalence Among Women

The contraceptive prevalence among women data quoted as '2000-2007' are as published in the Social Watch Report 2007 and accessed from <http://www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007>, where it is stated as 'Contraceptive Use Among Currently in Union Women Aged 15-49' and sourced from the World Bank, World Development Indicators website (<http://www.worldbank.org>). The data quoted as '1986-1993' are as in the Human Development Report 1995 published for the United Nations

Development Programmewhere it is stated as ‘Women Using Contraception’ and sourced from the United Nations, *World Contraceptive Use 1994*, Population Division, New York.

Gender Indexes

All data quoted as 1995 figures are sourced from the UNDP Human Development Report 1995, and can be found at <http://www.undp.org>. Data quoted as 2007 figures have been taken from various sources as follows.

3.2.1 Education

All the education indicators, the Literacy ratio, the Net primary ratio, the Net secondary ratio and the gross tertiary ratio, are sourced from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) at <http://www.uis.unesco.org/> and are essentially based on data provided by UNESCO member states through the UIS annual data collection. These education statistics refer to data released at various times between 1999 and 2006 and for this reason, cross country comparisons should be made with caution.

3.2.2 Economy

The economic indicators, the Activity rate ratio and the Estimated earned income ratio, are quoted from the UNDP Human Development Report 2007 at <http://www.undp.org>. According to the UNDP Development Report 2007, these indicators are defined as follows. The activity rate indicator is calculated on the basis of data on economically active rates from ILO (International Labour Organization) 2005. The Estimated earned income ratio indicator is calculated on the basis of GDP per capita and population data from the World Bank, data on wages from the ILO and data on economically active populations from the ILO.

3.2.3 Empowerment

The empowerment indicators, the Ratio of positions at ministerial level and the Ratio of seats in parliament, are quoted from information on the Inter-Parliamentary Union website at <http://www.ipu.org>.

(all data quoted from the above websites was accessed in December 2007).

Status of Ratifications of Human Rights International Treaties

The data in Appendix 2 for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol is taken as published from the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women website (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch>) and dated 27th November 2007. That data for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Option Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography is taken as published on the United Nations Treaty Collection Website, Database “Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General” (<http://untreaty.un.org>) and was accessed in January of 2007.

EX.CL/376 (XII) -b

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SYNTHESIS OF REPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES

INTRODUCTION

African women seized the opportunity of the transformation of the OAU to the AU to lobby for greater inclusion of women in the Constitutive Act and the transition process. Their efforts resulted in the decision by the OAU Council of Ministers to support consultations to better define the role of women in the transition process. Thus, the gender parity principle in the appointment/election of the top leadership of the Commission was adopted by the AU Summit in South Africa in 2002. A decision was also taken that led to the creation of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate to mainstream gender in all activities and programmes of the Commission.

2. The gender parity principle was concretized in 2003 at the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State (HOS) and Government in Maputo, Mozambique, with women accounting for 50 per cent of elected Commissioners. Also, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women was adopted with the objective of making the African human rights system more gender responsive.

3. To further its objective of promoting gender equality at the continental level, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at their 3rd Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004, adopted the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). The SDGEA reaffirms the commitment of the Heads of State to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (L) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various international, regional, and sub-regional instruments and initiatives on women's rights.

5. In the SDGEA, the HOS and Government agreed to promote gender equality and women's rights in nine thematic areas namely: HIV/AIDS and other related infectious diseases; peace and security; children's rights; gender-based violence; women's human rights; land, property and inheritance rights; education; and, to ensure and the signing and ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION'S (AUC) EFFORT AND PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE SDGEA

5. The following activities were undertaken by the AU Commission, as part of its institution-strengthening programme:

- **The Gender Audit-** The Commission has completed a gender audit of the AU Commission by the end of 2006. The Audit indicated that although some progress has been made, much more needs to be done in order to achieve the

AU's commitments and objectives on gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. The AU Commission commits itself to implement the recommendations of the gender audit in its next strategic plan.

- **The Gender Policy-** The development of the AU's gender policy is at an advanced stage. When the policy is adapted it will provide a framework for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in Africa.
- **The Five Year Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan-** The development of a Five Year Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan (GMSP) has been completed for the Social and Political cluster of Departments. The plan will provide a framework for AUC, Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), AU organs and Member States in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment as well as contribute to the operationalization of the Gender Policy.
- **Building Internal Capacity to Mainstream Gender-** The Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) in collaboration with UN African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), has piloted a course on gender responsive economic policy making in Africa and produced a handbook on good practices in mainstreaming gender in different sectors.

6. **Partnerships and Advocacy-** The WGDD has collaborated with CSOs, international organizations, RECs and other AU Directorates to address gender and women's empowerment issues in Africa. In collaboration with its partners, the WGDD launched an Advocacy Campaign on Younger Women's Higher Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and on Strengthening Women's Voices in Peace Processes, among others.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

7. The First AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Women Affairs and Gender held in October 2005 in Dakar, Senegal adopted the Guidelines for Reporting, and an Implementation Framework on the SDGEA by AU Member States. Thus, the Guidelines and Framework are intended to provide guidance regarding the implementation of the SDGEA, as each country has its own national plans for implementing various international commitments. The timeframe for the actions is five years, and this will be reviewed every five years.

8. The implementation of the SDGEA will require Member States to:

- Strengthen the political will to achieve gender equality at the local, national and regional levels;
- Incorporate a gender perspectives into the planning processes of all ministries and departments of government and integrate gender dimensions into all phases of sectoral planning cycles, including analysis, development appraisals, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes, projects and budgets;

- Build in a gender perspective in national development frameworks;
- Empower and increase the capacity and resources of national gender machineries;
- Forge links between government, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to ensure a co-ordination of efforts and resources; and
- Strengthen and simplify systems for institutionalized collection and use of sex-disaggregated data in statistical analysis, to reveal how policies affect women and men differently.

9. Member States are also encouraged to include information on the implementation of the SDGEA in their reports for the African Peer Review Mechanisms on progress towards gender equality under all objectives of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

ASSESSING THE COUNTRY REPORTS AND BEST PRACTICES

10. It can be argued from the 16 submitted country reports (**Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia**); that the principle of gender equality is now part of the political discourse and/or agenda of reporting governments. In addition to constitutional guarantees, each of the submitting country has at least one institutional mechanism and/or policy framework to ensure the achievement of gender equality in their respective countries.

11. The adoption of the SDGEA reinforced earlier commitments agreed to by African governments. Legal reforms and programs to control the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to promote and protect women's human rights have been instituted in various sectors of the society. Women's representation in politics and decision-making positions and girls enrolment rate in the primary school sector have increased. National programmes and legislation to protect the rights of children have been enacted. International, regional, sub-regional and national instruments have been translated into local languages and disseminated to the public. A lot of progress has been made since the adoption of the SDGEA but a lot more needs to be done to ensure that gender equality is part and parcel of daily life on the African continent.

i) Institutional Mechanisms to promote Gender Equality

Best Practice:

Article 132 of the Algerian Constitution prioritizes all ratified international conventions over national laws; Article 19 of the Burundian Constitution states that all international conventions are integral part of the constitution and their applications are not subjected to restrictions.

ii) Article 1- HIV/AIDS and other Infectious Diseases- Most of the HIV/AIDS programmes and legislation failed to address the issue of discrimination and/or stigmatisation. In the case of Namibia that has developed a comprehensive policy addressing this problem, the policy is yet to be adopted by the government.

Best practice:

Namibia's constitution includes a Bill of Rights that address HIV/AIDS as a human rights issue; an HIV/AIDS charter in employment and education to protect HIV/AIDS victims is in place. Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius and Senegal have criminalized the wilful transmission of HIV/AIDS. Mali provides free ARVs to people living with HIV/AIDS and commemorates December as national HIV/AIDS month. Cote d'Ivoire's declaration of 2006 as the year for the accelerating the control of HIV/AIDS. The change of PMTCT to PPTCT to address gender related stigmatization in Nigeria.

iii) Article 2: Peace and Security- Despite UNSC 1325 (2000), most reporting countries completely ignored the issue of women's representation and participation in conflict resolution and management.

Best Practice:

The South African government forged partnerships with NGOs to implement UNSC 1325. In addition, the governments of Ghana, Namibia, Mali, Rwanda and South Africa have included women in peace-keeping missions and in preventive diplomacy.

iv) Article 3: Child Soldiers- Although most our reporting countries have not experienced the horrors of civil wars and the recruitment of child soldiers, all countries should launch a campaign on the issue because of the increasing use of mercenaries in civil conflicts all over the continent. Member states with laws that contradict international provisions on child's rights should revise their laws to take cognizance of these principles.

Best Practice:

In addition to its international commitments and constitutional guarantees protecting children, the governments of Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and Rwanda have initiated programs to end child soldering in their countries. Signing of cross-country agreements by Mali and Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho and South Africa and among 10 ECOWAS countries to stop trafficking in person and child labour and Nigeria's enactment of a national anti-trafficking law and establishment of an agency to monitor the implementation of the law.

v) Article 4: Gender-Based Violence- Most of the initiatives on gender-based violence focus primarily on legislation with very few corresponding program and/or projects to back up legislation. The challenge for most governments is how to marry legislation, the provision of support services and advocacy programs for women to know their rights and access these services.

Best Practice:

The South African government extended the annual 16 Days of No Violence Campaign Against Women to a year round activity in 2006. Since 2004, 6th February is commemorated as national day against FGM.

vi) Article 5: Gender Parity Principle- Women's participation in decision-making positions is low. Governments should put into practice the AU parity principle in the election and appointment of women in politics and public decision-making positions.

Best Practice:

The South African government adopted the gender parity principle in 2006.

vii) Article 6: Women's Human Rights- All reporting countries have signed and/or ratified various international, regional and sub-regional instruments promoting and protecting women and children's rights. Some have translated these instruments into local languages and disseminated them widely. However, most of them have not enacted laws to further these commitments.

Best Practice:

Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Rwanda and South Africa have translated into local languages and distributed national, sub-regional, regional, and international instruments promoting women's human rights.

viii) Article 7: Women's property rights- All reporting governments have put in place measures to promote women's property rights, but most have failed to abrogate customary laws that violate this right. Moreover, most reports do not provide statistics on the number of women that have accessed credit facilities or own land.

Best Practice:

South Africa abolished the rule of primogenitor in inheritance practices; 49 per cent of beneficiaries of the government's housing subsidy were women. In Algeria, 76.2 per cent of recipients of craft-related funding were women, 22,315 women obtained their farmers card and were thus able to access funding.

ix) Article 8: Education- All country reports indicated increased enrolment in primary and secondary education for girls and women's adult literacy rates, and outlined the programs and/ or projects that were put in place to effect such changes.

Best Practice:

The Algerian government provides free school supplies, lunches and transportation and since the 2000/2001 school year, 2000AD (Algerian Dinar) is given to every child in the public school system.

x) Article 9: African Protocol on Women's Rights- Countries that have not ratified and/or domesticated the Protocol should be urged to do so in the shortest possible time.

Best Practice:

The willingness of all reporting countries to ratify and/or domesticate the Protocol shows their commitment to the principle of gender equality.

THE WAY FORWARD

12. Country reports should provide for comparisons to be made on the progress being achieved. Sex disaggregated data should also be provided for comparative analysis and for monitoring progress. Legislations should be updated in line with the SDGEA and other commitments and more current statistics provided. Although the AU advocates partnership in the implementation of the SDGEA, most national reports lacked inputs from NGOs.

13. As already observed, considerable success has been noted in the implementation of the SDGEA as well as several challenges. In order to move the SDGEA agenda forward, there is need to first, increase the number of countries submitting their annual reports to the AU for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process. This can be done by mobilizing country representatives to the AU to convey the importance of submitting annual SDGEA reports to the AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate. This should be followed up at the sub-regional level with the gender focal points in the RECs. The AU Women's Committee has a role to play in this connection.

14. In relation to the issue of NGOs participation in the SDGEA process, the AU has to popularize the Declaration widely among African NGOs, moving beyond its traditional allies to incorporate a broad segment of women's groups across the continent. This initial step should be followed up by encouraging NGOs to have annual forums and submit shadow reports to the AU for consideration.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE SDGEA IN 2004

This section is an analysis of developments in the efforts of African governments to implement gender equality measures since the unanimous adoption of the SDGEA by African HOS and Government in July 2004. The report pays special attention to constitutional, legal and administrative frameworks that have been put in place as well as practical measures taken to ensure the effective implementation of instruments and policies that promote women's empowerment, the protection of their rights and supports gender equality.

This report, the second in the series of Reports expected from Member States on the implementation of the SDGEA, is a synthesis of country reports from **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Rwanda**. This brings the number of countries that have submitted their first reports to only 16; as a synthesis of country reports from Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia were considered by the Summit of January 2007.

A) THE REPUBLIC OF BURKINA FASO

THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Article 1 of Burkina Faso's 1991 Constitution prohibits gender discrimination. The Ministry of Women Affairs, the gender focal points in the various ministries, the national gender policy, and the 2006-10 Action Plan on women are Burkina Faso's institutional mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

The National HIV/AIDS and STI Council, chaired by the President and the Permanent Secretariat, are the coordinating bodies for HIV/AIDS control. The government's HIV/AIDS control program includes a national AIDS policy, a standard and guide document on voluntary testing, counseling and care and the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). Burkina Faso has 86 Voluntary Testing Centers (VCT) and 6 mobile VCT units. Forty three (43) of the country's fifty five (55) health districts are implementing the PMTCT program. The country's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate dropped from 7.17 per cent to about 2 per cent.

Since 2004, the Malaria prevention activities include the promotion of and sale of subsidized treated bed nets, preventive interval treatment of malaria with Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (Fansidar), reorientation of the activities of traditional birth attendants and environmental sanitation. In relation to TB, the government provides free screening and care in all the health districts.

Article 2: Peace and Security

Burkina Faso has participated in both UN and AU peace missions by sending military, gendarme and police contingents to Haiti, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, among others.

Article: Child Soldiers

Burkina Faso has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Burkina Faso signed but is yet to ratify the statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Implication of Children in Armed Conflicts. At the local level, Article 33 of the general statute of the armed forces prohibits the recruitment of people under 18.

Article 4: Violence Against Women

Burkina Faso has ratified several international and regional instruments (see details in Commitment 6) which are the bases of its national legislation on the protection of women and girls against violence. At the national level, the Constitution forbids discrimination and recognizes the principle of equality among all Burkinabe; the Criminal Code include clauses banning physical, psychological, sexual or moral violence against women. The general principle for the redress of grievances for acts of violence is noted in Article 1382 of the Civil Code. The Persons and Family Code provides protective measures against domestic violence, such as separate residence, separation from bed and board, divorce, annulment of bigamous marriages, and support payment in case of divorce or separation from bed and board, among others.

In addition to the above, the government has in the last two years built more departmental courts in the eleven (11) judicial jurisdictions and created nine (9) more jurisdictions to bring justice closer to women.

Article 5: Gender parity

The government's development priorities as outlined in its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) reiterate its commitments to equal opportunity in civil and political rights between the sexes. Despite this guarantee, women's representation in politics and public decision-making bodies is low. Currently, there are 5 women out of 35 Ministers, 3 out of 13 Governors, and 18 out of 359 Mayors of urban and rural communes.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

To ensure the promotion and protection of women's human rights including their right to development, Burkina Faso has signed and/or ratified a number of international and regional instruments on women's human rights. Among these are the United Nations

Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment; the CEDAW and its optional protocol; the additional protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

As part of the government's sensitization program, CEDAW and its optional protocol were translated into the country's three national languages and field trips were made to the rural areas to sensitize women on citizenship and women's human rights issues.

Article 7: Rights to Land, Property and Inheritance

The Agrarian and Land Reform law and the Urban Development Code enacted in 2006 do not discriminate against women. Article 62 of the Urban Development Code law states that "urban or rural lands in the National Estate should be allocated without distinction based on sex..."

In order to enhance the land security of the underprivileged (women, youth), the following measures were recommended as part of the government's poverty reduction strategy:

- Develop and adopt the implementing instruments of the Agrarian and Land Reform (RAF);
- Development of a communication strategy to disseminate the Agrarian and Land Reform and its regulations;
- Implementation of specific measures relating to women's access to land, shallow waters, and perimeters developed by the state;
- Develop an operational strategy for land security in rural areas through capitalization of ongoing pilot projects; and.
- Guarantee women's access to credit facilities.

Article 8: Education

As part of its commitment to advance women's status through education, the National Assembly adopted the Framework Law on Education which emphasized basic education as a priority. As part of this project,

- A ten year plan basic education plan for the 2000-2009 cycle was adopted in July 1999;
- A girls' education department was established in the Ministry of Education;
- The institution of equal admission quota for boys and girls in satellite schools and non-formal basic education centers;
- *The "1000 girls" project, a training center for girls under the "National Commitments" program was established. 1000 girls have been trained and integrated 1000 girls into working life since its launch in June 1994;
- An action plan for the girl child has been developed; and
- The distribution of free textbooks.

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

The Protocol was ratified it on June 09, 2006.

B) THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

In Cameroon, the national Constitution, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, sectoral gender committees in various government ministries and the local chapter of the Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians are the country's institutional and legal framework for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

As part of the government's HIV/AIDS program, a National AIDS Control Committee was established; the sale of subsidized ART drugs adopted and the PMTCT program was introduced in 2000. Currently, there are 462 sites covering 64 per cent of health districts.

The Roll Back Malaria program is coordinated by a Central Technical Committee with a permanent national secretariat as well as provincial units. The program's focus is on the interval treatment of malaria among pregnant women, the distribution of free treated bed nets and insecticides in all the country's health districts.

Article 2: Peace and Security

Cameroon has given preference to women's applications for appointment in the United Nations system and the AU. As a result, Cameroonian women were appointed as a judge at the International Criminal Court on War Crimes in Rwanda and Trade and Industry Commissioner at the AU respectively.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

Cameroon has signed and ratified the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts and Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the additional protocol on the Convention Against Transnational organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking of Persons, especially Women and Children.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

A draft Bill on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence is awaiting parliamentary signature. This Bill complements provisions in the Criminal Code as it deals with offences such as FGM, and sexual harassment which are ignored in the Code. The government has also adopted an Action Plan on FGM. In addition, the Ministry of Women's Affairs

organizes socio-legal clinics to inform women about their rights and the various legal instruments and/or mechanisms available to seek redress.

Article 5: Gender Parity

The government of Cameroon instituted a 30 per cent quota system in favor of women to bridge the gap between women and men in Parliament, and decision-making positions in political parties, the executive, judiciary and local governance. Furthermore, the government has mandated all political parties to rank women high on their electoral list. In addition, a draft Bill Code of Persons and Family to ensure gender equality within the family is awaiting parliamentary signature.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

Cameroon has ratified virtually all international and regional instruments on women's rights and gender equality. The ratification process on Protocol on the Rights of Women has been initiated. The Social Development Sectoral Strategy adopted in 2005 includes a program to sensitize judges and civil servants in charge of enforcing the law on women's human rights. The labor code recognizes the principle of equal pay for equal work.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

The government has developed institutional mechanisms, programs and project aimed at creating an enabling environment for women to exercise their property rights.

Article 8: Education

The government of Cameroon has introduced a number of measures to reduce the educational disparity between boys and girls and promote gender equality:

- The development and implementation of an Education Sector Strategy which embodies gender equality concerns;
- The abolition of fees in public primary schools in 2001;
- The establishment of a Gender Committee in the Ministry of Education;
- Introduction of a 40 per cent quota in favor of girls in the disbursement of scholarship;
- Free distribution of text books and support to families;
- Introduction of gender-sensitive curricula and text books; and
- The provision of scholarship to the best female students in public examinations to promote female excellence.

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

The Ministry of External Affairs has initiated the ratification process of the Protocol.

C) THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Articles 1 and 2 of Cote d'Ivoire's second Constitution of August 2000 reaffirmed the country's commitment to gender equality. The Constitution also forbids torture, physical and psychological violence, mutilations and degradation of women. The Ministry on the Status of Women whose mission is to coordinate gender equality interventions, ensures the implementation and follow-up of government's international obligations and national policies on the protection of the family, the promotion of women and gender equality. Toward this end, a Women's White Book, National Action Plan, a gender policy and a Directorate of Gender Equality were adopted and established respectively.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

The Ministry of AIDS control, the National AIDS Council, the Interdepartmental AIDS control Committee as well as various decentralized bodies and a National HIV/AIDS Control Policy are the government's institutional mechanisms to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As part of its HIV/AIDS control program, the government of Cote d'Ivoire established 18 VCT and 95 PMTCT sites across the country; reduced the cost of ARVs to CFA 3,000 per quarter in 2005; adopted a National Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children; conducts IEC programs on the use of condoms among women, men, the youth and military contingents stationed in the country. In addition, medical and paramedical staff were trained on STI/HIV/AIDS care. The government declared 2006 "the year for the acceleration of the prevention of HIV/AIDS" as part of its efforts to combat the spread of the disease.

A National Malaria Control Program was adopted in 1997. Usage of the treated bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria rose from 4 to 7 per cent between 2001 and 2002.

Due to the increasing incidence of tuberculosis between 1999 to 2001, the TB control was removed from the National AIDS/STD/TB Control program and established as an autonomous program in 2001.

Article 2: Peace and Security

The government, through the Ministry of the Family, Women and Children organized a retreat on "Gender and Peace" in March 2004 for community-based leaders and women's civil society to strengthen their capacities in the management of conflict and post-conflict situations.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

The government of Cote d'Ivoire has signed and ratified most of the International Conventions on the protection of children. These include

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified in 1991);
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (ratified in 2002);
- Additional Protocol I to the Conventions of Geneva (ratified on September 20, 1989)
- Additional Protocol II to the Conventions of Geneva (ratified on September 20, 1989);
- ILO Convention N° 182 against the Worst Forms of Child Labor and its accompanying Recommendation 190 (ratified on February 7, 2003), as well as
- The definition and implementation of programs for the demobilization and reintegration of associate children
- The sensitization of armed groups and forces on the protection of children in times of conflict; and
- The implementation of the ratification process for the .additional protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

In addition, the Chief of the New Forces issued a statement on the demobilization and reintegration of Child Soldiers, in accordance with UN Resolutions 1539 and 1612. With support from UNICEF, Cote d'Ivoire embarked on its demobilization program for child soldiers in 2004.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

In addition to its international obligations, Cote d'Ivoire has enacted several laws prohibiting violence against women. These include Law No 98-757 of December 23, 1998 forbidding FGM and Law No. 98-756 of December 23, 1998 supplementing the the Criminal Code on sexual harassment and early or forced marriage. Decree No 2000-133 of February 23, 2000 reorganizing the Ministry of the Family, Women and Children, established a National Family, Women and Children's Commission, a National Committee on Violence against Women and Children and a Regulation and Protection Directorate. A National Committee to Fight Child Trafficking and Exploitation was also created.

On September 1st, 2000, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali signed a bilateral cooperation agreement to stop trans-border child trafficking. A permanent monitoring commission was put in place under this agreement. On July 25, 2005, a Multilateral Cooperation Agreement in the fight against Child Trafficking in West Africa was signed by ten States of the West-Africa sub-region.

Article 5: Gender Parity

At the national level in 2005, women constituted 20 per cent of the economic and social Council, six (6) per cent of the Supreme Court judges; 12 per cent of judges at the Constitutional Court, 16.66 per cent of members in the Transition Government and a vice-chair of the National Assembly. At the local level, women were 0.178 per cent of district governors and presidents of General Councils; and 8.37 per cent vice-presidents of districts and vice-presidents of General Councils.

Due to this great disparity in decision-making positions, the Transition Government in 2006 committed itself to pursuing the principle of gender equality. This commitment was concretized with the creation of the Central Directorate of Gender Equality. The mission of the Directorate is to ensure the implementation of the policy of gender equality and equity at all levels and to promote the Gender approach.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

With the exception of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Cote d'Ivoire has ratified most international conventions on gender equality and women's rights. These include CEDAW ratified in 1995; the ILO Conventions 138 (in 2002) and 159 (in 1999); the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (2002) and the ILO Convention 182 (2003). The labor code recognizes the principle of equal pay for equal work for both women and men. In civil law, women have the same legal recognition and rights as men.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

Women have the same rights with men to access land and documentary titles. These rights are reinforced through Law No. 64-375 of October 7, 1964 modified by Law No. 83-800 of August 2 1983 on Civil Marriage Code. Law No. 64-379 of October 7, 1964 on succession and Law No. 64-380 of October 7, 1964 on gifts inter vivo and wills regulate the rights of the surviving spouse. Article 8 of the Succession Act recognizes the rights of the surviving spouse (widow/widower) to inherit in full the property of the deceased. Also, Law No. 98-750 of December 1998 recognizes the rights of the surviving spouse to rural land.

Article 8: Education

The provision of Basic Education Act was adopted in 1997 within the framework of the National Plan for the Development of Education and Training. This principle makes

schooling compulsory until the age of 16 for all children in Cote d'Ivoire, without discrimination.

In primary education, the number of pupils for the year 2001-2002 was 2,113,836 including 914,700 girls, or 43.27 per cent. In 2004, the number of pupils in the government controlled area was 1,624,349 pupils including 722,672 girls or 44.48 per cent. In the other areas, it was 433,578 pupils of which 206,079 or 47.52 per cent were girls. The dropout rates in 2001-2002 among girls in CE2 or 4th grade was 7.5 per cent and in CM1 or 5th grade it was 9.8 per cent compared to 4.6 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively for boys. The Transition Rate in 6th year is particularly low. In 2001-2002 it was 39.1 per cent for boys and 36.1 per cent for girls.

Based on the above, the government of Cote d'Ivoire adopted the Education Sector Support Training Project in 1999 to increase the gross schooling rate for girls to at least 90 per cent by 2010; established the girls' education and training unit within the Directorate of Extra Curricula and Cooperative Activities; provides free textbooks and manuals to the underprivileged and established the Miss Mathematics Contest to encourage girls to study scientific and technical disciplines.

These efforts resulted in an increase in the Gender Parity Index in primary education from 0.77 per cent to 0.81 per cent between 1997-2000.

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

Since Cote d'Ivoire has signed but not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women.

D) THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Ghana's constitutional provisions are in line with CEDAW's provisions and they provide the constitutional basis for gender mainstreaming and equality. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, the National Council for Women and Development, the gender desk officers in the 138 District Assemblies and gender focal persons in government ministries, departments and agencies are also part of the country's institutional mechanisms for gender equality.

Article 1 HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

The Ghana AIDS Commission is in charge of the government's HIV/AIDS program. Towards this end, the Commission has undertaken various projects and programs to control the spread of HIV/AIDS such the integration of HIV/AIDS into sexual and reproductive health services and the safe motherhood program. In addition, efforts at awareness creation, control and management, care and support of people living with

HIV/AIDS has been intensified. These combined efforts have resulted in the reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalent rate to 2.7 per cent.

Although the provision of treated bed nets is below the Abuja target of 60 per cent by 2005, coverage has improved significantly as it rose from 3.3 per cent in 2002 to 25 per cent in 2005. The government's aim is to reach 80 per cent coverage by 2010. A national guideline on inter-nutrients preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy has been adopted; the government routinely distributes treated bed nets to pregnant women and under fives, provides mosquito screens on windows and doors, repellents, indoor residual spraying, limited larviciding and advise on environmental management.

To combat the spread of TB, an awareness creation project dubbed "Strengthening Community Capacity to Manage Tuberculosis" was launched in 2004.

Article 2: Peace and Security

Women account for 11.5 per cent of Ghana's peacekeeping contingents. The Ghana government has initiated programs to protect the rights of refugee women and children especially from sexual abuse and economic exploitation.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

The Recruitment of child soldiers is an uncommon practiced in Ghana. Ghana has ratified the convention against the recruitment of child soldiers. Promulgated a law against ritual servitude, a traditional practice where young girls are kept in shrines to atone for crimes committed by male members of their families. In collaboration the NGOs, the government organizes sensitization programs periodically on the negative impact of war and the use of small arms.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

Legislation to prohibit negative cultural practices such as ritual servitude, harmful widowhood rites and FGM has been passed. A Human Trafficking Law has also been passed and the government is implementing the ECOWAS Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons while developing its own National Plan. A draft Domestic Violence Bill is awaiting Parliamentary signature. However, there is a domestic violence and victim support unit within the Police force and the government observes the 16 days of activism on Violence Against Women annually.

Article 5: Gender Parity

The government of Ghana has demonstrated its commitment to the principle of gender equality by appointing women to head strategic and sensitive posts. For example, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Statistical Services, Immigration, the National Development Planning Commission, National Population Council, the Ghana Chamber of Mines and the National Employers Association, among others.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

As part of the Ghana government's effort at promoting human rights, it established the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice and the Legal Aid board. The Commission monitors human rights violations and has intensified its educational programs especially in the area of women's human rights. Government's efforts are being complemented by literacy programs undertaken by civil society organizations working on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

A draft Property Rights of Spouses Bill prepared by the Attorney-General's Department in 2002 is being fine tuned to take into consideration women's land rights. A Land Administration program aimed at streamlining land administration to remove barriers to land acquisition and address gender issues in land ownership, access and control is now in place. The provision of affordable housing is one of the goals of the on-going housing policy review program.

Article 8: Education

Measures taken to ensure the education of girls and improve women's literacy level especially in the rural areas are among others:

* Establishment of a girl's education unit to facilitate and advocate for the education of the girl-child;

* Development of an Education Strategic Plan (2003-2015) that include a program in favor of girls, such as the abolition of school levies.

Consequently, there has been some achievement in the reduction in the gender gap at enrolment in primary schools. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) improved slightly from 0.91 to 0.93 and the Net Enrollment Ratio (NER) GPI from 0.95-0.97 at the national level. At the district level, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) showed that 29 districts were on course and 5 were above parity while the NER GPI showed that 57 districts were on course and 7 were above parity. In terms of adult literacy, women accounted for 60.3 per cent of graduants from non-formal education in 2003.

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

No submission was made in relation to this article.

E) THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Articles 1-21 of the Malian Constitution clearly articulate the principle of equality and non-discrimination. The Ministry of Women, Children and Family is entrusted with the mission

of improving the status of women, ensure their protection and promotes their rights and that of the child and strengthen the family unit.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

As part of its Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative, Mali agreed to invest 1.3 billion CFA annually to purchase ARV reagents and other laboratory consumables. As a result, the government has since 2004 provided free ART treatments to people living with HIV/AIDS. Also, an Act establishing rules on the prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS was passed by the National Assembly in 2006 and is awaiting Presidential approval. The month of December is commemorated as “National HIV/AIDS Month.”

A national Malaria Program has been in existence since 1993. The adoption of this program has resulted in the implementation of the Bamako Initiative, tax exemptions for treated bed nets, promulgation of sanitation and living environment policy, training of traditional birth attendants and the declaration of an annual malaria eradication day. The national TB program was established in 1995 by law No. 095/MS-PA-SG. TB treatment is free.

Article 2: Peace and Security

At the international level, Mali has ratified the statute of the International Criminal Court. At the local level, the government of Mali has allowed women to participate in national and regional peace negotiations; nominated a female ambassador Special Envoy of the President of the Republic to the United Nations and the African Union, in charge of Human Rights issues; supported women’s organizations engaged in peace in the distribution of food and clothes to refugees and displaced people; and women receiving returnee families.

In relation to peacekeeping missions, three women soldiers and two women superintendents have been part of the Malian Contingents (1 soldier in Liberia, two in Congo in 2005 and 1 superintendent as observer in Congo in 2005).

Article 3: Child Soldiers

At the International level, Mali has ratified the following Conventions on the Rights of the child:

- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (Act N° 98-28 of July 20, 1998);
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts (Ordinance n° 01-407 of September 20 2001);
- The UN Convention against transnational organized crime to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Act n° 02-020 of June 03, 2002).

Mali signed the multilateral cooperation agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa, was signed on 27th July 2005.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

Although there is no law on violence against women, however, assault and battery are recognized in the Criminal Code as crimes against women. The government also listed the following among others as some of the abuses Malian women endure;

5. Sexual violence through rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
6. Psychological violence through gender-based expressions and insults, lack of respect for women, attempts at downgrading, devaluing, humiliating, belittling of women;
7. The psycho-physiological violence that appear through women's abandonment by their husbands for many years for migration purposes;
8. Institutional violence through culturally accepted practices such as levirate, sorority, forced or early marriages, repudiation in conformity with the Muslim law, certain forms of widowhood practices, abduction of women, barter trade of women, change in matrimonial option, forced wearing of the Chador.

Article 5: Gender Parity

Missing from submitted report.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

Missing from submitted report.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

Missing from submitted report.

Article 8: Education- Incomplete Submission

Primary education is compulsory and free. To reduce the disparity between boys and girls, the government introduced various programs to accelerated girls' education. Some examples are:

- Reduction in charges related to schooling among poor families to improve school attendance of girls;
- Gender-sensitive curriculum development
- Provision of educational supplies and teaching materials to schools (50 per cent in primary schools and 25 per cent in secondary schools)
- Convert community-based schools into public/communal schools
- Construction of 2350 classrooms on average per year for the first cycle and about 1000 for the secondary cycle...

It should be noted that since 2000, all the new infrastructures are equipped with separate latrines (girls-boys).

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

Mali ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on January 13, 2005 by ordinance and the instrument was registered on February 13, 2005.

F) THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Chapter IV Sections 42 (1), (a), (b), (2) and (3) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution provides for non-discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity, age or circumstances of birth against all Nigerian citizens. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) is the national gender focal machinery and is in charge of implementing the national the gender policy and the National Centre for Women's Development (NCWD), a parastatal under the FMWA is responsible for promoting women's advancement through research, training and documentation.

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

The national campaign against HIV/AIDS is led by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) chaired by the President is charged with ensuring multi-sector and multi-level participation of relevant stakeholders. HIV/AIDS control is integrated into the country's Primary Health Care System. Nigeria's HIV/AIDS control program includes free medical care/subsidized drugs, public enlightenment programs, provision of HIV testing kits to all citizens irrespective of sex; establishment of Voluntary Counseling and Confidential Testing (VCCT) centers have been established alongside the introduction of PMTCT in most states of the federation. Provision of home/community based care and support services People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) including their families. To address the gender related stigma associated with the program and encourage the participation of men, the program has been renamed Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT).

Article 2: Peace and Security

Nigeria has ratified the AU Constitutive Act and the ECOWAS Protocol on Peace, Security, Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution in West Africa. To further its obligations, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) was established with a female director as head of the Department of External Conflict Prevention and Resolution. The department's main focus is on post-conflict peace building in Africa (including Nigeria). Gender mainstreaming and the specific problems of women and

children during conflict and war situations as well as in relation to peace building are adequately addressed by the agency.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

The official age for recruitment into the Nigerian Army is 18 years, thus making it illegal and impossible for children to be directly recruited into the Armed Forces. Section 34 of the Child Rights Act enacted in 2003 complements this provision. Members of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria are sensitized on the use of children in war situations as part of their professional training.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

The Federal Ministry of Justice completed a draft Bill on the - Elimination of Violence in 2006. The Bill has been sent to the National Assembly and reflects Nigeria's International obligations. Some State House of Assemblies have enacted legislations to prohibiting violence against women.

The Federal Ministry of Health has since 2004 commenced the commemoration of 6th February as annual 'Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Day'. The FMWA also commemorates the annual 16 days of Global Activism on Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women (25th November-10th December).

In relation to the issue of trafficking, the Federal Government enacted the 'Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003'. Parallel laws are in place in states where the problem is endemic. The Federal Government has also established the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on Human Trafficking and Child Labor and the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to enforce the law and monitor the trafficking of persons.

Article 5: Gender Parity

Section 42 of the 1999 Constitution, guarantees every Nigerian (women and men), the rights to freedom from discrimination and the freedom of association, which by extension includes political association and participation. Women constitute about 19 per cent of members of the Federal cabinet in comparison to 12 per cent four years ago. Presently, women represent 22 per cent of Federal Permanent Secretaries as against about 10 per cent in 2003.

On the elective front, there is a marginal increase in the number of women elected into both the Upper & Lower Houses of the National Assembly. In the National Assembly, there are four (4) women out of 109 senators and 21 women out of 360 members of the Federal House of Representatives. Of significance is the number of female Deputy Governors, which has increased from 1 to 4. Furthermore, 2 out of the 36 State Houses of Assembly speakers are women; there are 47 women Local Government Chair out of 774.

In 2005, the first female justice of the Supreme Court and the first female Police Commissioner were appointed.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

The Nigeria Human Rights Commission was established as the country's human rights ombudsman. The Nigerian Government has signed and ratified all international and sub-regional treaties and conventions in respect of women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. At the local level, various state governments have enacted laws protecting women's human rights. For example,

- g) The Enugu State of Nigeria 2001, No. 3 on: - The Prohibition of Infringement of a Widow's and Widower's Fundamental Rights law;
- h) The Edo State Criminal Code (Amendment) Law 2000 cap. 48 on the Prohibition of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls;
- i) The Zamfara State Sharia Penal Code law of 2000, Vol. 1, No. 4, Sections 207 to 239 equally seeks to protect women and young girls from all forms of cruelty, sexual, labor and economic exploitation as well as trafficking;
- j) Bauchi State Hawking by Children (Prohibition) Act 1985, cap. 58;
- k) Ebonyi State Law 010(2000) on the Abolition of Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children; Edo State Female Genital Mutilation (*FGM*) Prohibition Law 2000;
- l) Cross-River State Girl-Child Marriage and Female Circumcision (Prohibition) Law of (2000).

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

Section 43 of the Constitution guarantees every Nigerian (man or woman) the right to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in Nigeria; whilst section 44 guarantees the rights of every Nigerian to his/her movable or immovable property. Similarly, the Land use Act, 1978 also confers general powers to own real property upon both men and women. Through these provisions, all Nigerians regardless of sex are in principle, entitled to landed or other movable property.

Article 8: Education

The Child's Rights Act passed in 2003, reinforces government's commitment to provide free and compulsory education for every Nigerian child up to junior secondary school level. Furthermore, section 15(6) of the same law prescribes punishment for parents or guardians who prevent a child from attending and completing his/her education. Universal Basic Education and other Related Matters Act, 2004 (UBE) also reiterates the rights to compulsory, free, and universal basic education. The Federal Government of Nigeria has designated a special fund for implementing Millennium Development Goal 3 to facilitate gender equality in education and the acceleration of girls' education.

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

The Protocol on African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa has been signed but is yet to be domesticated as part of Nigerian law.

G) THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Rwanda's legal and institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality include both state and civil society organizations. The state institutions include the 1993 Constitution, the Ministry of Gender and Family Affairs, the National Women's Council, the national Coordinating Committee and the Permanent Executive Secretariat for the Follow-Up of the Beijing Platform of Action, the gender monitoring office, national gender policy and gender focal points. The civil society institutions are the forum of Rwanda women parliamentarians and Pro-Femmes Twese, the umbrella organization of women's NGOs.

Article 1 HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases

Since 2003, Rwanda has made significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic through a multi-sector and multidisciplinary decentralized strategy. The 2005-2009 National Prevention Plan against HIV/AIDS was developed in 2005. VCT sites have increased significantly- from 150,000 in 2003, to 340,000 in 2004 and to 640,000 in 2005. The number of PMTCT sites has also increased significantly from 56 in 2003 to 160 in 2005. Pregnant women under prophylaxis increased from 14 per cent in 2003 to 28 per cent in 2005.

A five strategic plan for 2005-2010 was developed as part of the National Malaria Control Program.

Article 2: Peace and Security

Women represent 29 per cent of people within GACACA Courts⁸. Rwandese women are among the armed contingents of the Rwandan Patriotic Army and the National Police in peacekeeping missions in Khartoum and Darfur in Sudan. They are also included in the United Nations Civil Police to be deployed in various peace keeping missions all over the world.

Article 3: Child Soldiers

Rwanda ratified the convention of the Child in 1990, the Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in 2000, and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts in 2002, but is yet

⁸ Local court in charge of crimes committed during the 1994 genocide.

to sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court⁹. Rwanda has not amended its Labor Code to reflect Article 3(d) of the ILO Convention prohibiting children under 18 from performing harmful work.

With UNICEF's assistance, the Rwanda government started its demobilization program in 1997.

Law No. 27 protecting the rights of children was promulgated in 2001. Article 19 forbids military service for children less than 18 years of age. In relation to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, a national policy for orphans and other vulnerable children was adopted in 2003.

Article 4: Gender-Based Violence

In addition to its international commitments to protect women from gender-based violence, Rwanda enacted laws at the national level to reinforce these obligations. Law No. 27 of 2001 defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 years. The law protects children from violence especially rape and prescribes punishments for such violations. Rape of children below 14 years is life imprisonment, for those between 14-18 years a fine of imprisonment of up to 25 years. If the rape victim dies or is infected with an incurable disease, the rapist is sentenced to death. Laws No 08 of 30/8/1996 and 40/2000 of 26/01/2001 classify rape and sexual torture as category one crimes and as such, perpetrators are sentenced to either death or life imprisonment depending on the gravity of the offence. A draft law on prevention and protection of all forms of gender-based violence is being developed by Parliament.

Article 5: Gender Parity

The 2003 Constitution prohibits all forms of gender-based discrimination and recommends that least 30 per cent of all positions in public decision-making institutions are reserved for women. Further, Law No. 42 of 5 December 2000 establishing the local council election body includes a quota of at least 1/3 of women to be placed on the electoral list. As a result, Rwanda has the highest number of female politicians globally - 48.8 per cent.

Article 6: Women's Human Rights

In relation to women's rights, Rwanda has, in addition to CEDAW adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and has ratified other instruments related to rights of women and children, including:

- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Marriage Age and Registration of Marriages;
- Convention on Women's Political Rights;
- Convention for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Exploitation of other People's Prostitution;

⁹ This treaty includes recruitment and use of children less than 15 years of age in hostilities as a war crime.

- Convention on Married Woman's Nationality;
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;
- African Charter of Human and People's Rights and its Protocols related to Women's Rights ;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor;
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- Optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

At the level of national legislation, Law No. 04 of 12/03/99 established the National Human Rights Commission; Law no 22 of 12/11/99 supplementing Book I of the Civil Code and Part Five regarding matrimonial regimes, liberalities and successions, enables women to choose their preferred matrimonial regime and allows the girl-child to inherit property her parents as her brothers. N° 29 of 03/12/2004 on Rwanda's Nationality Code gives a woman married to a foreigner the right to pass on her nationality to her children.

Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights

In addition to Law N° 22/99 of 12/11/1999 , Organic Law No. 08/2005 of 14/07/2005 establishing Rwanda's land regime allows gender equality in terms of access to land. Women as well as men have the right to access, own and exploit land and all children, boys and girls, have equal rights to land inheritance. The government is planning to establish a Land commissions and its composition will be gender-mainstreamed to ensure that it is useful to both men and women at all levels of decision-making regarding land rights.

Article 8: Education

The major goal of the Government in its Vision 2020 for education is to achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE) by 2010 and subsequently Basic Education for all by 2015. Achievement of both goals depends on addressing the problem of high dropout and repeat rates which are higher among girls than boys.

Rwanda's literacy rate stands at 52.4 per cent. The government policy is to increase the literacy rate to 85 per cent by 2010. To achieve this goal, literacy training would be provided to 500,000 people every year until 2010.

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

Rwanda adopted and ratified the Protocol to African Charter of Human and People's Rights related to Women's Rights in Africa. The signature of this regional instrument took place on 11 July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique; its ratification by the Presidential Order N° 11/01 took place on 24 June 2004.

The Protocol and other regional and international instruments for the protection and promotion women's rights such as the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW Resolution 1325 and SDGEA have been translated in Kinyarwanda, the national language.

2008

Reports of Member States on the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGGEA)

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