

AFRICAN UNION

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**REPORT OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
IN CHARGE OF GENDER**

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**REPORT OF MEETING OF AU MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR GENDER AND WOMEN AFFAIRS
14 May 2013**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
AU Headquarters**

**REPORT OF MEETING OF AU MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR GENDER AND WOMEN AFFAIRS
14 May 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
AU Headquarters**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 5th Ordinary Session of the Meeting of AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women Affairs was held at AUC Headquarters on 14 May 2013 and was preceded by the Meeting of Experts from 8 to 10 May 2013.

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The following countries attended the ministerial Meeting: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Republic, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

3. The opening Ceremony of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs on May 14, 2013 was graced by the attendance of the Chairperson of the Commission H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and was held at the new Conference Center of the African Union.

4. The opening ceremony was chaired by H.E. Aicha Vall VERES, Minister for Women's Affairs of Mauritania in her capacity as the Vice Chair in the absence of the Bureau, Equatorial Guinea and it was facilitated by Ms. Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Director of Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union Commission (AUC). The Director welcomed the Ministers and delegates to the meeting while recalling previous Ministerial meetings. She specially welcomed the presence of Her Excellency Nkosana Dlamini Zuma, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Her Excellency Madam Isatou Njie-Saidy, the Vice-President of The Gambia and Secretary of State for Women's Affairs of The Gambia.

5. In her welcome Statement, H.E. Madam Zenebu Tadesse, the Minister of Women, Children and Youth Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in her capacity as the representation of Chair of the Union welcomed participants to Addis Ababa and congratulated the AU Chairperson on her election. The Ethiopian Minister reiterated the importance of the involvement of African women in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the AU, and the undeniable importance of their empowerment in the development of the continent. She presented the achievements of Ethiopia in the promotion of women's rights based on the adoption of Government policies and strategies to strengthen the capacity of the Ethiopian woman. She noted the progress made in the field of education, maternal health, as well as access of women to land, clean water and political decision making.

6. She concluded her remarks by noting the major challenges that still existed in mainstreaming gender issues in African countries while urging for the integration of African women and men in the development process for a prosperous and stable Africa.

7. Madame Aicha Vall Veres, the Minister of Social Affairs, Children and the Family of Mauritania, on behalf of the Outgoing Bureau of Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs noted that the 5th Ministerial Meeting was being held within the context of the election of the first female Chairperson of the African Union Commission. This gave great hope for African women, despite the many challenges that still lie ahead in the areas of health and education for women. She recommended that the participation of African women should be more inclusive in the spheres of political decision making. She expressed the hope that the Ministerial meeting would lead to the adoption of strategic plans for gender mainstreaming in African countries.

8. In her Opening Statement, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Dr. Nkosana Dlamini Zuma, noted that the Fifth Ministerial meeting was being held within the context of the 50th Anniversary of the OAU / AU and was a unique opportunity for Africans as citizens and women in particular to take stock of what had happened in the past fifty years since the creation of the OAU. The 50th Anniversary would also be an opportunity to map out where African women wanted to be in the next 50 year; she reiterated that Africa had to be in its rightful place in the international community as the AU includes not only the governments, but the citizens.

9. She recalled the important role played by that African women in the fight against slavery and colonialism, which led to the creation of the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO) in 1962. She observed that empowering women would significantly contribute to the well-being at the household level, and therefore the well-being of entire population, because empowerment of women was not a power struggle with men.

10. The Chairperson observed that the Continent had all the policy documents it needed, citing Article 4L of the Constitutive Act of the AU, the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa among other instruments on gender equality. She however stressed that the challenge had been their implementation.

11. She recalled the collaboration and partnership of the AU with the ECA, UNESCO and UNDP in the production of a compendium of women who were founding mothers of the struggle to liberate and emancipate African women.

12. Dr. Dlamini Zuma then shared the vision of the AU focusing on areas that Ministers should reflect upon, so that measurable progress could be achieved in the next 50 years. She noted that this was the reason why there was a meeting of Women Stakeholders that was held from 12 to 13 May 2013 at the AUC Headquarters, during which women from all walks of life reflected on Pan Africanism and African Renaissance, and the future of the African women 50 years from now.

13. She also shared some thoughts and recommendations focusing on issues such as the need for Africa to invest in its youth and women as human capital by providing them with access to adequate health and quality education; investing in developed infrastructure such as advanced transportation citing high-speed trains, that would increase tourism; science and new technologies that would empower African women; investing in modernized agriculture (as 70% of agricultural workers are women), hence the need to invest women.

14. She noted the important role of peace on the continent, as there could not be development without peace. She stressed the importance of Parliaments in passing laws that would facilitate women's access to land, agricultural inputs and credit. These, she noted would reduce Africa's expenditures on food imports and more investments on agriculture and energy. As women have always been protective of the environment, it was no surprise therefore that the Nobel Prize for Environment was awarded to an African woman.

15. In conclusion, Dr. Dlamini Zuma recommended that the African Women Decade (AWD) should facilitate the implementation of existing frameworks for the empowerment of African women, while ensuring that the Decade make a difference with concrete achievements.

IV. THE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

16. The Draft Agenda and Work programme was adopted as presented.

V. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

17. The following Bureau was elected:

- a) Chairperson: Algeria (North Africa)
- b) 1st Vice - Chairperson: Zimbabwe (Southern Africa)
- c) 2nd Vice - Chairperson: Cote d'Ivoire (West Africa)
- d) 3rd Vice - Chairperson: Djibouti (East Africa)
- e) Rapporteur: Chad (Central Africa)

VI. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERT

18. The Ministers considered and adopted the Report of the Experts with inputs/recommendations/amendments/questions on the following points:

- a) Presentation on Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance Theme of AU 50th Anniversary and AU-Wide Strategic Plan and the 2063 Development Agenda**

19. The meeting recommended that the African Women who participated in the struggle for the liberation of the African Continent (Founding Mothers) should be recognized and those who were still alive should be invited to the 50th Anniversary of OAU/AU.

20. The meeting also recommended the publication African Women Heroines.

The Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

21. The Representative of the Republic of Malawi confirmed that Malawi was ready to host the Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Protocol to be held on the 11th of July 2013 in Lilongwe, Malawi and requested to the Commission to facilitate the process so that details regarding the Celebration and requirements for hosting such an event can be initiated.

22. The meeting recommended the institutionalisation of July as Pan African women's month with a request that this be sent to Executive Council for a Decision.

b) Presentation on Strategies for Enhancing the Capacity of Women's Machineries, their Visibility and Effective Resourcing

23. The Ministers approved the recommendations proposed by the Experts.

c) Presentation on Collaboration with UN Women at Country Level and Multi-Dimensional Gender Mainstreaming Approach in the Implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human And Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women In Africa and Gender Budgeting

24. The Ministers approved the recommendations proposed by the Experts.

d) Proposal on an Annual High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to Create Space for Women' Scholars, Researches, Academia, and Gender Experts to Discuss Emerging Issues (E.G. High Level Panel on Peace and Security which convenes annually in October)

25. The Ministers approved the recommendation with the Minister of Cote d'Ivoire offering to host the first High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in July 2014 as part of AU 50th anniversary.

26. Ministers also recommended that the AUC should establish the criteria of hosting the High Level Panel.

e) Consideration and Approval of Projects for the 2012 African Women's Decade (AWD) Theme and Call for Proposals for 2013

27. Issues raised by Ministers under the section are dealt under the Report of Ministerial Committee of 10.

28. The meeting requested information on the composition of Committee of 30 (C30) and Committee of 10 (C10), following which the Commission circulate the lists for 2 Committees.

29. Regarding the C10, the Commission informed the meeting that the Committee of 10 was formed in Nairobi in October 2010, during the Ministerial Meeting on Gender held on the side-lines of the Launch of the African Women's Decade. She noted that during the meeting, the Ministers had decided that the Committee would comprise 10 ministers, two per AU region in alphabetical order with a rotation formula of two years. This would ensure that all 54 Member States would have served in the Committee by end of the Decade. She stated that the AUC had received no objection to the composition of the list and the Ministers were requested to decide on it at this meeting.

30. The meeting decided that countries under sanction should not be members of Committee of 10; this meant that Central African Republic would be replaced by Congo in the current Committee of 10.

f) Approval of Projects Submitted under 2012 Theme

31. The meeting gave one month to the countries which had not sent the projects proposals for different reasons for them to apply.

32. In order to have enough money for Fund of African Women (FAW), the meeting recommended organizing fund raising events.

33. The meeting stressed the need for the projects proposals to pass through the national gender machineries.

34. The meeting recommended that countries under sanction should not receive funding under the Fund for African Women (FAW).

g) Briefing on the Operationalization of Specialized Technical Committees (STCS)

35. The Ministers approved the recommendations proposed by the Experts.

h) Executive Council Decision to Align Assembly and Decade Themes

36. The Ministers discussed this issue at length as to whether they should go by the recommendations proposed by the Experts or by the Ministerial Committee of 10. After clarifications from the Commission (which circulated the Decision) and final intervention based on the report of the Ministerial Committee of 10, the Ministers decided to go by the Experts' recommendation which states that ***“to make the AU Assembly theme of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance holistic, theme number 1 on “Fighting Poverty and Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women and Entrepreneurship” of AWD should be implemented for 2013 while mainstreaming theme number 10”.***

i) Adoption of Training of Trainers Manual for AU Peacekeepers

37. The meeting approved the recommendations by Experts but requested the Commission to send the hard and soft copy of the manual to Member States for further inputs by June 2013.

VII. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF 10 ON PROJECTS FOR 2012 AWD THEME

38. The report was adopted by the meeting as amended. The meeting reemphasized that countries under sanction should not be members of Committee of 10. Thus, Central African Republic would be replaced by Congo in the Committee of 10.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON PAN-AFRICANISM AND AFRICAN RENAISSANCE THEME OF AU 50TH ANNIVERSARY

39. In his presentation, H.E. Isaac Munlo, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Malawi in Ethiopia, defined Renaissance. He gave an example of Europe where poverty, disease were rampant and the European continent exploited from outside the continent. After the renaissance, the Europe changed with new ideas.

40. He added that African Renaissance would be a great opportunity for the re-birth of the continent and for women's integration. Efforts should be repositioned on gender in order to integrate gender into Pan-Africanism. It was therefore very important for Africa to mobilize all stakeholders and put together a theory on gender; would define the situation of African Women..

IX. PRESENTATION ON AU-WIDE STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE 2063 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

41. In the absence of the presenter, who was unavoidably absent, the Director of WGDD gave some information about the AU Strategic Plan and the 2063 Development Agenda. She informed the meeting that when H.E Chairperson of AUC assumed office on 15th October 2021, she asked the question regarding where Africa would want to be in 50 years. This question changed the thinking around the formulation of the AU Strategic Plan 2014-2017 that has replaced the AU Strategic Plan 2009-2012, and introduced the nation of 2063 Development Agenda. The concept of AU Agenda 2063 had been embraced to drive AU's Vision for next 50 years.

42. She noted that the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan would lay a solid foundation for the Road Map which will define the African vision 2063. Given the efforts so far made in ensuring that the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan was engendered through Pillar 2 and Priority 5, and the mainstreaming of all Pillars and priorities, the inputs of women in general and of AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs were critical. She concluded by urging the Ministers to contribute to AU 2063 Development Agenda.

43. The Ministers requested a soft copy of AU Strategic Plan and the 2063 Development Agenda, in order to comment on it.

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

44. While discussing the membership of Committee of 10 under paragraph 38, Ministers also revisited the composition of Committee of 30 (C30). The Commission explained how the members of the C30 were chosen by the Commission; that following the request that letters be sent to Member States to nominate members of C30, the Commission had compiled by sending the letters by Note Verbale through Embassies in Ethiopia. Ministers were reminded about their decision to allow the Commission to use the current list of C30 until an agreed list was approved. However, Ministers informed the Commission they had not received this communication and requested that National Gender machineries be involved in choosing members of the C30. It was decided that the next Ministerial meeting will review the membership of the Committee.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE MEETING

45. Due to time constraint, it was decided that the report would be forwarded to the Ministers, both in soft and hard copies, for their input by the end of May 2013 for adoption at the margins of the 10th Anniversary celebration on 11 July 2013 meeting in Malawi.

46. The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire gave an offer to the Commission to host the Ministerial Meeting to be held in 2014.

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WG10538

DRAFT
REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF AU MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR GENDER AND WOMEN AFFAIRS
14 -15 August 2013

Lilongwe, Malawi

**REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF AU MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR GENDER AND WOMEN AFFAIRS
14 -15 August 2013
Lilongwe, Malawi**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Extraordinary Meeting of AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women Affairs was held at Lilongwe, Malawi from 14 to 15 August 2013 at Golden Peacock Hotel.

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The following countries attended the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

3. The opening Ceremony of the Extraordinary Meeting of AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs was chaired by H.E. Ms. Anne Désirée Ouloto, Minister for Gender and Women's Affairs of Cote d'Ivoire in her capacity as the 2nd Vice Chair in the absence of the Chairperson of the Bureau, Algeria.

4. The Director welcomed the Ministers and delegates to the meeting while recalling previous Ministerial meeting held in Addis Ababa on 15th May 2013 and important decisions reached during that meeting of May 2013 including the recommendation to adopt the Report of the 5th Ministerial Meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi back-to-back with the 10th Anniversary of AU Protocol on Women's Rights.

IV. THE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

5. The Draft Agenda and Work programme was adopted as presented.

V. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION SINCE THE 5TH MEETING OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF GENDER AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS :

6. The Director briefed the meeting about the actions taken by the AUC since the 5th Meeting of Ministers in Charge of Gender and Women's Affairs.

- i) The circulated final draft report of the 5th Meeting of Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs on 30 May 2013;
- ii) The Commission did not received any descending comments from Ministers or their experts;
- iii) Subsequently, the Commission translated into all AU language ;

- iv) Re-sent out a Call for Proposals for 2012 on 15 May 2013 as recommended;
- v) The Commission gave one month extension to all projects as stated under recommendation;
- vi) Received a total of 36 new projects and additional information from the 2012 Old projects;
- vii) That the commission convened Committee of 30 and Steering Committee of Fund for African Women in Tunisia from 9 to 11 July 2013 and processed the proposals.

VI. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PROJECTS FOR THE 2012 AWD THEME

7. The meeting considered and approved additional projects for 2012 Theme as follows:

- i) The Commission received 37 additional responses from the projects that were given extra time (1 month) and out of that :
 - a) 3 complied and are recommended for approval without condition;
 - b) 24 were processed and complied partly, the Commission recommends that they be approved with condition;
 - c) 10 of the projects that responded had already been approved with conditions in the 14 May 2013 meeting and so this does not affect aggregate statistics of approved project, all we have done is to move the project to the right category.
- ii) The Commission received 36 new projects following the Call for Proposal that was resent after the 14 May 2013 Meeting out of which the Commission is recommending
 - a) 3 are recommended for approval without condition;
 - b) 30 are recommended for approved with condition;
 - c) 1 was rejected;
 - d) 1 differed for theme 6.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

8. Ministers recommended that future matrix should have recommended budget to ensure they are within envelop provided and also that projects under 7 (ii) (b) be given up to August 31, 2013, to submit outstanding information.

VIII. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CALL FOR PROPOSAL

9. Ministers considered and approved the Call for Proposal for 2013 and emphasized the need to focus on women as well as reflect the alignment to Theme no 10.

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 5TH MINISTERS MEETING HELD ON 14 May 2013

10. The Ministers adopted the Report of the Ministers meeting of 14th May 2013

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Consideration and Adoption of the Declaration of the 10th Anniversary of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

11. The Declaration was adopted as amended (attached) and the Commission to provide the appropriate name.

b) Update on an Annual High Level Panel on Post 2015 Agenda

12. The Minister in Charge of Gender and Women's Affairs of Cote d'Ivoire informed the meeting that Cote d'Ivoire would host the High Level, from 23 to 25 September 2013 and all Ministers would receive the Invitation Letters. The Minister of Cote d'Ivoire added also that she was in consultation with her Government to see if they could launch the African Women's Decade at National Level on 26 September 2013 so all participants for the High Level can attend.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE MEETING

13. The Chairperson of the Meeting thanked all participants for their fruitful participation. She also expressed her gratitude to the WGDD for the hard work and for organizing the meeting as recommended by Ministers.

EX.CL/834(XXIV)
Annex 1

**LILONGWE DECLARATION
ON
ACCELERATING DOMESTICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN
AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN
AFRICA ADOPTED ON
THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTOCOL**

LILONGWE DECLARATION ON ACCELERATING DOMESTICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA

PREAMBLE

We, African Women, Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs, Senior Government Officials from Africa met in Lilongwe, Malawi at A High Level Meeting On 14th-15th August 2013 to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (The Protocol)

The 10th Anniversary Celebration and High level dialogue was held in Malawi and was attended by AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities, African Union Commission, the United Nations system, and Civil Society Organizations;

The Anniversary and its Preparatory Meeting were hosted by the Government of the Republic of Malawi, African Union Commission, and Solidarity for African Women Rights Coalition and UN Women. The 10th Anniversary Celebrations were the climax of the week-long activities, including an Expert meeting on the Domestication and Implementation of the AU Protocol on Women's Rights held from 11-13 August 2013 which are part of the year-long AU 50th Anniversary. In this Declaration We:

RECALL the adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights by Organization of African Union (OAU) Heads of State and Government at the 18th Assembly Heads of State and Government on 27 June 1981 in Nairobi, Kenya which entered into force on 21st October 1986;

FURTHER RECALL the adoption of the Protocol to the Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, by Heads of State and Government at the 2nd Ordinary Session of Assembly of the Union in Maputo, Mozambique on 11 July 2003, which came into force on 25 November 2005;

ACKNOWLEDGE Member States' ownership and political commitment resulting in the universal ratification of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and 36 ratifications of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by AU Member States;

ARE CONSCIOUS OF the reporting requirements for the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights under Article 62 and for the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa under Article 26 (1) and the mandate bestowed on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to receive the state reports;

COMMEND the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for developing the 2009 Guidelines for state reporting under the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

AFFIRM the importance of initial and periodic reporting on the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in line with Article 62 of the Charter;

EXPRESSE *concern* that 10 years since the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa was adopted, only one state reports on the Protocol has been submitted to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights while 41 Member States have submitted Reports on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA);

NOTE that African Union member states do not substantively provide information on the progress of implementation of the Protocol in their reports under Article 9 of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;

And thus declare as follows:

- a) That the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights should ensure that state parties to the Protocol submit their reports in accordance with their treaty obligations under Article 62 of the Charter;
- b) That state parties that have outstanding reports under Article 62 on the Protocol to submit these reports by August 2014;
- c) That state parties to report substantively under Article 9 of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa to the African Union Commission;
- d) That the African Union Commission's Women Gender and Development Directorate should send the guidelines on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality to the Member States together with a Note Verbale to capture substantive information on the implementation of the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;
- e) *That* the Member states that have not ratified the Protocol to do so;
- f) *That there is a* need for member states that have ratified the Protocol to take measures to accelerate its full domestication and implementation through a multi-sectoral approach;
- g) All Member States to intensify their sensitization, advocacy and resource mobilization activities in support of the implementation of the AU Protocol;
- h) *That* the African Union Commission, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and Civil Society Organizations (CSO's), continue promoting and advocating for the Protocol's full domestication and implementation;

- i) The Member States that have not launched the African Women Decade should do so;
- j) The Member States should reinforce the coordination mechanisms and monitor the implementation of the Decade in order to achieve the defined targets;
- k) That the UN System and other development partners support member states in efforts for the full domestication and implementation of the Protocol as well as the African Women Decade.

ADOPTED ON THIS FIFTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST 2013, IN LILONGWE, MALAWI

EX.CL/834(XXIV)
Annex 2

**DECLARATION
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S
ORGANISATION**



DECLARATION

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE

50TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S ORGANISATION

50th ANNIVERSARY DECLARATION

We the participants, consisting of founding veterans and members of the Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO) together with women's organisations represented at the PAWO's 50th Anniversary, assembled in Pretoria, South Africa, on this day, the 31st of August 2013, to celebrate PAWO established in 1962 in the city of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania;

Inspired by the African Union's (AU) 50th Anniversary theme on Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance, and the spirit of the AU Agenda 2063;

Guided by the vision of the African Union as encapsulated in the Constitutive Act of the AU;

Recognising and appreciating the foundation laid by the forbearers' contributions, sacrifices and achievements who worked tirelessly in unity for the rights and welfare of women in Africa;

Reaffirming our commitment to the ideals of Pan-Africanism as expressed in the founding documents of PAWO;

Mindful that despite the work that has been done, African women remain seized with challenges in the twenty-first century;

Guided by the pursuit of equal rights for African women in society, politics and in the economy as well as the elimination of all forms of exploitation and abuse of women;

Determined to take full responsibility to build and strengthen PAWO.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- I. The uniqueness of the African Continent as the cradle of humanity and a centre of civilization that was dehumanised by slavery, land dispossession, colonialism and apartheid and encouraged by its resilience;
- II. PAWO as the first continental women's organization was created on 31 July 1962 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania;
- III. PAWO's contribution to the liberation of the African continent, the elimination of colonialism and apartheid and work towards women's empowerment and gender equality;
- IV. That PAWO continues to advocate for the full recognition and application of the rights of African women to participate in all forms of decision-making at national, regional and international levels.

REMAIN GUIDED by the following landmark decisions which highlight the African Union's leadership in women empowerment and gender equality:

- I. The enshrining of the principle of gender equality as a major goal of the AU,
- II. The location of gender machinery in the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission,
- III. The adoption of the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003),
- IV. The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) and the AU Gender Policy,
- V. The AU Assembly declaration of 2010-2020, as African Women's Decade and the establishment of the Fund for African Women.
- VI. The AU Women's Stakeholders Consultative Conference Declaration of 15 May 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

AND FURTHER GUIDED by United Nations instruments, including inter alia:

- I. The UN Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human and Peoples' Rights (1948)
- II. Mexico City 1st Women's Conference (1975)
- III. Adoption of CEDAW (1979)
- IV. Copenhagen 2nd Women's Conference (1980)
- V. 3rd Namibia International Conference on Women (1985)
- VI. 4th Beijing Women's Conference (1995)
- VII. The Millennium Development Goals (2000), and
- VIII. UN Resolutions: 1325; 1820; 1888; 1889 and 1960.

HEREBY:

- I. **Celebrate** the contribution that PAWO has made towards the liberation of the African continent as well as the reduction of all forms of institutionalised and non-institutionalised discrimination against women and the girl child;
- II. **Recognise** the sacrifices of the founding mothers of PAWO who in 1962 travelled to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania to champion the struggle for the

recognition of women's full human rights and commend their visionary leadership to build PAWO;

- III. **Commit to continue working** with the AU, RECs, the UN and other multilateral organizations, national governments, as well as the private sector and civil society in addressing obstacles inhibiting the political, economical, and social development of women, and
- IV. **Commit to pursuing** the struggle for the rights of women in all parts of society so as to contribute to a continent that is peaceful, just, fair, equitable and prosperous.

AND THEREFORE PLEDGE to intensify our efforts to advance the needs and interests of women in, amongst others,

- the promotion of gender parity, food security, poverty alleviation, and economic development;
- access to health care, education and technology; and
- the continued fight against all forms of gender-based violence; and human trafficking;
- combat the negative effects of climate change.

We also salute the militancy of Sahelian women in their struggle for freedom and independence, and denounce the violations they experience in the occupied territories of the Western Sahara; and

We take this opportunity of the significant celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of PAWO, to reiterate our call to all African women and leaders to redouble their efforts to put an end to the suffering of the Sahelian people and to the last colonised area in Africa, thus bringing peace and stability to the region.

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE TO:

- **strengthen** PAWO through mobilizing national support of all progressive women's organisations;
- **encourage** young women to join PAWO structures and leadership;
- **urge** member states to regularize PAWO subscriptions so as to ensure the financial sustainability to PAWO;
- **commit** to developing national action plans of action for AGENDA 2063;

- **encourage** Ministers of Gender to work together for a common gender agenda;
- **establish** a task team consisting of PAWO member countries and all affiliated organisations to develop a recommendation on the preferred status of PAWO within the AU to be tabled at the 2014 AU Summit.

We pledge to articulate the above ideals and goals in our national development plans and in the development of the Continental Agenda 2063, through a people driven process for the realization of our vision for an integrated, people centred, prosperous Africa at peace with itself.

The participants also thanked the Republic of South Africa for hosting the 50th Anniversary Celebration of PAWO so competently and thanked South Africa for her hospitality as the host country for the Headquarters of PAWO.

The participants also wished former State President Nelson Mandela a speedy recovery.

Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, 31 August 2013

EX.CL/834(XXIV)
Annex 3

ABIDJAN DECLARATION

ON THE

**FIRST AU HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF POST MDG's 2015**

**MINISTERE DE LA SOLIDARITE, DE LA FAMILLE,
DE LA FEMME ET DE L'ENFANT**



REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE
Union – Discipline – Travail



ABIDJAN DECLARATION

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**FIRST AU HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S
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**ABIDJAN DECLARATION ON THE
FIRST AU HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF POST MDG's 2015
04 OCTOBER 2013**

PREAMBLE

We, African Scholars, Researchers, Academia, and Gender Experts from Africa met in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire at the 1st African Union (AU) High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Post MDGs 2015 jointly hosted by the African Union Commission and hosted by the Ivorian Ministry of Family, Women, Children with the support of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNECA and UN Women, held between 2 – 4 October 2013.

EXPRESS our gratitude to the people and Government of Côte d'Ivoire for supporting and hosting the first meeting of this Panel and particularly convey our profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for his tireless efforts for women in every sector, to the Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan for presiding over the official opening of this Panel.

CONGRATULATE the Ministry of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children Government of Côte d'Ivoire for having taken the initiative to organize this important Panel, and also all development partners, at Regional and National Level, for their contributions, which have allowed us to initiate dialogue between our African partners and experts on emerging questions on gender.

FURTHER CONGRATULATE Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, President of the Republic of Liberia, for her Africa's representative in the global review and her special role in the promotion of gender equality in the context of the post-2015 Agenda.

RECALL the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) during the Millennium Summit in 2000 in New-York which agreed on 8 goals ;

FURTHER RECALL the international and regional commitments adopted by governments, including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPoA), and also by African Governments with regard to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights in Africa on Women's Rights in Africa the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) , the AU Gender Policy, the African Women's Decade; Fund for African Women as well as other relevant conventions and treaties;

ACKNOWLEDGE the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and all relevant Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, including those on children and armed conflict as well as post-conflict situations as well as other relevant regional commitments;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE Member States' ownership and political commitment towards advancing gender equality resulting in the universal ratification of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and 36 ratifications of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by AU Member States;

AWARE of the considerable progress made towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa;

COGNISANT of the challenges and obstacles that face the implementation of efforts to attain full implementation of the MDGs;

RECOGNIZING the possibility of harnessing increasing political will to follow through and meet these challenges, notably: the formation a high level group comprised of prominent figures, as well as consultations on global themes organized by the United Nations Development Group and the post Rio+20 process as well as regional consultations jointly organized by the AU and ECA;

REAFFIRM that although consistent progress on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment across, Africa has been made, achievements of the MDGs has been uneven and continue to display Member States disparities commitment is evident in Africa and globally ;

AWARE that the MDGs' target date of 2015 is fast approaching, the AU and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire convened the First AU High-Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and MDGs Post-2015, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 02 to 04 October 2013;

URGES the outcomes of the High Panel on Gender Equality to be incorporated into the African Common Position, specifically the following:-

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS:

Panel 1: IMPACTS OF CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT ON WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

1. Integrate women into the process of planning and implementation of development and reconstruction projects;
2. Promulgate gender-sensitive laws for the implementation of economic policies that promote development and post-conflict reconstruction;
3. Strengthen efforts to combat impunity of crimes committed during conflicts;

4. foresee the systematic integration of gender into the reform of security sectors as well as the provision of mechanisms and procedures for preventing and punishing sexual violence, including vetting processes and capacity building with regards to prevention and response for cases of sexual violence linked to conflict situations;
5. Adopt and implement protection policies for civilians in keeping with resolution 1325 which integrates prevention and response strategies for cases of sexual violence linked to conflict situations;
6. Integrate prevention and response into framework and implementation in the processes of disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion of former combatants XXXXXX;
7. Guarantee the access of women to post-conflict economic recovery;
8. Assure the availability of access to specialized, holistic services for survivors of sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence, including in contexts of conflict, post-conflict, and natural disasters;
9. Address the root causes on conflict and adopt preventative measures and early warning systems, and educate youth in matters of peace and citizenship in collaboration with religious leaders and community leaders;
10. Encourage the research, documentation, analysis and collection of data concerning Resolutions 1325 and 1820.

Panel 2: ACHIEVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN AGENDA 2015 (OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC SPACE

1. Facilitate the access of women and girls to financing and credit;
2. Promote women's entrepreneurship;
3. Mobilize and utilize indigenous and exogenous resources to promote the interests of women;
4. Promote quality education for girls and boys;
5. Promote the attainment of primary-level education for all girls;
6. Pursue and reinforce the access to resources and property rights of all vulnerable groups, including women;

7. Ensure that all relevant indicators are sex and age disaggregated , as relevant, to measure progress on gender inequalities within the lifecycle;
8. Call for the elimination of all preventable maternal deaths. This should include a strong focus on sexual and reproductive health rights, access to information, maternal health and family planning;
9. Promote successful completion by all girls and boys of quality education that fosters learning at both primary and secondary level, ensuring safe, supportive and accountable learning environments for both girls and boys within and outside the school;
10. Ensure protection of children, particularly girls, and women against violence with specific reference to child marriage and female genital mutilation, school related GBV. Indicators should include shifting norms in partnership with men and boys.

Panel 3: THE ROLE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF POST 2015 AND AU GENDER 2063

1. Increase women's equal representation in political and decision making positions at all levels;
2. Accelerate the ratifications, accession and domestication of international, regional and sub-regional legal instruments on gender commitments;
3. Adopt a framework of mutual accountability under the Paris declaration, the Ghana and Bussan aid effectiveness agenda;
4. Documenting and disseminating of Good Practices, experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of the MDGs amongst the Member States for replication;
5. Conducting research to generate data on the participation and representation of women in political and decision making positions as a lobbying strategy to expedite the process of reaching gender parity

Keeping with the theme of the African Women's Decade and the theme chosen for this high-level panel pledge to follow up on the recommendation of this panel.

Congratulate the African Union for the convening of the First AU High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is to help enable the contributions of African women so that they may be integrated into the document outlining the African Common Position on the development agenda post-2015 and AU Agenda 2063.

Join United Nations Agencies and AU Member States to mainstream the African women's contribution to the African Common Position on the Post 2015 Development Agenda and AU Agenda 2063;

Thank the Government of Cote d'Ivoire for hosting the First AU High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in the context of Post 2015 Development Agenda.

**Done this Fourth Day of October 2013, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
The Panellists**

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