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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: Tel: +251-115- 517 700 Fax: +251-115- 517844 / 5182523
Website: www.au.int

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**TWELVETH REPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION SOLEMN
DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
ARV	Antiretroviral
ART	Antiretroviral treatment
AU	African Union
CCSR	Cell for Coordination, Monitoring and Reintegration
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
MONUSCO	The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
NSP	National Strategic Plan
NPHI	National Public Health Institute
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
PLHIV	Persons Living with HIV/AIDS
PSAEF	Strategic Plan for Acceleration of Girls' Education
RDRC	Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC)
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
STC	Specialised Technical Committee
TB	Tuberculosis
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNFPA	The United Nations Population Fund
UNSCR	The United Nations Security Council Resolution
VIH/AIDS	Human Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

TWELFTH SYNTHESIS REPORT OF AU MEMBER STATES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)

INTRODUCTION

1. This is the Twelfth report of AU Member States (MS) on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). The report is submitted pursuant to the obligation under Article 12 of SDGEA that requires Member States to report annually and to provide regular updates during their Ordinary Sessions on progress made on gender mainstreaming and to support and champion all issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment at both national and regional levels.
2. In 2017, eleven (11) Member States have submitted their reports. These are: Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Tunisia, and Zambia.
3. Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Madagascar, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, The Saharawi Republic, and Togo submitted their 2017 reports after the stated deadline. The above-mentioned reports were not considered
4. This report contains administrative and legal frameworks as well as policies and programmes undertaken by the Member States who submitted their reports on the implementation of the various articles of the SDGEA in the year 2017.
5. The report provides a condensed analysis synthesis report
6. **As far as possible, only quantitative indicators for the year 2017 were integrated into this report.**

CONDENSED ANALYSIS SYNTHESIS REPORT

Article 1: HIV/AIDS and other related infectious diseases

7. All the Member States except Algeria and Tunisia have reported on Article 1.
8. The prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS for females in the different Member States that provided quantitative indicators for the year 2017 is higher than the prevalence rate for males except in Seychelles where 112 new cases were recorded in 2017 of which 86 were males and 25 females. On the positive side, in the majority of Member States, women living with HIV have a higher access rate to Antiretroviral (ARV) services than men. In Ethiopia, the ratio of female access to ARV service in 2017 compared to male access to ARV was 25:14. In Senegal, 71% of the Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) having access to ARV were women, and in Cote d'Ivoire, 73% of the PLHIV having access to ARV services were women.

9. The reports also show that the Member States have implemented Gender sensitive laws to provide added protection and services to women, young girls, and pregnant women. In Mauritius, pregnant women have Access to ARV in public health institutions, private clinics and prisons settings. Cervical Screenings are provided to HIV positive women in Namibia. In Rwanda, 83% of women have knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention methods. In Senegal, awareness campaigns on HIV as well as free cervical screenings are offered to young girls aged between 15-24 years old. In Cote d'Ivoire, the law offers special protection to women and young girls suffering from HIV/AIDS.

10. Another tendency is the establishment of laws that provide protection to PLHIV against stigma and discrimination in all spheres of their lives, and specifically in the labor market. Mauritania and Rwanda specifically reported on having laws sanctioning any person guilty of discriminating against people with a real or supposed HIV seropositive status.

11. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV continues to be an important element in the prevention and containment of HIV/AIDS in all the Member States which submitted their reports. For example, Mauritius gives ARV services to all pregnant women with HIV and the rate of coverage of women accessing PMTCT services in Zambia stands at 86%.

12. The most recurrent challenges faced by the Member States in the fight against HIV/AIDS are: Limited resources of governmental institutions and of targeted populations, restrictive cultural norms and value, and social stigmatisation.

13. **In terms of other related infectious diseases**, there are only Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda, and Zambia which provided information. In Zambia, the rate of prevalence of Tuberculosis (TB) is higher among males compared to females. Alarmingly Zambia has witnessed the emerging problem of Multi-resistant TB at 1.1% among new and 18% previously treated cases. Malaria is rampant in Zambia and accounts for 40% of all health facility visitations. In Cote d'Ivoire, 78.3% of children have received the BCG vaccine, 53.4% pregnant women sleep under insecticide-treated bed nets. In Rwanda, 90% of TB/HIV patients receive (Anti-Retroviral treatment) ART by the end of TB treatment.

14. To better fight **HIV/AIDS and other related infectious diseases**, Member States have listed a number of possible future actions : Zambia proposed to fight the state of scarcity of human resources as a result of brain drain by providing more training to local staff, Senegal proposed the creation of favourable environment and the setting up of a mechanism for monitoring and tracking Human Rights with an alert system run by organisations as a way to ease the access to health services for PLHIV.

Article 2: Participation of women in the peace process

15. All Member States except Mauritius have reported on Article 2

16. Namibia, Zambia, and Tunisia are currently developing their NAPs (National Action Plans) for the implementation of UNSCR1325 except for Rwanda who has already adopted its second NAP to implement UNSCR1325 for the period 2018-2020.

17. Most of the countries are taking measures to protect women in conflict situations or to encourage their participation in peace processes. In Algeria, the Constitution guarantees equal access to employment and position of responsibility including in the process of peace and security. In Cote d'Ivoire, modules on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and sexual violence in conflict situations are integrated into the training given to militaries, while those going on mission get a pre-training on sexual violence. Issues of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) have been incorporated in the Ethiopian Military regulation and the participation of women in conflict prevention have been enhanced through the use of Gender-responsive training manual and the provision of training to women's association that has enhanced women's' participation in the peacekeeping missions. Mauritania has set up 4 pilot projects on conflict prevention to advocate and raise awareness on women's participation in community affairs management, women's leadership and the role of women in conflict prevention. In Rwanda, women have traditionally been playing a very active role in promoting peace, unity and reconciliation. Zambia is actively involving women in the development on their NAP on UNSCR 1325.

18. Despite all these positive measures, quantitative indicators, when provided reveals that the proportional representation of the women in the armed forces remains quite low: In Cote d'Ivoire, only 7% of army officers are women, in Senegal women makes up only 10% of the peace keeping operations. The exception is in Rwanda where women represents 44.3% of Community mediators and 48% access to Justice Bureaus (MAJ). They contribute actively to provide free legal services to citizens including victims of GBV and child abuse. Rwanda however recognised that there are too few girls and women featured in peace negotiations.

19. Member States have reported challenges such as customary and traditional hindrances and lack of women capacity building as impediments to women's participating effectively in peacekeeping processes.

20. In terms of actions in the future: Senegal proposed to involve financial partners to increase capacities, and reinforce the capacity of women in disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration, and transitional justice. Zambia proposes to include GBV in the defense and security curriculum.

Article 3: Child soldiers and the sexual exploitation of young girls

21. All Member States except Mauritius, Senegal, and Tunisia have reported on Article 3.

22. Among the Member States which reported, there are no evidences of Child Soldiers in Ethiopia, Namibia, Seychelles, Zambia, and Mauritania, either because they have never experienced conflict or because they have strict laws that prohibit individuals younger than 18 years of age to join the armed force. However, despite strict laws, Rwanda has Child soldiers coming from the Republic Democratic of Congo (DRC). To put an end to this situation, Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC) in close collaboration with MONUSCO ensures the repatriation process of children withdrawn. These children are rehabilitated and reintegrated through scholarship and financial support granted to their families.

23. In addition, the Member States mentioned above are also parties of instruments which prohibit child labor and Child trafficking. Mauritania has ratified the additional protocol to the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child) which prohibits prostitution, sale and child pornography. Namibia has established different laws which prohibit the sexual exploitation of children and forced marriage among others. Rwanda has recorded 88 cases of human trafficking in 2016/2017 and has set up different mechanisms for the prevention of trafficking namely awareness campaigns and anti GBV clubs in schools, Ethiopia has committed itself to end child marriage by 2025.

24. The main challenges faced by countries are: insufficient financial and human resources and limited knowledge of the population on human trafficking.

Article 4: Violence against women

25. All the 11 Member States have reported on Article 4.

26. According to quantitative indicators obtained during the reporting period, cases of GBV are still prevalent in several Member States: in Zambia, there were 21504 cases of GBV in 2017 compared to 18540 cases in 2016. In Mauritania, the main forms of violence are psychological (64.3%) and sexual (14.3%) with a prevalence rate higher in the urban area (69%) than the rural area (66.90%)

27. All the Member States have several regulations that aim at putting an end to different forms of violence against women in line with regional and international frameworks while ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted, and victims are effectively supported and rehabilitated. Senegal, Tunisia, Mauritius, Zambia, and Algeria have offered capacity building programmes to judicial staff officers and law enforcement agencies that deal with victims and survivors. In Seychelles, trainings are offered to officials on human trafficking and assistance are provided to the victims. Mauritius has widened its definition of domestic violence in legal texts to include stalking, threats, and economic abuses. Mauritania has carried out awareness campaigns against FGM and the practice of forced feeding with the help of religious leaders. Zambia has two (2) established fast-track courts on GBV and an additional four (4) are under construction. Namibia has recently prepared a bill on Combating Trafficking of Persons that will be tabled in parliament in the coming months. Rwanda has established different institutional frameworks to fight against

GBV such as the Gender machineries which are responsible to translate laws into actions. At community level, initiatives like the 'Parent's evening' and 'Friends of Family' help to prevent family conflict, GBV and child abuse. From July 2016 to June 2017, the conviction rate was standing at 81.85% on cases of child defilement, 72.77% on cases of rape and 95.74% on cases of spouse harassment. Ethiopia has held more than 500 community conversations around the country to create awareness on human trafficking. In addition, 325 conversation centres were created, and community conversations facilitators were trained. Algeria has, as part of the programme entitled "white ribbon" included men in the fight against GBV via the organisation of workshops and the diffusion of awareness campaigns to mobilise men, and young male adolescents against acts of violence against women.

28. Most Member States have also set up platforms regrouping different actors (psychologist, sociologist, doctors, and lawyers, social workers) to offer a rapid and holistic response to GBV cases.

29. The main challenges put forward by member States faces are: the persistence of biased social norms, in Zambia for example attitudes towards domestic violence is quite surprising since 41.1 % women compared to 23.5 % of men questioned during a survey on if it is acceptable to beat a woman if she does not comply to certain specific rules have said yes. Other challenges include gaps in effective law enforcement, limited capacities, insufficient budgetary allocations, and the lack of synergies between governmental actors and civil society.

30. Possible actions in the future proposed by Member States are: Senegal proposes among others the economic empowerment of victims of GBV and the setting up of communal monitoring and alert committees, Mauritania proposes among others the mainstreaming of Gender in sectorial public policies, Zambia proposes the involvement of key stakeholders including the media and traditional leaders on GBV.

31. Algeria has reinforced the action plan to fight sexual violence against teenagers through the diffusion of the results of a study made on this problematic, the distribution of informative brochures on puberty in adolescents and the organisation of awareness campaigns on violence against women and adolescents.

32. In Senegal, 52 judicial staff have been trained to care for victims and survivors of GBV. Senegal is also proposing to set up one stop centers to offer an integrated and holistic care for victims

Article 5: Principle of Gender Parity

33. All the 11 Member States have reported on Article 5.

34. The Government of all the Member States which have reported have taken measures to increase the participation of women at the political, economic and social level. Cote d'Ivoire is working on the creation of a National Council of Women and

has already established a network of Women leaders in political parties. In Ethiopia, the government has implemented higher educational opportunities for women to enhance women's decision-making role. Namibia has organized capacity Building Conferences for women in politics to create a consensus and provide impetus for a greater participation of women in politics. The constitution in Rwanda provides the minimum 30% quota for women in all decisions making organizations. In Tunisia an award dedicated to the institutions most capable of mainstreaming the principle of Gender equality is being finalized. In Zambia, the amended constitution set out a new affirmative framework for a largely 50% equality rule for elective and appointive positions.

35. All these measures have had different impacts on the participation and representation of women in different sectors in the Member States, for example in Algeria, the percentage of women elected at the People's National Assembly has risen from 6.2 % in 2002 to 31.6% in 2017. In addition, Algeria has laid emphasis on the economic empowerment of women, which has resulted in these women representing 62.17% of the beneficiaries of microcredit. Algeria also has four (4) political parties, whose leaders are women. Mauritius has reported an improvement in some of its indicators for example, the percentage of women magistrates has risen from 66.7% to 70%, and the percentage of women senior chief executives has risen from 37.5% to 50 %. In Mauritania, there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of women cabinet ministers from 33% in 2016 to 30% in 2017. The most advanced country in terms of women representation in parliament is Rwanda with women representing 64% of members of the parliament.

36. The main challenges reported by the Member States for achieving Gender Parity are among others: the persistence of retrograde social norms, lack of resources, high illiteracy rate among women, lack of institutional and legal frameworks for empowering women, low or inadequate application of regional or international legal texts, the absence of specific, reliable data on Gender which hampers the setting up of gender specific-policies, and the unwillingness of women to participate in politics.

37. In terms of actions proposed in the future, Mauritania proposed among others to include Gender variable in projects, encourage political parties to set up mechanism favoring the promotion on women and link all financing to the condition that the gender variable is taken into consideration.

Article 6: Promotion and protection of the rights of women

38. All the 11 Member States have reported on Article 6

39. All the Member States have adopted national laws on Women's Rights as well as ratified and domesticated international and regional Human Rights instruments such as the CEDAW.

40. Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Rwanda and Tunisia have reported on laws or constitutions that establish the principle of gender equality. In addition, Algeria has put a lot of efforts on the fight against GBV and the economic empowerment of women in the labor force with an emphasis on rural women. Cote d'Ivoire has established Sectorial Gender cells and the Ministry of Justice is currently reviewing all legal codes to better mainstream gender and provide a stronger protection for women. Ethiopia has undertaken measures to facilitate women's access to justice by providing free or low-cost legal services as well as providing legal literacy programs. Mauritius has established equal opportunities Tribunals to address cases of discrimination made on the basis of sex among others. Namibia has adopted the New Public Procurement Act which came into force in 2017 and which make provision for Gender Equality and economic empowerment of women. In Rwanda, the Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2020 approved in 2017, provides interventions to increase women's participation in decision-making positions particularly at the local level and in the private sector. Senegal has instituted 21 Gender Cells throughout the governmental apparatus and has elaborated a gender-sensitive budgetary document to accompany the upcoming finance law and has further translated the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the six (6) codified national languages to facilitate its popularization throughout the country. Zambia has developed awareness campaigns on women's rights targeting traditional leaders and has established a pilot basis village led one-stop centres.

41. The main challenges faced by the Member States are as follows: conservative cultural and social norms that discriminate against women, gaps in the implementation of the law, illiteracy of the general population and women especially in rural areas which hinders assertion of their rights, insufficient promotion of gender-specific laws and weak judicial frameworks with a high cost of legal actions.

42. In terms of possible future actions, Mauritania proposes to make a specific follow-up of projects that have an impact on gender while Senegal proposes to reinforce the domestication of the CEDAW via awareness campaigns,

Article 7: Rights of women to land, ownership, and inheritance

43. Algeria, Mauritius and Tunisia have not reported on Article 7

44. There are no legal constraints in none of the Member States that inhibit women from owning property. Zambia is even currently reviewing the Land Act Chapter 184 to propose that 50% of titles land should be reserved specifically for women, including in rural areas. In Rwanda, laws guarantee equal rights of men and women on access, ownership, and utilization of land. In addition, all children, male and female can inherit property without any discrimination.

45. As a result of these laws, women are having an increased access to land and properties. However, some countries are doing better than others: In Ethiopia, 60% of rural women own land and an increasing number of women are becoming house

owners alone or with their husbands in both rural and urban areas. In Rwanda, 24% of land titles are registered on only women compared to 13% for men, while 62% are jointly co-owned by spouses and other categories like church is 1%. However, in Cote d'Ivoire, only 11.43% of the 3857 land-holding certificates delivered were granted to women. In Senegal, only 28.8% of farmland were owned by women during the reporting period.

46. Mauritania has reported that more women than men have benefited from the housing schemes, urban modernization projects it initiated in the past years.

47. Challenges faced by the Member States are among others: Retrograde and patriarchal cultural and social norms that hinder women's access and ownership of land, inadequacy between the judicial framework and customary practices, legal illiteracy of women, and strong real state pressure.

48. In terms of future actions, Member states have proposed among others: to accompany women in the creation of housing cooperatives to access land, and disseminate legal texts establishing equality between men and women.

Article 8: Girls Education and Women's Literacy

49. All the Member States except Tunisia have reported on Article 8.

50. All the Member States have established laws to guarantee equal access of girls and women in the field of education. As a matter of fact, most Member States have established free and universal access to education for all its citizens until a given age varying between 14 years and 16 years old.

51. In addition, Algeria has set up a national strategy on literacy, though there no recent data, from 2007-2011 around 1.2 million Algerians got access to education or literacy programs among whom 80% were women. In Cote d'Ivoire, a Strategic Plan for Acceleration of Girls' Education (PSAEF) 2016-2018, launched the Compulsory Education Challenge, making girls the centre of concern. Clubs of Student's mothers are also being established. Other measures like canteens in schools, grants given specifically to girls, the accelerated pregnancy mitigation programme in schools aim at increasing the number of girls notably those living in rural areas attending schools.

52. Ethiopia has taken specific measures to facilitate the access of girls to the educational system though the provision of mobile schools and para-boarding schools. The government has also established programmes enabling women who have been able to attend schools to attend Integrated Functional Adult Education Programs. Consequently, these women's educational participation coverage has reached 45.7%.

53. In Mauritania, the government has adopted a number of measures to reduce the gap between boys and girls and between girls in urban areas and rural areas, to widen the network of schools in rural areas, to increase the number of staff in

schools, to open canteen programmes, to offer flexible schools hours, and to increase the retention rate of students with disabilities and pregnant students.

54. In Mauritius, programmes facilitating equal opportunity and access of girls from poor families to the educational system have been developed together with free transport for all students, and the provision of equal opportunity for boys and girls. In addition, more emphasis is being put on the enrolment of girls in the TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) sector.

55. In Rwanda, special emphasis has been put on girl's education in science and technologies with the establishment of schools of excellence for girls. In addition, the One laptop per child has been introduced to support science and technologies for both boys and girls. Other initiatives include separated toilets for girls and boys in schools, introduction of girl's rooms in schools to facilitate hygienic and conducive learning environment for girls, and the construction of girls' hostels at universities.

56. In Senegal, the government has set up a specific programme of 2 billion CFA francs dedicated to the education of girls.

57. The challenges faced by the Member States are as follows: The low enrollment of girls in TVET which is linked to the existence of 'glass wall' in subject's choices for girls and boys, low financial and human resources, teenage pregnancies, infrastructure that are not responsive to adolescent girls, social norms and traditions that prevent girls from accessing the educational system. Seychelles and Mauritius have specifically shed the light on the disparities in learning achievement and outcome between boys and girls in favor of girls.

58. Some of the future actions proposed by the Members States are: constructions of girl's friendly schools and mainstreaming gender in the educational system.

Article 9: Maputo protocol on Women's Rights

59. Out of the 11 Member States who have submitted their reports, Ethiopia and Tunisia are yet to ratify the Maputo Protocol.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

60. The 12th SDGEA Member States Synthesis report records considerable efforts made by the Member States in different sectors to achieve GEWE. The reports suggest an increase in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women in the majority of countries, however, the prevalence of mother to child transmission has also drastically reduced as health centres administering ART treatment have been expanded to many rural areas and in general terms women account for the majority of PLHIV getting access to ART.

61. Member States which have Child soldiers are taking measures to ensure that they are integrated back into the society, and those who have not experienced conflicts situations have taken effective measures to tackle issues like child and early marriage, FGM, sexual exploitation, and trafficking among others. However, these practices still exist, and more efforts should be put to address them.

62. Numerous laws are also being created on the rights of women in line with regional and international instruments. Women everywhere are being empowered and there is real commitment among Member States to end practices undermining the rights of women, however, there still exists a lot of areas for improvement. The right to land, ownership, and inheritance should be further institutionalised, the political participation of women should be strengthened, and a more aggressive stance should be taken against patriarchal, retrograde cultural and social norms which prevent women from accessing to and enjoying their rights

63. AUC would like to congratulate six (6) Member States namely Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Senegal and Zambia which have used the reporting template adopted during 2nd Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (STC on GEWE) of December 2017 which has greatly facilitated the analysis of data received. The other Member States are encouraged to do likewise.

64. Reporting fatigue is also noted with the number of reports submitted having decreased from 28 for 2016 to 11 for 2017. Member States are encouraged to submit their reports within deadlines to provide the commission with sufficient time to prepare them for the Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (STC on GEWE) and for its submission to the AU Summits. In addition, the quantitative data provided should focus on the reporting period to be able to make an effective analysis that enables to measurement of progress or drawbacks.

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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: Tel: +251-115- 517 700 Fax: +251-115- 517844 / 5182523
Website: www.au.int

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**13th REPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC)
CHAIRPERSON ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION SOLEMN DECLARATION ON
GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights
AFCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples Rights
AHRM	Directorate of Administration and Human Resources Management
AGA	African Governance Architecture
AIDs	Acquired Immuno- Deficiency Syndrome
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ALPC	African Land Policy Center
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUCIL	African Union Commission on International Law
AWD	African Women's Decade
CARMMA	Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa
COMESA	Common Market for eastern and southern African
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DD	Demographic Dividend
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSA	Department of Social Affairs
FAW	Fund for African Women
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender- Based Violence
HRST	Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
HRST	Human Resources, Science and Technology
IWD	International Women's day
MS	Member States
MTCT	Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OAFLA	Organisation of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS
OSE	Office of Special Envoy
OSE/WPS	Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security
PAP	Pan- African Parliament
PAWD	Pan- African Women's day
PLWHAs	People Living With HIV/AIDs
PSD	Peace and Security Department
PRC	Permanent Representative Committee
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STEM	Science Technology and Engineering and Maths
TEVT	Technical Vocational Education Training
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nation Conference on Trade and Development
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

UNSCR
WGDD
WPSI

United Nations Security Council Resolution
Women, Gender and Development Directorate
Women, Peace and Security Institute

**13th REPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC) CHAIRPERSON ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER
EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This 13th report of the Africa Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) is submitted pursuant to the obligations under Article 13 that enjoins the AUC Chairperson to submit an annual report on measures taken to implement the principles of gender equality and gender mainstreaming at national and regional levels.
2. The report provides highlights from AUC Departments and one Regional Economic Community (REC), namely, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), in implementing gender equality and women's empowerment commitments related to the SDGEA.
3. To advance the implementation of the SDGEA, the AUC is guided by AU legal and normative framework on gender equality and women's empowerment. Notably, Article 4 (L) of the AU Constitutive Act, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), the AU Gender Policy, the Fund for African Women (FAW) and the African Women's Decade (AWD) 2010-2020.
4. The following are some of the key issues from 2017 report:
5. Since he assumed office in March 2017 at the helm of the African Union Commission, the Chairperson, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat deployed an approach of gender-balanced politics and leadership through advocacy for women's rights, women's empowerment and gender parity in the continent. To cite a few key activities: advocacy and solidarity missions to conflict affected countries, meeting with Ministers of the Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Civil Society Organizations, Appointment of a gender parity Cabinet, presentation of the gender scorecard awards during the 29th AU Summit and hosting the High Level Debate on ending violence against women in Africa and providing guidance to the AU Institutional Reform Decision on women quotas in the institutions and organs of the organization.
6. Under the leadership of the Chairperson, the Directorate of Women, Gender and Development (WGDD) continued to advance its work on strengthening the institutional capacity of the AU to deliver on its commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. To this effect, the Directorate launched the formulation of the gender strategy for the organization and the evaluation of the 2009 gender policy which will be based on extensive consultations and document review. This process will lead to a roadmap for the effective operationalizing of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063. This draft

was presented and validated by the 2nd Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in December 2017. The Directorate also launched the report "State of Women's Rights in Africa" during International Women's Day and, held high level consultations to fast track the ratification of the Maputo Protocol. On the occasion of Pan African Women's Day, the Directorate went to the Republic of Guinea to commemorate with women and under the leadership of H.E President Alpha Conde and Chairperson of the Union the memory of Hadja Jeanne Martin Cisse and the steps towards the transformation of PAWO into an AU Specialized Agency. The Department also worked closely with the AU Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights to launch the guidelines on ending violence against women in Africa.

7. The Chairperson of AUC delegated the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, Madam Bineta Diop, to join the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, on the "Joint UN-AU High Level Solidarity Mission" in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 19th to 27th July, 2017.

8. Conducted under the theme "Revitalizing Women's Participation and Leadership in Peace, Security and Development", the high level solidarity mission took place in the framework of the Action Plan of the "African Women Leaders Network" initiative. The initiative was launched by the African Union Commission in partnership with UN Women and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations during the "High Level Women Leaders Forum for Africa's Transformation", from May 31st to June 2nd, 2017 in New York. The initiative seeks to create space for African Women to share leadership experiences and lessons learned in various areas, as well as to establish a fund focusing on accelerating the growth of African women-led businesses.

9. The High level delegation included the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and the Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten, making it the first-of its-kind delegation of high-level women in leadership positions.

10. The key objectives of the mission for the African Union delegation were to raise specific issues related to "Africa Agenda 2063" and the "African Union Peace and Security Architecture", which both encompass issues related to women, peace, security, governance.

11. In 2017, AUC, the WGDD convened different multi-stakeholder policy platforms on GEWE. These include, the 9th AU Gender Pre-Summit held in January 2017, the 4th African Union High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment convened from 29 - 30 June 2017 and the 2nd Specialized Technical Committee on GEWE.

12. AUC-WGDD also participated in the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in March 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York, which was used to integrate the AU common position on GEWE in this global platform.

I. INTRODUCTION

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

II. OVERVIEW OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION'S PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGEA ARTICLES

14. The AU Commission Chairperson has complied with the obligation to provide annual reports on the progress of implementation of commitments made under the SDGEA. This is the Chairperson's 13th report to the AU Assembly. Additionally this report captures the various initiatives taken by the Commission in advancing GEWE in Africa as detailed below.

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

15. The AUC convened regional and continental partners in November 2017 to discuss joint priorities to support countries in ending AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2030.

16. The Africa Partnership and Coordination Forum on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria established in 2016 coordinates the efforts of regional and continental players in supporting countries to implement the Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030. During 2017, the Forum developed an action plan with key advocacy and resource mobilization priorities, opportunities for joint action, advocacy for continued political commitment and coordination of efforts of various stakeholders at the regional level.

17. The 30th AU Ordinary Assembly launched an Africa Campaign to End new HIV infections in Children and keep Mothers Alive. The Campaign will be a jointly coordinated with the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA). The initiative demonstrates the commitment of the AU to double the effort in pushing for equitable universal access to health through putting children and women at the center of policy initiatives as well as provisioning quality and affordable health.

18. In November 2017, the Chairperson participated in the Continental Commemoration of the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) in Accra, Ghana, through a video message, in which he called for safeguarding women's reproductive rights and access to resilient health services.

Progress on Article 2: Peace and Security

19. During the reporting period, the AUC Chairperson undertook various solidarity visits to conflict affected areas including Somalia and South Sudan to shed more light on the plight of displaced and refugee women, many of whom are victims of gender-based violence and are socio-economically marginalized. The Chairperson, in different fora, highlighted the suffering of those women, as well as advocated for the development of effective mechanisms that would ensure more meaningful inclusion of women in peace-building processes in the continent.

20. On Women, Peace and Security, the AU-Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) focused its activities on three main strands in 2017 namely:

- Bridging the gap between policy and implementation;
- Enhancing the agency and leadership of women in peace processes;
- Partnership with Centers of Excellence on Women, Peace and Security.

21. Under the first strand, the Office focused on the finalization of the Continental Results Framework on monitoring and reporting on the implementation of Women, Peace and Agenda in Africa. The draft Framework was submitted to review by a group of experts on Women, Peace and Security and by Member States of the Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) that comprises the largest number of countries that have developed National Actions Plans on United Nations Security Council 1325 (UNSCR1325), the bedrock of Women, Peace and Security. These reviews prepared the Framework

22. The OSC organized the annual open session of the AU Peace and Security Council commemoration of UNSCR 1325. The 2017 session focused on “the role of women in preventing and countering violent extremism”.

23. In addition, the AUC Chairperson delegated the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, Madam Bineta Diop, to join the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, on the “Joint UN-AU High Level Solidarity Mission” in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 19th to 27th July, 2017.

24. Conducted under the theme “Revitalizing Women’s Participation and Leadership in Peace, Security and Development”, the high level solidarity mission took place in the framework of the Action Plan of the “African Women Leaders Network” initiative. The initiative was launched by the African Union Commission in partnership with UN Women and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations during the “High Level Women Leaders Forum for Africa’s Transformation”, from May 31st to June 2nd, 2017 in New York.

25. The High level delegation included the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and the Under-Secretary-

General and Special Representative (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten, making it the first-of its-kind delegation of high-level women in leadership positions.

26. The key objectives of the mission for the African Union delegation were to raise specific issues related to “Africa Agenda 2063” and the “African Union Peace and Security Architecture”, which both encompass issues related to women, peace, security, governance, and overall sustainable development objectives to attain at African continental level.

27. Under its initiative to establish a Network of Centers of Excellence on Women, Peace and Security in Africa, the Office of the Special Envoy collaborated with the Pan Africa Center on Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) in a capacity building program for peacekeepers, and security forces in general, on the prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. In 2017, Training sessions were carried out with security forces in Senegal.

Progress on Article 4: Gender Based Violence

28. During the reporting period, the AUC Chairperson hosted on 4th December 2017, a high level dinner debate Reception to observe the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign under the theme: “Leave no one Behind: End Violence Against Women”. This initiative led by WGDD focused on raising awareness on violence against women and girls, and its negative consequences on individuals, community and national development as well as to encourage AU Member States to develop and implement legislation and policies to combat gender based violence and support the efforts of networks, public and private institutions that work to eradicate violence against women and girls.

29. The AUC Chairperson also undertook various solidarity visits to conflict affected areas including Somalia and South Sudan to shed more light on the plight of displaced and refugee women, many of whom are victims of gender-based violence and socio-economically marginalized.

30. Among other activities undertaken in 2017 by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Child (ACERWC), the prominent one was the adoption of a Joint General Comment on Ending Child Marriage. The document was adopted by the ACERWC and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR). It expounds upon measures that should be taken by States in eliminating child marriage. These include legislative measures, institutional measures and other measures.

31. The Committee, through the Special Rapporteur on Ending Child Marriage, actively monitors the progress on the AU Campaign on Ending Child Marriage. The Special Rapporteur, who is a Member of the Committee, has undertaken several missions in the year 2017, most of which were towards monitoring and evaluation. This includes and evaluation and monitoring mission in Mali.

32. The Directorate supported the launch of the Guidelines “Ending violence against women in Africa” developed by the AU Special Rapporteur on Women’s Rights.

33. Through the newly established AU Ethics Office, the AUC is creating an enabling environment for women based on the values of the organization. In 2017, the Ethics Office drafted several key policies including policy on harassment which will form part of the Gender Toolbox.

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

34. The AU Organs and Member States (MS) are expected to implement the gender parity principle at all levels. The summary below shows the status of that principle among the organs of the African Union.

35. As part of the AU Institutional Reform, WGDD led organization wide consultations to gather inputs from stakeholders on the formulation of the draft decision on a women’s quota to achieve full parity in the organisation by 2025.

36. As mentioned in the previous report for 2016, the overall gender representation in the AUC is still much more in favour of men at 65% for men and 35% for women. The only level where gender parity is reflected is at the level of AUC elected officials. At the Professional Staff level (P1-D2), the disproportionality in representation is heavily skewed in favour of men.

37. The trend within the other organs of the Union is not different from the AUC. The major decision making organs of the Union such as the Assembly, the Executive Council and Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) are essentially dominated by men.

38. ACHPR and ACERWC are the two organs which are doing very well in term of women’s representation (ACERWC 63,63% of women) and ACHPR (54,54%).

39. Concerted efforts are therefore required, including implementation of AU Decision on quota, to ensure the representation of women at all levels. With AU reform, AUC will take specific measures to fully achieve the equal representation of women and men in all senior level positions including political and special appointees, Directors and Heads of Divisions by 2025 in the Organs and institutions of the Union. Staff Relations and Rules of the AU shall be amended to ensure enhanced policy direction is provided and programs are designed to implement the decision.

40. Since he assumed office in March 2017 at the helm of the AUC, the Chairperson deployed an approach of gender-balanced politics and leadership through advocacy for women’s rights, women’s empowerment and gender parity in the continent.

41. As a first step, the AUC Chairperson appointed a Cabinet of Advisors that consists of 56% women, which was a testament to the political will of the new Commission to mainstream women in management and leadership positions to fast-track achieving AU's goal of reaching gender parity by 2020. Since then, the Chairperson has engaged in extensive consultations with and mobilization of various stakeholders to effectively advocate for the active participation of women and to ensure more political inclusiveness and tolerance at different levels.

42. The tables below are showing the gender representation within the AUC for 2017 and 2017 Ratio of Male and Female Composition in other AU Organs.

Table 1: The gender representation within the African Union Commission 2017

	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female Ratio in %	Male Ratio in %
Elected	5	5	10	50	50
Chairperson		1	1	0	100
Deputy Chairperson		1	1	0	100
Commissioners	5	3	8	63	38
General Service	338	564	902	37	63
GSA2	12		12	100	0
GSA3	8	35	43	19	81
GSA4	101	30	131	77	23
GSA5	122	127	249	49	51
GSA6	31	26	57	54	46
GSB1		1	1	0	100
GSB10		12	12	0	100
GSB2		1	1	0	100
GSB5	19	22	41	46	54
GSB6	27	85	112	24	76
GSB7	5	115	120	4	96
GSB8	11	86	97	11	89
GSB9	2	24	26	8	92
Professional	224	550	774	29	71
D1	12	26	38	32	68
P1	25	27	52	48	52
P2	65	150	215	30	70
P3	66	192	258	26	74
P4	17	65	82	21	79
P5	33	72	105	31	69
P6	6	18	24	25	75
Youth	55	37	92	60	40
Grand Total	622	1156	1778	35	65

Table 2: 2017 Ratio of Male and Female Composition in AU Organs

AU Organs/Institutions	Number of Men	Number of Women	Total	% Men	%Women
Assembly	54	1	55	98.8	1.8
Executive Council	45	10	55	81.81	18.18
PRC	44	11	55	80	20
Peace and Security Council	11	4	15	73.33	26.67
African Union Commission on International law	7	4	11	63.63	36.37
PAP Bureau	3	2	5	60.00	40.00
ECOSOCC Bureau	4	1	5	80.00	20.00
The Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR)	6	5	11	54.55	45.45
African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)	5	6	11		
African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)	4	7	11	36.37	63.63

Progress on Article 6: Women's Human Rights

43. The WGDD convened different multi-stakeholder policy platforms on GEWE. These include, the 9th AU Gender Pre-Summit held in January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the margins of the 28th African Union (AU) Summit. The Gender Pre-Summit theme was “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in Youth: Empowering Young People, Empowering Young Women” in alignment with the 2017 African Union theme. The main objectives of the 9th Gender Pre-Summit were to define critical priority areas of investment in young people, especially young women, to harness Africa’s Demographic Dividend (DD) through leadership and civic participation for social and economic development; and identify concrete strategies, including policy interventions, to empower youth, and create opportunities for development and securing of their rights towards Agenda 2063.

44. AUC also participated in the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in March 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York, which was used to integrate the AU common position on GEWE in this global platform, as agreed to by AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women’s Affairs during the pre-CSW consultation held in January 2017. In 2017, the CSW met under the priority theme “Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Changing world of Work”. CSW 61 offered an opportunity to AUC to mark its role in the advancement of women’s rights on the continent and aimed to ensure the integration of the AU position on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in global platforms and follow-up on implementation of agreed conclusions at AU level.

45. The 2017 celebrations of International Women's Day (IWD) was held on 8 March 2017 under the theme 'African Women, Especially Young Women Succeeding in the Changing World of Work: 50: 50 by 2063'. On that occasion, the African Debate on GEWE was organized. . During the celebrations of IWD, the African Women's Historic Sculpture Garden was launched and a portrait of the founding mothers of the Pan-African Women's Organisation was unveiled at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A site for the permanent sculpture garden will be identified, which will be a place of prominence within the AUC compound to ensure that the women's sculptures are visible.

46. The celebration on Pan-African Women's Day (PAWD) took place in Guinea in July 2017. The theme for the 2017 celebrations of PAWD was "Pan-African Women's Organisation as a Specialised AU Agency: Vision and Mission". The theme, therefore, was an opportunity for information and awareness on what this new status conferred and what opportunities it provides for women's organizations in Member States and at the continental level, in advancing gender equality and women's rights commitments in Agenda 2063. The celebrations were also a tribute to Mme. Hadja Jeanne Martin Cisse, one of the founding members and first Secretary General of PAWO, who passed away in 2017. The AUC Chairperson issued a message on occasion of the commemoration of PAWD.

47. The 4th African Union High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (4th HLP on GEWE) was convened from 29 - 30 June 2017 at the African Union Commission's (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The HLP was convened under the theme "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth: Empowering Young Women and Girls.

48. The year 2017 was also marked by the Evaluation of the 2009 AU Gender Policy and the development of the new AU Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy (2018-2027), the Development of knowledge materials on Gender as well as the organization of the 2nd Specialized Technical Committee on GEWE.

49. On 2nd June 2017 under the Chairperson's leadership and in partnership with the United Nation, the "African Women Leaders Network" was launched. The initiative seeks to create space for African Women to share leadership experiences and lessons learned in various areas, as well as to establish a fund focusing on accelerating the growth of African women-led businesses.

50. With its renewed commitment for women empowerment, the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) , as the Secretariat of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and WGDD, convened 85 women and men composed of seasoned women political leaders, young women in politics and those aspiring to take part in politics, gender experts, women rights organizations, civil society organisations, development partners, academia and representatives from the media from across the five regions of the African Union to meet from 1 – 3 November, 2017 in Lusaka, Zambia.

51. The purpose of the meeting was to review the state of young women's meaningful participation in political processes. The meeting aimed at critically reflecting on the progress made so far, challenges encountered as well as prospects for enhancing young women's participation in political processes in Africa. The participants also discussed on garnering practical strategies and policy recommendations to improve young women's meaningful participation in political processes towards the attainment of peaceful, prosperous and sustainable development in Africa as clearly stated in Agenda 2063.

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

52. The AU, through the "*Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa*" adopted in 2009 recognizes the role of women in development and calls upon Member States to strengthen the security of land tenure for women noting that it requires special attention. Further to this commitment, the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment held in October 2015 endorsed the target of "*allocating 30% of land to women through legislative tools and other mechanisms*" by the year 2025.

53. In recognition of what this entails, the STC went ahead and endorsed the transformation of the AU/AfDB/UNECA Land Policy Initiative into an African Land Policy Center (ALPC) to provide leadership, coordination, build partnerships and promote policy advocacy in support of Member States and other actors in the land sector. ALPC was launched during the 2nd Conference on Land Policy in Africa which took place from the 14th to the 17th of November 2017.

54. A major component of the Center will be a specific programme that will purely focus on Women and Land in Africa with the aim of making the 30% target of allocating land to African women a reality. The programme will contribute to advocacy and outreach on women's land rights, developing the capacities of key stakeholders in the land sector to better address gender related land issues. It will also in partnership with African universities and centers of excellences, contribute to research and Knowledge Dissemination and, monitoring and evaluation with a view to providing evidence for policy development and implementation in the field of women's land rights.

Progress on Article 8: Education for Girls and Women

55. During 2017, the African Union/International Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) carried out a number of activities with the aim of retaining more girls in school in line with Pillar 3 of Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4) of Agenda 2030 and the AU Gender Architecture.

56. The Centre carried out various activities in 2017 around three (3) key axis namely:

1. Legal and Institutional Framework for Girls and Women's Rights to Education which has underlined all legal instruments and policies adopted and ratified at global and continental levels. AU/CIEFFA has also developed a Monitoring framework to evaluate the level of implementation of these policies pertaining to girls and women's education in AU Member States. This Strategy is under a validation process.
2. Gender Teaching and Learning Environments.

57. In terms of gender-sensitive teaching and learning environments, AU/CIEFFA has identified practices in some universities. It is in that context that the AU/CIEFFA has undertaken field visits study on "*Gender-sensitive teaching and learning environments in the Pan African University*". The research findings have revealed that the Pan African University (PAU) is confronted with different challenges such as persistent gender imbalance especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas which limit women's participation in advanced postgraduate training and research as well as a lack of appreciation of gender issues in the learning institutions amongst others.

3. Retention of girls in schools

58. In order to retain more girls in schools and also boost their interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sectors (especially TVET Male-dominated sectors), AU/CIEFFA has developed in 2017 various strategies and networks with AU Ministries from different portfolios (beyond the Education field), CSO's, Traditional and religious leaders, development partners, private sectors, Media and young girls, men and women.

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

59. In March 2017 on the occasion of the celebration of the International Women's Day, WGDD launched the Report State of Women's Rights in Africa. This report was aimed at raising awareness on the plight of women in situations of incarceration and living with albinism and developments in the law since the Maputo Protocol came into force. This report was conceived and implemented with the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights.

60. In preparation of the in-country advocacy missions for the 16 Member States that are yet to ratify the Maputo Protocol planned for 2018, the WGDD in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of women in Africa and Solidarity for Africa Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR) developed in 2017 the **Country Profiles and Advocacy Strategies for Ratification of the Protocol**. The country profiles provide key information, including, challenges and opportunities that should be taken into account when conducting the missions. The profiles are

accompanied by advocacy strategies which have been contextualized to the specific situation of each Member State.

61. In April 2017, H.E. Professor Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the African Union (AU), appointed H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana as the first African Union Leader on Gender and Development, to provide leadership and political support to the Chairpersons of the AU and African Union Commission (AUC) to deliver on their mandate to accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa.

62. In line with this new appointment, H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo launched in November 2017 the Gender and Development Initiative for Africa (GADIA), which seeks to promote women's economic empowerment and political participation. This initiative is consistent with the rights recognized and guaranteed under the Maputo Protocol. To promote the ratification of the Maputo Protocol by the Member States that are yet to ratify, H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo, will convene a High Level Consultation meeting on 29 January 2018, on the margins of the 30th AU Summit. The High-Level meeting will be attended by Heads of State and Government of the 16 countries that have not ratified the Maputo Protocol. This consultation meeting will support the AUC advocacy missions on the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol that are planned for 2018.

63. During different forums on GEWE organized by the Commission in 2017, MS which have not ratified the Protocol have been requested to do so.

Progress on Article 10: Establish AIDS Watch Africa

64. During the July 2017 Summit, African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the AIDS Watch Africa Strategic Framework that will bolster the work of AIDS Watch Africa, the highest level continental vehicle for joint action, advocacy and accountability towards ending AIDS, TB and Malaria.

65. During the meeting the leaders endorsed the Emergency Catch up Plan to accelerate the HIV response in West and Central Africa, a region that is lagging behind in its response. The meeting further endorsed the 2 million community health workers initiative that will build and create decent jobs while harnessing their capabilities in a seamless integrated health system.

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

66. During the period, focus was placed on clearing the backlog projects under the Fund for African Women. As a result, 18 transfers were made by the AUC Finance Department for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 projects. In total from 2012 to 2017, 24 projects received 100% funding and 76 projects have received 80% of approved funding, out of 145 approved projects for the 2011-2013 years. For 2014 and 2015, the steering committee of the fund approved 101 projects but due to financial constraints

only 19 will yet be financed. The proposals for 2016 and 2017 themes will be reviewed in 2018.

Progress on Article 12: Commitment to Annual Reporting

67. Tables 3 and 4 below summarises the response of MS to their reporting obligations in accordance with article 12 of the SDGEA. As mentioned in the 12th report, the most consistent Member State which is up to date with its reporting, having submitted all its annual reports is Senegal, followed by Mauritius and Ethiopia. These three Member States should serve as the good practices on reporting on SDGEA. Four countries namely: Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau and Morocco are yet to submit their initial reports. Advocacy missions in these countries should be organized in order to sensitize them on the importance of reporting on the SDGEA.

Table 3: Reporting Cycle Performance of Member States

Year of Submission	Reporting Year	Reporting Cycle	Number Of Countries	Percentage of Total
2006	2007	1 st	1	1.85
2007	2008	2 nd	8	14.81
2008	2009	3 rd	7	12.96
2009	2010	4 th	3	5.55
2010	2011	5 th	24	44.44
2011	2012	6 th	3	5.55
2012	2013	7 th	8	14.81
2013	2014	8 th	14	25.92
2014	2015	9 th	15	27.77
2015	2016	10 th	13	24.07
2016	2017	11 th	28	52.83
2017	2018	12 th	11	20

Table 4: Frequency of Submission by Member States

S/N	Type of Report	Frequency of Submission (Countries)	Percentage of Total AU Member States
1	Initial Report	51	94.44
2	Second Report	42	76.36
3	Third Report	32	58.18
4	Fourth Report	16	29.09
5	Fifth Report	7	12.72
6	Sixth Report	3	5.45
7	Seventh Report	1	1.82
8	Eighth Report	1	1.82

III. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGEA ARTICLES BY REGIONAL ECONOMIC BODIES

68. This section provides a brief overview of the implementation of the SDGEA in one of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), COMESA, in 2017.

69. COMESA drafted the HIV and AIDS Policy Implementation and Tracking Plan to support the implementation of the COMESA HIV and AIDS Regional Policy endorsed by the COMESA Council of Ministers in 2016.

70. COMESA has established the Committee of Elders, which is comprised of women and men. In addition, COMESA monitors elections in Member States to ensure peace.

71. COMESA produced in 2017 the Gender Statistics Bulletin that highlights the status of women in Member States. The Statistics Bulletin highlights information on Economic Status of Women, HIV and AIDS, Gender-Based Violence, gender Parity in Leadership, Politics and Decision-Making, Women's Human Rights.

72. On GBV, the countries that provided data highlighted that the prevalence of GBV is still high. On gender parity in leadership and decision-making positions, the data from COMESA Member States indicates that women are still under-represented.

73. COMESA conducted gender training for 30 professionals from Secretariat and Member States on gender programming to enhance the gender analytical skills. In addition, Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) implemented a Trade and Gender on-line course. 73 professionals from Member States, and Secretariat were trained.

74. On the issue of Human Rights, COMESA conducted sensitization missions to selected Member States to advocate on the signature, ratification and implementation of the Social Charter approved by the Council in 2014. The Charter is providing measures for the promotion of Human and People's Rights as well as guidance on social development. Further, the Secretariat drafted a Gender Policy Implementation and Tracking Plan, a Framework for the Comprehensive Support for Women and Youth Cross Border Traders.

75. COMESA also engaged Member States to submit their annual progress reports on the implementation of programmes on GEWE. Ten (10) of the 19 Member States submitted the reports.

IV. CONCLUSION

76. The 12th SDGEA report of the AUC Chairperson highlights some of the achievements recorded by the AUC and COMESA in the implementation of the SDGEA in 2017. While notable achievements were made in implementing the SDGEA, 16

Member States which have not yet ratified the protocol are requested to do so and those who have ratified the protocol should accelerate the domestication and implementation in order to make women's rights in Africa a reality.

2018-06-29

Twelveth Report of the African Union Member States on the Implementation of the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)

African Union

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