

19th AFRICAN WOMEN'S PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATION ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE AFRICAN UNION

Report

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January 24-26, 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Sector: Education	Program : Gender
Title of the activity: 19 th African Women's Pre-summit Consultation on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union.	Partner/s: GIMAC (Gender is My Agenda Campaign), AWDF, ILO, UNECA, IPAS and OSIWA, GIMAC..
City and venue: Addis Ababa, ECA, Conference room	Date : January 24-26, 2012
No. of participants : About fifty (female and male)	Composition: Members of Femme Africa Solidarité (FAS), FAWE, AU, OSCs who are working in Gender issues, UNECA and UN agencies based in Addis Abba
Organizer : GIMAC (Gender is My Agenda Campaign)	Budget source: GIMAC
<p>Main objective: The 19th GIMAC Consultative Meeting is organised to link the gender mainstreaming strategies on the African continent with the ongoing struggles on the social, economic and political front, examine their impact on the efforts to promote intra African trade, and make recommendations to the AU Heads of State Summit.</p> <p>Specific Objectives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze how the GIMAC Network and its activities impact the advancement of gender issues across the continent and in particular the implementation of SDGEA (Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa); • Identify how to maximize visibility of the GIMAC Network and its activities, and look into viable strategies that would put women and gender issues at the forefront of country-level initiatives; • Discuss the progress achieved, strides taken, and the opportunities yielded thus far; • Explore strategic partnerships to further enhance cooperation and results; 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore creative approaches to securing sustainable financing; • Develop a plan to celebrate and capitalize upon the 10th Anniversary of the GIMAC
<p>Contents of the Consultative Meeting: (Presentations and exchange of experiences.</p>
<p>Methodology :</p> <p>a) Presentation, discussions and plenary on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIMAC achievements and strategies; - Effective advocacy campaign and GIMAC project proposal; - Africa Women’s agenda on climate change and response to Food, Fuel and Finance crises; - Integrating women to the economic to boost intra –Africa trade; - Critical issues: violence against women and girls; - Examining current conflict situations; - Status of the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender equality in Africa; - GIMAC forward. <p>b) Working group discussions on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy; - Communication and networking; - Fundraising and Partnership; Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination; - Climate change and 3F (Food, Fuel and Finance) crises; - Intra-African trade and regional integration; - Current conflicts and violence against women; - Current issues of GIMAC (health, education, youth, social economy, ECOSOCC and CSOs).
<p>Materials used/ delivered:</p> <p>Hard copies of the presentations.</p>
<p>Participants’ Involvement and Performance:</p> <p>The presenters made presentation on different themes indicated above. All participants actively involved into discussion and working groups on brainstorming and seeking possible solutions</p>
<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of GIMAC achieved activities; • Common understanding of GIMAC’s thematic, objectives and action plan; • Formulation advocacy, communication and networking, fundraising and partnership; monitoring, evaluation and coordination strategies; • Solemn Declaration to the AU Heads of States Summit (see copy in annexe); • Exchange of best practices.
<p>Lessons /Challenges</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Consultative Meeting was attended by members of FAS at HQ and fields offices, FAWE and others OSCs who are working in Gender issues; • Best collaboration with partners ECA, World Bank Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice and AU who delivered speech at the opening ceremony; • More Involvement of participants.
<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of GIMAC 10th Anniversary; • Organization of the 20th African women’s pre-summit consultation meeting on Gender mainstreaming in Malawi, July 2012.
<p>Name of the reporter: Paul Mpayimana, Date of report: January, 27, 2012</p>

Annexes:

Annexe 1. Addis Ababa Commitment of GIMAC members (see the text below).

Annexe 2. 19th African Women’s Pre-summit Consultation on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union. Summary and recommendations (see the text below).

Annexe 1.



Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) 19th Pre-Summit, Addis Ababa Commitment

We, members of the GIMAC network, working towards a unity of purpose to improve the status of women and girls and to mainstream and integrate gender in the African Union, Member States and Regional Economic Communities hereby commit ourselves to:

1. Renew our commitment to the network and to increase cohesion and collaboration between members of the network
2. Continue to monitor the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA-2004)
3. Widely disseminate the GIMAC message in the areas where we work particularly in local communities
4. Identify gender champions and GIMAC goodwill ambassadors amongst Heads of State and leaders in the public and private sector to amplify the GIMAC message
5. Establish a GIMAC Secretariat in Addis Ababa coordinated by Femmes Africa Solidarité
6. Establish a GIMAC Steering Committee to guide GIMAC operations
7. Form a GIMAC Task Force to formulate a time-bound advocacy and operations strategy to ensure timely and effective response to the dynamic environment, internal and external to the network
8. Develop a financial sustainability plan to increase the impact of network initiatives
9. Build on and strengthen existing monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms and develop a SDGEA Index with support from research and development institutions
10. Strengthen the linkages between individual network organizations and the work of the GIMAC particularly in program development and financing
11. Increase information sharing and dissemination between members and amplify advocacy messages of the network through more effective use of communication tools including social media
12. Work closely with the Selection and Organizing Committees of the African Gender Forum and Award
13. Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the GIMAC at the local, regional, continental and international level

**Gender is My Agenda Campaign Network
Addis Ababa, 24 January 2012**

Annexe 2.



**19th African Women's Pre-summit Consultation on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union.
January 25-26, 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Summary and recommendations**

We, representatives of African women's civil society organisations and African women leaders meeting under the umbrella of "Gender Is My Agenda Campaign" (GIMAC) at the 19th African Women's Pre-Summit on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from June 25-26 2012, convened by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) in partnership with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Union Commission (AUC), the ECOSOCC gender cluster, , Mary Robinson Foundation on Climate Justice, with the support of Ipas, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Norway and Sweden;

Welcoming the decision of the African Heads of State and Governments to devote the 18th ordinary session of the African Union Summit to the theme "Boosting Intra African Trade"

Appreciating the leadership of the African Union Commission and particularly its Trade and Industry Department in ensuring that these important concerns receive the attention of the Heads of State;

Appreciating further the support of our various partners and the presence of Ms Mary Robinson president of the Mary Robinson Foundation on Climate Justice (MRFJC) and former president of Ireland; Ms Margaret Vogt, Special Representative to the Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA); whose contributions called attention to the urgent need to integrate gender and youth perspectives in key and current issues concerning the African Continent, including the elimination of violence against women, climate justice and women's economic empowerment;

Reiterating the determination and commitment of the African women's movement in keeping women's rights on the African Union's agenda through Pre-summit consultations;

Recalling the commitments of African Heads of State and Government to take all necessary steps to achieve gender equality in Africa;

Recognising the continued desire of the Heads of State and Government in implementing and reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) as reflected in the increase of Member States that have reported on it and those that have ratified the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

Noting with appreciation the desire of African Heads of State to continue to engage African women and youth to ensure that our voices are heard and our needs effectively taken on board at all times;

Welcoming attempts by the African Union and the United Nations to resolve the conflicts in Libya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic and other parts of the continent;

Reaffirming GIMAC's commitment to monitor, evaluate and report on AU policies on women's rights, especially the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) (2003) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

Recognising the efforts of the African Union in declaring 2010-2020 as the African Women's Decade to further promote gender equality and the advancement of African Women in all spheres of life;

URGE the 18th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and other stakeholders to consider and adopt the following recommendations:

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE AFRICAN UNION

1. Encourage Member States who have not reported on SDGEA to do so before the next Summit as way of showing their commitment and support to the promotion of Gender Equality in Africa
2. Provide adequate and timely financing for women to develop entrepreneurial skills for economic independence
3. Identify the scope of the informal sector in Africa and recognize women's active role in informal cross border trade and activities when calculating national GDP
4. Improve women's access to resources including land title and ownership, credit and other financial services, technology and market information so as to strengthen their opportunities to fully contribute to intra African trade.
5. Equip women with the knowledge and tools to develop their businesses or become better employees include training and education, as well as advocacy, networking and policy dialogue skills, so women can better represent their rights and needs.
6. Address the gender imbalance in the leadership of civil society organizations engaged in policy influencing on trade and trade-related issues in Africa, and build capacity of policy makers and implementers to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into policy dialogues.
7. Provide complementary social and labour processes to facilitate a balance between women's paid and unpaid work including improved transportation to access services and market opportunities, simpler clearance processes for cross border traders, and social protection programmes
8. Create opportunities for women to own land and provide training for women in new farming techniques to increase crop productivity and to adapt to farming challenges arising from climate change
9. Address climate change risks, and opportunities for green growth through national strategies and plans with a focus on the positive contribution women can make to adaptation and mitigation

10. Ensure the participation of women in all aspects of climate change negotiations, policy and action at all levels in order to enable inclusive sustainable development and to harness Africa's opportunity to lead the green economy
11. Provide funding for comprehensive medical care including emergency surgery, and train more medical workers on trauma management to support a holistic approach for the rehabilitation of women survivors of sexual violence
12. Adopt of national laws and local plans of action for ending violence against women and girls, including allocating funds and resources for prevention and awareness raising programmes and activities
13. Develop early warning, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to eliminate violence against women and girls; end militarization so as to create a stable enabling environment for intra African trade

B. AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

1. Adopt a coordinated approach to issues concerning the regional dimensions of conflict in consultation with the RECs, UN agencies, civil society, international and development agencies
2. Appoint an African Union Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security and for Conflict Related Sexual Violence and deploy special advisers to all AU peacekeeping and political missions to ensure that women, peace and security concerns are integrated into all operations
3. Urge countries that have not yet ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to do so by June 2012 and to spell out definite timelines on which to deliver this commitment by the proposed target date and those that have ratified to implement and report according to the stipulated guidelines;
4. Further urge those that have ratified to speed up domestication and implementation; taking into consideration that reporting guidelines have been adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and to submit their reports accordingly
5. Engage the international development partners and adopt a consolidated regional approach to implementation of UNSCR 1325
6. Organise a Second Head of States Gender Debate during their June 2012 Summit

C. GIMAC

1. Advocate for the adoption and utilization for the strategic framework on the SDGEA at national, sub-regional and regional level
2. Identify gender champions and GIMAC goodwill ambassadors amongst Heads of State and leaders in the public and private sector to amplify the GIMAC message
3. Build on and strengthen existing monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms and develop a SDGEA Index with support from research and development institutions

4. Strengthen the linkages between individual network organizations and the work of the GIMAC particularly in program development and financing
5. Support the youth especially women to participate in peace processes and negotiations on climate change
6. Establish a mission of African women election observers and a situation room to monitor elections in all African countries planning to carry out general elections during 2012 and beyond
7. Carry out high level women solidarity missions to conflict and post conflict African countries including Libya, Tunisia, Somalia, Sudan, Central African Republic, DRC
8. Encourage African member states to indicate their support of the Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development in support of the gender equality commitments and women empowerment made at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
9. Reinforce the representation of youth and their participation in GIMAC activities

D. SPECIAL ISSUES

Countries in Conflict:

Call on the African Union and the Governments of Libya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Somalia to resolve all conflicts and contribute to an inclusive peace and reconciliation process.

Elections:

1. Call on all African countries preparing for elections to ensure that the electoral processes and outcomes are transparent and peaceful and ensure due diligence before, during and after elections and take women's concerns and needs into consideration;
2. Encourage all African women to aspire to elective offices and request governments to provide adequate security for voters before, during and after the elections.

Gender is My Agenda Campaign Network Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 2012

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