

STATEMENT BY PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE CONSULTATIONS ON PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW AID MODALITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS, 12TH – 14TH JULY 2006 – BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

We the participants from 6 African governments, members of parliaments, development partners and gender equality advocates in Africa, meeting in Bujumbura – Burundi from 12th – 14th, July, 2006 having held discussions on promoting gender equality and women's human rights in the context of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness:

Acknowledging the national and regional efforts and progress in Africa in empowering women, promoting women's human rights and mainstreaming gender in development policies and programmes:

Concerned about institutional capacity constraints among national women's machineries, line ministries and civil society on gender analysis, and the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness:

Further concerned about unpredictable financial commitment by Governments, donors, and the private sector for promoting gender equality and women's rights:

Note and value UNIFEM's proven expertise and technical support in the area of women's human rights and empowerment to governments and women's organisations in Africa:

Further noting that the ongoing UN Reforms are part of the commitment of the international community to strengthen the UN and Aid effectiveness:

Request the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment to recommend the strengthening of UNIFEM in terms of its resources, status and country coverage of UNIFEM in order to better support African governments to promote women's rights and empowerment.

Endorsed on Friday the 14th July, 2006