



**23rd PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATIVE MEETING
ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE AFRICAN UNION**

**January 23-24, 2014
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

RECOMMENDATIONS

We, representatives of African civil society organizations and African women and youth leaders, meeting under the umbrella of the Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) for the 23rd African Women's Pre-Summit on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 23-24 January 2014;

Appreciating the support and collaboration of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union, UN Women, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), Ipas Africa Alliance, African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis- WICCE), World YWCA, Women in Law and Development (WiLDAF), Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), to amplify the voices of women from different parts of the continent;

Recalling the African Union Gender Parity Principle (2002), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) (2003), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004), the African Youth Charter (2006), the African Women's Decade: 2010-2020 and United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);

Standing in solidarity with the people, particularly the women of South Sudan and Central African Republic in the face of ongoing conflicts in their countries;

Welcoming the decision of African Heads of State and Government to devote the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union to the theme of "Agriculture and Food Security" and declaring 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, marking the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);

Appreciating the support of the African Union Commission and particularly the Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma for her commitment to the promotion of women's rights and gender mainstreaming on the African continent and the vision of a prosperous Africa at peace with itself;

Having deliberated on prevailing and emerging issues affecting women and girls on the continent,

Urge the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to consider and take action on the following recommendations:

1. Strengthen peacebuilding and early warning initiatives on the African continent by fully and equally including women in conflict resolution processes, particularly in the resolution of the crises in South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

2. Take concrete measures to increase women's ownership of land and make robust investments in innovation, science and technology to enhance agricultural production and improve women's economic livelihoods.

3. Include women, smallholder farmers and youth in decision-making processes on climate change and post-2015 development processes and integrate climate change into goals on related issues such as energy, food security, water and health.

4. Increase access to family planning and reduce maternal mortality caused by unsafe abortions by ensuring access to safe abortion services within national laws and by renewing political commitment for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights in line with the Maputo Protocol to "ensure that the right to health of women, including sexual and reproductive health is respected and promoted."

5. Follow a rights-based approach and mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment across all goals in the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, utilizing the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the Maputo Protocol, the Beijing Platform for Action and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action as minimum benchmarks.

6. Provide protection for women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence and ensure effective humanitarian response mechanisms that guarantee social support and legal redress.

Adopted on 24 January 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia