



27th GIMAC Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in Africa
Moving from Solemn Declarations to Solemn Deliverables



Addis Ababa, January 17, 2016 The 27th Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Union and Member States took place on the 17th-18th January, 2016 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme “Looking towards 2020: Securing Women’s Rights through Gender Equality and Silencing the Guns in Africa.” The theme was aligned with the African Union (AU) dedication of the year 2016 as the “African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women”. The 27th GIMAC brought together over 170 delegates from over 30 countries, including representatives of Diplomatic Missions, African Union and United Nations officials, leading Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on Gender in Africa and other interested groups in advancing women’s rights in Africa. Drawing from the two-day discussions, participants outlined key recommendations.

The 27th GIMAC meeting urged Heads of State and Government of the African Union to ratify and adopt the Maputo Protocol on Women’s Rights in Africa and to consistently report on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. Delegates also urged Member States of the AU to adopt a gender parity approach at the level of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

GIMAC delegates called for an inclusive approach to advancing women’s rights with a focus on the most marginalized groups of women, such as those living with HIV/Aids, disability, the elderly, ethnic and sexual minorities, adolescent girls and survivors of Ebola. A recommendation was also made to Member States to reduce military expenditure significantly in favor of spending on social development and the promotion of women’s rights in particular. The need to generate qualitative and quantitative gender-

disaggregated data and stories of illicit financial flows from Africa on youth unemployment, gender equality and women's empowerment was also strongly emphasized. Furthermore, delegates urged Member States contributing troops to peacekeeping missions ensure to prosecute those suspected of sexual abuse and exploitation on missions. The need to recognize the role of women in sustaining the blue economy as a way forward to achieving economic growth, and commitment to end child, early and forced marriage were forwarded. Delegates also committed their support to the implementation of the Decriminalization of Abortion in Africa Campaign, which was launched by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights during the GIMAC meeting.

On the situation of Burundi, GIMAC delegates called on Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Communiqué of the 565th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council to immediately intervene in Burundi in response to the grave circumstances and crimes against humanity inflicted on the Burundian population.

During the 24th GIMAC meeting in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, Gender Ministers and representatives of Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) joined the deliberations of the GIMAC and committed to working closely with the GIMAC in successive meetings. Accordingly, the 27 GIMAC delegates presented the key recommendations at the AU Gender Pre-Summit held on 19th -20th, January 2016.

The 27th GIMAC also presented GIMAC Women Pioneer awards to Hon. Elisabeth Rehn and Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah for their outstanding contributions to the women, peace and security agenda and African women's rights and development

The upcoming 28th GIMAC will be held in June, 2016.

Read the 27th GIMAC Outcome Document [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Read the Communiqué of the AU Gender Pre-Summit [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Read the 27th GIMAC January 2016 Concept Note [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Read the 27th GIMAC Program [EN](#)

Read the Press Release 27th GIMAC Meeting [EN](#)

Please also visit our [Facebook Page](#) to view highlights and photos of the GIMAC meeting.

For more information, contact the GIMAC Secretariat: gimacsecretariat@gmail.com