



29th GIMAC Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in Africa Moving from Solemn Declarations to Solemn Deliverables



Addis Ababa, January 22, 2016 The 29th Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Union and Member States took place on the 22th-23th January, 2017 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme: “Gender Inclusive Youth Empowerment and Development for a Peaceful and Prosperous Africa.” The theme was aligned with the African Union (AU) dedication of the year 2017 as the year for youth under the theme: “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investment in Youth”. The 29th GIMAC brought together over 300 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 29th GIMAC meeting urged Heads of State and Government of the African Union to implement the Maputo Protocol, Revised Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and recommendation made by them relating to peace, security, good governance, gender based violence, sexual and reproductive health and access to education. Further it called for the need to integrate the outcomes of the 2016 theme on human rights with a special focus on women’s rights to the 2017 theme on youth to enable the their realization.

Specific to youth, with a focus on harnessing the demographic dividend, the 29th GIMAC called for the need to invest in youth and provision of support to ensure promotion and protection of their rights with the objective of realizing their full potential.

29th GIMAC delegates further emphasized on the need for the development and

implementation of functional and educational policies and programs that promote innovation and effective utilization of science and technology. The need for adoption of frameworks and mechanisms that can guarantee sufficient economic opportunities. And the need to ensure systematic inclusion and promotion of a culture of peace among young African.

Increasing the budget allocation for national HIV/AIDS and SRHR focusing on access to safe and legal abortion programs to harness youth demographic dividends was an important element emphasized on the recommendation.

For effective realization of the commitments called for 29th GIMAC delegated advocated for full implementation of the African Union Gender Strategy, support to the AU Office of the Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security establishment of African Union Youth Enterprise Development Fund to finance youth business and appointment of a Special Envoy on youth.

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 29 GIMAC delegates presented the key recommendations at the AU Gender Pre-Summit held on 24th- 25th, January 2017.

The 29th GIMAC also presented GIMAC Women Pioneer awards to 8 Champions. Ms. Jennifer Susan Chiriga, Ambassador Febe Potgieter-Gqubule, Amb. Dr. Eunice Brookman-Amisah, Mme. Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng, Dr. Angie Dawa Mrs. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Commissioner Mrs. Soyata Maiga and the late Mrs. Fatoumata Sire Diakite for their outstanding contributions to the women's empowerment and African women's rights and development.

The upcoming 30th GIMAC will be held in July, 2017.

Read the 29th GIMAC Outcome Document [EN](#) | [FR](#)

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

Read the 29th GIMAC January 2016 Concept Note [EN](#) | [FR](#)

Read the 29th GIMAC Program [EN](#) | [FR](#)

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