



31st GIMAC Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in Africa Moving from Solemn Declarations to Solemn Deliverables



Addis Ababa, January 20, 2018 The 31st Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Union and Member States took place on the 20th-21st January, 2018 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme: **“Corruption and Governance: Impact and Way out for Women, Children and Youth”**. The theme was aligned with the African Union (AU) dedication of the year 2018 as the year for anti-corruption under the theme: “Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation”. The 31st GIMAC brought together over 150 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.

31st GIMAC urged Heads of State and Government of the African Union to deploy appropriate anti-corruption mechanisms in all sectors in a way that redress and provide justice for women and marginalized group. Delegates emphasized all anti-corruption mechanisms should be guided by bottom-up approach involving multiple stakeholders underlining the necessity for 50% women representation in decision making and transformative leadership.

Participants further stressed the need for all national and local policies and programs to have in-built anti-corruption and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation instruments calling for creation of Citizen Action Groups to evaluate the utilization of public funds and hold accountable actors including multi-national companies, domestic companies and individuals. Delegates made particular reference, among others, to agriculture sector emphasizing on land governance; social services including education, health, water and sanitation; peace processes cycles to addressing pre and post-conflict; and humanitarian emergencies. In addition, they highlighted the need to deepen African Union campaign on child marriage by removing corrupt practices.

31st GIMAC delegates underlined the critical need to investigate, sanction and curb all Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and corrupt behaviors and practices within states and uphold human rights in the activities of multinational companies as per regional and international instruments especially women's rights instruments such as Maputo Protocol. Moreover, requested AU and African governments to continue to demand for a UN Tax body to ensure equal power and influence on matters relating to global Tax and Finance policies and called for effective utilization of the opportunities provided by social media and other social spaces to curb IFFS and counter corruption.

For effective realization of the commitments called for 31st GIMAC delegated welcomed the decision of AUABC to enter a memorandum of understanding with GIMAC; and support the development of tools for a continental framework for civil society organizations and networks to monitor and report on corruption in the region. Also the AUABC and GIMAC agreed to conduct a joint research on the gender dimensions and impact of corruption in Africa.

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 31st GIMAC delegates presented the key recommendations to Women, Gender and Development Directorate of AUC to be integrated with WGDD report to be shared with AU Member States for consideration during 29 AUC Summit held from 22-29 January 2018.

The upcoming 32nd GIMAC will be held in June, 2018.

Read the 31st GIMAC Outcome Document [hyperlink]

Read the report of the AU Gender Pre-Summit [H.L.]

Read the 31st GIMAC January 2018 Concept Note [H.L.]

Read the 31st GIMAC Program [H.L.]

Please also visit our Facebook Page view highlights and photos of the GIMAC meeting.

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