



**AFRICA COMMON POSITION DOCUMENT**  
**AFRICA PRE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN THE**  
**BEIJING + 30 REVIEW**  
**MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, EXPERT GROUP**  
**MEETING IN PREPARATION OF THE**  
**SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF**  
**WOMEN (CSW) TO BE HELD FROM 10-21 MARCH 2025**

**PREAMBLE**

1. We, Ministers of Member States of the African Union in charge of Gender and Women Affairs meeting in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on 6th November 2024, in preparation for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 69), to review implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and prioritize actions to address the remaining challenges.
2. **Acknowledge** the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) process as one of the most important normative processes to advance gender equality and the rights and empowerment of all women and girls.
3. **Call for** the revitalisation of the Commission on Status of Women CSW, including through a bottom-up approach to ensure civil society organizations (CSOs), young people, and other vulnerable and marginalised groups are heard, and their views considered.
4. **Considering** recommendations made in the Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for action, and all other recommendations including those made in the Political Declaration adopted in 2020 as the outcome of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of CSW, as well as the seven key priorities of the collective

strategy agreed upon and adopted by African Member States in the review of Beijing +25.

5. **Reaffirm our** commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR)1325, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)and take note of the adoption of the Pact for the Future and all other global, regional and national instruments aimed at protecting, promoting and realization of gender equality, rights and empowerment of women and girls,
6. **Commit** to championing and monitoring priority actions for the girl child, particularly in the areas of poverty eradication, health, education, and access to technology.
7. **Also commit** to sharing experiences and best practices in addressing issues of the girl child and to champion the girl child together as a continent in the UN and other multilateral spaces.
8. **Further reaffirming** adherence to all African Union instruments related to gender equality, the rights and empowerment of all women and girls as contained in AU Agenda 2063, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), and the 2004 AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.
9. **Appreciating** the efforts over the years to implement the above continental instruments and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through special initiatives such as the Campaigns to End Maternal Mortality, Child Marriage, Obstetric Fistula, Female Genital Mutilation and Violence Against Women and Girls.
10. **Encouraged** by the measures taken by the African Union to strengthen institutional mechanisms for protecting, promoting and realising gender equality, women's empowerment and rights, including the attainment of gender parity in the appointment of Commissioners, establishment of Gender and Youth Directorate, establishment of a Centre on Women and Girls Education, the appointment of an AU Special Envoy on Women Peace and

Security, an AU Youth Envoy, and a Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights in Africa.

**11. Commend** the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for supporting the review and appraisal process within the framework of the partnership agreement and in collaboration with other United Nations Entities.

**12. Recognizing** the contributions of the African women's movement, girls and young women's rights and women-led organisations and civil society organisations to the Beijing+30 review process, and their ability to organize across generations to influence normative standards on gender equality and women's empowerment and rights.

**13. Acknowledges** the analytical report of the Africa Regional Review on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action +30.

**14. Celebrate** the progress and achievements made by African governments and people during the past five years in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls despite the persistence of existing challenges and the emergence of new ones.

**15. Note with concern** that despite these achievements, Africa is not on track to fully implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

**16. Noting** that the causes of this slow progress can be attributed to persistent and new internal factors such as weak institutional arrangements, limited financial resources, negative stereotypes and social norms, illicit financial flows and persistent challenges relating to the availability of gender statistics.

**17. Further noting** the influence of external factors including the debt crisis and its impact on women and girls, multiple global shocks such as climate

change, pandemics and epidemics, armed conflicts, and a shifting geopolitical context.

18. To this end we ***express deep concern*** about the crippling consequences of the debt burden, climate crisis, conflict and corruption affecting women and girls.

19. ***Recognizing*** that inclusive development requires consistent investment in advancing gender equality and women's and girl's rights, including through transforming the entire macroeconomic system and fostering public-private partnerships with the contribution of the African Diaspora, based on the principles of transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights.

20. ***We commit*** to promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for domestic workers, migrant workers and workers in the informal economy, the majority of whom are women and girls.

21. ***Notes with deep concern*** the existing disparities between developed and developing countries concerning the generation of new scientific and technological knowledge, urges developed countries to support technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, technical assistance, capacity-building, and financing through new, additional and predictable resources in relation to the needs of developing countries.

22. ***Recognizing*** that science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration, as well as foreign direct investment and trade with and among, developing countries, as well as international support, are fundamental to enhancing developing countries' ability to benefit from technological advances and to produce, nurture, access, comprehend, select, adapt, and use science, technology and innovation knowledge.

23. ***Having considered*** the report of the African Review on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action we ***commit*** to act collectively in collaboration with all stakeholders, including youth, civil society, the private sector, women's movement, development partners and researchers on the

critical priority actions, to safeguard and strengthen the gains already made and to *address* persistent and emerging challenges.

24. *We commit* to the following actions to guide Africa's position in the political declaration that will be presented for adoption at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in New York in March 2025, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

### **CLUSTER 1: INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, SHARED PROSPERITY, AND DECENT WORK**

- a) *Build partnerships* with all stakeholders including public and private institutions at all levels, civil society organisations and development partners, to secure systematic, inclusive and meaningful engagement of women and young people in implementing development actions.
- b) *Create* an enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels of decision-making.
- c) *Invest* in quality, affordable and accessible public and private services including care services and facilities and ensure that social protection systems are gender-responsive.
- d) *Implement* programs to reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care work burden and recognize its contribution to the economy by reflecting it in national statistics and ensuring the representation of women in care work.
- e) *Take measures to* close the gap in gender statistics through improved regular data collection and analysis, strengthen the design and use of gender statistics, and enhance national statisticians' capacities to strengthen the implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes on women's and girls' rights.
- f) *Invest in* innovative ways of mobilising financial resources to significantly increase funding for the development and implementation

of gender-responsive laws, programmes, and policies to protect and promote women's and girls' rights.

## **CLUSTER 2: POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **ON POVERTY ERADICATION**

- a) **Improve** the mobilisation of domestic resources and develop progressive taxation systems to ensure that wealth distribution fosters social investment and gender-responsive and inclusive growth.
- b) **Call upon** the African Union to revive the proposed decision for debt cancellation as well as the demands for reparations which would redirect essential resources towards social and economic development efforts that advance gender equality, women empowerment and rights.
- c) **Take** practical actions for the eradication of girl-child poverty.
- d) **Enforce** accountability and deterrent measures to prevent illicit exploitation of resources and financial flows.
- e) **Ensure** equal access by women to land, property rights, strategic assets, capital, and technology for improving agricultural services and infrastructure (roads, communication, renewable energy, and climate action), particularly for women and girls living in rural areas.

### **ON EDUCATION**

- a) **Invest** in digital literacy and infrastructure to close the gender digital divide for all including the girl child to ensure inclusivity.
- b) **Promote** and support girls' enrolment in STEM and scale up digital initiatives including among others the Africa Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI) and ensure the girl child's access to technology.

- c) *Address* the pressing challenge of the transition of young people from school to the world of work.

## **HEALTH**

- a) *Prioritize* women's access to quality, affordable and accessible health services including sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS among women and girls as applicable.
- b) *Allocate* substantive resources to health infrastructure and capacity-building initiatives for health care providers, including the provision of gender-responsive health services.
- c) *Effectively* implement the Maputo Protocol in all its aspects as applicable and encourage member states who have not yet ratified the protocol to do so.
- d) *Prioritize* African women's, youth and adolescent's access to affordable, quality mental health services
- e) *Increase* investments towards setting up mental health facilities and rehabilitation centres and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence
- f) *Ensure* health policies and resources give priority to the girl child.

## **CLUSTER 3: ENDING VIOLENCE, STIGMA, AND STEREOTYPES**

### **ON PREVENTION**

*Strengthen* the capacity of government officials to develop and implement laws, policies, strategies and programmes to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls including in the world of work and the digital space.

## ON RESPONSES

- a) **Take action** to eliminate all forms of violence, in times of conflict, humanitarian, crisis and during periods of relative peace including tackling gender inequality and discrimination as outlined in UNSCR 2467 (2019).
- b) **Secure** increased allocation of financial and human resources to ensure that women and girls have access to high-quality gender-based violence prevention and response services as well as adequate protection.
- c) **Ensure** that social protection programs on all forms of violence explicitly address violence against women and girls.
- d) **Secure and Sustain** AU-led and other campaigns to end child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), obstetric fistula, and violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- e) **Make** deliberate efforts to address violence against women and girls in public, private and online spaces.
- f) **Promote** positive cultural and customary norms and practices in partnership with the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) to advance SDG5 and the African cultural renaissance within the spirit of Ubuntu, whose values embed respectful equal treatment and solidarity.

## CLUSTER 4: PARTNERSHIP: ACCOUNTABILITY, PARTICIPATION AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS

- a) **Strengthen national** gender machineries with clearly defined mandates, authority, adequate financial and technical resources, and the requisite technical expertise to influence laws, formulate policies and design programs in collaboration with the relevant government institutions
- b) **Strengthen** the leadership of all gender equality champions including political, traditional, and religious leaders to enable them to be models of change at all levels.
- c) **Strengthen** the effectiveness and accountability of institutions at all levels in social, economic, and political areas to foster non-discriminatory



practices that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and their access to protection, justice and public services.

- d) **Strengthen** multi-stakeholder partnerships bringing together member states, youth, women-led organizations, CSOs, and the private sector to leverage the vast expertise, resources, and networks to drive coherent collective action for gender equality women's empowerment and rights.
- e) **Promote** equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems and processes.
- f) **Convene** biennially (once every two years) to share experiences and best practices on issues of the girl child.
- g) **Welcomes** the support of development partners for triangular cooperation towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the global south, and urges developed countries to continue providing financial, scientific and technological assistance to developing <sup>1</sup>countries, to close the digital divides and to better harness science, technology and innovation to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

#### **CLUSTER 5: PEACE: PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES:**

- a) **Develop**, adopt, and strengthen implementation of sub-regional and national action plans on Women Peace and Security in line with UNSCR 1325 (2000).
- b) **Apply** the AU gender parity principle to facilitate the appointment and deployment of women to high-level global and regional conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action, mediation and crisis response assignments.
- c) **Build** on progress to date to increase the representation of women at all levels in defense and security sector institutions and adopt progressive and attainable national targets.

---

<sup>11</sup>Final Version following amendments made by ministers on 06/11/2024

## CLUSTER 6: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, CLIMATE ACTION, AND RESILIENCE-BUILDING

- a) **Strengthen** women's leadership to contribute to mitigating and reversing the adverse impacts of the exploitative extraction of natural resources (mining, fishing, logging, etc.) on ecosystems and grassroots and local communities.
- b) **Develop** a regional normative framework to establish institutional arrangements which are gender-responsive, and which enhance women's participation in the formulation of climate-related policies and strategies.
- c) **Invest** a minimum of 10% of the national budget as stipulated in the Malabo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in 2003 and the Common Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), to support women food producers.
- d) **Prioritize** funding opportunities and support to gender-responsive local initiatives led by women and youth, including facilitating their access to climate finance over international project implementors.
- e) **Strengthen** national normative frameworks such as the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to be gender responsive and ensure adequate financing for gender-responsive climate actions.
- f) **Harness** women's agency by enhancing their knowledge and participation in areas such as agriculture and trade to ensure climate action effectiveness.
- g) **Strengthen** institutional frameworks for accountability and effective collaboration between ministries responsible for gender and those in charge of climate change.
- h) **Establish** and enforce gender quotas and targets to increase women's participation in decision-making within climate-related sectors at all levels.

**In conclusion:**

Different measures need to be adopted as implementation accelerators for these proposed actions to yield impact at scale.

The most important are stakeholders' commitments, strengthening grassroots women and girls movements, the existence of strong institutions, and particularly Africa's ownership of the implementation process by putting in place all necessary measures including financing these actions with Africa's own resources.

Done in Addis Ababa 6 November 2024