



AFRICA COMMON POSITION FOR THE BEIJING + 30 REVIEW PROCESS AMENDED SECOND DRAFT

AFRICA POLITICAL DECLARATION +30 REVIEW PROCESS

¹SIXTY-NINE SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) TO BE HELD FROM 10-21 MARCH 2025

PREAMBLE

1. *We, African Experts from Ministers of Gender/Women, Youth, Social Affairs and Representatives of African Governments, , meeting in Addis Ababa, Federal Republic of Ethiopia, on 1st and 2nd 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 CSW process as one of the most important normative process to advance GEWE.
3. **Call for** revitalization of CSW through a bottom up approach to ensure CSOs, young people and other marginalized groups are heard and taken into account.
4. **Considering** recommendations made in the Review, and all other recommendations including those made in the Political Declaration adopted in 2020 as the outcome of CSW 64th, session, 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, the United Nations Security Council Resolution UNSCR 1325 , the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), PACT of the future and all other global, regional and national instruments aimed at promoting and realizing gender equality and women's empowerment and women's rights.

¹ Version of 23 October 2024

6. **Further reaffirming** all African Union instruments related to gender equality, the rights and empowerment of all women and girls as contained in Agenda2063; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa(Maputo Protocol), the 1993 AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.
7. **Appreciating** the efforts over the years to implement the above continental instruments and the Beijing Platform for Action through special initiatives such as the Campaign to End maternal mortality, Campaign to End Child Marriage, on ending female genital mutilation.
8. **Encouraged** by the measures taken by the African Union to strengthen institutional mechanism for gender equality, the rights and empowerment of women including the attainment of gender parity in the appointment of Commissioners, establishment of Gender and Youth Directorate; Establishment of Centre on Women and Girls Education, appointment of AU Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security; Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights in Africa
9. We **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 process in line with partnership agreement and in collaboration with other United Nations Entities.
10. **Recognizing the contributions** of the African women's movement, Civil Society Organisations and girls and young women to the Beijing+30 review process, and for their ability to organize across generations to influence normative standards on GEWE
11. **Welcomes** the report of the Africa Regional Review of the implementation of the BPfA+30
12. **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 rights of women and girls despite the prevalence of persistent and new challenges.

- 13. We note with deep concern** that despite these achievements, Africa is not on track to meet the sustainable development goals and fully implement the BPfA and Declaration by 2030.
- 14. Noting** that the causes of this slow progress can be attributed on the one hand to persistent and new internal factors such as inadequate political will, weak institutional arrangements, limited financial resources, deep rooted patriarchal norms, illicit financial flows and persistent gender data gaps.
- 15. Further noting** the influence of external factors including debt crisis, the effect of multiple global shocks (climate change, COVID, armed conflicts) and a shifting geopolitical context.
- 16. To this end** we express deep concern about the consequences of the debt burden (inspite of the abundance of resources-natural, human capital), climate crisis, conflict and corruption on women.
- 17. We acknowledge** that inclusive development requires deliberate investment in advancing gender equality and women's rights including through transforming the entire macroeconomic system and fostering public private partnerships multinational companies based on principles of transparency, accountability and respect for human rights.
- 18. Further considering** commitments made under SDG 8 to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, underline that decent works deficits affect all domestic workers, migrant workers and workers in the informal economy, the majority of whom are women .
- 19. Commit** to accelerate attaining gender equality fulfilling women's rights and the empowerment of women, and take the necessary relevant measures to address the persistent and new challenges in implementing these commitments in collaboration with representatives of African Youth, Civil Society and of the Women's Movement, as well as those of the group of Experts,
- 20. Having considered** the report of the Review on the implementation of the BPfA we agree to act collectively with all branches of Government, youth, Civil Society, the Private Sector, on the following critical priority actions to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing

Declaration and Platform for Action, to strengthen the gains already made as well as to addressing the persistent and new challenges,

We commit to the following actions to guide Africa's position in the political declaration that is expected to be put forward for adoption at the occasion of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 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*** to secure effective participation of women and young people as well as other categories of stakeholders, including public and private institutions at all levels, civil society organisations and development partners, in all aspects of planning and implementing development actions including AfCFTA.
- b. **Create** an enabling environment to bring about gender transformative change at all levels of decision making.
- c. **Invest** in quality, affordable and accessible care services and facilities, ensuring that social protection systems are gender-responsive.
- d. **Recognise** the contributions of unpaid care and support work by integrating in national statistics and providing social protection services
- e. ***Take measures*** to close the gender data and evidence gaps through improved regular data collection and analysis, and use of gender statistics, including by enhancing national statisticians capacities to strengthen the implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes on women's rights.
- f. ***Explore*** innovative ways of mobilising financial resources to significantly increase funding for the development and implementation of gender-responsive programmes and policies addressing all women's and girls' rights, especially full, productive and decent work.

CLUSTER 2: ON POVERTY; POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

On Poverty eradication:

- a. Improve the mobilisation of domestic resources and develop progressive taxation systems, ensuring that wealth distribution fosters social investment, 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 reparation which would redirect essential resources towards social and economic development efforts that advance gender equality and women empowerment.
- c. Enforce accountability and deterrent measures to prevent illicit exploitation of resources and financial flows.
- d. Ensure equal access by rural women to land, capital and technology for improving agricultural services and infrastructure (roads, communication and renewable energy and climate action)

EDUCATION

- a. Invest in digital literacy and infrastructure to close the gender digital divide for all ensuring inclusivity.
- b. Promote and support girls enrolment in STEM and scale up digital initiatives.
- c. Address the pressing challenge of the transition of young people from school to the world of work

HEALTH

- a. Address all issues of sexual reproductive health and rights among women and girls.
- b. Effectively implement the Maputo protocol in all its aspects

CLUSTER 3 :FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE, STIGMA, AND STEREOTYPES

- a. *Take action to eliminate all forms of* violence, in times of conflict, humanitarian and during periods of relative peace including tackling gender inequalities and discrimination across all areas as outlined in UNSCR 2467 (2019)
- b. *Strengthen* the capacity of government officials to develop, implement and take specific measures including policies for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls including in the place of work
- c. *Ensure* that social protection programs explicitly address VAWG by including components such as access to emergency shelters, psychological support, legal assistance, and reintegration services for survivors.
- d. Secure *increased allocation* of financial and human resources to ensure that women and girls have access to high-quality GBV response services and adequate protection
- e. Sustain AU led and other campaigns to end child marriage and eliminate the practice of FGM
- f. Take **deliberate efforts** to address violence against women and girls in public places.
- g. Lifting positive cultural norms and investing in transformative customary norms and practice through support to COTLA, in pushing forward SDG5 and the African cultural renaissance within spiritual of Ubuntu, whose value embed respectful equal treatment and solidarity.

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

- a. **Strengthen** the national gender machinery with clearly defined mandates, authority, adequate 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 the social, economic, political areas to foster a non-discriminatory environment that promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as well as ensure their access to public services, their protection and equal access to justice.

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 UNSCR 1325
- b. **Implement** quota that result in increasing women's leadership, representation and participation in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action, mediation and crisis responses at decision-making levels in armed conflict and humanitarian emergency settings.
- c. **Apply** the AU gender parity principle of the 50% appointment and deployment to the high level global and regional assignments to advance peace and security
- d. Build on progress to date to increase representation of women at all levels of defence and Security sector institutions and adopt ambitious national targets to do so

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

- a. Mitigate and reverse the adverse impacts of the exploitative extraction of natural resources (mining, fishing, logging, .etc). On the ecosystems and grassroots and local communities
- b. Develop a Normative framework to establish institutional arrangements for women's greater involvement in climate related policies and strategies.

- c. Invest in agriculture especially food production to minimal of 10%of the national budget as mentioned in the Malabo Declaration on agriculture and Food Security in 2003and the CAADP to ensure women food producers have resources.
- d. Provide support to local women and young people and prioritise funding and opportunities for them over international project implementers.
- e. Harness women’s agency by enhancing their knowledge and participation in areas such as agriculture and trade to enhance climate action effectiveness.
- f. Strengthen institutional frameworks to ensure adequate accountability and effective collaboration between ministries responsible for gender and for climate change.
- g. Establish and enforce gender quotas and target 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, 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 Abeba 6 November 2024