We need your partnership and active participation to make ADF VI another resounding success.

Action on

Gender Equality,

Women’s Empowerment

and Ending Violence Against Women

in Africa

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Programme of action

The programme of action will ensure maximum discussion and feedback on the twelve thematic areas.

1. Violence against women
2. HIV and AIDS
3. Health and reproductive rights
4. Education, training and skills development
5. Migration
6. Governance, conflict, peace and security
7. Employment, markets and trade
8. Food security
9. Land and property rights
10. Climate change, water, sanitation and energy
11. Financing for gender equality
12. Gender and ICT

Within each thematic area, the following cross-cutting key issues will be discussed: These issues are also essential for creating or strengthening the enabling environment for promoting gender equality. Expected outcomes and follow-up mechanisms.

Expected outcomes and follow-up mechanisms

- A plan of action that provides clear recommendations for Member States and development partners to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- Legal reforms, including status of ratification and domestication of the relevant international and regional gender equality and women’s empowerment instruments.
- Effective policy development and implementation.
- Institutional mechanisms.
- Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms.
- Availability of sex and gender disaggregated data.
- Investment of men and women.
- Capacity building.

African Development Forum (ADF VI)

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African Development Bank (AFDB)

Who will participate?

African Development Forum (ADF VI) will be attended by the following categories: African women and emerging leaders; African and international women’s organizations; Regional Economic Communities; African civil society organizations; Bilateral organizations; International and regional financial institutions; The Diaspora; Private sector organizations; UN partners; International civil society organizations; Regional Economic Communities; African civil society organizations (including community-based organizations, research and academic communities, religious leaders, women’s groups, such as farmers, indigenous peoples, poor urban dwellers, northern communities, women and girls affected by violence, religious organizations and traditional leaders, international civil society organizations; women and organizations representing women in countries with a high concentration of women and girls affected by violence; women and organizations representing women in countries with a high concentration of women and girls affected by violence.

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ADVF I: Where and when? 

The sixth African Development Forum (ADVF VI) on “Women’s empowerment and ending violence against women in Africa” is being organized by the ECA in partnership with the African Union (AU) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). It will take place from 19 to 21 November 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ADVF I: Background theme 

Links between gender equity and development strategies 

Although Africa’s economic performance, since 1990, has been quite impressive, there are still formidable and often insurmountable problems that continue to create a very negative impact on the continent and the development agenda. One of these persistent problems is the continued and significant underdevelopment in the lives of women, which has contributed to: low economic growth; poverty and inequality in all sectors; and the inability of the continent to achieve economic transformation on an integrated basis.

Another direct outcome of ADF II was the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA) established by the UN Secretary-General on 9 June 2008 at the UN Headquarters. The Commission was charged with a mandate to carry out a study in Africa on the governance impact and development consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to recommend urgent actions to governments, to build on and leverage existing efforts, and to ensure that Africa’s development prospects are not threatened by the children of the AIDS epidemic.

The ADFs have contributed to a number of regional and international conferences, focusing on gender and development. For instance, the CHGA was established as a result of the recommendations of the ADF II. The CHGA has made significant contributions to the development process in Africa.

Both the CHGA and the ADFs have contributed significantly to the implementation of international commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment. For example, the CHGA’s recommendations have been instrumental in the implementation of international commitments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for action and Security Council Resolution 1325. The CHGA’s work has also contributed to the development of the African Women’s Index (AWI) and the Gender and Development Index (GDI) by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which measure progress in gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa.

ADVF I: Vision and mission statements 

Towards achieving an equitable and sustainable development in Africa, the Forum is committed to achieving the following goals: 

- To promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa. 
- To advocate for policies and programs that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. 
- To mobilize resources for gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa. 
- To provide a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas on gender equality and women’s empowerment. 
- To build partnerships and coalitions for gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa.

ADVF I: Objectives, key themes and modus operandi 

Objectives: 

- To reflect on the progress made towards achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa. 
- To discuss the challenges and strategies at the national and regional levels, and seek ways to address them. 
- To identify and address gaps in the implementation of the resolutions on gender equality and women’s empowerment, particularly in relation to the African Women’s Index and the Gender and Development Index.

Key themes: 

- Progress since Beijing: The outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and its implementation in Africa. 
- The challenges and strategies faced in implementing Beijing. 
- The role of the AU and the African Development Bank in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa. 
- The role of civil society in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa. 
- The role of the private sector in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa.

Modus operandi: 

- Reflect on the progress made at national, sub-regional and regional levels, particularly in implementing the resolutions on gender equality and women’s empowerment. 
- Discuss the challenges and strategies at the national and regional levels, and seek ways to address them. 
- Identify and address gaps in the implementation of the resolutions on gender equality and women’s empowerment, particularly in relation to the African Women’s Index and the Gender and Development Index.