



We, African Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs, meeting in

Affirming

police and the judiciary; enhanced outreach services, especially at the community level; and sensitization of parliamentarians.

- (iii) Integration of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms into subregional and national action plans based on in-depth studies of the structural causes of violence against women. Development of relevant indicators and set baseline as well as undertake national prevalence surveys to assist in measuring progress and ensuring accountability.

4. Representation and participation of women in all areas of decision-making

- 4.1 Adopt and implement affirmative action measures, notably quotas for gender parity, and set up institutional mechanisms supported by adequate resources to increase women's representation in decision-making bodies, as provided for in international, regional and subregional instruments, and underpinned by constitutional guarantees and legislative provisions on gender parity.
- 4.2 Reform the electoral systems and internal leadership selection procedures of the public sector and political parties/organizations, in order to increase women's participation; encourage private sector institutions to become more gender-responsive, and promote gender parity in leadership and decision-making.
- 4.3 Develop capacity enhancement programmes to transform negative socio-cultural attitudes and perceptions towards female leadership; strengthen networking and collaboration among women's groups; and enhance inter-generational communication.
- 4.4 Ensure responsibility and accountability at the highest level of leadership, in both the public and the private sectors, using monitoring and evaluation systems such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, when applicable, and involving the media and civil society.
- 4.5 Foster and enhance solidarity among women to support women running for office at local, national, regional and global levels.

5. Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS

- 5.1 Strengthen health systems with measures and incentives to retain medical personnel; avoid the brain drain; train middle-level health providers; facilitate their presence in rural areas; promote sexual and reproductive health services in order to better address the consequences of unsafe abortions; and provide sex education and services for the sexual and reproductive health of the youth;
- 5.2 Reduce maternal mortality by two thirds by 2015 through effective and coordinated community management of pregnancy-related interventions and increased availability of emergency obstetric care services and skilled attendance during pregnancy, delivery, and post-delivery, as underscored by the 2009 African Union Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA);

- 5.3 Reposition reproductive health including family planning as a development priority in order to increase access to family planning, especially in rural areas, based on culturally sensitive approaches, community mobilization and men's engagement; and ensure that adequate budgets are available to sustain and expand maternal and child health and family planning services, as well as the prevention of obstetric fistula and early detection of reproductive cancers at all levels of health-care delivery systems;
- 5.4 Mainstream gender into integrated maternal and child health services, including sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS programmes, to address the vulnerability of women and girls, ensure their access to prevention, treatment and care, and facilitate access to and use of female and male condoms.

6. Climate change and food security

- 6.1 Develop gender-responsive policies on climate change which focus on agriculture, water resource management, energy, forest use and management, as well as transportation and technology transfer for improved food security.
- 6.2 Develop agricultural policies and programmes that address the differentiated impacts of climate change, in particular the impact on women.
- 6.3 Support the integration of gender into existing and upcoming scientific research on climate change with a particular focus on the collection and use of sex- and gender-disaggregated data, and the development of knowledge-sharing and peer-learning networks at subregional and regional levels.
- 6.4 Call on the upcoming Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change to take full account of gender dimensions and come up with gender-responsive measures.

7. Financing for gender equality

- 7.1 Institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting aligned with national development priorities and poverty reduction programmes, to support the financing of gender equality at subnational and national levels.
- 7.2 Develop financing mechanisms, including alternative sources of funding, and ensure the allocation of funds at subnational and national levels; establish a stimulus package that targets women; and monitor the effective utilization and impact of financing on gender equality.
- 7.3 Develop capacity-building programmes for the training and mentoring of parliamentary and government authorities on gender-responsive budgeting.
- 7.4 Strengthen national gender mechanisms by transforming gender focal points into gender teams that perform planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring functions for the mainstreaming of gender equality into all activities of ministries at subnational and national levels.

In undertaking the above actions:

- (i) We call on our Governments to allocate adequate resources to accelerate the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action.
- (ii) We call on our international partners, both bilateral and multilateral, including organizations of the United Nations system, to provide adequate technical and financial support for our development efforts and to move swiftly to implement their commitments from the Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness.
- (iii) We call on the African Union Commission, the United Nations system, the African Development Bank and the Regional Economic Communities to strengthen their coordination and harmonization processes with regard to the implementation of the priorities identified in this Ministerial Declaration, including that of facilitating South-South collaboration and exchange of experiences and best practices.
- (iv) We further call on the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to annually monitor and report on progress made in implementing the relevant development programmes and plans, and to ensure that the follow-up to the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action is included in the work plan of the Committee on Women and Development of the Economic Commission for Africa.
- (v) We call on the United Nations Secretary-General to swiftly implement General Assembly resolution A/RES/63/311 related to the establishment of a new gender entity through the consolidation of four entities, namely the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), to enable countries to receive the necessary technical and financial support to achieve gender equality.

In preparation for the 20th anniversary of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, we will assess the implementation of these two instruments, taking into account any relevant procedures that will be established.

We pledge to implement these commitments in order to achieve our development goals within the next five years.