

SESSION ON THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Theme: *'The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and Men including Care-giving in the Context of HIV/AIDS'*

Preamble:

We, the representatives of various civil society organizations composed as the Africa Women's Caucus attending the 53rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2009 and also representing the voices of millions of African women and girls;

Taking cognizance that the majority of women and girls in Africa are disadvantaged by gender inequalities and

5. Prioritize programs that aim to improve the lives of women and girls in conflict-affected areas.

of responsibilities among women and men, boys and girls in building homes and communities that are free of HIV/AIDS and violence.

6. Support and accelerate the conclusion of the UN Gender Equality Architecture reforms to have a new, independent UN agency for the advancement of women which is well-resourced in comparison to the annual budgets of other stand-alone UN agencies, combines operational and normative functions, and has an effective regional and country presence with mechanisms to facilitate civil society participation.

Donors, multilateral and international financial institutions to ensure that