



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



**Africa Ministerial Pre-Consultative Meeting on the Commission on the Status of Women  
(CSW) 60<sup>th</sup> Session  
21 January 2016**

**KEY MESSAGES AND STRATEGIES FOR CSW60**

**PART 1: INTRODUCTION:**

On January 21<sup>st</sup> 2016, UN Women, in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and in collaboration with the Africa Union Commission (AUC) convened the Africa Ministerial Pre-Consultation on the Commission on the Status of Women 60<sup>th</sup> Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme **“Women’s Empowerment and its Link to Sustainable Development Goals: Towards the Realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa’s Agenda 2063”**.

The meeting was attended by 250 participants including 38 Member States represented by Ministers of Gender and Women’s Affairs, Senior Government Officials and Ambassadors to the Africa Union. Also present were, senior officials from the AUC, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the United Nations system and representative from youth and young women’s organizations..

The participants reaffirmed and appreciated the commitments made by African Member States in various International, Regional and National policies and conventions to advance gender equality and women’s rights on the continent. There was general consensus that the existing gender equality goals and targets in the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, SDGs, Agenda 2063, and the 2016 Gender Pre Summit Communique are solid and provide impetus to accelerate progress in implementation so as to address the pervasive gender inequalities across the economic, political, social and environmental spheres in Africa.

With this background and consensus, the participants agreed that the focus of the Africa Pre-Consultation on the CSW60 was to focus on how to engage all stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, development partners to support governments to move from “declarations to deliverables” in the context of domesticating and implementing the outcomes of the Beijing

Plus 20 Review, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. In this spirit, the meeting agreed on the following key messages to inform Africa positioning and advocacy for CSW60 on the theme **‘Women’s Empowerment and its Link to Sustainable Development’**.

## **PART 2: KEY MESSAGES:**

### **2.1: Institutional arrangements to ensure gender-responsive implementation of the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and Agenda 2063**

- Mainstream gender equality and women’s empowerment into national laws, policies, planning and budgetary processes in order to respond to existing commitments made under Agenda 2030 and 2063, and international frameworks including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and regional frameworks.
- Strengthen national ownership and responsibility for effective implementation, monitoring and accountability of the gender-related goals and targets of Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, in all sectors and at all levels of government.
- Forge public-private partnerships, as well as partnerships with civil society, as it is vital for protecting and promoting gender equality and women’s human rights, taking cognizance of the responsibilities and duties of the state.
- Strengthen and utilize the Africa Union Commission’s Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Women as the Continental Mechanism for accountability and reporting on results in advancing gender equality and promoting women’s rights in Africa.
- Strengthen the positioning, funding and technical capacities of women’s machineries including Ministries of Gender and Women’s Affairs, women’s organizations and **UN Women**.

### **2.2: Financing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the implementation of the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063**

- Mobilize resources for financing gender equality and women’s empowerment, to accelerate the achievement of the goals under the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 with particular emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, gender-responsive resource allocation and promoting gender responsive fiscal policies.

- Engage relevant international, continental, and national processes, to follow up on the report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Africa, and the resolution of the African Commission of Human and People's Rights on the Effect of Capital Flight on the Achievement of Human Rights in Africa (Resolution 236 of 2013) to stop and recover lost resources which should be used for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Engage Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning as key drivers for gender responsive budgetary allocations, executions and implementation in line with implementation of the AAAA on Financing for Development.

### **2.3: Strengthening the evidence for gender-responsive implementation of the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 for sustainable development.**

- Through National Statistics Bureaus, generate and utilize research-based information, as well as gender and sex-disaggregated data and statistics that can support the gender-responsive implementation of Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063, Beijing Platform for Action and UN SCR 1325.
- Develop robust Monitoring and Reporting framework with clear indicators, baselines and targets to effectively track and report on progress in implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 Goals and targets at both national and regional level.

### **2.4: Ensure participation and leadership of women's organizations and gender equality advocates in the monitoring and implementation of the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development**

- Support and mobilize more women's organizations and women's rights defenders to advocate for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the monitoring and implementation of the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 at national and regional level.
- Mobilize and mentor young women to advocate for promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Promote the effective involvement of men and boys to promote gender equality through the **HeforShe Campaign** and other advocacy platforms.

- Encourage and support participation of women in peace process and implementation of peace agreements in line with the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes agenda 2063 and UNRSC 1325.
- Effectively engage the media in promoting and advocating women's rights and gender equality and in popularizing the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 at national and regional level.

### **PART 3: STRATEGIES FOR A UNIFIED POSITION AT CSW60 IN NEW YORK**

1. Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs to share the agreed key messages with Ministers of Foreign Affairs for further dissemination with Africa Group in New York and other relevant Sector Ministries.
2. AUC to convene Africa Group dialogues prior to and post CSW60 in close partnership with UN Women and UNECA offices in New York.
3. Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs through the AU STC on Women, to continue regular convening in close collaboration with the African Group Missions in New York during the negotiations of the CSW60 Outcome Document.
4. Africa women's movement to work closely with member states and CSOs to include the key messages in their CSO Advocacy Messages.
5. Africa to speak with one voice in support of the resolution on Women and Girls and HIV at CSW60 (to be tabled by Botswana) and its agreed conclusions and recognizing that this resolution will be a critical strategy for empowering women and achieving Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.
6. ECA will create an online platform to share updated information on CSW60 side events and work programme which will be accessible to all African Member States.
7. Member States statements and presentations at the CSW60 to be informed by these key messages.