

SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA:

INTRODUCTION;

Based on the meeting convened from 6th-8th of July 2004 by the heads of state and governments of member states of African union during the 3rd ordinary session of assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a solemn declaration on gender equality in Africa was agreed upon and adopted. This decision was to come up with the declaration is historic achievement not seen in any other continent or region in the world

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DECLARATION:

The declaration is re-affirming of African states commitments to the principle of gender equality as per article 4 (1) of the constitute Act of the African union and other other regional mechanisms such as daker platform for action (1994), the benjing platform of action (1995), the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW)-1979), the African Plan of Action to Accelerate the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action for the Advancement of Women (1999); the Outcome Document of the Twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000); UN Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

WHAT ARE KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE DECLARATION:

1. To make sure that the decision on gender parity is a historic achievement that does not yet exist in any other continent or regional organizations;
2. To continue expanding and accelerating efforts to promote gender equality at all levels;
3. To build on the progress that African states have achieved in addressing issues of major concern to the women of Africa;
4. To adopt the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, 2003;

WHAT WERE THE KEY RESOLUTIONS: THIS IS CLASIFIED IN THE FOUR THEMATIC AREAS AS SHOWN IN THE TABLE BELOW;

| ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION | MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION | PROMOTION | ACCEPTANCE |
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| <p>Gender specific economic, social, and legal measures aimed at combating the HIV/AIDS Abuja and Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Disease.</p> <p>Enactment of legislation to end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS and for the protection and care for people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly women; increase budgetary</p> | <p>Ensure representation of women in peace process including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict</p> <p>Ensure reconstruction in Africa as stipulated in UN Resolution 1325 (2000) and to also appoint women as Special Envoys and Special representatives of the African Union;</p> <p>Ensure a quick campaign for systematic prohibition of the recruitment of child soldiers and abuse of girl children as wives and sex slaves in violation of</p> <p>Campaigns against gender-based violence as well as the problem of trafficking in women and girls Reinforce legal mechanisms that will protect women at the national level and end impunity of crimes committed against women in a</p> | <p>The gender parity principle that we have adopted regarding the Commission of the African Union to all the other organs of the African Union, including its NEPAD programme, to the Regional Economic Communities, and to the national and local levels in collaboration with political parties and the National parliaments in our countries;</p> <p>Active promotion and protection of all human rights for women and girls including the right to development by raising awareness or by legislation where necessary;</p> <p>The implementation of legislation to guarantee women’s land, property and inheritance rights including their rights to housing;</p> <p>Specific measures to ensure the education of girls and literacy of women, especially in the rural areas, to achieve the goal of “Education for All” (EFA);</p> | <p>Signing and ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa</p> <p>Domesticating and implementing the Protocol as well as other national, regional and international instruments on gender equality by all States Parties;</p> <p>Establishing an African Trust Fund for Women for building the capacity of African women</p> <p>Request the African Union Commission to work out the modalities forthe operationalisation of the Fund with special focus on women in both urban and rural areas;</p> |

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| | manner that will change and positively alter the attitude and behaviour of the African society; | | |
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