RECOMMENDATIONS

We, participants of the 34th Session of the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) meeting in Niamey, Niger from 29 to 30 June 2019 under the African Union Summit theme, “Towards Gender-Responsive Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement” which is a follow-up to our 33rd session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

RENEW OUR APPRECIATION TO THE African Union for declaring 2019 as the year of ‘Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement’;

WELCOME the renewed commitment by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat to Gender Equality in Africa and the numerous support he has provided to the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) particularly in ensuring that the GEWE strategy was approved and adopted by the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union;

ACKNOWLEDGE the importance of the reforms of the African Union led by H.E. President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda as well as the decision to commence the implication starting with the first Coordination and Harmonisation with RECs and AU Agencies here in Niamey, Republic of Niger;

SUPPORT the efforts of the Chairperson to retain and support the activities and programmes of the Office of the AUC Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security in ensuring continued participation of women in peace building and post conflict reconstruction;
**APPRECIATE** the decision of the PRC to increase budget allocation to Conflict Prevention as against Conflict Resolution and desire to promote the rights and wellbeing of persons in displacement especially those currently in Refugee and IDP camps;

**WE REMAIN DEEPLY CONCERNED** about the lack of effective implementation of the existing continental commitment of women’s rights and gender equality such the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and the Maputo Protocol on Women’s Rights, as well as the Kampala Convention on rights of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons;

**KNOWING** well the end of 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 is very close and requires an urgent attention especially issues relating to women and girls;

**Urge the African Union Heads of State and Government to:**

1. **ENSURE** urgent cessation of hostility against women of Sudan and the civil population by the military regime and ensure that an all-inclusive transition to democratic rule is put in place by the current administration in the country;

2. **CONTINUE THE SHIFT** of focus to sustainable peace and to implement the decision to increase the budget for conflict prevention as against conflict resolution;

3. **ENCOURAGE** AU Member States to hold National Dialogue Forums to enable CSOs, private sector and professional bodies representing interests of vulnerable groups dialogue on policy and advocacy issues for the inclusion of women and girls refugees;

4. **CALL ON** the new AU Development Agency and RECS to support countries investment in well-resourced and adequately funded quality education systems in contexts of forced displacement that are inclusive, relevant and gender responsive, to achieve women’s self-reliance and social cohesion;

5. **ENSURE** all education stakeholders channel their investment for refugees, IDPs and returnees across education continuum, that is, towards access to Early Childhood Development, post-primary, Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Higher education and non-formal education;
6. **ENSURE THAT** all RECs Gender Policies should have an Action Plan that has specific measures on access to education and harmonization of education systems for women and girls including the internally displaced, refugees and returnees;

7. **BUILD CAPACITY** of GIMAC members in preventive diplomacy and raise a cadre of women mediators and encourage women leaders in their diverse professions beyond NGOs and politics to be part of mediation process;

8. **DEVELOP** and implement out of school comprehensive sexuality education guidelines that are user friendly for young people in conflict areas, refugees, and IDPs and natural disasters in collaboration with different actors including governments, teachers, CSOs, religious/traditional leaders and parents;

9. **WORK WITH** civil society including GIMAC to step up the Campaign on Child Marriage as a strategy to reduce the prevalence of Vesicovaginal Fistula (VVF) especially in the Sahel region which has the highest rate of early marriage in Africa;

10. **INVEST IN AND PROMOTE** adolescent health, particularly menstrual wellbeing, including through the distribution of accessible and affordable menstrual products especially for women and girls in conflicts areas by zero-relating tax in all menstrual products.

11. **COLLABORATE WITH** civil society organizations and centers of excellence to integrate leadership development and governance into conflict prevention and peace building processes as a strategy for the promotion of sustainable peace and security in Africa;

12. **PROVIDE** funding and technical support for Cameroonian women and civil society organizations to be part of the ongoing negotiation in Geneva on the Resolution of Current Conflict in the Cameroon

13. **COMMIT** ourselves as a Network working under the leadership of GIMAC Steering Committee to: **OPEN A REGISTER** of pioneer women in each African country that has contributed to development and produce a documentary of these great women for knowledge to be role models to future generation;

14. **COLLABORATE WITH** universities, African centers of excellence and institutions of higher learning in ensuring that history and knowledge of the contribution of African women are made available in libraries;
15. **RAISE AN ADVOCACY TEAM** to visit His Excellency President Paul Kagame and the Chairperson of the AUC on the role of GIMAC in implementation of GEWE Policies and decisions at RECs and national level;

16. **CONVENE** an information session, in collaboration with AUWGD, key and senior management staff of the AUC on the mission, vision, contribution to gender and development as well role in the implementation of Agenda 2063;

17. **ACTIVELY ENGAGE** and support the activities of the STC on GEWE within the framework of the new AU reform;

18. **SUPPORT AND ENGAGE** networks of women survivors of conflict and displacement;

19. **CONTINUE** our engagement and collaboration with RECs, the AU and other regional entities to pursue gender equality in Africa that can be achieved only through the ratification and implementation of national legal instruments on women’s rights.

*Dated at Niamey, this 30th day of June 2019.*