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**THE LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DECADE**

**KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (KICC)**

**14 OCTOBER 2010**

**NAIROBI, KENYA**

**Original: English**

**NAIROBI DECLARATION ON THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S  
DECADE 2010-2020**

## **Nairobi Declaration on the African Women's Decade 2010-2020**

1. We the African Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 for the Launch of the African Women's Decade 2010-2020 under the theme "*Grassroots Approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*";
2. **Building** on the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of African Union Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs in Maseru, Lesotho in December 2008, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit of African Union Heads of State and Government at Addis Ababa in February 2009, which declared 2010-2020 as African Women's Decade;
3. **Acknowledging** the progress made in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment;
4. **Recognizing** the critical role that grassroots women play in national development and support the scaling up of these initiatives;
5. **Inspired** by international, regional and sub regional declarations, protocols and conventions, including the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals in particular Goal 3 aims to promote and strengthen women's empowerment and accelerate the attainment of gender equity and equality as part of overall human rights;
6. **Recognizing** the interrelationship among gender equality, women's empowerment, human rights, economic growth and sustainable development;
7. **Taking note** of the outcomes of the African Women's Non Governmental Organizations fora, including all parallel events and caucuses held on the margin of the Launch of the African Women's Decade;
8. **Concerned** that new challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation, chronic food insecurity, financial and economic crises, the feminization of poverty and human trafficking, migration, high cases of maternal mortality and HIV and AIDS adversely affect the progress made;
9. **Recognizing** that progress towards gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment can be achieved by addressing the structural and root causes of gender inequality through the enactment and enforcement of constitutional and legal instruments inter alia the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights on

the Rights on Women in Africa, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Union Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the African Union Gender Policy and other international, regional and sub regional instruments;

10. **Convinced** of the need to establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms for mainstreaming gender in all policies and programmes, and engendering budgets and the promotion and protection of women's human rights;

11. **Affirming** the critical importance of the principles, objectives and goals of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action for women's advancement, gender equality, gender equity, sustainable development and poverty eradication in Africa, which will contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals of the African Women's Decade;

12. **Stressing** the importance of committed and effective leadership at all levels and the role of women and men in promoting the required changes in attitudes, behaviors and practices that limit women's and girl's rights, capabilities and access to opportunities, including young women, women with disabilities, elderly women and women with special needs;

13. **Encouraging** the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and other sub regional statutory organs to be fully engaged in the implementation and monitoring of all international, regional, sub regional instruments and the African Women's Decade;

14. **Appreciating** the importance of strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders, including the public sector, particularly the Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning, other government agencies, the private sector, the civil society, workers organizations, community, religious and traditional leaders, research and academic institutions, local governments, the media and the international community in promoting the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels :

- fully committed to achieving the goals of the African Women Decade 2010-2020; and to fully implement, international, regional and sub regional agreements and initiatives, and;
- equally committed to improving the status of the African Women at the grassroots level as reflected in the Decade thematic areas

15. **Endorsed** the ten thematic areas identified by the African Union to guide the activities of the Decade as follows:

- I. Fighting poverty and promoting economic empowerment of women and entrepreneurship
- II. Agriculture and Food Security
- III. Health, Maternal Mortality and HIV and AIDS
- IV. Education, Science and Technology
- V. Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- VI. Peace and Security and Violence against Women and Girls
- VII. Governance and Legal Protection
- VIII. Finance and Gender Budgeting
- IX. Women and Decision-making
- X. Mentoring Youth (men and women) to be champions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Hereby:

**Appeal** to the African Union Heads of States and Government to continue support the African Women's Decade and as spearheaded by African Union in consultation with governments and civil society organizations to give African people a greater sense of ownership.

**Call on** our international partners, both bilateral and multilateral, including organizations of the United Nations system, to provide adequate financial support towards the implementation of the gender equality and women's empowerment programmes as outlined in the Decades thematic area.

**Further 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 regards to the implementation of the priorities identified in this Ministerial Declaration and African Women's Decade themes.

**Urge** the African Union Commission to annually monitor and report on progress made in implementing the thematic areas of the African Women Decade.

**Done in Nairobi on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010**