



2010

ANNUAL REPORT



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network

***Twenty-two Years of
Harnessing the Collective
Leadership of African Women***





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The African Women's
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Abbreviations

AAA	Accra Agenda for Action
ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
AE	Aid Effectiveness
ALF	African Life Foundation
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AWC	African Women's Caucus
AWD	African Women's Decade (2010-2020)
AWDF	African Women's Development Fund
AWID	Association for Women Rights in Development
BPfA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CAARMA	Campaign launched by the African Union)
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CONAFED	Comité National Femme et Développement (National Committee for Women and Development)
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women of the UN
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EASSI	East African Sub-regional Support Initiative
ECCA	Empower Children & Communities against Abuse
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
FBOs	Faith-based Organizations
FELITAMO	Female Literacy Project in Angola and Mozambique Project
FEMNET	The African Women's development and Communication Network
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FK	Fredskorpset
FOI	Freedom of Information
GA	General Assembly
GEAR	Gender Equality Architecture Reform
HBF	Heinrich Boll Foundation
iCON	Icon Women and Young People's Leadership Academy
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
IDASA	Institute for Democracy in Africa
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEGEN	Men for Gender Equality Now
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFPs	National Focal Points
NGOCC	Non-Governmental Organizations Coordinating Council
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PC	Programming Conference
PD	Paris Declaration
RC	Resource Center
RoA-Africa	Reality of Aid Network-Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SOAWR	Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TAMWA	Tanzania Media Women's Association
UN Women	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WLSA	Women and Law in Southern Africa Research and Education Trust
ZARD	Zambia Association for Research & Development

THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DECADE! 2010-2020



Honour African Women!

Ratify and Implement the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women



SOLIDARITY FOR AFRICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS (SOAWR)

About FEMNET

The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) is a pan-African, membership based organization that was established in 1988. It is governed by a Constitution and has a governance and administrative structure. It operates through its Regional Secretariat that links up with Sub-regional members and partners and National Focal Point (NFPs) organizations most of which are national women's networks, consortia or umbrella organizations.

Objectives of FEMNET:

- To strengthen the role and contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focusing on women's development and the integration of women into the development process in Africa.
- To create an infrastructure and channel through which women's associations and organizations working on women's issues can reach one another and share crucial information, knowledge and experiences and thereby sharpen and improve their inputs into Africa's development.
- To initiate, develop, coordinate and maintain close working contacts with United Nations agencies, the African Union (AU) and other national, regional, or international bodies and NGOs having objectives altogether or in part similar to the objectives of the Network.
- To develop a database on scientific, technical, economic and other information considered relevant or material to the objectives of the Network.
- To initiate, develop, provide and maintain channels and means for communication on matters relating to African women's development, particularly to advise members of the Network of national, regional and international initiatives which are relevant to African women's development.
- To initiate investment projects in any part of Africa that will support the work of the Network.
- To adopt such means of making known the activities and services of the Network as may seem expedient, and in particular by the publication of directories, brochures, books and periodicals, by the granting of prizes, rewards, scholarships and exhibitions, advertising in the press, on radio, television or cinema.

The principle changes FEMNET is aiming to achieve in the long run include:

- A strong African women's rights movement that is actively engaged in the development processes in Africa at all levels.
- An enlightened citizenry in Africa that equally respects observes and protects the rights and fundamental freedoms of women and men in their public and private lives.
- A well recognized and respected Network of African women organizations and leaders that acts as a reliable first class information center for African governments, United Nations agencies, the African Union (AU), other sub-regional, national, regional, and international bodies and civil society actors on matters affecting or of interest to women and girls in Africa.
- Increased visibility and recognition of the contributions of African women leaders in transforming the development trends in Africa.
- Increased capacity of FEMNET to sustain the work of the Network through philanthropy and implementing viable investment projects.

Strategic Goal:

The broad strategic goal of FEMNET for the next three years is to ensure that African women's organizations, lobby groups, decision-makers, like-minded organizations as well as men have taken actions to create an environment that supports gender equality and social justice.

Message from the Chairperson

The year 2010 marked the last year of my tenure of office as the Chairperson of the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET). I was elected in 2003 and re-elected for a second term in 2007. I am truly humbled to have served this great pan- African women's organization which seeks to improve the political as well as socio-economic status of women in Africa through (i) increasing communication and access to information as a strategy for strengthening women's capacity to participate effectively in the development processes; (ii) encouraging strong networking to enable the membership to interface and appropriately engage with governments and regional bodies on policy issues and (iii) strengthening the capacities of institutions that anchor women's initiatives and are geared towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

In the last 7 years that I have been at the helm of FEMNET's leadership, I am happy to have contributed to the growth in the size of the membership particularly in West Africa sub- region. FEMNET is now a household name in all parts of Africa because of the extra efforts made together with all the Board members to ensure that the organization is visible throughout the region. I am indebted to the entire membership and staff of FEMNET for the overwhelming support given to me while in office. The sisterhood that exists among the members is profound and has made my journey as Chairperson very light. It delights me to see how the Network has grown, as of 2010 membership stands at 280 organizations and 378 individual members. The challenge that the new Board will have to address is to ensure that all members pay their annual subscription and remain committed to the goals and objectives of the Network.

In 2010, am proud to have been part of making history in the Africa women's movement when FEMNET played a significant role in shaping the agenda for the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) and in organizing the Continental launch of the Decade which took place in Kenya. The continental launch of the Decade signified a unique moment and turning point for African women in their struggle for peace, equality and development.

By the time I handed over the mantle to the new Chairperson Ms. Jacqueline Sylvie Ndongmo from Cameroon, I was satisfied that I had given my best to FEMNET. I wish Sylvie Ndongmo and the entire new Executive Board and Board of Trustees success as they continue moving the women's rights agenda forward during the African Women's Decade. I also wish to extend a special thank you to the Secretariat staff for the invaluable support over the last 7 years. Last but certainly not least, I would like to appreciate my husband, children and grandchildren who played a significant role during my tenure as Chairperson of FEMNET as they supported me morally, physically, and spiritually. They bore my long absences from home as I moved around the world to ensure that the voices of African women are heard by leaders and policy makers. I thank and appreciate their unwavering support

My best wishes to FEMNET as you all strive for greater heights.

Mama Koite Doumbia
Out-going Chairperson



Message from the Executive Director

The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) activities in 2010 were guided by the three core strategies; (a) improving networking and communication, (b) enhancing advocacy for women's rights at the national, regional and international levels; and (c) building capacities of women's organizations to organize effectively around women's rights issues in Africa. FEMNET continued to achieve so much and reach greater heights in building strong linkages with its membership and other partners at national, regional and international levels. It was a year that FEMNET's slim staff team mobilized and facilitated a large number of women's organizations to engage and participate in key processes and activities as highlighted in more details in this Report. 2010 was the third year of implementing the FEMNET Strategic Plan (2008 – 2012) and therefore required the organization to double its efforts to achieve the set targets as most of the multi- year funding support was coming to an end in December 2010. I am particularly proud that together with the Board members and a wide range of partners, we managed to accomplish so much and all this contributed significantly to raising the profile of the work of women activists, organizations and networks in the development processes in Africa.

The year 2010 was a pivotal year. It marked the 15th anniversary and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), the global blueprint for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. The 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the 5th anniversary since the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa came into force in 2005 and the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs +10) were all marked in 2010. All these reviews provided opportunities for reflection on the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of these international and regional commitments and their contribution to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women in Africa. FEMNET played a critical role in the review processes including facilitating the preparation and production of the Regional NGO Beijing +15 Shadow Report and key messages from

women in Africa were delivered to the world leaders at the MDGs Review Summit held in September 2010. FEMNET keenly followed each of the review processes and supported women's organizations to voice their experiences through the reporting processes, and use of policy briefs, participation in public hearings and lobbying activities and fora held in the margins of the official review meetings of the relevant organs of the United Nations and the African Union.

It is evident throughout this Report that African women generally and the membership appreciated the catalytic role that FEMNET continues to play to amplify the voices and actions of African women, to influence critical decision making processes and create linkages and partnerships that enable a wider outreach, increased visibility and enhanced movement building efforts as African women organizations unite towards a common agenda.

There were many achievements to celebrate. In July 2010, FEMNET joined the world to



celebrate the decision of the UN General Assembly to establish the **UN super-agency for gender equality and women's empowerment – the UN Women**. This was a culmination of four years of intensive advocacy by women's organizations and networks worldwide to strengthen the UN capacity to provide leadership and focus greater attention, and resources to address issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In October, 2010, the African Union launched the **African Women's Decade (2010-2020)** as declared by the Heads of State and Governments in Africa in January 2009. At the colorful Launch ceremony held in Nairobi, Kenya HE Mwai Kibaki, the President of Kenya officially announced Kenya's commitment to progressively work towards the full realization of women's rights as articulated in the New Constitution of Kenya, adopted in August 2010. He announced that Kenya had ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa as a step in line with this commitment. Kenya became the 29th country in Africa to ratify the Protocol on Women's Rights and it followed closely on the heels of Uganda which deposited its instrument of ratification with the African Union Commission on the 22nd of July 2010. FEMNET with its partners for the first time successfully organized a Caravan on Maternal Health in July 2010 and we covered four countries in East Africa. This was an innovative way to focus the attention of African heads of states and government on the plight of women who die while giving life (due to pregnancy – related causes). FEMNET is proud to be associated with all these milestones as its leaders and staff members played a central role in planning, mobilizing resources, and mounting pressure where necessary to enhance the protection of women's rights in Africa. It is important to note that all these accomplishments were made possible through the collective leadership of women organizations that we collaborated with and the dedicated support of our partners at different levels.

To crown it off FEMNET organized its **Fifth Programming Conference and General Assembly** in October 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya. This was the largest gathering of its members and partners since the Network was first established in 1988. It was also the first Programming Conference and General Assembly to be held within the constitutionally stipulated time of three years since the last one held in 2007. We witnessed a smooth change of leadership as members of the fifth Executive

Board of FEMNET were elected together with those on the Board of Trustees. At the two days Programming Conference members reviewed the progress made in the implementation of its Strategic Plan (2008 – 2012) and took a political decision to extend the Strategic Plan period to 2013 to cover the first three years of the Africa Women Decade. Therefore, by the end of the year the FEMNET Strategic Plan was revised and adopted to cover the period 2011 – 2013 with a new monitoring and evaluation plan.

The Year 2010 was not without its disappointments. The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance did not come into force as only nine countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Lesotho, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Mauritania, South Africa and Rwanda) have so far ratified the Charter. A minimum of 15 ratifications are required for the Charter to have the force of law in the Region. Violence against women remained a major challenge on the continent especially as more countries erupted into civil unrest and the long standing conflicts and situation of insecurity in places like Darfur and in the eastern parts of DRC continued throughout the year. The space for civil society engagement in decision making processes and interfacing with leaders and institutions that make decisions that impact the lives of African women continued to reduce. Additionally with the global financial and economic crisis resource available for women's rights groups organizing also continued to shrink leaving many community-based organizations and lobby groups unable to sustain their work and effectively play their watch dog role of holding their governments accountable. Corruption remained endemic in most African countries and continued to deprive and deny millions of poor people their right to development. High levels of corruption have an adverse effect on the realization of women's rights and their capacity to meet basic needs of survival and those of their families.

FEMNET therefore, recognizes that as the African Women's Decade (2010 – 2020) begins, she has a mammoth task of mobilizing across the region to ensure that instead of agonizing, African women continue to effectively organize, and demand that those responsible take all measures and actions to transform their status and conditions of life. FEMNET will have to ensure that during the Decade African governments generate and make effective use of gender disaggregated data and qualitative information to influence their planning,

programming and decisions made in relation to resources allocation, and conduct gender analysis and strengthen gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation systems to measure the extent to which gender equality objectives are met. FEMNET will have to systematically map and document the changes and critical factors that are contributing to African women's empowerment, and generally to growth and equitable development in the region. The onset of the Decade also provides an opportunity to achieve the universal ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and ensure accelerated implementation of programmes that secure the rights guaranteed in the Protocol and other internationally agreed instruments like CEDAW.

We therefore, invite you to join hands with us to overcome the structural bottlenecks that hinder the empowerment and progress of African women. We salute the support of many partners in 2010 including Sida, Oxfam Novib, Urgent Action Fund - Africa, Trust Africa, African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Oxfam GB - Pan Africa Programme, FAHAMU Trust,

UNIFEM (now UN-Women - New York office, East and Horn of Africa office, West Africa and UN Women office at the Africa/ Spanish Network for a Better World), UNESCO, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Fredskorpset-IDASA partnership, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Global Fund for Women, Heinrich Boll Foundation, Ipas and DFID, among many others. Your dedicated support enabled FEMNET to accomplish so much for the benefit of African women. I have been truly humbled and privileged to work with exceptional people and organizations at all levels including a dedicated, professional and committed staff team. With the African Women's Decade agenda set to mobilize from the grassroots up the work has just began. We look forward to your continued support and partnership. I sincerely wish all readers of this Report a fruitful and progressive 2011.

Norah Matovu-Winyi
Executive Director





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1.0 Introduction



In 2008, FEMNET developed its Strategic Plan for the period 2008-2010. This was later reviewed in July 2008 and the period extended to 2008 – 2012 in order to align it with the Sustainability Strategy of the organization that was developed then. The Strategic Plan responded to trends and realities that prevailed in the operating environment at that time. In response to FEMNET's mandate of enhancing African women's collective leadership through networking and communication, advocacy initiatives and capacity building the organization was able to pursue its strategic objectives to achieve the set targets as outlined in the 2010 Work Plan.

The planning and implementation of the programme activities were continuously informed by the trends in the region, keeping abreast with new developments and key drivers of change in the region. The 2010 Annual Report marked the end of the first three years of implementation of the Strategic Plan (2008-2012).

The strategic goals of this Plan were threefold;

1. Improved networking and communication among African women's organizations and with key stakeholders
2. Enhanced advocacy for women's rights at the national, regional and international levels
3. Enhanced capacity of African women to generate and use knowledge to transform their lives

This Report provides highlights of the programme activities successfully implemented, the key outcomes as well as lessons learnt in the year 2010. The Report is divided into three sections. The first part of the report provides a general analytical overview of the environment in which FEMNET operated in 2010. The second part with three sub-sections provides the details of the programmes activities and outcomes and the last part provides a summary of the governance and administrative aspects of the Organization.



2.0 General Overview of the Context



The year 2010 was not any different from the previous ones as pressure from African women continued throughout the year and led to some significant gains on the legal and political front as well as on the social, economic and cultural front. This part of the Annual Report provides some of the highlights in the general context of Africa's affairs in 2010 that contributed to improving the status of African women. It also briefly discusses the persistent challenges and emerging issues in the year that do not augur well for gender equality and the empowerment of women in Africa.

The year started off in earnest with the preparations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup that was hosted by South Africa in June-July 2010. This was the first time for an African country to host the World Cup and the process leading to the World Cup brought many benefits to the people of South Africa and Africa as a whole. In addition to having a major face-lift to the country's infrastructure South Africa used the opportunity to

review its policies on issues like violence against women and personal security in the private and public spheres, human trafficking, inequalities in terms of access to basic infrastructure and services in different parts of the country. It reviewed its trade policies and linkages with other African countries and how these benefit men and women, among many others. Civil society organizations including women's organizations used the opportunity of the international focus on Africa to raise human rights concerns and advocate for fair trade arrangements, achieving better aid for sustainable development in Africa as one way of reducing human trafficking, and realization of the right to health and education for all.

Electoral and political processes in Africa continued to generate much regional and international interest during the year as this is one area that has progressive indicators in terms of increase in the numbers of women in political leadership and decision making. FEMNET in particular continued to monitor and support African women's participation in political leadership under one

of its focus areas, understanding and finding new ways to engage with the female representatives at different levels so that they champion the change that we work so hard to see in the lives of African women. More than 10 African countries held presidential elections, including Ethiopia, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Eritrea, Togo, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burundi. Several others held parliamentary and local government elections and Kenya held a constitutional referendum in August 2010 which ushered in a new constitutional order.

Several women trail blazers emerged from all corners of Africa to vie for political leadership in these countries. In **Togo**, Brigitte Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson rose to the occasion and contested for the Presidential elections held in March 2010, making history as the first woman in 50 years to run for the presidency in Togo. The first round of the **Cote d'Ivoire** presidential elections planned early in the year were postponed due to a political impasse that continued throughout the year following political tensions and the dissolution of the government and the Electoral Commission in February 2010. Nevertheless, among the over twenty male candidates was Ms. Jacqueline Oble who also made history in Ivorian politics by being the first woman to run for the highest office in the country. The two participated in FEMNET First Annual Conference for Women in Politics held in September 2009. Toward the end of 2010, **Côte d'Ivoire** held two presidential elections. The first round was held on 31st October 2010 and a second round, was on 28th November 2010. In the second round the Electoral Commission (IEC) released results which showed that opposition leader Alassane Ouattara won with 54% votes. However the President of the Constitutional Council immediately declared that the results were invalid and the next day, the Constitutional Council declared Gbagbo the winner. Both Gbagbo and Ouattara claimed victory and took the presidential oath of office, sparking a crisis in the country, and the sub-region which continued into 2011.

In **Sudan**, the first national democratic election in twenty four years was held in April 2010 to elect the President, members of the national assembly, governors and members of the state assemblies. Among the candidates who challenged the incumbent President Omar el Bashir was Madam Fatima Ahmed Abdelmahmoud, and again the first woman running for the presidency in Sudan's political history, as the leader of the Sudanese Socialist and Democratic Union Party. In addition, over 1,000 women candidates representing

diverse political parties contested seats set aside for women in the National Assembly and another 2,000+ women candidates contested for seats in the local state assemblies, all defying the odds and ignoring a fatwa (religious ruling) by Salafist Muslim scholars prohibiting women from active politics. This was a step in the right direction and the year ended with large numbers of women responding positively to the call for registration in preparation for their participation in the referendum for South Sudan for self – determination which was slated to take place January 2011. According to the South Sudan Referendum commission, 52% of those who cast their vote in the referendum were women.

The presidential elections held in **Burundi** in June 2010 resulted in last minute withdrawals by five candidates on allegations of fraud and intimidation, thus rendering the incumbent the sole candidate. Among the candidates vying for Presidency was Madam Pascaline Kampayano of the Union for Peace and Development (UPD) and Alice Nzomukunda of the Alliance for Democratic Renewal (ADR). In **Guinea-Conakry**, Madam Rabiou Serah Diallo, was appointed President of the National Transition Council. The Council is composed of 101 Guineans from civil society, political parties, religious groups as well as members of the ruling junta's council and was charged with managing the transition from military to civilian rule. Guinea was involved in a delicate transition process after an accord was reached in January 2010 that would pave the way for the West African nation to emerge from its political crisis and hold elections in June 2010. Following a run-off in November 2010, Alpha Conde was declared victorious albeit among violent protests, resulting in a state of emergency. In **Mozambique**, the unanimous election of Veronica Macamo, a member of the ruling Frelimo party, made history when she became the first woman Speaker of Parliament in the country in January 2010. In general it was an exciting year as women in politics made history in various countries, though on the whole, the percentage of women in political leadership did not significantly change. Very few of the countries that held elections in 2010 achieved the 30% minimum representation of women in Parliament which is the target that was set in the Beijing Platform for Action of 1995. This state of affairs continues to be a major concern for FEMNET as it is replicated in other sectors of society.

Issues of impunity and violation of human rights in different parts of the continent remained a challenge. Attempts to curb this culture in **Kenya**, led to the

International Criminal Court's (ICC) Chief Prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo starting the formal criminal investigations to identify the key suspects accused of orchestrating the 2007 post election violence. In December Ocampo announced 6 suspects alleged to have masterminded the post election violence. Though the results of this ICC process seem out of reach for many Kenyans initiating the investigations has sent out a clear message to leaders in Africa that impunity is totally unacceptable and perpetrators must be brought to account. By year end Kenyan women and men were hopeful that justice will be done especially for the victims of gender-based and sexual violence that erupted in the 2007 post- election period.

Changes that ushered in gender responsive laws and policies in different countries:

2010 will remain memorable year for many African women as several countries took steps to review laws and adopt new legislation that are gender responsive. Common among these were constitutional reviews undertaken in **Kenya** for example which led to the adoption of a new Constitution on 27th August 2010. After 25 years of searching for a new Constitution, Kenya adopted one albeit a lot of controversy and debate on some provisions relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights. This historical achievement followed a very peaceful referendum held in August 2010 which set itself apart from the crisis that followed the 2007 presidential elections. The Kenya Constitution (2010) enshrines a comprehensive bill of rights including women's rights and it has many provisions that have the potential to support women's empowerment and realization of their rights once fully implemented. Kenya crowned this momentous achievement by ratifying the Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa in October 2010.

In **Uganda** a number of laws and policies were adopted which had been on the drawing table for a very long time. These include the Anti -Trafficking in Persons Act of 2008. In October 2009, the President signed the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2008 and it came into effect in January 2010. However, the Penal Code Act had not been updated by the end of the year to reflect the new changes in the law. The Attorney General did not formally notify the police and these steps are essential to bring new legislation into effect. The Act prescribes punishment of 15 years to life imprisonment when found guilty. These penalties are considered sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes. The other key

legislation and policies adopted included the Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2010, the National Population Policy and finally the ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in July 2010.

New Opportunities

African Heads of States and Governments declared the period 2010 to 2020 as the **African Women's Decade**. Under the theme: **Grassroots approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** "the aim of the Decade is to accelerate the implementation and attainment of goals articulated in various regional and international declarations, protocols and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment. The official launch of the Decade took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 15th October 2010. For many civil society organizations, the Decade is an opportunity to integrate and strengthen linkages in the work on women's human rights, and demonstrate the multiplier effect that achieving all these rights has for women and society at large. It is also an excellent platform for the women's movement to work together and reach out to other constituencies, to tell our stories, celebrate victories and achievements, and project our own images of African women and girls to Africa and the world.

In a historic move on 2nd July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to create a new entity that will accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. The establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as **UN Women**, was a result of years of negotiations between UN Member States and advocacy by the global women's movement led by the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) campaign. Within the GEAR campaign FEMNET was the focal point for Africa till 2009 when it was agreed to identify another organization to manage the campaign in francophone African countries. FEMNET thus henceforth focused on mobilizing support in for the establishment of UN Women within the Anglophone African countries. UN Women brings together resources and mandates of four entities for greater impact. Former Chilean President, Dr. Michelle Bachelet, was appointed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as the first Under – Secretary and Executive Director for UN Women on September 14th 2010, a move that was hailed by women's organizations the world over. UN Women provides African women a new platform to accelerate work aiming to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women.



African Caravan on Maternal Health
g through Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda & Uganda 2010

No woman should die while giving birth
on this Petition Banner to urge the Heads of States and
in Kampala, Uganda to **ACT NOW** and guarantee Maternal Health Summit

SIGN UP TODAY!

END POVERTY 2015
Millennium Development Goal 1
African Development Bank





3.0 Key Highlights of the Three Strategic Goals: Activities and Outcomes



3.1 Strategic Goal I: Improving Networking and Communication

In line with the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, the strategic goal of improving networking and communication is a vital avenue through which FEMNET generates information and facilitates the exchange and sharing of information on women's human rights issues at international, regional and national levels with various constituencies across Africa and globally. The sharing and exchange of information was mainly done through: the *FEMNET News*, which focused on sharing membership experiences of and strategies for African women's development and equality and the thematic newsletter called *Our Rights*, which includes analysis of gender and women's human rights issues in Africa. In June 2010, as part of its re-branding efforts during the Africa Women's Decade, FEMNET merged the two flagship publications, the *FEMNET News* and *Our Rights*

into one single journal called *The African Women's Journal* which will be published twice in a year (in June and in December) throughout the African Women's Decade period. The purpose is to have the main publication of FEMNET as an authoritative resource for different users working on women's rights and development in Africa. In addition, FEMNET circulated a monthly electronic bulletin, which is a compilation of current news and notices. FEMNET maintained a bilingual website on <http://www.femnet.or.ke>. In 2010, FEMNET used social networking tools (FEMNET blog, Facebook and Twitter) to reach out to younger women and introduced new ways of attracting regular and new users to the Gender and Development Resource Center, which specializes in materials related to gender and women's empowerment in Africa.

3.1.1 Information Products

During the period under review the first issues of *FEMNET News* and *Our Rights* newsletters focused on the following themes:

<i>FEMNET News</i> January–April:	<i>No Woman Should Die while Giving Life! Eliminate Maternal Mortality in Africa</i>
<i>Our Rights</i> January-June:	<i>Scoring on MDGs: What has been achieved, what is yet to be achieved?</i>
<i>African Women Journal</i> 1 st Issue (July – Dec 2010)	<i>The African Women’s Decade (2010-2020): A Call for Action, Action and More Action.</i>

Twelve issues of the monthly *E-bulletin* circulated electronically (produced in English and French), which is a compilation of current news relevant to women’s rights organizing in Africa, a discussion board through which FEMNET shares its position on some of the

current affairs in Africa, provides information on training opportunities, and sources of information and resources that support women’s organizing in Africa. Copies of the bulletin circulated in 2010 are accessible through FEMNET website www.femnet.or.ke.

The Communication team coordinated the production (editing, design, layout and printing) as well as dissemination of the following publications:-

3.1.2 Website

During the period under review, FEMNET updated its bilingual website <http://www.femnet.or.ke>, continuously with upcoming events as well as analysis and summaries of key issues happening regionally and internationally that are of relevance to the work of the Network, its members and stakeholders. Press statements, communiqués and outcome documents of major activities organized by FEMNET at the regional or sub-regional levels as well as policy briefs and messages on key international and regional human rights days were also uploaded on the website. Due to the increased amount of information available on the website the number of users also increased and this is monitored by the Communication team on a quarterly basis.

PUBLICATION	QUANTITIES
The Africa Women’s Regional Shadow Report on Beijing + 15	1,000 English 500 French
African Women’s Leadership Conference Report: Lome, Togo	500 Eng
The Right to Sexual & Reproductive Health: A Briefing for Policy Makers, Civil Society and Citizen	1,000 English 1,000 French
SOAWR Advocacy and Information packs (including Folders, Posters, Stickers and Booklets)	500 Eng 200 French
2009 Annual Report	500 English/French
Poster summarizing the provisions of the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa	1,000 English/Swahili
The African Women’s Journal (December 2010)	1,000 English/French
2011 FEMNET Calendars	500 English 500 French
2011 FEMNET Pocket diaries	500 English 500 French

3.1.3 Gender and Development Resource Center

The Resource Center (RC) is a depository of useful printed materials that supports the research work of the Secretariat, members and various organizations. Many of the publications have been obtained from actors in and outside Africa that are involved in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. A list of some of the useful resources and publications received in the Resource Center in 2010 is attached at the end of the report (see Annex A).

In an effort to attract more users to the Resource Center, FEMNET introduced the Intergenerational Dialogue Series for Young Women and Men. The first dialogue was held in June 2010. The Dialogue targeted university and college students pursuing courses in gender and development, human rights, and mass communication with an aim to encourage the sharing of information and experiences so as to mentor and empower upcoming gender activists. The 30 students who participated also received and had access to a wide range of information resources on gender matters through the RC. The second Dialogue was held in September 2010 and it brought together 20 students who debated around innovative ways to promote and protect democracy in Africa by the young people. This was in commemoration of the International Democracy day (September 15th). In addition, the



Information Manager organized the annual Open Days and Public Consultations on 9th – 10th December 2010. The 50 representatives from different community and information centers from within Nairobi and its environs who attended the open days learned more about FEMNET's work and also benefited from a donation of a selection of diverse gender-related information materials, including FEMNET's publications (reports, newsletters, DVDs and policy briefs).

The summary of visitors to the FEMNET Resource Center including users of its various services and those who participated in the special events, the dialogues and open days in 2010 are as follows:

Event/ Service	Quantity	Comments
Visitors/ users of the Resource Center & general inquiries	54	The tracking of the users of the services of the RC is mainly done by the Interns under the supervision of the Information Manager.
The FEMNET website hits/ visitors	9,514	The traffic on the website increased significantly in 2010 (compared to 5,996 hits in 2009)
Intergenerational Dialogues	50	These were the highlights of the year as they provided us with a new avenue to share African feminist values, principles & ways of organizing with young upcoming activists.
Open Days and Public Consultations	50	These allowed more CSOs based in Nairobi to access FEMNET's information resources
Visitors reached during Exhibitions in 2010 (Kenya Gender Festival & at the Human Rights Book Fair by ACDHRS)	Over 300	These were strategic avenues for sharing FEMNET publications with the wider populace

3.1.4 The Freedom of Information (FOI) and Women's Rights Project

In 2010, FEMNET successfully completed the first phase of the Freedom of Information (FOI) project which began in June 2009 and ended with publishing a Resource book titled Freedom of Information and Women's Rights in Africa. The book was first launched at the pan-Africa level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the 3rd Gender Pre-Summit Meeting on 30th January 2010. The second launch was at the international level held in Paris and was done as part of the broader activities for UNESCO's 2010 International Women's Day celebrations hosted by the Division for Gender Equality of the Bureau of Strategic Planning and Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO in collaboration with FEMNET. Representing FEMNET at the launch was the Executive Board Secretary Madam Fatma Alloo and Carlyn Hambuba the Communication Officer. The international launch was a high profile event drawing participation of Ambassadors from five countries where the case studies were undertaken. Several Directors from various divisions at the UNESCO Head Office in Paris attended the launch ceremony. The Book was again launched at the national level in Zambia as part of the closing of the Second Annual Conference on Women in Politics held in Lusaka in June 2010. Zambia is one of the countries that provided a case study documented in the book. Dissemination of the book continued throughout the year 2010 as it attracted a lot of interest from women organizations to learn from the strategies that can be used to increase access to information that is in possession of government.



implement five principles namely *country ownership, harmonization, alignment, managing for development results and mutual accountability* with 56 targets to be achieved by 2010. The Paris Declaration promotes the use of various new aid modalities like direct budget support, that are intended to increase ownership of the development plans and their effective implementation by the aid recipient countries. Since the adoption of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) adopted in 2008 to supplement the Declaration, FEMNET has played a central role in mobilizing African women to participate and engage in discussions around aid effectiveness, take advantage of the opportunities this agenda provides to improve funding streams for women's rights work in Africa. When the targets are realized and the PD and AAA are fully implemented the process has the capacity to transform the lives of African women.

3.1.5 Aid Effectiveness Agenda

FEMNET has for many years engaged in international and regional discussions around the Aid Effectiveness agenda as it has many implications for its work in the Africa region as the majority of countries are heavily dependent on development aid to finance their annual and development budgets. In 2005, at a High-level Forum organized by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), members agreed on and adopted the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, a global consensus for reforming the delivery and management of aid to improve its effectiveness. Ninety partner countries, 30 donor countries and 30 development agencies, including the United Nations and the World Bank committed to

FEMNET has therefore, taken the lead among African women organizations to monitor and generate data and information that assess the progress made in implementing the PD and how this is translating into improving the quality of life for the citizens of African countries. As part of its monitoring role and preparations for the Fourth High Level Forum (HLF4) on Aid Effectiveness, which will be held in Busan, Korea, in 2011, FEMNET embarked on a multi-country research to review and assess the implementation of the PD and Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) from a gender perspective in 9 African countries. FEMNET partnered with Reality for Aid Africa Network (RoA-Africa) to undertake the research. The countries covered include Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Benin, Malawi, Mozambique, and Cameroon. As part of

the process of undertaking the studies there was some level of awareness raising as the researchers met with key women organizations that are engaged in women's empowerment work and monitoring of financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women through gender responsive budgeting initiatives.

By the end of the year all the four country studies that FEMNET directly commissioned were completed, which were reviewed and further inputs sought to strengthen the assessment on how the aid effectiveness agenda has supported the realization of commitments made to African women through the MDGs and other binding instruments endorsed at the international, regional and sub-regional levels. FEMNET in 2011 will partner with several African women organizations, RoA-Africa Network and several African governments to host a Regional Consultative Meeting. At this meeting the findings of the Multi-Country Studies will be presented for validation and adoption of key messages for African leaders to act upon to improve aid policies, systems and structures for implementation, and to achieve better development results beyond 2010.

At the international level FEMNET continued to work closely with the Association for Women Rights in Development (AWID) and WIDE Network its global partners since 2008 to facilitate the sharing of information, online consultations and to write for various publications and online journals about highlights and developments at the international and regional levels on aid effectiveness. This was intended to sustain the momentum for monitoring, build the knowledge base among key actors and keep making the connections that make the AE agenda relevant to the development and women's rights and empowerment agenda in various regions of the world. It was also intended to keep the African women's voices strong and their views visible in the global civil society platforms on AE like the BetterAid Group.

3.1.6 Other key activities

■ *Adult Education*

As part of contributing to efforts aimed at promoting female literacy in Africa FEMNET has partnered with DVV International in Mozambique and other organizations in implementing the Female Literacy in Angola and Mozambique (FELITAMO) project. FELITAMO Project is funded by the European Union and managed by DVV International of Mozambique



and is aimed at improving women's literacy and empowerment by enhancing non state actors' capacities to promote adult literacy models at national, regional and international levels. The project is currently being implemented in Angola and Mozambique using innovative literacy practices by supporting women's participation in policy development on literacy and adult education programmes. FEMNET's role in this project is to help in disseminating information through our monthly electronic bulletin, publications including posting some of the information on our website. FEMNET is also using this project to break ground in Lusophone countries. So far one organization from Mozambique (Forum Mulher) has joined the network.

■ *African Women's Expert database*

The process of updating this database continued throughout the year. As part of the preparations for the 5th Programming Conference and General Assembly efforts intensified to generate additional information on African women experts particularly in the following areas: leadership and development, gender analysis and development, human rights; health, primary health care and maternal health; media and communication; public relations and marketing; banking and micro finance management; community development, fundraising and entrepreneurship; engineers; experienced trainers and facilitators in gender analysis and mainstreaming and women in education. The information is accessible through the FEMNET website www.femnet.or.ke. In case you are interested in adding your profile onto the website send an email to library@femnet.or.ke. Maintaining the African Women's database is a major resource for FEMNET as we are asked by many organizations to recommend African women

for research, for profiling, for high level appointments, as key contacts in their respective countries and for funding opportunities particularly those based in women's rights organizations. It is also resourceful for the Secretariat when seeking for female experts in specific fields to support the work of FEMNET.

■ **Special Project: Production of Herstory Book - The Story of FEMNET**

In the 2008 – 2012 Strategic Plan members indicated the need to celebrate FEMNET 20 years of existence (1988 – 2008). Throughout 2008 we celebrated the achievements of the Network and highlighted them through posters, our publications (for example the 2008 Annual Report), through all our online communication, at public events and through the various activities of the Network. By the end of the year as we celebrated the Human Rights day on 10th of December 2008 it was agreed that FEMNET should develop a publication that systematically narrates its history in a manner that is inspiring to the activists today and those who will soon take over from the current champions. This was the origin of the idea for the production of "HERSTORY Book:

The Life Story of FEMNET.' In response to this idea FEMNET embarked on a Special Project to produce a book that captures the history of the African women's movement narrated from the perspective of the birth, establishment and growth of the biggest regional networks of African women's organizations and groups, that is, FEMNET. The Publication initially was intended to be ready and launched during the Fifth Programming Conference and General Assembly of FEMNET which was held in October 2010. However, the challenges of collecting information across the region from the founders, other key contributors to the content and images to be captured in the book and limited resources that slowed down the production process this was not possible. Therefore, in 2010 the focus was mainly on information collection and interviewing key personalities. By year end most of the required materials had been collected, transcribed and organized for easy retrieval. This project will therefore, continue into 2011. The Book Project is led by Madam Fatma Alloo former FEMNET Board Secretary who is working closely with the Executive Director and the Communication Team at the Secretariat to complete the Book. Hopefully we shall all live to see the finished product which should be ready for circulation by the end of 2011.



■ **FEMNET Membership:**

By the time of the adoption of the FEMNET Strategic Plan in 2008 it was noted that FEMNET's members has not been very actively engaged in the activities of the Network and many had not consistently fulfilled their basic obligation of paying their annual membership subscription. Therefore in the three years 2008 – 2010 there had been great focus on mobilizing the membership, keeping them engaged in the activities of the Network and also making every effort to respond to their information, networking and capacity building needs. The year 2010 being an election year focused a lot on sharing information with the membership so that they prepare themselves for the Fifth Programming Conference and General Assembly. We overhauled the membership database, obtained additional information on each member organization and individuals, and targeted to get at least 80% of the membership to submit their membership fees, encouraging lumpsum subscriptions for 3 years. This was a strategy adopted to reduce on the collection costs in terms of bank charges, staff time and communication expenses. In addition we aggressively attracted new members (individual and organizational) and by the year end this was the summary of FEMNET fully paid up membership:

Sub- region and the countries covered	Number of members	
	Organizational	Individual
Central Africa (Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo -Brazaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, and Rwanda)	25	23
Eastern and Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somali and Sudan)	35	38
North Africa (Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia)	6	2
Southern Africa (Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland Zambia, and Zimbabwe)	18	15
West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Niger, Togo, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, and Sierra Leone)	48	97
Sub-regional/Regional organizations (Eastern, Southern, and Western)	3	-
International	1	-
Total	136	175

Compared to the previous two year there was a 20% increase in the membership of FEMNET in 2010. This was in line with the targets set in the FEMNET Strategic Plan. Secondly, many long time members revived their participation in the FEMNET activities. Finally, we improved the process of collecting and updating the membership database which is also accessible to different users through the FEMNET website at www.femnet.or.ke

■ Support to National Focal Point organizations

In the period 2008 – 2009 FEMNET signed Memorandum of Understanding with at least 10 national level member organizations that are either umbrella organizations or networks of other national based organizations. This was in line with one of the objectives of the FEMNET Strategic Plan (2008 – 2012) to strength its national focal point organizations and capacity to collaborate and implement various activities with them and through them. In 2010 FEMNET used a two- pronged approach to support National focal points. First it held some of its sub-regional activities in collaboration with its national focal points depending on

the country where the event was held. Three examples of this collaboration stand out in the case of the Central Africa Post- Beijing + 15 Review Meeting held in May, 2010 in Kinshasa, DRC for the Central Africa Region in collaboration with CONAFED (Comité National Femme et Développement = National Committee for Women and Development); the East and Horn of Africa Post- Beijing +15 Review meeting held in June 2010 in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania collaboration with TGNP and the Second Regional Conference for African Women in Politics held in Lusaka, Zambia in collaboration with Zambia Association for Research & Development (ZARD). The Second Strategy was to work closely with the Executive Board members in Tanzania, Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia, DRC, and Mali to mobilize at the national level the membership and keep them active in the affairs of FEMNET. Some contributed stories to the publications and to the monthly e- bulletin. Others like in Cote d'Ivoire they reached out to other women organizations that support girls' education and adult education schemes for women and men. The purpose was to strengthen the national focal point organizations to be conduits for information collection, sharing and dissemination in order to widen FEMNET coverage

through its network members. In addition for those events, it is capacity building and enhancing institutional focal points who co-hosted the sub- regional/ regional capacity to deliver on such high profile events.

Summary of Key Outputs & Outcomes under the Communication and Networking Programme

Key Outputs

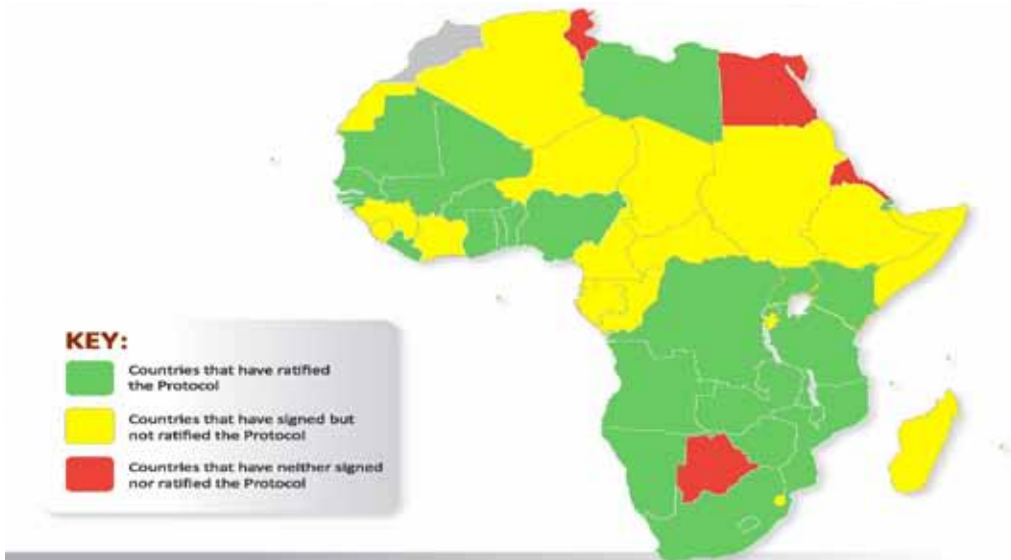
The quality and quantity of FEMNET publications improved. This was building on the achievements of the last three years. The following copies were printed and circulated to FEMNET members and partners:-

- 1,000 copies of the **FEMNET News**
- 1,500 English and 500 French copies of the Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health policy briefs
- 500 English and 200 French copies of the SOAWR Information and Advocacy folders (each folder comprising of a poster, stickers with five key messages, booklet of the simplified version of the Protocol and colored map showing the status of ratification in Africa)
- 1,000 branded folders for the EA Caravan and 1,000 packs/ inserts
- Production of the Monthly **E-** bulletins (12 issues) circulated to all members on the six listserves which include over 10,000 organizational contacts spread out in the Africa region and our partners in other parts of the world.
- Printed 2 large petition banners for the East Africa Caravan on Maternal Health.
- Increased media coverage of FEMNET in the news at regional level and international levels
- The overhauled membership database
- Updated African Women's Experts database

Key Outcomes

- Increase in the number of the information resources and services offered through the Gender & Development Resource Center and the Website
- Donated books to GROOTS- Kenya a very active member organization based in Kenya that distributed the materials to various resource centers in different parts of the country.
- The IDASA Project brought in an expert on database development and management and website design as direct contribution to FEMNET's work. FEMNET also sent one Exchange Fellow from the membership to South Africa to support IDASA mainstream gender in their core programmes.
- Increased publicity of the work of the Network.
- FOI book successfully launched at international, regional and country level thus also increasing the international and regional accolades of the organization.
- Increase in membership and their active participation in Network activities.
- Enhanced capacities of National Focal point organizations to host and organize sub- regional or regional events and building networking capacities. This is work in progress as organizations are at different levels of growth and development.

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SIGNED, RATIFIED/ACCEDED TO THE PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA



KEY:
 Green: Countries that have ratified the Protocol
 Yellow: Countries that have signed but not ratified the Protocol
 Red: Countries that have neither signed nor ratified the Protocol

● Countries that have ratified the Protocol (29)					
• Angola	• Dem.Rep.of Congo	• Kenya	• Mali	• Rwanda	• Togo
• Benin	• Djibouti	• Lesotho	• Mauritania	• Senegal	• Uganda
• Burkina Faso	• Gambia	• Liberia	• Mozambique	• Seychelles	• Zambia
• Cape Verde	• Ghana	• Libya	• Namibia	• South Africa	• Zimbabwe
• Comoros	• Guinea-Bissau	• Malawi	• Nigeria	• Tanzania	
● Countries that have signed but not ratified the Protocol (20)					
Algeria	Chad	Ethiopia	Mauritius	Sao Tome & Principe	Sudan
Burundi	Congo	Gabon	Niger	Sierra Leone	Swaziland
Cameroon	Cote d'Ivoire	Guinea	Sahrawi Arab Dem.Rep	Somalia	
Central African Rep.	Equatorial Guinea	Madagascar			
● Countries that have neither signed nor ratified the Protocol (4)					
Botswana	Egypt	Eritrea	Tunisia		

3.2 Strategic Goal 2: Enhancing Advocacy For Women's Rights at the National, Regional and International levels

FEMNET continued to play her pivotal role of advocating and lobbying for reforms in laws, policies and practices that are of relevance to the promotion and fulfilment of women's rights at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels. This involved key activities that are intended at addressing the gender disparities and women's rights issues at all levels. In 2010 FEMNET aimed at increasing its influence, visibility, mobilization of women and men across the region to take concrete lobbying and advocacy actions at different levels and to contribute to strengthening the African women's movement. To achieve these objectives under this strategic goal the Reports provides some of the highlights of the programs and activities FEMNET

spearheaded. It is important to note that all activities undertaken are part of bigger processes that involve different actors, including member organizations and their constituents, and various strategic partners at national, regional and international levels.

3.2.1 AU Project on the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa / SOAWR Coalition

Prior to and during the 14th Ordinary African Union Summit of the Heads States and governments held in January/February 2010, members of Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR), a

Coalition of 35 civil society organizations working on women's rights issues in Africa, of which FEMNET is a founder member, continued its advocacy work, urging African leaders to urgently achieve universal ratification and take actions to fully implement the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (commonly referred to as the AU Protocol on Women's Rights). The theme of the 14th Ordinary Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was ***"Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development."*** SOAWR Coalition members considered this theme most relevant as it would enable African leaders to deliberate on ways and strategies to reduce the information gap between the rich and the poor in Africa. Access to information is a human right which if realized by the majority of citizens, has the potential to transform Africa as we have witnessed with the progress made in the telecommunications sector in the last 10 – 15 years. Therefore, in preparation for the pre-Summit activities FEMNET took the lead in the SOAWR Coalition to prepare a Policy Brief on how the gender divide in ICTs in Africa can be effectively reduced, with recommendations for Member States to consider as they deliberated on the theme of the Summit (see Annex B). The outcomes of the 14th AU Summit indicate that there is commitment on the part of African leaders to use ICTs to increase people's capacity to have access to critical information, data, and knowledge that supports the development process in Africa. Since the time of the Summit the AU initiated a project that is promoting use of ICTs to disseminate agriculture-related and marketing information. They also used ICTs throughout the year 2010 to mobilize African women and men to participate in the activities focusing on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa. In addition to the lobby work, FEMNET launched the Freedom for Information Book in the margins of the Summit. The book provides information on how women's organizations in five countries have lobbied for law, policy and practice reforms regarding citizens' access to information held by the government. This is one way FEMNET created visibility for its work. The Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights in Africa Ms. Soyata Maiga officiated at the launch ceremony which was attended by, among others, the Director of Women, Gender and Development Directorate at the AUC, the Chairperson of FEMNET Mama Koite, other officials from the AUC, members of Gender is My Agenda Campaign and representatives of donor partners including UNESCO.

SOAWR Coalition members had decided at the 2009 Annual Review and Planning Meeting to focus on specific countries for scaled up advocacy for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol. The countries of focus for lobbying for the ratification of the Protocol included Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Tunisia. By the end of the year two out of the five countries had ratified the Protocol.

The Coalition members took advantage of key momentous events taking place in Uganda and Kenya in 2010, namely the hosting of the 15th Ordinary AU Summit in July 2010 in Uganda and the hosting of the Continental Launch of the African Women's Decade (2010 – 2020) in Kenya in October 2010. The advocacy efforts in the two countries were successful as both states ratified the Protocol in July and October 2010 respectively, bringing the number of AU member states that had ratified the Protocol by end of 2010 to 29 out of 53 member states. It is important to note that the two countries ratified the Protocol with reservations particularly on some of the provisions in Article 14 that is on sexual and reproductive health and rights. It was paradoxical for Kenya and Uganda for the governments to ratify the Protocol with reservations on Article 14 among others at a time when African leaders were converging at the 15th Ordinary Summit which focused on the theme ***"Child, Infant and Maternal health in Africa."*** One of the main causes of poor health and mortality is the denial, neglect or outright abuse of women's right to sexual and reproductive health in Africa. Similarly the AWD is intended to overcome all remaining obstacles that stand in the way of majority of African women to enjoy their rights and realize their full potential. Therefore, the SOAWR Coalition members will continue to work tirelessly with their partners in the 2 countries to ensure that the reservations are lifted in the shortest time possible. This will be part of the focus for the advocacy actions of FEMNET and the Coalition members in 2011.

Also in 2010, FEMNET on behalf of SOAWR Coalition took the lead in developing additional information and advocacy materials used for the intensified lobbying and advocacy activities at the country and regional levels for the ratification of the Protocol on Women's Rights. The materials developed included posters and stickers and a simplified booklet on the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. The Poster with an abridged version of the Protocol was produced in English and Swahili. This has been a very popular educational tool due to its portability and variety of languages.

Using Radio to further the domestication and implementation of the Protocol on the Rights of women in Africa

The production of the **Crossroads** radio drama was an initiative of FEMNET and FAHAMU through the Media for Women's Right (MEWOR) Project in 2008. Crossroads is a six series radio drama which was produced to be used by SOAWR members to popularize and educate the public and targeted communities on the Protocol and how its provisions can be invoked to protect and defend women's rights. In 2010 with support from FAHAMU, FEMNET worked in Kenya and Togo using the **Crossroads** drama to increase public awareness on women's rights in general and those included in the Protocol specifically. In Kenya, FEMNET worked closely with the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) to identify eight (8) communities in both urban and rural areas where violations of women's rights are widespread. The community groups that participated were drawn from **Garissa, Malindi, Kisumu, Naivasha, Wajir, Isiolo and Nairobi**. Dialogues were held on a weekly basis for 10 weeks and they targeted a cross section of individuals including elders and opinion leaders in the mentioned areas. This was done just prior to the Referendum on the new Constitution for Kenya that took place on 4th August 2010. The aim was to inform, educate and mobilize listeners for action to stop violations of women's rights.

FEMNET worked with the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) one of the popular media groups with a nationwide coverage to air the **Crossroads** Radio Drama series for a period of 10 weeks. The Drama was aired in English and Swahili which are the two national languages of Kenya. KBC is strategically positioned to reach out to listeners across the country as its radius reaches masses in urban and semi-urban centers and rural areas. Discussions were held on – air immediately after the airing of each episode, where FEMNET hosted several women's rights leaders and activists on a weekly basis. These helped to clarify issues raised by the moderator and to respond to questions from the public. Through the radio listener groups (RLG) of women and men in the communities mentioned above FEMNET promoted a horizontal 2-way engagement (interactive) rather than a one-way communication (speaking to the listeners with no chance for the listeners to share their views). The interactive mode enabled FEMNET to obtain immediate feedback on the effectiveness of the **Crossroads** drama. Responding to questions on the spot helped to clear some of the myths and misconceptions people have about women's rights and the misinformation on some of the provisions in the

AU Protocol on Women's Rights. More than 300 men and women directly participated in the program and of course there were hundreds of thousands of listeners throughout the country.

Kenya finally adopted its new Constitution which guarantees most of the rights articulated in the AU Protocol on Women's Rights. The immediate outcome of this project was the commitment of most of the discussion groups to take further action and continue with the sensitization of other community members including women through organized groups like Chief's **barazas (public forums)**, churches and community development forums while other groups wanted to use the drama series in markets and other public places. The listening group in Naivasha sent a proposal to FEMNET seeking financial support to continue with follow-up activities and create awareness in public places like markets and church meetings using the drama series. Somali communities in Kenya also requested that the **Crossroads** drama be translated into Somali language to enable more people in the area to understand the provisions of the Protocol and its relevance to their protection from abuse and other violations. One participant confessed that he had been abusing his wife and after listening to the drama and the discussions he promised to stop all forms of violence against his wife.

In Togo FEMNET worked with WILDAF Togo who recommended a member organization called Groupe de Réflexion et d'Action Femme Démocratie et Développement (GF2D) to be the partner to organize and coordinate the process. GF2D identified eleven communities spread out in 5 administrative regions and in the capital Lomé, these included: Tone, Oti, Kéran, Kara, Sotouboua, Tchaoudjo, Wawa, Kloto, Vo, Golfe (Aflao county) and the Lomé commune. In each community a community radio was used to broadcast the **Crossroads** Drama in French. The eleven community radio who engaged in this project are: Radio Communautaire des Savanes [**Savannes Community radio**], NAFA, KERAN, TABALA, COSMOS, MERIDIEN, radio MARIA, SKY FM, CITADELLE, CARRE JEUNES, NANA FM.

Immediate outcome in Togo is that some of the community groups including the networks of paralegals, requested to reproduce the drama into other easy formats such as sketch to enable communities which do not speak French to also benefit from the content of the drama series. A critical group of women organizations also committed to continue with the education and public sensitization using the drama series.

3.2.2 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

One of FEMNET's focus areas in the Strategic Plan (2008 – 2012) is sexual and reproductive health. It is FEMNET's firm belief that if every African woman and girl was sufficiently empowered to protect and demand for their Right to Sexual and Reproductive health there will be total transformation in their status and position in society. It is for this reason that FEMNET dedicated tremendous time and financial resources in 2010 to inform women and men about the benefits of ensuring that women's right to sexual and reproductive health is respected and fulfilled at all stages of their lives. The focus of the African Union on child and maternal health provided FEMNET and its partners in the SOAWR Coalition an entry point for their interventions throughout the year.

The African Union Commission hosted a Continental Conference on **“Maternal, Infant and Child Health in Africa: The Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights”** on April 19-21, 2010 in Ethiopia under the theme **‘Implementation of the MDGs through Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality in Africa.’** The purpose of the Conference was to review progress made by the member states on the implementation of the Maputo Plan of Action (Maputo PoA), between 2005 and its expiration in 2010.

CSOs sought to engage in this meeting in order to influence key actions that would guide member states' policies and actions on maternal, infant and child health and the Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (RSRH). Consequently, a CSOs' Experts' Consultative Meeting was organized by FEMNET on behalf of the SOAWR Coalition, in partnership with SOAWR members, ABANTU for Development, IPAS Africa Alliance, IPPF Africa Region, Save the Children International, and the UN Millennium Campaign, and in collaboration with the AU Department of Social Affairs. The CSOs meeting discussed and agreed on key messages and issues that member states need to focus on if significant progress is to be achieved. The CSOs Communiqué emerging from the meeting (see Annex C) was utilized to lobby participants at the two days AU Experts Meeting which was held immediately after the CSOs meeting.



As a result of the advocacy, four recommendations from the civil society consultation, primarily concerning reproductive health commodities security and making maternal deaths notifiable, were ultimately integrated into the AU experts' communiqué to the Ministers of Health. The communiqué was presented to African Health Ministers on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in May 2010 in Geneva, and finally tabled for consideration and adoption to Heads of States and Governments at the African Union (AU) Summit in July 2010.

In addition to the lobbying done at the Experts Meeting FEMNET joined ABANTU for Development, the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC), and various SOAWR Coalition members to organize the first ever **East African Caravan on Maternal Health**. Launched in Nairobi, Kenya on 3rd July 2010, the Caravan traveled from Kenya, through Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda, before arriving in Kampala just prior to the AU Summit where African Heads of State and Governments were to discuss the issue of Infant, Child and Maternal Health and Development in Africa. The purpose of the Caravan was to collect evidence from the citizens of the East African community about the plight of the many women and children who continue to die due to preventable causes. The message of the Caravan was in line with that of the Campaign launched by the African Union (CARMMA) in 2009 that **“Africa Cares: No Woman Should Die while Giving Life.”** Along

the route, the Caravan organizers held public rallies, lobbied policy makers, engaged widely with the media, and offered free health information and basic medical services and referral advice in identified health facilities, social centers and schools. In all stopover places the people signed onto a mega “People’s Petition” as a sign of their commitment to play their part to reduce child and maternal deaths, and to demand for accountability from the leaders who were to converge in Kampala for the 16th AU Summit. The photos, printed stories and videos from the Caravan were later used as part of an exhibition and advocacy tool in various forums during the Summit, and in other strategic spaces for the remainder of the year. FEMNET was pleased to note that the Heads of State’s decisions adopted at the end of the 15th AU Summit included the aforementioned recommendations included in the CSO Experts Meeting Communiqué.

In the months following the Summit, FEMNET in collaboration with its national partners in Kenya and Tanzania lobbied Members of Parliament to monitor the implementation of the AU Summit decisions on maternal health. The emphasis was on lobbying to achieve the 15% minimum in health sector budget allocations and in particular to increase the resource allocation for integrated maternal health services. A photo exhibition was held in Nairobi Kenya on 17th November 2010 to share with the general public the unique experiences of the Caravan, and lobby the Ministry of Health to consider the recommendations from the CSOs Experts Consultative Meeting and the Caravan when planning and budgeting for the Health Sector in the budget 2010/2011 and throughout the Africa Women’s Decade.

Through the East African Caravan FEMNET and its partners were able to reach over 5,000,000 people in the sub-region and many more through the online communications, debates and reports posted on the FEMNET website and on a special online blog <http://eacaravan2010.wordpress.com>. In addition FEMNET produced a pamphlet on Sexual and Reproductive Health in English and French which provides basic information that every person must have in order to protect their right to sexual and reproductive health.

3.2.3 UN Commission on the Status of Women, 54th session



Every year for the last 10 years FEMNET has taken the lead in facilitating African women to participate effectively in the annual Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which is held in February/ March over a 10-day period. The purpose of the CSW sessions is for member states to give an account on the progress achieved in implementing the various commitments to women’s rights under internationally agreed human rights instruments and development goals like the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) of 1995. The year 2010 marked the 15th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and consequently the theme of the 54th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in New York from March 1-12, 2010, was “*15-year Review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (1995) and the outcomes of the 23rd Session of the General Assembly (2000).*”

In 2009, as part of the Africa NGO taskforce on Beijing +15, FEMNET took the lead in collecting national shadow reports and compiling the *Africa Women’s Regional Shadow Report on Beijing+15 – “A Regional Analysis on the Status of Women: 15 Years after the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.”* Thirteen countries submitted shadow reports or filled out a questionnaire to feed into the African Women’s NGOs Regional Shadow Report. Three sub-regional NGO Shadow Reports were also compiled by WILDAF-West Africa which covered 15 countries

under ECOWAS, EASSI which covered 8 countries in Eastern and Horn of Africa, and WLSA covering the 15 SADC countries.

The draft report was discussed by women leaders who participated in the African Women's NGOs Consultative meeting held in Banjul, The Gambia in November 2009, which was held in the margins of the 8th Africa Regional Conference on Women (Beijing +15). Their concerns and recommendations were later integrated into the final Report of the Conference as adopted by the Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs in Africa.

In March 2010, FEMNET launched the Regional Shadow Report during the first session of the African Women's Caucus (AWC) held in the margins of the 2010 CSW Session. The launch function was presided over by Hon. Gertrude Mongella, the Convener of the 1995 Conference in Beijing, and was attended by the Chief of the Africa Section at UNIFEM (now UN Women) among many other distinguished women leaders, and over 150 other participants. FEMNET supported 15 participants including grassroots and young women activists drawn from across the region to participate in the Global NGO Forum and the CSW Session in New York. Participants were from member organizations in DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia. Over 500 copies of the Shadow Report in English and French were distributed during the various events held at the CSW. Additionally, FEMNET distributed a handout of the key recommendations emerging from African women's organizations, as contained in the shadow report, to government delegations, media, development agencies and civil society organizations present at the CSW (see *Annex D*).

Following the CSW session, FEMNET in collaboration with several of its national Focal Points and partners, convened three Sub- regional debriefing meetings for Central Africa (held in DRC in May), Eastern and Horn of Africa (held in Tanzania in June) and West Africa (held in Ghana in September). The purpose was to disseminate the outcomes of the Beijing +15 Review and to popularize the African Women's Decade. The three meetings provided platforms for bringing the outcomes of the global Beijing + 15 Review process to the regional, sub-regional and national levels. They also provided space for the participants to reflect on the opportunity of the Decade for state and non-

state actors to work in concert to accelerate the implementation of the commitments to women's human rights over the next 15 years.

Participants at the three Sub- regional debriefing meetings were supported to develop realistic action plans which they were to implement throughout the year 2010 and beyond. FEMNET had the opportunity to provide sub- grants from a UNIFEM grant for three countries to undertake follow up actions agreed upon. The countries supported were Sudan (South), Ethiopia and Kenya. The participants in these countries were able to disseminate the Beijing + 15 Review findings and recommendations and also share the goal and objectives of the AWD right to the grassroots levels using local languages of the areas to ensure clear messaging and maximum interaction.

3.2.4 African Women's Decade Launch

Prior to the Continental launch of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020), FEMNET on behalf of the SOAWR Coalition coordinated the preparations and execution of the NGO Forum in collaboration with other women's organizations based in Kenya. The one-day Forum was held on 10th October 2010. As a result, over 250 women, mostly from the grassroots, were facilitated by different actors to participate in the NGO Forum, learn about the Decade and contribute to the key messages contained in the Women's *NGOs 10-10-10 Communiqué* (see *Annex E*). The Communiqué was used as a lobby document by CSOs to influence the outcome of the Gender Experts meeting and that of



the African Ministers of gender and women's affairs held on the 11th – 12th and 13th - 14th of October 2010 respectively. Elements of the Communiqué, in particular the emphasis on recognition of the role grassroots women play in national development, were adopted by the Ministers into the Nairobi Declaration, the main outcome document of the ministerial meeting.

The African Women's Decade was officially launched at a colorful ceremony on 15th October, 2010 by the President of the Republic of Kenya. H.E. Mwai Kibaki who also officially announced during his speech that Kenya had ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. In attendance at the Launch were the Africa Union Commission Chairperson H.E Jean Ping, the Director of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate at the AUC, Ms. Litha Musyimi-Ogana, the Deputy Secretary - General of the United Nations, Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, members of the Diplomatic Corp resident in Kenya, several Ministers of gender and women's affairs from various African countries, several first ladies, officials from the African Union and the regional economic blocs, representatives of civil society organizations drawn from over 40 African countries and numerous grassroots women leaders. FEMNET supported 105 delegates drawn from 35 countries to be at the launch ceremony of the AWD. The women left the ceremony energized, inspired and committed to be champions for the goals of the decade in their respective countries.

3.2.5 GEAR Campaign

FEMNET sent several rounds of lobby letters to African Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, urging them to come out strongly in favor of the establishment of a new UN entity for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. The key messages were for the member states to adopt a resolution for the establishment of a well resourced (in terms of finances, structure and human resources) and strategically positioned new UN entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The GEAR Campaign group was also lobbying for a concrete mechanism to be put in place to ensure sustained engagement with civil society organizations specifically women's organizations and networks in the governance of the new entity.

The Entity was finally established on the 2nd of July 2010 and the first Under Secretary – General and Executive Director of UN Women appointed in September 2010. The highlight of the GEAR Campaign for Africa in 2010 was organizing a High Level delegation of African Women to meet with Ms. Michelle Bachelet in November 2010. FEMNET together with leaders from the African Feminist Forum coordinated the preparations for the High Level meeting and the development of a Statement that was presented to Ms. Bachelet and her interim team in New York on the 26th of November 2011. The most exciting result of this High Level Meeting is that the four priority areas for action proposed by the African women Leaders in the statement submitted to Ms. Bachelet have been included in the six priority areas and Programmes of Action for the next three to five years for the UN Women.

3.2.6 Men to Men Regional Programme

The Men to Men Regional Programme started the year 2010 with increased global focus on the role of men in social development, and human and women's rights advancement. Increasingly, the role of men is attracting the attention of many scholars who are investigating outcomes of the projects that work with men to end violence against women. To this end, FEMNET's Men to Men Programme continued throughout the year to inform major research studies from universities and institutions of higher learning across the world. The programme inspired the establishment of the men's programme at the University of Virginia following a series of research programmes undertaken by Sharon Davis the manager of women center for more than three years.

Kenya is the home to FEMNET Secretariat and the Men to Men programme continues to offer the important connection with the Kenyans civil society and grass roots organization who are participating in the We Can Campaign. FEMNET is the national coordinator for the campaign in Kenya. "We Can" Campaign is a global mass campaign whose aim is to end the social acceptance of violence against women and girls through individual action. In Kenya, the campaign is running in five provinces of Western, Central, Nyanza, Rift Valley and Nairobi. The campaign is spearheaded by the focal point organization who mobilize and recruit change makers at community level. In the first half of the year 2010 the following activities were undertaken:

- Completed the final narrative and financial report to Heinrich Boll Foundation grant **“Men to Men Regional Expansion Programme 2009”** that supported participation in the 53rd Session on the Commission on the Status of Women—CSW in New York in 2009 and the post CSW follow up meetings in Uganda and Kenya. The participation in the CSW increased the visibility of Men to Men Strategy as a leading model in male involvement at the global arena;
- Disbursed the We Can Campaign grants (through support provided by Oxfam Novib) to the five focal point organizations in the five regions where We Can Campaign is working in Kenya. The regions have successfully built an alliance with 150 NGOs, Faith-based and Community based organizations (CBOs) across the country. The oversight role played by FEMNET contributed to institutional and systems strengthening to enhance internal accountability procedures, planning and delivery of programme activities and engagement with the communities;
- Secured funding for the Men to Men Regional Programme from HBF to support the programme activities in the project **“Empowering Men to End Gender-Based Violence in East Africa”. A Men to Men Programme in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania** for one year.
- Established the We Can Campaign National Database with a total of 80,000 Changemakers advocating for an end to violence against women in Kenya. By the end of the year the number had increased to 307,000 Changemakers from five regions in Kenya where the campaign is working;
- Organized a successful National Changemakers Conference that brought together 100 Changemakers from five regions where the campaign is working to a networking and exchange session in Nairobi Kenya. At this meeting the participants shared best practices that had contributed to increasing the number of Changemakers and enhanced the effectiveness of their community outreach activities;
- Successfully completed the MEGEN evaluation under the UNIFEM grant that confirmed the viability of working with men in the promotion of gender equality and elimination of violence against women and girls;



- Successfully completed the **“Combating Gender-Based Violence and fighting for Gender Justice: Involving Grassroots Men and Women Project”** Funded by UNIFEM a project of 2008 – 2010 whose main achievements included expansion of the country level Men to Men constituency in Kenya from 24 to 30 and an evaluation of the Men for Gender Equality Now Programme in Kenya was done.
- Participated in the follow up meetings for the Men to Men partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and Mali. During the Regional Strategy Meeting for the FEMNET Men to Men Program held in May 2009, participants from each country agreed on a plan of action which included among others to mobilize resources to support the national level activities. The Regional Coordinator for the Project Kennedy Otina visited the three countries mentioned above to attend their organized activities, monitor progress made in implementing the agreed plans and to provide technical support for the establishment of a strong network of male advocates for gender equality and the campaign on violence against women and girls.
- Showcased the Men to Men Strategy at the UNFPA Regional Meeting dubbed **“Working with Men for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Reproductive Health”**, held in Lusaka, Zambia 3-7 May 2010. This provided an opportunity for FEMNET to share its experiences of working with men over the

last seven years as a strategy to enhance men's involvement and responsibility for building and sustaining violence free homes and communities. As a result of this meeting the Regional Coordinator Kennedy Otina was involved in the training for 40 male gender advocates in partnership with Sierra Leone Gender Working Group that brought together partners from Oxfam Great Britain, Christian Aid, Coopi, Concern World Wide and the European Union, providing FEMNET with yet another opportunity to link up with different actors and organizations in other parts of the region that are interested in learning from the experiences of FEMNET and also to adopt the strategy.

In the second half of 2010, the programme concentrated on implementing the Men to Men Activities supported by Heinrich Boll Foundation in East Africa covering Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. This was after preparing a thorough groundwork in the three countries. Some of the activities that were done in this period included:

- Entered a memorandum of understanding with the ECCA and ALF who are the focal point organizations spearheading the Men to Men Program activities in Uganda and Tanzania;
- Supported MEGEN Kenya to undertake constituency building and survivor support activities in Kenya and linking their local action with the We Can Campaign Changemakers in 10 communities in Kenya;
- Developed a school outreach programme with African Life Foundation targeting four secondary schools in Dar es Salaam to train 30 male teachers and students on masculinity and violence against women to compliment the adolescent sexual and reproductive health programme for girls that is currently implemented by TAMWA in October 2010;
- Trained 30 male champions from diverse socio economic backgrounds in Uganda on the role of men in ending violence against women in partnership with Empower Children and Communities Against Abuse and ICON in Kampala Uganda in September 2010;
- Provided seed support for the Men to Men Programme support for Uganda and Tanzania to aid constituency building for the men's groups. The follow up action plans developed by the teams led to the establishment of in-house male trainers, establishment of the Men to Men clubs in the four schools in Dar es Salam and men to Men constituencies in Kampala, Lyantonde and Gulu districts in Uganda;
- Linked the We Can East Africa to Men to Men Programmes in Uganda and Tanzania through the National alliances in Uganda and Tanzania;
- Participated in the panel to discuss the role of men in combating sexual and gender based violence during the launch of the African Women's Decade on 10th October 2010 in Nairobi in Kenya. This underscored the need and importance of men and women working together to end violence against women;
- Showcased the FEMNET's contribution in working with men during the Men Engage Meeting in Nairobi that brought together participants from 10 African countries. The men to Men Programme is one of the leading programmes that work with men to end violence against women in Africa;
- Participated in the national gender festivals in Nairobi to showcase the We Can Campaign. The activity led to the recruitment of Alliance members and Changemakers committed to ending violence against women in Kenya who joined the We Can campaign;
- Informed research by Mr. Okumba Miruka from Kenyatta University-Kenya, Lauren Harris from Berkley University in USA on transforming archaic masculinity into gender sensitive men. The activity gave the project visibility among scholars and institutions of higher learning;
- Undertook an in-depth external evaluation of MEGEN project to establish its appropriateness of the Men to Men Strategy. The evaluation confirmed the importance of male involvement in combating violence against women in Kenya. It went further to propose other frontiers where the strategy can work to include family planning and social development programmes;
- Worked with the focal point organizations to advocate for the enactment of the new Constitution of Kenya prior to the Referendum held in August 2010. The new Constitution was adopted with guarantees for women's rights and opportunities for participation on

their governance as equal citizens in Kenya;

- Disbursed activity grants to the five focal point organizations for the We Can Campaign in Kenya to support community level activities. In the current project partnership with Oxfam Novib was targeting to register 200,000 Changemakers and 200 alliance members in the year 2010. By the end of the year a total of Kshs. 9,411,994 (USD 120,667) was disbursed. 307,000 Changemakers were registered in the five regions in Kenya where the We Can Campaign is active. The target surpassed the

national targets set under the partnership with Oxfam Novib in 2008.

The programme is working to strengthen the capacity of the focal point organizations and the constituency leaders to undertake the men to men activities at the country level. FEMNET will continue to mobilize resources to make the national level projects attractive to local and international donor partners. As part of the next steps, FEMNET is in the process of developing the technical documents and training materials for a sustained programme in the seven countries.



Summary of Key Outputs & Outcomes under the Advocacy Programme

Key outputs:

Policy Briefs:

- “Bridging the Digital Gender Divide in Africa” – a policy brief for the Summit of the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 2010.
- “The Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health” – a briefing for policy makers, civil society organizations and citizens, June 2010.

Media coverage:

- IPS – interview on the outcomes of the 54th session of the CSW, March 2010
- K24, Citizen and KBC television stations in Kenya – coverage of the Kenyan women’s CSO press conference on the draft Constitution, in which FEMNET was a panelist, March 2010
- TBC television and the Guardian and Citizen newspapers in Tanzania – coverage of the East and Horn of Africa post-CSW meeting in June 2010
- East African Radio – interview on East Africa’s achievement of the MDGs, June 2010
- Over 35 media houses in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda covered the East African Caravan on Maternal Health in July 2010.

Other outputs:

- Trained a core team of 60 male gender advocates on the Men to Men Strategy in Uganda and Tanzania. This formed the core group of the Network of male advocates for gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls in the two countries which is linking up with other advocates in the Regional network from the other five focus countries namely Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Mali and DRC.
- Established the We Can Campaign National Database with a total of 307,000 Changemakers advocating for gender equality and end to violence against women in Kenya
- Supported 15 African women to participate in the 54th Session of the UN CSW in March 2010
- Over 200 women participated in the sessions of the African Women’s Caucus at the CSW.
- Supported over 100 women from 35 countries in the region to witness the historic launch of the African Women’s Decade in October 2010;

Key outcomes:

- UN-Women was established, FEMNET participated in lobbying as a GEAR Campaign focal point in Africa. The lobbying of the African women leaders through the Under Secretary – General and Executive Director of the UN Women successfully influenced the agenda for the UN Women by including the four proposed focus areas in its priority themes for the first five years of its existence.
- Strengthened the Africa Women’s movement through the mobilization, collective leadership and organizing around the Beijing + 15 Review Process.
- Uganda and Kenya ratified the AU Protocol on women’s rights – intense and targeted advocacy activities by the SOAWR Coalition members secured this outcome. This strengthens the legal framework for women’s rights in the two countries.
- Successfully Influenced the Heads of State recommendations on maternal and child health emerging from the 15th AU Summit in Kampala, July 2010.
- Launched the Beijing + 15 Review Report, which provide the baseline for CSOs and Women organizations and network for the activities of the African women’s Decade (2010 – 2020).
- The Continental Launch of the African Women’s Decade (2010-2020) provided a unique platform for mobilization of African leaders, women and men across the region to focus on the goals of the decade and the urgent need for accelerated action to make good the commitments made to African women at the global and regional levels.
- Men to Men Programme continued to inform major research studies from universities and institutions of higher learning across the world. The programme inspired the establishment of the Men’s Program at the University of Virginia, USA following a series of research programmes undertaken over the last three years.
- Successfully completed the “Combating Gender-Based Violence and fighting for Gender Justice: Involving Grassroots Men and Women Project” funded by UNIFEM, a project of 2008 – 2010 through which the flagship publication “**Defying the Odds: Lessons Learnt from Men for Gender Equality Now**” was produced. Through this project FEMNET supported the establishment of the Men for Gender Equality Now as an autonomous NGO in Kenya that is fully registered.
- Supported civic education for the new Constitution in Kenya through the We Can Campaign focal point organizations and alliance members;
- Linked the Men to Men Strategy to reproductive health, family planning and armed conflict management to open new frontiers for male involvement;



3.3 Strategic Goal 3: Training/Capacity-Building

FEMNET's various programmes and activities include a component of capacity building that seeks to develop skills for gender responsive planning and programming including undertaking gender analysis and mainstreaming for member organizations and their partners; improve or foster networking and communication skills for FEMNET members, national focal point organizations and other collaborative partners and strengthen leadership capacity and resource mobilization skills and promote organizational and institutional development. As part of achieving this goal FEMNET undertook the following activities:

3.3.1 Strengthening National Focal Points (NFPs)

In May 2010, FEMNET engaged a short term Consultant to further develop the concept note for the FEMNET Capacity Building and to support the Secretariat in its efforts of mobilizing substantial resources to support the capacity building activities including support to the national Focal Point organizations. FEMNET submitted a proposal to the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) seeking multi-year financial support for its

capacity building activities. By the end of 2010 the assessment process was on-going and hopefully ACBF will be able to partner with FEMNET in 2011 to support its planned capacity building activities in the period July 2011 – June 2014. Otherwise, in 2010 FEMNET worked closely with its focal point organizations in the 10 countries that have signed the Memorandum of Understanding to support its information dissemination efforts. The NFPOs together with other member organizations in Tanzania, DRC, Zambia and Ghana co-hosted some of the regional and sub-regional meetings as indicated above. Through working with the NFPOs and the members FEMNET is able to enhance capacities to conceptualize such convenings and organize them and manage all the in-country preparations.

3.3.2 Female Literacy Project in Angola and Mozambique (FELITAMO) Project

FEMNET in partnership with several organizations and with support from the European Union is executing a three year Female Literacy Project in Angola and Mozambique (FELITAMO Project). Under the FELITAMO Project, FEMNET was to work with the

partners and the collaborating organizations in the two countries to organize a Training of Trainer Workshop intended to enhance the capacities of the trainers to mainstream gender in adult literacy programs and advocate for gender responsive policies and literacy programs. According to the 3 years project document this training was scheduled to take place in 2011. In 2010 FEMNET focused on getting to know the women's organizations that deliver adult literacy programs in the 2 countries. FEMNET registered four organizations that joined its membership, three from Mozambique and one from Angola. Two articles on the literacy activities of the FELITAMO Project were published and one was included in the monthly E- Bulletin and the other was posted onto the FEMNET website. FEMNET also facilitated the distribution of the SOAWR Coalition quarterly newsletter in Portuguese to its member and partners in Angola and Mozambique. These efforts yielded a lot of results in particular FEMNET was able to make its presence known in these two Portuguese speaking countries and laid the ground for further work in 2011 in preparation for the training of trainers' workshop. We were able to have two representatives from Mozambique at the FEMNET Fifth Programming Conference and General Assembly held in October 2010.

3.3.3 Internship Programme

As part of building capacities of young African feminists FEMNET continued to engage young women to work as interns at the Regional Secretariat. In 2010, FEMNET engaged 8 interns who worked with the Programme Staff members who are managing the Advocacy and Communication Programs and activities. The interns hosted included the following and each of them worked with us for at least 3 months:-

- Esther Babunga (*Administration – Finance*)
- Jacinta Kimani (*Administration*)
- Lillian Mathu (*Advocacy – East African Caravan on Maternal Health*)
- Maureen Mukalo (*Advocacy –Men to men Regional Program*)
- Patience Kang'ethe (*Resource Center*)
- Regina Makasi (*Communications*)
- Ruth Dede (*Advocacy and Communication*)
- Sheila Mulli (*Advocacy and Communication*)

As part of its commitment to promote the Charter of Feminist Principles first introduced in November 2006 in Accra, Ghana at the First African Feminist Forum FEMNET ensured that all interns who worked at the Secretariat were introduced to the principles and values in the Charter and throughout their stay they were guided on how to practically apply them when making decisions, organizing different activities and interacting with people from different constituencies. At the end of the internship period a questionnaire was administered to assess the extent to which the interns understood the feminist principles and their application. They were also given the opportunity to provide additional feedback on their experience of working at FEMNET and how they would use the knowledge, skills and information obtained during the internship period. One of the interns had this to say:

“While at FEMNET I had the opportunity to read publications which have informed me more about feminism, its history, where the feminist movement is today and the struggles involved in liberating the African woman, from the patriarchal ideologies and political injustices. As an individual, it is difficult to separate the feminist principles because various circumstances call for different responses, but the one I adhere to strongly is individual ethics as one has to be complete as a person to be in a position to relate with others.”
Maureen Mukalo, FEMNET Intern (Men to Men Regional Program)

From February 25th - 27th 2010, FEMNET participated in a planning meeting with the Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA) to discuss the modalities and substance of the IDASA/FK Exchange programme. The Exchange programme facilitates the exchange of specialized personnel (ages 22 – 35 years) between different organizations with an aim to transfer expertise/skills and promote networking for a period of ten months. FEMNET partnered with IDASA based in South Africa; Makerere Institute for Social Research (MISR) based in Uganda; and Public Affairs and Parliamentary Support Trust (PAPST) based in Zimbabwe and together they will seek to promote good governance through effective research and communication between 2010 and 2012. The programme is supported by Fredskorpset (FK), a government body under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway. In the first round of the exchange (2010-

2011), FEMNET exchanged with IDASA, whereby each organization received and sent an exchange fellow. Ms. Esther Naskiye from ICON (one of FEMNET members based in Uganda) was sent to IDASA to work on mainstreaming gender in IDASA's core programmes, specifically the Political Governance Program (PGP). Esther also participated in a desk review and development of a toolkit on Violence against Women in Politics (VAWiP). In exchange, FEMNET received Ms. Ntswaki Mahlangu (from IDASA) who worked on re-designing the membership database, made proposals for improving the website and regularly updated information on the social media tools (blog, face book and twitter).

3.3.4 The Second African Women in Political Leadership Conference in Zambia

FEMNET collaborated with Zambia Association for Research & Development (ZARD) and Non-Governmental Organizations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) to organize the Second African Women in Political Leadership Conference which was held on 7th – 9th June 2010, Lusaka, Zambia. Guided by the theme **“Strengthening the Role of Women in Building Democratic Societies in Africa”**, the Conference brought together 35 dynamic women in various leadership positions. There were 20 women politicians (in parliament) drawn from Zambia, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Sudan, Botswana and South Africa to discuss and strategize on ways to develop and sustain strong networks to support women that are actively involved in political leadership in their respective countries and across the region. The women politicians were particularly drawn from countries with elections in the year 2010 and 2011. In addition the Conference was attended by women leaders drawn from women organizations in Africa that are engaged in women's leadership development in Africa.

Through the interactions at the Conference participants agreed on ways to support women in politics to prioritize gender mainstreaming, and the promotion of women's rights as part of their core business while in Parliament. Two main proposals were agreed upon for further development and reflection: firstly, strengthening the mechanisms for networking, peer learning and support and collaboration among women in political leadership; and secondly, establishment of a Regional Democracy Fund for Women in Political Leadership.



FEMNET was mandated to undertake further research and consultations so that the framework for the two proposals would further be discussed at the Third Regional Conference to be held in 2011. Further details of the Conference outcomes are included in the Communiqué which was issued at the end and widely distributed throughout the region to various key actors at the African Union Commission, all the leaders and Speakers of Parliaments in the countries represented at this Conference, the economic blocs specifically SADC and the East African Community (EAC) and all partners of FEMNET and those that support women's leadership development programs in Africa. One key message in the Communiqué was the demand by the women leaders for African leaders to take the necessary steps to ratify and domesticate the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance (Democracy Charter). By the end of 2010, seven (7) countries (i.e. Burkina Faso, Ethiopia,



Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritania, Rwanda and Sierra Leone) had ratified the Democracy Charter. However, another eight (8) countries have to ratify the Charter before it can come into force. (This is because the charter requires ratification by at least 15 of the 53 member states of the AU for it to become operational).

As a follow up to this Conference the women leaders and politicians in Zambia came together in a one-day meeting convened by ZARD, NGOCC and Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL) to strategize on how to participate differently in the process leading up to the 2011 Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Zambia taking into account some of the lessons drawn from the Regional Conference. FEMNET provided a seed grant of USD 2,000 to support the costs of convening the meeting. This action agreed upon in this meeting has guided the collaborative actions of the three organizations into 2011 as they mobilize and prepare Zambian women to be active in the elections as candidates, voters and electoral officials.

The Annual Conference for African Women in Political leadership has proved to be a useful platform for peer learning, creating intergenerational linkages between seasoned politicians and younger ones; supporting collective learning from effective strategies that have worked for other female politicians to address issues of personal security and navigating resistance to the women's rights agenda in political parties. Strategies for mainstreaming gender in political party manifestos, resource mobilization for people-focused campaigns, and sustaining the social and political networks were seriously debated in the Zambia Conference. The key question which many have asked is ***"Has all this work translated into increased numbers of women in political leadership?"*** The response is that not necessarily.

However, many more African women are actively engaged in their national democratic processes. Many more are contesting as candidates at different levels. The increase in numbers of women contesting and voting was witnessed in Mauritius for example in the 2010 elections, albeit the actual number of those finally elected to Parliament reduced from 17.3% to 16.6%. There have been progressive law reforms which have secured women's rights to participate equally in their own governance at all levels as voters, electoral officials and as candidates. For example in

Kenya women's rights activists and groups lobbied and ensured that the new Constitution has provisions that guarantee that no single gender can have more than two-thirds representation in any public body elected or appointed including the parliament, local councils, constitutional bodies, parastatal and commissions.

The main outcome of this work is the stronger linkages between women in politics and leadership in women's organizations at national and regional levels. In Zambia, leading women's organizations came together and developed a joint plan to support women in politics and to effectively influence the on-going constitutional review process. They also developed a road map for mobilizing more women to be active in political parties so as to have more appointed in leadership positions and nominated to be candidates by their parties. They are working together to mobilize support for more women to present themselves as candidates in the forthcoming parliamentary elections due in October/ November 2011 so that Zambia meets its commitments under the SADC Gender and Development Protocol which has set the target at 50/50 representation of the two genders in elective positions at all levels.

FEMNET is committed to continue supporting this work. Zambia will be one of the target countries we shall organize to have a monitoring team in 2011 to closely follow the process leading up to the elections. Another participant from Namibia was motivated to vie for a local level position at councillor level. FEMNET will follow up with this participant and support her with information which she will find useful and relevant for her participation in the elections as a candidate.

3.3.5 Staff Development

At the end of each year Staff members are undergo a Staff Performance Appraisal. As part of this process the staff members identify the areas where further development of their skills and knowledge is required in order to enhance personal development and performance. In 2010 Staff members participated in the following Staff development programs

Training program	Staff members	Comments
Leadership and Public Speaking	Executive Director Communication Officer	Toastmasters' Program which is an on-going self-development program with the support of the other members
Language competence	Coordinator – Men to Men Regional Program	On- going for all the Program Staff members
Management Course	Office Administrator	Completed her diploma course in Business Management

3.3.6. Meetings participated/ attended and Papers presented

JANUARY

- 29th: Presentation by the Communications Officer of the SOAWR Policy brief on Women and ICTs in Africa – at the Gender Pre-Summit, in the margins of the 14th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 30th: Launch of FEMNET's Freedom of Information and Women's Rights in Africa book. The book was launched as part of African Union Pre-Summit Activities and was organized by FEMNET and UNESCO office in Addis Ababa in collaboration with the Gender Directorate of the African Union. The Chairperson of the Executive Board, the Communications Officer and Advocacy Officer represented FEMNET.

FEBRUARY

- 2nd – 3rd UNIFEM / Kenya Gender Commission workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting - attended by the Advocacy Officer
- 9th Meeting of Kenyan women's organizations to review the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) draft of the Kenya Constitution - attended by the Advocacy Officer
- 16th – 20th Stakeholders' familiarisation and orientation workshop for Female Literacy Project in Angola and Mozambique (FELITAMO) Project in Maputo, Mozambique attended by the Finance Manager.

MARCH

- 24th Presentation by the Advocacy Officer on African women's engagement with the Beijing + 15 review and the 54th Session of the CSW, at the Gender Sector Co-ordination Group meeting. The Group is a convening of all the donors supporting work on gender equality in Kenya.
- 25th Presentation by the Advocacy Officer on African women's engagement with the Beijing + 15 review and the 54th Session of the CSW at the monthly HBF Gender Forum.
- 28th Press Conference by Kenyan women's rights organizations on women's demands on the draft Constitution. Advocacy Officer was one of the speakers.
- 16th Launch of FEMNET's Freedom of Information and Women's Rights in Africa Book in Paris, France. The book was launched as part of UNESCO commemoration of International Women's Day - 2010. The Executive Board Secretary, Madam Fatma Alloo and the Communication Officer represented FEMNET at this meeting.
- 25th -28th Communication Officer participated in the Gender and Media in Africa meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia organized by the African Union. The meeting was aimed at discussing possibilities of establishing the Africa Media Observatory. The Gender and Media Journal was also born at this meeting. FEMNET contributed an article in the first issue which was published in December 2010.

APRIL

- 7th – 18th African Union continental experts' conference on maternal and child health and the Maputo Plan of Action, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Attended by Advocacy Officer

22nd Presentation by Advocacy Officer on the AU Protocol on Women's Rights at FEMNET training workshop for Media and Community listening groups in preparation for the airing of the **Crossroads** drama in Kenya.

MAY

8th – 10th The 21st African Human Rights Book Fair held in the margins of the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 47th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia. The NGO Forum and African Human Rights Book Fair is an opportune moment to network with other CSOs working on human rights in the region and FEMNET used this space to also exhibit and share our various publications. FEMNET was represented by the Information Manager.

23rd – 24th Preparatory Course for the FK/IDASA/FEMNET Exchange Programme held in Cape Town, South Africa. This was an orientation meeting for new and existing partners and participants of the Exchange programme. FEMNET was represented by the Information Manager.

JUNE

2nd Launch of the Gender and Governance Program hosted by UNIFEM – Kenya (now UN Women). Attended by the Advocacy Officer.

8th Launch of the report on gender responsive budgeting by FIDA-Kenya. Attended by the Advocacy Officer.

JULY

12th - 13th East and Horn of Africa meeting on implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the East Africa Gender Protocol, convened by EASSI in Kampala Uganda. Attended by the Advocacy Officer.

14th – 15th Civil Society pre-Summit meeting, Kampala Uganda, co-convened by the African Union Commission, Oxfam and Save the Children. Attended by the Advocacy Officer.

18th Presentation by the Advocacy Officer during the policy dialogue with the African Parliamentary Network on MDGs, convened by the UN Millennium Campaign in Kampala, Uganda. Attended by the Advocacy Officer.

21st – 22nd SOAWR Rural Women's Conference on maternal health and the AU Protocol on women's rights. Attended by the Advocacy Officer.

SEPTEMBER

FEMNET Resident Board of Trustee Member Ms. Mary Okioma represented FEMNET at meeting on Gender equality for African women living in Sweden organized by IKF Sweden, an organization of Africans resident in Sweden.

The Special UN Meeting on the Review of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) held in New York. The Executive Director attended the session and shared FEMNET's position on the progress made in the implementation of the MDGs which was represented in the last issue of "Our Rights" a FEMNET publication that was officially phased out in 2010.

23rd Breakfast Meeting on the Family Protection Bill, convened by FIDA-Kenya. Attended by the Advocacy Officer.

OCTOBER

Working Party on Aid Effectiveness/ Betteraid Strategy meeting on Aid Effectiveness held in Paris where the Communication Officer represented FEMNET.

The third African Feminist Forum (AFF) held in Dakar, Senegal and the Executive Director participated in the Forum. It was at this Forum that the Executive Director coordinated a process through which African women leaders developed a position statement on the status and focus of the UN Women in relation to its work in Africa. In the margins of AFF the representatives from the regional and

sub- regional networks that normally organize and host the African Women's Caucus at CSW held a planning meeting at which those present brainstormed on the issues to be raised in the African women's statement to the CSW session for 2011.

NOVEMBER

7th – 10th

The Advocacy Officer represented FEMNET at the EuroNGO's international conference on Gender, SRHR and the MDGs in London, UK. The conference was attended by over 150 civil society, donor and Intergovernmental organizations from across the globe. FEMNET, AMWIK, AWDF, TASO (Uganda), Youth Vision (Zambia) and YECE (Malawi) represented Africa. FEMNET shared its activities and strategies for 2010 on the right to reproductive health including our work on maternal health leading up to the AU Summit

26th

Presentation by the Advocacy Officer during the Kenya Gender Festival, on the AU Protocol on the rights of women. The participants were largely grassroots human rights activists. The discussion centered around an episode of the *Crossroads* drama.

23rd-27th

International Workshop on Resource Mobilisation (IWRM- Africa 2010) held in Kampala Uganda. The workshop was attended by over 120 delegates from NGO private sector and donor community representatives. FEMNET was represented by the Finance Manager

The NEPAD Secretariat and the African Development Bank (ADB) hosted a meeting in Tunisia to prepare countries for the 2010 review of the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA). African leaders were concretizing their position on the progress made to increase the effectiveness of development aid. The civil society organizations at this meeting were pushing the African governments and donor countries to strengthen the aid effectiveness agenda by ensuring that the whole process focuses more on development effectiveness. Aid must be able to have tangible results that translate in improving the quality of life of the people in whose name development aid is given. FEMNET was represented by the Executive Director.

In November 2010, FEMNET collaborated with Ipas in organizing the Regional Conference on Sexual and Reproductive health held in Accra, Ghana. The conference was attended by over 230 participants drawn from 17 African countries and several countries in Europe and from the USA. FEMNET shared its experience of using ICTs to communicate messages to different audiences on sexual and reproductive health. FEMNET's presentation on the experiences of East Africa Caravan depicted how we used the blog, facebook, sms, documentaries, and theme songs to involve a diverse group of people ranging from policy makers to members of the communities that the EA Caravan team interacted with along the caravan route. The Executive Director attended the meeting.

The Executive Director was part of the High Level delegation of African Women leaders who travelled to New York to meet with the Executive Director Ms. Michelle Bachelet of the newest UN entity - the UN Women. The preparations for the meeting were supported by AWDF and Urgent Action Fund.

DECEMBER

2nd – 3rd

The Advocacy Officer represented FEMNET at the Regional Consultative and Planning Forum on Women's Rights and the African Union, convened by the UNIFEM Liaison Office to the ECA and the African Union. The purpose of the forum was to review the achievements, methods of work and challenges in 2010 for women's rights advocacy at regional level, increase knowledge on the AU's institutional framework and plan collectively for actions in 2011. The meeting was attended by the key women's rights organizations working on the AU, including FEMNET, YWCA, SOAWR, Urgent Action Fund, AWDF, Isis WICCE, FAS, Akina Mama wa Afrika and WILDAF.

4.0 Institutional Matters



4.1 Administration / Human Resource

Monthly staff meetings were held to update the Regional Secretariat staff members on each other's programme and project activities as well as address administrative and financial matters. The meetings were helpful in fostering the team spirit, peer learning, strengthening the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and joint planning for major activities organized during the year. The full list of the staff members at FEMNET for the year 2010 is provided below:

Carlyn Hambuba, *Head of Communication Programme*

Grace Wambui, *Receptionist*

Jean Simbayobewe, *Translator*

Kennedy Otina, *Program Associate, Men to Men regional programme*

Margaret Ndung'u, *Office Assistant*

Martin Odera, *Finance Manager*

Mary Mugane, *Office Driver*

Mary Thianga'u, *Finance Officer*

Naisola Likimani, *Head of Advocacy Programme*

Norah Matovu-Winyi, *Executive Director*

Rachel Kagoiya, *Information Manager*

Rose Akinyi, *Executive Office Manager*

4.2 Annual Board Meetings and Extraordinary Board Meetings

During the same reporting period, the FEMNET Annual Executive Board and Board of Trustees meetings took place in April 2010 respectively in Nairobi, Kenya. All members of the Board attended the meetings. This being an election year members of the Board held extraordinary meetings in October 2010. The major

achievements of the two Boards in 2010 included:

- The Review of the FEMNET Constitution and presentation of the proposed amendments to the General Assembly for review, approval and adoption.
- Review of the Personnel Policy including the development of the Staff categorization and salary Scales.
- Review and updating of the Financial Policy and Procedures Manual.
- The review and adoption of the FEMNET Gender Policy 2010.
- Support for the implementation of the FEMNET Building Project for the establishment of the African Women's Power Center.
- Organization of FEMNET's Fifth Programming Conference and General Assembly 2010.
- Review and approval of audited financial statements, budgets and management accounts.

4.3 The Fifth Programming Conference (PC) and General Assembly (GA)

FEMNET organized its Fifth Programming Conference and General Assembly on the 16th – 18th of October 2010 at Crowne Plaza in Nairobi, Kenya. The Programming

Conference is a two days convening which is normally held prior to the FEMNET General Assembly. It brings together key stakeholders of the Network who include among others its members, board members, partners and collaborators, donor partners and representatives from the key line ministries like the gender ministry, ministry of justice and finance and the media to review generally the performance of the Network, its external working environment and any emerging issues that are of relevance to its operations. The 2010 Fifth Programming Conference was held immediately after the Continental Launch of the Africa Women's Decade. Therefore the focus of the discussions in the Conference focused a lot on how FEMNET and its members should be strategically positioned to use the Decade as a platform for intensifying its programmes in order to achieve greater impact on the lives of African women and girls. The PC was attended by 120 participants drawn from 32 countries. This was the largest convening of the Network since its establishment in 1988.

Immediately after the PC, FEMNET held its Fifth General Assembly. This meeting is attended by only members. The 2010 General Assembly had 47 organizational members represented and 11 individual members present. At the GA the Board members provided an account to the membership on how the affairs of the Network have been managed in the last



three years since the last GA held in September 2007. At the end of the GA members elected the members of the Executive Board and the Board of Trustees. The members elected are as follows:

Members of the Executive Board

Chairperson :	Ms. Jacqueline Sylvie Ndongmo (Cameroon)
Treasurer:	Ms. Margaret Ali (Malawi)

Executive Members Representing:

Eastern Africa:	Ms. Patricia Munabi Babiha (Uganda)
Northern Africa:	Ms. Souad Belaazi (Tunisia)
Southern Africa:	Ms. Emma Kaliya (Malawi)
Western Africa:	Ms. Celestine Navique (Cote d'Ivoire)
Central Africa:	Ms. Onanga Germaine (Congo Brazzaville)

Board of Trustees

Chairperson:	Ms. Mary Okioma (Kenya)
Members	Ms. Assumpta Umurungi (Rwanda)
	Ms. Imane Belghiti (Morocco)
	Ms. Fatima Ahmed (Sudan)
	Ms. Sally Chiwama (Zambia)

The full report of the PC and minutes of the General Assembly are available at the Secretariat. Copies of the printed PC Report have been widely circulated and can be obtained from the Secretariat upon request.

4.4 The FEMNET Building Project

FEMNET initiated the Building Project in 2008. The purpose of the Project is to establish the African Women's Power House in Nairobi, Kenya. During the three years (2008 – 2010) the following activities have been undertaken as part of getting the project off the ground:

- Established the FEMNET Building Project Task Force which has five members who have met periodically throughout the three years to conceptualize the project and phase its implementation.
- The Executive Director drafted the Project Document which was enriched by the Task Force members. The Project document was presented to the Board of Trustees for further review and development and finally it was adopted by both the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board.
- The Building Project Fund was launched in December 2008 and by end of 2010 it had a separate account with about USD 100,000.
- In September 2010 the Executive Board and Board of Trustees appointed Mrs. Sara Longwe as the Chief Fundraiser for the Project. By the end of the year the Project document had been revised with further inputs from the Fundraiser and efforts made to contact different would be supporters for this Project.
- The plan is to obtain about USD 2,000,000 for the building of the African Women's Power House by the end of 2013. Intensified resource mobilization efforts started in 2010 and will continue throughout the three years (2011 – 2013). In 2011 the land for the project will be purchased. In 2012 construction will begin and in 2013 the Center will be formally opened.

4.5 Financial Statements

The summary of the Financial Statements for FEMNET for the period 1st January – 31st December 2010 is presented here below.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

	<u>2010</u> KShs	<u>2010</u> USD	<u>2009</u> KShs
SUPPORT AND REVENUES			
Grant received	157,963,239	2,025,169	126,210,517
Finance income	2,133,144	27,348	2,391,284
Other income	1,254,574	16,084	592,080
Restricted/deferred income	-46,075,328	-590,709	-40,710,448
Total support and Revenue	<u>115,275,629</u>	<u>1,477,892</u>	<u>88,483,433</u>
EXPENSES			
Programme expenses	100,133,307	1,283,760	73,989,511
Establishment expenses	3,540,330	45,389	3,678,025
Administration expenses	6,575,023	84,295	6,792,097
Total expenses	<u>110,248,660</u>	<u>1,413,444</u>	<u>84,459,633</u>
Surplus for the year	5,026,969	64,448	4,023,800
General reserves at beginning of the year	<u>19,406,529</u>	<u>248,802</u>	<u>15,382,729</u>
General reserves at end of the year	<u>24,433,498</u>	<u>313,250</u>	<u>19,406,529</u>

FEMNET financial position continue to improve with a net assets balance of US\$ 313,250 at fiscal year end.

FEMNET recorded US\$ 1,477,892 in support and revenue in fiscal year 2010. The expenses grew by 30.5.1% while continuing to have very strong expense ratios with programme expenses representing 90.8% of the total expenses.

* The figures have been translated at rate of USD 1 = KSh 78

* FEMNET's financial statements have been independently audited by accounting firm of Otieno Oboge & Co (Certified Public Accountants) and received an unqualified audit opinion as to their fair presentation in conformity with International Financial reporting Standards and the Kenyan Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Act. A complete set of audited financial statements is available upon request.



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITIONAS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

ASSETS	2010	2010	2009
	Kshs	USD	KShs
Current Assets:			
Receivables	1,291,541	16,558	1,511,043
Investments at Market Value	8,849,664	113,457	6,505,370
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>62,546,899</u>	<u>801,883</u>	<u>52,289,030</u>
	<u>72,688,104</u>	<u>931,898</u>	<u>60,305,443</u>
Long Term Assets:			
Property and equipment-net of accumulated depreciation	<u>4,166,127</u>	<u>53,412</u>	<u>4,317,770</u>
Total Assets	<u>76,854,231</u>	<u>985,310</u>	<u>64,623,213</u>
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,270,149	29,104	430,980
Restricted / Deferred income	<u>49,575,328</u>	<u>635,581</u>	<u>44,210,448</u>
	<u>51,845,477</u>	<u>664,685</u>	<u>44,641,428</u>
Reserves			
General reserve	24,433,498	313,250	19,406,529
Capital reserve	<u>575,256</u>	<u>7,375</u>	<u>575,256</u>
	<u>25,008,754</u>	<u>320,625</u>	<u>19,981,785</u>
Total Liabilities and Reserves	<u>76,854,231</u>	<u>985,310</u>	<u>64,623,213</u>

5.0 Key Lessons Learnt and Conclusion



A number of lessons were drawn from the experiences of the year 2010. Among them was the repeated lesson that partnership and collaboration continue to contribute positively and significantly to the success and impact of the work that we do as a Network. FEMNET through such collaboration and partnerships was able to reach out to a much wider constituency, increase its visibility and benefit from the synergetic effects of collective actions. FEMNET was able to tap into additional resources that would otherwise not be directly available to the organization. For example, the ratification of the AU Protocol on women's rights in Kenya and Uganda was made possible through collaborative actions. Members of the SOAWR Coalition lobbied at different levels and used their comparative strengths and resources to make this outcome possible. However, it is important that roles/ responsibilities of the partners are clearly articulated to ensure clarity of expectations and commitment of resources both financial and human resources so that no organization is overwhelmed by the numerous tasks to be accomplished.

During the reporting year it was clear that resources for women's rights work have continued to dwindle. Promotion of women's rights in Africa was sustained and even intensified in some instances, however there was resources supporting the work of organizations promoting women's rights and their participation in the development processes at all levels did not increase in

tandem. In 2010 we therefore had to be very creative in how we used the resources available to achieve the greatest impact. We harnessed our skills of using the media to reach out to more women in the region, to get the messages across to the leaders and used social media to keep the focus, conversations and debates on topical issues that affect women's rights in Africa. FEMNET also explored non-traditional ways of mobilizing resources in order to minimize the gaps in its budget for the year.

In 2010 FEMNET embarked on the midterm review of the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012). It was noted that the organization needs to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms in order to identify the short and long-term outcomes of each activity we are implementing. The development of an improved M & E Strategy started in 2010 and will continue in 2011 as the Reviewed Strategic Plan is being completed.

The Staff members met at the end of the year for the Staff Retreat which was held in December 2010. During the retreat the staff reviewed their general and individual performance. It was noted that having a good, well thought out work plan facilitated the work of the Secretariat as every staff member was able to own and creatively implement the plan. This will facilitate the monitoring process to assess whether we are in line with the implementation of the work plan.



ANNEXES



- A: List of New Publications received in the Resource Center in 2010
- B: Policy Brief on Bridging the Digital Gender Divide in Africa
- C: Communiqué of the Civil Society Experts Consultation on Maternal, Child and Infant Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa, April 17-18, 2010, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- D: Summary Handout giving Highlights from the Africa Women's Regional Shadow Report on Beijing
- E: 10-10-10 Communiqué to African Union Member States from the NGO Forum preceding the Launch of the Africa Women's Decade:

Annex A: List of Publications Receive in the Resource Centre in 2010

Title of Publication	Date Published	Published by
10 years of Ziff: Festival of the Dhow Countries	2007	Gallery publications
2010: State of the Union Continental Report	2010	Continental Advisory Research Team and Oxfam International
2010: State of the Union Kenya Report	2010	Continental Advisory Research Team and Oxfam International
A Study on Gender Responsive Budgeting in Kenya	2009	National Commission on Gender and Development (Kenya)
A Users Guide to Measuring Gender-Sensitive Basic Service Delivery	2009	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Africa Women's Report: Measuring Gender Inequalities in Africa-Experiences and Lessons from the African Gender and Development Index	2009	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
Beijing +15 Score Card	2010	Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI)
Between rhetorical and action: the politics, processes and practice of the ICC's work in the DRC	2009	Institute for Security Studies
Budgeting for Women's Rights: Monitoring Government Budgets for Compliance with CEDAW	2006	UNDP
Commitment to Climate Justice	2009	Sida
Evaluation of the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa	2010	Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC)
Five Years On: How Effective is the KACC in Kenya's Fight Against Corruption	2009	The Africa Centre for Open Governance (AfriCOG)
Global Report on: Adult Learning and Education	2009	UNESCO
ICGLR Instruments on Sexual Violence	2006	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2008-09:	2010	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and ICF Macro

Title of Publication	Date Published	Published by
Monitoring Maternal Health and Safe Motherhood Policies	2010	EASSI
National Framework Towards Response and Prevention of Gender-based Violence in Kenya	2009	National Commission on Gender and Development (Kenya)
Protection Against Female Genital Mutilation: A Review of the Implementation of the Children's Act	2009	Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Kenya)
Protection and Restitution for Survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence: a Case for Kenya	2009	Agency for Co-operation in Research and Development (ACORD)
Science in Action: Saving the Lives of the Africa's Mothers, Newborns and Children	2009	Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
Siko Peke Yangu: Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence	2009	Women in Law and Development (WiLDAF)
Situational Analysis of Sexual and Gender-based Violence in the Internally Displaced Persons Camps after the Post-election Violence in Kenya	2009	National Commission on Gender and Development (Kenya)
Status of Gender Desks at Police Stations in Kenya: A Case Study of Nairobi Province	2009	Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)
Strengthening Civil Society's Role and Voice: Reflections on CSO Engagement with the Accra Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness	2009	Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)
Support to Women Leaders in Eastern and Southern Africa: Lessons Learnt and Strategies for the Future.	2010	HIVOS, Gender Links and Akina Mama wa Africa (AMwA)
Ten-country Overview Report: Integrating Gender Responsive Budgeting into the Aid Effectiveness Agenda	2009	United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
Tensions and Reversals in Democratic Transitions	2010	Society for International Development (SID)
Women Seeking Truth, Justice and Reconciliation in Kenya	2009	Caucus for Women's Leadership
Working with Men and Boys: Emerging Strategies from across Africa to Address Gender-based Violence and HIV/AIDS	2009	Sonke Gender Justice Network and The MenEngage network

Annex B: Policy Brief on Bridging the Digital Gender Divide in Africa



BRIDGING THE DIGITAL GENDER DIVIDE IN AFRICA

A POLICY BRIEF FOR THE SUMMIT OF THE AFRICAN UNION
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA - JANUARY 2010

Summary

African Heads of States and Governments gather in Addis Ababa for the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union at a time when the continent faces a huge digital divide. African women are disproportionately affected by this divide.

The Summit's theme "Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development" is therefore quite pertinent. However, deliberations on the theme without explicit focus on women's access to these technologies will overlook a critical aspect of Africa's development.

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR)¹ urges national delegations to ensure that decisions taken in this Summit do not ignore women's specific experiences to-date, and adopt specific measures to advance women's access to Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) going forward.

This policy brief examines the gender-differentiated impact of ICTs in Africa, and makes seventeen key recommendations to national delegations, and private and civil society organizations. SOAWR particularly calls on African governments to:

1. Enact and implement Freedom of Information laws and urgently repeal restrictive media and other laws on freedom of expression
2. Promote use of ICTs to increase awareness among women on their rights and facilitate informed decision-making. This could include initiatives that enable citizens to use SMS helplines to report human rights violations
3. Promote the use of ICTs to increase understanding, knowledge sharing and action on HIV/AIDS, and preventable diseases that cause maternal and child morbidity and mortality as a gender and human rights issue
4. Invest in research on the emerging uses of ICTs by perpetrators of violence against women and generate gender-disaggregated data to this effect
5. Support the use of ICTs in education (formal and informal) and literacy programmes so as to build ICT skills among young and adult women, and increase awareness about the opportunities for development using ICTs
6. Support girls and women to take courses at higher education levels that are relevant for employment in the ICTs sector
7. Formulate policies that encourage women to use ICTs within the household, in their businesses and also make ICTs affordable for women, for instance through reduction or removal of taxes and tariffs on ICT equipment.
8. Invest in the use of ICTs for storage and easy retrieval of data and information in institutions that are responsible for processing land titles, trading licenses, birth and death and other legal documents that affect women's rights to own, control and have access to development resources

A Global Digital Revolution Grips Africa

Over the last 20 years, a revolution has occurred in Africa in how information is generated, stored, retrieved and transmitted. Today, we can communicate, share information, and collaborate within countries and across countries in ways that were not possible a short two decades ago. The proliferation of media houses, access to mobile phones and the internet across Africa is fuelling the process of democratisation of ICTs².

Most countries in Africa are particularly experiencing rapid increases in the use of and access to mobile phones and the Internet. By 2008, accessibility to mobile phones and Internet had grown to 60-70 per cent and 12-15 per cent of Africa's population respectively.³ These trends are radically changing the way that citizens communicate with each other and the way that Governments interact with their citizens.

In recognition of the significance of these developments, world leaders committed in the 2007 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to **turn the digital divide into a digital opportunity for all**. The leaders, which included a large number of African leaders, also agreed on a set of targets for improving access to ICTs by 2015 at the latest.

As African Heads of States meet in Addis to reflect on the significance of ICTs for Africa, it is clear that ICTs offer enormous potential for transforming the lives African women and men. However, ICTs alone cannot bring about lasting change. Without responsive legislative and policy frameworks and changes in people's attitudes about their potential, ICTs will not transform Africans' lives.

“We affirm that development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the information society. But, to date, women still lag behind in access and participation in the ICT sector.” – Geneva Declaration of Principles, 2003

Policies and Practices Constraining Women from Accessing Digital Technology

Seven years after world leaders made this commitment, the majority of African women continue to be excluded from access to digital technology. Forced to choose between spending resources on buying computers, subscribing to broadband or even a mobile phone on the one hand, and buying food for their families and meeting other very basic needs of survival on the other, it is clear what their choices will be.

Unequal power relations within African societies, communities and households contribute to the unequal access, participation and treatment of men and women in the global digital village.⁴ High levels of poverty and illiteracy, lack of training and skills, unequal sharing of care-giving responsibilities between women and men, and irregular or non-existent power supplies act as significant barriers to access and use of ICTs. Further, Non-African languages dominate the Internet making it challenging for the majority of Africans. There is need to consistently collect gender-disaggregated data in order to assess and ascertain the actual coverage of women and girls' access to ICTs.

These challenges do not only affect women and girls today. The lack of formal training and opportunities for girls to participate in accessing and generating knowledge will tragically ensure that the next generation of women in Africa, particularly in rural areas, is denied critical opportunities to benefit from technological innovations.⁵ In so doing, the power of ICTs as great mechanisms for expanding women's knowledge and ability to negotiate for an equitable share of resources, and to facilitate their participation in democratic and governance processes, is completely undermined.⁶

The potential power of ICTs is further diluted by the popular view in the region that ICTs are commodities to be controlled, sold and bought rather than tools for development. Many countries still do not have policies, laws

and regulations that support the right to information. In the countries where laws do exist, insufficient public investment has gone into increasing public access to ICTs that support broad-based sharing of technologies and knowledge, and promote respect for human rights and freedoms. Africa could take a huge leap forward by securing an affordable broadband that allows for more media-rich uses of mobile phones and internet, such as voice and video applications.

As Governments meet in Addis for regional deliberations, focus must also be brought on the lack of specific attention in public policies and legislation to protect the rights of women and girls. Attention must be directed to women and girls' increasing exposure to and exploitation in pornography on the internet, which has led many parents to limit access to computers and Internet for their children. The growing trend of using mobile phones and Short Message Service (SMS) technology to engage in sexual harassment, stalking and violence against women, must also be curbed.

These concerns must however not be used to suppress the work of human rights defenders including those promoting the rights of women. In many countries, measures taken to protect internet users from privacy violations and crime have led to violations of the fundamental freedom of expression. This freedom is guaranteed in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also in the WSIS Declaration of Principles. African citizens have a responsibility to ensure that infringements on this critical and cross-cutting human right do not happen.

Opportunities for Women's Empowerment through ICTs

Information and Communication Technologies can be instruments that empower different categories of women with information and skills for political, economic and social participation, sustainable food security and livelihoods. ICTs can provide access to training and market information for women entrepreneurs, and an inexpensive and quick means of collecting communication for women's organizations.⁷ Women living in democratic states cannot fully exercise their rights, including voting, without access to information. ICTs can provide a platform for engagement and deliberation in electoral processes by all citizens, and this is particularly critical in contexts where access to independent media and freedom of expression is limited.⁸

One of the most important forms of ICTs is the Short Message Service (SMS) technology on mobile phones. Here Governments can learn from initiatives by Google and Fahamu, who have provided Internet and mobile phones to communities in remote areas of Africa. The UmNyango Project managed by Fahamu distributes mobile phones to many rural communities in Africa. Women and men have used the phones to report human rights violations on a regular basis.

In Uganda, the Uganda's Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) uses the Internet to communicate critical issues by women parliamentarians to their constituents, and for constituents to input into parliamentary legal reform. In South Africa, Women's Net provides training and capacity building for policy-makers and civil society leaders to influence policy-making processes to redress gender-based inequalities in that country. For example, information is provided on how to draft proposals for parliamentary committees. Elsewhere, many women's rights organizations are using ICTs to contribute to the reduction of all forms of violence against women and girls through their prevention, urgent response and treatment initiatives.

Using ICTs to Advocate for the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR) is a coalition of 36 civil society organizations across Africa campaigning for the popularization, ratification and domestication of the African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. As far back as 2004, SOAWR members have widely employed an ICT-based approach in their work on the Protocol. For example, in 2004 the Coalition encouraged many African citizens to SMS their support for a petition that demanded African Governments ratify the Protocol. The SMS initiative 'Text Now 4 Women's Rights' proved quite impactful.

The Coalition also worked closely with the mass media, to broaden knowledge on the Protocol in the region, and to change attitudes towards women's human rights at the community level and among policy makers. They combined the use of radio drama programmes such as Crossroads⁹, which recently won the 2009 Radio for Peacebuilding Africa Awards, radio current affairs programmes, and cartoon strips, to reach a diverse audience, cutting across age, gender and socio-economic status.

Fahamu, a member of SOAWR, also publishes special issues of the Pambazuka News, an e-newsletter, during Summits of the African Union. This example of "e-advocacy" serves to highlight key issues and recommendations relevant to African women in the context of the Protocol, oftentimes around the theme of the summits

Key Recommendations

As Africans mark the 15th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2010, as well as 10 years since States committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and 5 years since the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa entered into force, member states should not overlook the potential of Information and Communication Technologies to advance human rights in general, and women's rights in particular. In view of this, the following are some key recommendations to address the issues surrounding women and ICTs in Africa, many of which are consistent with the provisions of the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa:

African Governments should;

1. Enact and implement Freedom of Information laws and urgently repeal restrictive media and other laws on freedom of expression
2. Promote use of ICTs to increase awareness among women on their rights and facilitate informed decision-making. This could include initiatives that enable citizens to use SMS helplines to report human rights violations
3. Promote the use of ICTs to increase understanding, knowledge sharing and action on HIV/AIDS, and preventable diseases that cause maternal and child morbidity and mortality as a gender and human rights issue.
4. Invest in research on the emerging uses of ICTs by perpetrators of violence against women and generate gender-disaggregated data to this effect.
5. Support the use of ICTs in education (formal and informal) and literacy programmes so as to build ICT skills among young and adult learners and increase awareness about the opportunities for development using ICTs.
6. Support girls and women to take courses at higher education levels that are relevant for employment in the ICTs sector.
7. Formulate policies that encourage women to use ICTs within the household, in their businesses and also make ICTs affordable for women, for instance through reduction or removal of taxes and tariffs on ICT equipment.
8. Invest in the use of ICTs for storage and easy retrieval of data and information in institutions that are responsible for processing land titles, trading licenses, birth and death and other legal documents that affect women's rights to own, control and have access to development resources.

The African Union should;

9. Develop a comprehensive Pan African ICT policy that promotes regional integration, networking among African countries and comprehensive multi-stakeholder efforts to support poor and marginalized citizens to use ICTs effectively
10. Take more concrete steps towards the creation of an enabling ICT environment for women in Africa.
11. Regularly review ICTs indicators to assess use and contribution to the goals of poverty eradication at national, sub-regional and regional level.

The Civil Society and Private Sector should;

12. Document best practice stories on how women's participation in development processes at various levels has been enhanced by use of ICTs and how usage has improved their lives.
13. Strengthen parliamentary capacity for oversight of ICT policy and legislation
14. Partner more with the ICT industries (public and private) to support women's access to vital information, knowledge, skills, and opportunities for development.
15. Strengthen the practical and technical skills of women entrepreneurs through basic training on the Internet, e-commerce, international trade, business management and gender issues.
16. Support women's rights organizations and activists to use social networking sites, SMS interfaces and blogging for advocacy campaigns
17. Diversify the dominance of European languages by encouraging African languages on the internet

For more information:

- World Summit on Information Society Geneva Declarations <http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html>
- WSIS Tunis Commitment: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/7.html>
- Freedom of Information and Women Rights in Africa, FEMNET, 2009. www.femnet.or.ke
- Advocating for Women's Rights: Experiences from Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition, by Roselyn Musa and Basse Edeme, 2008. www.soawr.org

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¹ www.soawr.org

² The Economic Commission for Africa 1999 report "An Overview of ICT Trends and Policy in Africa" defines ICTs as a diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate, and to create, disseminate, store, and manage information. ICTs include internet service provision, telecommunications equipment and services, information technology (IT) equipment and services, media and broadcasting, commercial information providers, network-based information services, and other related information and communication activities

³ Southwood, R. Bandwidth, the Petrol of the New Global Economy in APC, Global Information Society Watch, 2008.

⁴ <http://www.ncc.gov.ng/ITUWorkshop/itu-arpm/women.html>

⁵ Dibussi Tande. "Digital Citizen Indaba 4.0": Using Digital Media to Promote Social Justice in Africa. 2009. Pambazuka News. <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/blog/58788>

⁶ UNIFEM's Work in ICTs; http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/wsis/unifems_work.html

⁷ Harnessing ICTs for Advancement of Rural Women: FAO Perspectives and Strategic Actions By Revathi Balakrishnan. 2002

⁸ Habermas, J. The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 1989

⁹ Crossroads is a six episode serial radio drama exploring issues related to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

Annex C: Communiqué of the Civil Society Experts Consultation on Maternal, Child and Infant Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa, April 17-18, 2010, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Time for Commitment is Over, Time For Action Now!

Communiqué of the Civil Society Experts Consultation on Maternal, Child and Infant Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa, April 17-18, 2010, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

We, members of civil society Participating in 'Civil Society Experts Consultation on Maternal, Child and Infant Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa' Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 17-18, 2010, organized by Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR), IPPF-Africa Region, Ipas Africa Alliance, Save the Children International, Abantu for Development, and the UN Millennium Campaign in collaboration with the AU Commission to assess progress in reducing maternal, child and infant mortality and implementation of the Continental Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health (Maputo Plan of Action 2007-10):

Commend African governments for committing themselves to address maternal, newborn and child health as outlined in the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, The African Youth Charter, Continental Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health (Maputo Plan of Action 2007-10) and The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. We further commend the African Union for declaring maternal, newborn and child mortalities continental emergencies requiring commensurate urgent actions;

Congratulate countries that have launched the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) and taken action to address the maternal, newborn and child health at national level as indicated in the best practices below. **However, a lot more needs to be done.**

Urge all African Governments and other Relevant Stakeholders to ensure the following:

Make Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) a priority

- Prioritise adolescents' and young women's needs by creating policies, programs and guidelines to reduce the impact of unsafe abortion and facilitate their access to comprehensive reproductive health services;
- Provide comprehensive sex education and services for the sexual and reproductive health of the youth.

Reposition and Prioritise Family Planning

- Promote access to contraception and sexual health and reproductive rights for both men and women including family planning as a development priority including female and male condoms as well as emergency contraception, with the full involvement of young people, based on culturally sensitive approaches, community mobilization and men's engagement.

Unsafe Abortion

- The grounds for legal abortion should be broadened by repealing existing laws criminalising abortion and access should be implemented under criteria permitted by existing laws;
- Ensure expanded the coverage of comprehensive safe abortion care services.

Strengthen Health Systems with Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) as a Priority

- Ensure essential measures such as quality reproductive health services, antenatal care, skilled health workers assisting at birth;
- Take measures and give incentives to retain medical personnel and avoid the brain drain;
- Train middle-level health providers, especially midwives, skilled birth attendants and community health nurses who can be deployed to underserved areas to work with poor communities to emergency obstetric and newborn care, adequate nutrition, post-natal care for mothers and newborns.

Eradicate Harmful Traditional Practices

- Ensure the enactment and enforcement of legislation to eradicate female genital mutilation, including when performed by medical personnel, and laws and policies on the minimum age of marriage at 18 in line with regional and international commitments to respect girls' human rights and prevent risks associated with child marriage and adolescent pregnancies.

Combat Violence against Women and Girls

- Enact and strengthen laws to address violence against women;
- Provide social and psychological support and compensation to victims of violence;
- Implement the Africa-Wide campaign on VAW recommended at the Sixth Africa Development Forum (ADFVI) on Action on Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Ending Violence against Women.

SRH Commodities Stock outs

- Include SRH products and commodities in the list of essential medicines;
- Put in place strategies to address lack of personnel and to ensure functioning procurement and the distribution of drugs and equipment, quality of care, and financial accessibility;
- Enforce policies and legislation on counterfeit medication without hindering access to generic medicines.

Malaria

- Continue to widen and subsidize insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) coverage and address problems related to malaria drugs procurement and supply-chain processes.

Integrate HIV&AIDS/STIs in SRH Interventions

- Enhance prevention methods and access to post-exposure prophylaxis drugs;
- Strengthen the prevention of parent-to-child transmission of HIV and AIDS within the framework of maternal and child health care programmes;
- Increase the coverage rates of prevention of parent -to -child transmission (PPTCT+) and pediatric treatment services from the current average of 30-40% to the globally agreed-upon target of 80% and ensure high-quality services.

Public-Private Partnerships

- Private sector should be involved as a key partner in planning, decision-making and resource mobilization in matters related to maternal, newborn and child health. There should be a clear strategy on how to engage the private sector at the different levels and for the different responsibilities.
- Ensure a regulatory framework to guarantee within private sector, quality of MNCH services, training of private health care workers and availability of commodities for family planning and reproductive health.

Financing

- Scale-up of resources allocated to health to achieve the minimum commitment of 15 per cent endorsed by African leaders in Abuja with 4% of the 15% going to maternal and reproductive health interventions to address unsafe abortion in national and health-system budgets;
- Prioritise come up with a specific percentage of resources be earmarked for newborn and child health within the 15% budget for health.

- Increase access to MNCH services through community based health insurance schemes within the context of AU Social Policy Framework;
- Enforcing zero tolerance policies on corruption in the health sector.

Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

- Make maternal and new born deaths notifiable;
- Develop and strengthen monitoring, evaluation and information systems on SRH and child health by focusing on sex-disaggregated data collection, production, analysis and dissemination;
- Extend the Continental Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health (Maputo Plan of Action 2007-10) to 2015;
- To develop and implement national action plans on MNCH based on national priorities and come with mechanisms for reporting progress annually at national level and at the sessions of AU Conference of Ministers of Health.

Civil Society Organizations Commitments:

- Strengthen civil society collaboration to hold governments accountable on their commitments on SRH and MNCH;
- Strengthen coordination of interventions and campaigns with governments and the private sector to avoid duplication of efforts and resources;
- Continue to provide SRHR and HIV information and services for women, adolescents and communities;
- Continue to advocate for the power of informed choice and personal decision-making on SRHR and comprehensive prevention approaches;
- Continue campaigns to end violence and all forms of discrimination against women and girls.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia April 18, 2010

Abantu for Development African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) Akina Mama wa Afrika Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights, Ghana Association Burundaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ABUBEF) Association NigZrienne pour le Bien Etre Familial Association NigZrienne pour le Bien Etre Familial (ANBEF) Niger Association Rwandaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ARBEF) Rwanda Campaign to End Paediatric HIV/AIDS – (CEPA) DSW Ethiopia East African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia Fair Play for Africa Campaign Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya Inter-African Committee against Harmful Practices (IAC) Ipas Africa Alliance IPPF-Africa Region Kenya Treatment Access Movement (KETAM) Oxfam Save the Children International Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR) The Rosebush Foundation UN Millennium Campaign (UNMC)-Africa Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Benin

Notes:

- 1 Specific targets to promote sexual and reproductive health including maternal, child and infant health have been set in plans of actions and commitments by African governments in the Maputo Plan of Action for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2007-2010, Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); African Youth Charter; Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004); Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Other Related Infectious Diseases (2001), African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990), The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979); Vienna Declaration on Human Rights (1993); International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD Plan of Action (1994); Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), and The Millennium Declaration (2000) amongst others;
- 2 Gaps between policy and practice remain significant. It is sad that mothers and newborns are no more likely to survive today than two decades ago with prospects worst in countries battling AIDS, conflict and poverty. Little progress has been made in the response to ensure that African women and girls enjoy sexual health and reproductive rights and services. Consequently, preventable, detectable and treatable obstetric complications-including post-partum haemorrhage, infections, eclampsia, anaemia (exacerbated by malaria and HIV), prolonged or obstructed labour and complications of unsafe abortion account for the majority of maternal deaths;

- 3 Little progress has been made towards reducing under-five and infant mortality. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for half of all deaths among children under five. For newborns, the greatest health risks are posed by severe infections, which include sepsis/pneumonia, tetanus and diarrhoea together with asphyxia and pre-term births. Close to one in seven children die before his or her fifth birthday as a result of weak child survival interventions-use of insecticide-treated bed nets (to prevent malaria), nutrition, antiretroviral treatment for pregnant mothers who are HIV-positive, exclusive breastfeeding and immunization;
- 4 36,000 African women and girls die annually from unsafe abortion, accounting for 14 percent of all maternal deaths in the region and a higher percentage in many countries. Almost 60 percent of annual deaths from unsafe abortion in Africa occur among women and girls younger than 25 (WHO 2007). However, in many African countries laws criminalising safe abortion persist denying women access to safe abortion;
- 5 The enjoyment of African women's sexual and reproductive rights is hindered and compounded by other human rights issues including: inadequate access to information, education and services necessary to ensure sexual health; sexual violence, harmful traditional and customary practices affecting the health of women and children (such as early and forced marriage), and lack of legal capacity and equality in areas such as marriage and divorce;
- 6 Improved health, sexual and reproductive health contributes to economic growth, societal equity, gender equality, and democratic governance, thus bringing tremendous benefits to women, families and societies. Reproductive health and rights are instrumental for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Best Practices in Africa

- In 2002, Malawi rolled out an essential health: childhood vaccines; treatment of childhood infections such as tuberculosis, schistosomiasis, acute respiratory infections, and diarrhoeal diseases; prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections; prevention and management of malnutrition; and management of eye, ear, and skin infections. It has since been expanded to include neonatal services. Donors were invited to work together in funding the package. Malawi has also upgraded health facilities and trained armies of community health workers; clinical assistants to carry out emergency caesarean sections if there are no obstetricians. The number of nurses is beginning to improve, rising from one nurse per 4000 people in 2005 to one per 3000 in 2008. Malawi is on track to reach the MDG for child deaths. Mortality among under-five has dropped nearly 50% in 15 years to 122/1000. Maternal mortality is falling but remains high, at around 800/100 000 births.
- Uganda in 2005, C^Mte d'Ivoire in 2008 and Mauritius in 2007, revised their population policy and instituted a road map for accelerating the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality.
- Botswana involves males in sexual and reproductive health interventions.
- The United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritius provide pregnant women and children under-five with treated mosquito nets, in addition to free maternal and child health services.
- Namibia provides adolescent-friendly health services and also conducts gender and reproductive health workshops.
- C^Mte d'Ivoire has rehabilitated its structures offering emergency obstetric care, and equipped 135 medical structures with reproductive health facilities.
- Botswana, Uganda and Zimbabwe provide female condoms free of charge.
- Namibia has trained youth as peer educators and condom use promoters, such that about 64 per cent of youths in the age group 15-19 uses condoms during their first sexual intercourse, compared to 53 per cent of adult men.
- Female genital mutilation is specifically addressed in enacted laws in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and the Niger.



- Algeria, Comoros, the Congo, the Gambia, Morocco and Tunisia have prepared national strategies to combat VAW.
- The Governments of Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania have adopted gender budgeting and auditing initiatives incorporating gender-sensitive economic analysis in their budgetary plans.
- Gender budget analysis has been conducted in the health sector in Mozambique more particularly on user fees.
- Rwanda, over the last few years, with a committed Government and strong women's health advocates and community involvement, has tripled the use of modern contraception, skilled birth attendance had increased to more than 50 percent and half of the deliveries now take place in health facilities.
- In Ghana, the Government agreed to the requests of women's health groups and decided that pregnant women will not be required to pay into national health insurance schemes.
- In Mozambique, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Mauritius, more skilled midwives are being trained and deployed. More advanced skills are also being taught to carry out higher-level functions. In Egypt and Tunisia have halved their maternal mortality by increasing access to family planning and skilled birth attendance with emergency obstetric care. Women's health advocates have been critical in igniting action to raise awareness to gender equality to bring about these changes.
- Maternal mortality rate in Egypt is low due to efforts improving hospital facilities with equipments, increased training for health care providers, and increase in the blood banks community awareness, increase in family planning and antenatal care. In 2008, the Egyptian government passed laws banning both female genital mutilation and marriage of girls below 18 years of age considering that FGM and early marriage is a threat to reproductive health.
- In Kenya, community midwifery training has been to improve maternal and newborn care by taking midwifery skills and care to women within their own homes through the provision of domiciliary midwifery. This strategy focuses on empowering retired midwives and midwives who are not employed and who are already living in the communities to assist women during pregnancy within their homes and to manage minor complications and to further facilitate referrals when necessary.
- In Ethiopia and South Africa safe medical abortion is legal as a way of reducing maternal mortality.
- In Djibouti, women have organized themselves to establish a community health fund. The fund supports health care visits during pregnancy and life-saving care during childbirth, including transportation, to ensure a safe delivery.
- In Mozambique, women's groups successfully campaigned to raise the legal age of marriage by 2 years to 16 with parental consent and to 18 without.
- In Egypt, Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Nigeria, more girls are going to school, more births are attended by skilled health workers, more women and couples are using family planning. There is an increasing action by civil society to end violence against female genital mutilation and cutting.
- In Uganda, women and their attendants are supported to stay near health facilities close to their due date
- In Morocco, free transport is provided to obstetric health facilities in rural areas.

Annex D: Summary Handout giving Highlights from the Africa Women's Regional Shadow Report on Beijing



Accelerate Action, Realise Rights!

Highlights from the Africa Women's Regional Shadow Report

Women and Poverty/Economic Empowerment

Fifteen years after Beijing, the majority of African women are still struggling with basic survival needs due to widespread poverty. It is mostly the educated and privileged class whose status has changed fundamentally. The majority of African women are still dreaming of equality, development and peace.



Women in Power and Decision-Making

The 30% minimum representation of women in political leadership has been achieved in several countries and there are more women leaders in local government and various sectors. Women in decision making structures continue to experience discrimination that diminishes their capacity to influence decisions and promote change in the patriarchal culture and practices of these structures.

Human Rights of Women

Twenty six countries have still not ratified the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa despite committing to achieve universal ratification by 2005. Where laws exist that protect women's rights the slow pace of implementation and change in attitude remain major hindrances to the full protection and realisation of these rights. Family law in most countries remains highly discriminatory to women.



Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

Gender machineries largely lack political clout to influence government decisions especially those relating to budget allocations. Resources for implementing gender equality strategies are limited, with an over-dependence on development aid and NGO interventions. The gender mainstreaming approach has often become a technocratic and bureaucratic endeavour rather than a transformative one.

Education and Training of Women

Progress in bridging the gender gap in education has been commendable; however issues of low retention of girls in school and the quality and relevance of education are major concerns. Adult education for women is not sufficiently prioritized in most African countries.



Women and Armed Conflict

Increasing insecurity, failing states, the crisis of armed conflicts and the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in several countries have increased violent crimes against women and children. The majority of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa are women and children.

Violence Against Women

Despite many countries enacting legislation on various forms of VAW, consistent implementation remains a challenge. Governments have not demonstrated commitment to eliminate VAW and deal decisively with perpetrators. VAW has also increased women and girls' vulnerability to contracting HIV.

Women and the Environment

Women and children continue to bear the brunt of environmental calamities yet are rarely consulted on issues of climate change response, adaptation, mitigation and compensation. Most African countries lack urban development policies and plans that are gender responsive. This has led to proliferation of hazardous urban settlements, where women and children constitute the majority of residents.



Women and Health

Africa still has the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world. Quality health services are still in short supply, and there are widespread issues with drug shortages and persistent barriers to women and girls accessing free medication and family planning services and information.

Women and Media

Generally women in Africa still have little or no control over content creation and dissemination of information in mainstream media.



The Girl-Child

Most countries in Africa have paid attention to education of girls, but negative cultural attitudes and practices continue to expose girls in the region to a multitude of violations including child labour, early marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and child trafficking, among other forms of violence.

"Africa is not for women without us"

AFRICAN WOMEN SAY: If our governments move at the same pace as the last 15 years, there is little hope that the change and development we desire will be realized. It is therefore imperative that the pace of progress is accelerated. There is need to intensify momentum at national and regional levels and keep a sharp focus on the 12 priority areas specified in the Beijing Platform for Action. The African Women's Decade (2010-2020) provides an opportunity for all governments in Africa to take leadership to significantly reduce the gaps identified, specifically in the first three years of the Decade.

AFRICAN WOMEN CALL ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO:

- **Articulate and redefine women's economic empowerment** to work towards achieving full employment and sustainable livelihoods for all women in both rural and urban areas.
- **Prioritise women's health** particularly maternal, sexual and reproductive health, as a human rights issue, and as a critical component of sustainable development in Africa, and intensify actions to reduce the feminisation of HIV/AIDS.
- Address corruption decisively in the health sector through democratisation of information and increasing awareness about patients' rights and responsibilities of health care giving personnel.
- Ensure that in the next five years there are **national multi-sectoral and multi-faceted plans to address gender-based violence**, underpinned by social mobilization, capacity building and effective monitoring and evaluation of the preventive strategies, redress measures and actions undertaken.
- Address the burning issue of impunity in Africa with regard to violations of human rights of African citizens, particularly violence against women and children in conflict situations.
- Take appropriate actions to **eliminate all discriminatory laws**, practices and traditions, and secure through legislation women's right to equality with men particularly in marriage, divorce and separation, inheritance matters and property ownership.
- Ensure that **universal ratification of the AU Protocol on Women's Rights**, CEDAW and its Optional Protocol are prioritized to be achieved in the first 3 years of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020).
- Accelerate implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and all women's rights commitments through a **multi-sectoral approach** to which States committed themselves and are called upon to achieve by the end of the first three years of the African Women's Decade.
- Ensure that structures established to lead the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda have **adequate resources** as an indication of political commitment to women's advancement.
- Ensure that gender equality is incorporated in all planning and budgeting processes at different levels, and the deliberate development of **sex disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators**
- Strengthen programs and activities of government, regional and international bodies, and national and local women's NGOs that coordinate and **provide support to women in leadership and politics** at all levels, so as to ensure empowerment indicators are duly monitored and broad coverage up to local levels is achieved.
- Engage the citizenry in **dialogue and education and awareness programs** that are well targeted in order to influence change in attitudes and behaviour which perpetuate the marginalization of women in politics and society as a whole.
- Prioritize the **implementation of the AU Charter on Democracy** by having in place constitutional guarantees to provide for gender parity, which would be enforced through affirmative action measures such as quota systems and proportional representation.
- **Allocate funds to the African Union Women's Fund** to support training and education programmes for women politicians aspiring for elective positions as a means of enhancing their capacities to effectively participate in and influence decision making processes.
- Make deliberate efforts to **nominate female candidates** for the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission as a sign of equal sharing of leadership and responsibilities and delivering on the development agenda in Africa.
- Invest in **research on climate change in Africa and its implications for women**, and address the gender dimensions with respect to mitigation, adaptability, response and compensation mechanisms.
- Ensure that all efforts aiming to improve the quality of life in cities and urban centres integrate a gender perspective in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of impact of such programmes.
- Intensify the **use of both traditional media and new communication technologies** for wider dissemination of information and empowerment of women and girls.
- Enact **Freedom of Information legislation** in line with internationally accepted human rights principles and standards in order to guarantee citizens' access to critical information and facilitate their full and effective participation in governance, democratic processes and development.
- **Ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child** and ensure that national laws and practices are in line with the provisions of the international and regional human rights instruments focusing on children's rights.

The Africa Women's Regional Shadow Report on Beijing +15 was compiled under the auspices of the Africa NGO Taskforce on Beijing +15, with contributions from 13 National Shadow Reports and 3 Sub-regional NGO reports compiled by women's organisations and networks at national and sub-regional levels.

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Annex E: 10-10-10 Communiqué to African Union Member States from the NGO Forum preceding the Launch of the Africa Women's Decade

October 10, 2010
Nairobi, Kenya

“The 10-10-10 Communiqué”

We, the 252 representatives of civil society organizations and women leaders from grassroots organizations coming from 33 African countries who are engaged in addressing women's human rights and gender equality issues across Africa, meeting at the NGO Forum preceding the launch of the African Women's Decade on 10th October 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya;

Deliberating on the goals, the approach, opportunities and key deliverables for the African Women's Decades;

Noting with great concern that although most African governments are signatories to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and 28 countries have ratified the African Union (AU) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of women in Africa the actions undertaken so far have not transformed the lives of majority of women in Africa;

Recognizing that the African Women's Decade presents a great opportunity for a REVOLUTION to happen for the women of Africa in particular; to realize their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the success of the African Women's Decade will only be possible by the leaders and governments of Africa developing comprehensive multi-sectoral, national plans of action for the African Women's Decade and ensuring that budgets are allocated for their full implementation as part of the priorities integrated in the National Development Plans / Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers;

Urge the African Union Member States to ensure that they undertake the following actions before the mid-term review in 2015 in line with the theme of the Decade, “Grassroots approach to gender equality and women's empowerment”:

- Ensure that grassroots women are fully represented and actively involved in all platforms of decision making with the space to speak and contribute directly to addressing the issues that affect them.
- Make efforts to bridge the divide between women in decision making and grassroots women living in poor rural communities and informal settlements.
- Enhance the capacities of grassroots women's networks so they can undertake community research, situation analyses, and manage and own action plans that feed into local government and national policies and programs.
- Recognize and publicly acknowledge the critical role that grassroots women play in subsidizing the State in reference to access to basic needs including health and shelter; access to justice through models like Community Land Watch Dog groups, and natural resource management and directly support the scaling up of these efforts.
- Invest in the demonstrated ability of grassroots women's groups to mobilize and organize on issues of governance and accountability and development.

Make deliberate efforts to engage men at the grassroots level, including Elders Councils and religious leaders in initiatives that contribute to the promotion of gender equality at the household and community levels.

We call on AU Member States to prioritize the following actions under the 10 thematic areas for the Decade:

1. Fighting poverty and promoting economic empowerment of women and entrepreneurship

Ensure the full implementation of the equality provisions in national constitutions and other international and regional instruments that guarantee rights of ownership of property and productive resources like land for vulnerable groups (including widows, orphans, women with disabilities) and facilitate women's realization of their economic rights taking into account the special circumstances of grassroots women that require reasonable and conducive terms.

2. Agriculture and Food Security

Increase involvement of women in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) for full utilization of African markets with full adherence to climactic precautions and ensuring that small-scale women farmers get fair prices for their labour and produce.

3. Health, Maternal Mortality and HIV & AIDS

Subsidize health care and in particular the production of generic drugs to increase women's access to quality health services including realization of the universal access to HIV/AIDS drugs, and ensure that other diseases such as cancers, diabetes and malaria which impact women and girls' health are also prioritized under this thematic area of the Decade.

4. Education, Science and Technology

Implement a holistic approach to education of women and girls by integrating practical, relevant and age-appropriate social survival skills, such as decision-making, analytical and financial skills, at various levels of education. Further, develop a rich curriculum for a rights-based Compulsory Adult Education that includes provisions for on-going education beyond basic literacy.

5. Environment and Climate Change

Declare environmental degradation and climate change effects as national disasters that require the full attention of the national environment management authorities whose roles should be adequately devolved to established local committees with 50% representation of women.

6. Peace and Security and Violence Against Women

Work with Regional Women's organizations to establish an African Women's Peace Foundation with linkages to grassroots women's peace initiatives that will work closely with the AU Peace and Security Architecture to compel AU member states to implement the internationally agreed instruments on achievement of peace and security, including those relating to the elimination of violence against women, involvement of women in peace building and psychosocial reconstruction initiatives.

Pressurize all parties concerned in resolving the conflicts in Somalia, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Northern Uganda to achieve a ceasefire and focus on rebuilding and reconstruction efforts with the involvement of women who increasingly are bearing the brunt of these conflicts.

7. Governance and Legal Protection

Achieve the universal ratification of the AU Protocol on the Rights of women in Africa by 2013 and ensure that all countries that are parties to the Protocol prioritize its full implementation by 2015 by taking the measures

indicated in Articles 2 – 24 and reporting annually on the progress made as required under the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, 2004.

8. Finance and Gender Budgets

Ensure that the contributions to the Africa Union are made in a timely manner so that the 1% of States contributions to the AU which is to be used for the African Women's Fund is available to secure the smooth operation of the Fund and facilitate the achievement of the targets set for the first 5 years of the Decade.

9. Women in Decision-making

Achieve the universal ratification and domestication of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which emphasizes the need for AU Member States to guarantee equal participation of women and men in leadership and decision making and take cognizance of the recommendation made in Banjul at the NGO Forum held in the margins of the Eighth African Conference on Women which was affirmed at this Forum to appoint a female Chairperson of the African Union Commission during the Africa Women's Decade;

10. Young Women's Movement

Ensure that 30% of leadership positions be held by young women below the age of 35 years, and support the creation a forum for young African women to network and set aside funds to facilitate the expansion of the young women's movement.









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