



## AMENDED SECOND DRAFT AFRICA COMMON POSITION FOR THE BEIJING +30 REVIEW PROCESS

### <sup>1</sup>SIXTY-NINE SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) TO BE HELD FROM 10-21 MARCH 2025

#### PREAMBLE

1. *We, African Ministers of Gender and Representatives of African Governments, Experts, Youth and African Women Movement, meeting in Addis Ababa, Federal Republic of Ethiopia, on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024, in preparation for the sixty-nine (69) session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 69), to review and appraise the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and map priorities to address the remaining challenges;*
2. *Welcome* the outcomes of the crucial Africa Regional Review of the implementation of the BPfA
3. *Congratulate* the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) and UNWOMEN, and deeply appreciate highlighting African Countries achievements as one of the main findings,
4. *Celebrate the* significant achievements made by African governments and people during the past five years to uphold the Beijing principles and advance gender equality and the rights of women despite the prevalence of persistent and new challenges.
5. *Express Deep concern* that despite these achievements, gender inequality remains substantial, and Africa is not on track to meet the sustainable development goals and fully implement the BPfA and Declaration.
6. *Aware* that the causes of these delays can be attributed on the one hand to Africa's practices, the weakness of its institutional arrangement to address gender equality and women empowerment, but on the other hand to the uneven playing field in development, which prevented Africa from addressing the multiple shocks of the past five years as governments had to address urgent issues of financing humanitarian needs at the expense of social issues.

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<sup>1</sup> Version of 23 October 2024

7. **Recognising** that addressing present needs and shortcomings requires an approach that transforms systems that create, entertain and maintain women's disempowerment and gender inequality.
8. **Considering** recommendations made in the Review, and all other recommendations including those made in the Political Declaration adopted in 2020 as the outcome of CSW 64<sup>th</sup>, as well as the seven key priorities of the collective strategy agreed upon and adopted by African member states in the review of Beijing +25,
9. **Commit** to accelerate reaching gender equality and the empowerment of women, and take the necessary relevant measures to address the persistent and new challenges in implementing these commitments in collaboration with representatives of African Youth, Civil Society and representatives of the Women's Movement, as well as those of the group of Experts,
10. **Reaffirm our** commitment to implement the SDG and its achievement by 2030, as well as those made in the framework of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want" of the African Union, Resolutions related to Peace and Security as per Resolution UNSCR 1325 , and all other global, regional and national instruments aimed at promoting and realizing gender equality and women's empowerment, by building on our achievements and by addressing the persistent and new challenges.
11. **Having considered** the report of the Review on the implementation of the BpFA we agree to act collectively with all branches of Government, youth, Civil Society, the Private Sector, on the following critical priority actions to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for action, to strengthen the gains already made as well as to addressing the persistent and new challenges,

**ON POVERTY; POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND SOCIAL SERVICES (Cluster 1)**

- a. Ensure equal access by rural women to land, capital and technology for improving agricultural services ,

- b. Investing in quality, affordable and accessible care services, ensuring that social protection systems are care-friendly and gender-responsive, and implementing comprehensive maternity, paternity, and parental leave policies to reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women and time poverty.
- c. Implementing community-led food security initiatives that integrate social protection mechanisms with local agricultural practices
- d. Recognising the contributions of both paid and unpaid work by integrating unpaid work in national statistics

## **DIGNITY: FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE, STIGMA, AND STEREOTYPES (CLUSTER 2)**

a. *Address* the underlying causes of sexual violence, both in times of conflict and during periods of relative peace including tackling gender inequalities and discrimination across all areas as outlined in UNSCR 2467 (2019)

b. *Strengthen* the capacity of government officials to develop, implement and take specific measures including policies for the elimination of violence against all women and girls,

c. *Ensure* that social protection programs explicitly address VAWG by including components such as access to emergency shelters, psychological support, legal assistance, and reintegration services for survivors.

d. *Secure increased allocation* of financial and human resources to ensure that women and girls have access to high-quality GBV response services and adequate protection.

e. *Prioritise efforts* to address gender-based violence in conflict settings and humanitarian contexts – especially conflict-related sexual violence;

## **PROSPERITY: INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, SHARED PROSPERITY, AND DECENT WORK (Cluster 3)**

a. *Foster partnerships* to secure the effective participation of all categories of stakeholders, including public institutions at all levels, civil society organisations and development partners.

b. *Develop*, in collaboration with other government departments, regulations and policies to promote women into leadership positions and provide them with the

opportunity to bring about transformative changes at all levels of decision-making within their organizations and communities.

c. *Take measures* to close the data and evidence gaps through improved regular data collection and analysis, and use of gender statistics, including by enhancing national statisticians capacities to strengthen the implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes on women's rights.

d. *Explore* innovative ways of mobilising financial resources to significantly increase funding for the development and implementation of gender-responsive programmes and policies addressing all women's and girls' rights, especially those related to environment and disaster risk initiatives.

#### **PARTNERSHIP: ACCOUNTABILITY, PARTICIPATION AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS (Cluster 4)**

a. *Advocate* for the strengthening of the gender national machinery to be placed at the highest possible level with clearly defined mandates and authority, adequate resources, and the ability and competence to influence policy and formulate and review legislation in collaboration with the relevant government institutions, in line with recommendations made in the BPfA.

b *Strengthen* the leadership of all gender equality champions including political, traditional and religious leaders to enable them to be models of change at all levels.

c. *Call* for strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of institutions at all levels in the social, economic, political and humanitarian areas to foster a non-discriminatory environment promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as well as ensure their access to public services, their protection and equal access to justice.

d. *Call for* the strengthening of institutional frameworks to ensure adequate accountability and effective collaboration between ministries in charge of gender and those in charge of climate change.

#### **PEACE: PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES:**

a. Enhance and strengthen women's participation in peace processes and support their leadership role in mediation

- b. Identify the accelerators that will promote women's leadership in conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding.
- c. Develop a framework for Governments, civil society and communities to work together to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity
- d. Strengthen the rule of law and its enforcement , for local as well as foreign actors. human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, and ensuring inclusive participation at all times.

## **PLANET: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, CLIMATE ACTION, AND RESILIENCE-BUILDING**

- a. Develop a Normative framework to establish institutional arrangements for women's greater involvement in climate finance and policy especially those related to energy, new technology information and communication.
- b. Provide support to grassroots women and prioritise funding and opportunities for them over international project implementers.
- c. Harness women's agency by enhancing women's knowledge and participation by leveraging their unique knowledge and perspectives in areas such as agriculture and trade to enhance climate action effectiveness.
- d. Call for the strengthening of institutional frameworks to ensure adequate accountability and effective collaboration between ministries in charge of gender and those in charge of climate change.

### **In conclusion :**

For these proposed actions to yield results, different measures need to be put in place, as accelerators of implementation.

The most important are stakeholders' commitments, the existence of strong institutions, and particularly Africa's ownership of the implementation process by putting in place all necessary measures including the financing of these actions with Africa's own resources.

