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**SECOND AFRICAN UNION SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

04 - 08 DECEMBER 2017, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

**STC 2/WGDD/Experts/Rpt.
Original: English**

**REPORT OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING
04 - 06 DECEMBER 2017
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

the final product will be closely aligned with Agenda 2063. She reiterated that all efforts were being made to ensure that quality standards were met while aiming to complete these milestones in March 2018 for review and adoption by the 3rd STC on GEWE. She thanked everyone for attending the STC.

II. Presentation and Adoption of the Draft Agenda and Work Programme

6. The draft Agenda and draft Work Programme were adopted with amendments:
7. It was clarified that this meeting will not conduct elections of the STC Bureau as the term of office of the Bureau will expire in January 2018, having been elected in January 2016. In this regard the next STC should include the elections of the 2nd Bureau.

SESSION II: 2004 SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)

Consideration of the 2016 SDGEA reports

8. The Commission presented a summary of the 2016 AU Member States and AUC Chairperson's reports on the implementation of the 2004 Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA).
9. The eleventh (11th) report of the AU Member States and the twelfth (12th) report of the AUC Chairperson were submitted pursuant to the obligations under Articles 12 and 13 of the 2004 SDGEA, which require the AU Member States and the AUC Chairperson to report annually and to provide regular updates during the Ordinary Sessions of the AU Heads of State and Government, on progress made in implementing gender equality and women's empowerment.
10. In 2016, 28 Member States submitted their reports. These are: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
11. This is the highest number of reports to be received since reporting on the 2004 SDGEA started in 2006, bringing to 51 the number of countries that have submitted reports. Senegal and Mauritius are the most consistent in submitting reports, with seven (7) and four (4) reports, respectively. Three (3) Member States are yet to submit their initial reports, namely: Cape Verde, Central African Republic, and Guinea Bissau.
12. The Member States report, highlighted administrative and legal frameworks as well as policies and programmes undertaken to implement the 2004 SDGEA. Examples of initiatives were underscored and challenges impeding full implementation of the 2004 SDGEA articles reported by Member States were outlined.

19. The Commission provided an update on the renaming of this STC from “STC on Gender and Women Empowerment” to “STC on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”. This follows the adoption by the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs of the Rules of Procedure of the STC on Gender and Women Empowerment, to include “equality” in the title to read Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.
20. The meeting requested to harmonise the definition of the different concepts related to Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
21. The meeting took note of this update.

b. Fund for African Women

22. The meeting received an update of the Fund for African Women (FAW) highlighting that since 2011, the seven (7) themes of the African Women’s Decade (AWD) have been implemented. Between 2011 and 2013 the FAW disbursed funds to 105 projects out of the 276 approved projects to the value of 1.603.977. The meeting was informed that during the Consultation Meeting of AU Ministers in Charge of Gender and Women Affairs, which was held on the margins of the Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at the AU Office in New York, the following three Ministers agreed on the AWD themes for the next three years, as follows:
 - 2018: Peace, Security and Violence Against Women
 - 2019: Women in Decision-making positions
 - 2020: Governance and Legal Protection
23. Following deliberations, the meeting suggested that the criteria for selection of projects should be clarified and Member States to be informed of the names of Civil Society Organisations that have received funding.

c. Report on Funding Status of Gender Machineries in AU Member States

24. An update was provided on the report of a rapid assessment of the funding status of gender machineries in Africa, which was conducted following a decision of the 3rd meeting of the STC Bureau held on 07 July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda. With the support of UNWOMEN, a consultant was recruited to conduct the study and develop a report from three countries, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Uganda. The preliminary findings as well as lessons emerging from the study were presented.
25. Recommendations from the study were presented to the meeting, which covered the following areas: Policy Focus as an Entry Point; Location and Policy Power of the Gender Machinery; Political leadership and support; Administrative capacity in gender machineries; Working on Priority Gender Equality issues; Budgeting Approaches and Gender Results; Create Task teams on gender budgeting, allocations and expenditure analysis; Institute a High Level Technical Working Group on Gender and Macroeconomics; Put in place a support unit for Gender Budgeting Technical Officers in Ministries, Department and Agencies; and Create a Joint Presidential Annual Award for Best Gender Budgeting Ministry, Department or Agency.

32. The draft AU Gender Strategy that was reviewed during the recently- concluded Technical Consultation meeting held on 01 – 02 December 2017, will be aligned to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
33. Following a presentation of the draft strategy and extensive deliberations, the meeting recommended that:
- a. The Commission should continue with the finalization of the strategy, with the support of the Gender Strategy Steering Committee that was appointed for this purpose;
34. The meeting was informed that the draft report of the Evaluation of the 2009 AU Gender Policy is yet to integrate responses to online surveys. In that regard, the Commission will continue to work on the document and finalize it and requests Members States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU organs and partners to complete the online questionnaire which is available online since September 2017.

SESSION VII

CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW AU GENDER COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

35. The meeting was updated on the communications strategy which will be developed once the new AU Gender Strategy is finalised. The communications strategy will deploy the new gender strategy and also be used as a tool to popularise the work of the AU gender agenda internally and externally. The communications strategy will focus on various pillars, among others, human rights and justice; leadership and governance; gender management systems; women, peace and security; media and ICTs, etc

SESSION IX

BRIEFINGS AND UPDATES

36. The following briefings and updates were provided by the Commission:

a. Gender Pre-Summit

37. The Commission briefed the meeting of the proposal to have two gender pre-summits. One will be held in January 2018, on the margins of the AU Summit. It will be a small meeting of not more than 50 participants to discuss the 2017 theme of the year; assist in defining the strategic positioning of WGDD Policy Platforms within the context of the new AU Reforms; and prepare for the 10th anniversary of the Gender Pre-Summit. The categories of attendance will include, among others: STC Bureau members, RECs, Female Ambassadors and some civil society organisations. The second might be held in May, which will focus on the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the Gender Pre-Summit.

- b. Involve neighboring countries of those Member States that are yet to ratify as well as civil society organisations, especially women's associations and religious leaders to support advocacy processes;
- c. The meeting further suggested for a study to be conducted on the challenges hindering ratification.

d. African women's garden and museum projects

44. The meeting was briefed that Assembly of the African Union at its twenty fifth ordinary session in 2015 Johannesburg, South Africa, decided to install a monument at the African Union Headquarters honoring women who have contributed to the African anti-colonial and anti-apartheid liberation struggles.
45. In implementing this decision, the AUC approved a project to "establish an African Women's Historic Sculpture Garden at the AUC", with the following three components: Women's Sculpture garden; Renaming of buildings; and Women's Museum.
46. Following deliberations, the meeting recommended that:
- a. It was also agreed that the Commission will develop criteria for selection of women who will be recognized and for the selection of sculptures and portraits
 - b. Member States to be invited to propose and contribute sculptures and portraits

e. Africa Pre-Consultation on the Commission of the Status of Women

47. The meeting received an update that the Africa Pre-CSW meeting will take place in February 2018, in preparation for the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62). Member States were requested to participate in this meeting to agree on the Africa common position that will guide the negotiations and advocacy during CSW62. In 2018, the CSW will meet under the priority theme "*Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*" and the review theme is "*participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women*", from the 47th session of the CSW.
48. The meeting recommended for the Africa common position to be agreed to in good time to allow communication with African Ambassadors in New York, so that Africa communicates the same messages during the Session. AUC should forward guidelines to MS to prepare for the pre-Africa consultations.

f. Date, Venue and Agenda of next STC

49. The next 3rd Ordinary Session of the STC will take place on Monday 7 to Friday 11 May 2018 at the AU Headquarters, unless a Member State offers to host it. The 3rd STC will elect a new STC Bureau.