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SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN UNION SPECIALISED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

04 - 08 DECEMBER 2017, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

STC 2/WGDD/Min/Rpt.
Original: English

DRAFT REPORT

Welcome Remarks H.E. Demitu Hambisa, Minister of Women and Children Affairs, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

6. In her Welcome Remark, H.E Demitu Hambisa, Minister of Women and Children Affairs, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, welcomed all participants on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Addis Ababa and to this ministerial meeting of the second Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.
7. The Minister congratulated the Women, Gender and Development Directorate for organizing the important meeting and noted that the 2nd STC is coinciding with the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence. GBV, is one of the most widespread and persistent violation of the rights of women and girls. It is embedded in cultural and other forms of social practices that justify violence perpetuated against women. The Minister encouraged the meeting to strengthen strategic partnerships and accelerate efforts to take meaningful action to create an environment where African women and girls lead healthy lives, have quality education, are safe and are treated equally.
8. The Minister underscored that promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights have great positive impact on a country's economic development and called on all to accelerate action in the implementation of commitments to promote gender equality and women's empowerment

Introductory Remarks by Mrs. Mahawa Kaba-Wheeler, Director of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD)

9. The Director welcomed all delegates to the 2nd STC on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and thanked everyone for contributing to the discussions since the beginning of the STC. She underscored that the STC has been able to mobilise 42 Member States, which is an expression of the will and commitment to fulfil the aspirations of gender equality and women's empowerment. In this regard, she expressed appreciation to UNDP for their financial support towards the meeting.

Statement on behalf of H.E.Mr. Mousa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

10. Ambassador Hadiza Mustafa, the AU Chairperson's Special Advisor on Peace, Security and Governance, read the statement on behalf of H.E. Mr. Mousa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. She welcomed all participants to the AUC and to this 2nd STC and expressed appreciation for the STC Bureau in the work they are doing in advancing the rights of women.
11. Expressing concerns about the high prevalence of violence against women and girls in Africa, the Chairperson emphasised the necessity, on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, to accelerate the implementation of policies that end violence against women and girls on the continent. The AU has prioritised, under Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 to end

- b. **REQUEST** the Commission to insert a Table which outlines the Member States that have submitted reports since 2006;
- c. **ENCOURAGE** Member States who have not yet submitted their reports for 2016, to do so by no later than 22 December, 2017;
- d. **REQUEST** the Commission to organise regular workshops in building the capacity of Member States in reporting on SDGEA
- e. **REQUEST** the Commission to conduct a study to explore the possibility of reviewing the reporting period from one year to two years”.
- f. **FURTHER REQUEST** the Commission to circulate the SDGEA reports to all Member States as a way of sharing good practices and experiences
- g. **ADOPT** the SDGEA reports in preparation for presentation to the AU Assembly.

SDGEA Reporting template

19. The meeting received a presentation of the Experts report on the SDGEA reporting template.
20. Following the presentation, the Ministers:
- a. **URGE** the Commission to harmonise the four languages;
 - b. **RECOMMEND** the capacity of WGDD to be strengthened with the creation of an STC secretariat with additional staff to be able to discharge duties effectively;
 - c. **REQUEST** the Commission to amend the reporting template to reflect that “the reporting template may include room any other relevant information”;
 - d. **ADOPT** the SDGEA reporting template.

SESSION 4: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE EXPERTS’ REPORT ON THE BRIEFINGS AND UPDATES ON THE 1ST STC

21. The meeting received the Experts report on the Briefings and Updates on the 1st STC.

a. Renaming of the STC

22. Regarding the update of the Experts report on the renaming of the STC, the Ministers:
- a. **REQUESTED** the Commission to harmonise the definition of the different concepts related to Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
 - b. **TAKE NOTE** of the change of the name of this STC, now “STC on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, which was adopted by the STC on Legal and Justice Affairs.

c. Fund for African Women

23. Regarding the Expert report on the Fund for African Women, the Ministers:

- a. **EXPRESSED** concern about the time it will take to negotiate and ratify a treaty, which will transform PAWO into an AU Specialized Agency as per Assembly Decision 621 (XXVIII).
 - b. **RECOMMEND** suspending all discussions on PAWO until further notice when they are available to participate in the deliberations;
 - c. **REQUEST** the Commission to regularly report to this STC on the progress made in operationalizing PAWO and ensure PAWO is available at the next STC meeting.
- c. **Advocacy/ campaign strategy for the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol.**

31. The meeting received an update on the Experts report on the advocacy/ campaign strategy for the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol. The Honorable Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare of South Sudan, Ms. Awut Deng Acuil also informed the STC on the ratification of the Maputo Protocol in October by South Sudan, representing the 40th AU Member State to do so.

32. Following deliberations, the Ministers:

- a. **URGE** the Commission to conduct the in-country advocacy missions within the framework of the Executive Council's Ministerial Committee on the Challenges of Ratification/ Accession and Implementation of OAU/AU Treaties;
- b. **REQUEST** the Commission to finalise the advocacy strategy and Member States to review the strategy, with a view to strengthening it, before advocacy missions are conducted.
- c. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to continue advocating and lobbying their competent national authorities like Parliaments to approve the ratification of the Maputo Protocol
- d. **FURTHER ENCOURAGE** Member States to continue raising awareness and educating competent authorities about the Maputo Protocol.

d. **African women's garden and museum projects**

33. The meeting received an update on the Experts report on the African women's garden and museum projects.

34. Following deliberations, the Ministers:

- a. **REQUEST** the Commission to develop criteria on the selection of women to be honored, as well as regarding the selection of the sculptures, portraits and other items;
- b. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to make proposals on women to be honored and offer items to be included in the women's garden and museum projects; such submissions and proposals to be channeled through the AU structures in the respective countries;

- c. **RENAME** this strategy into “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment strategy”;
- d. **REQUEST** the Commission to continue to finalize the strategy, with the support of the Gender Strategy Steering Committee that was appointed for this purpose
- e. **REQUEST** the Commission to extend the membership of the Steering Committee to include members of the STC and to regularly report to the STC on progress made in finalising the new AU Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment strategy.
- f. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to continue commenting on the strategy
- g. **REQUEST** the Commission to circulate to member States Draft three of the Strategy;
- h. **FURTHER REQUEST** the Commission to consider feedback on the content.
- i. **REQUEST** the Commission to take into account culture specific and traditional imperatives when defining concepts, including gender and gender equality.

SESSION 9: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE EXPERTS’ REPORT ON THE UPDATE ON THE NEW AU GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- 41. The meeting received an update that the communications strategy is currently being developed alongside the gender equality strategy.
- 42. Following discussions, the Ministers:
 - a. **RENAME** the communications strategy to: gender equality and Women’s Empowerment communications strategy
 - b. **TAKE NOTE** of the update

SESSION 11: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT STC REPORT

- 43. **ADOPT** the report with amendments

SESSION 12

CLOSING CEREMONY

- 25. In her Closing Remarks, Mrs. Mahawa Kaba Wheeler, the WGDD Director, thanked all for their participation at this meeting. She further highlighted that the Commission’s commemoration of the 16 days of Activism was a further demonstration of its commitment to GEWE and as the CP has stated previously he looks forward to working with Ministers and all stakeholders in fulfilling his commitment to make women and youth the heartbeat of his mandate.

She recognized and thanked all who supported the meeting, including the volunteer translators from Members States namely Angola and Mozambique for Portuguese and Mauritania, Libya and Sudan for Arabic. She expressed appreciation to the Chairperson and Rapporteur of the Experts meeting which prepared for this Ministerial meeting.