

Roadmap for Signature,  
Ratification, Domestication and  
Implementation of **the African  
Union Convention on Ending  
Violence Against Women & Girls  
(AU-CEVAWG)**



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## Foreword

The adoption of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG) in February 2025 marked a watershed moment in our continent's long journey towards gender equality and the realisation of the fundamental rights enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa ( "the Maputo Protocol"). For the first time, Africa has a dedicated, comprehensive, and legally binding instrument that addresses the full spectrum of violence against women and girls, from domestic abuse to conflict-related atrocities, from harmful practices to technology-facilitated violence, and from economic coercion to femicide.

Yet a Convention, however robust, is only as powerful as its implementation. Instruments do not save lives; political will and collective action do. The promise of AU-CEVAWG will remain unfulfilled if it sits on shelves, gathering dust alongside other well-intentioned commitments. It is for this reason that we present this Roadmap for the Signature, Ratification, Domestication, and Implementation of the AU-CEVAWG.

This Roadmap is more than a technical guide; it is a call to action, a strategic compass, and a testament to our shared resolve. It charts a clear path from continental aspiration to national reality, offering Member States, Regional Economic Communities, civil society, development partners, and all stakeholders a practical framework to translate the Convention's provisions into tangible change in the lives of women and girls across Africa.

The Roadmap is anchored in the recognition that ending violence against women and girls requires a multi-faceted, whole-of-society approach. It strikes a balance between ambition and realism, setting time-bound milestones for signature, ratification, legislative alignment, institutional strengthening, and robust accountability. Crucially, it leverages existing continental mechanisms, particularly the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), to ensure oversight without duplication, embedding the Convention's implementation within the proven framework of the state reporting process under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

We owe a profound debt of gratitude to the African Union Commission, the technical teams at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, the Office of the Legal Counsel, and the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security for their unwavering commitment and dedication. We thank the Member States, civil society organizations, women's networks, and grassroots advocates who contributed their expertise, lived experiences, and relentless passion to shaping both the Convention and this accompanying Roadmap. Special recognition is due to the African Union Circle of Champions on Positive Masculinity in Leadership, whose commitment demonstrates that ending violence against women and girls is not women's work alone— it is humanity's work.

To Member States, we urge the signature, ratification, and implementation of this Convention without delay. We salute the leadership of Angola, Burundi, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, The Gambia, Ghana, and Equatorial Guinea—the first eight signatories to this historic instrument. Your bold example lights the path for the rest of the continent. We urge all other Member States to follow suit and add your voices to this growing chorus of commitment.

To our partners in civil society, we recognize and value your indispensable role in advancing this shared agenda. Your expertise, grassroots reach, and longstanding commitment to the rights and dignity of women and girls are vital to the successful implementation of this Roadmap. As advocates, service providers, community mobilisers, and partners in policy and legal reform, you are central to translating the commitments of the Convention into meaningful change on the ground. Together, we share a collective responsibility to ensure that the Convention's promise is realized; amplifying the voices of survivors, strengthening prevention and response systems, and working collaboratively so that no woman or girl is left behind.

The Africa We Want, as envisioned in Agenda 2063, is an Africa where women and girls are empowered, protected, and free from all forms of violence. This Roadmap is our collective blueprint for getting there.



**Honorable Commissioner Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie**  
**Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa**  
**African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**

**Ms. Prudence Ngwenya**  
**Director of the Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate**  
**African Union Commission**

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## 1. Introduction

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) represents not merely a human rights issue, but a pervasive continental crisis in Africa, eroding the very fabric of our societies, impeding sustainable development, and inflicting an unbearable human and economic cost. Despite decades of commitment to gender equality and the laudable progress enshrined in instruments like the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol), a devastating tide of violence continues to rise, threatening the lives, dignity, and potential of millions of women and girls in Africa. This crisis, manifested in alarming statistics and profound human suffering, is compounded by emerging challenges, including technology-facilitated gender-based violence, the exacerbating effects of climate change and humanitarian crises, and concerning pushback against gender equality norms. The existing frameworks, while foundational, have proven insufficient to counter the scale, complexity, and unique contextual drivers of this violence.

It was in this context of urgent, escalating need that the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government demonstrated their unwavering resolve to confront this crisis head-on. The adoption of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG) in February 2025 marks a watershed moment, establishing the continent's first dedicated legal instrument to comprehensively address all forms of VAWG. This Convention is the culmination of a broad, collaborative effort across the entire continental gender equality ecosystem, embodying a shared commitment to pan-African values and the absolute rejection of impunity. The urgency for this coordinated action cannot be overstated. With one in three African women experiencing violence,

a rate rising to 41 percent in some regions, violence against women and girls erodes the very fabric of our societies, inflicts unbearable human suffering, and imposes crippling economic costs.

This Roadmap is a strategic and operational guide designed to translate AU-CEVAWG's profound commitments from paper into tangible reality across all 55 AU Member States. The purpose of the Roadmap is to provide a clear, coordinated, and actionable framework that balances continental ambition with national sovereignty, enabling each country to adapt implementation to its unique context while maintaining alignment with shared continental commitments and objectives. The AU-CEVAWG, along with this accompanying Roadmap, is therefore a direct and urgent response to a clear and present threat, embodying the continent's unwavering resolve to secure a future of safety, dignity, and equality for every woman and girl.

The purpose of this Roadmap is to operationalize the AU-CEVAWG by guiding Member States and partners through a coordinated, time-bound process from signature to full implementation.

It aims to:

- Translate the legal and political commitments of the Convention into actionable measures at national and regional levels.
- Facilitate alignment between the Convention's provisions and existing national, regional, and continental frameworks.
- Strengthen coherence and synergy among AU organs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and stakeholders to accelerate results.
- Provide tools, milestones, and indicators for monitoring progress, ensuring transparency and accountability.

This Roadmap applies to all 55 AU Member States, irrespective of their legal systems, and encourages adaptation to local contexts while maintaining fidelity to the Convention's core obligations. It is designed as a living document, iterative and responsive to emerging realities across the continent.

## 2. KEY STRATEGIC MILESTONES AND TARGETS

The Roadmap establishes an ambitious yet achievable set of time-bound milestones, reflecting the urgency of the crisis while acknowledging the complexity of the required legal, institutional, and social transformations. This Convention is open to all Member States of the AU for signature, ratification or accession, in accordance with their respective constitutional or legislative procedures.

### IMMEDIATE GOAL: ENTRY INTO FORCE (WITHIN 24 MONTHS)

The Convention will enter into force thirty days after the fifteenth Member State deposits its instrument of ratification. The primary initial target is therefore to secure a signature by the majority of AU Member States and ratification by at least fifteen Member States within the first twenty four months following adoption, through intensive advocacy and high-level political engagement. This threshold will activate the Convention's legal force and build irreversible momentum for universal ratification.

### **SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM GOALS: LEGISLATIVE ALIGNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING (BY END OF YEAR 3)**

By the end of the third year, the framework anticipates that approximately thirty Member States will have initiated or completed comprehensive legislative reforms to align national laws with the Convention's requirements. This includes strengthening criminal justice responses; criminalizing all forms of VAWG, including economic violence and femicide; and eliminating discriminatory provisions in family, labor, and other relevant laws.

Concurrently, all ratifying States are expected to have established or significantly strengthened national coordination mechanisms. This could include creating specialized units within police forces and judiciary systems, training key personnel across justice, health, and social services sectors, and establishing fully functional, multi-sectoral referral systems for survivors.

### **LONG-TERM GOAL: SUSTAINABLE IMPACT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (5-YEAR TARGETS)**

The five-year targets emphasize sustainability and demonstrate a tangible impact. This includes the establishment of robust, functioning monitoring systems across ratifying states for regular data collection on the prevalence of VAWG and the effectiveness of responses. The ultimate goal is to achieve measurable reductions in reported cases through proven prevention programs and early intervention strategies, ensuring the AU-CEVAWG delivers real, life-changing results.



### 3. CORE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Roadmap's effectiveness hinges on implementing a cohesive set of recommendations addressing the multifaceted nature of VAWG:

#### **POLITICAL LEADERSHIP:**

Unwavering commitment from Heads of State, government ministers, and parliamentary leaders is one of the most critical success factors. Sustained high-level engagement is essential to drive ratification, secure resources, and maintain implementation momentum.

#### **LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM:**

A comprehensive review and revision of national legislation is required to eliminate gaps and contradictions, ensuring a coherent legal framework that fully protects women and girls from violence across all spheres of life.

#### **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING:**

Significant investment is needed to develop specialized mechanisms and train personnel across the justice, health, and social service sectors to ensure a competent, compassionate, and coordinated response.

#### **RESOURCE MOBILIZATION:**

Dedicated and tracked budget allocations are fundamental. The Roadmap recommends establishing specific budget lines for VAWG activities and employing gender-responsive budgeting to ensure adequate and sustainable financing.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NORM CHANGE:**

Recognizing that laws alone are insufficient, the Roadmap emphasizes the need to transform discriminatory and harmful social norms and practices. This involves strategic engagement with traditional and religious leaders, mobilizing men and boys as allies, and launching widespread public awareness campaigns to popularize the AU-CEVAWG and promote gender equality.

#### **ROBUST MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

Leveraging the existing State Reporting mechanism on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter), and as the designated accountability mechanism for the AU-CEVAWG, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) shall ensure that State Parties to the Charter and subsequently to AU-CEVAWG include in their periodic reports, as guided by Article 62 of the Charter, the legislative and other measures undertaken to end all forms of violence against women and girls. This is intended to ensure transparency, track progress, and enforce accountability to the commitments in the AU-CEVAWG.

## **A COLLABORATIVE CONTINENTAL ENDEAVOR:**

The development of the AU-CEVAWG itself is a testament to the power of pan-African collaboration, championed by the AU and forged through extensive consultations with the AU Circle of Champions on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, AU organs, civil society, and women's networks, including the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN). This Roadmap continues in that spirit. Its successful execution demands the collective ownership and collaborative action of all stakeholders, namely: governments, RECs, civil society organizations (CSOs), including women's organizations/networks; development partners; the private sector; religious and traditional leaders; and the media.

By providing a clear path from ratification to implementation and, ultimately, to accountability, this Roadmap offers a historic opportunity to break the cycle of violence. It is a call to action for united leadership to translate our shared commitment into a safer, more just, and prosperous future for all Africans. The ACHPR Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa ensures monitoring, reporting and oversight, while the African Union Commission (AUC), through the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD), provides political leadership, in close collaboration with the Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) for legal guidance on treaty procedures and the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (OSE-WPS) for coherence with the continental WPS agenda.

## **4. PROCESSES/METHODOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

The Convention's development was rigorously shaped by a participatory and inclusive methodology, championed by the AU. This process harnessed a broad coalition of stakeholders to ensure the instrument was a collectively owned, pan-African achievement. The AU provided decisive political leadership through initiatives such as the Annual Men's Conferences on Positive Masculinity. At the same time, extensive multi-stakeholder consultations across the continent integrated critical perspectives from Member States, AU organs, youth, private sector, CSOs, and women's networks, including the AWLN. This collaborative effort ensured that the lived experiences of African women and girls, alongside expert analysis and intergenerational dialogue, were central to every stage of the drafting process. The collective contribution of these diverse actors, from identifying gaps in existing frameworks to shaping a solution grounded in our continental diversity, was essential in forging a uniquely African instrument and stands as a testament to the power of shared commitment.

## **5. OVERVIEW OF THE AU-CEVAWG**

The AU-CEVAWG establishes a comprehensive legal framework that addresses all forms of VAWG across public and private spheres, including cyberspace. It builds upon the commitments of existing continental instruments such as the African Charter



as the foundational human rights instrument, the Maputo Protocol, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, as well as other African and international human rights instruments, while introducing more targeted and comprehensive measures to address the root causes and consequences of VAWG.

Comprising twenty articles, the Convention is anchored on four fundamental pillars: **Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Policy Implementation**, to ensure a holistic approach to addressing violence against women and girls in Africa. The Convention's scope extends beyond traditional understandings of violence to encompass economic violence, online abuse, and femicide, acknowledging the evolving nature of VAWG in contemporary African societies.

This comprehensive approach recognizes that VAWG occurs along a continuum and requires coordinated responses that address both immediate safety needs and underlying structural factors that perpetuate violence.

## 6. Alignment with International and AU Instruments

Whilst the concerns raised regarding the AU-CEVAWG alignment with existing instruments are noted, such critiques may arise from a misunderstanding of the convention's intended scope, purpose, and legal function. The Convention is not a standalone document created in a vacuum; it is the deliberate and necessary

capstone of Africa's robust human rights architecture, designed to provide the specificity and enforceability to strengthen broader instruments aimed at addressing VAWG. By providing this specialized focus, it completes the African human rights system, ensuring that the continent's foundational promises of dignity and equality are rendered fully actionable and enforceable for every woman and girl. Its relationship to existing frameworks is one of synergy, not supersession, reaffirming and fulfilling long-standing promises with concrete, legally binding obligations.

The Convention's primary function is to provide detailed, actionable measures required to realize the general guarantees enshrined in Africa's core legally binding instruments:

**The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights:**

The Convention gives practical effect to the African Charter's foundational guarantees of life, integrity, security, and non-discrimination (**Articles 4, 5, 18**) by defining the specific State obligations required to protect these rights from violation through violence.

**The Maputo Protocol (Article 4):** While the Protocol explicitly condemns violence against women, the AU-CEVAWG provides a comprehensive and operational framework for its elimination. It defines forms of violence with precision, mandates concrete State actions across the four pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy implementation, and establishes robust accountability mechanisms, thereby fulfilling the Protocol's promise.

**The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:**

It strengthens protection for girls by addressing the specific

violence they face, operationalizing the Charter's general principles of survival, development, and protection. The Convention also serves as the primary enforcement vehicle for key non-binding yet authoritative policy frameworks, transforming their aspirational goals into actionable and measurable legal obligations:

**Agenda 2063, Aspiration 6:** This Convention, together with other African Regional legal instruments, is the legal engine for achieving the aspiration of "an Africa where all women and girls are empowered." It directly enables the goal of gender parity by systematically removing the most significant barrier, violence, that inhibits women's full participation in all spheres of life.

**The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) & The AU Strategy on Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment (GEWE):**

The Convention provides the binding legal framework to these critical policy agendas. It answers their calls for accelerated action with specific, mandatory measures, moving from voluntary implementation to state obligation.

The Convention also exemplifies the principle of subsidiarity, strengthening global norms by adapting them to regional contexts. It serves as a powerful regional implementation mechanism for binding international treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its General Recommendation 35, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Target 5.2. This offers culturally attuned strategies for fulfilling these existing commitments.

The Convention's value lies in its precision and provisions on modern challenges, providing legal clarity on:

**Emerging Threats:** Explicitly addressing digital violence and technology-facilitated abuse, closing a critical gap in existing frameworks.

**Intersectional Vulnerability:** Offering strengthened protections for groups disproportionately affected by violence, including young women, refugees, internally displaced persons, women with disabilities, and the elderly, thereby fulfilling the “leave no one behind” pledge of both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

**The Conflict Continuum** explicitly bridges the peace-security-development nexus by mandating measures to address VAWG in conflict, post-conflict, and peacetime settings, thereby reinforcing the AU Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

## 7. MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY

The accountability framework for the AU-CEVAWG is strategically anchored within the existing and robust monitoring mechanisms of the ACHPR, ensuring efficiency and avoiding duplication of efforts. In accordance with Article 14 of the AU-CEVAWG, implementation oversight is integrated into the ACHPR’s State Reporting process under Article 62 of the African Charter, whereby States Parties to the African Charter and the Convention are obligated to include comprehensive details on their legislative, policy, and programmatic measures to end VAWG, within their periodic reports.



This integrated approach leverages a proven system and underscores that compliance with the AU-CEVAWG is a fundamental component of a State's overarching human rights obligations. The ACHPR Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa plays a pivotal role in this process, taking the lead in collaboration with the AUC through its Directorate on Women, Gender, and Youth. The Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, in championing State compliance, providing technical assistance, and interpreting the Convention's provisions, amongst other priorities.

To ensure a holistic and rigorous accountability mechanism, it is envisaged that the existing Guidelines for State Reporting on the Maputo Protocol will be reviewed to incorporate the AU-CEVAWG. In contrast, parallel Guidelines for shadow reporting by civil society organizations and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) will be strengthened to empower them to provide essential independent assessments. This is envisioned to create a powerful dual accountability loop, where State reporting is complemented by rigorous civil society oversight, capturing grassroots realities and survivor experiences that are often absent in official narratives.

By embedding the Convention within this established framework, the roadmap ensures that accountability is not a standalone exercise, but a continuous process of transparent review, leading to targeted recommendations and, ultimately, transformative implementation on the ground.

## 8. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Member States of the AU bear primary responsibility for the implementation of AU-CEVAWG through their governments' executive, legislative, and judicial branches. National governments must lead ratification processes, legal reforms, policy development, and institutional capacity building while ensuring adequate resource allocation and coordination across sectors and levels of government.

The successful realization of the Convention's objectives, however, is contingent upon a robust, multi-stakeholder ecosystem that provides essential technical, advocacy, and operational support. This framework for implementation extends to a broad coalition of partners, including AU Organs; RECs; CSOs, including women's organisations and networks; development partners, and other critical actors from the private sector, religious and cultural institutions, and media, all of whom play indispensable and complementary roles. A comprehensive stakeholder matrix is provided in the appended annex to this Roadmap.



**AU-CEVAWG ROADMAP:  
IMPLEMENTATION PHASES**

**Phase I: Advocacy and Media Engagement**

**Objective: To generate continentwide awareness, secure highlevel political commitment, and mobilize a broad coalition of stakeholders to create irreversible momentum for the rapid signature, ratification, domestication, and implementation of AUCEVAWG.**

Target Audience	Key Messages/Purpose	Primary Actions	Tools	Suggested Annex
Political Leadership (Heads of State, Ministers)	Signing and/or ratifying the AUCEV-AWG is a strategic leadership decision that protects citizens, fulfills existing human rights obligations, and drives economic development.	<p>Leverage the Circle of Champions on Positive Masculinity for peertopeer advocacy among Heads of State.</p> <p>Secure public endorsements and signing and ratification commitments at highlevel platforms (AU Summits, REC meetings, AU Organs Public Sessions).</p> <p>Engage Ministers of Gender, Justice, and Foreign Affairs in technical discussions on implementation costs, legal alignment, and resource allocation.</p>	Highlevel press kits, tailored briefs, endorsement videos, commitment maps	List of Circle of Champions and their commitments
Parliamentarians (Pan-African Parliament, National Caucuses)	Constitutional power to fasttrack signing and ratification, and enact strong implementing legislation	<p>Conduct comprehensive briefings on the Convention's requirements and the socioeconomic cost of inaction.</p> <p>Facilitate committeelevel hearings with experts and CSOs to scrutinize the treaty.</p> <p>Build crossparty coalitions to ensure swift parliamentary approval.</p>	Legal explainer documents, draft parliamentary motions, and sample speeches	Summary of parliamentary procedures for treaty ratification per region.
Civil Society, Media, and the Public	Holding leaders accountable to sign, ratify, and implement the Convention	Launch a unified continental media campaign with clear messages and hashtags (e.g., #RatifyAUCEVAWG, #Africa4Women).	Social media toolkit, community radio scripts, translated posters and, flyers.	Full catalogue of key messages, soundbites, and campaign visuals

		<p>Equip CSOs and grassroots organizations with tools for community mobilization and advocacy.</p> <p>Amplify survivors' voices and community testimonies through diverse media (radio, social media, local press).</p> <p>Develop mythbusting content and popular/simplified versions of the Convention for civil society and media.</p>		
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**Phase II: Signature and/or Ratification Process**

**Objective: To guide Member States through efficient and effective national processes to sign and deposit their instruments of ratification with the African Union Commission. Timeline & Benchmarks:**

0-24 months: Secure signatures and a minimum of 15 ratifications for the Convention to enter into force.

By the end of Year 3: Secure ratification by at least half of all AU Member States.

Ongoing: Track Member States' ratification processes (e.g., initiation or completion of legal reviews, establishment of implementation plans), not only the number of ratifications.

National Governments (Legal & Technical Gender Experts)	A swift ratification process can be achieved by leveraging existing laws and structures, thereby avoiding duplication of efforts.	<p>Conduct a Strategic National Legal Review to identify gaps in current legislation needing amendments to comply with the Convention.</p> <p>Map Member States that are ready to prioritize efforts.</p> <p>Develop countryspecific strategies based on legal systems (dualist/monist) to address the challenge of different ratification processes.</p>	Guidelines for Legal Gap Analysis and a Database of Progressive National Laws on VAWG.	Template terms of reference for a national ratification taskforce.
		<p>Map and spotlight progressive laws that already align with or exceed AUCEVAWG standards, using them as models.</p> <p>Utilize existing interministerial coordination mechanisms (e.g., those for the Maputo Protocol) to lead the process.</p> <p>Initiate planning for implementing legislation in parallel with the ratification process.</p>		

<p>AUC, in collaboration with ACHPR and other relevant Organs</p>	<p>Provide targeted technical support to Member States to navigate treaty procedures efficiently.</p>	<p>AUC, especially OLC, to provide clear guidance on treaty procedures and the designation of competent signatory authorities.</p> <p>Facilitate the sharing of best practices and technical expertise between states at different stages of ratification.</p>	<p>Official guidance notes, technical assistance workshops.</p>	
<p>CSOs &amp; NHRIs</p>	<p>Provide independent oversight and technical support to ensure a robust signature and ratification process.</p>	<p>Monitor the government's signature and ratification process and provide shadow reports.</p> <p>Submit analyses of national legal frameworks to inform the government's review.</p> <p>Advocate for inclusive and participatory processes that incorporate expert and survivor input.</p>	<p>ACHPR Guidelines for State and shadow reporting</p> <p>Model submissions for Communications/Cases on violence against women and girls before ACHPR, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.</p>	

<p>Civil Society, Media, and the Public</p>	<p>Targeted Advocacy &amp; Strategic Communications</p> <p>To build essential public and political support for ratification, complementing technical legal processes</p>	<p>Develop publicfacing campaigns that translate complex legal reforms into accessible language, utilizing infographics, explainer videos, and mythbusting content to foster a broad understanding and support.</p> <p>Secure highimpact media engagement through briefings, roundtable interviews, and editorial features with legal experts and parliamentarians to frame ratification as a legal and human rights imperative.</p> <p>Leverage legal milestones (e.g., draft bill submissions, parliamentary debates) as media moments to generate positive coverage, strengthen accountability, and ensure transparency.</p> <p>Complement media outreach with critical inperson engagements for government officials and legal experts, recognizing that direct dialogue is often more effective than media alone for changing perceptions and navigating complex political maneuvers.</p> <p>Equip champions with tailored resources like sample interview scripts and talking points for justice ministers and legislators, focusing on how ratification enhances legal protection.</p>	<p>Media engagement toolkit, sample opeds, preproduced multimedia content, and briefing packs for inperson meetings.</p>	
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**Phase III: Implementation and Domestication**

**Objective: To translate the ratified Convention into tangible national action through comprehensive legal alignment, institutional strengthening, and dedicated resource mobilization.**

<p>National Governments (Line Ministries &amp; Agencies)</p>	<p>Effective domestication requires a coordinated, wholeofgovernment approach to integrate the Convention's standards into all relevant sectors.</p>	<p><b>Enact Legislative &amp; Policy Reforms</b></p> <p>Conduct comprehensive legal reviews to harmonize national laws with Convention standards, focusing on criminal law, evidence procedures, and victim protection.</p> <p>Develop or update National Action Plans (NAPs) on VAWG as the primary multisectoral implementation framework.</p> <p><b>Strengthen Institutional Capacity:</b> Invest in specialized training for justice, health, social services, and education sectors to ensure a competent, survivorcentered response.</p> <p><b>Leverage Existing Coordination Structures:</b> Utilize established interministerial committees on gender/human rights (e.g., those for the Maputo Protocol) to lead implementation, thereby avoiding the creation of new structures and maximizing efficiency.</p> <p>Integrate AUCEVAWG commitments across Ministries, including Ministries of Health, Justice, Education, Social Protection, and Finance.</p>	<p>Model legislative provisions, training curricula, and NAP development toolkit.</p>	
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Ministries of Finance &	Investing in ending VAWG as a strategic investment in human capital,	Implement GenderResponsive Budgeting by mandating dedicated budget lines for VAWG prevention and response across all relevant	Costing models for NAPs, investment	Include specified responsible parties, including STC
Development Partners	economic productivity, and social stability.	<p>ministries, and tracking expenditures to measure impact.</p> <p>Mobilize Resources by combining domestic budget allocations with aligned international support to fund national action plans, ensuring sustainable financing.</p> <p>Engage the private sector by developing innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships for workplace safety and economic empowerment programs.</p> <p>Utilize tools, such as gender budget statements and expenditure tracking, to ensure that allocations are transparent, measurable, and utilized effectively.</p> <p>Use diversified Financing by incorporating progressive taxation, private sector partnerships (Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), impact bonds), and innovative levies (e.g., on telecommunications)</p>	cases highlighting the socioeconomic cost of VAWG, and guidelines for publicprivate partnerships	Finance, and corporate entities.
Civil Society, Media, and the Public	To secure and maintain the political and societal will necessary for longterm implementation.	Execute a targeted advocacy strategy that uses impact infographics, public service announcements, and opeds to frame implementation as a smart economic and moral imperative, targeting finance ministers and policymakers directly.		

**Phase IV: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Accountability**

**Objective: To ensure continuous progress, transparency, and state compliance through a robust system anchored in existing continental human rights mechanisms.**

Member States (Reporting Entities)	Accountability is integral to implementation. Reporting is not a separate exercise but a key tool for tracking progress and identifying gaps.	Fulfill Reporting obligations by integrating comprehensive reporting on AUCEVAWG implementation into ACHPR's existing periodic	Revised State Reporting Guidelines	
		<p>state reporting to the ACHPR under Article 62 of the African Charter.</p> <p>Use existing frameworks by utilizing the ACHPR's existing Guidelines for reporting on the Maputo Protocol (which will be updated to include AUCEV-AWG reporting modules) to ensure consistency and reduce reporting burden.</p> <p>Prepare for review by engaging proactively with the ACHPR and the SRRWA during the reporting cycle to receive constructive guidance.</p>	Technical notes on reporting integration.	

<p>ACHPR/SRRWA</p>	<p>The ACHPR mandate is central to enforcing compliance and providing authoritative guidance on the Convention.</p>	<p>Monitor Compliance by reviewing State Party Reports and issuing Concluding Observations with targeted, actionable recommendations.</p> <p>Provide interpretive guidance by providing clarifications on the Convention's provisions through General Comments to ensure uniform application.</p> <p>Offer technical support through the mechanism of the SRRWA and engage governments to assist with legislative harmonization and implementation challenges.</p> <p>Lobby for the adoption of technology, including STATAFRIC and the AU Gender Observatory, for data ease.</p> <p>Lobby for the establishment of dedicated offices/ mechanisms or focal points on State Party Reporting</p>		
<p>CSOs and NHRIs</p>	<p>Essential independent watchdogs ensuring government reports reflect ontheground realities.</p>	<p>Conduct independent monitoring by tracking implementation progress at national and local levels.</p> <p>Submit Shadow Reports by utilizing the ACHPR's Guidelines for shadow reporting to provide alternative, evidencebased assessments to complement State Reports.</p> <p>Facilitate participatory monitoring by engaging survivors and communities in data collection and advocacy, ensuring their experiences inform the accountability process.</p>	<p>Guidelines for Shadow Reporting.</p> <p>Community monitoring toolkits.</p>	

**OTHER ACTIONS:****Other Actions**

Cross-Cutting Action (Public Accountability & Transparency)

Objective: To make accountability a public and participatory process.

Actions include:

- Publishing easy-to-understand scorecards on state performance.
- Producing documentary videos on implementation successes and challenges.
- Hosting livestreamed dialogues between relevant AU Organs, officials, CSOs, and survivors.

Using strategic hashtags (e.g., #CEVAWGScorecard, #VAWGJusticeTracker) to publicize findings and generate public demand for action.



### ANNEX 1: Full Stakeholder Matrix for the AU-CEVAWG Roadmap

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
<p><b>1. MEMBER STATES</b></p>	<p><b>Heads of State and Government</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide supreme political leadership and public endorsement.</li> <li>– Champion the Convention at continental forums (e.g., AU Summits).</li> <li>– Issue directives to expedite national signature, ratification, and implementation.</li> <li>– Champion peer-to-peer advocacy (e.g., through the Circle of Champions on Positive Masculinity).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Publicly sign and commit to ratification.</li> <li>– Champion the Convention in regional economic communities and other intergovernmental bodies.</li> <li>– Allocate national resources for implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Number of public endorsements.</li> <li>– Speed of signature and ratification process in their respective countries.</li> <li>– Evidence of resource allocation.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
	<p><b>Ministries of Gender / Women's Affairs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead national technical coordination for ratification, domestication, and implementation.</li> <li>- Serve as the primary government focal point for the AU-CEVAWG.</li> <li>- Develop or update National Action Plans (NAPs) on VAWG.</li> <li>- Coordinate multi-sectoral stakeholder engagement at the national level.</li> <li>- Lead the development of periodic reports for the ACHPR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct Strategic National Legal Review.</li> <li>- Establish and chair an inter-ministerial technical committee.</li> <li>- Develop costed NAPs aligned with the Convention.</li> <li>- Develop simplified versions of the Convention for public awareness.</li> <li>- Train personnel across sectors on the Convention's provisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existence of a functional multi-sectoral coordination mechanism.</li> <li>- A costed NAP on VAWG developed or updated and aligned with AU-CEVAWG.</li> <li>- Timely submission of comprehensive State Party reports to the ACHPR.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Ministries of Justice / Attorney General's Chambers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead the legal process for ratification and accession.</li> <li>- Conduct national legal gap analyses and draft harmonizing legislation.</li> <li>- Ensure the criminal justice system (police, prosecution, judiciary) aligns with the Convention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft and shepherd ratification instruments.</li> <li>- Draft implementing legislation and amendments to existing laws.</li> <li>- Train prosecutors and judges on new VAWG offenses and survivor-centered procedures.</li> <li>- Establish specialized units within the justice system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Successful deposit of instruments of ratification with the AUC.</li> <li>- Enactment of laws fully harmonized with the Convention.</li> <li>- Increase in prosecutions and convictions for VAWG crimes.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide legal advice to the executive and legislature.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Parliaments / National Assemblies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Exercise constitutional power to ratify the AU-CEVAWG</li> <li>– Enact and oversee implementation of national legislation.</li> <li>– Scrutinize budget allocations for VAWG prevention and response.</li> <li>– Hold the executive accountable for implementation progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fast-track parliamentary approval of ratification.</li> <li>– Hold committee hearings with experts and civil society.</li> <li>– Establish cross-party parliamentary caucuses on ending VAWG.</li> <li>– Review and enact gender-responsive budgets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Swift ratification votes.</li> <li>– Passage of comprehensive, AU-CEVAWG-aligned laws.</li> <li>– Evidence of parliamentary oversight and budget scrutiny.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Ministries of Finance / Planning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure sustainable and adequate financing for VAWG interventions.</li> <li>– Mainstream gender-responsive budgeting across all sectors.</li> <li>– Mobilize and track domestic and international resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Establish dedicated, trackable budget lines for VAWG.</li> <li>– Endorse and fund costed NAPs.</li> <li>– Implement gender budget statements and expenditure tracking.</li> <li>– Engage with development partners to align funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Existence of dedicated and increasing budget lines for VAWG.</li> <li>– NAPs are fully costed and funded.</li> <li>– Publicly available gender budget statements.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
	<p><b>Ministries of Foreign Affairs / International Cooperation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate the diplomatic process of treaty signature and ratification.</li> <li>- Deposit instruments of ratification with the AUC.</li> <li>- Represent the state at international and continental reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>- Coordinate with development partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure timely deposit of instruments.</li> <li>- Coordinate with the AUC Office of the Legal Counsel on treaty procedures.</li> <li>- Support the delegation during ACHPR reporting sessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instruments of ratification formally deposited.</li> <li>- Effective coordination with AUC and ACHPR.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Sectoral Ministries (Health, Education, Social Protection, Interior)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrate AU-CEVAWG standards into sectoral policies, programs, and budgets.</li> <li>- Train personnel (health workers, teachers, social workers, police) on their roles.</li> <li>- Ensure quality, survivor-centered service delivery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and implement sector-specific protocols aligned with the Convention.</li> <li>- Strengthen multi-sectoral referral systems.</li> <li>- Collect and submit sectoral data on VAWG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sectoral policies and protocols align with AU-CEVAWG.</li> <li>- Functioning, accessible support services for survivors.</li> <li>- Regular, disaggregated data reported.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
<p><b>2. AFRICAN UNION ORGANS</b></p>	<p><b>African Union Commission (AUC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide overall strategic and political leadership for the Roadmap.</li> <li>- Serve as the depository for instruments of ratification.</li> <li>- Coordinate continental advocacy and resource mobilization.</li> <li>- Facilitate collaboration among all AU organs and stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD):</b> Lead technical coordination, advocacy campaigns, and knowledge management.</li> <li>- <b>Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC):</b> Provide legal guidance on treaty procedures and depository functions.</li> <li>- <b>Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (OSE-WPS):</b> Ensure coherence with the Women, Peace and Security agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of Member States signing and ratifying.</li> <li>- Successful coordination of continental advocacy campaigns.</li> <li>- Effective support provided to Member States and ACHPR.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serve as the primary accountability mechanism for the AU-CEVAWG.</li> <li>- Review State Party reports and issue Concluding Observations.</li> <li>- Provide interpretive guidance on the Convention through interpretive documents such as General Comments and Guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (SRRWA):</b> Lead monitoring, provide technical assistance to states, and promote the Convention.</li> <li>- Update reporting guidelines to integrate AU-CEVAWG reporting modules.</li> <li>- Engage proactively with states during the reporting cycle.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated State reporting guidelines.</li> <li>- Number and quality of Concluding Observations referencing AU-CEVAWG.</li> <li>- Issuance of General Comments and other interpretive documents on key Convention provisions.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Receive and consider shadow reports from civil society.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Pan-African Parliament (PAP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Champion the Convention at the continental parliamentary level.</li> <li>– Encourage and monitor ratification by national parliaments.</li> <li>– Promote model legislation and harmonization of laws.</li> <li>– Provide a platform for dialogue and peer learning among parliamentarians.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hold sessions dedicated to AU-CEVAWG ratification and implementation.</li> <li>– Develop and disseminate model laws for domestication.</li> <li>– Engage with national parliamentary caucuses on VAWG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Resolutions passed urging member states to ratify.</li> <li>– Development of model legislative provisions.</li> <li>– Regular engagement with national parliaments.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure that the implementation of the Convention addresses the specific rights and needs of the girl child.</li> <li>– Monitor state compliance with provisions related to violence against girls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Integrate AU-CEVAWG standards into its monitoring of the African Children's Charter.</li> <li>– Issue joint General Comments with the ACHPR on related topics (e.g., child marriage).</li> <li>– Review state reports for child-specific VAWG issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– References to AU-CEVAWG in Concluding Observations.</li> <li>– Joint initiatives with the ACHPR on girls' rights.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Collaborate with the ACHPR on joint reporting and guidance.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Support Member States in domestication and implementation through its country programs.</li> <li>– Facilitate peer learning and exchange best practices.</li> <li>– Integrate AU-CEVAWG indicators into its development monitoring frameworks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide technical support for developing NAPs and legal reforms.</li> <li>– Organize regional peer-learning workshops.</li> <li>– Support the collection and analysis of VAWG data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Number of countries receiving technical support.</li> <li>– Documented best practices shared and replicated.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
<b>3. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECs)</b>	<b>All RECs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Drive ratification and harmonization of laws at the regional level.</li> <li>– Adopt regional protocols, policies, and minimum standards aligned with AU-CEVAWG.</li> <li>– Facilitate regional peer review and accountability.</li> <li>– Coordinate regional advocacy and capacity building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Develop regional action plans and benchmarks.</li> <li>– Host ministerial meetings to accelerate ratification.</li> <li>– Establish regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>– Support the development of regional databases on VAWG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Adoption of regional legal and policy instruments aligned with AU-CEVAWG.</li> <li>– High number of member states within the REC have ratified.</li> <li>– Functioning regional monitoring and peer review mechanisms.</li> </ul>
<b>4. CIVIL SOCIETY</b>	<b>Women's Rights Organizations &amp; Networks (e.g., AWLN, FEMNET)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Advocate for ratification, implementation, and accountability.</li> <li>– Provide expert input into legal and policy reforms.</li> <li>– Conduct independent monitoring and submit shadow reports.</li> <li>– Represent the voices and experiences of women and girls, including survivors.</li> <li>– Mobilize communities and shift social norms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Launch and sustain coordinated advocacy campaigns.</li> <li>– Develop shadow reports for the ACHPR.</li> <li>– Translate the Convention into local languages and accessible formats.</li> <li>– Implement community-based prevention programs.</li> <li>– Support survivors to access justice and services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Evidence of successful advocacy leading to ratification.</li> <li>– High-quality shadow reports submitted to the ACHPR.</li> <li>– Documented changes in community attitudes and norms.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
	<p><b>Grassroots &amp; Community-Based Organizations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mobilize communities for awareness and action.</li> <li>– Facilitate community-level dialogue and norm change.</li> <li>– Provide frontline support and referrals for survivors.</li> <li>– Document local realities and report to national-level CSOs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conduct community outreach and awareness campaigns.</li> <li>– Establish and support community-vigilance or support groups.</li> <li>– Participate in participatory monitoring and data collection.</li> <li>– Engage local leaders (traditional/religious) as champions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increased community awareness of women's rights and VAWG.</li> <li>– Functioning community support networks for survivors.</li> <li>– Documented reduction in harmful practices at the community level.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Monitor state compliance with human rights obligations, including the Convention.</li> <li>– Conduct investigations into VAWG cases and systemic failures.</li> <li>– Provide recommendations to the government.</li> <li>– Submit independent reports to the ACHPR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Establish a dedicated desk or focal point for women's rights.</li> <li>– Investigate complaints of VAWG and state inaction.</li> <li>– Publish public reports on the status of VAWG implementation.</li> <li>– Engage with the ACHPR and submit shadow reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Public reports on state compliance issued.</li> <li>– Number of investigations conducted into VAWG cases.</li> <li>– Regular submission of shadow reports.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</b></p>	<p><b>Bilateral Donors, UN Agencies (e.g., UN Women, UNDP,</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Align financial and technical support with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Align country programs with AU-CEVAWG and national NAPs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Financial resources are aligned with and responsive to the Roadmap.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
	<p><b>UNFPA), Multilateral Organizations</b></p>	<p>the Roadmap and national priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide consistent, multi-year funding for implementation.</li> <li>– Support capacity building for governments and civil society.</li> <li>– Facilitate knowledge sharing and cross-regional learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fund key priority areas: legal reform, institutional capacity, data, and prevention.</li> <li>– Support the AU and RECs in their coordination roles.</li> <li>– Provide technical expertise for monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Documented improvements in government and CSO capacity.</li> <li>– Effective coordination and harmonization of donor support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. OTHER CRITICAL ACTORS</b></p>	<p><b>Private Sector</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Adopt and enforce zero-tolerance policies for VAWG in the workplace.</li> <li>– Implement prevention programs and support services for employees.</li> <li>– Partner with governments and CSOs on economic empowerment initiatives.</li> <li>– Contribute to innovative financing mechanisms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Join the "Unite to End VAWG" or similar business networks.</li> <li>– Develop workplace policies and training on sexual harassment and VAWG.</li> <li>– Fund and support economic empowerment programs for survivors.</li> <li>– Invest in social impact bonds or other innovative finance tools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Documented workplace policies and training programs.</li> <li>– Number of public-private partnerships supporting VAWG work.</li> <li>– Investments in economic empowerment initiatives.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
	<b>Religious and Traditional Leaders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Act as champions for positive social norm change within their communities.</li> <li>– Denounce harmful practices and violence.</li> <li>– Promote gender equality.</li> <li>– Provide support and safe spaces for survivors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Issue public declarations and fatwas/statements against VAWG.</li> <li>– Integrate messages on non-violence into sermons and teachings.</li> <li>– Participate in training on survivor support and referral.</li> <li>– Join interfaith networks to end VAWG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Public statements and sermons condemning VAWG.</li> <li>– Documented community-level changes in attitudes.</li> <li>– Active participation in national and local coordination mechanisms.</li> </ul>
	<b>Media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Raise public awareness and combat harmful stereotypes.</li> <li>– Provide accurate, ethical, and survivor-sensitive reporting on VAWG.</li> <li>– Hold leaders accountable through investigative journalism.</li> <li>– Amplify the voices of advocates and survivors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Develop and adopt a code of conduct for reporting on VAWG.</li> <li>– Produce and broadcast public service announcements, documentaries, and talk shows.</li> <li>– Train journalists on ethical and gender-sensitive reporting.</li> <li>– Partner with CSOs to run advocacy campaigns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase in the quantity and quality of media coverage on VAWG.</li> <li>– Adoption of ethical reporting guidelines.</li> <li>– Documented public awareness of the Convention and related issues.</li> </ul>
	<b>Academia and Research Institutions (Universities,</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conducting prevalence surveys.</li> <li>– Evaluating intervention effectiveness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Establishing dedicated research chairs or centers on VAWG, conducting longitudinal studies on VAWG trends and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Peer-reviewed publications on VAWG in the African context.</li> <li>– Research findings explicitly cited in national policies and NAPs.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
	<p><b>research institutes, and think tanks such as CODESRIA and the African Population and Health Research Center play a critical role in generating evidence and data to inform policy and programming on VAWG.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing expert testimony and technical advice to policymakers.</li> </ul>	<p>drivers, and partnering with National Statistical Offices to improve VAWG data collection methodologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Translating research findings into accessible policy briefs and toolkits.</li> <li>- Hosting academic conferences and seminars on AU-CEVAWG implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The number of graduate students trained in VAWG research methodologies.</li> <li>- Established partnerships with government statistical offices.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Judiciary and Legal Profession (Superior courts, magistrates, judicial training institutes, bar associations, and law societies are fundamental to ensuring justice for survivors of VAWG)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adjudicating VAWG cases in a survivor-centered and trauma-informed manner.</li> <li>- Developing and applying jurisprudence that aligns with AU-CEVAWG standards.</li> <li>- Providing pro bono legal representation to survivors and holding the legal profession accountable to ethical standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing specialized courts or fast-track procedures for VAWG cases.</li> <li>- Integrating AU-CEVAWG training into judicial education curricula, issuing practice directions and bench books on handling VAWG cases.</li> <li>- Having bar associations establish pro bono legal aid schemes for survivors.</li> <li>- Monitoring court decisions while publishing jurisprudence digests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented increase in convictions for VAWG offenses.</li> <li>- The number of judges and magistrates trained on AU-CEVAWG.</li> <li>- The existence of specialized court procedures or units and functioning pro bono legal aid schemes.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Primary Roles & Responsibilities	Strategic Engagement & Key Actions	Key Success Indicators
	<p><b>Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) and Protection Mechanisms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documenting and reporting violations.</li> <li>- Providing direct support to survivors requiring specific protection measures due to the gendered nature of attacks they face.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing and funding rapid response and emergency protection mechanisms.</li> <li>- Ensuring NHRIs have mandates to protect WHRDs.</li> <li>- Integrating WHRD protection into national action plans on VAWG.</li> <li>- Documenting and publicly denouncing attacks on WHRDs, and providing secure and accessible reporting channels for threats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existence of functioning emergency response funds for WHRDs.</li> <li>- Documented reduction in impunity for attacks on WHRDs.</li> <li>- WHRDs actively participating in monitoring and advocacy without fear, and state responses to threats against WHRDs are being documented.</li> </ul>

## ANNEX 2: AU Champion Presidents

<b>AU Champion Presidents</b>			
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Mandate/ Leadership</b>
1.	H.E. President John Dramani Mahama	Republic of Ghana	- AU Champion on Gender and Development Issues in Africa AU Champion on AU Financial Institutions
2.	H.E. President Ibrahim Traoré	Burkina Faso	- AU Champion on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
3.	H.E. President William Ruto	Kenya	- AU Champion for Climate Change
4.	H.E. President Hakainde Hichilema	Zambia	- AU Champion for Ending Child Marriage
5.	H.E. President Daniel Chapo	Republic of Mozambique	- AU Champion for Disaster Risk Management, AU Champion on COVID-19
6.	H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan	United Republic of Tanzania	- (AU) Champion on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade
7.	H.E. President Félix Tshisekedi	Democratic Republic of the Congo	- AU Champion on Positive Masculinity

<b>AU Circle of Champions on Positive Masculinity</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
1.	H.E. President John Dramani Mahama	Republic of Ghana
2.	H.E. President Félix Tshisekedi	Democratic Republic of the Congo
3.	H.E. President Azali Assoumani	Union of the Comoros

<b>4.</b>	H.E. President William Ruto	Republic of Kenya
<b>5.</b>	H.E. President Bassirou Diomaye Faye	Republic of Senegal
<b>6.</b>	H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa	Republic of South Africa
<b>7.</b>	H.E. President Denis Sassou Nguesso	Republic of Congo
<b>8.</b>	H.E. President Paul Kagame	Republic of Rwanda
<b>9.</b>	H.E. President Adama Barrow	Republic of The Gambia
<b>10.</b>	H.E. President Emmerson Mnangagwa	Republic of Zimbabwe

## **ANNEX 3: Key Messages**

### **A Call to Ratify the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls**

#### ***1. What is the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls?***

In February 2025, during its 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) adopted the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (hereinafter "the **AU-CEVAWG**"). This landmark instrument constitutes the first continent-wide binding legal framework specifically dedicated to the eradication of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Africa.

The **AU-CEVAWG provides a robust, rights-based, and survivor-centered legal and policy framework**. It obligates State Parties to adopt comprehensive preventive, protective, and punitive measures to address VAWG in all its manifestations. The **AU-CEVAWG applies across all settings and circumstances, including during armed conflict, post-conflict situations, humanitarian crises, and periods of peace**.

Crucially, the **AU-CEVAWG** explicitly recognizes that women and girls may experience compounded and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization based on factors such as age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and displacement. It therefore provides a nuanced understanding of VAWG's root causes and drivers, seeking to ensure tailored and inclusive responses that leave no one behind.

#### ***2. Interpretation Mandate***

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the AU's principal human rights Organ, is entrusted with a critical mandate under Article 14 of the AU Convention to interpret, promote, and monitor its implementation across the continent.

Within the institutional framework of the ACHPR, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (SRRWA) occupies a central role as a key mechanism for promoting and protecting women's rights. Since adopting the **AU-CEVAWG**, the SRRWA has been at the forefront of efforts to popularize the instrument and advocate for its ratification and entry into force.

#### ***3. Why This Convention Matters?***

VAWG is one of the most persistent and devastating human rights violations in Africa. Across the continent, women and girls face multiple forms of abuse, from domestic violence to systematic rape. In many African countries grappling with armed conflict, political instability, and humanitarian

crises, women and girls are often targeted as a tactic of war, subjected to rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, and other forms of violence. These abuses not only cause deep physical and psychological trauma but also reinforce cycles of inequality, displacement, and poverty.

The **AU-CEVAWG**, therefore, is a critical response to this crisis. It is the first continent-wide, legally binding instrument that obligates Member States to adopt comprehensive measures for prevention, protection, accountability, and redress. Importantly, it recognizes the specific vulnerabilities of women in conflict and post-conflict settings, as well as the need for tailored responses that prioritize the dignity and justice of survivors.

Therefore, this Convention matters because it offers a clear legal and policy roadmap to address both the root causes and the harsh realities of violence against women and girls, especially in settings where women continue to bear the heaviest burden of abuse and impunity.

#### **4. Key highlights of the AU-CEVAWG**

- The **AU-CEVAWG** builds on and strengthens the foundation of the **Maputo Protocol**, particularly in advancing protections against violence against women (VAW), and is designed to operate in synergy with existing regional and international human rights instruments.
- Through Article 15 (Safeguard Clause), it applies the *favorability principle*, ensuring interpretation alongside the African Charter, the Maputo Protocol, and other treaties to guarantee the highest standard of protection.
- The Convention recognizes the full spectrum of violence — physical, sexual, psychological, economic, and technology-facilitated — reflecting contemporary realities.
- It adopts a comprehensive protection framework: prevention before violence occurs; emergency and support measures during risk; and access to justice, accountability, and recovery after harm.
- While using the term “victim” in line with binding human rights instruments, its implementation is guided by survivor-centered principles as developed in regional and international jurisprudence and soft law.

- The Convention emphasizes a coordinated, community-driven response and firmly anchors obligations in State responsibility, requiring national action plans, dedicated resources, institutional coordination, monitoring, and reporting, with a mandatory obligation to involve all stakeholders, including community leaders.

## **5. The Urgency and Substance of Ratification**

Gender-based violence in Africa remains persistent and evolving: femicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, and digital violence continue to threaten women and girls.

In many jurisdictions, these acts are insufficiently defined or prosecuted, highlighting gaps in legal frameworks.

Ratification of AU-CEVAWG commits States to:

- Enact targeted legislation
- Prosecute offenders effectively
- Provide survivor-centered protection and support; and
- Implement public education initiatives.

The Convention addresses technology-facilitated violence, a threat to women's safety and dignity, often inadequately covered in national laws.

It also addresses femicide and violence in humanitarian settings, challenges that have long confronted African women.

Ratification represents both a legal commitment and a comprehensive policy response to all forms of violence against women and girls.

## **MEMBER STATES SHOULD STAND AND ACT TOGETHER TO ACCELERATE THE RATIFICATION OF THE AU-CEVAWG**

### **6. Where We Stand: Time for Action**

The adoption of the AU-CEVAWG marks a historic milestone in the continent's collective journey toward justice and reflects a bold commitment to ending generations of silence. Yet, the promise of this Convention remains unfulfilled. As outlined in Article 17, the Convention can only enter into force once fifteen (15) Member States ratify it.

**The time to act is now!**

Accelerating ratification and ensuring the Convention's entry into force must become a continental priority. Member States must rise to this moment with courage and urgency, not just as a legal obligation, but as a moral imperative to protect, respect, and restore the dignity of every woman and girl in Africa.

## **7. Our Call to Action**

Member States:

- Ratify the Convention without delay, fulfilling the threshold required under Article 17 for its entry into force.
- Champion the Convention regionally to encourage peer commitment and collective progress.
- Prioritize the Convention in national agendas, especially during parliamentary sessions and AU meetings.
- Assign focal institutions or ministries to lead the ratification process and coordinate next steps.

Civil Society Organizations:

- Advocate for signature and ratification by engaging policymakers, parliamentarians, and ministries.
- Raise public awareness about its significance and the urgency of its ratification.
- Build coalitions and networks to amplify national, regional, and continental collective advocacy efforts.
- Utilize AU and RECs platforms to sustain pressure and visibility, including during AU Summits and CSO forums.

**END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

## ANNEX IV: Outcomes of Dakar Advocacy Meeting – Joint Roadmap and Advocacy Actions

### Introduction

1. The Regional Dissemination and Advocacy Workshop on the African Union Convention on the Ending Violence against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG), held in Dakar on 3 and 4 February 2026, was implemented by Lawyers Without Borders Canada (LWB Canada) as part of the ‘Support for Justice and Peace in Mali’ project " (JUPAX), including its regional advocacy component (output 1323). This regional component aims to support advocacy actions and develop strategies with regard to States, transitional justice mechanisms, and regional and international bodies for the effective realisation of the human rights of women, girls, and other persons in vulnerable situations. The workshop is also part of an ongoing collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), where LWB Canada has observer status, and contributes to strengthening synergies between national dynamics and regional human rights protection mechanisms. In this context, LWB Canada provided both technical and financial support for the entire activity, delivered training on advocacy fundamentals, and coordinated and supported the working groups that led to the development of the joint advocacy strategy and related roadmap.
2. The development of the joint advocacy strategy and roadmap was based on an inclusive and participatory process bringing together regional institutions, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and gender experts from different regions of Africa. The workshop combined awareness-raising sessions on the content of the Convention and its adoption process with training on advocacy fundamentals, followed by collaborative group work and exchanges with experts incorporating diverse and critical perspectives, in order to foster a shared understanding and the jointly agreed identification of regional priorities.

Overall Objective	Specific Objectives	Targets	Actions			Actors/Stakeholders	Allies	Obstacles and Mitigation Measures	Upcoming key moments/events (national, regional, and international) (When? Events)
			Actions undertaken	Actions to be undertaken					
				Advocacy actions	Other actions (e.g., communication)				

<p><b>To bring the AU-CEVAWG into force by ensuring its ratification by at least 15 AU Member States by October 2026.</b></p>	<p>1. By October 2026, raise awareness and inform the competent national authorities of African Union Member States about the existence and content of the Convention.</p>	<p>Heads of State Embassies</p> <p>Ministries of Justice</p> <p>Ministries of Foreign Affairs Ministries responsible for gender issues</p> <p>Parliaments</p> <p>Specific parliamentary committees</p>		<p>Develop IEC (Information – Education – Communication) materials</p> <p>Prepare a fact sheet with recommendations.</p> <p>Develop country-specific guides to promote ratification, including recommendations.</p> <p>Organise a workshop on the Convention</p> <p>Organise consultations, conferences, or round tables with all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Collect evidence on violence against women and girls</p> <p>Raise awareness of the convention among each country, relevant authorities, and stakeholders.</p> <p>Ensure that key stakeholders meet to review and analyse the document</p> <p>Communication strategy and media involvement</p> <p>Establishment of a Task Force in each country by the end of February 2026</p>	<p>Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)</p> <p>National human rights institutions</p> <p>Community leaders</p>	<p>National human rights institutions</p> <p>Women's rights advocates</p> <p>Women's platforms</p> <p>Youth platform</p> <p>Gender platforms</p> <p>Family protection unit (police unit)</p>	<p>Opposition Mitigation measure: create a space for exchange and dialogue (inclusive approach)</p> <p>Politicisation of the Convention (particularly in countries where elections will be held this year)</p> <p>Political instability</p> <p>Lack of a budget dedicated to gender equality</p> <p>Reprisals</p>	<p>Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)</p> <p>Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights</p> <p>United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)</p> <p>International Women's Rights Day</p> <p>International Day of Rural Women</p> <p>Pan-African Women's Day</p> <p>African Union Summit</p> <p>16 Days of Activism</p> <p>Universal Periodic Review (UPR)</p> <p>Official meetings of ECOWAS and AES heads of state</p>
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<p><b>To bring the AU-CEVAWG into force by ensuring its ratification by at least 15 AU Member States by October 2026.</b></p>	<p>2. Obtain the signature of the Convention by non-signatory States by 30 September 2026</p>	<p>Non-signatory states and all competent authorities</p> <p>Ministries of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Ministries of Gender and Family Affairs</p> <p>Ministries of Justice</p>	<p>Regional workshop in Dakar on the Dissemination and Implementation of the Convention and the development of a Joint Advocacy Strategy, 3–4 February 2026</p> <p>Establishing coalitions</p> <p>Requesting hearings with the relevant national authorities</p>	<p>Requesting meetings with the identified targets and determining the next steps</p> <p>Organising a training/awareness-raising workshop for key relevant stakeholders (e.g., parliamentarians) to enable them to effectively champion the advocacy efforts</p> <p>Organising a regional workshop for the exchange of experiences between signatory and non-signatory States to share good practices and lessons learned</p>	<p>Communication strategy and media outreach for advocacy actions</p> <p>Establishing coalitions or strengthening existing coalitions</p> <p>Disseminating the Convention in the various official languages of the African Union</p> <p>Organising award ceremonies for signatory champions to recognise their commitments and strengthen their motivation to advance the overall advocacy objective</p>	<p>SRRWA. ACHPR</p> <p>Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate (WGDY), AU</p> <p>CSOs</p> <p>National Human Rights Institutions</p>	<p>Feminist CSOs</p> <p>Influential individuals</p> <p>National Women's Institute</p> <p>Community associations</p> <p>Special Rapporteurs</p>	<p>Anti-rights movements</p> <p><u>Mitigation measure:</u> Identify anti-rights actors at the national and regional levels and develop tailored messages to counter their arguments</p> <p>Religious lobbies</p> <p><u>Mitigation measures:</u> Engage in constructive dialogue and raise awareness of States' international obligations</p> <p>Politics / Political actors</p> <p><u>Mitigation measure:</u> Profile policymakers to identify their interests, motivations, and sensitivities; identify and mobilise political champions</p>	<p>CSW</p> <p>UNGA High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)</p> <p>Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights</p> <p>Relevant international days</p> <p>Electoral calendar</p> <p>National-level political and legislative events (ministerial meetings, parliamentary sessions, etc.)</p>
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								supportive of ratification; design advocacy actions tailored to each personality	
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	<p>3. Strengthen the national population's understanding and ownership of the Convention to amplify civil society engagement and mobilisation by May 2026</p>	<p>CSOs involved  Specific communities and groups Educational institutions</p>	<p>Regional Workshop on Dissemination and Adoption of the Convention in Dakar and development of a Joint Advocacy Strategy on 3 and 4 February 2026</p>	<p>Organise a feedback session on the main points of the AUCEVAWG regional workshop in Dakar for CSOs</p> <p>Training workshops for CSOs on the Convention and its content</p> <p>Webinars or online forums to disseminate relevant information</p> <p>Develop IEC (Information – Education – Communication) materials.</p> <p>Strengthen the advocacy capacities of civil society actors.</p>	<p>Communication campaigns via the media (radio, television, print media) or social media at the local and national level.</p> <p>Strengthening or creating CSO coalitions.</p> <p>Sharing experiences between countries that have already signed the Convention.</p> <p>Identifying individual champions or champion CSOs to support and amplify advocacy.</p> <p>Raising awareness and disseminating information about the Convention in local languages.</p> <p>Facilitating the participation of community actors in national/regional meetings</p>	<p>All participants in the Dakar workshop</p> <p>CSOs and civil society networks</p> <p>National institutions</p>	<p>Media</p> <p>Religious leaders</p> <p>CSOs</p> <p>Community associations</p> <p>Minority and indigenous communities</p>	<p>Anti-rights or religious movements</p> <p><u>Mitigation measures:</u> Organise inclusive dialogues, involve opponents in awareness-raising activities, and adapt the advocacy message</p> <p>Population Mitigation measures: Conduct awareness-raising and dialogue campaigns to address concerns, clarify misconceptions, and build public support</p> <p>CSOs Mitigation measures: Identify common ground and create synergies, involve these CSOs in certain</p>	<p>International days related to human rights or the rights of women and girls</p> <p>16 Days of Activism</p>
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								activities, and encourage dialogue	
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	<p>4. Obtain ratification for the 8 signatory states and at least 7 non-signatory states by September 30, 2026</p>	<p>Government and competent authorities</p> <p>National Assembly</p> <p>Key sectoral ministries</p> <p>Heads of State</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies</p> <p>Judiciaries</p> <p>Embassies and Diplomatic Missions</p>	<p>Establishment of a monitoring mechanism for ratification with focal points (Burundi)</p> <p>Draft bill for ratification (DRC)</p> <p>Regional workshop on dissemination and ownership of the Convention in Dakar and development of a joint advocacy strategy on February 3 and 4, 2026</p>	<p>Bilateral meetings with key policy makers</p> <p>Propose parliamentary briefing sessions.</p> <p>Develop IEC (Information – Education – Communication) materials.</p> <p>Develop country-specific guides to promote ratification, including recommendations.</p>	<p>Establishment of a task force in each target country</p> <p>Creation or strengthening of CSO coalitions to promote ratification</p> <p>Organization of public awareness campaigns</p> <p>Compilation of experiences, advocacy successes, and recommendations in a report</p> <p>Media coverage of advocacy actions</p>	<p>SRRWA. ACHPR</p> <p>Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate (WGDY), National human rights institutions CSOs engaged</p>	<p>Youth</p> <p>Educational institutions</p> <p>International NGOs</p> <p>CSOs (Civil Society Organisations)</p> <p>Donors / Funding organisations</p> <p>Media</p>	<p>Anti-rights or religious movements</p> <p><u>Mitigation measures:</u> Identify opponents and engage in constructive dialogue</p> <p>Political resistance</p> <p><u>Mitigation measures:</u> Profile key decision-makers, identify political champions supportive of ratification, and diversify points of contact</p> <p>Low mobilisation of CSOs</p> <p><u>Mitigation measure:</u> Strengthen the capacities of CSOs to carry forward advocacy, raise awareness, and disseminate information about the Convention</p>	<p>African Union Summit</p> <p>Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)</p> <p>International days</p> <p>16 Days of Activism</p> <p>Universal Periodic Review (UPR)</p>
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## User Guide and Key Terms

1. **Advocacy Strategy Development Tool**: This tool is designed to support the development of an advocacy strategy. It aims to facilitate coherent thinking on the key elements to consider for an effective advocacy strategy. It does not intend to contain all the information that will be necessary for the planning and implementation of a strategy.

2. **'Advocacy Objective'**: This refers to the aim (or overall goal) of the advocacy. It should be expressed as a clear statement of the change being sought, so it is important that the objective is formulated precisely.

3. **'Specific Advocacy Objectives'**: These are the specific changes to be achieved at various levels to contribute to the overall advocacy objective (the main aim or goal of the advocacy).

*For example, for the objective 'adoption of a law against GBV,' specific objectives could include: (a) Adoption of a draft bill by the relevant ministry (e.g., Ministry of Justice or Ministry for the Advancement of Women) by the end of 2023; (b) Approval of the draft bill by the government and its submission to Parliament by the end of 2024; (c) Adoption of the bill by Parliament by the end of 2025.*

These specific objectives, which can be seen as intermediate steps towards the overall goal, require distinct actions directed at different targets by advocates and allies, who may also be different actors. It is important to clearly specify what will be achieved, with whom, how, and within what timeframe to accomplish each specific objective. Therefore, it is recommended that advocacy objectives be defined according to the SMART approach (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound). It is advisable to limit the number of specific objectives to 2 or 3 per advocacy objective.

4. **'Targets'**: This term refers to the individuals or organisations that have the power to bring about the desired change. For each specific advocacy objective, the precise target(s) should be clearly identified. It is important to remember that these are the people we will seek to reach, engage, and persuade through our advocacy efforts. It should be noted that a target can also act as an ally. For example, a parliamentarian, who typically has the authority to initiate the legislative reforms advocated for, may also work to rally other parliamentarians to the cause, thus becoming an important ally in our advocacy.

5. **'Actions'**: This column groups together two main categories of actions: past actions and planned actions.

**Past actions** refer to advocacy efforts that have already been undertaken in relation to the advocacy objective, or where relevant, the overall advocacy goal. Reviewing these is important to ensure complementarity, build on existing work, and learn from past mistakes to refine our advocacy strategy. Analysing past actions can also help identify potential allies and advocates.

**Planned actions** refer to the actions that will be carried out as part of our advocacy. For an effective advocacy strategy, it is useful to distinguish between 'advocacy actions' and 'other strategic actions'. Advocacy actions focus on our interactions with targets to deliver our advocacy message: our findings on the identified advocacy issue, as well as our recommendations linked to our specific advocacy objectives. These interactions can take the form of meetings with targets (audiences, working sessions, etc.) or public and private communications directed at them (press releases, position letters, briefing notes, etc.).

Other strategic actions relate mainly to preparatory activities with and by advocates, actions directed at allies, and efforts aimed at the general public or influential individuals to secure public support for our advocacy. Essentially, these 'other strategic actions' differ from 'advocacy actions' in that they do not involve direct interaction with targets to convey the advocacy message (findings and recommendations).

6. **'Advocacy Actors'**: Sometimes referred to as lead actors, these are the main participants in advocacy—they are responsible for carrying out the advocacy work. Advocacy actors are usually an organisation or a group of organisations (within alliances) from civil society, or rights-holders themselves. International human rights NGOs and multilateral agencies may also be directly involved in certain advocacy initiatives.

7. **'Advocacy Allies'**: These are individuals or organisations that can lend their voice to that of the advocacy actors, helping to amplify and reinforce the message to the targets. They are not considered targets themselves in relation to the identified advocacy objectives, as they usually do not have the power to bring about the desired change (although, in certain circumstances, they may play this dual role, as noted earlier in the 'Targets' section). However, they can contribute to the advocacy effort, particularly through their position or close relationships with the targets. Allies can also play an important role in 'other strategic actions,' for example, by helping to mobilise public support for our advocacy.

8. **'Opponents/Obstacles'**: This refers to individuals, organisations, natural or legal persons, or contextual and legal factors that may hinder or undermine advocacy efforts. This aspect should not be overlooked in an advocacy strategy. Considering it helps maximise the chances of success, as identifying opponents or obstacles allows for actions to circumvent or reduce their impact. Therefore, it is important to identify these opponents/obstacles, along with mitigation measures, during the strategy development stage, while keeping in mind that adjustments may be needed as the strategy is implemented and circumstances evolve.

9. **'Upcoming Key Moments/Events'**: This refers to the identification of important moments that could give greater visibility to our advocacy, making it useful to plan advocacy actions around these occasions. Commemorative dates (national or international) related to the promotion of human rights in general, or to specific population groups (women, children, persons with disabilities, etc.), upcoming visits, and review cycles scheduled by human rights protection and monitoring mechanisms (UN or regional), the next Universal Periodic Review, upcoming meetings of relevant parliamentary committees, revisions of specific laws, parliamentary votes on a bill, etc., can all constitute key moments/events. Advocacy actors are therefore encouraged to designate one or two people responsible for monitoring these key moments/events and keeping a record of them, to align the advocacy strategy accordingly.

### ADVOCACY ROADMAP - AUCEVAWG<sup>1</sup>

Monitoring, evaluation, and coordination of advocacy actions for the ratification of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (AUCEVAWG)  
(Until October 2026)

The Regional Dissemination and Advocacy Workshop on the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls, held in Dakar on February 3 and 4, 2026, was implemented by Lawyers Without Borders Canada (LWBC) as part of the “Support for Justice and Peace in Mali” project (JUPAX), including its regional advocacy component (output 1323). This regional component aims to support advocacy actions and develop strategies with regard to States, transitional justice mechanisms, and regional and international bodies in favor of the effective realization of the human rights of women, girls, and other persons in vulnerable situations. The workshop is also part of an ongoing collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), where ASF Canada has observer status, and contributes to strengthening synergies between national dynamics and regional human rights protection mechanisms. In this context, ASF Canada provided technical and financial support for the entire activity, delivered training on the fundamental principles of advocacy, and coordinated and supported the working groups that led to the development of the joint advocacy strategy and related roadmap.

Strategic Action Areas	Proposed Actions	Deadlines	Success Indicators
(Ownership & dissemination)	Strengthen ownership of the Convention by stakeholders not represented at the Dakar workshop (CSOs, public institutions, media, community leaders).	Mid-March 2026	List of targeted stakeholders and dissemination plan validated; at least one feedback session organized per country (report).
	Establish regular forums for discussion of advocacy documents (meetings/video conferences, WhatsApp/Teams channel, Drive sharing).	End of March 2026	Framework(s) for exchange operational; meeting schedule shared; minutes available.
	Organize a meeting to present advocacy documents to decision-makers (parliament, key ministries, national human rights institutions).	April 2026	Number of hearings obtained; meeting notes; commitments/action points recorded
	Produce a standard kit for disseminating the Convention (summary sheet, FAQ, key messages, IEC materials).	End of February 2026	Kit finalized and shared; number of downloads/shares; materials available in FR/EN.
	Organize a national (or multi-stakeholder) training and sharing workshop on the Convention.	Early March 2026	Workshop held; attendance list; report; participant evaluation (at least 80% satisfied).
	Set up a national task force to monitor advocacy in each country (focal points, roles, channels).	End of February 2026	Task force established by the country; terms of reference/mandate; list of focal points and contacts.
	Finalize advocacy documents (advocacy sheet, brief note, argument, Q&A).	End of February 2026	Documents validated; final versions distributed; traceability of validations (emails/minutes).
	Create and moderate a WhatsApp group dedicated to monitoring Group 2 actions.	February 2026	Group created; operating rules shared; minimum monthly activity (messages/sharing).

<sup>1</sup> This Roadmap was adopted at the Regional Dissemination and Advocacy Workshop on the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls, held in Dakar on February 3 and 4, 2026,

(Coordination & monitoring)	Hold bi-monthly follow-up meetings (review, challenges, prospects, pooling of resources).	April, June, August, October 2026	4 meetings held; minutes + photos; monitoring table updated after each meeting.
	Organize a regional mid-term monitoring and evaluation workshop (African Women's Day).	July 31, 2026	Workshop held; report; adjusted action plan; recommendations adopted.
	Organize quarterly intergroup exchanges to share progress and best practices.	May, September 2026	Two sessions held; summary notes; coordination actions decided and monitored.
(Approach – Stakeholders)	National Human Rights Commission: meet with relevant parliamentary committees (Gender/Children, etc.), convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue, distribute the Convention to key ministries, and ensure follow-up.	End of June 2026	Convention delivered; number of hearings obtained; number of follow-up meetings; minutes.
	Ministries (Gender, Justice, Foreign Affairs): receive and distribute the Convention internally and organize follow-up meetings with the CNDH and civil society.	End of June 2026	Letter/acknowledgment of receipt; focal points identified; meetings held; decisions recorded.
	CSO networks, women's and youth movements, children's rights clubs: disseminate the Convention, collect/analyze relevant data, conduct awareness-raising activities, and engage traditional and religious leaders.	End of October 2026	Analysis document (key AU references); number of workshops/awareness-raising sessions; number of leaders engaged; materials produced.
(Regions - thematic actions)	Disseminate and popularize the Convention (including production of IEC materials) in Southern Africa, linking it to other relevant instruments.	End of September 2026	IEC materials produced; number of meetings; number of women's rights advocates reached.
	Conduct an article-by-article analysis and organize a consultation with stakeholders (West, East, and Southern Africa) to share the findings.	End of September 2026	Analysis completed; at least 1 sharing meeting; recommendations made.
	Coordinate an event/engagement during a session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).	April–May 2026	Event held; concept note; attendance list; key messages relayed.
	Conduct advocacy and awareness-raising activities in the Horn of Africa, including consultation with the human rights commission and other actors.	September 2026	1 consultation held; minutes; commitments/follow-up plan agreed.
	Conduct ongoing community awareness-raising and capacity-building activities around the Convention.	February–October 2026	Number of sessions; modules/materials used; participants broken down (gender/age); evaluations.
	Organize sessions with imams/religious leaders to disseminate key messages and obtain a formal commitment from the relevant authorities.	March–October 2026	Number of sessions; statements/commitments obtained; messages relayed (radio/sermons/press releases).
(Country actions – communication & media)	Angola: Conduct communication activities targeting the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to promote ratification.	2026	Documented meetings/exchanges; position statements/national roadmap; progress towards signature/ratification.
	Gambia: Organize a seminar to share a legal analysis of the Convention and jointly develop a strategy to address the gaps identified.	End of February 2026	Seminar held; analysis note shared; strategy/action plan validated.

	Côte d'Ivoire: Organize a workshop with the network of journalists for gender equality on the urgency of ratifying the Convention.	July 31, 2026	At least 15 media outputs; number of media outlets involved; audience estimate; editorial follow-up.
	Mauritania: Organize a workshop/conference on the Convention with the participation of the relevant ministries (Human Rights, Justice).	May 20	Ministry attendance, minutes, public commitments, and follow-up plan.
(Monitoring tools)	Develop a monitoring platform (status of dissemination, signatures, and ratifications) and produce the specifications.	March 15, 2026	Specifications validated; indicators defined; first version of the platform/prototype available.
	Create a WhatsApp group bringing together all workshop participants for rapid coordination.	February 2026	Group created; operating rules; focal points added; key messages shared.