



3RD MEN'S CONFERENCE ON POSITIVE MASCULINITY IN LEADERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFRICA

MORONI AND PRETORIA: ROAD TO THE AU CONVENTION ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

28 NOVEMBER 2023

PREAMBLE

We, the **Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union**, convened in Pretoria, South Africa, under the leadership of His Excellency Mr Azali Assoumani, President of the Republic of the Comoros and 2023 African Union Chairperson and H.E Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and AU Circle of champions lead to end violence against Women and Girls, for the third meeting of the African Heads of State and Government on Positive Masculinity to end violence against Women and Girls in Africa

CONGRATULATING AND THANKING the President of the Republic of South Africa and the President of Comoros for co-hosting the conference, reiterating their commitment to Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Africa, as President Ramaphosa articulated during his acceptance speech as Chairperson of the African Union for the year 2020.

COMMENDING His Excellency Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and 2021 Chairperson of the African Union and His

Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and 2022 AU Chairperson, for hosting respectively the first- and second-Men's Conferences on Positive Masculinity and for their leadership in shaping the agenda of this continental initiative.

SALUTING Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of the Republic of Liberia and Patron of the African Women Leaders Network, for steering efforts to enhance men's engagement for the advancement of women's rights in Africa.

COMMENDING His Excellency Nana Akuffo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and the AU Leader on Gender and Development Issues in Africa and His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, for their leadership in monitoring the implementation of gender initiatives in Africa.

APPRECIATING the partnership and continued support of the United Nations System in the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment in Africa.

WELCOMING the commendable initiatives of African leaders for gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa based on the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals.

RECALLING the promises of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa- the Maputo Protocol (2003) to uphold the rights of women to peace, human dignity, protection and participation and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Africa (2004).

CONGRATULATING the various stakeholders for their valuable contributions to the endeavor to end violence against women and girls through the outcomes of the various consultations of traditional and religious leaders, women leaders, the youth, the private sector inclusive of business and labour, civil society sector and the academia.

ACKNOWLEDGING that violence against women and girls in Africa continues to destroy the lives of women and girls of Africa despite the often-reiterated commitment of States to eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. **ACCELERATE** our actions to create an environment for gender equality, women empowerment, and leadership in Africa.
2. **ENDEAVOR** to dismantle patriarchal systems that create inequalities and to foster positive masculinity to rebuild the African social fabric through processes that heal and rehumanize individuals, institutions, leadership, and societies to embody the values of human dignity, equality, freedom, and self-determination.
3. **ENSURE** that the historical and structural drivers of violence against women and girls on the continent are identified and addressed in the economic, cultural, social and governance spheres.
4. **COMMIT** to provide the necessary resources to address violence against women and girls and ensure sustainability through national budgetary allocations.
5. **REITERATE** our commitment to the implementation of the Africa Decade for Women Financial and Economic Inclusion, enhancing efforts to enable women's economic power and address linkages between lack of economic and financial inclusion with women's vulnerability to violence.
6. **ENCOURAGE** and **SUPPORT** African research for evidence-based interventions to end violence against women and girls and implementation of research findings and best practices of positive masculinity in Africa.
7. **COMMIT** to capitalize on the Circle of champions to mobilize a wider circle of male leaders in various spheres to drive action to end violence against women and girls across the continent, paying particular attention to intergenerational dialogues and engagement with young men and boys.

8. **ALSO COMMIT to** activate all avenues to enhance the participation and leadership of women in spheres of decision-making at all levels and all sectors of society to fulfill Africa Agenda 2063 promises of a people-centered continent.

9. **REITERATE** our support for the process of accelerating the elaboration of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

10. **REQUEST** the Chairperson of the African Union to monitor the implementation of the outcomes of the Men's conferences on positive masculinity and report annually to the Conference of Heads of State and Government.

Done in Pretoria, 28 November 2023