

**STC BRIEFING NOTES**  
**04 – 08 December, 2017**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Briefing/ Update/ Key issues</b>	<b>Action from Ministers</b>
Session 2:	Consideration of the 2016 SDGEA reports	The eleventh (11th) report of the African Union (AU) Member States and the twelfth (12 <sup>th</sup> ) report of the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson are submitted pursuant to the obligations under Articles 12 and 13 of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), that enjoins Member States and the AUC Chairperson to report on progress made in the implementation of the SDGEA	⇒ Adopt the reports in preparation for presentation before other AU Policy Organs ⇒ Take a decision to report against Agenda 2063
	Revised SDGEA reporting template	The revised SDGEA reporting template is meant to standardise reporting on all SDGEA articles.	Adopt the new reporting framework
Session 3	Renaming of the STC	<p>The 1<sup>st</sup> STC on Gender and Women Empowerment recommended for the title of the STC to be reviewed to include “equality” to be “consistent with the AU vision and policies to attain gender equality and women’s empowerment in the continent”.</p> <p>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Specialised Technical Committee on Legal and Justice Affairs, held from 06 to 15 November, 2017, approved the recommendation and adopted the Rules of Procedure with the title: “Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”.</p> <p>Additional amendments to the Rules of procedure of the STC on GEWE include: definitions Of “equality”, “gender equality” and</p>	Take note of the new title of the STC and the adopted Rules of Procedure.

		“women’s empowerment”; inclusion of other Ministers or authorities duly accredited by the Governments of Member States as Members of the STC; and reporting against Agenda 2063.	
	Fund for African Women	<p>In 2016, WGDD conducted field visits to Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Results showed among others, increased access to post-natal care, awareness on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and illegal abortions and improved agricultural practices.</p> <p>In 2018, WGDD will undertake an evaluation of the FAW to review the mechanism of its management, to give it more flexibility and to mobilize additional funds with the aim of implementing higher impact programs and scalable projects</p>	Take note of the updates
	Report on Funding Status of Gender Machineries in AU Member States	Following the decision on funding for gender machineries, of the STC Bureau during its 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting on 7 July, 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda, a rapid assessment of funding status of gender machineries was conducted in three countries, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Uganda. A draft report with recommendations has been finalised.	Take note of the recommendations of the report
Session 4	Gender Pre-Summit Decisions	The decisions presented include those taken during the 9 <sup>th</sup> AU Gender Pre-Summit and others necessitated by the work of the Gender Directorate.	Adopt the decisions in preparation for presentation before other AU Policy Organs
Session 6	Evaluation of the 2009 Gender Policy	Following the decision of the 1 <sup>st</sup> STC to evaluate the 2009 gender policy and to develop a new gender strategy, WGDD recruited a consulting firm to conduct an evaluation of the 2009 gender policy. A draft report is presented to the meeting.	Take note and discuss the draft report

Session 7	AU Gender Strategy	Following the decision of the 1 <sup>st</sup> STC to evaluate the 2009 gender policy and to develop a new gender strategy, WGDD recruited a consulting firm to develop a new gender strategy for the AU. Between September and early December, 2017, technical consultations were held with various stakeholders, including among others, Member States Experts, AUC Departments, AU Organs, RECs, International NGOS, Regional CSOs, and UN Agencies.	Take note and discuss the draft AU gender strategy
Session 8	AU Gender Communications Strategy	The communications strategy is aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of the AU's gender agenda and the work of WGDD. It will also support the deployment of the new AU gender strategy	Take note and discuss the new gender communications strategy
Session 10	Gender Pre-Summit	<p>The 2018 Gender Pre-Summit (GPS) will be held from 17 – 19 January 2018. It will be preceded (GPS) by the Civil Society Gender Pre-Summit hosted by GIMAC. The GPS will be followed by a meeting of AUC Women's consultation meeting and the Africa pre-CSW consultation meeting.</p> <p>The key objectives of this GPS will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discuss the 2018 theme of the year - winning the fight against corruption: a sustainable path to Africa's transformation - and its impact on gender equality and women's empowerment;</li> <li>○ Define the strategic positioning of WGDD Policy Platforms within the context of the new AU Reforms;</li> </ul>	Take note of the GPS and mandate members of the STC Bureau to participate in the January meeting and take decisions on behalf of the STC in relation to the theme of the year, the strategic positioning of WGDD policy platforms and the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the GPS.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prepare for the 10th anniversary of the Gender pre-Summit; and</li> <li>○ Discuss issues of concern to women in the AU Commission.</li> </ul> <p>The expected outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2018 theme of the year and its impact on gender equality and women's empowerment discussed.</li> <li>○ Decision on WGDD Policy Platform on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment defined.</li> <li>○ Key activities of the celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the AU Gender Pre-Summit decided.</li> <li>○ Issues of concern to women in the AUC defined and documented</li> </ul> <p>This will be a small meeting, of not more than 50 participants (including WGDD and AUC staff). The categories of participants are: Members of the STC Bureau (Malawi, DRC, Togo, Mauritania and Sudan); female Ambassadors, some AU Organs, RECs, UN Partners, and some CSOs.</p>	
	Operationalization of the PAWO into an AU specialized Agency	⇒ PAWO has submitted documents to the Office of the Legal Counsel for guidance on the steps required to transform the organisation into a specialised AU Agency, including on amendments of its legal instruments.	Take note of the progress update and continue to support efforts towards the full implementation of the decision of the AU Heads of State and Government

		<p>⇒ A working session is scheduled with the PAWO leadership before the end of November 2017, to discuss and agree on the modalities of operationalization.</p> <p>⇒ WGDD has made budgetary provision in its 2018 budget to support the processes towards transforming PAWO in line with its current status.</p>	to transform PAWO into a specialised agency of the AU
	Advocacy missions for the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol	<p>⇒ On 29 June, 2017, a meeting on the “ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol” was held attended by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR), some Member States and members of civil society, to consult on the advocacy missions and strategic ways to secure the additional ratifications.</p> <p>⇒ Subsequently, country profiles were developed of the Member States who are yet to ratify the Maputo Protocol, which identifies, among others, challenges and opportunities towards ratification and suggests country-specific advocacy strategies.</p> <p>⇒ This is in line with the recommendations from the Treaty Promotions workshop held on the margins of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs on 15 November 2017, to, among others, promote stronger implementation and follow up on OAU/AU instruments and to</p>	<p>⇒ Take note of the planned advocacy missions</p> <p>⇒ Commit to provide the necessary support towards the successful implementation of the mission, including, among others, accelerating national level procedures to secure approval of ratification by appropriate authorities in anticipation of the mission</p>

		<p>conduct a study with a view to understanding the challenges hindering ratification of OAU/AU instruments.</p> <p>⇒ The in-country advocacy visits will be conducted in collaboration with the Office of the Legal Counsel; the Executive Council's Ministerial Committee on the Challenges of Ratification/ Accession and Implementation of OAU/AU Treaties; office of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa; AU Human Rights Organs; and strategic civil society organisations.</p> <p>⇒ The advocacy missions will culminate in countries ratifying the Maputo Protocol and those that have ratified, accelerating domestication and implementation of the Protocol.</p>	
	African women's garden and museum projects	<p>⇒ On 8 March 2018 - International Women's Day, the African Women's Historic Sculpture Garden was launched and a portrait of the founding mothers of the Pan-African Women's Organisation was unveiled at the AU Headquarters,</p> <p>⇒ A site for the permanent sculpture garden will be identified.</p> <p>⇒ The AUC will leverage on existing resource centres/ libraries to mobilise the necessary material for the women's museum. A committee has been established to facilitate the implementation of this project,</p>	<p>⇒ Adopt the decision to rename AU buildings, that will be presented before the PRC sub-committee</p> <p>⇒ Share ideas and recommendations on how best to frame the sculpture garden, taking into account the rich and diverse African cultures as well as the</p>

		<p>⇒ Some funds have been secured in the WGDD 2018 budget to kick-start this important project.</p> <p>⇒ The proposal to rename the AU buildings will be tabled before the relevant sub-committee of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)</p>	<p>experiences of African women to serve as a living space for dialogue and education on women's contributions to the development of the continent.</p> <p>⇒ consider donating the sculptures and portraits to the AUC</p>
	Pre-CSW Africa Consultation on the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW)	<p>The 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the CSW (CSW 62) will convene from 12 – 23 March, 2018, at the UN Headquarters, in New York. The theme is: "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls"</p> <p>Review theme is: "participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women", from the 47th session of the CSW.</p>	<p>⇒ Take note of the theme of CSW 62 and resolve to speak in One Voice as One Africa during the CSW62 negotiations in March 2018, as guided by the Africa common position.</p> <p>⇒ Further requested to participate in the Africa pre-CSW meeting to contribute to the determination of the African common position and key messages for CSW62</p>

	Date, Venue and Agenda of next STC	<p>The Extraordinary meeting of the STC to be held in March 2018, on the margins of CSW62 at the AU Offices in New York.</p> <p>The Ordinary Session of the STC to be held in October 2018. The main agenda item will be to elect a new STC Bureau in line with the Rules of Procedure of this STC.</p>	Take a decision to hold a two days extraordinary meeting of the STC in March 2018, on the margins of CSW62 at the AU Offices in New York.
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