



DECLARATION

AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN)

INTERGENERATIONAL RETREAT ON WOMEN

LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA:

“African Women Leaders Network: All Generations

Achieving Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063”

August 16 - 18, 2019

Nairobi, Kenya

We, **African Women Leaders**, meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on the occasion of the first African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Intergenerational Retreat on Women Leadership in Africa: “building the Africa we want together”, held from 16 – 18 August, 2019, organized by the African Women Leaders Network, the AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus and the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy, and convened by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of the Republic of Liberia and Patron of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN); and hosted by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and the Global Youth Champion;

Thanking the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya for their hospitality and support for the Intergenerational retreat and the commitment of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya to convene a Youth Conference and convey its conclusions to his peers;



Expressing gratitude to former Heads of State, **H.E. Joyce Banda**, Former President of the Republic of Malawi; **H.E. Catherine Samba - Panza**, Former President of the Central African Republic and **H.E. Aameena Gurib-Fakim**, Former President of the Republic of Mauritius; as well as the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, **H.E. Amina J. Mohammed**, the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, **H.E. Mme Bineta Diop**, and the Executive Director of UN Women, **H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, for their leadership and insightful guidance during the retreat;

Recognising the global, continental and regional legal instruments, protocols, declarations and political decisions that have been adopted to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth, especially young women, including Agenda 2063; Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals; African Union (AU) decision on Gender Parity and Youth Quota 2025; the African Youth Charter, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) program of action, and the AU Commission Chairperson's initiative on "1 million by 2021", that puts human capital, particularly women and youth, at the center of the AU development agenda;

Acknowledging the support of the African Union Commission and the United Nations to the African Women Leaders Network, under the leadership of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and H.E. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations through the AU Commission Departments of Human Resources Science and Technology; the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security; the Directorate of Information and Communication; UN Women; UNDP; UNFPA; UNICEF and UNHCR, as well as of the Federal Republic of Germany for its continued support to the African women Leaders Network (AWLN).

Recalling the call to action made during the AWLN 2017 High Level Women Leaders Forum for Africa's Transformation and the AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus 2018 declaration;

Commending the UN-AU High level solidarity missions to strengthen women's participation and leadership in peace, security and development; the establishment of the African Women Leadership Fund (AWLF); as well as the launch of the AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus, AWLN National Chapters in AU Member States and AWLN Groups of Friends to the UN in New York and to the AU Addis Ababa;

Acknowledging the commendable progress and efforts made towards the participation of women, especially young women in political, economic and social spheres in Africa;

Noting with concern that this progress, is still far below the levels required for impactful transformation, and the continued fragile situation of women and girls in situations of conflicts and the need to protect young women activists in democratic processes;



Reaffirming the imperative need for intergenerational mentorship, dialogue and partnerships, to ensure strong women's leadership across generations, driven by principles and values that advance the delivery of commitments for Africa's transformation;

Inspired by the untapped potential, innovation, creativity, resilience and commitment of African women leaders to building the Africa we want together;

We do hereby commit to:

1. Develop sustainable, innovative and inter-generational mentorship framework with offline and online intergenerational dialogue platforms and structures that will propel current and emerging African women to lead in various sectors of life;
2. Design and implement a Roadmap 2020 – 2022 as part of the AWLN Young Women's leadership pillar for meaningful young women's engagement and participation in governance, peace and security and in leadership positions, with the support of Senior Women Leaders, as well as across the Network's pillars;
3. Mobilize technical and financial resources to support the implementation of the Roadmap including the establishment of an AWLN Young Women Leaders Caucus Fund to support impactful young women led initiatives;
4. Accelerate the establishment of AWLN National Chapters to at least 25 chapters by 2020, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +25) and ensure young women's effective, equal and full participation in their leadership;
5. Organize an annual AWLN inter-generational retreat to assess, monitor progress and scale up strategies with the support of the African Union Commission, the United Nations, UN Women and other partners;
6. Include young women in AWLN solidarity missions to support women in their peace, security and development agenda;



7. Urge Member States and other partners to support the implementation of AWLN initiatives to enhance women leadership in Africa's transformation and kindly submit to H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, to convey the request to the African Union Assembly and to the United Nations General Assembly.

Done in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18 August 2019