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Statement

By

The Deputy Chairperson of African Union Commission

H.E Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa

For

**3rd Women Leaders Consultation on Positive Masculinity:
Driving commitments Towards Women's Economic Empowerment and
Ending Violence Against Women
and Girls**

**30 October 2023
Comoros – Virtual**

- **Son Excellence Azali Assoumani, Président de l'Union de Comores et Président de l'union Africaine**
- **Son Excellence Sahle-Work Zewde, Présidente de la République fédérale d'Éthiopie**
- **Son Excellence Ellen Johnson Sirelaf, ancienne présidente du Libéria**
- **Son Excellence le Président Fakim Gurib, ancien Président de Maurice**
- **Son Excellence Fatoumata Jallow-Tambajang, ancienne vice-présidente de la Gambie**
- **L'honorable Dr Joice T.R. Mujuru, ancienne vice-présidente du Zimbabwe**
- **Excellences, membres du corps diplomatique et représentants des organisations internationales**
- **Mes dames et messieurs**

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1. C'est pour moi un grand plaisir et un grand honneur de m'adresser à vous aujourd'hui à l'occasion de la 3ème Consultation des Femmes Leaders sur la Masculinité Positive qui s'est tenue à Moroni aux Comores. Je regrette de ne pas pouvoir être présent en personne, mais comme notre Envoyé spécial dirige la délégation aux Comores, nous sommes convaincus d'être bien représentés.
 2. Je vous transmets les salutations chaleureuses du Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, S.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, qui se réjouit que le Président de l'Union accueille la Consultation de cette année.
 3. Je suis également honorée d'être avec vous, quoique virtuellement, parmi des femmes leaders chevronnées de tout le continent et de l'étranger qui sont rassemblées ici avant la 3ème consultation des femmes leaders sur la masculinité positive.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

4. As a pre-conference meeting, the aim for the next two days is to discuss rigorously the strategies that will ensure that male leaders make commitments to end Violence Against Women and Girls - EVAWG and gender inequality by enhancing women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion and remain accountable to women and girls in Africa.
5. This theme comes at the right time as it has been shown that inequalities between men and women continue to be the root cause of violence against women and girls and in particular, inequalities driven by economic disparities. To this end The African Union has declared 2020-2030 the Decade of Financial and Economic Inclusion for African Women, and we have seen promising initiatives ranging from offering women financing and credit solutions, and support for women's groups and networks of female entrepreneurs.
6. The African Union's Agenda 2063 calls for the allocation of at least 25 percent of public procurement to be allocated to women-owned businesses and that at least 25 percent of annual public procurement at national and sub-national levels are awarded to women. This buttresses our continued commitment towards the practical economic empowerment of women and girls.
7. Recognizing that violence against women, including economic violence, seriously violates and impairs the enjoyment by women and girls of their fundamental rights, in particular their security, freedom, dignity, physical and emotional integrity, we look forward to the deeper conversations you will be having on this particular thematic to come up with concrete proposals and recommendations for the development of the AU EVAWG Convention.
8. As we reflect on the tenants of an AU EVAWG Convention, it is my hope that our deliberations will generate insights for the resolution of the challenges facing implementation of EVAWG instruments at the microlevel.

We must come up with practical recipes to make sure that the policies taken at the macro-level are contextualized, domesticated, translated into action, mainstreamed in national plans and budgets, and regularly reported on. This will be a credible way to demonstrate to the women and girls of Africa our commitment to accountability and transparency in EAWG initiatives.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Allow me to emphasize that among our objectives today is to follow up on the progress of implementation of the commitments made by Heads of State and Government during the 1st and 2nd AU Men's Conference and take stock of actions by male leaders in EAWG. Let us be open and be comprehensive about the needs of women during these discussions because our deliberations will be integrated into the outcome document of the 3rd Men's Conference, and its recommendations aligned with the AU Position Paper on Positive Masculinity.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Let's continue working together to enhance women's financial inclusion, to end discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girls in Africa.
11. I take this opportunity on behalf of the AUC Chairperson and myself, to amplify the unwavering support and cooperation of the African Union to continue to strengthen our partnership and our joint commitment to build the Africa we Want.
12. I must commend you, Excellency Chairperson of the African Union for spearheading the Union and delivering on the mandate of the continent so brilliantly. The women of Africa commend you!

I Thank you for your kind attention!