



Femmes Africa Solidarité



Dakar, 31st March 2010

PRESS RELEASE

PRESIDENT GUEBUZA WINNER OF THE AFRICAN GENDER AWARD 2009

On Saturday, 29th January 2009, on the margins of the 12th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, the Selection Committee elected His Excellency the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Armando Emilio Guebuza, to receive the 2009 African Gender Award.

Presided by Honourable Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, former President of Pan African Parliament, the Selection Committee attributed the African Gender Award to President Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique.

The Selection Committee wished to acknowledge the efforts made by Mozambique to mainstream gender and the participation of women in politics and in economic and social development programmes under the leadership of President Armando Emilio Guebuza.

The revision of the country's Constitution in 2004 helped to introduce a strengthened support for the protection and promotion of women's rights. In April 2008, Mozambique had already had 37% of women in parliament, more than the quota set at the Beijing Platform for Action and was ranked among the ten best countries in the world. After the elections of October 2009, Mozambique registered 39.2% of women in parliament placing it 9th in the world classification for women representation in parliament.

A law was passed in 2004 to establish the age of marriage for girls and boys at the age 18 and another law was adopted to protect people living with HIV / AIDS against stigma and discrimination.

It is in the sector of education that Mozambique has made significant progress in recent years. The net rate of schooling in primary schools was 94.1% and 90.1% for girls in 2007.

The African Gender Award was initiated by the NGO Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) through its Pan African Center for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC). The award will be presented to President Armando Emilio Guebuza in Dakar on Saturday, April 3, 2010, at a dinner presided by His Excellency Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal.

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The Selection Committee of the African Gender Award is chaired by Honourable Ambassador Gertrude Mongella and composed of eminent personalities from civil society, a representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), a representative of the African Union and the Press.

It should be recalled that the African Gender Award is awarded every two years to an African head of state which has outshone in supporting gender in his country. At the occasion of the first edition of the African Gender Award, it was assigned in 2005 to the President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa for their efforts in favour of adopting the principle of gender equality in the African Union and in 2007 to President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda for his significant achievements for gender mainstreaming in programs and policies in his country.



Along with the award granted to the President of Mozambique, two recognitions will be awarded to the civil society and to the Private sector actors of Mozambique for their commitments to promote gender.

A press conference will be held by Mrs. Bineta Diop, the Founder and Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), members of the Selection Committee and the State Minister, Minister of Family, Ndeye Khady Diop, at the Pullman Hotel (former Hotel Teranga), Thursday 1st April 2010 at 16h00.

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