



PANAFRICAN CENTRE FOR GENDER, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT



Femmes Africa Solidarité

African Gender Forum and Award 2007



10-12 December 2007
Dakar, SENEGAL

Agenda



Saturday 8 December

10h00-14h00 Press Conference
Hotel Novotel

The press conference was attended by FAS Executive Director, Ms. Bineta Diop, the Forum's partners, H.E. Ms. Awa Ndiaye, Minister of Family, Female Entrepreneurship and Micro-Finance of the Republic of Senegal, IOM Deputy Director General, Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye and Ms. Dorothy Davis, President of Diasporan Touch.

After a general introduction to the Forum, a question and answer session followed. Among the questions asked was about the link between gender and migration. The four women reiterated that women bore the brunt of migration because they were the ones that were either left behind to look after the young and/or were forced to assume new social roles (ie. becoming the breadwinners). They also, highlighted that the participants of the 2007 Forum would discuss the potential contribution of the African descendants and African migrants that constitute the African Diaspora by building solid partnerships with the African women, for the development of their continent and the diaspora.

The women highlighted the importance for Governments to work towards the promotion of women in all aspects of life in society. There is a need for policies to sensitize the public on women's rights, to shed light on gender-based violence, and to encourage women to speak out on these issues instead of hiding.

Last but not least, it was announced that Rwanda is the recipient of the 2007 African Gender Award, the only gender award of its kind in the world. In 2007, Rwanda was the only country in the world to have 48% women deputies in its national Parliament, as well as total gender parity in the attribution of teaching positions in higher education and in the country's judicial system. The Selection Committee of the Award, presided by the President of the Pan-African Parliament, Hon. Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, was guided by specific criteria and indicators designed to monitor the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equity in Africa, for which Rwanda, and its Leader, President Paul Kagame showed major efforts in the promotion of women's rights.

The Press Conference provided an opportunity for the four women to stress the importance of the Forum and to effectively inform the public of this event through the media.

Sunday 9 December

Arrival of participants

Monday 10 December

08h30-9h30 Registration at UCAD II (Université Cheikh Anta Diop II)

9h00-10h45 **Grand Opening of the Forum**

Chaired by **Hon. Amb. Gertrude Mongella**, President of the Pan-African Parliament and President of the FAS Award Selection Committee

Welcome Remarks

Mrs. Bineta Diop, Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité

Special Guests

Ms. Yetunde Teriba, Acting Director Women Gender and Development Directorate, Representative of President Alpha Oumar Konare, President of African Union (AU) Commission, Ethiopia

H.E. Mrs. Gisèle Mandaila, Secretary of State for Family and Disabled Persons, Belgium

H.E. Mrs. Olubanke King-Akerele, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Liberia

H.E. Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma, First Lady of Sierra Leone

Keynote Speech by H.E. Mrs. Viviane Wade, First Lady of Senegal, Guest of Honour

During the Opening Ceremony, speakers mentioned the economic dimension of the migration of women, as well as the challenges and obstacles faced by African migrant women. Migration brings change and dynamism and new ideas. Moreover, from the brain-drain context in Africa, the African Diaspora has a prominent role to play as an agent for change and partner in development.

H.E. Gisèle Mandaila, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, stressed the fact that in order to reduce the gap between rich and poor which drives people to migrate, it is necessary to move towards more partnership agreements that reflect migration trends.

H. E. Viviane Wade, First Lady of Senegal, acknowledged that women are fundamentally at the heart of migration. The feminization of migration is made apparent by the increasing number of migrant women globally. This is particularly true in West Africa where migration went up from 2,3 million women in 1965 to 3,9 million in 2005. Remittances effectively contribute to the development of the countries of origin. Furthermore, the vulnerability of migrant women (violence, exploitation, criminality, menial work) as well as the difficult situation of women who stay behind with children who suffer from the father's absence, often results in school failure. In order to protect women migrants, the First Lady stated that international instruments be respected and that international agreements for concerted action take into account the gender dimension.

10h45-11h00 **Tea/Coffee Break**

11h00-12h30 **Plenary Session I: Introduction-- Setting the Tone**

Moderator: Janet Narh, Broadcaster, UK

- **Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye**, Deputy Director, International Organisation for Migrations (IOM), Switzerland; **Presentation: "Women on the move, a step towards gender equality?"**
- **H.E. Mrs. Awa Ndiaye**, Minister for Women, Family and Social Development, Republic of Senegal
- **Ms. Dorothy Davis**, Founder and President of The Diasporan Touch, USA, and former FAS Representative in U.S.A.: **The Diaspora and the African descendants' perspective**
- **Mrs. Jeannine B. Scott**, Senior Vice President, Africare, USA
- **Dr. Pape Ndiaye Diouf**, Docteur Sciences de l'Education, Professor at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Switzerland
- **Dr. Amani Asfour**, Head of the Egyptian Businesswomen Association, Egypt: **Lessons learned from the first African Gender Forum 2005 (Dialogue with Arab women on economic and political issues)**

During the Plenary session, there were several speakers notably Madam Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General of IOM - who gave an overview on the topic of Women and Migration with a presentation on "Women on the move: a step towards gender equality?" She explained how gender inequalities in Africa in access to education, resources and productive means had consequences on the migratory patterns of men and women. She also presented the specific vulnerability of migrant women and made concrete recommendations for the inclusion of gender concerns in migration management in Africa and for a successful integration of migrant women in countries of destination. Madam Dorothy Davis of 'Diasporan Touch' stressed the need to work with the full range of the diaspora including African descendants through the slave trade, African migrants who result from civil or economic strife, friends of Africa who have developed an affinity for Africa through their work (ie. Peace Corps or academic fellowship). She also stated that trade between Africa and its diaspora is the easiest and most bonding common denominator that creates a "win-win" situation for all through building partnerships and tearing down concrete or perceived barriers. . Madam Jeannine Scott spoke about the need for data on the remittances of diaspora women. Mr. Pape Diouf spoke about migration at the international and continental levels outlining the push and pull theory spelling out the causal factors.

12h30-13h45 **Networking lunch at Restaurant Terrou-Bi**

14h00-15h30 **Plenary Session II + Discussion: Migration and the changing role of women**

Moderator: Mr. Ibrahima Bakhoun, Editor in Chief, Agence de Presse Africaine (APA)

- Women as economic providers/heads of household
- Women breaking down cultural and traditional barriers
- Women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution management
- Women and innovation
- Women and education

Discussants:

- **H.E. Valerie Nyirahabineza**, Minister of Gender And Family Promotion, Republic of Rwanda
- **Mrs. Vivian Lowery Derryck**, Senior Vice-President and Director of Public-Private Partnerships, Academy for Educational Development, USA, and FAS Member
- **Dr. Ezzine Abdelfattah**, Research Professor at the Institut Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique (IURS), University Mohamed V-Souissi, Morocco
- **Dr. Alistair Soyade**, Chief Executive Officer, Sky Channel 194, UK
- **Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo**, Officer in Charge, African Centre for Gender and Social Development, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia
- **Mrs. Bola Olabisi**, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network (GWIIN), UK

Morocco was defined by Dr. Abdelfattah as not being just a transit country for women migrants from sub-Saharan Africa but also acting as a host country to migrants compounded with the influx of illegal migration. During the question and answer session following this panel, it was proposed to make Morocco a model for good practices since this country manages well the added value its diaspora brings back. Madam Vivian Derryck intimated that women were becoming more strategic and requested for civil society to continue to lobby governments on the plight of women and the root causes of migration. She also stressed that African-Americans are very useful for raising money for Africa. In this respect, money from remittances should be directed to development and not only to education and health. Madam Thokozile Ruzvidzo of the ECA focused on policy, research and advocacy and reiterated the need to begin influencing governments and gender networks with informed research on the culture of women and migrants. Madam Bola Olabisi stressed the importance of innovation. For instance, in the area of medicine, doctors in the diaspora could support development via video links with African doctors. Madam Valerie Nyirahabineza emphasized that migration is often linked to the economic and educational context of a country and its security situation. Therefore, the political will is essential. She then gave the example of Rwanda where women strongly advocated for peace and reconciliation as well as for the implementation of economic programmes for national reconstruction.

15h30-16h00 **Tea/Coffee Break**

16h00-17h30 **Plenary Session III + Discussion: The economic dimensions of migration**

Moderator: Janet Narh, Broadcaster, UK

- African migrants and Africa's development
- The issue of remittances: gendered patterns of financial flows to the home country
- Brain drain, brain gain and brain circulation
- The benefits of migration: what is the added-value for the women of Africa?

Discussants:

- **Mrs. Amabel Orraca-Ndiaye**, Lead Expert, Resource Mobilization & Partnership, Sector Operations Vice Presidency, African Development Bank, Tunisia
- **Mr. Gibril Faal**, Chairman AFFORD, Director GK Partners, UK
- **Mrs. Elsie Onubogu**, Adviser and specialist in Gender, Social Transformation Programmes Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK
- **Dr. Angeline Low**, Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
- **Mrs. Kiran L. Aurokium**, Business Development Manager, AfricaRecruit, UK

All discussants who contributed to this thematic point confirmed the need for African Governments to tackle poverty even though it was generally accepted that the causes for migration were complex. Economic migration was a predominant reason

for the flight of many women from their countries of origin. The Kenyan initiative was cited by the African Development Bank as identifying a correlation between remittance and poverty. 70% of remittance resources were not invested in development. Mr. Gibril Faal, Afford, stated that African Governments had to create an enabling environment that did not treat remittances as aid for communities. Instead, remittances should be treated as an additional factor to aid. Mrs. Kiran L. Aurokium, AfricaRecruit, confirmed that every African country had a pool of highly skilled labor in the diaspora. Hence African Governments should organise platforms for dialogue or forums in conjunction with the diaspora. The diaspora should be included in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of African Governments. It was suggested that a 'special rapporteur' on women should be appointed in every African country to work with women, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance. There was support by the delegates for an increase in the creation of formal bodies that would deal with women's issues in the country of origin by lobbying governments to raise the standards of living for women. However, it was noted that African migrant women played a key role in development in Africa as the women remitted to their families more frequently than men. Numerous partnerships in the area of science, health and education had been formed between women's groups in the diaspora and Africa. Current AU legislation on migration had not yet been ratified by all African countries.

19h30-21h30 Dinner and debate: Sharing best practices, Senegal/Liberia

Chaired by **H.E. Mrs. Viviane Wade**, First Lady of Senegal, Founder and President of "Association Education Santé"

Discussants:

- **H.E. Mr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai**, Vice-President, Republic of Liberia
- **H.E. Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma**, First Lady of Sierra Leone
- **H.E. Mrs. Olubanke King-Akerele**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Liberia
- **HE Mrs. Valerie Nyirahabineza**, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Republic of Rwanda
- **H.E. Mrs. Gisèle Mandaila**, Secretary of State for Family and Disabled Persons, Belgium
- **Ms. Yetunde Teriba**, Acting Director Women, Gender and Development Directorate, African Union Commission, Ethiopia

The best practices from Senegal and Liberia was chaired H.E. Mrs. Vivian Wade, First Lady of Senegal, Founder and President of "Association Education Santé". Ms. Wade presented her association and in particular the programme on the disease of sickle cells. Engaged with the Congolese First Lady, S.E. Ms. Sassou Nguesso, her struggle is to raise awareness by educating people and in particular the women who are custodian of the family. The programme also aimed to incite the UN to recognize the disease as a public health issue and to facilitate low costs for its medication. The Liberia was presented by H.E. Joseph Nyumah Boakai. His message from President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was to make all women of Africa known that she is where she is thanks to their strong support and mobilization. She acts every day to increase recognition of women as competent Leaders and she wishes to leave a historical legacy. Her challenges are of course to empower women in leadership and economic development. Her work for the economic empowerment of women is apparent in her initiative of the "Sirleaf Market Women's Fund". Ms. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Executive Director of the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), highlighted the importance of President Johnson-Sirleaf's success as being dependant on the women, "If she fails we fail", and the AWDF is significantly supporting the women of Liberia. Ms. Elizabeth Rehn, as a friend of Africa, made the evidence to recall that African women have so far shown their successful struggle in terms of political leadership in comparison to their European women. She cited the example of the high rate of women appointed AU Commissioners compared to the EU Commission. Bineta Diop expressed her sincere gratitude to both Senegal and Liberia Leadership for their strong commitment to promote the women's agenda. She wishes the example of President Johnson-Sirleaf to be multiplied all over Africa. The upcoming International Colloquium in Women Empowerment and Leadership, Development, International Peace and Security in 2008, co-convened by President Johnson-Sirleaf and President Tarja Halonen of Finland will be of great significance.

Tuesday 11 December

8h00-9h00 Breakfast and Networking

9h00-10h30 Plenary Session IV + Discussion: Roles and responsibilities at policy level (Western Governments, International Organisations, Civil Society)

Moderator: Mr. Ibrahima Bakhom, Editor in Chief, Agence de Presse Africaine (APA)

- Freedom of movement
- Protection of migrants
- Legal framework, national laws, treaties, conventions, etc.
- Common policy areas
- How African women migrants can participate in democracy and good governance in both the country of origin and the host country

Discussants:

- **Mrs. Coumba Mar Gadio**, SURF-WCA Regional Gender Advisor, UNDP, Senegal
- **Mrs. Khady Sakho Niang**, President, Mutuelle d'Epargne et de Crédit des Sénégalais de France (MECSEF), France
- **Mrs. Abibatou Wane**, in charge of Migration and Development Programs, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Senegal (Migration and development: the MIDA Programme)

Civil society was reprimanded for not being powerful enough and needed to be more structured and organised to lobby Western Governments on the rights of migrant workers in host countries. More advocacy work is needed at a higher level. There is a need to prioritise the recruitment of workers from the diaspora. Further, it was stated that there is a pressing need for research involving the real people that were most likely to migrate. Stronger ties should develop between African Governments and Foreign Embassies. African Leaders should explore the area of dual citizenship. Mrs. Abibatou Wane stressed that migration is more and more evocate in its positive aspects and that migrants are seen as "human capital". IOM then presented the MIDA Programme which is meant to provide support and assistance to those members of the diaspora who want to return to their countries of origin. The delegates called for an increase in support for more international involvement and lobbying from migrant women with high level positions. The women in the diaspora were invited to build the capacity of other migrant women and to participate in parliamentary debates in the West as migrant women in Europe were extremely disadvantaged. Mrs. Kadhy Sakho Niang stated that co-development should be what migrants bring back to their communities and societies. It should not be about migration trends regulation or chosen migration. Dr. Coumba Mar Gadio emphasised that a lot of progress had been made in Africa regarding good governance and regional tools (NEPAD, Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa) but women are still facing challenges and obstacles in terms of participation, inclusion, illiteracy, poverty, access to resources. She recommended that States be more aggressive in integrating the gender perspective into their policies.

10h30-11h00 **Tea/Coffee Break**

11h00-12h30 **Plenary Session V + Discussion: Providing solutions and recommendations to African Governments on Migration**

Moderator: Janet Narh, Broadcaster, UK

- What are the African Governments' positions and key concerns about migration?
- Managing migration: what steps can Africa take to better train and retain its human resources?
- How can African Governments attract and retain women from the diaspora?
- How can governments ensure that women benefit from the economic returns of migration?
- Co-development and capacity building of African Governments, African regional and sub regional organizations

Discussants:

- **Dr. Boi-Betty Udom**, Technical Officer, Roll Back Malaria Partnership, Switzerland
- **Mrs. Cecile Mukarubuga**, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM, Senegal
- **Mrs. Brice Monnou**, Administer FORIM, Deputy President for Coordination Sud, President of FECODEV, France
- **Dr. Diery Seck**, Director of the United Nations African Institute for Economic. Development and Planning (IDEP), Senegal

- **Dr. Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie**, Co-founder and Executive Director of the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), UK
- **Mrs. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi**, Co-founder and Executive Director, African Women Development Fund, Ghana

Some of the recommendations given were as follows:

- Formulation of policies within the diaspora framework that specifically address African women paying special attention to young women due to their vulnerability, including negotiation and signing of treaties to protect migrants with countries that have an influx, awarding of tax incentives to migrants amongst others, proper monitoring mechanisms, dual citizenship, voting at embassies, etc
- FAS and its partners were encouraged to convene an Inter-ministerial meeting with Governments and the civil society to discuss national policies on migration
- Creation of independent focal links and networks for African women in the diaspora to engage with the AU and other women's organizations in Africa
- Establishment of effective money remittance channels or structures, based on national development plans
- Education, training and empowerment of women from the diaspora, who make a substantial difference in the lives of the poor in Africa through remittances, and organization of foras for skills sharing by the women in the diaspora
- Inclusion of 'ordinary' women in the diaspora in key decision making processes on migration policies and integration of a gender perspective in the management of migration issues even at national level
- Establishment of poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies that have direct impact on improvement in nutrition and health
- Enhance understanding of current economic and social development in Africa and the role and contribution of women including young women in the diaspora
- Reflect critically on opportunities and challenges for the African women in the diaspora that could contribute to development in Africa
- Create an enabling investment environment and a movement in the diaspora focused on developing Africa that would translate into making migration an issue of choice, rather than necessity
- Ardent research and advocacy (through capacity-strengthened NGOs) on the issue of migration to be understood and approached from all dimensions and not only relating to security issues, and to identify all the actors for inclusion: ie. women, private sector, political parties, etc
- Create awareness about migration and labor laws to women before they make the decision to migrate. This could be achieved through Government established media services.

12h30-13h45 **Luncheon Presentation (*Restaurant Terrou-Bi*): Information sharing on Women, Peace and Security (SCR 1325)**

Chair: Hon. Ms. Elisabeth Rehn, Former Minister of Defence of Finland, Former UN Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland

Presenter: Ms. Rosalie Lo Ndiaye, Programme Officer, FASMs. Elizabeth Rehn is co-author, with H.E. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, of the Unifem publication "Women, War and Peace". As a member of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), she also launched FAS' 10 Year Study on Best Practices on UNSCR 1325. The session aimed at sharing FAS' experience, particularly, on the Implementation of the Resolution's National Action Plans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Burundi.

14h00-15h30 **Plenary Session VI + Discussion: Building bridges between the continents: opportunities, good practices and responsibilities**

Moderator: Janet Narh, Broadcaster, UK

- Contributions of the African diaspora and success stories
- Identity politics and returning to the motherland: Some African-American women's experiences
- African women migrant entrepreneurship in the diaspora
- What kind of linkages can be developed between African migrants and African women?

- Building socio-economic networks with African women in the diaspora and African women on the continent
- Searching for new forms of cooperation

Discussants:

- **Mrs. Ndieme Ndao**, President, Ndiema Cosmetics, Switzerland
- **Mrs. Therese Bishagara**, President of PRO-FEMMES, Rwanda
- **Dr. Francis Dakura**, Social Policy Consultant, Gender Specialist, Ghana
- **Ms. Parker Anderson**, President of The Anderson Advantage Group (TAAG), USA
- **Mrs. Conchita Poncini**, Consultant for the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and Coordinator of UN/ECOSOC and International Labour Office (ILO) representatives, Switzerland
- **Mrs. Patricia Faraut**, President, Africa Femmes Performantes, France

During this session, it was felt that there was a need to create a dialogue to form a public and private partnership with the diaspora. Ms. Conchita Poncini gave a presentation on the 'Asian experience' to fortify this. Increased education on gender and migration in host countries and countries of origin, and encouragement of remittance through regular and formal channels was also required. Dr. Dakura urged the delegates to encourage the African diaspora to rethink their identity and cultural values in order to understand the return to the motherland to support development and to also revisit the concept of norms, laws, policies and strategies on how to build bridges and engage with the African women in the diaspora.

The establishment of a Commission on Culture at the regional level would set the tone for 'African Identity'. The delegates called for the participation of the private sector and entrepreneurial women in engaging in economic ventures with women in Africa. There was a concerted call for the African Women in the diaspora to participate in homecoming activities and establish support centres for women wishing to return to Africa.

15h30-16h00 Tea/Coffee Break

16h00-16h45 Wrap up: Presentation of the Forum's Recommendations

Chaired by Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn, Former Minister of Defense and Former Vice-Secretary General of the United Nations, Finland

Presentation of the perspectives, challenges and recommendations

- **Dr. Marema Touré Thiam**, Consultant, Senegal
- **Mrs. Violaine Beix**, Scientific Committee, FAS

This session was dedicated to the presentation of the recommendations resulting from the debates and discussions. After a presentation of the document by Mrs. Violaine Beix, participants commented on the recommendations and proposed additions. The final recommendations document was re-edited and widely distributed. The final text of the recommendations is annexed. Dr. Marema Touré Thiam then concluded the Forum and congratulated the organisers and participants. Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn officially closed the Forum and announced the Closing Ceremony.

17h00-18h00 Closing Ceremony

- **Film Screening: Nandi**
- **Presentation of the African Women Database, in collaboration with FAS and AfricaRecruit: Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye**, Deputy Director, International Organisation for Migrations (IOM), Switzerland

Closing addresses:

- **H.E. Mr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai**, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia
- **H.E. Mr. Amadou Yoro Ndiaye**, Directeur de Cabinet, Ministry for Women, Family and Social Development, Republic of Senegal
- **H.E. Jeanne Françoise Leckomba Loumeto Pombo**, Minister for the Promotion of Women and for the Integration of Women to Development, Republic of Congo,
- **Mrs. Marie Louise Baricako**, Chair, Executive Board, Femmes Africa Solidarité

The closing session of the Forum saw the launch of the IOM Database of African Professional Women. This database not only consolidates different Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) databases but also encompasses the two databases managed by Femmes Africa Solidarité and Africa Recruit (an employment-oriented diaspora association based in the UK). Its

objective is to give more visibility to women's skills as well as connecting women in the diaspora with one another and offering them opportunities to undertake temporary professional missions in their country of origin

20h00-22h00 **Private Sector Evening, Restaurant Terrou-Bi**

Chairs:

- **H.E. Mr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai**, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia
- **Hon. Ambassador Gertrude Mongella**, President of Pan African Parliament

Presenter and Discussants

- **H.E. Mrs. Olubanke King-Akerele**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Liberia
- **Dr. Maximilian Martin**, Global Head, UBS Philanthropy Services, Switzerland,
- **Mr. Robert Bayigamba**, Chairman, Rwanda Private Sector Federation (RPSF), Rwanda
- **Ms. Henriette Zimulinda**, Chair of the Board, Banque Populaire pour la Promotion de la Femme, Rwanda
- **Mr. Ousmane Sy Ndiaye**, Executive Secretary, UNACOIS, Senegal

Mr. Ousmane Sy Ndiaye, Executive Secretary, "Union Nationale des Commerçants et Industriels du Sénégal" UNACOIS, Senegal, highlighted the functions of UNACOIS, that works to ensure that small business has a voice and ownership in the continued democratic and economic transition in Senegal. Mr. Robert Bayigamba, Chairman, Rwanda Private Sector Federation (RPSF), Rwanda, started by honouring the dignitaries and also recognising H.E. President Kagame as a visionary leader. He continued by pointing out that they were three major issues on how to develop women, notably, Advocacy, Training and Financing. On advocacy he attributed to what he called "FOUR E's: Employability, Entrepreneurship, Equal opportunity, and Employment creation. He emphasised the need for a country to develop a national program on innovation and competence, choosing projects which the government and the private sector have the capacity or possibility to create jobs. Ms. Henriette Zimulinda, Chair of the Board, Banque Populaire pour la Promotion de la Femme (BPPF), Rwanda, presented the BPPF. Created in 2001, it provides loans for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) with a focus on SMEs run by Rwandan women. The mission of the BPPF is to support women and their contribution to the Rwandan economy by making it easier for women owners of SMEs to access credit and loans. In doing so, the BPPF empowers women and also helps to reduce poverty in the rural areas of Rwanda. The main objectives of the BPPF is to empower women – particularly disadvantaged women - by mobilizing the savings and encourage them to take part in activities that in turn provide revenues and therefore help them to solve some of their day-to-day problems. Dr. Maximilian Martin, Global Head, UBS Philanthropy Services, Switzerland, highlighted the three functionary areas of the UBS: Corporate citizens; Foundations; and Wealthy clients. Gender is integrated, through the Social Entrepreneurship Awards. The biggest percentage of the Award winning process was women, and it was because the project is not gender bias. The Annual Philanthropy forum last convened in 2005 attracted women entrepreneurs from China, Cameroon and also attended by Ms. Bineta Diop of Femmes Africa Solidarité.

Wednesday 12 December

10h00-13h00 **Gender Award Ceremony, Théâtre Daniel Sorano**

*The ceremony acknowledged the presence of the guests of honour of the Forum, African dignitaries, representatives of the Senegalese Ministries and authorities conducted by the Prime Minister, HE. Mr. **Cheikh Hadjibou Soumare**, Ambassadors, Regional UN Representatives and Multinational companies based in Dakar.*

*A full programme of the ceremony was arranged and conducted by two masters of ceremony concurrently presenting in English and French. The ceremony included a welcome address made by Hon. Ambassador **Gertrude Mongella**, President of Pan African Parliament and Chair of the FAS Award Selection Committee; the deliberation of the Forum's Conclusions and Recommendations made by H.E. Mr. **Joseph Nyumah Boakai**, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia. The ceremony also included the performances of Theatre dramas, Rwandese Ballet, Senegal's renowned drum troupe of Doudou Ndiaye Rose, Senegalese singers Adja Sy, and Kiné Lam. After the presentation of the Award to **President Kagame** by **President Wade**, which was an emotional and unforgettable moment, the theatre vibrated to the sounds of South Africa renowned musician **Yvonne Chaka Chaka**. Everyone thought the event was a resounding success.*

The African women hope that this celebration and promotion of the Award recipient's achievements will reinforce African Leaders' commitment to the implementation of the SDG EA.

14h00-17h00 **Field Visit to Gorée Island**

The guests had the chance to have a guided tour of the renowned Gorée Island, the historic slave trade site. This provided the diaspora with the opportunity to visit one of the most frequently visited sites "the Maison des Esclaves", a poignant reminder of Gorée's role as the center of West Africa's slave trade. It became a UNESCO world heritage site in 1978 and serves mostly as a memorial to the slave trade. The Slave House-- with its famous "Door of No Return"-- evoked and stirred deeply emotional sentiments among African Descendants who attended the 2007 African Gender Forum and Award.

NB: Gorée is a small island 900 meters in length and 350 meters in width sheltered by the Cape Vert Peninsula. Now part of the city of Dakar as an island for pedestrians only, it is connected to the mainland by a regular 30-minute ferry service.