



Femmes Africa Solidarité



Second African Gender Forum and Award Aide-Mémoire

10th-12th December 2007
Université Cheick Anta Diop II
Dakar, Senegal

In the perspective of creating a better future for women of the African continent, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and its PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development, in conjunction with its partners, is holding the second edition of the African Gender Forum and Award in Dakar, Senegal.

Introduction

Building on the positive feedback of the first Edition on May 2005, which was a concertation with Arab women in partnership with the Arab Women's International Forum, the **African Gender Forum 2007** will feature a dialogue between the African women on one side and the **African Diaspora¹ and the African descendants** on the other side. The discussions will concentrate on the relationship between **women and migration, and its socio-economic and political implications with a focus on migration's positive contributions to development.**

The vision behind the **African Gender Forum** is to contribute to building a space for exchange and dialogue, and to harmonize, strategize and emphasize the action of women's networks in the African continent. The Forum aims at bringing together African women and women from other continents in order to share experiences and lessons on important current issues from a multi-dimensional perspective which integrates gender, economic, social, and political discussions. The Forum allows African women movements to make their own assessment of their situation and to propose strategies and measures for maximizing the effective implementation of women's instruments including the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). Eminent women join together to share experiences, build bridges and strengthen concerted action between actors in public and economic spheres, with the aim of instilling a culture of solidarity at the continental level.

This year, the 2nd edition of the Forum will seek to stimulate comparison, debate and discussion on the risks and opportunities arising from migration in order to identify ways for Africa to benefit from its trained and skilled migrants as well as from its African descendants living abroad who may often feel the urge to contribute to the development of their country of origin.

¹ The term "Diaspora" will be understood as the populations of black people living outside of Africa. Among them, we will call the Africans dispersed throughout the world during the Trans-Atlantic enslavement period the "African Descendants" while the term "migrants" will refer to the more recent dispersal which has been caused by wars, genocides, human rights violations, disease, famine, or lack of economic opportunities in Africa.

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The **African Gender Award**, on the other hand, represents a time of celebration that recognizes and rewards African Leaders, who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in gender mainstreaming and women's advancement as stated in the SDGEA adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union in Addis Ababa in July 2004. It also recognizes other stakeholders from the private sector and the civil society who are designated from the Award recipient country.

The selection of the recipient is guided by specific criteria and indicators designed to monitor the implementation of the SDGEA. The first edition of the **African Gender Award** was awarded to **President Wade of Senegal** and **President Mbeki of South Africa** in celebration of their work towards gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the African Union (AU).

On 27 January 2007 in Addis Ababa, on the margins of the 8th African Union Summit, the Selection Committee of the **African Gender Award**, chaired by **Hon. Ambassador Gertrude Mongella**, President of the Pan-African Parliament, elected **President Paul Kagame** to receive the **2007 African Gender Award**.

Since the 1994 genocide, Rwanda has been distinguished for its integration of women in the reconstruction process, the fight against gender-based violence, the protection of the rights of women and girls, the promotion of women's rights to economic development and to own property, as well as the rights of women and girls to equal education, particularly in rural zones. Rwanda is the only country in the world that can boast 48% of women members of the 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 **African Gender Award 2007**, presented during a Gala Dinner chaired by **President Wade**, will celebrate the exceptional achievements of **President Paul Kagame** who integrates women into Rwanda's policy making institutions, demonstrated by a series of political and legislative reforms, which have made Rwanda an exemplary country, not only for the African Continent, but for the entire world. At the ceremony, two other recognitions will also be awarded to the Private Sector and the Civil Society. **Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe** will receive the distinction for the Civil Society and the "**Banque Populaire pour la Promotion de la Femme**" the one for the Private Sector. These laureates will be rewarded for their commitment in women's advancement.

Background

Following a string of milestones, African women are now facing an incredible opportunity to effect positive change on their continent. Following the "Durban Declaration on Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Effective Participation in the African Union" signed in June 2002 by the African Civil Society Organisations; a gender parity policy was unanimously adopted in the AU Commission thanks to the joint efforts of **President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal** and **President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa**. This resulted in the election of five female Commissioners out of ten and in the adoption of the "Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa" by the African Union in July 2003. A year later, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the leadership of African Union Chairperson, **His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konaré**, the relentless

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efforts of women resulted in the African Heads of State adopting the “Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa”. The African Heads of States had proposed to monitor themselves on gender mainstreaming.

In 2005 in Dakar, Senegal, to build upon the above initial hard-won advances, the **PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development**, in conjunction with its partners, has initiated the **African Gender Forum and Award** as a way to encourage accountability on the parity decision and on the “Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa”. **The African Gender Award** highlights and recognises those who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in furthering gender mainstreaming in the economic and political spheres, as well as addressing social and cultural barriers that impede the involvement of women.

Context

The 2005 edition hosted by the **PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development** was an exchange with Arab women on the stakes of globalization. It showed that economic empowerment and balanced leadership that include women are necessary for a lasting peace. The 2007 edition, based on the insights, experiences and contacts gained during the first forum, is inviting the African Diaspora, the African Descendants living abroad and other stakeholders to discuss i) the relationships between gender and migration, ii) their political, social and economic implications and iii) propose some solutions to maximise the positive impact of regional and international migration and enhance the benefits of return migration for development.

Indeed, regional and international migration plays a critical role in the continent's struggle to develop and improve welfare, peace and stability. Migration between African countries as well as migration of African citizens to other continents represents a highly multifaceted issue of the 21st Century. Of the 185 million migrants in the world, more than 50 million are estimated to be Africans.

Women are highly affected by the migration process. The most vulnerable group victimized as passive and active part of the migration process are women and children. Furthermore, African women pay a heavy tribute in relation to this phenomenon. On one hand, women are left behind with their children, when young fathers try to build a new existence and future in another country. On the other hand women constitute a growing part of migrants in Africa as well as in other continents. Female migrants increasingly include women who are no longer just following their husbands or fathers, but migrate independently.

Brain drain, as the direct consequence of migration, is one of the greatest obstacles to Africa's development. The African Diaspora represents such an important population that during the cycle of conferences called “Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and The Diaspora” (CIAD) held in Dakar, Senegal in 2004 on the request of President Wade and in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, in 2006 (CIAD II), African Leaders, were requested in the Declaration which was adopted, to consider the Diaspora as the “6th region” of the continent to supplement the five African traditional regions: North, South, East, West and Central.

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Aim

The aim of this Forum, the second of a series to be organised every two years, is to ensure that there is actionable discussion between the various stakeholders in African and other communities on the relations between women and migration in order to identify best practices and solutions to maximise the positive impact of migrations on Africa's development and develop strategies to better help the continent to benefit from its skilled Diaspora and from the African descendants.

This second edition of the Forum will bring together African women, members of the African Diaspora and African descendants, African and European Governments, African Ministries for Women's Affairs, International Organisations, Civil Society's Organisations, as well as members of the Private Sector.

Objectives

The Forum and Award will try to bring solutions by

- Better understanding the changing trends and the feminization of migration
- Better understanding the working and living conditions of women migrants, their status and how they are integrated in the host country,
- Examining migration and gender issues in relation to the achievements of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), the MDGs, the Beijing Platform,
- Exploring the particular challenges faced by women migrants,
- Exploring the special contributions of women as actors for change and development,
- Considering the importance of Diasporas with a focus on making better use of their experience for the development of the Continent,
- Enhancing the benefits of return migration for the development of the homeland,
- Creating a platform for dialogue to promote cooperation between African women, African members of the Diaspora and African descendants so as to identify empowerment strategies.

Venue and Dates

The second edition of the **African Gender Forum and Award (AGFA)**, hosted by the **PanAfrican Center for Gender, Peace and Development** will be organized in Dakar, Senegal in December 2007. The **Award** ceremony will be the culmination of the 2-day **African Gender Forum and** will be presented on the evening of the second day.

Programme

Forum

The Second **Africa Gender Forum** will ensure a dialogue between **African Women** on one side and **the African Diaspora and the African Descendants** along with various stakeholders in Africa on the other side on the following issues: **gender, migration** and their economic, social and political implications. The Forum is built on the insights, experiences and contacts gained during the first

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edition of 2005 while the workshops, lectures and information sessions will be based on analysis and literature related to the actual topic. The Forum will allow high level participants to explore questions around the African Diaspora and African descendants, their training, their current activities, the status of women in host countries, and the opportunities they may have to contribute to the development of their continent of origin.

The five identified themes will be discussed in **four plenary sessions** per day, during which panels will take the floor to present their paper in 15 minutes. In addition, to cover all the issues raised, we will organize **parallel workshops** which would take place during the two days.

After an introduction on the **issue of Gender and Migration**, the tentative programme will focus on women's empowerment through the added-value the Diaspora women can bring to the continent and will be articulated around the five following issues:

PROGRAMME

Session 1:

- Women and migration
- Migration and changing gender roles: women as economic providers/heads of household

Session 2:

- The benefits of migration: what added-value for the women of Africa?
- The economic dimensions of migration

Session 3:

- Building bridges between the continents: opportunities and good practices
- Contributions of the African Diaspora and success stories

Session 4:

- Roles and responsibilities of the different actors

Session 5:

- African Governments and Migration

Session 6:

- Perspectives, challenges and recommendations.

The Forum agenda will include networking breakfasts, lunches with speakers, dinners with discussions, workshops, and plenary sessions:

- Networking breakfasts will be an opportunity for informal discussions;
- Speaker lunches and dinners will enable distinguished guests to share their experiences with other participants;
- Workshops will allow for interactive problem solving within small groups;
- Plenary sessions will highlight a range of views on key issues.

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Side Events

On the margins of the Forum, FAS will organize **partnership** and **networking activities**. FAS' Executive Board meeting, the African Gender Award Selection Committee meeting and the PanAfrican Centre for Peace, Gender and Development Coordinating Committee meeting will be held in parallel with **other events** including a dialogue between the Rwandese and the Senegalese Private Sector, as well as a field visit to the Island of Gorée.

Private Sector Event

Since one of the aims of the forum's side event is to contribute to the development of a vibrant African Private Sector and to promote African entrepreneurship, the Forum will facilitate informal bilateral events in order to arrange for the Rwandese, the Senegalese and other African entrepreneurs to network and share experience and best practices. The aim will be to devise strategies, and discuss partnerships, which would allow entrepreneurs to access the global market. In doing so, the Private Sector will be presented opportunities to rely on programmes such as the programmes of the African Union, the AGOA, the Nepad, UNDP, etc.

Members of the Private Sector such as la Rwanda Private Sector Federation, the “Patronat du Sénégal”, the “Confédération Nationale des Entreprises du Sénégal”, the African Chambers of Commerce, UBS Philanthropy Services and the World Economic Forum, will be invited.

The private sector event will be hosted by the **Prime Minister of Senegal**.

The Award Ceremony

The Award Ceremony will celebrate the Laureate's country: Rwanda and its Head of State, **President Paul Kagame**. The ceremony is hosted by **President Abdoulaye Wade** of Senegal; and we anticipate the participation of **President Thabo Mbeki** of South Africa, who was, with President Wade the 2005 African Gender Award Laureate. **President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia** is also invited to honour the event with her presence as the first elected woman President in Africa. The ceremony will therefore be attended by Rwandese Government officials, women's groups and members of the private sector. At the ceremony, two other recognitions will also be awarded to the private sector and the civil society. **Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe** will receive the distinction for the Civil Society and the **Banque Populaire pour la Promotion de la Femme** the one for the Private Sector. These laureates, who will be rewarded for their commitment in women's advancement, have been selected by two Rwandese Committees composed of members who belong to their respective sectors.

African Gender Forum participants are expected to attend the **Award** ceremony along with the Laureate, **President Paul Kagame**, its invitees, the two Recognition recipients, the Senegalese and South African authorities and their invitees, and FAS worldwide members and partners. About 300 guests are expected to celebrate the event.

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Media and Communication

In order to promote effectively the advent of the **African Gender Forum and Award**, a media strategy has been developed with the support of Ms. Janet Narh, Media Broadcaster and Producer, based in the UK. The local, regional and international media have also been approached. The preparation of the **African Gender Forum and Award** has been closely followed by international media including Jeune Afrique l'Intelligent, RFI, New African and African Business.

Nandi, the name of the Award trophy, has inspired a film produced with the contribution of the **Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)**. This film, providing a briefing about the background and principle of the African Gender Award, will also be part of the media strategy as well as a film about Rwanda and its leader, **President Kagame**, Laureate of the Award. Moreover, two short films describing the activities and the achievements of the two Recognition Recipients of the Private sector and the Civil Society, the **Banque Populaire pour la Promotion de la Femme** and **Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe** will be shown.

This two-day event will be covered by a press conference prior to the event, a press breakfast, interviews, publications, different films and reports. The 2005 edition was covered by BBC, RFI, TV5 SABC and Panapress among others.

Partners

In 2005, support for the organisation of the two joint events included the Government of Senegal, the Government of South Africa, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Union Commission. Most are expected to renew their support in 2007.

In addition, a project proposal of the Forum 2007 has been submitted to the Government of Spain, who is funding the project in the amount of 70,000 EUR through the Spain/NEPAD Fund. Italy, and Portugal, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the African Union and the Nepad, the European Union (UE), the "Organisation internationale de la Francophonie", UNFPA, the African Development Bank (ADB) and the African Diaspora networks have also been submitted a Funding Proposal. Moreover, the concept of the Award is being promoted in the private sector including International Companies, Rwandese, Senegalese and South African private sector. Moreover, the programme of the event is continuously supported by the Rwandese Government and its Leader, His Excellency Paul Kagame.

Expected Results

It is expected that the **Forum** will result in:

- Inspiring a durable commitment to mainstreaming and accountability on gender issues.
- Sharing experiences and learning lessons from the dialogue between African Diaspora and African women for the benefit of the continent.
- Strengthening concerted action between actors in public and economic spheres.
- Instilling a culture of solidarity at the continental level.

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It is expected that the **Award** will result in:

- Reinforcing the commitments of the African Leaders on the implementation of the SDGEA.
- Implementing and developing more and more engendered programmes, projects, policies and initiatives from the African Governments, Civil society and the Private sector.

Beneficiaries

- African Women Movement
- African Women Leaders
- African Diaspora
- Government of Rwanda
- Government of Senegal
- Civil Society Organisations
- African Private Sector
- AU and its Organs
- Regional Institutions (ECA, Nepad, etc.)
- International Community

Participants

The first edition of the African Gender Forum was a great opportunity and space for networking and building partnerships between actors. 116 delegates from 23 countries and four continents attended the event. The Delegates of the Forum are expected to take part in the Award Ceremony along with the Laureate, the two Recognition recipients and their invitees, the Senegalese authorities and invitees, the two Ministers for Women Affairs of Rwanda and Senegal, FAS worldwide members and partners. About 300 participants are expected to attend this festive ceremony.

Who can participate?

- Policy makers
- Civil Society Organisations
- Representatives of International and Non-governmental organisations
- Representatives of African Diasporas Organisations
- Women Organisations
- Representatives of the Private Sector
- Journalists
- Academics, Researchers and Students
- Interested Individuals

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ANNEX 1: Programme of the Forum

Introduction

- Introduction to the gender, women and migration issue
- Statistics
- Risks and opportunity cost relating to migration for the African continent

Session 1:

- Women and Migration, (assessment of the situation)
- Migration and changing gender roles: women as economic providers/heads of household

Session 2:

- The benefits of migration: what added-value for the women of Africa?
- The economic dimensions of migration
 - o How are African emigrants contributing to the Continent's development
 - o The issue of remittances: gendered patterns of financial flows to the home country
 - o Brain drain, brain gain and brain circulation

Session 3:

- Building bridges between the continents: opportunities and good practices
- Contributions of the African Diaspora and success stories
 - o Identity politics and returning to the motherland: Some African American women's experiences
 - o African women migrant entrepreneurship in the Diaspora
 - o What are the links between African migrants and African American women and what are the perspectives for cooperation between women of the Continent and the Diaspora
 - o Women emigrant and social networks in the host country

Session 4:

- Roles and responsibilities of the different actors (Western Governments, international institutions, etc)

Session 5:

- African Governments and Migration
 - o What are governments' keys concerns and positions on emigration?
 - o Curbing emigration: What steps can Africa take to better train and retain its human resources?
 - o How can government ensure that women benefit from the economic returns of emigration?

Session 6:

- Perspectives, challenges and recommendations.

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