

41st Gimac Pre-Summit CSOs Consultative Meeting

on Gender Mainstreaming in the
African Union and Member States

CONCEPT NOTE



41st GIMAC Pre-Summit CSOs Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union and Member States

AFRICAN UNION THEME OF THE YEAR :

Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations

GIMAC NETWORK THEME:

Advancing the Agenda for Justice and Reparations for African Women and Girls



Friday 7th - Saturday 8th
February 2025



Haile Grand Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(Hybrid)



REGISTER HERE

Schedule of Meetings



THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2025

GIMAC Young Women Advocacy Training

FRIDAY 7 – SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2025

41st GIMAC CSO Pre-Summit Meeting

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2025

- Developing Inclusive Peace in Sudan through Women's Leadership meeting with Sudanese women peace activists, WPS (Women, Peace, and Security) experts
- GIMAC Steering Committee and Partners Meeting

MONDAY 10 – TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025

Gender Pre Summit Meetings

WEDNESDAY 12 – THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

Executive Council

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2024

- Empowering Women in Agriculture High Level Breakfast Meeting
 - A lunch meeting with the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)
 - African Women Leaders Network Dinner
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SATURDAY 15 – SUNDAY 16 FEB 2025

38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union

I. Introduction



The Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network serves as a key platform for advancing women's and girls' rights in Africa. As part of its ongoing advocacy efforts, GIMAC organizes consultative meetings on the sidelines of the African Union (AU) Summit. These meetings bring together Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Women Rights Organizations (WROs) to engage with AU Member States on critical issues related to gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

The 41st Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 –9 February 2025, will align with the AU's 2025 theme of "Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations." This meeting will provide a valuable opportunity to advocate for the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and other relevant international instruments. Key thematic areas to be discussed include governance, peace and security, human rights, health, education, agriculture, climate change, economic empowerment, and emerging issues.

Notably, the African Union's flagship initiatives such as 1Million Next, the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030, and the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AUC EVAWG)—will be highlighted for their pivotal role in advancing justice and reparations for African women and girls. These initiatives address systemic injustices such as economic exclusion, limited access to education, and gender-based violence while equipping African women and girls with the tools to become agents of change.

II. Background



The global pursuit of reparations for Africans and people of African descent remains a critical aspect of addressing historical injustices and advancing human rights. The Accra Conference on Reparations, held in November 2023, marked a significant milestone in this effort, bringing together leaders, scholars, and activists from around the world. The AU's efforts build on earlier initiatives and efforts such as the [Abuja Proclamation of 1993](#), [Durban Declaration and Program of Action of 2001](#) and the [AU Transitional Justice Policy \(2019\)](#), also address the need for reparations and healing. These initiatives aim to confront the deep-seated consequences of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, and systemic discrimination, which continue to impact the social, economic, and political realities of Africans today.

In addition to these efforts, the United Nations has proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, spanning from 2015 to 2024, with a focus on recognition, justice, and development. The adoption of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034) on [17 December 2024](#) aims to build on the progress of the first decade and advance the human rights of people of African descent globally. Key initiatives include recognizing contributions, delivering reparatory justice, promoting sustainable development, adopting a UN declaration on human rights, continuing anti-discrimination efforts, addressing structural inequalities through the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, promoting cultural heritage, supporting anti-racism education, equipping people with tools to claim their rights, addressing environmental injustices, and emphasizing youth leadership and mentorship.

Reparatory justice for centuries of enslavement, trafficking, colonization, and segregation is a priority for all Africans and people of African descent. Millions were forcibly separated from their families, communities, and cultures, suffering physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. This trauma has had a devastating intergenerational impact, scarring individuals, families, and entire societies.

The Accra discussion is aligned with ongoing efforts by various human rights bodies, such as the UN Human Rights Council, which, during its 54th session in 2023, underscored the importance of addressing racial inequalities and economic empowerment for people of African descent. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent highlighted the systemic racism and racial discrimination that perpetuate poverty, economic inequalities, and violations of inalienable human rights.

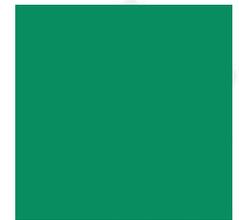
The Accra conference was a response to the African Union's Decision [AU/Dec.847 (XXXVI)], which called for a unified approach to promoting justice and reparations for Africans. Discussions emphasized the need to address the long-lasting impacts of historical injustices, including their effects on gender equality. The Accra Declaration on Reparations underscores the importance of collective action, advocacy, and strategic frameworks to secure reparative justice.

The AU Transitional Justice Policy (2019) also provides a framework for addressing historical injustices and promoting reconciliation. Transitional justice mechanisms, such as truth-telling initiatives, institutional reforms, and reparations, are essential for acknowledging past wrongs, promoting healing, and ensuring sustainable development. These processes must incorporate a gender-sensitive lens to address the unique harms faced by women and girls of African descent, including sexual and gender-based violence and economic disenfranchisement.

To build on these commitments, we will leverage AU initiatives—particularly WYFEI, with its macroeconomic focus, and 1 Million Next, which prioritizes capacity-building and networking opportunities, the Beijing+30 Common Africa Position (CAP) Document and the EVAWG Convention, focusing on advocating for the fulfillment of commitments related to economic empowerment, education and capacity building, ending violence against women and girls, and political participation and leadership.—align directly with the reparations agenda. These initiatives emphasize economic empowerment, youth leadership, and the eradication of gender-based violence, contributing to sustainable pathways for justice and development.

As the AU Theme of the Year on reparations converges with the CSW69 review process, there is a critical opportunity to integrate the advocacy for reparative justice with gender equality on a global platform. This synergy underscores the urgency of addressing historical injustices while advancing the rights and empowerment of women and girls, contributing to the realization of the Beijing+30 vision and Agenda 2063 goals.

III. Justification for action



The Accra Proclamation on Reparations reaffirms that reparations are not solely about financial compensation but also about acknowledging past wrongs, promoting healing, and creating sustainable pathways for empowerment and development. Reparations are a matter of historical accountability and a critical component of contemporary human rights advocacy. They represent a step towards addressing the systemic inequalities that have marginalized Africans and people of African descent for centuries.

By fostering a global movement for reparative justice, the African Union and individuals worldwide aim to:

- ✔ **Address Historical Injustices:** Rectify the harms inflicted by the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, and apartheid, which have resulted in deep-seated inequalities, economic disparities, and social exclusion.
- ✔ **Promote Socio Economic Development:** Reparations can serve as a catalyst for development, enabling affected communities to rebuild, access resources, and engage in sustainable economic activities.
- ✔ **Enhance Social Cohesion and Reconciliation:** Reparations provide an opportunity for reconciliation by acknowledging the suffering caused by historical injustices, promoting dialogue, and fostering understanding among diverse communities.
- ✔ **Uphold Human Rights:** Reparative justice aligns with the principles of human rights, dignity, and equality. It emphasizes the responsibility of nations and institutions to address past wrongs and ensure that the rights of all individuals are respected and protected.

Women and girls of African descent, both on the continent and in the diaspora, have been disproportionately affected by the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and systemic discrimination. The impact of these injustices has been compounded by gender-based violence, economic disenfranchisement, and limited access to resources and opportunities.

Reparations are intrinsically linked to women's rights. The effects of historical injustices are not gender-neutral. Women suffered unique harms, such as sexual violence, forced labor, and exclusion from decision-making processes. Reparations should include measures specifically targeted at addressing these gendered harms.

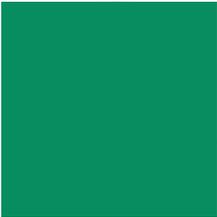
Reparative actions, such as financial compensation, educational opportunities, and access to healthcare, can significantly impact the lives of women and girls who continue to face socio-economic disadvantages. Empowering women economically will have a multiplier effect, benefiting families and communities. By leveraging AU initiatives like WYFEI, 1 Million Next, and AUC EVAWG, this meeting will advocate for reparative actions that include educational opportunities, healthcare access, and leadership development for African women and girls.

The movement for reparations should provide an opportunity to promote women's leadership in advocacy and decision-making processes. Including women in leadership roles within the reparations dialogue ensures that their voices and experiences shape the strategies and frameworks for reparative justice.

Recognizing the intersecting forms of oppression faced by women and girls of African descent is crucial for effective human rights advocacy. Reparations that consider both race and gender injustices promote a more holistic approach to justice.

Transitional justice, as outlined in the AU Transitional Justice Policy complements reparations by addressing systemic inequalities and promoting reconciliation. Mechanisms such as truth commissions, symbolic reparations, and institutional reforms are critical for rebuilding trust, acknowledging harm, and ensuring accountability. Incorporating transitional justice into reparations frameworks will ensure the voices of women and girls, who have borne the brunt of historical injustices, are amplified, and their specific needs addressed.

III. Objectives



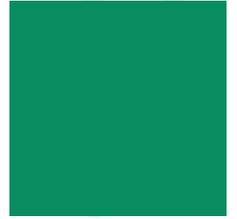
The overall objective of the consultative meeting is to provide a platform for civil society to strategize and ensure that the whole process of reparation is gender sensitive and reparation's plans address gender inequalities and contribute to justice for all.

The pre-summit will seek to achieve the following objectives in line with Abuja Proclamation of 1993 , Durban Declaration and Program of Action of 2001 and the Accra Proclamation on Reparations as well as other African initiatives on reparations

- 1** Advocate for a comprehensive AU Unified Strategy that ensures gender sensitivity by integrating legal, political, economic, cultural, and gender dimensions into the reparation's movement. This strategy should draw from the principles of the Abuja Proclamation, the Durban Declaration, and other African initiatives to foster a holistic and intersectional approach to reparations.
- 2** Identify and cultivate key partnerships to enhance cooperation between women's organizations, international organizations, and civil society groups. This collaboration should aim to promote an inclusive and coherent approach to the global reparation's agenda. Emphasize the importance of cross-sectoral alliances and the sharing of resources and expertise to strengthen the impact of gender equality initiatives within the reparation's movement.
- 3** Campaign for the establishment of a global reparations fund dedicated to gender equity. Develop transparent and accountable mechanisms for its governance and use, ensuring the active participation of the African diaspora, women and girls, and affected communities. This fund should prioritize projects that address the unique challenges faced by women and girls, including economic empowerment, education, and healthcare.

- 4 Create and support media campaigns, cultural initiatives, and educational platforms aimed at raising global awareness of the reparations movement. These initiatives should highlight the intersection of racial and gender justice, drawing on the legacies of African proclamations to build broad-based support for reparations, particularly for women and marginalized communities.
- 5 Promote the integration of transitional justice principles such as truth-telling, institutional reform, and reconciliation, into the reparations agenda, ensuring gender-sensitive approaches that address the unique harms experienced by women and girls

V. Proposed topics



Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) and Women's International Peace Centre (The Peace Centre) the GIMAC Co Leads for 2025 will develop and share key discussion topics with all GIMAC Network Partners and members aligned with the [2025 AU Concept Note and Roadmap](#). This document outlines the implementation framework for the theme and can be accessed here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HOX3nov07O54IWF_pUSrL8YcZ1P7ZBtE/view?usp=drive_link

VI. Proposed activities

- ✔ A comprehensive training session aimed at empowering young women with the skills and knowledge needed for effective advocacy.
- ✔ A one day online gathering to discuss key issues, share insights, and prepare for the main 2 day summit..
- ✔ A two-day CSO Pre Summit meeting to advance a gender-inclusive global reparations agenda through a clear roadmap, strengthened collaboration among international and regional partners, increased public awareness, and mobilized resources for equitable reparations.
- ✔ A moot court session that examines reparatory justice through women and girls experiences highlighting the unique challenges and solutions for women and girls of African descent.

VII. Expected Outcome

- ✓ A clear and actionable roadmap for advancing the global reparations agenda that integrates gender perspectives.
- ✓ Enhanced collaboration and alignment among international and regional partners, including women's organizations.
- ✓ Increased public awareness and advocacy on the reparation's movement and its intersection with women's rights.
- ✓ Mobilized resources and financial support for reparations initiatives, with a focus on gender equity.

VIII. Target Audience

1 African Union Stakeholders

- ✓ Representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC), including the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD) and AUC Commissioners of various departments including - Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), Economic Development, Trade, Industry, Mining (ETIM), Education, Science, Technology & Innovation (ESTI, Infrastructure and Energy, Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS, Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development (HHS),
- ✓ AUC Special Envoys including Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security and Special Envoy of the African Union for Youth
- Representatives from AU Member States, particularly Ministers of Gender, Justice, and Finance.
- ✓ Representatives from UN member States specifically those championing reparative justices such as Barbadoes, Canada and Australia, Japan, Representatives from the AU's Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).
- ✓ The Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (CIDO)

2 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

- ✓ Members of the GIMAC Network and Women Rights Organizations (WROs).
- ✓ Advocacy groups focusing on reparations, gender equality, and social justice.
- ✓ Organizations supporting the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA).

3 Development Partners and International Organizations

- ✓ UN Agencies such as UN Women, UNDP, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UNFPA, UNDP, UNAIDS, OHCHR
- ✓ INGOs including, Plan AULO, Action, Oxfam, Christian Aid,
- ✓ Development partners such as GIZ and other bilateral or multilateral donors.
- ✓ Regional organizations such as IGAD, ECOWAS, SADC, and COMESA.

4 African and Global Advocacy Networks

- ✓ Representatives from African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) & its diaspora network
- ✓ Diaspora groups networks like the Pan-African Reparations Coalition in Europe (PARCOE) and others
- ✓ Activists and organizations advocating for transitional justice and human rights.

5 Academia and Research Institutions

- ✓ Scholars and researchers focusing on gender studies, reparative justice, and transitional justice.
- ✓ Universities and think tanks with expertise in African history, law, and policy frameworks.

6 Young Women Leaders and Youth Advocacy Groups

- ✓ Representatives from the GIMAC Young Women Network.
- ✓ Advocacy groups such as the African Youth Charter Hustlers and WYFEI 2030 advocates.
- ✓ Young women leaders engaged in policy dialogue and activism on reparations.

7 Private Sector Representatives

- ✓ Leaders from businesses and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives supporting gender equality and reparations.
- ✓ Organizations focused on economic empowerment for women and girls.

8 Media and Communications Professionals

- ✓ Journalists and editors from African and international outlets focusing on gender equality, reparations, and social justice.
- ✓ Media organizations that can amplify the discussions and outcomes

9 Grassroots and Community-Based Organizations

- ✓ Representatives from local women's groups, particularly those addressing gender-based violence, economic disenfranchisement, and access to justice.
- ✓ Community leaders from affected areas, especially those working on climate resilience and women's empowerment.

10 Key Policymakers and Decision-Makers

- ✓ Policy experts involved in drafting and implementing the AU Transitional Justice Policy and reparations frameworks.
- ✓ Legislators from AU Member States focusing on gender equality and reparative justice policies.

11 Donors and Philanthropic Organizations

- ✓ Representatives from foundations supporting women's rights, peacebuilding, and economic empowerment such as Packard Foundation
- ✓ Financial partners willing to fund reparations and gender equality initiatives.

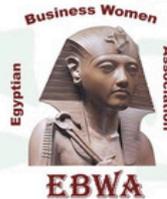
12 Influencers and Thought Leaders

- ✓ Influential figures from arts, culture, and social media who can raise awareness on reparations and gender issues.
- ✓ Ambassadors and champions for women's leadership and gender equality in Africa.

#41GIMAC



ORGANIZERS:



PARTNERS:

