

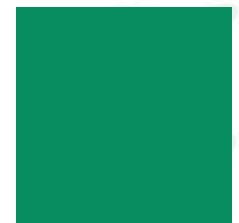
41st Gimac Pre-Summit CSOs Consultative Meeting

on Gender Mainstreaming in the
African Union and Member States

OUTCOME DOCUMENT



PREAMBLE



We, the participants of the 41st Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network Pre-Summit Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) and the 13th GIMAC Young Women Advocacy Training, convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6th to 8th February 2025, under the theme *“Advancing the Agenda for Justice and Reparations for African Women and Girls,”* in alignment with the AU Theme of the Year 2025: *“Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.”*

We **commend** the Heads of State and Government and the Chairperson of the African Union for prioritising reparations for the transatlantic slave trade, slavery, colonialism, apartheid, genocide, and the restitution of cultural artifacts as part of the AU’s agenda for justice.

We **reaffirm** commitments made in **the 1993 Abuja Proclamation, the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and the Accra Declaration on Reparations and Racial Healing**, which recognise that *“the reparations and healing imperative is a multigenerational, transnational endeavour, requiring the active engagement of the grassroots, civil society, private sector, policy makers and leadership at all levels, to usher in the transformative change to the systems, structures and institutions that have perpetrated harm against Africans and people of African descent around the world.”*

We **acknowledge** the role of accountability, restitution, and reparative justice in addressing the enduring economic and social exploitation of Africans and people of African descent, especially African women and girls, who face deepening cycles of poverty and marginalisation exacerbated by illicit financial flows

We **highlight** the Maputo Protocol, particularly Articles 4, 10, 11, and 19, which affirm women’s rights to life, security, sustainable development, and protection in conflict situations and, the significance of reparations and restorative justice in achieving “The Africa We Want”.

We **stand in solidarity** with African women and girls, particularly those in conflict-affected regions such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic, as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and 30 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

We note with concern pervasive historical injustices of colonialism and global economic inequities, upheld by the current neo-colonial international economic and political systems and patriarchal norms, require urgent reforms in global financial and trade architectures, Africa's international relations, and the United Nations Security Council.

We emphasize the call for reparations and justice for African women and girls who disproportionately suffer from climate change, unpaid contributions to global value chains, sexual violence, and displacement, exacerbated by developed nations' failure to honour climate commitments and a lack of accountability and reparative justice.

To ensure reparations and justice for African women, girls, and people of African descent, we call on the African Union and its Member States to:

- 1 Prioritise the implementation of frameworks for reparations and justice** for African women, girls, and people of African descent, ensuring women's meaningful representation in negotiations, policymaking, and governance. The AU Committee of Experts on Reparations must meet gender parity principles.
- 2 Urgently adopt and ratify the AU Convention on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (CEVAWG)**, harmonise its implementation with the Maputo Protocol and other relevant frameworks, and allocate adequate resources for its implementation and to deliver justice for survivors.
- 3 Take a common position and advocate for the democratisation of international financial institutions** (IMF, World Bank, WTO), debt cancellation, climate reparations, and financial justice. Governments must ensure financial justice by rejecting unjust tax regulations, tackling illicit financial flows, corporate tax evasion, and austerity measures that undermine gender-responsive public services.
- 4 Implement the AU Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP) and operationalise the AU Transitional Justice Fund**, ensuring the inclusion of women and girls in transitional justice processes and full compensation for injustices suffered. Parties to the conflict must be held accountable and commit to truth-telling, healing, and restorative justice.

- 5 **Prioritize investment in social policies, public services, and infrastructure** to reduce and redistribute unpaid care work and ensure universal access to gender-responsive healthcare. This includes adequate financing of public health services and eliminating policies that undermine women's dignity and rights.
- 6 **Decolonize education systems** by revising curricula to integrate positive social norms that advance gender equality, indigenous knowledge, and historically accurate narratives. Member states must ensure access to quality public education, lifelong learning, and skill development for African women and girls through gender-responsive policies, including back-to-school programs, adult literacy, affirmative action, and scholarships.
- 7 **Acknowledge African women's historical and current contributions** through public literature, statues, and memorialization initiatives, while correcting historical erasure by honoring their legacies and compensating their communities.
- 8 **Advance policies to prevent land dispossession** and ensure reparations for land and natural resources lost during colonization, while promoting equal land ownership rights for women by harmonizing customary and statutory laws.

Justice and reparations for African women, girls, and people of African descent are non-negotiable steps toward achieving sustainable development and lasting peace. As participants of the 41st GIMAC Pre-Summit CSOs Consultative Meeting, we urge the AU and its Member States to act on these recommendations.

Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network
Addis Ababa, 8th February 2025



#41GIMAC

ORGANISERS:

PARTNERS: