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MOUVEMENT DE SOLIDARITÉ  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### Representatives from African Union Member States Develop strategies and tools for the domestication and implementation of the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

Kigali, July 18, 2009

A three-day Stakeholders' Meeting on the Domestication and Implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa has successfully been concluded today in Kigali, Rwanda with the adoption of a communiqué containing recommendations and strategies for strengthening the domestication, implementation and reporting on the Protocol fostering and protecting African women's rights.

The meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, was organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) in conjunction with Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR) and UNIFEM.



To date, 27 out of 53 Member States of the African Union have ratified the Protocol. *"While we applaud these countries that have ratified the Protocol and beseech the rest to emulate them, we also call them to action,"* Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Director of the Women, Gender, and Development Directorate of the African Union Commission said at the opening.

53 representatives of governments and civil society organizations from countries that have ratified the Protocol in East, West and Central Africa as well as regional and sub-regional networks and organizations attended the meeting. The African Union Commission, UNIFEM, International Conference on Great Lakes Region and development partners were also represented.

Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Director,  
Women, Gender, and Development  
Directorate, African Union Commission

Participants exchanged information and reviewed the progress made, analyzed the tools used and identified challenges in implementing the Protocol on women's rights. Special emphasis was put on the role that civil society plays in partnering with governments and the African Union in promoting and protecting women's rights in Africa. Participants were introduced to a the multi-sectoral framework developed by UNIFEM and practical steps to its usage to enable joint efforts within various sectors in government to realize commitments on women's rights.

In the communiqué adopted by conference participants to accelerate the domestication and implementation of the Protocol participants called on States that have ratified the Protocol to take all necessary legislative, judicial, administrative, educational and other appropriate measures in order to fulfill their legal obligations under the Protocol; to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to the domestication and implementation of the Protocol and to dedicate budgetary allocations for capital and recurrent expenditures on programmes that integrate women's rights in sector programmes.

Participants also encouraged the States Parties to the Protocol to adopt monitoring mechanisms to measure the implementation of the Protocol including such best practices as performance contracts for individual sector ministries on women's rights. This should go hand in hand with development and inclusion of gender-sensitive indicators on women's rights into national statistics, national development plans and national budgets and the involvement of civil society in a coordinated advocacy campaign on domestication and implementation and monitoring.



*Some participants at the Stakeholders' meeting*

***For more information please contact:***

**Ms. Florence Butegwa, UNIFEM Representative to the AU and UNECA,**

[florence.butegwa@unifem.org](mailto:florence.butegwa@unifem.org), tel. +251-913-202231

**Ms Faiza Jama Mohamed, Director Nairobi Office, Equality Now, [fmohamed@equalitynow.org](mailto:fmohamed@equalitynow.org)**

Tel +254-20-2719832/2719913,

Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Director, Women, Gender, and Development Directorate, African Union

Commission [musyimioganal@africa-union.org](mailto:musyimioganal@africa-union.org), +251-115-517700; Fax:(251-

115)510154/515902/514277