

VOICES FROM ADDIS – JANUARY 2016

*ISSUE III: Africa Ministerial Pre-Consultative Meeting on CSW
60th Session on the Theme “Women’s Empowerment and its Link to
Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21 January 2016*



KEY ISSUES/ RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adoption of Common Messages with amendments
- Importance of participation in negotiations of CSW thus importance of timeframe of negotiations as well as linkages to missions in NY
- and need to lobby for negotiations also taking place during CSW not only beforehand
- Achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment in the post 2015 context and in line with Africa’s agenda 2063 will require transforming economies and societies
- 2016 is the Africa year for human rights, with particular emphasis on women’s human rights. This theme emphasizes the responsibilities of all African states to respect, protect and promote women’s human rights, as a pre requisite for achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063
- Agenda 2063 and the SDGs provide the opportunity for coordinated and concerted action towards implementation by all stakeholders including national governments, the private sector, and civil society
- National ownership and responsibility for effective implementation, monitoring and accountability of the gender goals and targets of the 2030 and 2063 agendas rests with all sectors and levels of government
- In line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, domestic resource mobilization and gender sensitive resource allocation are critical to achieving the goals and targets of agenda 2030 and 2063, which also calls for gender responsive fiscal policies
- Public private partnerships for delivering on gender equality and women’s human rights is vital, but should not replace the responsibilities and duties of the state
- The SDG indicators for data design and collection provide the opportunity for Africa to ensure that the data revolution responds to the multi-dimensional nature of gender inequality
- The convening power of the Africa Union Commission will be central for strengthened regional partnership which includes the UN System, other development partners, civil society and actors for advancing gender equality and promoting women’s rights in Africa
- Loud call for strategy of engagement with and influence of other regions
- Realization of gap between technical and ministerial work and need to establish mechanisms to connect the two
- Importance of enhanced coordination of African Member States at CSW
- Necessity for strengthened communication between countries, the region and New York (ECA will coordinate information sharing on African CSW Side Events) before going once returned
- Need for involvement of citizens and private setcor to feed back to constituencies
- Importance to include HIVAIDS and EAW in CSW outcome document
- Required to refocus on marginalized women to leave no one behind

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Inspirational Quotes

“We are here as women of unity” Honorable Patricia Kaliati, Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Malawi

“We have to create the enthusiasm for a movement” Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, AfDB Special Envoy Gender

“Let’s marry the Regional with the Global” Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative to the AUC, UNECA and Ethiopia

“We’d like to see a focus on marginalized women in discussions & instruments so we leave no one behind” Dinah Musindarwezo, Executive Director, FEMNET



Participants in the Africa Pre- CSW Consultative Meeting on CSW 60th Session, Photo Credit; UN Women/ Rose Ogola