



CIVIL SOCIETY AFRICA RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AFRICA GROUP FOR CSW61 AGREED CONCLUSIONS

The **Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Status of Women /Africa (NGOCSW/Africa), African Women's Rights Collective and all African Civil Society Women's Rights and Gender Equality organizations present** commend the Africa Group for putting forward the AU Gender Ministers Key Priorities for the CSW61st session as agreed in Addis Ababa on the priority theme for 2017 on *Women's Economic Empowerment in the changing world of work*. We believe stronger and more inclusive language (centered on the recognition of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against all Women and Girls in their Diversity) on African priorities can be improved for the final Agreed Conclusions to **enable full and comprehensive realization of women's economic empowerment and rights**.

We particularly urge States to ensure the final CSW 61st Agreed Conclusions incorporates the following:

1. Recognition of the impact of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Harassment in all its forms in the world of work against all women in their diversity in public and private spaces and **commitment to address the impact** and to address all forms of Gender Based Violence in the world of work on Women's Rights, gender equality and empowerment.
2. Support the ratification and implementation of ILO conventions specifically the ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Domestic workers Convention, 2011 (No 189) and support the development of the ILO instrument on GBV Against Women and Men in the Workplace to **provide an international standard to address violence and harassment against women in the world of work**.
3. **Recognition and enforcement of the right to work, rights at work and rights of choice of work** including the right to minimum living wages for women, to equal pay for work of equal value and the right to organize or join trade unions and for those unions to be able to operate.
4. Recognition that Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) are inextricably linked to Women's Economic Rights and decent work and therefore the **Africa Group should support and propose language to ensure women's SRHR issues are addressed**, including repealing harmful practices like child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) along efforts for women's economic empowerment.
5. Highlight the **impact of climate change on women's rights to decent work** and the obligation of States to ensure a just and equitable transition towards a low carbon economy whilst ensuring Women's substantive participation and decision making at all levels.
6. References to the Private Sector must center on private sector accountability. Government regulations thereof must **uphold respective Human Rights principles and standards and must enforce Women's Rights and environmental gender justice**.
7. **Commit to curb Illicit Financial Flows and tax havens in Africa** which extract resources compromising investment and financing for Development in essential sectors like education, water, Violence against Women services and health among others. This must include the focus, regulation and enforcement of gender just trade agreements.
8. Recognize the importance to invest in Women and Girls' formal and non-formal education and training across their life cycle including early development such as quality education, access to health and Comprehensive Sexuality Education as well as **ensuring safe and gender responsive enabling school environments**.
9. Support Women's entrepreneurship in both formal and informal sectors, equitable access to and control of economic resources; **reducing and redistributing unpaid care burden of women**, ensuring paid maternity leave and a comprehensive social protection for women in the formal and informal sector.