

SOLIDARITY FOR  
AFRICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A force for freedom



MOUVEMENT DE SOLIDARITÉ  
POUR LES DROITS  
DES FEMMES AFRICAINES

Une force pour la liberté

# SOAWR COALITION REVIEW & AGENDA SETTING MEETING

*Optimizing the Potential of the AU Protocol on Women's Rights*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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**2012**

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACDHRS:</b>	African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
<b>ACHPR:</b>	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
<b>AFA:</b>	Alliances for Africa
<b>AGRA</b>	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
<b>AMwA:</b>	Akina Mama wa Afrika
<b>AU:</b>	African Union
<b>AUC:</b>	African Union Commission
<b>CAFOB:</b>	Collectif des Associations et ONGs Féminines du Burundi
<b>CEDAW:</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>COVAW:</b>	Coalition on Violence against Women – Kenya
<b>CSW:</b>	UN Commission on the Status of Women
<b>EASSI:</b>	East African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women
<b>ECOSOCC:</b>	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
<b>FAMEDEV:</b>	Inter Africa Network for Women, Media, Gender Equality and Development
<b>FAS:</b>	Femmes Africa Solidarité
<b>FEMNET:</b>	African Women's Development and Communication Network
<b>FGM:</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>GIMAC:</b>	Gender is My Agenda Campaign
<b>IDP:</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>NGOCCN:</b>	NGO Gender Coordination Network
<b>OAU:</b>	Organization of African Unity
<b>PAP:</b>	Pan-African Parliament
<b>POWA:</b>	People Opposing Women Abuse
<b>PSC:</b>	AU Peace and Security Council
<b>RECs:</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>RHV:</b>	Raising Her Voice
<b>SADC:</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SDGEA:</b>	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
<b>SIHA:</b>	Strategic Initiative for the Horn of Africa
<b>SOAWR:</b>	Solidarity for African Women's Rights coalition
<b>SRHR:</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>SOTU</b>	State of the Union Coalition
<b>WGDD:</b>	Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the AUC
<b>WLSA:</b>	Women and Law in Southern Africa
<b>WONGOSOL:</b>	Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia
<b>WRAPA:</b>	Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative
<b>UN:</b>	United Nations
<b>VAW:</b>	Violence Against Women



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## INTRODUCTION

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition is a regional network comprised of 39 national, regional and international civil society organisations based in 18 countries, working towards the promotion and protection of women's human rights in Africa. Since its inauguration in 2004, SOAWR's main area of focus has been to compel African states to urgently sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (hereinafter referred to as 'the Protocol').

The Protocol has thus far been ratified by thirty one of the 54 African Union member states, the latest of which are Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, which ratified the Protocol in February and June 2011 respectively.

This means that twenty-three countries are still yet to ratify the Protocol. They are: Botswana, Egypt, Eritrea, South Sudan and Tunisia, who have not signed it; and Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Niger, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Swaziland who have signed but not ratified.

In addition to campaigns for ratification, the SOAWR Coalition has recently scaled up its focus on the next critical levels of domestication and implementation of the Protocol, as a way of translating the ideals enshrined in the Protocol into realities lived and enjoyed by African women.

This has not been without challenges. The Coalition has been faced with emergent challenges such as ratifications with reservations, in the case of Uganda and Kenya both of whom had reservations on sub-articles of Article 14 on reproductive health rights, wavering political will to prioritize the implementation of women's rights, and negative cultural, religious and attitudinal perceptions and practices which continue to undermine the progressive provisions of the Protocol. Coupled with a growing fundamentalist, conservative and militaristic political climate, and often times a prohibitive operating environment for human rights activists, the Coalition has seen a slower rate of ratifications of the Protocol, and in many instances, a stagnation of actions to actualize the gains for women in the region.

The Coalition therefore has committed itself to utilizing the platform of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) to intensify efforts to compel African States to deliver on their commitments to women's human rights beginning with four strategic objectives as laid out in the current strategic plan (July 2010-June 2013):

1. Advocate for the ratification of the Protocol in 6 additional countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Sierra Leone)
2. Provide support for accelerated domestication and implementation of the Protocol through a multi-sectoral approach in at least 4 of the following countries - Burkina Faso, Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Mali, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia - to integrate the Protocol in national laws, policies and budgets;
3. Urge States to take actions to promote, protect and realize women's bodily integrity and dignity through legal and policy reforms and improving programming in order to address all forms of violence against women and secure the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
4. Focus on women and decision making, thereby increasing their engagement in national governance and peace and security processes and structures.

The guiding questions for SOAWR in realising the above objectives include: How have the SOAWR Coalition members fared in implementing these objectives, given the aforementioned challenges? What innovative strategies and practices have been adopted to ensure advancement of women's human rights over the past year? How can the Coalition consolidate the gains made over the past 5 years since the Protocol

came into force, and support members that are facing regional or country-specific obstacles to the realization of women's human rights (such as in Ethiopia, Sudan and Gambia)?

To interrogate these and other issues, SOAWR convened an annual review and agenda setting workshop in order to develop a critique of, reflection on and analysis of SOAWR activities for the past year by SOAWR Coalition members, and provide a forum through which Coalition members and organizations working on the Protocol could share experiences and best practices, evaluate the activities, learn from each other and strategize jointly on how to move the campaign forward. In addition to the annual review, Coalition members engaged in advocacy and other interactions with Member States and media during the ordinary sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly of the Heads of State. The theme of the African Union Summit in January 2012 was "Boosting Intra-African Trade." (See separate report "*SOAWR Engagement with the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union*" for SOAWR's activities at the AU Summit)

The objectives of the 2012 SOAWR Coalition Annual Review Meeting and AU Summit were to:

- a) Review progress made against targets agreed to in the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan;
- b) Share and learn from experiences and emerging best practices at regional and national levels;
- c) Draw up and adopt a roadmap for joint and individual organisations' activities for the year 2012;
- d) Confirm the new Steering Committee and revised terms of reference for the Committee;
- e) Advocate for the immediate ratification of the Protocol by the remaining 23 Member States;
- f) Lobby member states on the issue of women and trade

The workshop was participatory and consisted of panel presentations, working group discussions, and strategy building sessions. It had simultaneous interpretation into English and French. There was a lead facilitator who ensured that the meeting's objectives and outputs were realized while a rapporteur documented the proceedings and produced the workshop report.

The meeting was organized and coordinated on behalf of the SOAWR Steering Committee by the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) with support from the SOAWR Secretariat (Equality Now) and other Steering Committee members.

## 2.0 OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEETING

*Chairperson: Dinah Musindarwezo, FEMNET*

### WELCOME REMARKS AND MEETING OBJECTIVES



Faiza Mohamed of Equality Now (SOAWR Secretariat) welcomed the participants to the meeting and gave special attention to the youth representatives from Cameroon and Nigeria. One of the coalition's strategies is to expand their constituency to the youth to involve them in the work and ultimately pass the baton to them. To get the youth involved, SOAWR organized a competition asking them (the youth) to explain what the Protocol means to them—the four youth present at the meeting were winners of the essay contest held in 2011.

Emphasis was laid on the need to capitalize on opportunities such as the African Women Decade 2010-2020 to optimize and push the agenda for ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocol.

Objectives of the meeting were reiterated including:

- 1) Sharing and learning of best practices;

- 2) Review progress and re-strategize on realizing the goals set in the strategic plan 2010-2013;
- 3) Lobby embassies that have not ratified the Protocol including Burundi, Egypt, Mauritius, Sierra Leone and Tunisia;
- 4) Elections for new SOAWR steering committee

‘A force for freedom’ is SOAWR coalition’s slogan and it is hoped that the coalition’s work would translate into freedom for African women to enable them to live transformed lives.

### “WHY THE PROTOCOL ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IS IMPORTANT TO ME”

*Jerry Laurence Lemogo, a youth representative from Cameroon explained why the Protocol was important to him.*

Jerry thanked the coalition for giving the youth the opportunity to speak on the Protocol. After reading the Protocol, two years ago, he realized that not only was it beneficial to African women but to Africa as a whole. His speech highlighted why he thought the Protocol was important to him:

The Protocol is vital as it recognizes the importance of women and the contributions that they make to their societies and to the continent as a whole. The Protocol has a provision that encourages women to participate in decision making processes. A woman’s point of view is valuable and needs to be heard. If women are not a part of decision making then they are unable to contribute to their societies. Countries such as Rwanda (which has 56% women representation in their parliament) should act as role models to other African countries to encourage them to include women in such spaces.



African women contribute to the economic development of their societies; however their contribution is not recognized. For example, in agriculture, women constitute a majority of the work force, however, not only is their work not recognized, but there are no mechanisms to quantify their work. Furthermore, in a majority of African countries, women do not have access to the land they labor in. The Protocol has provisions that allow access of land to women and also recognize women’s economic input.

There is a perception that a woman’s place is in the home. In Cameroon, for example, people believe that if you marry an educated woman, she will dominate you. Ironically, education is the answer to alleviate such views. The Protocol encourages education for women. Girls need to be encouraged to pursue a higher education that goes beyond primary school. In addition, it is important to learn not only how to read and write but how to think and reason critically as it is better for development.

The Protocol is an essential instrument as it addresses women’s issues in their totality; its provisions include the ones mentioned above and, women in conflict, inheritance, harmful cultural practices, and reproductive health among others. It is therefore imperative that the Protocol is popularized so that all peoples and especially women can be informed of its provisions. Extra effort has to be placed on persuading countries that have not ratified including Cameroon to do so. If all African countries ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol, women’s lives will change and Africa as a whole will change for the better.

### REMARKS FROM THE AU COMMISSION, WOMEN, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE (WGDD)

*Litha Musyimi–Ogana, Director, WGDD.*

The Protocol, which entered into force on 25 November 2005 after securing 15 ratifications by African governments, provides broad protection for women’s human rights, including gender equality and justice. It has been eight years since the beginning of the campaign for ratification under the leadership of the WGDD

in collaboration with the SOAWR Coalition, and through sustained political will and commitment of Member States, today the Protocol has been ratified by 31 Member States<sup>1</sup>.

Despite the importance of the Protocol in realising gender equality in Africa, 23 Member States have not ratified and even for those who have ratified the Protocol, implementation of its provisions has been a huge challenge. It is hoped that the significance of the Protocol in the lives of African women would inspire its universal ratification and implementation by all African states.

While many countries have ratified the Protocol, there is still insufficient awareness about the Protocol and the standard it sets for Africa. Women and girls will not be able to assert and claim the rights guaranteed unless its provisions are understood and become actionable at national and continental levels. Rebuilding the women's movement continentally and strengthening women's and gender machineries at national and provincial levels is one way of achieving this.

The challenges are daunting. We know that poverty in Africa is increasing, and more women than men are among the poorest. More women than men are infected with HIV/AIDS and the burden of care falls disproportionately on them. Access to treatment and care is still extremely limited for men and even more so for women. Violence against women is still rampant. Many countries have inadequate laws and others do not enforce existing laws to protect the rights of women and girls. Some cultural and religious practices continue to inhibit progress in promoting women and girls' human rights. Moreover, public awareness of the human rights of women and girls is very low. The majority of African women, who constitute more than 80% of Africa's farming labour, still do not own land and property, cannot access safe water, finance, technology, information and other vital resources for development. Women and children are caught between armies of rebels and governments locked in civil wars. Their voices are seldom heard in peace negotiations and their needs and interests are not considered. They are the majority of Africa's population living in humiliating IDP and refugee camps and face rape and other forms of sexual violence that often go unpunished.

While there is progress being made by Member States in ratifying the Protocol, a lot still needs to be done on implementation. By sharing various successes, failures, opportunities, lessons learnt, best practices and strategizing jointly on how to accelerate implementation, inspiration is spurred to move the campaign on the Protocol forward in the coming years.

The SOAWR coalition must work together to make 2010-2020: African Women's Decade, an excellent decade for women's rights in the continent. AUC's efforts to promote gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment are taking root, and never again can women's rights be set aside and treated as a separate issue. Great strides have been made to redress the imbalances between women and men in the full enjoyment of their human rights. Nonetheless, there is still much to be done by both women and men of good will, if an African society in which everyone enjoys equal enjoyment of their human rights is to be achieved.

### **3.0 STATUS OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL**



*In this session, panellists offered reflections on challenges and lessons learned in the course of advocacy for ratification of the Protocol.*

**Chairperson: Emma Kaliya, NGOGCN**

#### **3.1 BRIEF FROM AU REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RATIFICATION AND DOMESTICATION OF OAU/AU TREATIES**

<sup>1</sup> Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Comoros, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Senegal, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## Adewale Iyanda, Legal Officer, AU Legal Counsel Office

Since its inception in 1963, the policy organs of the Organization of African Unity and the African Union (hereinafter referred to as the OAU/AU) have adopted forty-two treaties to date. Twenty-five of these treaties have entered into force. These treaties provide the basis for collective action and solutions in addressing the political, economic and social challenges that impede Africa's integration and development. It is therefore important for Member States to ratify and domesticate these treaties.

Some of these treaties adopted within the OAU/AU are very important due to their direct relevance and role in fostering shared values and their standard-setting and norm-creating character for AU Member States.

All the major treaties adopted by OAU/AU since their inceptions reflect the principle of inter-linkage between peace, stability, development, integration and cooperation in Africa. Member States believe that the adoption of this principle first expressed in various declarations and then reflected in treaties would create synergy between the various activities currently undertaken by the AU and therefore help to consolidate the integration of Africa. The treaties provide a policy development forum for the elaboration and advancement of shared values within the Continent.

However, despite the above mentioned importance of ratifying OAU/AU treaties, AU Member States are slow to ratify the treaties. The problem of the slow pace of ratification of OAU/AU treaties was first discussed with a deep and serious concern during a Meeting of Experts on the Review of the OAU/AU Treaties held from 18 to 20 May, 2004, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During the said Meeting, the Chairperson of the AU Commission stated that "the slow pace of signature and ratification of these treaties by Member States is worrisome, bearing in mind the process of integration that the Member States had embarked on."

A regional workshop for Central and Southern Africa to promote the ratification and domestication of OAU/AU Treaties was held in Midrand, South Africa from 5 to 8 December 2011. The Workshop was convened pursuant to the relevant decisions and declarations of the Assembly and the Executive Council calling upon the AU Commission to identify how to harmonize and speed up the ratification process of OAU/AU treaties.

The major purpose of the Workshop was to discuss issues and agree upon actions and recommendations aimed at sensitizing Member States on the importance of ratifying and domesticating OAU/AU treaties.

### Recommendations and conclusions:

1. Establish a Committee of Ministers supported by Permanent Missions in Addis Ababa to promote ratification and domestication of OAU/AU treaties in 2012. The Ministers may then submit a report to the Executive Council in 2013 for adoption;
2. Create a Fund or Technical Assistance Programme to Assist Member States on Ratification and Domestication of OAU/AU treaties;
3. Undertake a comprehensive audit on OAU/AU treaties to identify the treaties that may be prioritized;
4. Share information on good practices on the signing, ratification and domestication of treaties;
5. Integrate activities of RECs into the AU particularly on ratification and implementation of treaties;
6. AU to consider the idea of peer review mechanism (like what happens for the UN Human Rights Council) whereby States should appear before the AU policy organs to state the status and measures taken on OAU/AU treaties;

7. Place emphasis on implementation rather than ratification for treaties that have been ratified by more than half of the Member States;
8. Create mechanisms to enable the Pan African Parliament and the RECs to engage in the ratification and domestication of OAU/AU treaties;
9. Establish Inter-Ministerial Committees as provided in the draft Model Law. Member States need therefore to enact the Model Law once adopted;
10. Involve relevant and critical stakeholders, such as national parliaments and civil society organizations, in the sensitization campaigns aimed at securing and speeding up ratification and domestication of treaties;
11. Post country status of ratification, the Report on Status of Treaties, and all OAU/AU treaties on the AU website for easy access;
12. AU Commission should develop a popularization strategy of OAU/AU treaties in collaboration with Member States;

During the workshop it was recognized that women's organizations had done exceedingly well in getting the Protocol ratified. Recommendations were made to target the states that had not yet signed or ratified the Protocol. Actions should include:

1. Continuous advocacy;
2. Technical assistance;
3. Enquiry as to non ratification by that State;
4. Mobilizing civil society especially women's organizations in that Country

### **3.2 ADVOCACY PLANS FOR REMOVAL OF UGANDA'S RESERVATIONS ON THE PROTOCOL**

**Leah Chatta Chipepa, AMwA**

Uganda ratified the Protocol albeit with reservations (articles on the right to control fertility (14.1.a) and abortion (14.2.c) in July 2010 on the eve of the AU summit held in Kampala, Uganda. While lobbying for the ratification, the Women First Coalition (champions for the Protocol in Uganda) were met with many challenges and opposition from religious and cultural institutions which viewed the Protocol as a western instrument that would destroy the fabric of the family and African culture.



Muslim and traditional groups rejected the Protocol on the basis of Article 6 for stating monogamy as the preferred form of marriage. Christians strongly opposed the Protocol on the basis of Article 14.2.c that provides for medical abortion (in cases of rape, incest, sexual assault and endangering pregnancies). Pro-life supporters opposed the Protocol due to Article 14.1.a on the right to control fertility.

Debate around the Anti-homosexuality Bill (2009-2011) worsened the context and the debate on SRHR became more sensitive.

In light of the environment at the time, the coalition unanimously agreed to lobby for the ratification of the Protocol with reservations on the contentious articles. Shift of the Protocol campaign from ratification to domestication necessitated development of a strategy on the way forward:

- (i) Removal of reservations
- (ii) Domesticating other parts of the Protocol and campaigning for the reservations later

In order to convince decision makers to remove the reservations, the coalition sought to produce evidence through research and reporting cases of death due to unsafe abortions and highlighting the need to control fertility for national development given that the fertility rate is at 6.69 children per woman (Uganda Demographics data 2011).

In view of the environment in Uganda, the coalition decided to campaign for domestication of the Protocol without lifting the reservations while concentrating their efforts in debunking the myth that the Protocol is a western instrument, and showing how the Protocol can transform the lives of ordinary women in their local context. Furthermore, the coalition is working on sensitizing opponents with a view to stopping them from campaigning against the Protocol with the hope that they would eventually support it.

### 3.3 THE CHALLENGE OF WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS AND INHERITANCE IN BURUNDI



Anatolie Ndayishimiye, CAFOB

The presentation focused on the succession and inheritance laws in Burundi. The population is over 51% female with 94% of them living in rural areas having agriculture as their main source of income. A succession bill was introduced in parliament but its status is unknown. Since the year 2000, civil society organizations have done advocacy work around this bill by sensitizing women on their rights especially on their land rights. Burundi, like many African countries has a patriarchal society and thus land rights and issues of inheritance are met with great opposition. This is especially the case with men who feel that the passing of the draft law will de-stabilize the family structure in the country. It is believed that Burundi is reluctant to ratify the Protocol because of Article 21 on women's right to inheritance.

Local women organization's main concern is to create awareness of the draft law and around women rights. Civil society organizations in partnership with the government via the ministry of gender devised a plan to sensitize the country about this law by dividing the country into four (4) regions where contents of the law would be disseminated. Due to high incidences of domestic and sexual violence and increased poverty levels for women, popularization of the law has become difficult. A lack of financial resources has also hindered the process.

It is hoped that Burundi will ratify the Protocol albeit with reservations on the contentious provision, as was the case in Kenya and Uganda.

#### Plenary discussion summary

##### *Ratification with or without reservations*

Most participants agreed that due to the opposition from religious and cultural leaders a clean ratification (without reservations) in most instances would be difficult to attain and therefore it may be more practical and profitable to have a 'dirty' ratification (i.e. with reservations) and then devise strategies to remove them once the ratification was secured. It was noted that even in countries with clean ratifications, implementation was taking a long time due to Articles 14 and 21 which address health and reproductive rights and the right to inheritance respectively. Participants were urged to develop strategies on how to move forward whether the ratification is made with reservations or without.

##### *Engaging opposition*

Engaging religious and cultural leaders and some other key stakeholders has proved to be difficult and in many cases unproductive. The Ugandan experience was highlighted as their strategy to engage these leaders was successful. Face to face engagement is critical and being strategic as to who and how many people would be sent to communicate with these different groups.

It is vital that the advocates sent to engage the leaders are well informed about the Protocol. Key stakeholders including government officials often know very little if anything about the Protocol. These stakeholders need to be better informed and also given facts and statistics on the situation on the ground to further strengthen the need for ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

*Have inconsistencies in translation (especially with regard to the Arabic version) been addressed?*

Participants were informed that the AU has recruited Arabic and Portuguese lawyers who would be able to translate the legal documents. Mr. Adewale Iyanda said he will confirm if the problem of inconsistencies with the Arabic text has been addressed.

## 4.0 DOMESTICATING THE PROTOCOL

*During this session, panellists discussed regional efforts and country experiences on the domestication of the Protocol*

*Chairperson: Saida Ali, COVAW-Kenya*

### 4.1 BRIEF FROM SECOND STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON DOMESTICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL



Sixolile Ngcobo, OXFAM

The second stakeholders meeting was convened by SOAWR in collaboration with UN Women from April 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Nairobi. Its objectives were as follows:

1. Review progress made in implementing the Protocol, the tools used, and the challenges that member states are facing;
2. Agree on concrete actions to effectively domesticate and implement the Protocol;
3. Identify strategies to strengthen reporting to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) on the implementation of the Protocol under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights as required in initial and periodic reporting; and to the African Union Commission and in the annual reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa-2004 (SDGEA);
4. Explore the contributions of civil society organizations and opportunities for partnership with government and the African Union in promoting women's rights in Africa;
5. Identify technical support needed to realize the domestication and implementation of the Protocol.

The meeting provided a platform where representatives from CSOs and government would work together on domestication and implementation of the Protocol in their respective countries.

Key discussions included the following: A brief overview of the Protocol and its status in different countries. A representative from the University of Pretoria made a presentation on the African Commission guidelines for state reporting of the Protocol. Countries (Namibia, Ghana and Uganda) and CSOs (in Mozambique, Ghana and Uganda) gave their experiences on the domestication and implementation of the Protocol. In addition, Oxfam made a presentation on the findings of state capacity needs assessment in implementing the Protocol in Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania. A representative from UN Women introduced the multi-sectoral approach to delivering on women rights. This approach encompasses a framework developed by UN Women which encourages all government ministries to play a part or take responsibility for the implementation of the Protocol – i.e. the implementation should not be relegated to the gender machineries alone but to all line ministries including Ministries of Health, Justice, Education and so on. Equality Now

made suggestions on how to accelerate the domestication and implementation of the Protocol. At the end of the meeting, a communiqué was drafted with recommendations made to the State Parties, ACHPR, CSOs, UN and other development partners.

Summary of country action plans for 2011 and 2012:

- ☞ Action plans were a reflection of where the countries are in terms of ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocol.
- ☞ Form country-based groups to implement the plans.
- ☞ Map out the status of ratification and implementation in different countries and measure that against the plans and action. Make any adjustments in line with Raising Her Voice 2013 Outcomes and beyond.

## Conclusions

Countries were at different stages of ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocol and hence plans would need to reflect the current status of the country.

Some countries have made commendable strides in domesticating the Protocol.

It will be important in 2012 to promote a multi-sectoral approach, enhance cross-country learning, sharing of best practises that have worked and using the opportunity to think and plan beyond Raising Her Voice<sup>2</sup> March 2013 on what can be achieved going forward.

### *South Africa Country experience*

In order to popularize the Protocol in South Africa, the Protocol has been translated into IsiZulu and Sotho - two popular languages in the country. In addition, the *Crossroads* radio drama has been translated into IsiZulu to cater for women audiences who listen to local radio stations. As a result of the drama series, women have been able to articulate their issues and are currently finalizing on action plans where they have identified the issues that they would like their local government to address.

Strides have been made to work closely with the Ministry of Women following the domestication meeting where the action plan for South Africa was compiled; however this has been met with both opportunities and challenges. A great opportunity is that the government recognizes that the Protocol is an instrument that promotes and protects the rights of women. However a major challenge is that when comparing the provisions of the Protocol and the provisions in the South African Constitution, the AU Protocol falls short on some very progressive rights provided for in the South African Constitution and the legislative framework.

The efforts to engage the Ministry of Women have been fruitful and at the next ACHPR session South Africa will be the first country to report not only on the African Charter but also on the Protocol. This has been realised through the partnerships and efforts of POWA and The Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria working very closely with government to consolidate and finalise the country report using the reporting guidelines.

The other opportunity that has been identified in South Africa is the proposed Gender Equality Bill, of which POWA has been invited to form part of the task team. There are plans to use this space to raise specific issues that are addressed in the Protocol that need to be reinforced.

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<sup>2</sup> Raising Her voice (RHV) project launched in August 2008 and running until 2013, aims to promote the rights and capacity of poor women to engage effectively in governance at all levels. RHV is a collection of projects in 17 countries, each with its own priorities and approaches that take into account local realities and opportunities. Some of the implementing partners of RHV are also members of the SOAWR coalition.

## 4.2 A GUIDE TO USING THE PROTOCOL ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN FOR LEGAL ACTION

Alexandriah Muhanji, Equality Now

The rights in the Protocol can be divided into four categories i.e. civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; the rights to development and peace; and reproductive and sexual rights.

Article 25 which stipulates—*appropriate remedies to any woman whose rights or freedoms, as recognised in the Protocol, have been violated, ensure such remedies are determined by competent judicial, administrative or by any other competent authority provided by law*—persuaded the decision by Equality Now to produce ‘The guide to using the Protocol on the Rights of Women for legal action.’

The guide is an important tool as well as a legal resource for women's and girls' rights defenders in Africa and aims at facilitating the exercise of the rights set out in the Protocol. The guide gives the background to human rights systems, explains how the Protocol came into existence and also identifies other human and women rights instruments and regional mechanisms that enforce these rights.

The guide directs users on how to use the Protocol at domestic and regional levels through litigation and also provides a checklist for domestic and regional cases. It highlights rights in the Protocol and then relates them to other instruments e.g. CEDAW. The guide provides sample language that can be used in legal submissions or select issues of violation such as state party obligations. In addition, to facilitate research in legal cases, the guide gives examples of relevant case law on human rights, profile decisions at the ACHPR and women's rights cases from regional human rights systems and international bodies.

Furthermore, the guide gives tips on how to engage with the ACHPR for example through shadow reporting. It provides strategies for advocacy on the Protocol at national and regional levels through the stages of ratification to domestication and implementation.

So far Equality Now has offered two trainings; one in June 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya and the other in October 2011 in Lusaka, Zambia. The trainings targeted countries that have ratified the Protocol. Participants included lawyers, women rights activists, law faculty and prosecutors. The aim of the trainings was to equip the participants on how to use the Protocol for legal action in securing justice for women whose rights have been violated.

Currently the guide is available in the English language but will be printed soon in French, Portuguese and Arabic.

## 4.3 FIGHTING FGM IN LIBERIA: THE CASE OF RUTH BERRY PEAL

Una Thompson, WOLPNET

FGM in Liberia is a contentious and politically motivated issue. The cultural practice is viewed as vital to the social fabric of the country. The campaign against FGM has tried to highlight the fact that culture is important to society however there are some cultural practices that are harmful and not beneficial, as is the case with FGM.

The Ruth Berry Peal case raised public interest and catapulted the FGM campaign to the national stage. Ruth Berry Peal was kidnapped for a month, initiated and mutilated. The perpetrators were arrested and tried. However, the case did not cite FGM as the offense but instead, the perpetrators were charged with theft and kidnapping. WOLPNET requested assistance from Equality Now and subsequently a joint campaign was



initiated to get justice for Ruth and to push for a law against FGM. The perpetrators were found guilty and sentenced to three years in prison. Two legal documents were used to inform the case, the Liberian constitution and the Protocol article 3<sup>3</sup>. The perpetrators (though guilty) are out on bond after they have lodged an appeal. The judge who tried the case is sensitive to the issue and has written to support an expeditious conclusion to the case.

The fight against FGM continues to be challenging as observed in the above case, especially as it is not considered to be a criminal offense. The Minister of Internal Affairs supports the campaign against FGM and it is hoped that they can get support of the President so that FGM can be outlawed in the country.

#### 4.4 DOMESTICATING THE PROTOCOL IN THE GAMBIA-THE WOMEN'S ACT



Adama Cooper Jah, ACDHRS

The Gambia was the first country to sign the Protocol in 11<sup>th</sup> September 2003 after its adoption in July 2003. The Gambia initially placed reservations on four articles, namely: 5, 6, 7 and 14<sup>4</sup>. In order to lift the reservations, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) engaged with The Gambia's female Vice President who is very influential and an advocate for women's rights. They also engaged religious and cultural leaders by holding several consultations with them and included them in all their Protocol lobbying activities. After much lobbying and advocacy, full ratification occurred on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 and the instrument deposited to the AU on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2005.

The transition from ratification to domestication included the first draft of the Women's Bill which was prepared in 2008. After a period of three years following a series of consultations at different levels, the Bill was presented to Cabinet and then to the National Assembly. The National Assembly enacted the Bill on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 as the Women's Act 2010. In May of the same year, the Act was assented to by His Excellency the President of the Gambia.

The Women's Act 2010 is an Act to implement the legal provision of the National Policy for the advancement of Gambian women and girls, and to incorporate and enforce CEDAW and the Protocol. The Act incorporates provisions of CEDAW and the Protocol. It addresses discrimination and other forms of violations against women and girls, and proper implementation will enhance economic, social and political rights of women and girls in the Gambia.

Implementation of the Women's Act has been a challenge. For example, Article 20 of the Act stipulates that a woman is entitled to 6 months maternity leave. This provision has been met with grave opposition by employers who are not willing to pay for a woman to go on maternity leave for that length of time. Furthermore, the provision impacts women negatively as employers are not willing to hire women of child bearing age.

Elimination of harmful traditional practices such as FGM is not mentioned in the Act. However, a Domestic Violence and Sexual Offenses Bill (which incorporates some of the issues that were not included in the Act) is in the pipeline. It is hoped that it will address all the other issues not addressed in the Women's Act.

Challenges notwithstanding, in the efforts to domesticate the Protocol, ACDHRS and its partners continue to popularize the Act by translating it, sensitizing the public on its provisions and engaging the media to publicize it. In conjunction with the RHV project, the Centre will work with FLAG (Female Lawyers Association Gambia) by providing legal aid support for gender based violence cases and training on the manual application of the Protocol. In March 2012, the Gambia will be engaged in parliamentary elections

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<sup>3</sup> Right to dignity

<sup>4</sup> Article 5-elimination of harmful practices including FGM, Article 6-Marriage, Article 7-Separation, Divorce and Annulment of marriage and Article 14-Health and reproductive rights

and it is hoped that women will be encouraged to participate in these elections as provided for in Article 9 of the Protocol which provides for women's participation and representation.

## 5.0 NEW CONSTITUENCIES, NEW STRATEGIES



*In this session, panellists discussed new strategies and new constituencies that have furthered work on the Protocol*

*Chairperson: Amie JOOF, FAMEDEV*

### 5.1 ENGAGING ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND PARLIAMENTARIANS ON MATERNAL HEALTH

*Leah Chatta Chipepa, AMwA*

The idea for the East African Caravan on Maternal Health materialized during the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) meeting in January 2010. The idea was conceptualized by the following organizations: ABANTU, FEMNET, SOAWR and the UN millennium campaign.

The aim of the caravan was to inform the policy and decision-makers of East Africa on the reality of maternal and child health and the urgent need to address the issue. The caravan route included four countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda as the final destination. The organizers deliberately chose to end the caravan in Kampala, Uganda to coincide with the AU summit where the Heads of State were meeting to discuss issues of maternal and child health.

As the caravan travelled in these countries, the organizers held public rallies, shared information on SRHR, provided medical services such as family planning, HIV counselling and referrals, provided sanitary towels and mama kits (meeting gendered practical needs). Each organization that agreed to take part in the caravan mainstreamed these activities around their mandates for example FEMNET, a communication network, used their expertise to disseminate information.

By the end of the caravan, 60,000 people had signed a petition whose message was 'no woman should die while giving life'. During the Summit, the organizers gave presentations of testimonies and showed video footage. They took the petition to the Africa parliamentary network on MDGs and the 4<sup>th</sup> AU Summit on Gender. The organizers bombarded these spaces with information on maternal health. All these efforts were able to influence the Heads of State decision on this issue.

After the AU Summit, there was continuous engagement with policy makers and parliamentarians around the issue. In Kenya for example, women's organisations presented a petition to Parliament on the issue of resource allocation for maternal health, in line with commitments made by Heads of State in Kampala. In Uganda, women's organisations organized televised presidential debates on maternal health during the electoral campaign period in early 2011. In Tanzania the caravan organizers convened members of relevant, newly formed parliamentary committees to brief them on maternal health. As a result the Tanzanian parliamentarians formed a sub-committee on maternal and child health, and developed an action plan to guide their activities.

### 5.2 WORKING WITH RURAL WOMEN THROUGH "WE ARE THE SOLUTION" CAMPAIGN

*Yves Niyiragira, Fahamu*

Between 2006 and 2009, West Africa was affected by a prolonged drought and famine, which brought different organisations to review and think about alternative farming methods to the ones promoted by Western multinationals and other organisations such as Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). As a result the "We are the Solution" campaign was birthed.

The objectives of the campaign are:

- ☞ to promote best practices and knowhow, which have been known and transmitted from one generation to another and have contributed to food sovereignty on the continent;
- ☞ to influence policy makers to promote good agricultural governance and policies;
- ☞ to value and promote small scale farming.

The overall campaign was launched in January 2011 with activities in five countries (Mali, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Guinea). The main activities are:

- ☞ training (regionally and nationally) on advocacy;
- ☞ agro-ecological consciousness;
- ☞ feminist leadership;
- ☞ developing long term partnerships with various stakeholders, using media in advocacy.



The Protocol has specific articles that speak to food security and agriculture, therefore it is hoped that members of SOAWR can join the campaign so as to maximize efforts on the issue. The campaign can be replicated in other regions as well as food insecurity affected areas especially considering the current situation in East Africa.



### 5.3 ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN SMALL ARMS AND VAW

Marren Akatsa Bukachi, EASSI

It is estimated that at least 875 million small arms and light weapons are in circulation today, three quarters of which are in the hands of civilians. As much as 60% of all homicides are committed with firearms. Small arms are portable firearms of relatively *small* calibre of about 100mm or below. There is currently a process to develop an Arms Trade Treaty that addresses issues of gender based violence and gender perspectives related to small arms, ammunitions and related materials. In September 2011 in Togo, the African Union developed a common position on the Arms Trade Treaty that includes issues of sexual and gender based violence. This is the position that will be fronted by African countries at this year's PrepCom

and final negotiations for an Arms Trade Treaty.

The impact of armed violence on women should not be underestimated - women are often targets of certain types of violence involving small arms, particularly domestic violence and rape.

Small arms can aggravate VAW whether in a conflict or peace environment. Studies from around the world have shown how the presence of firearms can significantly increase the chances that domestic violence results in fatality. In many conflict situations small arms have been used to threaten women and communities to facilitate the perpetration of sexual violence. Small arms do not necessarily have to be fired to pose a serious security threat. The visible impacts of small arms misuse include lives lost and injury, while direct impacts include death and injury of family and peers, displacement, psychosocial trauma reduced access to, or quality of health.

Violence by an intimate partner is one of the most common forms of VAW. Half of the women who die from homicides are killed by their current or former husbands or partners, often by the use of guns.

The lethal potential of small arms reduce a woman's ability to resist the violence, lessen her chances of escape and diminishes the possibility of help from her surroundings and also increases the chances of a lethal outcome. Research shows that having a small arm in the home increases the overall risk of someone being murdered by 41%, for women in particular, the risk is nearly triple.

The fear of being attacked may limit women's freedom of movement, can prevent women from carrying out their daily activities, from fetching water and firewood to taking public transportation to work. Again, many women do not seek help or report their experiences of violence, often due to limited availability of services, stigma or fear.

Violence against women is often less evident than the deaths and injuries of men fighting in armed conflict or as gang members in violent drug wars. Yet women and girls are often victimized, or affected in other ways, in all armed violence settings. Women and girls are also common targets of sexual violence in armed conflict and fragile states, and they suffer disproportionately from its indirect consequences.

The economic and social effects of armed violence are devastating. In addition to the costs of lost productivity, medical treatment for injured victims, and loss of income, women especially suffer additional indirect effects. In many situations, when their husbands are killed, women and children lose access to their homes and livelihood, and are forced into prostitution, commercial labour, or domestic servitude in order to survive.

For women, violence in wartime runs along a continuum of violence that they also experience in post conflict periods and in peacetime. Understanding the gendered realities of violence and the connections between domestic violence that happens in non conflict affected contexts and sexual violence in wartime can help to reveal the gendered power divisions that play a role in the perpetration of violence and the response to such violence.

Even if women are not primarily gun wielders, their victimisation is facilitated with the aid of these weapons. They are the weapons of choice in domestic violence, in political violence and in sexual violence. The issue of masculinity also comes in - men and youth are often attracted to owning guns because of the power it accords them. Women, for example in Latin America and Jamaica are also attracted to men who own guns believing they are protected and secure. They are often proved wrong and become victims of intimate partner violence.

Because of this, it is necessary to integrate gender perspectives and understandings of violence in arms control work in conflict and non-conflict situations. Doing so can help programs, policies and projects address armed violence and the proliferation of small arms comprehensively.

Violence against women is a global problem and an international security threat, which might reach catastrophic proportions when used as a strategic weapon in warfare as a way to terrorize, humiliate and break down women and society as a whole. In this context small arms act as a multiplier of violence impacting women, both directly and indirectly.

SOAWR members should join the "Speak Out; Control Arms Now" Campaign; a campaign to speak out against gun violence and to promote an Arms Trade Treaty that is sensitive to women's needs in developing countries. The central focus of the campaign is the collection of diverse voices of support for a bulletproof Arms Trade Treaty. By visiting the new campaign website (<http://speakout.controlarms.org>) you can not only give your voice in many creative ways, but register events, form groups, and explore and share the submissions of others.

## 5.4 LESSONS FROM ENGAGING THE AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

Irungu Houghton, OXFAM

In 2011 women's organizations specifically UN Women, OXFAM, FAS, COVAW, Urgent Action Fund-Africa and Isis-WICCE worked together to find ways to engage the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) on VAW in Africa.

Sexual violence is pervasive and devastating; men have become weapons while women's bodies serve as battle grounds. During the October 2010 launch of the auspicious African Women's Decade (2010-2020) in Nairobi, elsewhere in Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, 250 women were raped. It is alarming that peace norms and architecture exist yet this infrastructure does not prevent women from being raped on a mass scale.



During the 2010 open session of the PSC, non state actors were allowed to present and UN entities and FAS seized the opportunity to address issues of VAW. The PSC responded by stating that women organizations sometimes appeared to have a 'holier than thou' attitude and tended to (when given the opportunity) concentrate on issues of VAW while ignoring other critical issues such as trafficking.

In March 2011 during the open session of the PSC, women survivors were allowed to address the session with great success as the PSC recognized the survivors' unique voices. The women survivors made the following nine recommendations:

1. To be involved in designing, and implementing the recovery and rehabilitation programmes;
2. Provision of comprehensive medical care, emergency surgery services, and trained medical workers;
3. Increased health budget for sexual and reproductive health complications and trauma;
4. Gender responsive support operations medical personnel;
5. To involve grassroots women in the AU and the Panel of the Wise;
6. Enact national legislation that acknowledges sexual violence as a crime against humanity and implement existing laws to bring about an end to impunity;
7. In line with UNSCR 1960, AU to consider and adopt sexual violence as a disqualifying criterion for leadership;
8. AU to establish a recovery fund for economic empowerment and post conflict reconstruction;
9. Hold annual Open Session in different conflict areas, starting with Darfur.

People who have experienced such injustices should be encouraged to address and interact in such spaces in order to have an impact and force decision makers to act on their issues.

### Plenary discussion summary

#### *Violence against women*

Other underlying factors such as youth unemployment, financial crisis, issues of masculinity were contributing to incidences of VAW.

In spite of the ratification and domestication of national and regional instruments that speak to VAW, the vice continues to persist and escalate in all areas in Africa. Participants agreed that in order to successfully address the issue of VAW, it was imperative to devise a new and effective strategy

Participants agreed to engage "the Speak Out; Control Arms Now" campaign to speak out against gun violence and to promote an Arms Trade Treaty.

## 6.0 USING SOCIAL NETWORKING TOOLS IN ADVOCACY

*This session was engaging and interactive as participants learned and discussed social networking and ways to use it for advocacy on the Protocol*

*Chairperson: Yves Niyiragira, FAHAMU*

*Presenter: Zarwadi Nyon'go*

A brief presentation was given on social media while participants were engaged on their own use of social media as SOAWR members and at their individual organizations.

There are different forms of social media including YouTube, Facebook, twitter, Google groups, yahoo groups, LinkedIn, MySpace among others. Statistics show that 56% of social media users are women, its reach is wide and large (as most people have access to them on their mobile phones) and it is available in several languages. People around the world get their news from Facebook and twitter - it is therefore imperative that women organizations harness this tool to promote their work.



Social media can be used to drive campaigns. For example the East Africa sex workers movement was catapulted from invisibility to a bona fide campaign through social media. This media strategy generated great publicity for the movement and the end result saw the mainstream media take interest in the issue and televise it on national television. Due to the campaign it was easy to see that perceptions were changed because of all the information sharing through social media.

Social media is cost effective as it is largely free. It can also be used as a resource tool. There are instances when a certain document needed translation, social media contacts were used to have the document translated into several different languages at no cost.

There is need to have an organizational media strategy where the tool is used more efficiently, effectively and frequently. Social media should not be used haphazardly. Social media strategy planning is very important because you need to look at who your audience is (need to carry out an analysis on who is following your social networks), what the risks are and how they can be mitigated. An organization has to be sure of what and how much information is to be shared as one may run the risk of the opposition using information negatively. As a social media strategy is created, it is important to note that different media tools can be used. At times, it is more practical to use either/or main stream media, SMS and social media.

Is the women's movement and the SOAWR coalition maximizing the use of social media? There is need to devise social media strategies that build relationships which then help build the movement or which help further the cause. It is important to build relationships with people who have clout or many followers in social media as they can be used to advance the cause.

### Plenary discussion summary

#### *Security and privacy concerns*

Participants were urged to devise media strategies and plans that would include how to engage social and mainstream media. Depending on the issue at hand the plan would need to stipulate what and how much information needed to be disseminated to the public.

Most social media sites have privacy settings which give the user the freedom to choose who may view the information they present. Users should therefore take time to adjust their privacy settings.

There are internet security tools that users can employ to make sure they protect themselves. There are some security tools that are free and others that may require purchase.

#### *Human and financial resource to engage social media*

Some organizations may not have the financial resources to hire someone to monitor social media but since it is important to engage with social media, organizations should take collective responsibility i.e. have several people take responsibility.

#### *Country context*

Some countries have censorship issues while others have problems that are only specific to them. In such instances, the media strategy has to take into consideration the country context and devise a plan that would be most effective. For example for countries that have electricity issues, the media strategy should perhaps include more phone messaging (sms) and fewer internet strategies.

## 7.0 COMMON STRATEGIES AND LESSONS LEARNED



*In this session, participants were divided into groups and asked to list common strategies, and lessons learned that emerged from the different sessions: ratification of Protocol, Domestication of Protocol, new constituencies, new strategies and social network tools. In addition, the groups were asked to make three recommendations for “Creating a United Force for the SOAWR Campaign”*

Group results: Emerging strategies and recommendations

### **EMERGING STRATEGIES**

- 1) Seize opportunities and moments to mobilize support such as the maternal health caravan targeted to influence Heads of state at the AU summit in Kampala, Uganda;
- 2) Use key opportunities such as the elections in Uganda to push for the ratification of the Protocol or to advance any other campaign;
- 3) Take advantage of laws being drafted to domesticate the Protocol such as the Women’s Act in the Gambia;
- 4) Use one on one advocacy at different levels i.e. from the AU level to the national level-different categories of people at national level e.g. religious and cultural leaders;
- 5) Build relationships/create strategic alliances with key persons such as the female vice-president in the Gambia, President Sirleaf Johnson in Liberia to help push the agenda;
- 6) “Naming and shaming” of Member States as a strategy for accelerating the ratification process continues to be an effective approach;
- 7) Member States need to share information on good practices on the signing, ratification and domestication of treaties;
- 8) Use of the Protocol for different legal redress mechanisms such as the example of Zambia where the Protocol was cited in a GBV case;

- 9) Governments should use the multi-sectoral approach as they take a leadership role on the implementation of the Protocol;
- 10) Voices of the beneficiaries of the Protocol i.e. women in their various diversities, should be heard during campaigns and advocacy work as in the example of the women survivor voices at the Peace and Security Council;
- 11) 'Dirty ratification' is better than no ratification at all;
- 12) Capitalize on the AU process on ratification of treaties as they are already working with governments;
- 13) Take advantage of social media as it has a wide reach and is largely free.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CREATING A UNITED FORCE FOR THE SOAWR CAMPAIGN**

- 1) Strengthen and use social media to raise the profile of SOAWR and the issues of women's rights;
- 2) Strengthen the experience sharing among SOAWR members;
- 3) Link the AU Protocol with sub regional, regional and international instruments;
- 4) National follow up committees on ratification, domestication and implementation should include government officials for example the ministry of justice, internal affairs etc;
- 5) SOAWR needs to document experiences – generate learning publication;
- 6) Develop collective strategies to engage religious and traditional leaders;
- 7) SOAWR should endeavor to enhance visibility at the regional and international human rights spaces such as UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and other sub-regional bodies;
- 8) SOAWR members should try and obtain observer status with the ACHPR and ECOSOCC for better visibility;
- 9) SOAWR should develop its own social media strategy which all members can engage in;
- 10) Train civil society and lawyers on the Protocol guide developed by Equality Now;
- 11) Re-strategize and become movers and not only shakers.

## **8.0 SETTING THE STAGE FOR ACTION PLANNING**

*In this session SOAWR priorities for 2012 as per the strategic plan 2010-2013 were outlined*

*Adama Cooper Jah, ACDHRS*

In the period 2010-2011, four (4) countries have ratified the Protocol including, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, and Uganda. When the Strategic Plan was formulated, it targeted eight countries that had not ratified the Protocol: Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Subsequently Kenya, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (the latter two not on the list) ratified the instrument. SOAWR's focus now shifts to the remaining six countries.

SOAWR should capitalize on opportunities that would help advance the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocol. Such opportunities include:

- The African Women's Decade 2010-2020 - this year the theme is women and agriculture and food security. SOAWR members should engage with rural women. The review for the Decade is in 2015, SOAWR should push countries that have not ratified to do so by this date;
- Ethiopia is the host of the AU, follow up needs to be done to push the country to ratify the Protocol;
- Countries that have ratified and domesticated the Protocol should be encouraged to use the legal guide developed by Equality Now;
- Multi-sectoral approach should be used by countries that have ratified the Protocol;
- The Africa Unite Campaign on VAW will be re-launched in March 2012, SOAWR coalition should use this opportunity to engage with the campaign;
- This year's CSW theme is '*The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges*'- SOAWR should capitalize on the event;
- If there are countries reporting on the Protocol, SOAWR coalition members in that country should be encouraged to create a shadow report;
- SOAWR members should capitalize on AU treaty week to push for ratifications;
- Review how effective the coalition has been with engaging the youth;
- Review SOAWR's communication strategy to include the use of social media;
- Follow up with the women survivors who presented at the PSC;
- SOAWR members should capitalize on elections to advance its campaign on women's rights; for example the parliamentary elections in Ghana this year.

## 9.0 PLANNING SOAWR ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

*In this session participants planned organizational and coalition activities towards ratification, implementation and domestication of the Protocol.*

*Chairperson: Nonhlanhla Sibanda, POWA*



## EAST AFRICA

Priority Area	Results	Strategies	Responsible	Regional Strategy	Responsible
<b>Ratification of Protocol</b>	Ratification of Protocol by Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Popularization at grassroots level</li> <li>- Advocacy with schools and Ministries of Justice, Gender and Foreign Affairs</li> <li>- Seeking feedback from key contacts in Ministry of Gender on the ratification process</li> <li>- Monitoring to ensure that ratification is a priority of Sudan government</li> <li>- Media public</li> </ul>	SIHA	<p>Advocacy for blanket ratification during Women's Decade</p> <p>Build on the substantial groundwork that has already been done</p>	SIHA Equality Now
	Ratification of Protocol by Burundi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Popularization of the protocol through public awareness and materials produced in local languages</li> <li>-Advocacy with the Ministries of Justice and Foreign affairs</li> <li>-Media publicity</li> <li>-Engaging with the First Lady of Burundi</li> </ul>	CAFOB	Policy dialogue with Burundi government and supported by SOAWR members	CAFOB Equality Now
<b>Domestication and Implementation of Protocol</b>	Application of Kenyan laws in line with the Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Public interest litigation case to advocate for application of Kenya's laws in line with Protocol</li> <li>-Work with local artists to continue work to popularize the protocol and the Women's Decade</li> <li>-Monitor the implementation of Kenya's</li> </ul>	COVAW FIDA-Kenya	<p>Technical support on training and application of the Manual on how to use the Protocol for Legal rights</p> <p>Engage with First Ladies' forum to advocate for removal of reservations on article 14.</p> <p>Join Campaign on control of small</p>	EASSI

		<p>new constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lobby for the passing of 'gender' Bills pending in Parliament (Kenya already passed the Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting Act)</li> <li>-Organize a national forum for women's organizations in Kenya</li> </ul>		arms	
	Tanzania implements legislative reform that does away with laws that do not conform with the Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Engage with policy makers to enact an anti-gender based violence law</li> <li>-Campaign to ensure women's rights in the new constitution</li> <li>-Monitor the implementation of the UPR recommendations on women's rights</li> <li>-Follow up on the implementation of the action plan for advocacy on change of laws which contradict women's rights (Marriage Act, Customary Law)</li> </ul>	Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)	Technical support on training and application of the Manual on how to use the Protocol for Legal rights	Equality Now
<b>Social Networking</b>	Use of social media at the country level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use blogging as a tool to popularize the women's decade and the Protocol</li> <li>-Monitoring and regular updates/ sharing of information using twitter, facebook and individual websites</li> </ul>	LHRC, COVAW, FIDA, CAFOB, SIHA	<p>Use social media to share information</p> <p>Produce the Women's Decade song- a pan-African song and video on the women's decade and the protocol bringing on board African female musicians from different regions- Sara Mitaru (Kenya), Asa, Nneka, (Nigeria) Thandiswa (South Africa) Francophone speaking</p>	FEMNET, Equality Now (COVAW will assist)

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

Priority Areas	Results	Strategies	Responsible	Regional Strategies	Responsible
<b>Ratification of Protocol</b>	Ratification of protocol by Swaziland Prioritisation of women rights in Botswana			Work through existing sub - regional groupings - SADC Gender Protocol Alliance & Southern African Human Rights Network contribute and influence through SADC Head of States meetings, summits etc	WILSA, POWA, NGOGCN
<b>Domestication and Implementation</b>	Accelerated domestication and implementation of Protocol  Protocol remains priority agenda  Sustained visibility and popularisation of Protocol	Monitor progress on reporting implementation through drafting shadow reports on the Protocol in South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi Lobbying and consultations with relevant government departments on multi-sectoral approach	WLSA, POWA, NGOGCN		
<b>Improved women's leadership in governance, political participation and decision making</b>	Improve women's participation in decision making, governance, political participation  Increase dialogue and engagements between CSOs and women in decision making in Parliament and local levels	-Mapping women's participation at local level in countries where not already done  -Advocate for women's increased participation in electoral processes in Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Angola, Malawi  -Train and mentor women in political leadership	WLSA, NGOGCN		

## WEST AFRICA

Priority Area	Results	Strategies	Responsible	Regional Strategy	Responsible
<b>Ratification of Protocol</b>	Completion of Ratification process at national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-SOAWR Members should mobilize other organizations defending women rights;</li> <li>-Conduct a research at relevant ministries or agencies to ascertain the status of signed or adopted protocol</li> <li>-facilitate and initiate the process of ratification</li> <li>-Create awareness and popularize the existing protocol</li> </ul>	SOAWR members in respective countries: Guinea, Cameroon, Ivory coast, Sierra Leone, Niger	Engaging in consultations with country authorities	ACDHR Equality Now SOAWR members in the region
<b>Domestication and Implementation of the Protocol</b>	Real domestication in Mali, Liberia, Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lobby for multi-sectoral approach to make it comprehensible par all the society</li> <li>-Popularization of the protocol in each country</li> <li>-Training for the multi-sectoral approach and the manual on the usage of the Protocol</li> </ul>	SOAWR members	Sharing of experiences between the members of SOAWR in different countries through sub-regional meetings	Equality Now
<b>Social Networking</b>	Advocacy and lobbying through social networks	Training and resources of SOAWR members on the use of social networking	Equality Now Fahamu	Establish a SOAWR sub-regional social network	WOLPNET

## REGIONAL

Priority Areas	Results	Strategies	Responsible
Ratification of the Protocol	Focus on countries that have not yet ratified namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cameroon</li> <li>- Niger</li> <li>- Tunisia</li> <li>- Republic of Congo</li> <li>- The Sudan</li> <li>- South Sudan</li> <li>- Ethiopia</li> <li>- Burundi</li> <li>- Egypt</li> <li>- Cote d'Ivoire</li> </ul>		AMwA, FEMNET Equality Now SIHA FAMDEV EASSI ACHHRS Oxfam
Ratification and Implementation of Protocol	Domestication and implementation of Protocol in the following countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kenya</li> <li>- Uganda</li> <li>- Rwanda</li> <li>- South Africa</li> <li>- Benin</li> <li>- Togo</li> </ul>	Implementation through using the multi-sectoral approach	AUC, FEMNET, Equality Now Oxfam, EASSI, AMwA Other partners: NEPAD, PAP, Women Parliamentarian Caucus, ECOWAS
Urging state action to promote women's bodily integrity and dignity (protection from violence against women) and support sexual and reproductive rights			FEMNET Equality Now, FAMDEV, SIHA, EASSI, AMwA,
Women's Participation in Political Processes		Engage PSC	Oxfam and Fahamu (with

			TrustAfrica)
<b>Social Media Networking</b>	Using social media especially Twitter, FB, YouTube, Skype	Develop a social media strategy (all SOAWR members to create Twitter accounts and FB accounts)	FAHAMU FEMNET
<b>Other SOAWR engagements</b>		<p>Status report: small arms in Africa and the linkage with violence against women (using small arms)</p> <p>Youth involvement in SOAWR activities: through essay competition, especially proposing solutions to the problems in their communities: violence against women, rape,- using social media: FB, twitter, linking up with youth in different countries: Cameroon and Nigeria- The youth can tell us the strategies they will use at schools that they have been visiting</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge and skills from region to region: exchange programmes, exchange visits etc</p> <p>Helping Central African women be visible and link up with other SOAWR women, especially those active ones such as in East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa</p> <p>Approaching SOAWR members to work alongside the State of the Union Coalition</p>	Akina Mama Wa Africa EASSI FAHAMU

## 10.0 LOBBYING OF AMBASSADORS ON RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL

Before the lobby visits, participants were given tips by Yemisrach Kebede, Oxfam, on how to prepare and conduct the lobbying visits. Participants were urged to be clear and concise and give pertinent information so as to leave the person being engaged with sufficient information on the Protocol and why it is necessary for their country to ratify it. Participants were encouraged to create an environment conducive for dialogue on the issues at hand. In addition, they were persuaded to build relationships so as to make it easier for follow up visits and to enable them to further their cause in the future. The embassies visited were those of Egypt, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia to the African Union

### Sierra Leone

The visit to the Sierra Leone embassy was productive. SOAWR members were met by the First Secretary and the Deputy Ambassador. They were both eager to hear about the Protocol and were surprised that their country had not ratified it. The Deputy Ambassador shared that he would send the letter on the Protocol to their Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was going to have a meeting with the Minister of Justice, who is also the Attorney General of the country and persuade him to have Sierra Leone ratify the Protocol. The First Secretary also said she would influence the ratification of the Protocol. The Deputy Ambassador, who used to be a human rights activist, seemed eager to have the Protocol ratified. He said he would communicate the outcome of their meeting to the ambassador as well.

### Mauritius



The delegation of participants was met by the Embassy Secretary. The delegation explained to him the contents of the letter and the need for his country to ratify the Protocol. He explained to them that ratification was a lengthy process in his country whereby technocrats would first have to review the Protocol and how it relates to their laws. He stated that his country has many instruments that need to be ratified and was sure that the Protocol was amongst them. One of the conditions for ratification in their country is that they have to make sure that they have resources to implement the instrument once it is ratified. He said that he

would find out the status of the Protocol and give feedback. He said that he would give feedback of the meeting to the Ambassador and would also relay the information to the delegation that was coming to the summit from Mauritius.

### Tunisia

The Ambassador cancelled the appointment at the last minute when the team had already departed for the mission. A Tunisian official from the Embassy later found the team at the hotel and advised the delegation to write a letter to the Ambassador detailing their concerns about the ratification status of the Protocol in Tunisia. The representative was informative and gave his contact information. The delegation asked the SOAWR team that will stay during the Summit to follow up with the Embassy and the representative as well as he seemed to be a vital resource.



### Egypt

A four member delegation met with the H.E Ambassador Mohamed Fathi Eddress and his third secretary Mr Sherief Sharly on Thursday the 20th of January 2012. The Ambassador highly appreciated the opportunity to discuss the status of ratification of the Protocol and to hear about the work of SOAWR. He was also interested in knowing what organizations SOAWR has been working with from Egypt and recommended that the Coalition also contact the government for partnership/collaboration. The Ambassador also took time to explain to the group the political situation in Egypt and further indicated that

despite the above circumstances, he has plans and committed to follow up on the ratification of the Protocol after Egypt's upcoming General Elections in June 2012.

## 11.0 SOAWR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*In this session, new steering committee members were elected and a discussion was held on how SOAWR members can reach out to North Africa, new partners and alliances.*

*Chair: Faiza Mohamed, Equality Now*

The selection process was presided over by the SOAWR secretariat, Equality Now. All SOAWR members present at the meeting were invited to select the new steering committee members based on the selection Criteria below:

1. Three active members of the current committee.
2. Three members working at the national level.
3. National members will serve on a one year rotational basis to ensure regional representation, while regional members will serve for a period of three years to ensure smooth grant-making.
4. No more than two national members will come from one region.
5. National members will be the legitimate representatives of SOAWR at the country level, and must be endorsed by a national SOAWR coalition, where that exists, as the focal point.

The new steering committee was elected by SOAWR members from a list of nominated organizations; each organization present (except the Secretariat which was managing the process and wanted to stay neutral) cast one vote. The election was transparent with the following elected as the new steering committee:

NATIONAL MEMBERS: Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), Alliances for Africa (AFA) and People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)

REGIONAL MEMBERS: FEMNET, FAMEDEV AND FAHAMU for Social Justice

Ms. Faiza Mohamed posed the following question to the participants after which the following discussion ensued: How do we become a more cohesive coalition and how do we reach out to North Africa?

### Summary of discussion

#### *North Africa*

It was suggested that there are different strategies that could be used to reach out to North Africa including using social media such as twitter and Facebook. Organizations that have contacts in North Africa could harness those relationships to reach out to that region as well.

#### *Internal communication*

SOAWR members are involved in many different activities that are furthering the work on the Protocol but these activities are not being documented enough. It is imperative that organizations document and send their success stories to the Secretariat who in turn will put the success stories into the SOAWR newsletter and on the website as well.

It was agreed that the website should be updated regularly so that anyone visiting the site can view the progress being made. Regular updates will also encourage members to submit reports of their success stories.

If decisions are made by the Steering Committee then the members should be updated immediately.

### *Member Participation*

Members were encouraged to attend meetings and to communicate regularly and effectively with their national focal points and to the Secretariat in general. The success of a coalition is fully dependent on member participation and communication. Members were reminded that attending meetings is vital but full participation in the meeting is also necessary for the success of the coalition. Responding to emails is another method of communicating effectively especially if decisions need to be made immediately. Members were asked to remain committed to the coalition and to always consider the contributions they can make to the coalition.

Members should not compete but complement each other. If a specific member has expertise in a certain area, that member should be encouraged to use that expertise to meet the objectives of the coalition.

### *Resources*

It was agreed that there should be a resource allocation framework to make sure that any funding opportunities are documented. Members that have a poor reporting record should not be awarded grants from the funding pool managed by the coalition.

### *Capacity*

There needs to be a capacity assessment of members to ascertain each other's strengths and how they can be used to benefit the coalition. For example if the coalition wants to explore the use of social media for advocacy, there needs to be an assessment of organizations' capacity on social media. An assessment would also help in determining what issues organizations are struggling with. Members were encouraged to look at the list detailing the mandates and work of the different SOAWR members.

### *Visibility*

It was suggested that in order for SOAWR to have visibility, member organizations should display SOAWR materials in their offices and other strategic spaces.

### *Focal Points*

A clarification was made stating that it had been agreed that there would be SOAWR focal points at country level especially in countries that had many SOAWR members in them. The focal points possess leadership at the country level and are responsible for communicating to the Steering Committee and regional networks. Uganda and Nigeria have country level focal points and other members should replicate their example.

### *State of the Union (SOTU) Campaign*

This is a campaign that is geared to pushing states that have not ratified and/or implemented AU treaties to do so. The State of the Union campaign has identified 14 instruments including the Protocol that countries need to be held accountable for. The campaign is committed to work with women organizations by setting up national platforms that will engage with Ministries of Gender. The Campaign has national coordinators in the following countries: Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Rwanda. SOTU is exploring partners for Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mali, Uganda and Zambia. SOAWR members were encouraged to engage with the national coordinators in their respective countries as both Coalition and the Campaign could work together to have the Protocol ratified and implemented in countries that have not done so.

### *CSW*

POWA is having a side event at the CSW in New York around the Protocol and CEDAW. SOAWR members attending the CSW were welcomed to partner with POWA for this event.

## 12.0 OFFICIAL CLOSING

The meeting was officially closed by the Chairperson of FEMNET, Ms. Jacqueline Sylvie Ndongmo, who gave a vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the workshop by participating, funding and facilitating. It would be nice to put our chair-person's picture here if it is available.



## ANNEXURES

### Annex A: SOAWR Meeting Program



**SOAWR COALITION REVIEW AND AGENDA SETTING MEETING**  
**JANUARY 18-20, 2012**  
**Desalegn Hotel**  
**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

*Optimizing the Potential of the AU Protocol on Women's Rights*

**PROGRAMME**

Tuesday January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Arrival of participants
<b>DAY ONE</b>	
<b>Wednesday January 18, 2012</b>	
8:30AM - 9:00AM	Registration
9:00AM – 10:00AM	<p><b>Session 1 – Official Opening</b>  <b>Chair: Dinah Musindarwezo, FEMNET</b></p> <p>Welcome remarks  - <i>Faiza Mohamed, Equality Now, SOAWR Secretariat</i></p> <p>Remarks  - <i>Litha Musyimi Ogana, African Union Commission, Women, Gender and Development Directorate</i></p> <p>“Why the Protocol on the Rights of Women is important to me”  - <i>Jerry Laurence Lemogo, Cameroon (youth participant)</i></p> <p><b><u>Keynote address</u></b>  <b><u>Ambassador Monica Juma, Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the African Union</u></b></p>
<b>10:00AM-10:15AM</b>	<p><b>Tea/ Coffee Break</b>  <b>Group Photo</b></p>
10:15AM – 11:15AM	<p><b>Session 2 – Status of ratification of the Protocol: challenges, lessons learned and way forward</b>  <b>Chair: Emma Kaliya, NGOGCN</b></p> <p>Brief from the African Union Regional Workshop on the Ratification and Domestication of OAU/AU Treaties  - <i>AU Legal Office</i></p>

	<p>Removal of Uganda’s reservations on the Protocol – <i>Leah Chatta Chipepa, Akina Mama wa Afrika</i></p> <p>The challenge of women’s land rights and inheritance in Burundi – <i>Anatolie Ndayishimiye, CAFOB</i></p> <p>Plenary</p>
11:15AM – 12:30PM	<p><b>Session 3 – Domesticating the Protocol: regional efforts and country experiences</b> <b>Chair: Saida Ali, COVAW-Kenya</b></p> <p>Brief from the second Stakeholders Meeting on Domestication and Implementation of the Protocol – <i>Sixolile Ngcobo, Oxfam</i></p> <p>A Guide on using the Protocol for legal action – <i>Alexandriah Muhanji, Equality Now</i></p> <p>Fighting FGM in Liberia: the case of Ruth Berry Peal - – <i>Una Thompson, WOLPNET</i></p> <p>Domesticating the Protocol in The Gambia - The Women’s Act – <i>Adama Cooper Jah, ACDHRS</i></p> <p>Plenary</p>
<b>12:30PM – 1:30PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30PM – 2:00PM	<p><b>Session 4: Highlights from SOAWR Coalition member activities in 2011</b> Gallery Walk</p>
2:00PM – 3:00PM	<p><b>Session 5 – New Constituencies, New Strategies</b> <b>Chair: Amie Joof Cole, FAMEDEV</b></p> <p>Engaging electoral processes and Parliamentarians on maternal health – <i>Naisola Likimani, FEMNET</i></p> <p>Working with rural women through “We are the Solution” campaign – <i>Yves Niyiragira, Fahamu</i></p> <p>Addressing the intersection between small arms and VAW – <i>Marren Akatsa Bukachi, EASSI</i></p> <p>Lessons from engaging the AU Peace and Security Council – <i>Florence Butegwa, UN Women</i></p> <p>Plenary</p>
3:00PM – 3:30PM	<p><b>Session 6: Plenary</b> <b>Moderator: Facilitator</b></p> <p>Common strategies and lessons learned from Sessions 2, 3, 4, and 5</p>
<b>3:30PM – 3:45PM</b>	<b>Tea/ Coffee Break</b>
3:45PM – 4:45PM	<p><b>Session 7: Using social networking tools in advocacy</b> <b>Chair: Facilitator</b></p>

	Presentation by: Yves Niyiragira, Fahamu Plenary
4:45PM – 5:30PM	<b>Session 8: Group Work</b> <b>Brainstorming on “Creating a United Voice for the SOAWR Campaign”</b> Moderator: Facilitator
5:30PM – 6:00PM	<b>Session 8 (cont’d) Group Feedback</b>
<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>ADJOURN</b>

<b>DAY TWO</b>	
<b>Thursday January 19, 2012</b>	
8:30AM – 9:00AM	Registration
9:00AM – 9:15AM	<b>Recap: Strategies emerging from Day One</b> <i>- Joyce Ngumba, Rapporteur</i>
9:15AM – 9:30AM	<b>Session 9: Setting the stage for action planning</b> SOAWR priorities for 2012 as per strategic plan 2010-2013 <i>- Adama Cooper Jah, ACDHRS</i>
9:30AM – 11:00AM	<b>Session 10: - Group work</b> <b>Planning SOAWR activities for 2012</b>
<b>11:00AM – 11:15AM</b>	<b>Tea/ Coffee Break</b>
11:15AM – 12:15PM	<b>Session 10: (cont’d) - Feedback from groups</b> <b>Chair: Nonhlanhla Sibanda, POWA</b>
12:15PM – 12:45PM	<b>Session 11: Preparation for Lobbying of Addis Embassies</b> <i>Irungu Houghton, Oxfam</i>
<b>12:45PM – 1:45PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
1:45PM – 5:00PM	<b>Lobbying</b> of Ambassadors on ratification of the Protocol Debriefing from Lobbying visits
7:00PM	<b>Launch</b> of FEMNET multi-country research and documentary on <i>Promoting women’s economic empowerment through gender responsive trade agreements</i>

<b>DAY THREE</b>	
<b>Friday January 20, 2012</b>	
9:00AM – 9:30AM	Registration
9:30AM – 11:30AM	<b>Session 12: SOAWR MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> <b>Chair: Faiza Mohamed, Equality Now</b> 1. Consolidating National Membership: Opportunities and Challenges. 2. Outreach to North Africa 3. Outreach to New partners and Alliances 4. Election of Steering Committee for 2012/2015 5. Any other business
11:30AM – 12:00PM	<b>Session 13: Official Closing</b> Evaluation, wrap-up and vote of thanks <i>- Jacqueline Sylvie Ndongmo, FEMNET</i>
<b>12:00PM</b>	<b>LUNCH</b> <b>ADJOURN</b>
<b>3:00PM – 4:00PM</b>	<b>Meeting of SOAWR Steering Committee</b> <b>Convener: Equality Now</b>

## Annex B: SOAWR Meeting Participants List

Participants List - SOAWR Annual Meeting January 18-20, 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia					
	Country	Organization	Name	Email	Phone #
1	Burkina Faso	Voix de Femmes	Zombré L. W. Pascal	rakimsy@yahoo.fr vofemme@yahoo.fr	01 30 31 55 74
2	Burundi	CAFOB	NDAYISHIMIYE Anatolie	cafob.cafob@yahoo.fr nivyline@yahoo.fr; ndayanatolie@yahoo.fr	257-21-77-58
3	Gambia / Regional	African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)	Adama Cooper Jah	<a href="mailto:edir@acdhrs.org">edir@acdhrs.org</a>	00-220-4462341/2
4	Kenya	Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW)	Saida Ali	<a href="mailto:saida.ali@covaw.or.ke">saida.ali@covaw.or.ke</a>	254-20-3874357/8
5	Liberia	Women of Liberia Peace Network (WOLPNET)	Una Thompson	<a href="mailto:unatunky@yahoo.com">unatunky@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:uthompson@wolpnet.org">uthompson@wolpnet.org</a>	231-6538933
6	Malawi	NGO-Gender Coordination Network (NGOGCN)	Emma Kaliya	<a href="mailto:emmakaliya@yahoo.co.uk">emmakaliya@yahoo.co.uk</a> ; <a href="mailto:ekaliya@humanrights.mw">ekaliya@humanrights.mw</a>	
7	Mali	Association des Juristes Maliennes (AJM)	Saran Keita	<a href="mailto:masarankd@yahoo.fr">masarankd@yahoo.fr</a>	22366744387
8	Regional	African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)	Dinah Musindarwezo	<a href="mailto:director@femnet.or.ke">director@femnet.or.ke</a>	254 20 2712971
9	Regional	Fahamu	Yves Niyiragira	<a href="mailto:yves@fahamu.org">yves@fahamu.org</a>	254735676662

10	Regional	FAMEDEV	Amie Joof-Cole	<a href="mailto:joofamie@yahoo.com">joofamie@yahoo.com</a>	221338675598
11	Regional	Oxfam GB	Irungu Houghton	<a href="mailto:irunguh@oxfam.org.uk">irunguh@oxfam.org.uk</a>	254733635354
12	Regional / Secretariat	Equality Now	Alexandria Muhanji	<a href="mailto:amuhanji@equalitynow.org">amuhanji@equalitynow.org</a>	254 – 20 – 2719832
13	South Africa	POWA – South Africa	Nonhlanhla Sibanda	<a href="mailto:nonhlanhla@powa.co.za">nonhlanhla@powa.co.za</a>	(011) 642-4345/6
14	Sub-regional	Eastern Africa Sub- Regional Initiative (EASSI)	Marren Akatsa-Bukachi	<a href="mailto:marren.akatsa@eassi.org">marren.akatsa@eassi.org</a>	256782425529
15	Sub-regional	Strategic Initiative for the Horn of Africa (SIHA)	Lemia Al Gayle	<a href="mailto:liemia@sihanet.org">liemia@sihanet.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:lemiaabu@gmail.com">lemiaabu@gmail.com</a>	256781346033
16	Tanzania	Legal and Human Rights Centre – Tanzania	Anna Aloys Katemana	<a href="mailto:lhrc@humanrights.or.tz">lhrc@humanrights.or.tz</a> ; <a href="mailto:annahenga2000@hotmail.com">annahenga2000@hotmail.com</a>	+255 22 2773038, 2773048
17	Uganda / Regional	Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA)	Leah Chatta Chipepa	<a href="mailto:leah@akinamamawaafrika.org">leah@akinamamawaafrika.org</a>	256 757 357 451 256 414 543 681
18	Zambia/Sub regional	WLSA	Mrs Maimbo Ziela	<a href="mailto:maimboziela@yahoo.co.uk">maimboziela@yahoo.co.uk</a>	260976561153
19	Cameroon/ Regional	FEMNET	Jacqueline Sylvie Ndongmo	<a href="mailto:jackysyl@yahoo.com">jackysyl@yahoo.com</a>	237 99 98 37 82
20	Regional	FEMNET	Nabila Abdulmelik	<a href="mailto:prog-associate@femnet.or.ke">prog-associate@femnet.or.ke</a>	254 20 2712971
21	International	Oxfam GB	Sixelile Ngcobo	<a href="mailto:sixelity@yahoo.com">sixelity@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:sngcobo@oxfam.org.org.uk">sngcobo@oxfam.org.org.uk</a>	27124239919/ 27837638861
22	Regional / Secretariat	Equality Now	Faiza Mohamed	<a href="mailto:fmohamed@equalitynow.org">fmohamed@equalitynow.org</a>	254202719832/ 254202719913
23	Cameroon	Youth participant	Nelly Farah Nguegan	<a href="mailto:ngue_nelly@yahoo.fr">ngue_nelly@yahoo.fr</a>	237 98 21 4971 ; 22 15 93 57
24	Cameroon	Youth participant	Jerry Laurence Lemogo	<a href="mailto:jlemogo@yahoo.fr">jlemogo@yahoo.fr</a> , <a href="mailto:laurencelaurenum6@gmail.com">laurencelaurenum6@gmail.com</a>	+237 967 65889

25	Nigeria	Youth participant	Nonyelum Umeasiegbu	<a href="mailto:Spun910@yahoo.com">Spun910@yahoo.com</a>	234 805 644 1980 703 539 6709
26	Nigeria	Youth participant	Anthony Itodo Samuel	<a href="mailto:rutherford2forlife@yahoo.com">rutherford2forlife@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:anthony.itodo.s@gmail.com">anthony.itodo.s@gmail.com</a>	+234 703 5309780
27	Regional	State of the Union Coalition	Michael Orwa	<a href="mailto:orwa.michael@gmail.com">orwa.michael@gmail.com</a>	254 736 277 753
28	Intergovernmental	UN Women	Florence Butegwa	<a href="mailto:florence.butegwa@unwomen.org">florence.butegwa@unwomen.org</a>	251 11 663 2720 011 663 1698
29	Intergovernmental	UN Women	Tesfaye Desalegn	<a href="mailto:tesfaye.desalegn@unwomen.org">tesfaye.desalegn@unwomen.org</a>	251911634654
30	Intergovernmental	AU-Women, Gender and Development Directorate	Litha Musyimi Ogana	<a href="mailto:MusyimiOganaL@africa-union.org">MusyimiOganaL@africa-union.org</a>	
31	Intergovernmental	AU-Legal Office	Adewale Inyanda	<a href="mailto:adewalei@africa-union.org">adewalei@africa-union.org</a>	251911506767
32	Facilitator	Independent Consultant	Zawadi Nyong'o	<a href="mailto:znyongo@gmail.com">znyongo@gmail.com</a>	
33	Rapporteur		Joyce Ngumba	<a href="mailto:joycengumba@yahoo.com">joycengumba@yahoo.com</a>	254 714747291

## Annex C: SOAWR Meeting Evaluation

To what extent did the meeting meet the following objectives?

Meeting objectives	V.poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good
Review progress made against targets agreed in 2010-2013			26%	50%	19%
Share and learn from experiences and emerging best practices at regional and national level			15%	53%	31%
Draw and adopt a roadmap for joint and individual organizations' activities for the year 2012		4%	15%	50%	31%
Confirm the new steering committee and revised terms of reference for the committee			15%	31%	57%
Advocate for the immediate ratification of the Protocol by members states			23%	50%	27%

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best, please rate the following:

Overall meeting	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity of meeting objectives		4%	4%	38%	61%
Usefulness of presentations		4%	8%	42%	50%
Facilitation of meeting		4%	4%	23%	61%
Opportunities of sharing of ideas		4%	19%	53%	19%
Opportunities of regional networking			15%	50%	34%
Please rate the meeting overall			4%	61%	27%

**NB: 26 evaluation forms were received.**

**What aspects of the meeting were the most important or useful for you?**

- ☞ The sharing of experiences, strategies and best practices
- ☞ Embassy advocacy visits
- ☞ Gallery walk learning from other partners
- ☞ Review of the strategic plan
- ☞ The presentation on social media and how to engage with it for SOAWR work

**What are areas for improvement in organizing similar meetings?**

- ☞ More time needs to be given for participant feedback
- ☞ The sessions were too long
- ☞ More documentation is needed on the work that partners are doing in regards to the protocol (suggestion for an annual report)
- ☞ Better interpreters
- ☞ Better communication between SOAWR members on their activities before meetings
- ☞ Better coordination/ preparation on embassy visits
- ☞ Ensure that all participants are accommodated in the same hotel
- ☞ Gallery walk was not taken seriously, more time allocated for this activity
- ☞ The facilitator and rapporteur should not be hired but should be recruited from SOAWR members who are able to do the same
- ☞ Documents to be used in the meeting should be sent to participants before hand
- ☞ Include a capacity building session for members