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SOAWR COALITION ANNUAL REVIEW AND AGENDA SETTING WORKSHOP REPORT

5TH-7TH OCTOBER, 2009

NAIROBI, KENYA

***“SPREADING OUR WINGS: A MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH TO
WOMEN’S RIGHTS”***

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
APRM	Africa Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUWC	African Union Women's Committee
AWID	Africa Women in Development
CAFOB	Collective of Women's Associations and NGOs in Burundi
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
COVAW	Coalition on Violence Against Women - Kenya
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
FEMNET	African Women's Development and Communication Network
FIDA-K	Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya
GCN	Girl Child Network
IAC	Inter-African Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SADC	Southern Africa Development Cooperation
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SIHA	Strategic Initiatives for Women in the Horn of Africa
SOAWR	Solidarity for African Women's Rights
UNECA	United Nation's Economic Commission for Africa
UNIFEM	United Nation's Development Fund for Women
VAW	Violence against Women
WGDD	African Union Women Gender and Development Directorate
WILDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
WRAPA	Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative

1.0 Summary

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition held its annual review meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from 5th-7th October. The meeting was attended by over 40 participants from 15 countries (Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). This



year's theme was, *"Spreading Our Wings: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Women's Rights"*. The main objectives of the meeting included progress review of the 2008/2009 year, sharing of the best practices in the year, strategizing on the African Women's Decade from 2010-2020 and setting the strategic framework for the next strategic plan .

The 2008/2009 year witnessed an increase in efforts for domesticating the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (hereinafter the Protocol) and an increase in membership of the Coalition. By October 2009, 27 member states had ratified the Protocol¹, however 26 were yet to ratify with the exception of Cameroon which has ratified but is yet to deposit its instrument at the African Union Commission (AUC). The Coalition also reported increased participation by various marginalized women's groups such as rural women in advocating for ratification and domestication of the Protocol by their governments.

In addition to reviewing progress of the Coalition's activities based on the strategic plan (2008 – 2010), the members were also familiarized with new tools of working such as the multi-sectoral approach in accelerating the domestication and implementation of the Protocol. The Coalition also heard findings from an Oxfam study in Nigeria, Liberia and Tanzania on capacity gaps that impede implementation of the Protocol. Capitalizing on the presence of SOAWR members in Nairobi, participants engaged in lobbying the embassies of Sudan, Burundi and Ethiopia in Nairobi to urge their governments to ratify the Protocol. The main output from the meeting was a Communiqué (available in **Annex 1**) issued by the members that called for universal ratification of the Protocol by

¹ Four (4) ratifications were deposited with the African Union Commission since the last SOAWR Agenda-Setting Workshop in January 2008: Liberia, Zimbabwe, Guinea-Bissau, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

the launch of the Africa Women's Decade in July 2010, and its full implementation using a multi-sectoral approach. They also envisioned the African Women's Decade to be a critical period to actualize commitments made by member states of the Africa Union (AU) both in the form of the rights provided in the Protocol and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), and commenced strategizing on the basis of a number of upcoming opportunities such as the Beijing+15 Review Africa process, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 54th Session in February/March 2010 which will facilitate a global review of progress since the Beijing World Conference; and the African Women's Decade (2010-2020).

2.0 Background

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition comprising of 33 national, regional and international civil society organizations working towards the promotion and protection of women's human rights in Africa held its agenda setting meeting on the 5th – 7th of October 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. Since its inauguration in 2004, SOAWR Coalition's main objective has been to compel African countries to ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol. Full implementation of the Protocol would result into tapping the full potential of women in Africa for its development agenda.

Since 2004, the SOAWR Coalition has been involved in advocating for ratification and domestication of the Protocol in three phases. In phase one (2004-2006) they concentrated on ensuring the Protocol came into force, the second phase (2006-2008) focused on popularizing and increasing ratifications of the Protocol while the current phase (2008-2010) is focused on compelling the countries that have ratified the Protocol to implement its provisions while also pushing for ratification by the remaining countries.

Every year, SOAWR Coalition members meet to review and strategize on progress made in advancing work on the Protocol and assess the impact of their work in terms of the improvements in the quality of life of the women in Africa.

The Nairobi meeting held from 5-7th October 2009 reviewed progress made since the last SOAWR meeting in Addis Ababa in January 2008. The theme for the meeting was "Spreading Our Wings: A Multi-sectoral Approach to Women's Rights." The expectations of the review workshop were to reenergize Coalition members and strategize on the next phase of the campaign around domestication and implementation of the Protocol in select African countries where SOAWR has a presence. Additionally, the Coalition members expected to strategize on using a multi-sectoral approach to women rights work in the continent by specifically focusing on working with non-traditional partners to influence policy and practices on gender equality and women's empowerment. The three-day meeting brought together SOAWR coalition members and resource persons from the African Union Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) and the United Nation's Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

3.0 Objectives

The objectives of the SOAWR Coalition Review and Agenda Setting meeting were:

1. To review progress made against targets set in the 2008-2010 strategic plan
2. Strategize on 2010-2012 and African Women's Decade 2010-2020 Coalition Plan for National and Continental level interventions
3. Share and learn from experiences and best practices; and
4. Familiarize participants with the multi-sectoral approach to accelerating the domestication and implementation of the Protocol

4.0 Methodology

To achieve these objectives discussions were organized in three formats: plenary presentations, group work and a public forum. The first day focused on review of the campaign progress within the context of the emerging opportunities such as the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) and the Beijing +15 Review in 2010. The last two days focused on learning new ways of



organizing and advocating for full implementation of the Protocol by promoting the adoption of a multi-sectoral approach, lobbying select countries² to ratify the Protocol and agreeing on the Coalition's next three-year strategic plan within the larger context of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020).

5.0 Introductory Reflections on SOAWR Review Process

Hakima Abbas from FAHAMU welcomed the participants and introduced the presenters to the Coalition members. The four presenters highlighted four main issues of concern that the SOAWR Coalition should pay attention to in planning for the next

² Delegates paid courtesy visits to the Embassies of Burundi , Ethiopia and the Sudan in Nairobi to present SOAWR petitions urging for ratification of the Protocol. The Government of Kenya, and the Embassies of Algeria, Egypt and Uganda were not available during the week of the meeting but scheduled meetings with SOAWR members in Kenya in the weeks following the conclusion of the SOAWR members' meeting.

strategic phase in order to succeed in increased ratification and implementation of the Protocol by member states. These four dynamics are:

1. How SOAWR can utilize the AU processes in ensuring gender equality in Africa
2. The importance of utilizing existing and emerging windows of opportunity to popularize the Protocol and apply its provisions to real life situations
3. The use of a multi-sectoral approach to advance implementation of the Protocol
4. Understanding the contextual challenges for women rights in Africa.

Jeanne Kayitesi from the WGDD focused on the role the AU has played in advancing women's human rights in Africa. The AU has made contributions through establishing policy frameworks such as the AU Gender Policy, adoption of the Protocol (2003) and the SDGEA (2004). She reported that the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC) was instrumental in advising the WGDD. She called for increased partnership between the SOAWR Coalition and the AUC to compel more countries to ratify and domesticate the Protocol. She hoped that this workshop would come up with a work plan on domesticating the women's Protocol.

Florence Butegwa, UNIFEM representative to the UNECA and the AU recalled that UNIFEM had a long history in working with the SOAWR Coalition to ensure member states sign, ratify and implement the Protocol. Earlier in the year, UNIFEM in collaboration with the SOAWR Coalition and the WGDD invited 13 member states that have ratified the Protocol to Kigali, Rwanda for a three-day conference on domestication and implementation of the Protocol. UNIFEM is interested in working with SOAWR members in mainstreaming a multi-sectoral approach to ensure implementation of the Protocol. She challenged SOAWR Coalition members to take advantage of emerging opportunities to increase ratification of the Protocol through awareness creation. These opportunities include; CEDAW'S 30th anniversary commemoration in Banjul on November 18th 2009 where CEDAW committee members will discuss future challenges such as climate change and the financial crisis and the Africa-wide Campaign on Violence Against Women (VAW) that was launched by the UN Secretary General in 2008. This campaign is supporting governments' efforts in fulfilling their commitments to end VAW and ensuring justice for women and girls. Florence also invited SOAWR Coalition members to consider participating in the campaign's Steering Committee.

Muthoni Muriithi, Equality Now Program Officer reported some of the achievements made by the SOAWR Coalition during the year. Equality Now hosts the SOAWR Coalition secretariat at its Africa Regional office in Nairobi, Kenya. She lauded the Raising Her Voices project that had led to increased participation of marginalized rural women in the SOAWR Coalition activities. She noted that for the first time, grassroots women were

involved in lobbying their governments to ratify and domesticate the Protocol³. Secondly, she reported that in the period under review, the secretariat recorded increased efforts in ratification and domestication of the Protocol by AU member states and increased membership in the Coalition.

5.1 Key Note Address by Ms. Kaari B. Murungi, Vice-chair, Kenya Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission

Ms. Kaari B. Murungi congratulated the SOAWR Coalition for successfully working across borders to achieve legislative reforms for African women. She then challenged participants to focus on ensuring structural change for women in addition to ratification of the Protocol. Ms. Murungi noted a number of challenges that continue to impede advancement of women rights in Africa.



These challenges include; Democratic recession in a number of African countries such as Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. Second, increased militarism as a means of addressing international affairs for example the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and resulting sexual violence against women. Third, growth of shadow economies involving the trafficking of women and girls and the flourishing trade in small arms; and finally, the global financial and economic crises, xenophobia and marginalization of sexual minorities.

Despite these challenges, she reminded the participants of the existing opportunities for women particularly in post-conflict countries. Transitional justice mechanisms can assist societies in addressing past injustices and conflicts, including addressing the continuum of violence rather than merely the instances seen during conflicts. Women must be ensured access to these justice mechanisms, and should be entitled to individual reparations. The Kenyan and Burundian Truth Justice and Reconciliation processes are opportunities that women should get involved in designing and implementing to ensure that structural women's rights violations are addressed and the culture of impunity is put to an end. Access to information is crucial in enabling women to engage with such processes, however she acknowledged that poverty affects and serves as a barrier to civic engagement. Ms. Murungi encouraged SOAWR to move beyond the legal frameworks and the call for universal ratification of the Protocol and seek broad, structural and real change in ensuring realization of women's rights in Africa. In her conclusion, she left the plenary with a number of questions to think about in accelerating ratification and domestication of the Women's Protocol.

³ With support from the New Field Foundation, a project of the Tides Foundation

These were:

1. What does ratification mean to women and how can this process bring meaningful change in the lives of African women at the grassroots?
2. What strategies can women employ as the governance crisis in Africa continues negating women's human rights and participation?
3. How are women being consulted in the designing and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms in Kenya and Burundi? Do they have access to information?
4. What alternatives do human rights activists have when governments' claw back on gains made such as the proposed bill in Uganda that criminalizes homosexuality?
5. How will the SOAWR Coalition members respond to increasing globalization and its increased erosion of women rights through for instance, counter terrorism activities?

Reactions

- Carole Ageng'o from Tomorrow's Child Initiative noted there was an expectation on women in the movement to be homogenous, notwithstanding their myriad diversities. She advised SOAWR to plan by including diversities in their work. She also hoped to see a linkage between bottom up and top down approaches in working with women.
- Saudatu Mahdi from WRAPA commended the intergenerational dialogue in the women's movement after noting the presence of older women and young women in the meeting. She also lauded this year's theme, which was about applying the multi-sectoral approach. She noted that in the last year, participatory democracy had become for women a mockery of justice. Realizing women rights in the context of governance crisis in Africa was a challenge as it negates women's human rights and participation.
- Hope Kasese from WILDAF questioned how women feminists reconcile their identities in the private and public space. Florence Butegwa answered that there was need for women to address structural inequalities so that their public and private identities are harmonized.
- Nyasha Mazango from Girl Child Network (GCN) asked how the Coalition should reconcile the different concerns for women based on age in advancing the women's agenda.
- Florence Butegwa encouraged participants to use the multi-sectoral approach to ensure a stronger women's movement drawn from all circles and ensure accountability for women's human rights. It is also important to build the capacity of women leaders such as parliamentarians to ensure they effectively represent the women's agenda.
- Kaari Murungi in reacting to the issues raised hoped that the Protocol would be the framework for realizing the full implementation of women's rights in Africa.

She agreed that women are not homogenous and the important thing was for them to strengthen themselves across borders for example through Coalition and networks like the SOAWR Coalition, constantly using a feminist lens to analyze issues and developing strategies to address them.

5.2 So Far, How Far?: SOAWR Campaign 2008/2009 Progress by Muthoni Muriithi, Equality Now

Muthoni Muriithi summarized the history of the SOAWR Coalition Campaign in three phases with different focus areas. In phase one (2004-2006) Coalition members focused on popularization and ratification of the Protocol. The Protocol came into force on 25th Nov 2005 becoming the first human rights instrument to come into force in such a short time in the history of the African Union and its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity. In phase two, (2006-2008) SOAWR intensified its ratification campaign while also engaging new popular media approaches to sensitize the African population at large. At this stage the Protocol became more visible through engagement of AU Heads of States and Governments. During this period ten more ratifications were deposited and the Coalition published two books on the Protocol with emphasis on the achievements of the campaign and challenges faced. The current phase three (2008-2010) focuses on supporting States to domesticate the Protocol while also working through thematic lens as pertains to certain articles of the Protocol, and working with marginalized groups of women such as rural women. In this regard, a number of Coalition members are focusing on VAW, women's access to productive resources like land, and health rights, at the national level.

Ms. Muriithi reported progress for the year under review (2008/2009) at the national level for a number of countries. These include the Equality Now Adolescent Girls Legal Fund in Zambia where Equality Now worked to ensure a girl was protected in school through strategic litigation where the judge presiding over the case invoked the Protocol in delivering the judgment in the case. Another case study recorded as an achievement is the Raising Her Voices Project, which enabled members to push for ratification and domestication of the Protocol in eight countries with a view to advancing good governance through women's participation. A number of best practices were also reported which Coalition members could use in advocating for implementation of the Protocol. Some of these include; Translation and dissemination of the Protocol to local languages, use of media to facilitate the campaign at the national level, working with traditional and religious leaders, working with select parliamentary committees and instituting local management committees to train local leaders on the Protocol. (See **Annex 2** for more details on the 2008/2009 activities of the Coalition).

At the regional level, a publication on SOAWR's experiences called "*Advocating for Women's Rights, Experiences from the Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition*"

was launched at the January 2009 AU Summit and two special issues of *Pambazuka*⁴ were dedicated to the work of SOAWR. *Crossroads*, a radio programme on the Protocol was launched and aired in English, French and Swahili. In addition the SOAWR Coalition website was launched. SOAWR Coalition members participated in the AU Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2009 where they lobbied 9 Permanent Representatives to put pressure on their governments to ratify the Protocol. At the AU summit held in Sirte, Libya in June 2009 members lobbied member states to support the ratification of the Protocol and ensured that rural women farmers' voices were heard during the deliberations of the summit whose theme was on agriculture and food security. Steering Committee members on behalf of the SOAWR Coalition participated at the regional and international forums such as the Association of Women in Development (AWID) conference held in Cape Town, South Africa in November 2008, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 53rd Session in March 2009 and the Ordinary sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). Lastly, Equality Now developed a guide on using the Protocol for legal action, which will be published by the end of 2009.

A number of challenges have continued to impede the work of Coalition such as lack of a harmonized reporting framework for AU member states on the implementation of the Protocol, and lack of mechanisms to force countries that fail to comply with the reporting requirements. For instance, SADC member states have adopted a higher standard under the SADC Gender Protocol under which member states have committed themselves to achieve gender parity in leadership at all levels by the year 2015. The AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa provides for equal participation of women in leadership and governance without specific targets. The Coalition considers the SADC Gender Protocol as a reinforcing instrument to the provisions of the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. Therefore, SOAWR Coalition members ideally would monitor the ratification of this Protocol and its implementation as it facilitates the implementation of one of the Rights provided for in the AU Protocol in the SADC region. Furthermore, women living with disabilities are yet to be mainstreamed within the Coalition's programmes though some members reported to have worked with them in some of the national level activities.

Despite these challenges, a number of opportunities exist based on Coalition's strengths. These include; The wealth of experience in the Coalition, existence of similar frameworks to advance women's rights such as Beijing+15, CEDAW, and the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), use of a multi-sectoral approach, use of multimedia and social networks such as Facebook and increased documentation of women's experiences. The Coalition should also take the opportunity to work with the African Court on Human Rights once it becomes operational. SOAWR should get observer status with the court early enough to engage the court on formulating the Rules of

⁴ Pambazuka is a PanAfricanist Journal published by FAHAMU. Available at www.pambazuka.org

Procedure for advancement of women's rights in the region. In concluding her presentation she encouraged SOAWR Coalition members to think about sustainability and increasing the membership of the Coalition to enable increased outreach to African women to realize the objectives of the Coalition.

Reactions

- Faiza Mohamed of Equality Now asked whether it was possible for those who were not in the Coalition to comment on SOAWR's objectives. She hoped collaborations were possible in the next strategic period.
- A participant hoped that the next strategic phase could factor in sustainability of SOAWR Coalition interventions in order to make progress.
- Manal Allagabo from the Strategic Initiatives for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) asked the Coalition to identify a few countries, such as Kenya, Uganda and Sudan, where Coalition members could consolidate efforts to push for ratification in the next strategic year given the time and resource constraints.

Best Practices in 2008/2009

- Translation and dissemination of the Protocol into local languages as case studies from GCN and Inter African Committee show in the use of Shona and Amharic respectively.
- Use of media and social networking to facilitate the campaign at the national level.
- Public interest litigation by FIDA -K in Kenya and Equality Now in Zambia.
- Working with traditional and religious leaders in Senegal and Zambia.
- Raising her Voices Project empowered different groups from Nigeria in Islamic Family Law and affirmative action.
- Nigeria also engaged relevant parliamentary committees concurrently in raising awareness on the Protocol.
- Sister Namibia successfully campaigned against sexualisation of women's bodies in the media.
- Akina Mama wa Afrika brought together the organizations working to promote women's rights in Uganda together to forge a task force that has spearheaded the popularization of the Protocol and lobbying for its ratification at different levels.
- The regional Coalition members based in Kenya joined hands with the women's rights groups in Kenya to reach out to relevant officials in government and parliament to lobby for the ratification of the Protocol.
- Development of the *Crossroads* drama which has been used to popularize the provisions of the Protocol.

6.0 Strengthening Linkages between Regional and National Level Lobbies

6.1 Key AU Moments for Advocacy and Linkages between Regional and National-Level Work, by Jeanne Flora Kayitesi, WGDD

Jeanne shared a number of advocacy opportunities which the SOAWR Coalition can use to ensure the universal ratification and domestication of the Protocol by AU member states. These include; AU high level visits to member states where the Protocol has not been ratified to encourage the heads of states to ratify and domesticate the Protocol so that all countries will have ratified the Protocol in the course of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020). The AUC can also write official letters to governments asking governments to ratify and domesticate the Protocol. Jeanne noted that the AU newsletters can also be used to show progress made by countries on the Protocol. She reminded SOAWR Coalition members that their Ministers of Gender and Women Affairs could be compelled to encourage their counterparts to ratify and domesticate the Protocol. She emphasized the need to popularize the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in the new decade as a tool for advancing women's rights through litigation.

6.2 Beijing +15 Review Process and African Women's Decade by Norah Matovu-Winyi – FEMNET

Norah informed the members that FEMNET was coordinating NGOs across the five sub regions to review implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action as commemoration of 15 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995. A Regional Women NGOs Shadow Report would be developed, with a special focus on five out of the twelve critical areas. The five critical areas focused on in the review are; Women and health, Women and human Rights, Women and the media, Women in leadership and decision making and Women and armed conflict. A 10-member task force was formed during the margins of the 53rd CSW Session in New York to coordinate the process of mobilizing women in Africa to participate in their national review processes and also plan to organize national and community – based activities during the 16 days of activism against gender – based violence period (25th November – 10th December 2009). The 8th Africa Regional Conference on Women (Beijing +15) which would include Experts and Ministerial meetings will be held from 16th -20th November 2009 in Banjul, The Gambia to chart progress made by member states in the implementation of the Beijing commitments. Civil society will have space to present their collective position at the Experts Meeting in Banjul after meeting for two days on the 15th – 16th November 2009 to review the draft Africa Women NGOs Shadow Report.

The Africa task force coordinators are also organizing an Africa NGO Forum to be held in Accra in December 2009 to validate the Africa Women's NGOs Shadow Report providing their independent assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The important dates, which Coalition members were asked to plan for, included:

- End of November 2009 as the deadline to submit the draft position statement by the African women to the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, and submit the Africa Beijing+15 Shadow Report to NGO-CSW Committee.
- November 25th - December 10th as the 16th days of activism against gender based violence to organize activities that promote the popularization of the Protocol and assess the impact of the work done to promote the dignity and personal security of women in their respective communities.
- February 27th-28th 2010 - Global NGO Forum on Beijing+15 which will be a civil society space to celebrate achievements and develop a common position on recommendations for accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, to be held in New York
- March 2010 - CSW 54th Session to be held in New York.

It was also agreed that each country should use the 16 days of activism to raise awareness on Beijing +15 and the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) which was adopted by the AU Heads of states and governments in 2009. Norah emphasized that the activities in all these events should complement the Coalition's work on the Protocol.

6.3 How International Mechanisms can be used to hold States Accountable by Mary

Frances Lukera, FIDA-Kenya

The Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA-K) is a Non Government Organization of Women Lawyers established after the Nairobi Women's Conference in 1985. Since then FIDA- K has been involved in shadow reporting the government reports to the CEDAW committee. The Kenyan government has recently submitted its seventh report to the CEDAW Committee and FIDA-K is involved in sensitizing various stakeholders on the government's report using simplified versions of the report and the agreed conclusions on the status of women made on the previous reports. FIDA- K also looks at recommendations from other treaty bodies such as the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of the Child that are then translated and fed into the information materials distributed through their community networks.

At the national level, FIDA- K has successfully held the government accountable for women's human rights. Using findings from a survey on reproductive health rights violations in the leading maternity hospital in Kenya known as Pumwani Hospital, FIDA – K worked with the government to ensure women's reproductive health and rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. An appraisal report on the Kenyan government was also done to review the impact of the Women's Enterprise Fund in which it was

established that, though the Fund is a very good government initiative, the modalities of implementation need a lot of improvement if the Fund is to deliver on its set goals and objectives. At the ACHPR level, a number of cases have been filed by FIDA - K to advance women's rights such as the *Icharia vs Icharia*⁵ case where the local remedies have been exhausted and it is hoped that the ACHPR will make a favorable ruling.

Reactions

- A participant noted that citizens should demand a public explanation from governments immediately after CEDAW committee meetings for greater accountability.
- Norah-Matovu Winyi of FEMNET questioned how SOAWR Coalition can ensure women's issues are implemented by the government given the many reporting mechanisms such as under the Protocol and CEDAW. She recommended a multi-sectoral approach to change this situation where the governments develop a comprehensive report on what each sector of government has done to contribute to the implementation of their commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Medoune Seck of FAMEDEV said strategic litigation was a useful tool for the advancement of the Protocol by those countries that had not ratified it. Through court rulings provisions of the Protocol can become binding in particular countries where judgments are delivered recognizing particular rights.
- The Coalition members felt that there is need to intensify the campaign activities during the African Women's Decade for universal ratification of the Protocol.
- Saudatu Mahdi and Medoune Seck were concerned that the Protocol was too detailed and there was need to simplify it without losing the spirit of its provisions.

At the end of this session, a drafting committee for the communiqué was selected. The members were; Onyinyechi Emeruwa-Okechukwu (Alliance for Africa), Médoune Seck (FAMEDEV-Inter Africa Network for Women, Media, Gender and Development), Yves Niyiragira (Fahamu), Hadeezah Haruna (Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) and Manal Allagabo (Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA)

⁵In the *Icharia vs Icharia* case in Kenya a five judge bench of the Court of Appeal ruled that non-financial contribution in a marriage does not entitle a spouse to a share of the matrimonial property because property laws only recognise direct financial contribution. This negated earlier precedents where women's non-financial contribution in a marriage was regarded as a contribution.

7.0 Public forum: “Aligning Kenya with African Union Women’s Rights Standards”

Moderator: Norah Matovu-Winyi, FEMNET.

Panelists: Florence Butegwa (UNIFEM), Rosemary Okello (Africa Women and Child Feature Service), Mary Njeri Gichuru (Coalition on Violence Against Women, COVAW-K) and Saudatu Mahdi (WRAPA).

Norah started the discussion by challenging the discussants to answer the following questions. Is there a strategy for ratification of the Protocol in Kenya? What opportunities exist in the Kenya context for advancing women’s rights? How can the SOAWR Coalition support the national level efforts in Kenya to ensure ratification of the Protocol before the launch of the Africa Women’s Decade?



Mary Njeri informed the forum on strategies the Kenyan organizations have adopted to lobby for the ratification of the Protocol. She reported that SOAWR Coalition members have played an active role in advising the government through the Attorney General’s Office on the Protocol. She mentioned that the lack of clarity on which ministry is accountable for the non – ratification of the Protocol - between the Ministry of Justice and that of Gender - was an impediment. The SOAWR Coalition has also engaged parliamentarians especially the Kenya Women Parliamentarians Association by training them on the Protocol. The provisions of the Protocol have also been discussed with Coalition partners and some SOAWR members are working with lawyers to explore other ways the government of Kenya can be put to task for non- ratification. Lastly, simplification of the Protocol has been done and it has been translated into local languages for popularizing women’s rights at the community level.

Saudatu Mahdi then shared lessons learnt from the Nigerian process of ratification, which Kenya can draw from. Nigeria ratified the Protocol in 2004. The SOAWR members in Nigeria took advantage of a number of windows of opportunity such as Nigeria’s AU chairmanship by the then President of Nigeria H.E. Obasanjo and a progressive Gender Minister at the time. Second, civil society organizations such as WRAPA were involved in the technical processes that preceded the Maputo Summit where the Protocol was adopted; and this helped in understanding the Protocol early enough to convince the government and other actors of its value addition to the efforts of promoting women’s rights and advancement in Nigeria. Third, SOAWR members in Nigeria took early action

in simplifying the Protocol for easy comprehension by lay people. Fourth, WRAPA and other actors learnt lessons from the advocacy work they had done on CEDAW, which is yet to be domesticated in Nigeria. Fifth, WRAPA developed a simple policy brief which spoke to the women, religious leaders, government leaders and they partnered with development partners at the regional and international level to ensure that key persons were aware of the contents of the Protocol and their relevance in the Context of Nigeria. A compatibility study was also done on culture, religion and the Protocol as had been done earlier with CEDAW, which was found to be 65% compatible with the laws of Nigeria.

Saudatu concluded by advising Kenya groups to do an audit of the domestic laws to show similarities between the existing national laws, CEDAW and the Protocol. She also stressed that strategic partnerships, timeliness and willingness to make some compromises were key in advancing women's rights.

Rosemary Okello spoke on the role of the media and felt that SOAWR Coalition members in Kenya missed the opportunity to partner more strategically with the media to popularize the Protocol and thus lobby for its quick ratification. Consequently, the media in Kenya have never really owned and understood the significance of the Protocol. She reported that another missed opportunity was the moment after the Nairobi +21 Conference, where the President declared that the government would ratify the women's Protocol. The Coalition members did not follow up consistently to hold him accountable publicly. Another challenge that the media has faced in advancing the Protocol is lack of clarity on the ministry that is accountable for ratification of Protocol. Is it the Ministry of Justice? Or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Or the Ministry of Gender? She hoped that the Coalition could start engaging more with the media in a sustainable manner.

Florence Butegwa noted that the SOAWR Coalition members in Kenya needed to conduct a power mapping of the government in order to understand where decisions are made with regards to the Protocol and understand where bottle necks exist in the process. She also urged Coalition members to take advantage of the post conflict situation to advance women's rights as provided for in the Protocol.

In concluding this panel discussion, it was agreed that use of community radio and other alternative means were crucial in advancing women's rights. There is also need to inspire a social movement that understands the Protocol's value for women and the nation as a whole and thus advocate for its ratification and domestication instead of relying on the women's movement alone. Such



movements could include the youth and rural women among others that advocate for women's rights. The session ended with a call to the Kenyan leadership to address the concerns of women, who comprise 52% of the population.

Reactions from plenary

- Collins Okeke from the Human Rights Law Service in Nigeria asked whether the Kenyan legal system is monist or dualist in order to hold the government accountable. A participant answered that Kenya had a dualist system and this presented domestication challenges. However, it was noted that the Constitutional review process in Kenya provides a window of opportunity to outlaw cultural and other practices that violate women's rights and their dignity.
- Abok from Bunge La Mwananchi in Kenya advised the Coalition to use local, community and vernacular media to advance the women's Protocol.
- Several participants urged the Coalition to strategize on how to work with young women and girls in advancing the Protocol.
- Florence Butegwa reported that she had found that most governments don't understand the process of ratification and it would be important to understand whether this was a problem and provide the necessary technical support.



8.0 Lobby Meetings and New Methods of Organizing for the Women's Protocol

8.1 Reports from Ratification Lobby Meetings

Three lobby groups visited the embassies of Burundi, Ethiopia and the Sudan in Nairobi, as these AU member states are yet to ratify the Protocol. The objective of the visits was to sensitize the Ambassadors on the Protocol, alert them to their country's non-ratification status, and present an appeal on behalf of the SOAWR Coalition for them to urgently put pressure on their governments to ratify and begin the process of implementation of the Protocol. It was also important to offer the support of the Coalition to these governments to assist in moving the process forward at the national level. Brief outcomes of the meeting are offered below.

Burundi: The delegation consisted of Yves Niyiragira (FAHAMU), Médoune Seck (FAMEDEV), Dr. Morissanda Kouyate (CPTAFE), Una Thompson (WOLPNET) and Jeanne Kayitesi (WGDD). The Burundian Ambassador noted that the ratification was in progress and he called upon SOAWR Coalition to work with CAFOB, a leading women's rights NGO in Burundi (and a member of the Coalition) and the UNIFEM office in Burundi in

further advocacy actions. He also committed to report back to his government on the meeting he had with SOAWR Coalition members.

Ethiopia: The delegation consisted of Hakima Abbas (FAHAMU), Nyasha Mazango (GCN), Mary Frances Lukera (FIDA-Kenya) and Linda Osarenren (IAC). The delegates met Mr Yelibu Lijalem, the Head of Public Diplomacy and Public Relations Section on the 13th of October 2009. The delegates lauded Ethiopia for increasing women's participation in parliament and diplomatic service and instituting a Women's Ministry. They also welcomed his offer to forward the appeal calling for Ethiopia's ratification and implementation of the Protocol to the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Addis Ababa. They urged the Ambassador to ask his government as the host of the Africa Union Commission to take the lead in ratifying the Protocol before the end of 2009.



Sudan: The delegation consisted of Naisola Likimani (FEMNET), Manal Allagabo (SIHA), Collins Okeke (Hurilaws), Hadeezah Haruna (WRAPA) and Linda Osarenren (IAC). The delegates expressed concern on the increased discrimination against women and denial of justice in Sudan as seen in the recent case of Lubna Hussein, a journalist who was arrested and charged with 'indecent dressing' which carried a penalty of 40 lashes, and the maltreatment of women who came out to protest and lend support to Lubna. The Sudanese Ambassador promised to follow up with Khartoum as well as the mission in Addis on his country's ratification status.



Visits were also extended to the embassies of Egypt and Uganda as a follow-up to the meeting. A brief on the outcome of these meetings are indicated below.

Uganda⁶: The delegation consisted of Norah Matovu-Winyi and Naisola Likimani, both from FEMNET. They welcomed the new Ugandan Ambassador Ms. Angelina Wapakhabulo to Kenya, and briefed her on SOAWR's efforts in Uganda to compel the government to ratify and implement the Protocol. The Ambassador pledged her support to the Coalition



⁶ The meetings to the Embassies of Uganda and Egypt occurred after the SOAWR annual workshop

particularly in linking members of the Coalition in Uganda to the appropriate officials within the Ministries who were responsible for ratification of the Protocol.

Egypt: The delegation consisted of Naisola Likimani and Carlyn Hambuba, both from FEMNET. They commended Egypt for its progress in enhancing women's rights, for instance Egyptian women now have the right to seek divorce, and can now travel abroad without seeking permission from their husbands. They noted that these reforms were all in line with provisions in the Protocol and CEDAW. The Ambassador promised to raise the issue of



Egypt's failure to sign the Protocol urgently with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and revert to the Coalition on the issue. The Ambassador also offered to facilitate a delegation from the Coalition to visit Egypt to discuss the Protocol with particular Ministries and women's organizations, with particular reference to the barriers to ratification. He invited the Coalition to submit a proposal to this effect.

8.2 Oxfam Findings on Comparative Case Studies to Analyze States Capacity to Domesticate the Women's Protocol; Liberia, Tanzania and Nigeria by Mary Wandia, Oxfam GB

Ms. Wandia introduced the Oxfam research study, which was carried out as part of Article 26 of the Protocol. The objective of the study which was carried in three countries with different governance dynamics was to analyze states' capacities to domesticate the women's Protocol. The research was carried out through desk research and primary research in the three countries under review where a number of key informants were interviewed. A validation meeting was held with partners before the report was written.

The research found a number of cross cutting findings among the three countries. First, although steps had been taken, very little progress was being made in implementing the Protocol systematically after ratification by the three countries. Second, there was progress made in all the three countries for the implementation under CEDAW. However, the momentum seems to have subsided after the Protocol was ratified. The research concluded that there is need to link implementation of the Protocol and CEDAW since opportunities for domestication of the Protocol exist using the CEDAW infrastructure.

A number of challenges were reported to have led to the slow progress in domestication of the Protocol. The main one is lack of political will and existence of dual legal systems in the three countries. Low awareness of the Protocol, heavy reliance on the under resourced gender machinery as opposed to using a multi-sectoral

approach, and cultural and religious resistance to change were also cited as challenges.

The research findings recommended a change in approach from putting sole responsibility on the Ministry of Gender to applying a multi-sectoral approach that defines, as part of their mandate, the role of each ministry and sector in contributing to the protection and fulfillment of the rights provided for in the Protocol. This means that SOAWR Coalition members and other CSOs should advocate for a multi-sectoral framework and work with other ministries such as Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Justice Ministry of Local government, Ministry of Education. Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Agriculture to mainstream women's human rights to ensure the success of the model. Second, there is need to develop a communication strategy and training materials on the Protocol aimed towards sensitizing the policy makers. Third, the monitoring capacity of SOAWR Coalition members should be improved at the national level. Fourth, increased lobbying by the AUWC by scheduling high profile meetings to capitals, writing open letters, use of the UN reforms and monitoring of the level of achievement of commitments under the MDGs. Lastly more resources should be allocated to actualize the Protocol by governments and the African Union; and the SOAWR Coalition members' role is to also continue advocating for that.

8.3 A Multi-sectoral Approach to Delivering on Women's Rights by Florence Butegwa, UNIFEM

Despite Africa's leadership in signing and ratifying women's rights commitments, progress on implementation is slow, fragmented and has not resulted in the transformation of the status and situation of the majority of women in Africa. A number of persistent challenges continue to retard progress. These include; systems that continue to de-link women rights from the broader development goals, confinement of gender issues to women/gender ministries, flawed understanding of gender mainstreaming, lack of gender expertise, lack of awareness of the Protocol among other commitments and lack of a multi-sectoral approach. A multi-sectoral approach is the best way to advance women's rights targeted in narrowing implementation gaps of the Protocol, which must be rooted in human rights values.

The SOAWR coalition can learn lessons from the successful mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS policies in some African countries like South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda by using a multi-sectoral approach. For instance, in addition to ensuring leadership by the presidents, the governments ensured mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in school curricula through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. A multi-sectoral approach was used to mainstream HIV/AIDS education among farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture and at the workplace by the Ministry of Labour and this has resulted in reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalence and more access to prevention, care and treatment.

The multi-sectoral approach operates under five key premises:

Premise 1: Women's rights and empowerment must be viewed as a national priority.

Premise 2: Contribution by individual government departments to women's rights.

Premise 3: Coordination is essential to successful multi-sectoral initiatives.

Premise 4: Technical expertise is necessary.

Premise 5: Partnerships are important for the success of multi-sectoral initiatives.

Women's rights organizations should develop indicators in regional/national development strategies to accelerate ratification of the women's Protocol such as the Poverty Reduction Strategies and development roadmaps. One such way is by ensuring ministries are linked to specific articles for implementation purposes and by ensuring government systems are in place to monitor and evaluate the Protocol's implementation.

Reactions

- Norah Matovu-Winyi asked how the Coalition could ensure the multi-sectoral process does not clog up an already bureaucratic system.
- What lessons can we learn from the successful implementation of the multi-sectoral approach already at work in Liberia on VAW and agriculture? Una Thompson from WOLPNET Liberia reported that this approach had been very useful in economically empowering women.
- Medoune Seck questioned how we could ensure budgetary estimates by governments are gendered.
- Carole Ageng'o reiterated the importance of the multi-sectoral approach in advancing women's rights. She noted that there was a disconnect between women rights, private sector development initiatives and other sectors such as trade and commerce in which the majority of actors particularly in the informal sector are women.
- Saudatu Mahdi advised SOAWR Coalition members to unpack the provisions of the Protocol and align them with domestic laws and African women's realities.
- Simplification was also important for government, which had a very high turnover of gender officials and other experts responsible for the implementation of the Protocol.
- Dr. Kouyate hoped that an AU Special Rapporteur for the women's Protocol could be appointed to fast track the ratification process. Members proposed that efforts could be made to strengthen the relationship with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa.
- Florence Butegwa in responding to some of the issues raised urged women rights advocates to move into other non-traditional spaces such as trade and agriculture through which they can reach out to a much wider community to ensure a bottom up support for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol. She reported that AU had resources for Women in Agriculture in the

Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and the Protocol should be mainstreamed in these spaces.

- She also urged Coalition members to link ministries work with specific articles for implementation purposes for effective monitoring.

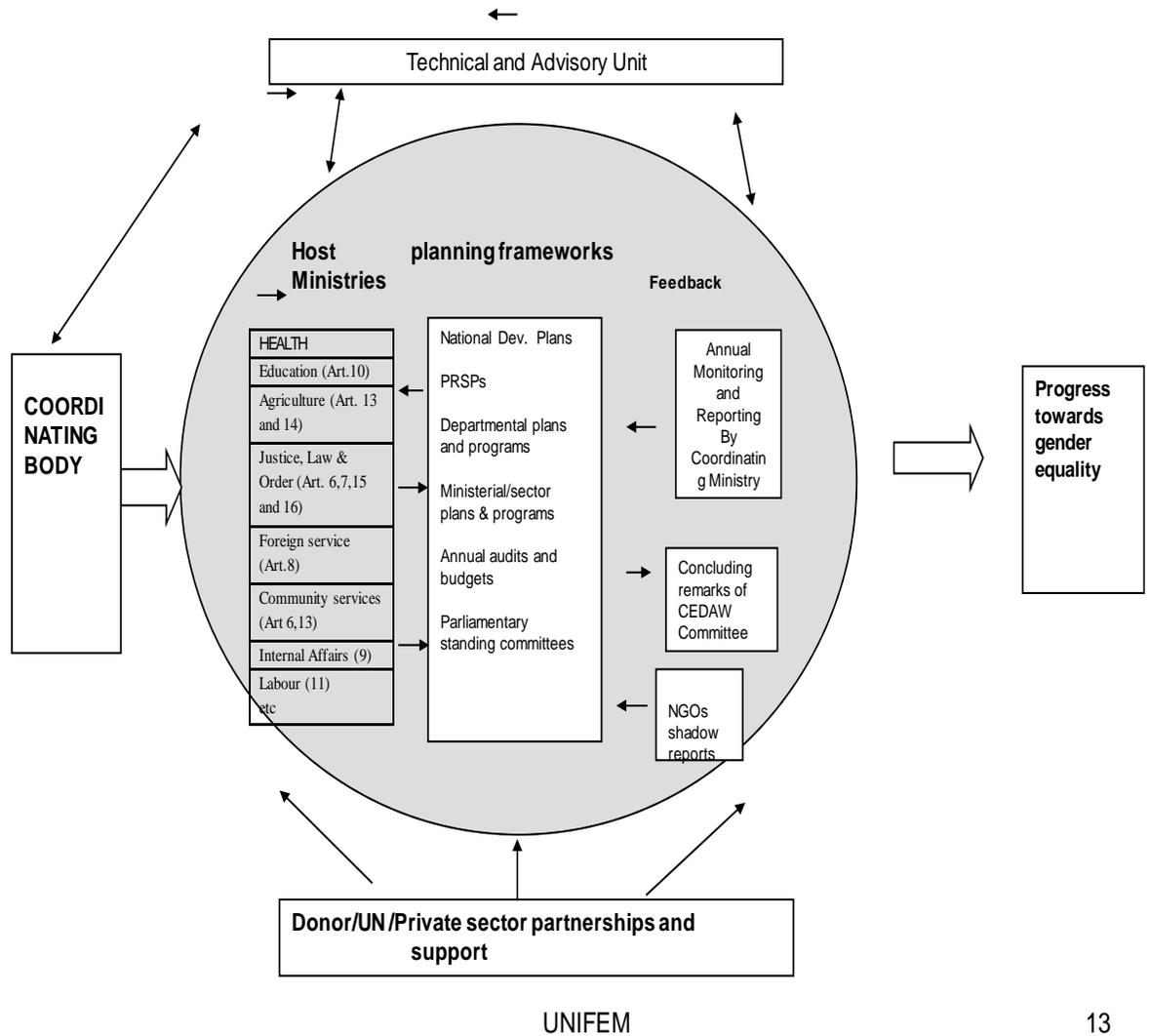


Diagram: Applying a Multi-sectoral Approach

9.0 African Women's Decade Planning

9.1 Strategic Planning on the African Women's Decade

Facilitator Dr. Hilda Tadia urged participants to explore areas needed in envisioning change for African women by 2020. She urged Coalition members to envision the decade using guiding questions such as; What change do they envisage by 2020? How will they achieve that change? Whom will they collaborate with? What thematic areas will they focus on? How will they know they have achieved their goals? The visions of members are documented in the box below.

The Coalition members agreed to focus on two main thematic areas during the African Women's Decade. These areas are Women and Decision Making and Women's Bodily Integrity and Dignity/Violence against Women. Other thematic areas that members raised were Women and Peace Building, Discrimination against Women, and Women's Economic and Social Rights. These thematic areas are in line with the identified AU thematic areas for the decade which include; Women and Education, Maternal Health, Economic Empowerment, Political Empowerment, Aging rights, Gender Based Violence, Human Trafficking and Agriculture and Food Security.

The Coalition members also identified a number of national and regional level strategies that would be useful in promoting women rights during the decade. Some of these are; use of new media and social networking to organize and monitor; using a multi-sectoral approach; devising a monitoring mechanism; increasing partnerships with other movements outside the women's movement; integrating the Protocol in commemoration of other days such as World Labour Day, World Health Day and International Women's Day. See **Annex 3** and **Annex 4** for group work reports on proposed strategies.

The Coalition members discussed success indicators for monitoring the African Women's Decade such as universal ratification and domestication of the Protocol, utilization of a multi-sectoral approach, emergence of a strong advocacy movement on women rights, increased number of women in decision making, reduction in violence against women and girls, increased economic empowerment of women and measurable changes in women's lives in terms increased income levels, increased numbers in formal employment, increased number of women owning land and accessing credit facilities, and increases in the percentage of women accessing quality training and education.

It was also agreed during the strategic planning discussions, that the SOAWR Coalition would focus its efforts on Kenya, Uganda and Sudan as the targeted countries for ratification of the Protocol in the coming year before the launch of the Africa Women's Decade in July 2010.

Quotes on What SOAWR Hopes to See achieved by the Close of the African Women's Decade (2010 – 2020)

“SOAWR Coalition will be representing the diversity of African women's voices in shaping the Pan-African discourse and dismantling patriarchal systems in Africa by pushing the Protocol and its mechanism beyond words ”

“Girls and women are respected as equals with the same opportunities and equal power relations to make informed choices about their sexuality, bodily integrity and realizing their economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights.”

“The Protocol becomes a transformative living document in the lives of women by ensuring women's rights are promoted, protected and fulfilled by broader sectors of the state, women's movements, social movements and traditional institutions.”

“SOAWR becomes the reference point for policy decisions in the continent.”

“Vibrant inclusive African movements supporting and advocating for the rights of women”

“75% domestication by African countries of the Protocol and 50% full implementation of the Protocol”

“Use of a multi-sectoral approach for advocating of women's human rights”

“Rights enjoyed by African women including minorities such as rural women, sexual minorities and women living with disabilities”

“Informed and empowered citizen agency on women's rights across the continent”

“Women's rights become an integral part of development ”

10.0 SOAWR Ways of Working and Membership Strategy by Muthoni Muriithi, Equality Now

Muthoni Muriithi reminded the members about the role of the secretariat hosted at Equality Now in Nairobi. These include; managing communication, collecting, sharing information, membership application and participating in other forums representing the Coalition. The secretariat also uses various ways of ensuring the Protocol is ratified and implemented. These include; Ensuring the implementation of a membership strategy, a media strategy, information sharing and networking among members, shared responsibilities, use of social networks, working with Coalition members to develop advocacy tools to use for the regional and national lobbying strategies.

Muthoni then shared the membership strategy and structure of the SOAWR Coalition. She reported that in the year under review the secretariat had experienced monitoring challenges in working with member organizations. She reported that few members were reporting on time to the secretariat on what they are doing to advance the ratification and implementation of the Protocol. She also noted that members have challenges in linking their organizational activities that promoted the Protocol, to the objectives of the Coalition. She urged the members to ensure that the momentum is not lost and to take advantage of opportune moments to promote the Protocol and ensure effective reporting to the secretariat.

The Coalition members also felt that there was need to open spaces within the Coalition to increase membership. The members should also be allowed to cross represent the Coalition in various meetings. The members indicated that the time had come to review the criteria for selecting new members to the Steering Committee of the Coalition and the focal points in countries where there are several members of the SOAWR Coalition. The members agreed to strengthen the national focal points to reach out to others in country organizations and to tap the Raising her Voices Project focal points to mobilize other organizations. They agreed to promote the sharing of expertise between members and develop a more comprehensive Communication strategy and a plan for its implementation. Finally they agreed that the plan for the Coalition should include strategies for self-preservation of women's human rights defenders.

Closing Remarks by Norah Matovu-Winyi, Executive Director FEMNET

Ms. Norah Matovu-Winyi thanked participants for participating actively in the meeting. She noted that this meeting had registered the highest number of participants compared to previous review meetings. She hoped that the commitment shown by the Coalition members would be sustained right up to the end of the current strategy implementation period in June 2010 and throughout the African Women's Decade. She thanked all the members of the Steering Committee for working so hard and cooperatively to ensure that the meeting was a success. Thanks were accorded to the team at FEMNET who coordinated all the preparations and the plans for the visits to the Embassies.

Annex 1 Communiqué

SOAWR Annual Review and Agenda-Setting Workshop

Theme: *“Spreading our Wings: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Women’s Rights”*

5-7 October 2009, Panafric Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

COMMUNIQUÉ

We, the undersigned members of the Solidarity for African Women’s Rights Coalition (SOAWR), a pan African Coalition of organisations working for the promotion and protection of women’s human rights in Africa: **Having assembled in Nairobi, Kenya from 5th-7th October**, in the spirit of partnership as SOAWR Coalition members, with representation from the African Union Commission (AUC), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);

Recalling the African Union (AU) member states’ commitments in the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) in 2004 to achieve ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (hereinafter referred to as the Protocol) and usher in an era of domesticating and implementing the Protocol as well as other national, regional and international instruments on gender equality by all States Parties;

Reaffirming that implementation of the Protocol is imperative to the realisation and enjoyment of women’s rights and the achievement of Africa’s development goals and aspirations;

Concerned that despite the significance of this Protocol in the development process of Africa, as of October 2009 twenty-six (26) member states have not ratified the Protocol, including five (5) member states that have not even signed on to the Protocol;

Further concerned by the democratic and economic recession in Africa characterized by: enactment of laws that curtail citizens, civil society and media freedoms; adoption and implementation of discriminatory laws such as indecent dressing laws; high levels of unemployment; food insecurity; and discrimination and attacks against sexual minorities; which individually and collectively affect the implementation of the Protocol and the advancement of women’s rights in the region;

Gravely concerned about the threat to lives of human rights defenders and infringements of freedoms of association that impact the promotion, realisation and enjoyment of human rights and women’s rights in some AU member states;

Considering the great opportunity presented by the African Women’s Decade (2010-2020) that will be formally launched in June/ July 2010 to facilitate the full and accelerated implementation of the Protocol and achievement of agreed gender equality targets at different levels;

Acknowledging that the full and accelerated implementation of the Protocol can only be achieved by using a Multi-Sectoral Approach which ensures that all organs of the African Union and governments as well as civil society actors and the private sector work together to promote the realisation of the rights guaranteed in the Protocol;

Hereby recommend as follows:

Recommendations to the African Union Commission

1. Commit resources in its annual budget for each of its Commissions to support the provision of expertise to support member states in the realisation of their commitment to adopt and utilise the Protocol at national levels using the mandates of the various government sectors e.g. health, rural development, etc;
2. Ensure that mechanisms are in place to urge member states that have not ratified the Protocol to take the opportunity to do so before the launch of the African Women's Decade;
3. Lend support to member states who have difficulties in reporting on implementation of the SDGEA commitments;
4. Strengthen the office of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to report consistently on the status of implementation of the Protocol and make recommendations for further actions.

Recommendations to State Parties to the Protocol

1. Adopt measures that build the state's capacity to domesticate, implement, and monitor the implementation of the Protocol;
2. Adopt a multi-sectoral approach as the framework to implement, monitor and evaluate implementation of the Protocol by aligning the linkages between gender equality and each sector of government and ensuring the necessary budgetary allocations,
3. Take all necessary actions to ensure that the provisions of the Protocol are mainstreamed in all national policy decisions, legislation, development plans, programmes and activities in all spheres of life and meet the reporting requirements as agreed upon under the SDGEA on progress in this regard;
4. Hold consultations widely with civil society organisations working on women's rights issues, women's groups, citizens' groups and other strategic stakeholders when developing plans for implementation and review;
5. Repeal all existing laws that are discriminatory against women and ensure the protection of the rights of all women and their human dignity in accordance with the Protocol and other international human rights instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which has been acceded to by 51 countries in Africa;

6. Actively support the creation at the United Nations Human Rights Council of a new special mechanism that would focus on women's equality before the law and thereby assist in the removal of all laws that discriminate against women.

Recommendations to Civil Society

1. Take the opportunity of the African Women's Decade to advocate for the universal ratification of the Protocol by member states and demand for increased and sustained budgetary allocation for women's empowerment issues as part of the regional and national development programs and agenda;
2. Strengthen partnerships with member states to facilitate comprehensive adoption of a multi-sectoral approach in implementing the Protocol;
3. Utilize the African Women's Decade to mobilise African women at all levels in advocating for the implementation of the Protocol as well as to celebrate women who have significantly contributed to the promotion of women's rights in Africa;
4. Actively advocate for the creation at the United Nations Human Rights Council of a new special mechanism that would focus on women's equality before the law and thereby assist in the removal of all laws that discriminate against women.

Recommendations to the United Nations and other Development Partners

1. Allocate resources to support the successful implementation of activities for the African Women's Decade and for adoption of a multi-sectoral approach in implementing the Protocol and other key human rights instruments which promote and protect women's human rights and freedom in Africa;
2. With reference to the UN Resolution No. 1888 of September 30, 2009 demanding that all parties to armed conflicts take immediate action to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forces of violence, we urge the UN Secretary General to expedite action and appoint a special representative to provide coherent and strategic leadership to address sexual violence in armed conflict situations as recommended in the Resolution.

Adopted on the 7th of October 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya

[Original Text in English]

Signatories:

Alliance for Africa

African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)

Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA)

Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratiques Traditionnelle Affectant la Santé des Femmes et des Enfants (CPTAFE)

BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights

Centre for Justice Studies and Innovations (CJSI)

Coalition on Violence against Women in Kenya (COVAW)

Eastern Africa Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI)

Equality Now-Africa Regional Office

FAHAMU

FAMEDEV-Inter-African Network for Women, Media, Gender and Development

FEMNET - African Women's Development and Communication Network

Girl Child Network

Federation of Women Lawyers of Kenya (FIDA-Kenya)

Forum Muhler

Inter-African Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices (IAC)

Human Rights Law Service (HURILAWS)

Legal and Human Rights Centre in Tanzania (LHRC)

Oxfam GB

People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)

Sister Namibia

Strategic Initiative for the Horn of Africa (SIHA)

Tomorrow's Child Initiative (TCI)

Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)

Women of Liberia Peace Network (WOLPNET)

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)

Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA)

Annex 2 Progress from Coalition Members in 2008/2009

Continental Alliance Building, Advocacy And Support For National Advocacy	Political Representation and Conflict Resolution	VAW (FGM and poverty)	SRH/HIV/Aids	Gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee lobbying and popularization activities at the AU Summits in 2008 and 2009 • Equality Now finalized user manual for legal use of the Protocol. • ACDHRS held an experts meeting on the Protocol with the African commission. • Equality Now and ACDHRS engaged the special rapporteur on women's rights at the AUC. • POWA held training for women engaging the African Commission <p>National Level Popularization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRAPA working on simplifying the protocol and translating the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliances for Africa worked on ensuring representation of women in local authorities. • Alliances for Africa also trained women on resolution 1325 and involving women in peace agreements. • WRAPA engaged the national assembly on electoral reforms and the Nigerian Constitutional Review Commission. • WRAPA also involved in the bill on People Living with Disability in the national assembly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVAW contributed to 40 publications on laws that discriminate against women. • Nigeria worked with Oxfam in the compliance study of the Protocol. • Nigeria worked on strategic litigation for a girl who was raped • IAC lobbied the AU on harmful traditional practices and awareness creation forums with traditional leaders. • SIHA worked with women living with disabilities by training them on VAW • Liberia; worked with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAC on Harmful Traditional practices raised awareness on Article 5 and 20 of the Protocol. • A number of CSOs such as Oxfam and POWA Participated in the CSW discussion on SRH. • Sister Namibia produced a training pack on sexual abuse for advocacy and worked with women living with disability and women living with Aids • Sister Namibia used radio to raise awareness on HIV/Aids and SRH. • WILDAF worked with government to push for a sexual offences bill with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Training of Trainers needed to advance work on the Protocol at the national level • Working with women with disabilities in the women's movement has not been consistent. • Need to use more quantitative and scientific research to assist in monitoring and evaluation of Coalition activities • Inadequate use of other organs of the AU such as ACHPR and Pan African Parliament. • Horizontal support for national advocacy efforts also needs improvement • Stronger linkages needed between organizations working on the Protocol at the national level

<p>protocol in three languages, building capacity of marginalized women, and use of media as key strategic means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taskforce under the Raising Her Voices project in Uganda includes representation from women living with disabilities, who committed to train their members on the Protocol. 		<p>women living with disabilities on food security</p>	<p>provision on sexual reproductive health rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Zimbabwe, GCN worked on getting the sexual offences Bill enacted and a return to school policy for pregnant girls. GCN also worked on eradication of ritual sexual abuse for girls through awareness and rescue of girls. Baobab from Nigeria conducted training on sexuality education issues. Trained CSOs on how to use the Protocol. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More baseline data needed for women's advocacy at national level. Members' core activities need stronger harmonization with Coalition's work on the Protocol Members need to harness the media more consistently and effectively. Need for interlinkages between African Charter on the rights of the child, and advocacy work on the Protocol.
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Annex 3 Group Work on Enhancing Women’s Participation in the African Women’s Decade (2010-2020)

PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS				
1.	WGDD Priority Areas	SOAWR Group 1	SOAWR Group 2	SOAWR Group 3
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political empowerment 2. GBV 3. Education 4. Health and maternal 5. Economic empowerment 6. Ageing 7. Human trafficking, drug abuse especially cultivating of cannabis. 8. Promotion of data and Promotion of partnerships between men and women in advancing women’s rights. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women in decision-making 2. Violence Against Women: Harmful cultural practices, trafficking and FGM 3. Social economic and cultural rights; combat fundamentalism. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance; participation in decision making, reform in electoral laws to ensure representation. 2. Women’s integrity and dignity in context of fundamentalism (Protection against VAW). 3. Women and health; HIV/Aids, SRH and women rights to information, choice and services. 4. Women and Economic empowerment; Ownership of land and resources, environment and climate change. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women in decision making. 2. Violence Against Women 3. Women and peace building. 4. Discrimination against Women.
2.	PRIORITY ARTICLES FOR FOCUS			
	Common Articles 2,4,5 , 9, 13,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 9, 5,13,15,16,17,20,21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles 3,4, 5,9,14 and 13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles ;2,5,4,8,9,10 and 11
3.	NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE DECADE			
	National and Regional Strategies to promote women’s rights.	Regional level		
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Devise a monitoring mechanism with a time bound plan with a 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Strategy for universal ratification. 2. Use power mapping analysis, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus on youth 2. Focus on marginalized women.

		<p>stakeholder evaluation in 5 years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Use the AU structures to advance women rights 3. Take advantage of existing women's moments such as International Women's Day. 4. Take advantage of diversity in the continent. 5. Use of artists as ambassadors to raise awareness on the Women's Protocol. 	<p>Identify key agencies and use of multi-sectoral approach (mobilize social groups and private sector), use of key events such as Beijing +15, African Women's Decade and International Women's Day to raise awareness.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Use of non-traditional women rights days such as International Labour Day to raise awareness on protocol. 4. Push for implementation at the national level using multi-sectoral approach. 	
4.	Innovative strategies to sustain the debate for 10 years.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobbying to facilitate empowerment of stakeholders. 2. Use of popular media; social networking, such as face book and MySpace and music. 3. Use of other movements outside the feminist movement 4. Horizontal accountability from SOAWR members. 5. Use of mock tribunals. 6. Rural outreach approaches. 7. Citizen journalism. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of media to monitor the decade while using a survey as the baseline. 2. Use of multi-sectoral approach (mobilize social groups and private sector) on key events such as Beijing +15. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate the Protocol to commemorate days such as labour day 2. Use of artists to develop music based on specific article 3. Use of the media
5.	SUCCESS INDICATORS			
	Success indicators in 2020.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Universal ratification of the Protocol. 2. Removal of reservations by some countries. 3. Domestication by those who have ratified 4. Real change in women's 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Universal ratification of Protocol 2. Reduced maternal mortality 3. Reduced HIV/Aids prevalence for women 4. Increase women's ownership of property. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A strong advocacy movement by 2020. 2. Integration of women's rights using the multi-sectoral approach 3. Progressive discussions on sexual minorities and

		<p>lives through implementation.</p> <p>5. Increased resources for women's work.</p>		<p>sex workers.</p> <p>4. Proportionate women representation in parliament and other spheres.</p> <p>5. Select countries to work on abolishing legislative laws that discriminate women.</p>
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Summary

1. Priority Focus Areas

- Women in decision-making.
- Violence Against Women

2. Priority Focus Articles

- Articles 2,4,5 ,9, 13.

3. Innovative National and Regional Strategies

- Focus on marginalized women such as youth, rural women and sexual minorities.
- Use of a multi-sectoral approach as a way of working.
- Use of media and new technologies in building membership and organizing
- Use of broad legal reforms

4. Success Indicators

- Universal ratification of the Protocol.
- Increased resources for women's work
- Change in women's political representation and reduced VAW

Annex 4 Group Work: Planning For SOAWR Coalition for Next Strategic Period

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Long-term Vision for 10 years	Universal ratification of the protocol leading to transformation of the living document by way of dismantling patriarchy , unequal power relations and working across the sectors of state, citizens and social movements.	Women’s rights become an integral part of the development agenda of AU member states	AU decisions made with consultations with SOAWR as a partner in driving the women’s rights agenda.
3 year vision	3 countries ratify the protocol (Sudan, Kenya, Uganda) and 3 domesticate and implement the Protocol using a multi-sectoral approach targeting state and non-state actors	10 more ratifications and implementations made by member states	10 more ratifications and implementations made by member states
Thematic areas of focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VAW; Choice, bodily integrity and sexuality. 2. Women in governance/decision making. 3. Women in peace building 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VAW 2. Capacity building of women 3. Women’s in leadership 4. Peace building 5. VAW and eradicating fundamentalism. 6. VAW and HIV/Aids,Sex workers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VAW 2. Women in leadership
Strategic Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public interest/ Strategic litigation 2. AU advocacy and collaboration with Regional Economic Communities and Pan African Parliament. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senegal and Nigeria; Sensitization and training 2. Gambia ;Advocacy to parliamentarians 3. Gambia, Nigeria and South Africa: Use of media for 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legislative 2. Litigation 3. Awareness using IEC material on the protocol.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Use of Multi-sectoral Approach 4. Movement building and outreach to work with other movements including Sex workers, sexual minorities, rural women, women living with disabilities, and the elderly. 5. Building capacity of women in leadership; AmWA, SIHA, 6. Media and communication: FEMNET and SOAWR Steering Committee. 	<p>innovative strategies, and develop a documentary for women over the 10 years documenting her experiences in 2010 and changes experienced by 2020.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Kenya: focus on Power mapping, training especially for Kenya Women's Parliamentary Association, judicial advocacy, and strategic litigation. 5. Use of other AU mechanisms and spaces apart from the AU summit. 6. Direct action strategies/social movements mobilizing for mobilization of women using other commemorative days such as labour day and world health day etc. 	
Strategic Partnerships		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ACHPR partnerships in Senegal 2. Local CSOs 3. Youth 4. Religious leaders, 5. Select government ministries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governments 2. NGOs 3. Faith based 4. Parliamentarians
Shared Expertise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public litigation; FIDA Kenya, LHRC in Tanzania 2. Advocacy; EASSI, AmWA, SIHA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South Africa and Kenya ; Power mapping 2. Zambia; Advocacy and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocacy

	<p>and SOAWR Steering Committee</p> <p>3. Multi-sectoral approach; all</p>	<p>lobbying</p> <p>3. Uganda; Experiences with judiciary relationship</p> <p>4. Gambia; ACHPR partnerships</p> <p>5. South Africa; Media experience</p>	
<p>Key indicators in 2013</p>		<p>1. Enactment of gender friendly bills</p> <p>2. Increased media coverage</p> <p>3. Registered change for women</p> <p>4. Increased use of public spaces</p> <p>5. Domestication of the Protocol</p> <p>6. Realization of rights as in the Protocol</p> <p>7. Proper power analysis done</p>	

Annex 5: Meeting Programme



SOAWR ANNUAL REVIEW AND AGENDA-SETTING WORKSHOP

Theme: "Spreading our Wings: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Women's Rights"

October 5-7, 2009, Panafric Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2009	
8:30AM-9:00AM	Registration (<i>FEMNET</i>)
Session 1 – Opening Session 9:00AM-11:00AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions (<i>Hakima Abbas, FAHAMU</i>) • Remarks from African Union Women, Gender and Development Directorate • Remarks from UNIFEM AU/ECA Liaison • Opening Remarks from SOAWR Secretariat • Keynote Address – Ms. Kaari Murungi, Kenya Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission
	Coffee Break
Session 2 11:30AM – 1:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOAWR Campaign Progress (<i>Muthoni Muriithi-Equality Now</i>) • Progress reports on 2008-2009 National work and achievements – Gallery Walk (<i>National focal points and Raising her Voice Project members</i>)
	Lunch
Session 3 2:30PM – 4:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills-sharing plenary – "Practices that can advance our work on the Protocol" (<i>Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique</i>) • Plenary." Strengthening advocacy and linkages between regional and national level work" • Select Communiqué drafting team
	Coffee Break

<p>Session 4</p> <p>4:30PM – 6:00PM</p>	<p>PUBLIC FORUM</p> <p>Topic: "Aligning Kenya to African Union Women's Rights Standards"</p> <p><i><u>Presentations from a panel consisting of Government, Private Sector, Civil Society, Media, INGO</u></i></p> <p><i>Moderated by Norah Matovu-Winyi (FEMNET)</i></p> <p>Press release issued –(FAHAMU and FEMNET)</p>
<p>TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2009</p>	
<p>Session 5</p> <p>8:30AM – 12:30AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of Day One by Rapporteur-E. Njoki Wamai. • Preparation of lobbying petitions and report back. <p>LOBBYING at the following Missions and Governments on ratification and implementation of the Protocol</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burundi 2. Egypt 3. Ethiopia 4. Sudan 5. Uganda 6. Kenya
	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>Session 6</p> <p>1:30PM – 3:00PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on "Assessment of Governments Capacity to Deliver on the Protocol: Tanzania, Liberia and Nigeria" (<i>Mary Wandia, Oxfam</i>) • Plenary discussion on national-level implications
	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>Session 7</p> <p>3:30PM – 5:00PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on "Accelerating the Domestication and Implementation of the Protocol – A Multi-Sectoral Approach" - (<i>Florence Butegwa, UNIFEM</i>) • Plenary discussion on national – level implications

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2009

<p>Session 8 8:30AM – 11.00AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap and Report back from Lobbying Meetings • Presentation of Draft strategy framework for 2010-2012 (<i>Faiza Mohamed, Equality Now</i>) • Areas for further action to achieve 2008-2010 Objectives (<i>Dr. Hilda Tadria</i>) • Group work: Regional and national action planning
<p>Session 9 11:30AM – 1:30PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Work Continued
	Lunch
<p>Session 10 2:30PM – 3:30PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from groups
<p>Session 11 3.30PM-4.30PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary on SOAWR Ways of Working and Membership Strategy (<i>Muthoni Muriithi, Equality Now</i>)
	Coffee Break
<p>Session 12 Closing Session 4.45PM – 5:30PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluations • Adopt Communiqué • Wrap-up
	Adjourn

Annex 6 List of Participants



SOAWR ANNUAL REVIEW AND AGENDA-SETTING WORKSHOP

Theme: "Spreading our Wings: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Women's Rights"

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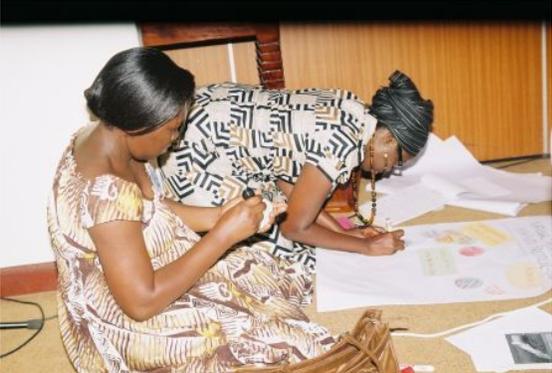
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Photos : Gallery Walk



Photos: Bonding and Networking

