31ST SESSION OF THE GENDER IS MY AGENDA CAMPAIGN (GIMAC)
AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATIVE MEETING
RECOMMENDATIONS

We, participants of the 31st session of the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 21 January 2018 under the theme, “Corruption and Governance: Impact and Way out for Women, Children and Youth”, acknowledge our diversity and common objectives of advancing gender equality and the human rights of African women and girls;

WELCOME the decision of African Union Heads of State and Government to dedicate the year 2018 to fight corruption, with the theme “Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation”, which follows the AU’s previous three themes that focus on women’s empowerment, Human rights and young people. This years’ theme falls within the African Women’s Decade (2010-2020) and also contributes to the achievement of aspiration 3 of the AU Agenda 2063;

ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts of member states towards the realization of the Agenda 2063 despite the numerous challenges they face;

THANK the African Union Commission for its commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa and for its continued support to the Women, Gender and Development Directorate;

APPRECIATE the support provided by the UN Agencies in the implementation of the gender and youth agenda in Africa especially the effort of the UN Human Rights Council at ensuring that Member state provide conducive environment for the attainment of gender equality and women’s empowerment;

ACKNOWLEDGE the contribution of the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security in highlighting women’s war experiences through solidarity visits and demanding for accountability and response to the needs of women war survivors;

THANK the African Union Commission for promoting the Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development as well as that of the Femmes Africa Solidarite to revive the Africa Gender Award for the best performing Country and Head of State as part of the continued effort to encourage and promote best practices in the implementation of the Solemn
Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and other gender responsive initiatives across the continent

*MINDFUL* of the increasing conflicts in Africa mostly political violence and the high levels of corruption triggered by weak and dysfunctional governance systems; marginalization; discrimination and poor resource governance;

*AWARE* that unless there are improvements in capacity and accountability in reducing corruption, other reforms will have only limited impact; urgent steps need to be taken to implement the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC);

**We urge the African Union Heads of State and Government to:**

i. Ensure that all national and local policies and programs have in-built anti-corruption and gender sensitive monitoring instruments to minimize corruption;

ii. Create Citizen Action Groups for monitoring and evaluation of how public resources are governed and utilized to respond to needs, interests and aspirations of all citizens especially women and girls and marginalized groups who are often left behind;

iii. Provide the necessary support to Member States to ensure that all anti-corruption governance mechanisms being used have 50% women representation and promote initiatives that will protect African women from the impact of corruption;

iv. Ensure that 25% of recovered state looted money are devoted to women’s development programmes such female health related projects, economic empowerment, female literacy programmes, girls education and scholarship schemes, rural credit schemes, etc

v. Investigate, sanction and curb all Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and corrupt behaviors and practices within states; and strengthen accountability mechanisms for holding multinational companies accountable to pay their fair share of taxes and uphold human rights in their activities including women’s rights in accordance with regional and international instruments especially women’s rights instruments such as Maputo Protocol

vi. Expose corrupt individuals and companies in Africa through open contracting that ensures contracts and trade agreements between foreign investors and governments are open to citizens engagement, input and approval by parliament; promote the use of social media and other social spaces to curb IFFs; and request that AU and African governments continues to demand for a UN Tax body to
ensure equal power and influence on matters relating to global Tax and Finance policies.

vii. Counter corruption during and following formal peace processes including in humanitarian response; corruption limits women’s participation and undermines effective response to the post conflict needs and concerns of girls and women;

viii. Deploy appropriate anti-corruption mechanisms in the land governance sector that will create, redress and provide justice for women and marginalized groups;

ix. Develop appropriate mechanisms to curb corruption in social services; put in place a multi stakeholder bottom up approach that creates social accountability and track resource expenditure particularly to education, health, agriculture, water and sanitation with specific reference to girls and women;

x. Deepen the implementation of the African Union Campaign to end child marriage in all African countries and remove corrupt practices that limit and undermine the availability of adequate and quality funding and resources to programs and interventions that prevent child marriage;

xi. Promote ethical transformative leadership that prioritizes eradicating IFFs and corruption across the continent and ensure inclusive leadership where women are equally represented in all decision making structures in all sectors;

xii. Demand that member states with conflicts and farming system disruption traceable to pastoralist should urgently develop mechanisms to prevent escalation of current crisis and displacements of rural communities particularly women that is currently ongoing in different parts of Africa;

xiii. Facilitate the AUABC to enter a memorandum of understanding with GIMAC; and support the development of tools for a continental framework for civil society organizations and networks to monitor and report on corruption in the region;

xiv. GIMAC in collaboration with the AUABC conduct a joint research on the gender dimensions and impact of corruption in Africa.

Dated at Addis Ababa this 21st Day of January 2018.