



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

APU

Committee of women parliamentarians

Libreville, 6 November, 2013

RESOLUTION

“The role of women parliamentarians in the resolution of conflicts in Africa”

The Committee of Women parliamentarians of the African Parliamentary Union, meeting on 6th November 2013 in Libreville, (Gabon),

Considering that women’s participation in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, as a way of strengthening their representation in local, national and international conflict resolution bodies has not been adequately supported,

Considering the need to incorporate education on human rights, peace and gender equality in school curricula at all levels,

Stressing the need to reactivate the traditional role that the African woman has always played as a mother, a spouse, a sister, a grand-mother or a girl in rural and modern societies in order to instill in generations that work for the protection and preservation of peace ,notions of bravery, virtue and moral,

Stressing the urgency to involve women and their organizations in all peace negotiations at all levels, especially in round table meetings,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human rights,

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,

Recalling the United Nations Security Council Adoption in October 2000, of the resolution 1325 on women peace and security, requesting member states to strengthen the representation of women at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions, and their involvement in conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms ,

Recalling the resolution of the 24th conference of the African Parliamentary Union on integration and and participation of women parliamentarians in reconciliation and peace building committees of countries in conflict (2001),

Recommends the following measures:

For conflict prevention:

- 1- To strengthen the intellectual capacity building of women and girls through education ,literacy, sensitization so as to allow them to better know their rights to defend themselves against violation in pre and post conflict periods;
- 2- To appoint women to positions dealing with conflict prevention at the national, regional and international levels as well as their involvement in all the processes of peace negotiations at all levels especially at the decision-making one;
- 3- To include peace education ,human rights and gender issues in all school curricula and training programmes from primary to university and vocational training;
- 4- To exhort governments to promote marriages between ethnics in conflict in order to avoid bloodshed and ensure peaceful coexistence ;
- 5- To set up a regional network in regions in conflict aiming at assisting women, girls and their children;
- 6- To adopt of legislations ensuring the protection of women against any form of violence and incriminating raping by qualifying it as a serious crime war ;
- 7- To encourage any initiative of reconciliation between ethnics in conflict with the women input who have a privileged place and are wise and respected in the society;
- 8- To develop and show woman’s skills by putting at her disposal economic, social, political and cultural means that will enable her to assume her role as a pioneer towards future generations that will have to preserve peace ,to meet challenges and to rely on themselves;
- 9- To make use of information and communication technologies in the promotion and training of the woman, especially in terms of human rights ;
- 10- To better sensitize the public on the importance of integrating the gender dimension in the training centres and in peacekeeping missions at an early age;
- 11- To find ways and means likely to promote the status of the women in Parliaments with the adoption of proportional representation and the creation or the strengthening of women committees in the parliaments;
- 12- To adopt legislations aiming at ensuring the protection of women and girls from any gender-based violence

13- To invite African countries to adopt and enforce regional and international instruments on gender such as CEDAW(Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discriminations against Women) and United nations 1325 Resolution ;

14- To ensure the empowerment of the woman with the adoption of constructive measures to guarantee women socio-economic rights, including employment, property ownership and inheritance, during the stage of post-conflict reconstruction

15- To work on the creation of mechanisms for the implementation of international instruments related to the protection of human rights and land acquisition;

For conflict resolution

16- To systematically consult women’s groups and organizations working for peace ,to enable these women to make their voices heard at all levels in major peace conferences , and ensuring that their problems and priorities are taken into account in the official peace process;

17- To incorporate gender specialists(and relevant skills)at all levels and in all aspects of peace operations;

18- To take measures to encourage women to exercise their mediating role in peace missions, conflict resolution and peacekeeping operations;

19- To take measures to combat trafficking of women in conflict areas;

20- To give to women refugees and displaced the possibility to play a key role in camps in terms of organization, management and decision-making, to ensure that their interests are taken into account in all areas, especially distribution of resources, security and protection;

For post-conflict situations

21- As part of post-conflict reconstruction, to introduce macroeconomic policies that give priority to public utility services such as water supply and food supply, sanitation, health and energy, key sectors in the day-to-day life of communities within which women undertake unpaid work;

22- To Support the training of editors and journalists to eliminate gender bias in reporting and investigative journalism before, during and after conflict situations and promoting gender equality and perspectives;