
News Brief

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IGAD Summit Endorses Gender Peer Review Mechanism

The IGAD 11th Heads of State Summit today endorsed the establishment of an annual Gender Peer Review Mechanism and the development of monitoring systems for the implementation of the IGAD Gender Policy. It also called for inclusion of Women in the Peace Monitoring measures as well as availability of resources through a Multi-donor Trust Fund placing emphasis that Aid modalities and mechanisms for post conflict reconstruction such as Multi-Donor Trust Fund must be gender responsive.

This was in response to a declaration of the 4th Regular Meeting of Ministers in charge of Gender and Women Affairs. The declaration signed by the Ministers and Representatives of Ministries of Gender and Women Affairs of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda called on their governments to institutionalise and implement affirmative action by allocating resources and political participation.

The IGAD Ministers in Charge of Gender/Women affairs called on the governments to support women political initiatives to enable them to enter and effectively participate in politics, with political parties adopting affirmative political action to have at least 50% of legislative seats, executive and judicial positions at all levels. It asks governments to promote women's self-reliance by advancing women entrepreneurs through small and medium scale enterprises, access to resources, inputs and markets and take to account the time and energy that women invest in national development. Governments are encouraged to support institutional capacity building by recognising and utilising existing mechanisms within Africa and also tapping the technical capacity of regional institutions, thinktanks and consulting organisations.

The IGAD Summit acknowledged the support and partnership with UNIFEM especially in areas of conflict resolution and peace building. The 11th IGAD Summit was also addressed by the Secretary General's Special Representative Ambassador. Sihanoun as well as Hon Annika Soder, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs for Government Affairs for Sweden, who called for more recognition of women's rights in the region. The UNIFEM Regional Programme Director for Eastern Africa, Ms Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda also attended the Summit.

For more information, contact Roselyn Gicira at Roselyn.gicira@unifem.org