



## **Africa UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Girls**

### **Fifth Regional Steering Committee Meeting**

**June/July 2012**

#### **Aide Memoire**

#### **Background**

*UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Girls* campaign is the **UN Secretary General's** response to the call from women from all parts of the world for collective sustainable efforts to eliminate the scourge of violence against women and girls. It is a Multi-year effort (2008-2015) aimed at **preventing** and **eliminating** VAW&G in **all parts of the world as well as providing services to** survivors. It was launched globally on 25 February 2008 by the UN SG. The UNiTE Campaign calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to **join forces** in addressing the global pandemic of violence against Women & Girls. It seeks to empower women and their communities to stop gender-based violence, end impunity and demanding accountability.

Africa UNiTE is the regional component of the United Nations Secretary General's Global Campaign and a continent-wide partnership to end all violence against women and girls. The rationale for the Africa component of the SG's Campaign on violence against women is rooted in the commitments made by African countries through ratification of various international and regional instruments that specify obligations for the elimination of violence against women. The Africa UNiTE was launched on 30 January 2010 by the UN SG and the AUC Chairperson. By 2015, Africa UNiTE aims to achieve the following six goals in all countries:

- Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls
- Adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls
- Increase public awareness and social mobilization
- Address sexual violence in conflict
- Ensure safety for women and girls in public places

**Africa UNiTE** is an inter- Agency initiative bringing together about 14 UN organisations in support of the African Union and African countries to undertake coordinated substantial and

sustained actions to eliminate violence against women and girls. The campaign is coordinated by UN Women and UNFPA.

The Secretariat of the Africa UNiTE campaign is supported by an advisory Regional Steering Committee. By being multi-sectoral and sub-regionally representative, the Committee guides the Secretariat and co-chairs to ensure that the campaign is aligned with the objectives and outcomes of the Secretary-General's campaign and the priorities of Africa. It provides oversight and guidance in planning, building partnerships and mobilizing resources, amongst others, as indicated in the Committee's TORs.

The Regional Campaign Steering Committee is co-chaired by the African Union Commission (AUC), UN Women, UNFPA, and UNECA. The Committee members include: the AUC, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UNECA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, Alliance for Arab Women, GenderLinks, WILDAF, SOAWR, Denmark and Sweden.

During its first meeting the Committee provided invaluable support and guidance for the regional launch of the campaign. It also reviewed and endorsed the roles of the Secretariat, and the Committee itself and emphasised the importance of the participation of AU member states through their regional economic communities (RECs). During the second meeting the Committee reiterated the importance of the political leadership of the African Union Commission, and of the RECs as the technical and operational arms of the AU. The third meeting made invaluable input into the plans for conducting a baseline survey for the campaign, and developing a communication strategy. The meeting called for greater investment by UN Agency Country Offices in the campaign, and for support to the RECs. The fourth RSC Meeting reviewed the findings of the baseline survey, discussed ways to disseminate the findings and proposed a monitoring framework for the campaign. The need for a Communications strategy for the campaign was discussed and an agreement reached to engage a communication firm to develop the strategy and support its implementation. Members' knowledge was enhanced on progress on the UNiTE campaign in other geographic regions. The Committee also made inputs to the work-plan for the campaign Secretariat for 2011-12.

### **The Fifth Session of the Regional Steering Committee**

Following the expression of willingness by RECs to host and chair the RSC meetings on a rotational basis, ECOWAS is convening the Fifth Session of the Regional Steering Committee of the Africa UNiTE campaign to take place in June/July, 2012 in an ECOWAS member state. Details of dates and precise venue will be communicated subsequently. The meeting will be preceded by a working session of the UNiTE technical working group.

### **Objectives**

The steering committee meeting will enable members to:

- Review progress in the implementation of the campaign and achievements made
- Be briefed on the Africa UNiTE Communication Strategy and explore their respective roles in its implementation;
- Provide guidance on critical issues including resource mobilisation, strategic partnerships the mid-term review of the campaign;
- Consider and provide guidance on the 2012-2013 workplan of the Africa UNiTE Secretariat;

**Method of work:**

There will be presentations in plenary, round-tables and panel discussions and work in small groups. The meeting will be facilitated by both internal and external experts.

**Language**

The meeting will be conducted in English and French. Documents will also be available in the two languages. To facilitate the translation of documents we request Steering Committee members to send us their presentations at least 2 weeks before the date of the meeting.

**Logistics**

- The organizers will provide an economy class air ticket (e-tickets will be sent via email) and 20% of DSA at applicable UN rates for sponsored participants. UN WOMEN will be in touch for the arrangements for DSA. Please note that representatives of the different UN Agencies will be funded directly by their respective Agencies.
- Each participant will be responsible for obtaining an entry visa to the host country from their respective countries prior to arrival. The invitation letter will facilitate visa applications.
- Hotel accommodation and transport – ECOWAS will make reservations at the venue of the meeting for all participants.

Note: For additional information, please contact [jennet.kem@unwomen.org](mailto:jennet.kem@unwomen.org) and cc. [atim.grace@unwomen.org](mailto:atim.grace@unwomen.org)