



## **RESOLUTIONS OF THE IGAD CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH GENDER MILESTONES**

### ***Background***

The IGAD Conference to Launch Gender Milestones: Regional Strategy on Higher Representation of Women in Decision Making Positions, the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820, as well as the Women and Peace Forum (WPF) was held between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 in Djibouti. Participants included representatives of Women/Gender Ministries, women parliamentary caucuses, civil society organizations and academia from IGAD Member States. Also in attendance were representatives of African Union Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank, European Union and IGAD Partners' Forum.

During the Conference, participants were enlightened on the content of the regional strategy and action plan, urged to immediately adopt and implement them at national level, elected a member state to host the WPF, learned from good practices of each other in implementing the objectives of Africa UNiTE Campaign to end violence against women and girls and the African Women Decade (AWD).

### ***Preamble***

*Recognizing* the need to end Violence against Women and Girls in peace time and during conflict situations and the importance of implementing the AWD objectives;

*Having called* for the establishment of the IGAD Women and Peace Forum to follow up on the implementation of the Peace and Security Strategy of IGAD, the African Union and the United Nations including the milestones of UN Security Council Resolution 1325; and

*Bearing in mind* the recommendations of the IGAD Women and Peace Conference, the Africa UNiTE Campaign and the AWD, called for the establishment of the IGAD Women and Peace Forum to follow up on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 for the creation of a mechanism to follow up its recommendations, the Conference:

1. Resolved to implement the regional strategy and action plan at national level in the shortest time possible;
2. Supported the placement of the IGAD Women and Peace Forum in Djibouti and urged Member States to appoint a focal person to consult their respective governments to endorse the decision and communicate to IGAD Secretariat within four weeks;
3. Requested IGAD Secretariat to present the decision to the next session of the Council of Ministers for consideration;
4. Agreed to set up the WPF Board that will comprise three members from each Member State representing the Executive, the Legislature and the civil society; and
5. Requested the IGAD Secretariat to develop a strategic plan and financing plan for the operationalization of the WPF to be presented to the Forum Board for adoption.

Done at Djibouti, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2013