



**KINSHASA DECLARATION AND CALL FOR ACTION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
HEADS OF STATE ON POSITIVE MASCULINITY IN LEADERSHIP TO END
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFRICA**

MEN'S CONFERENCE ON POSITIVE MASCULINITY

KINSHASA, 25 NOVEMBER 2021

PREAMBLE

Under the leadership of His Excellency Mr Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chairperson of the African Union, We, the **Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union**, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, present at the **Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Africa**, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, November 25, 2021, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls;

CONGRATULATING the Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, and Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of the Republic of Liberia and Patron of the African Women Leaders Network, for organizing this first Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity;

FURTHER CONGRATULATE His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and former AU Chairperson, His Excellency Nana Akuffo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and the AU Leader on Gender and Development Issues in Africa and His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and upcoming AU Chairperson for their valuable contributions to the convening of the Conference;

RECOGNIZING the importance of this timely Conference, accentuated by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has exacerbated gender inequalities, particularly violence against women and girls;



WELCOMING the commendable initiatives of African leaders for gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa based on the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals;

CONSIDERING the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) (Maputo Protocol), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004), the AU Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2018-2028) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1995);

WELCOMING the development of the Continental Results Framework on Women Peace and Security, a unique tool for the preparation of an annual report by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the effective implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Africa;

BUILDING on the recommendations from the consultations with women, youth, private sector, religious and traditional leaders, academic sector, civil society, and women pioneers of the African Women Leaders Network;

CONSIDERING the negative effects of climate change, in particular for women and girls in rural areas;

CONCERNED by the persistence of violence against women and girls in Africa, linked to harmful socio-cultural norms and practices, despite the commitment of States to eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, in particular sexual violence in times of conflict and humanitarian and natural disasters;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. **CONDEMN** all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and **WE COMMIT TO ENSURING** that the necessary policies and measures are put in place by Member States to address firmly any form of impunity;
2. **RECOGNIZE** the contributions of Heads of State and Government, Champions of the Women's Cause, officially **LAUNCHING** the Circle of Champions and **ENCOURAGE** our peers to expand this Circle to amplify this agenda;
3. **LAUNCH** the African Union Campaign on the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and **IMPLEMENT** a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations;



4. **WE COMMIT** ourselves to support the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to implement the newly developed Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index as a tool to accelerate the realisation of the rights of women and girls ;
5. **WE ALSO COMMIT**, in a participatory and intergenerational approach, to engage all stakeholders, including youth, religious and traditional leaders, civil society, and African women leaders and the private sector;
6. **REITERATE** our commitment to provide the necessary resources to address violence against women and girls and **CALL** on the private sector to develop and implement policies and programmes to address violence against women and girls and women's economic and financial empowerment and inclusion in line with the goals of the new African Women's Decade on Financial and Economic Inclusion for African Women 2020-2030;
7. **ENCOURAGE** and **SUPPORT** the active participation and leadership of women and girls in all political, social, cultural and economic spheres;
8. **CALL ON** men to be role models for boys, so that tomorrow's male leaders take ownership of the fundamental values that define the positive expressions of masculinity in Africa;
9. **WE COMMIT** to adopt and implement an African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls that will serve as a legal framework to end violence against women and girls in Africa;
10. **WE COMMIT** to evaluate annually the implementation of our commitment at the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.

Done in Kinshasa, 25 November 2021

