



## **Policy Dialogue on Ending Violence against Women and Girls**

### **“Action to Guarantee Women’s Safety”**

#### **Call for Action**

We, the participants of the virtual policy dialogue on *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls - Action to Guarantee Women’s Safety*, conducted on 10 December 2020, reiterate our common objective of ending violence against women and girls in Africa.

We recommit to take measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in the COVID-19 recovery process as follows:

#### **AU Member States**

- Integrate and budget for Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention, response and multi-stakeholder coordination in all aspects of COVID-19 response and recovery strategies and ensure the full and meaningful participation and leadership of women and their organizations at all levels.
- Increase the number of centers for counselling and shelters as well as the capacity of women and victims of sexual and gender-based violence to access medical, psychological, psychosocial, and legal services.
- Strengthen the capacity of justice and human rights institutions to address and respond to GBV and create special mechanisms to ensure that perpetrators of violence are speedily prosecuted and convicted.
- Ensure the protection, support and fair compensation of COVID-19 frontline responders such as health workers, midwives and social service providers as part of health system strengthening.
- Systematically collect sex, gender and age -disaggregated data to understand the gender-specific human rights impact of COVID-19 to inform the recovery process.

#### **Civil Society Organisations, youth and media**

- Disseminate information and develop awareness-raising campaigns to combat GBV and engage traditional leaders, men and boys in GBV prevention, response and coordination initiatives.
- Deliver focused trainings and other capacity building initiatives for enhanced prevention and response to GBV at national and community levels.
- Document and report on cases of GBV in the context of COVID-19 and in the recovery process.

#### **Regional and International organizations as well as development partners**

- Increase resources to all providers of GBV services and make flexible funding available for women’s rights organizations working in the intersection of COVID-19 and GBV.
- Systematically collect sex, gender and age-disaggregated data to understand the gender-specific human rights impact of COVID-19 to inform the recovery process.
- Integrate women’s economic empowerment and gender equality in employment and social protection systems, including for the informal sector, in all aspects of COVID-19 recovery plans.



- Strengthen monitoring of the implementation of the key continental commitments to end GBV at national, regional and global levels through consistent reporting under the Maputo Protocol, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and other relevant frameworks.