



# ~ Gender News ~

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Women in Business Trade Fair and Investment Forum** in Windhoek, Namibia, August 9-18, 2010
- **Council of Summit of Ministers** in Windhoek, Namibia, August 9-18, 2010
- **SADC First Spouses Meeting** in Windhoek, Namibia, August 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Women in Conflict Management and Resolution 2
- Study on Gendered Impacts of Trade Policy 2
- Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs in DRC 2
- SADC & UNIFEM Africa UNiTE Campaign 3
- Open and Distance Learning Project in DRC 3
- Women in Business Trade Fair and Investment Forum 3
- Gender and Development Monitoring Tool 4



## Successful Gender Ministerial Meeting held in DRC

The SADC Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs met for their annual meeting in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

The Ministers discussed the SADC Regional Gender Programme and reviewed progress made by Member States in the implementation of SADC Gender Commitments. They also discussed challenges faced by Member States in realizing gender equality goals and made recommendations necessary for accelerating progress.

The meeting was attended by Ministers and representatives from Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also in atten-

dance were International Cooperating Partners from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The

women's empowerment and gender equality goals, however, Member States are at different levels of progress in implementing the Gender Commitments.



SADC Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs

Right Honorable Simon Bulupy Galati, Deputy-Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Postal Affairs, Telephone and Telecommunications of the Democratic Republic of Congo officially opened the meeting. Ministers noted that the region is making progress towards achieving

The meeting noted that only three Member States, namely Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, have ratified the Protocol on Gender Development. Ministers urged other Member States to deposit their instruments of

ratification necessary for the Protocol's entry into force. They also urged Botswana and Mauritius to sign the Protocol. A clear roadmap towards the ratification of the Protocol by August 2010 was adopted. Ministers resolved to submit proposals to Summit 2010 to direct Member States to reinforce the (Continues on page 2)

## FIFA World Cup 2010 and Gender Equality

The highly anticipated event of the FIFA World Cup was a huge success! In addition to the excitement of the games, this event had enormous positive opportunities for both men and women in the Southern African region.

Gender Links used this worldwide event to launch a campaign titled 'Score a Goal for Gender Equality.' The campaign focused on key themes of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development to achieve gender equality by 2015.

Three central themes include human trafficking, rights of sex workers and gender violence.

The campaign included radio spots, seminars, journals and news services on progress made in gender equality in the SADC region. As a capacity building tool, trainings and awareness events make this campaign a kick in the right direction.

The World Cup was an ideal platform to raise international



awareness on these critical issues and an opportunity to advance gender equality in the southern Africa region.

For more information on the event, visit: [www.genderlinks.org.za](http://www.genderlinks.org.za)

## Women in Conflict Management and Resolution

A wide number of cases of gender-based violence and displacement occur in conflict countries. Women bear disproportionate consequences of conflicts that have long lasting physical and psychological effects.

On 14-15 June 2010, the Gender Unit's Programme Assistant, Annie Dabrowski, attended the Fourth Africa Union/United Nations Consultative Meeting on Prevention and Management of Conflict at the Gaborone Sun Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana. The desk-to-desk pro-

vided opportunities for discussions and recommendations on conflict within Africa, and the SADC region in particular.

A series of thirty-six recommendations were successfully drawn up over the two-day conference, targeting both country-specific issues as well as cross-cutting themes. Several gender-specific recommendations emphasized the need to include women in mediation practices, ensure the representation of women in political and electoral positions and reinforce the continual protection of



women and children in conflict areas.

Participants included experts from various branches of the UN, the AU and SADC in conflict management, electoral assistance, mediation, humanitarian assistance and specialists of country-specific situations. Together they brainstormed ways in which the UN and AU can work more efficiently together with regional communities to manage and prevent future conflicts.

As a further acknowledgement of the need for gender-central practices in peace and security, the Gender Unit has organized a Seminar on Women in Peace and Security together with the International Security Studies to take place in October 2010. At this meeting, a regional strategy will be developed to deal with issues on gender and peace and security, particularly on sexual violence against women and children.

The aim of such initiatives and studies is to finally eradicate such atrocities.\*

**This study of Gendered Impacts on SADC Trade Policies shall facilitate efforts to mainstream gender into laws, and economic policies and programs within SADC Trade Policies and Projects at Sub regional and Member States Levels.**

### Study on the Gendered Impacts of SADC Trade Policies

The SADC Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI) Directorate and Gender Unit, in partnership with UNECA, have commissioned a study on the Gendered Impacts of SADC Trade Policies. On June 23-25, consultant Dr. Rose Shayo, visited the SADC Headquarters to solidify the details of the study with TIFI and the Gender Unit (Taskforce).

During her mission, Dr. Shayo gave a comprehensive presentation of the Inception Report and a Progress Report since the start of the research. The Taskforce provided the necessary backstopping and guidance to the Inception Report in order to finalize it. On the progress, the Taskforce further provided insight on the way forward and modalities of the study.

This study shall unpack the gender issues, gaps and concerns within economic, trade invest-



Dr. Rose Shayo, Gender Consultant from University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

ment, finance and industry with a view to developing specific measures to address them.

There is a need to create an enabling environment for women's participation in trade in order to create equal opportunities and benefits for both men and women. The study will be finalized in August, 2010.\*



Hon. Marie Ange Lukiana Mufwankolo, the Minister of Gender, Family and Children from the DRC

### DRC Ministerial Meeting (cont.)

(Continued from page 1) implementation of the 2005 decision to ensure 50:50 in political and decision making positions.

The meeting also noted that significant progress has been made with regards to integrating gender into national level sectors' policies and programmes, in particular: Economic Planning, Finance and Budgets, Distance Learning and

Communicable Diseases (HIV and AIDS, Malaria and TB). In this regard, Ministers committed to strengthening their efforts to coordinate gender mainstreaming activities as well as to build the skills of other sectors in integrating gender issues. The meeting endorsed the Business Plan and Strategic Framework and Programme of Action for comprehensive Care and Support for Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth (OVCY).

The meeting commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for hosting the successful event, and expressed gratitude for the excellent hospitality and organization. The Ministers also thanked the Republic of Namibia for accepting to host the next meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs in 2011.\*

## SADC Joins UNIFEM in the Africa UNiTE Campaign on Violence Against Women

UNIFEM organized a Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Regional Consultative Meeting for the Africa Unite Campaign. This meeting took place on May 11-12, 2010 at the Emperors Palace in Johannesburg, South Africa and was attended by the Gender Unit's Technical Advisor, Gayle Schroeder.

The UNIFEM Africa Wide Campaign was officially launched in Addis Ababa on January 30th, 2010. Its overall goal is to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources on preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls.

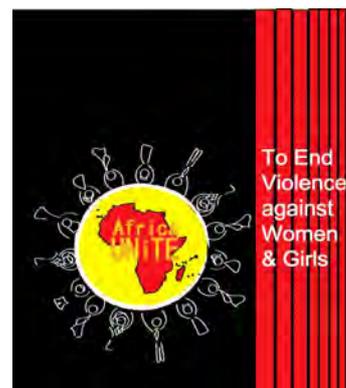
The meeting brought together

gender experts from the SADC and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Region, representatives of UN agencies, Ministries of Gender/Women's Affairs, Ministries of Justice and key women's organizations working on ending violence against women.

During this meeting, participating Member States drafted national action plans in support of the campaign outcomes, which are in line with national and on going initiatives to end Violence against Women. The six main areas of focus include: Intra-family violence against women and girls (domestic violence, intimate partner violence, incest, etc.), Rape and other forms of sexual

violence in the broader community against young women and girls, Harmful practices including child marriage, Violence against women in conflict-affected countries, Linkages between violence against women and girls and HIV and AIDS, and Violence in public spaces.

It was also decided that the SADC Gender Unit would play a key role in coordinating between the national and regional levels for the roll out of the campaign. The official launch of the campaign is scheduled for November 25, 2010, the International Day of No Violence



SADC Collaborates with UNIFEM to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Against Women and the start of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.\*

## The SADC Open and Distance Learning Project Makes a Mark in the DRC

The SADC Capacity Building in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Project convened an advocacy workshop in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from 25-27<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 and was attended by the Project Coordinator Thulaganyo Thutoetsile and SADC Gender Expert, Christobel Chakwana.

The workshop was ground breaking for both ODL issues and gender mainstreaming in ODL. The advocacy work achieved its objectives of creating awareness on ODL, which could significantly reduce gender gaps in education; and facilitated networking among different stakeholders from public, private, academia and civil society organizations.

The meeting was officially opened by the Secretary General/Permanent Sec-

retary of the Ministry of Education in DRC, Madame Marie Lioke Nyota Alula. In her remarks, she alluded to the provisions and objectives of the SADC Protocols on Education and Training and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development for increasing equal access to education. She also emphasised the need to integrate the strategies of the workshop's Action Plan in DRC, includ-



Workshop participants met at the Nganda Catholic Center in Kinshasa DRC for the ODL Project

ing the need for intensified gender sensitisation and advocacy work that seriously considers the current policy-level obstacles for boys and girls in education, namely: Policy development; Gender Advocacy; Networking; and Capacity building.

Despite current efforts to increase equal access to education for both boys and girls in the DRC, low literacy levels, high girl child dropout rates, gender based violence, and poverty still remain as key challenges to achieving gender goals in education. ODL was considered a significant tool in targeting these areas due to its innovative methods of circumventing conventional schooling systems. Through ODL, women, men, girls and boys are given the opportunity to learn and acquire qualifications in the midst of other life challenges.\*

## 2010 SADC Women In Business Trade Fair & Investment Forum

The Gender Unit, with support from UNIFEM, UNDP and UNECA, is hosting the SADC Women in Business Trade Fair and Investment Forum in August 2010 in Windhoek, Namibia. The Trade Fair will bring together over 50 business women from all SADC Member States.

The programme is divided into two sections: the Investment Forum will be held during the first three days, where women will become equipped with business management skills, knowledge of trade issues in SADC and further marketing tips. The second section will be the Trade Fair, with

exhibitions displaying products ranging from crafts, agricultural goods, textiles, clothing and health products.

It is well documented that poverty in SADC, as well as other parts of the world, bears a woman's face. Often women are thus compelled to engage in small and medium enterprises as a means of providing for their families. Unfortunately, many women in business, especially traders, face numerous challenges in establishing businesses. These challenges range from limited access to finances, stringent measures demanded by loaners and banks, limited

skills in management, and lack of access to markets.

Efforts such as the SADC Trade Fair and Investment Forum seek to provide the necessary capacity to enhance women's trade efforts, as well as to expose them to regional and international markets, marketing information, raw materials, new technologies and networks of fellow businessmen and women. It also provides an arena to exchange information and expertise among other businesswomen both regionally and internationally. (Continues on Page 4)



### SADC Secretariat Headquarters

#### Gender Unit

Plot No. 54385  
Central Business District  
Private Bag 0095

**Gaborone, BOTSWANA**

**Telephone:** + 267-395-1863

#### Extensions:

6110/6111/6126/1231/1258

**Fax:** + 267-397-2848 or 318-1070

**E-mail:** gender@sadc.int

## Trade Fair and Investment Forum (cont.)

(Continued from page 3) SADC Women in Business Trade Fairs have been held four times since the initial 1998 Fair in Zimbabwe.

The SADC Secretariat has chosen to host the next Women In Business Trade Fair and Investment Forum at a strategic time of year. The event is to coincide with the 2010 Council of Ministers and Summit as well as the SADC 30th Anniversary Celebration, in Windhoek, Namibia. The strategic coinciding of the event with the Council of Ministers and Summit will assist in sensitizing SADC governments to support women in business in national and regional initiatives as a necessary condition for an effective social and economic development.\*

### The Gender Unit Vision, Mission and Objectives are:

- **Vision** - A region that recognizes, embraces and uplifts the fundamental importance of equal opportunities for all people regardless of gender.
- **Mission** - To eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls through gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in all SADC structures and institutions.
- **Objective** - To facilitate the achievement of substantive equality between women and men in the SADC region through mainstreaming gender into all national and regional policies, programmes and activities and the adoption of positive measures to accelerate progress in this regard.\*

[www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)

## SADC Gender & Development Monitoring Tool introduced to the DRC

Following the adoption of the SADC Gender and Development Protocol by SADC Heads of State and Government in August 2008, the Gender Unit, with financial support from UNECA Southern African regional office, developed a Monitoring Tool that is aligned to the provisions of the Protocol.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development sets measurable targets, time frames and indicators for achieving the stipulated critical areas of concern, hence the need for an effective tool that will capture progress by Member States (MS) in implementing the Protocol as per the stipulated areas.

The Tool is comprised of two components, namely the SADC Gender Conditions Indicator (SAGI) and the SADC Women's Progress Scoreboard (SAWPS). The SAGI illustrates the situation of women and men at a defined point in time and enables MS to have an empirical mark of where they stand in terms of implementing the Protocol. The SAWPS captures the qualitative aspects of women's progress in all sectors as contained in the Protocol. Questions and corresponding indicators are included for assessing the situation of women.

The Secretariat used the opportunity while preparing for the Ministerial Meeting in the DRC on June 19, 2010 to meet with DRC

Ministry of Gender to introduce the Monitoring Tool and provide guidance on usage.

The meeting was attended by more than 50 participants from government ministries, the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The SADC Gender Unit Senior Officer, Ms. Mathiba-Madibela, made a presentation on the situation of women in the SAC Region. This set the tone and context for reporting and monitoring.

SADC Gender Expert, Ms. Christobel Chakwana presented an outline of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development on whose

targets and provisions the Tool is aligned. This led the participants to have an understanding of the linkages.

This was followed by a presentation by SADC Gender Unit Officer, Ms. Elizabeth Kakukuru, on the Gender Monitoring Tools. She focused on why there is a need to develop the Reporting Tool, the purpose of the Tool and its main components.

Ms. Leteane and Ms. Matashane-Marite from UNECA presented the operational aspects of the Tool with some practical case studies to assist the stakeholders in understanding and appreciating the usage of the Monitoring Tool.\*



SADC Secretariat and UNECA staff with DRC participants at the Stakeholders Workshops in June



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