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- Your Excellencies Ministers for Women Affairs and Gender
- Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives to the UN
- Distinguished Representatives of International Organizations

- Honourable Guests
- Distinguished Participants and Colleagues
- Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H. E. Professor Alpha Oumar Konare, I wish to start by congratulating you Chairperson and members of the Bureau for the way in which you have efficiently conducted the 52nd session of CSW. I am pleased Madam

The Workshop was deemed necessary for all AU member States participating at this session to build their capacities on international

commitments relating to financing for development including Monterrey Consensus and the Paris Declaration. It is an undeniable fact that Gender Equality should be at the centre of financing for development, now commonly referred to as smart economics. In the final conclusion by the participants including the Members of AU Gender Committee, the following key issues were agreed up in a joint statement:

1. Gender Equality and women's rights are central to the development process
2. Financing for Development is the process of mobilization, and allocating resources and must therefore be rights-based and

society. They also called for social responsibility from corporate private sector as a way of financing social development, social entrepreneurship and gender equality initiatives.

Distinguished Participants

As you are aware the transformation from the OAU into The AU, was guided by the vision of "building an integrated Africa, peaceful and prosperous Africa, driven by its own citizen". It has presented us an opportunity for renewed efforts to deepen ownership of the gender equality. Indeed the transformation has brought within a short time several innovative changes regarding the way gender issues are

perceived and handled on the continent to realization of the AU's vision of



constitute bold moves that provides enlarged opportunities for involvement of CSOs women and other stakeholders for active participation in the review process and in translating these commitments into concrete actions at the regional, sub regional and national levels.

Indeed in the Constitutive Act African Heads of States and Governments reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (L) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The principle has been observed in two subsequent elections of the AUC including in the January 2008 election.

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

In the just concluded Summit of AU Heads of States and Government, the Chairperson of the AUC presented two important documents to the Assembly:

1. The Synthesis Report on Member States of the Implementation of the SDGEA.
2. The Report of Chairperson on SDGEA.

In these reports, the chairperson shared best practices that have been identified through the synthesis done by Women, Gender and Development Directorate on Member States Progress on the Implementation of SDGEA. I would like to highlight some of these practices, these from her report to the 50th session of the

implement UNSC 1325. In addition, the governments of Ghana,
Namibia, Mali, Rwanda and South Africa have included ...

for Women, with the necessary capacity to enable it address gender issues of the 21st century. The African Union will continue to provide leadership in the gender Equality implementation in our continent and looks forward to outcomes and proposals from this session on Financing for Gender Equality. In the meantime, the AU will monitor, evaluate and on progress by Member States at its, biannual Summits.

I thank you