



## **AFRICITIES SUMMIT**

### **NAIROBI - KENYA, 18 – 22 September 2006**

**« Building local coalitions for effective implementation of the Millennium Goals in African Local Governments »**

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#### **GENDER EQUALITY**

##### **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

Preamble

In the light of the global target for the attainment of gender equality by the year 2015 as contained in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the roles of the respective stakeholders involved in local government development were examined and it is therefore recommended that:

##### **Draft Recommendations**

#### **To the Ministers**

- 1 The Central Governments should endorse the seven forward looking strategic priorities identified by the Millennium Project Task Force on Gender equality and empowerment which focus on (i) Strengthening opportunities for post primary education for girls; (ii) guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights, (iii) investing in infrastructure to reduce women and girl's time burdens and guaranteeing women's property rights, especially women's access to land in both rural and urban areas.
- 2 Reform the Legal system to remove laws that are discriminatory to women's advancement and access to resources (law of succession, property rights) and going further to making sure that women's rights are upheld in practice by putting in place appropriate structures.
- 3 Ensure capacity building and awareness programmes for gender equity and equality at all levels. Including regular evaluations of municipal projects and programmes.

#### **To the Mayors**

- 1 Local Authorities should undertake Gender Audits and gender impact assessments in order to improve Gender mainstreaming activities and programmes and women's empowerment at local government level.
- 2 Ensure capacity building for staff and politicians in participatory planning, budgeting and gender mainstreaming should be undertaken by local

authorities and municipalities in order to promote transparent and inclusive urban governance.

- 3 Promote Local Government structures that are participatory and promote debate so that women's needs are taken into account.
- 4 Promote Local networks among women's groups
- 5 Ensure that women have equal access to productive resources to enhance economic empowerment
- 6 Local Authorities and Municipalities should recognise and tap into the knowledge and expertise of grassroots women's organisations, NGOs and gender experts as equal partners in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of municipal programmes.
- 7 Gender equality and women's empowerment should be an integral part of urban poverty reduction policies and programmes implemented by cities and local authorities.
- 8 Encouraging collaboration within sectors ministries and departments to promote gender equity (Linkages)
- 9 Increase spending / budget allocations in the social sectors

#### **To the Development Partners**

1. Development Partners should insist on Political Commitment and good policies on the part of all governments;
2. Support capacity building in the formulation of good public strategies on Gender Equality;
3. Fund programmes that improve improvement and investment in measures and appropriate policies, and
4. Increase investment in the knowledge base at the local levels to improve cultural practices affecting women.