



## **RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CPW) REGIONAL GENDER SENSITISATION WORKSHOP HELD AT THE PARLIAMENTARY BUILDING, KIGALI – RWANDA FROM 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY, 2025**

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### **Declaration by delegates**

Members of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) – Africa Region, gathered at the Parliamentary Building, in Kigali, Rwanda, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025, for a regional workshop held under the theme: **“Promotion of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Africa”**. This gathering was convened with the shared objective of advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment by engaging legislatures, governments, civil society organisations, and individuals alike to break down barriers, challenge societal norms, and create an environment where women can fully participate in and contribute to all aspects of society.

**Expressing** our profound gratitude to the Parliament of Rwanda for hosting this workshop and to Rwanda for having made remarkable progress in the advancement of women’s empowerment;

**Recognising** the critical role of the CWP network in strengthening the capacity of women elected to Parliament, improving the awareness and ability of all Parliamentarians, both women and men, and encouraging them to include

gender perspectives in all aspects of their roles - legislation, oversight, and representation, and helping Parliaments to become gender-sensitive institutions;

**Affirming** that a significant representation of women in decision-making positions, when coupled with enabling factors including a supportive political environment, historical progress, democratic processes, and meaningful engagement with civil society, is essential to bring change towards institutional cultures, societal attitudes, legal frameworks, public policy, and the political landscape;

**Reaffirming** our unwavering commitment to advocate for increased participation of women in decision-making organs, enabling them to influence political agendas and policies that improve the lives of women;

**We hereby resolve to:**

- Call upon leadership in the Executive and Legislature to demonstrate strong political will, recognising that such commitment is essential to establish and implement affirmative actions for gender equality and women's empowerment. The lack of political will and institutional capacity has significantly hindered the effective enforcement of gender-related policies and legal reforms;
- Urge women parliamentarians to use their platforms to reshape narratives, amplify women's voices, and advance legislation that benefits future generations, especially women and girls (Beyond Numbers);
- Call upon governments to domesticate Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Laws for women and men to know their rights;
- Call upon governments to prioritize efforts to include men as strategic allies in promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment;
- Use parliamentary diplomacy to discourage discriminatory laws in the CPA Africa Region and encourage chapters in the Region to share best practices

for GEWE so that no country should be left behind in achieving Agenda 2030 and AU Agenda 2063;

- Call upon Members of Parliament to promote mentorship and peer learning programmes through establishing a Young Women Leaders' Caucus under CWP— to bridge inter-generational gaps and keep women MPs (especially new MPs) effective in performing their key Parliamentary business and lay down strategies for the Women Parliamentarians to support each other;
- Leverage from existing African Union initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) so that women are fully emancipated from an economic perspective;
- Call upon governments to invest in gender resourcing, capacity-building, and innovation to strengthen gender accountability;
- Call upon Members of Parliament to strengthen regional collaboration and partnerships (e.g., through the CWP network), which can help harmonize practices and scale effective models;
- Call upon governments to enhance data systems to track gender indicators, especially in areas of health, education, and labour, and promote intersectoral collaboration, including community-level accountability structures, to allow a holistic approach to gender accountability and equality.
- Promote responsible integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into institutional operations by urging governments to develop clear policy frameworks that should include clear implementation guidelines and designate specific individuals or institutions to ensure accountability and effective execution.

### **General Resolution**

**We resolve** to ensure that these resolutions are tabled and debated in our respective member Parliaments, in accordance with their Standing Rules and Orders.

**Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2025 at the Parliamentary Buildings in Kigali, Rwanda.**