



**Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung**



UCLG AFRICA
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique
CGLU AFRIQUE

UCLGA – SARO REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE
UCLGA – SARO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
03 – 04 SEPTEMBER 2018
SAFARI CONFERENCE CENTRE
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Press Statement for REFELA, 2018

We, the Local Elected women of Africa having taken part in the first forum of the local Elected Women of Africa , organized by the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA-SARO) in Windhoek, Namibia, from 3 – 4 September 2018,

The Southern African women from nine countries in the Southern African region, gathered for the 1st African Women in Local Government Authority (REFELA) Southern African Development Countries (SADC) in Windhoek, to adopt and review the REFELA declaration and objectives since the inception of the body in Tangier Kingdom of Morocco 8 – 11 March 2011

The aim was to commit the SADC countries to aspire to the realization of women in local government positions. We reaffirm our obligation to galvanize the women to attain total economic development, Fight Gender based violence, Promote Women and Children Rights, fight for equity and deliver real empowerment in our lifetime.

The 1st REFELA meeting consisted of African leaders from diverse political government systems backgrounds who have managed to bring about changes of Women representations in local government structures.

The first forum aims to:

- Identify the role and contribution of territorial and local authorities in helping to achieve the millennium developmental goals, on the African Continent, mainly objective 3, related to promotion of equality and empowerment of women;
- Provide a forum for local elected women leaders through which they can highlight their achievements and uphold their rights, especially regarding Issues in connection with good governance and sustainable human development;
- Provide a space for local Elected Women to exchange and tackle specific problems they encounter while carrying out their missions as women in leaders;
- Establish an affirmation structure for the enjoyment of civil and political rights of African women;
- Strengthen women's leadership at local level and develop good governance practices to help reduce social disparities and achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
- Strengthen networking among local elected women at the African Level and elsewhere, as a means to boost advocacy, political dialogue, communication, information exchange capacity building, professional development, solidarity and mutual support;
- Put in place mechanism to help run manage the network and organize its relations with UCLGA;

The strategic Action plan of the Gender Commission and of REFELA is part of the Africa's "Vision 2063 "and of the Sustainable Developmental Goals SDG's International Agenda.

Our Pillars of the Strategic Action Plan are:

Pillar 1: Strengthening the REFELA Network, its visibility and influence

Pillar 2: The Launch and implementation of campaigns

Pillar 3: The development of partnerships and the search for financing

Therefore, we place the following, but not limited to, priorities as height towards our desired objectives:

1. The specific dimension of the gender approach
2. The cross cutting dimension of the gender approach
3. The specific vision of the Plan

The 1st SADC REFELA General Assembly elected the following Countries.

1. Position of President of REFELA

Namibia has been elected to represent SADC at the upcoming Afro City in Marrakech Morocco under the leadership of Ms. Katrina Shibulu who was elected for the presidency of REFELA for a period of 3 years

2. Position of Vice President of REFELA

Malawi and South Africa has been elected to position of vice present of RAFELA at the SADC level. For a period of 3 years

3. The general Assembly also elected six (6) countries that shall form part of the SADC REFELA Executive committee and consists of the following countries; BOSTWANA, LESOTHO, MOZAMBIQUE, SWAZILAND, ZAMBIA and ZIMBABWE.

3.1 The assembly delegated the Executive to spearhead responsibilities of consistent for regional communication throughout the next upcoming 3 years under the leadership of Ms. Katrina Shimbulu.

- 3.2 In addition, the general assembly task Ms. Shimbulu to institutionalize the office of REFELA in SADC, the assembly also gave a task that After Afri Cities in Marrakesh- Morocco in November 2018; they have a task of taking issues of common interest forward towards bridging the gap between the participating countries and encourage more participation from their home countries. Therefore our humble plea to the private sector and the international communities to pledge their financial support and contribution for the establishment of the Namibian office.

In conclusion, the 1st REFELA Committee resolved on the following recommendations:

- a) The former committee shall be in charge until November 2018 and thereafter the New Leadership takes over after the mandate of Marrakesh.
- b) Equally, the former Leadership has a task to prepare the reports and submission to Marrakesh in November.
- c) Broader participation of women at local governance structure particularly leaders from the rural communities of the 9 countries,
- d) Accelerate the institutionalization of REFELA in the region
- e) That the CHAPTERS names from different countries shall remain, however for uniformity all countries should adopt the name (REFELA) at the end of the CHAPTER NAME

We thank the main sponsor United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLGA-SARO), Konrad Adeneaur Stiftung (KAS), The Minister of Urbana and Rural Development. The Governor of Khomas Region, the Secretary of Women Council of the SWAPO Party Comrade and the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) for hosting the General Assembly in our lifetime and for transformative leadership opportunity to inspire the next generation of African women in leadership. We thank the hospitality of Safari Hotel, Windhoek City Council and the Republic of Namibia and its people.

I live you with a great quote from a women of substance Winnie Madikizela Mandela, she remain the most clear leader in our lifetime in her continued fight for freedom she never betrayed her own people and revolution, if all of us could exhibit her character of looking at death in our eyes and speaking truth to power, we will collectively win over all the sins of the world with her resilience.

Therefore Mama Winnie says “I shall never lose hope and my people shall never lose hope infect we expect that the WORK WILL GO ON”

Long Live Africa

Long Live the Women of Africa

ISSUED BY:

SADC REFELA President elect and ALAN President

Hon.Katrina Shimbulu

Windhoek, Namibia

5TH September 2018

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