

THE KIGALI DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUITY IN SPORTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

We the members of the Regional Initiative for Women Advancement in Sports (RIWAS), a regional initiative whose establishment was spearheaded by the Association of Kigali Women In Sports (AKWOS), with representatives from government partners, Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, development partners and UN agencies attending the international conference on Gender Equity in Sports for Social change hosted by AKWOS held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 23rd – 24th June 2008

Having testified from presentations given by the Minister of Sports and Culture in Rwanda, Representative from Rwanda Forum For Women Parliamentarians Representative from Rwanda National Police, Representative from United Nations Development Fund for Women, Representative from Rwanda National Commission On HIV/AIDS, Representative from Olympic committee and representatives from the non-governmental organizations.

Reaffirming the provisions of the regional and international frameworks for promotion of Gender Equality and Women's empowerment such as the Beijing Platform of Action, CEDAW, Millennium Development goals, Security Council resolution 1325, the General recommendation on violence Against Women, the convention on the Rights of the child (1989). General Assembly resolution 58/5 that recommends advocacy using sports as a means of promoting education, Health and Peace.

Aware of the still existing cultural barriers to girl child and women participation in sports, cultural attitudes and practices that inhibit girl child and women self confidence,

Aware that women and girl child HIV prevalence rates are higher than those of the male counterparts in the region,

Aware of the limited networking between organizations involved in promoting gender equity in sports for social change

Deeply concerned about the gender gaps in terms of completion and limitation to women participation in Science and Technology

Aware of the high numbers of women living below the poverty line and limited women's skills for income generation

Recognizing the high rates of generated sexual violence against the girls and women.

Observing the limited support for women participation in sports terms of financial and technical support for women empowerment in Sports

Committed to work towards promotion of women empowerment in sports for social change in close partnership with governments, development partners, civil society, and UN agencies.

Convinced that promotion of women's rights through sports requires a holistic approach and combined efforts.

We recommend the following as strategies for RIWAS to promote women empowerment in sports for social change

At national level

1. To mobilize funds for Women empowerment in sports for social change
2. Member states to decentralize sports services at community level and put in place relevant mechanisms for women integration, so as to reach out to the rural women and girls.
3. Use the media for promotion of women's participation in sports for social change
- 4 To facilitate campaign against SGBV using sport forum.
- 4.To sensitize communities on the importance of sport through drama, music, spot, T-shirts with specific messages.
6. To use sports forums as platforms for social change in regard to women's rights.
7. To facilitate and support networks for promotion of women empowerment in sports and youth initiatives for social change.
8. Advocate for training women as members of women councils and women teachers as sport coaches.
9. To establish women sport centers that will also facilitate awareness rising on different issues including HIV/ AIDS, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and women's rights.
10. To encourage and support girl child to go to school and practice sport to acquire knowledge and be able to communicate and build their self confidence.

11. To campaign on behavior change in regarding HIV prevention and management to both women and men through sport forum.

12. To promote sports for women at universities

At the regional level.

1. To facilitate programs for women empowerment in sports through organizing regional training programs ,conferences and study tours for information sharing.

2, To mobilize funds and offer technical support for the operations of the Regional Initiative for Women empowerments

3. To use the RIWAS Network for information sharing in regard to Women's rights, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Women and Leadership, Girl child education , Women's economic security, through an email network

4. To develop joint programs for women empowerment in sports

5 Develop and support coordination and monitoring mechanism for RIWAS activities

6 RIWAS president and Secretariat will develop a one year plan of action with consultation from members. The plan of action should be ready within a period of 3 months from 23/6/2008.

At the international level (Development partners)

1. To provide financial and technical assistance institutional capacity building for women organizations for women empowerment in sports for social change..

2. Mobilise international and financial support for women empowerment in sports programs at regional, national and community level.

5. To provide funds for women's skills development for income generation activities through sports cooperatives.

4. To provide financial and technical support for strengthening and development of women sports networks

5. Support the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of programmes for Women empowerment in sports.

6. To provide technical and financial support for developing documentation on best practices and challenges in promoting gender equality in sports for social change

7. To financially and technically support initiative for girl child empowerment in sports. UNICEF and UNESCO.

8. AKWOS and RIWAS will organize a one day Sports Event from different countries to take place in Rwanda on the 8th of march 2009 which is normally celebrated as an International Women's Day and finalize the Action plan that will be presented to members.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF RIWAS (regional initiative for woman advancement through sports)

S/N	NAME IN FULL	COUNTRY	POST
1	RWEMALIKA Félicité	Rwanda	President
2	Florence B. Nkalubo	Uganda	v/President
3	Dienebou Sanogo	Mali	Secretary
4	Julianna J.Yassoda	Tanzania	Assistant secretary
5	Pauline Uwamariya	RDC	Treasurer
6	Nibogora Viola	Burundi	Technical director
7	Nyinawumuntu Grâce	Rwanda	Assistant technical director
8	Auma Obama	Kenya	Board member
9	Violet Kabarenzi	Rwanda	Board member
10	Mukandekazi Julienne	Rwanda	Board member