



# Strategic Plan

## 2020 - 2024

SOLIDARITY FOR  
AFRICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A force for freedom



MOUVEMENT DE SOLIDARITÉ  
POUR LES DROITS  
DES FEMMES AFRICAINES

Une force pour la liberté





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AFRICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

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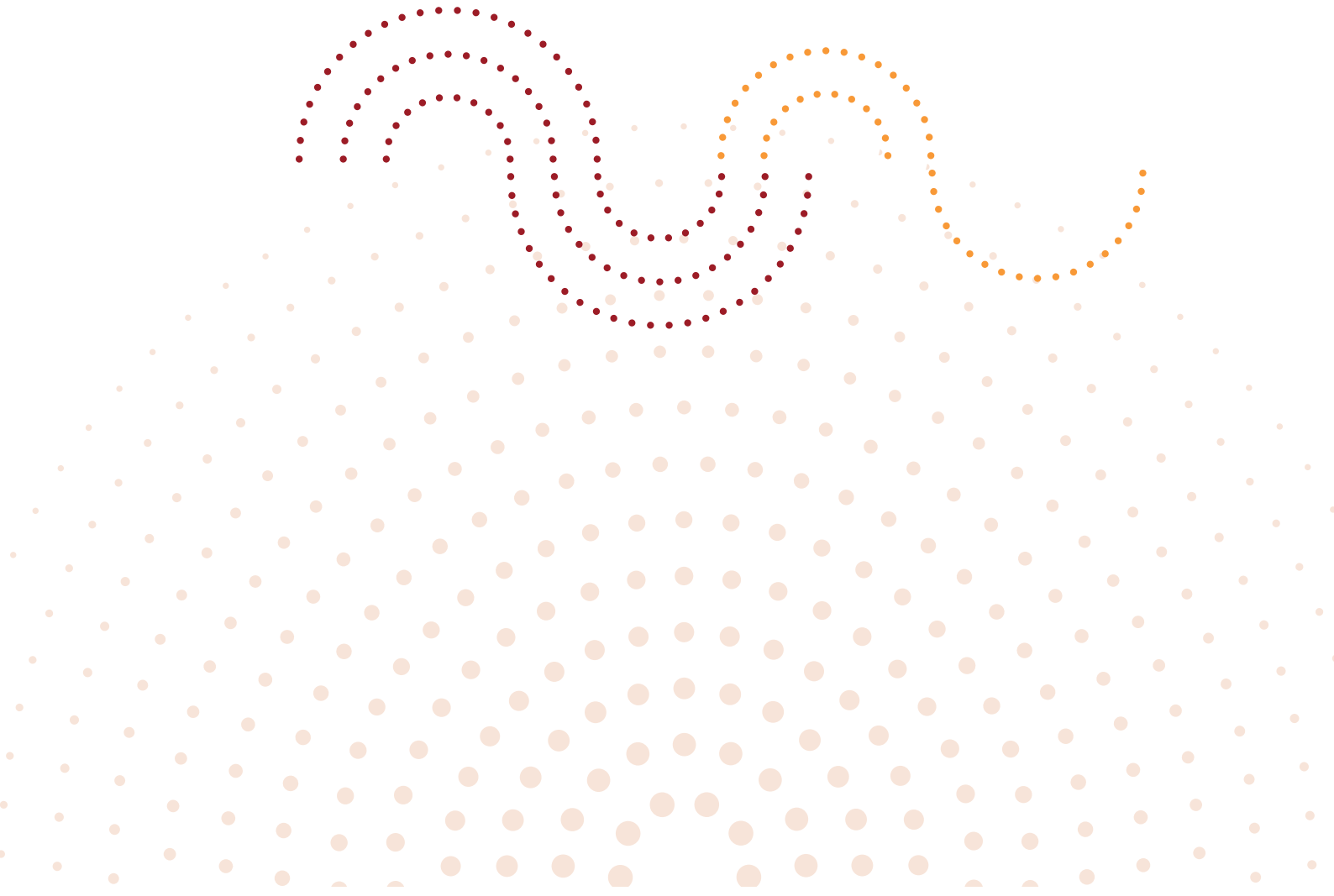


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# Strategic Plan

## 2020 -2024



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# Foreword



For more than a decade and a half, the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition has remained an indefatigable and resolute force for gender equality, calling upon African governments to adopt, ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol to the African Charter

on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the "Maputo Protocol") - arguably the most comprehensive international treaty on the rights of women and girls. The Coalition has over these years positioned itself as the largest network of women's rights organizations working on the adoption and universal ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol. During this period, 42 African countries ratified the Maputo Protocol, leaving only 13 countries that are yet to ratify. With over 50 members in 27 countries, working across the Continent, the SOAWR Coalition is poised to grow in numbers and stride, by ensuring stronger sub-regional clusters that will propel its members to foster greater collaboration at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

The SOAWR Strategic Plan 2020-2024, developed through a rigorous, highly consultative and member-driven process, will undoubtedly position the Coalition to not only consolidate the gains made over the years, but to galvanize the strengths and expertise of its members to hold African governments accountable for the human rights commitments they have made at the national, regional and international levels. The Strategic Plan places greater focus on ensuring domestication and meaningful implementation, including by lifting reservations, while continuing to advocate for universal ratification by securing the remaining 13 African countries, and hence ensure that no girl or woman in Africa is left behind.



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This Strategic Plan comes at a momentous time when the African Union (AU) Women's Decade 2010-2020 draws to an end. It also comes in the wake of the December 2018 launch by the AU of the "All for Maputo Protocol Programme", which it seeks to accelerate the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol. In this regard, the AU Women Gender and Development Directorate has recognized the partnership of the SOAWR Coalition in the implementation of the programme. This Strategic Plan therefore positions the SOAWR Coalition to contribute to and complement the AU's All for Maputo Protocol Programme. It is indeed an exciting and opportune time for the SOAWR Coalition to continue to be a force to reckon with in the advancement of the rights of women and girls in Africa.

**Faiza Jama Mohamed**

*Africa Office Director, Equality Now  
Founding Member and SOAWR Secretariat*



# Appreciation



The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition extends its appreciation to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute's Regional Africa Programme and Sigrid Rausing Trust for their invaluable support that enabled us to not only develop and publish our Strategic Plan but also gave the members an opportunity to widely consult over a period of eight months.

Our appreciation also goes to our Secretariat, Equality Now, for mobilizing resources and offering exemplary leadership and particularly to Esther Waweru for conceptualizing and successfully steering this process. Likewise the members appreciate the Task Force and the Working Group that were assigned to work with the Secretariat in developing the Plan. We are immensely grateful to our team of consultants, Dr. Mariam Kamunyu and Mr. Cyprian Nyamwamu, for their professionalism and devotion to ensuring a highly participatory process resulting in an excellent product. Last, but not least, we appreciate the contributions of the SOAWR membership whose diversity, commitment and contributions have enriched the document.

## Hannah Forster

*Executive Director,*

*African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies*

*Founder Member and Steering Committee Member, SOAWR*

*The development of this Strategic Plan was financially supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute's Regional Africa Programme, Sigrid Rausing Trust and Equality Now.*



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# List of Acronyms

<b>ACERWC</b>	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>ACHPR</b>	African Commission on Human and People's Rights
<b>AGA</b>	Africa Governance Architecture
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>AU-WGDD</b>	African Union, Women, Gender and Development Directorate
<b>AU-OLC</b>	African Union, Office of the Legal Counsel
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DPA</b>	Department of Political Affairs
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MSA</b>	Multi-Sectoral Approach
<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institutions including Gender Commissions
<b>NSAs</b>	Non-State Actors
<b>PAP</b>	Pan-African Parliament
<b>RECs</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>SADC</b>	Southern Africa Development Community
<b>SDGEA</b>	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
<b>SOAWR</b>	Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Women Entity for Gender Equality and the empowerment of Women
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls



# 1

## CHAPTER ONE

# BACKGROUND: INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT AND THE PROCESS

### 1.1 Overview of SOAWR


The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition is a regional membership-based network of organisations working to advance the promotion and protection of women's rights in Africa. Specifically, since its establishment in September 2004 SOAWR has worked to ensure that African states sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).

The SOAWR campaign over the next five years seeks to ensure that the Protocol remains a central policy instrument for the pursuit of women's rights in Africa by accelerating ratification in countries where this has not been done, and pursuing domestication, implementation and accountability in countries where ratification has occurred.

### 1.2 The SOAWR Story

**Phase one (2004 – 2005) entry into force and ratification:** this phase was defined by intensive lobbying to attain the requisite number of signatures (15) and ratifications necessary to bring the Protocol into force. It is during this period that relationships with specific African Union (AU) organs were cemented specifically with the Women, Gender and Development Directorate and the Office of the Legal Counsel. These relationships facilitated access to important AU events such as the bi-annual Heads of States summit, which provided critical space for lobbying Member States. This was the first strategy deployed by SOAWR. Secondly, SOAWR developed a scorecard system to impart peer pressure on states to bring the Protocol into force. Thirdly, using mobile phone technology SOAWR, began a short messaging system (SMS) campaign designed to build a continental critical mass around the Protocol specifically and women's rights generally. Finally, policy briefs were developed that connected different articles of the Protocol to the themes of the AU Summit, including using the online platform *Pambazuka*. These four strategies were essential pillars of SOAWR's advocacy agenda during this phase. **17 countries** signed and ratified the Protocol during this period: **Cape Verde, Comoros, Lesotho, Libya, Namibia, Benin, Djibouti, Gambia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Togo.**





**Phase two (2006 – 2007) ratification, domestication and tracking implementation:** With the Protocol entering into force, the Coalition’s work continued to focus on ratification whilst emphasizing domestication and implementation within compliant countries. During this period, work at the national level focused on engaging governments that had ratified with reservations, mobilizing countries that used contested articles to argue for a rejection of the Protocol all together and working with states that argued that national constitutional and legal frameworks were more progressive than the Protocol. Successes in working with governments to reverse reservations were noted in The Gambia, where reservations to Articles 5 (harmful cultural practices), 6 (marriage), 7 (separation, divorce and annulment) and 14 (reproductive health rights) were withdrawn. During this phase **6 more countries** ratified the Protocol: **Angola, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia.**

**Phase three (2008 – 2010):** was characterized by greater national advocacy that began to place a premium on domestication and implementation. The combination of the financial, fuel and food crises enabled states that had ratified the Protocol for cosmetic purposes to argue for the need to focus on “national concerns”. Accompanying this rhetoric were increasing reversals on women’s rights across the continent, evident in the larger democratic recessions and often accompanied by greater militarization, violence targeted at women, informalisation of labour and wages and the surveillance of women’s bodies. Through related activities, SOAWR members received financial support towards advocacy for ratification and implementation. SOAWR also capitalised on continental processes to put pressure on governments to ratify. Some of these processes included the launch of the African Women’s Decade in Kenya and the hosting of the Heads of State summit in Uganda and Equatorial Guinea. Peer support visits also became an essential strategy in national advocacy efforts. By lending regional pressure in partnership with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, national governments were pushed to ratify the Protocol. Strategic litigation became a useful tool to test the applicability of domestication where it was happening and draw attention to the more robust applications of rights as provided for in the Protocol, especially where national contexts had more conservative definitions. SOAWR developed ‘A Guide to Using the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa available in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese and conducted technical trainings for legal practitioners across 31 member countries notably: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. **Six additional countries ratified the Protocol during this phase: Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.**

**Phase four (2011 – 2013) domestication and implementation:** the fourth phase of SOAWR’s campaign work dedicated greater energies towards pushing for domestication and tracking compliance by Member States. At a Coalition level, a partnership with



UN Women resulted in the adoption of multi-sectoral convenings and technical support to government departments as a mechanism to ensure the implementation of the Protocol across all levels of government. In addition, SOAWR through its member - Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (CHR) supported the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to develop reporting guidelines on measures taken to advance the Protocol at a country level. These guidelines were adopted by the ACHPR in 2010 and in 2011, SOAWR partnered with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa to offer training on guidelines on reporting on the Protocol as well as disseminate copies of the guidelines to the AU in 2012. CHR further supported the ACHPR in the generation of the African human rights system's first ever General Comments on Article 14(1)(d) and (e) of the Protocol. Ratification work continued and in this phase **seven more countries ratified the Protocol: Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea and Swaziland (now Eswatini).**

**Phase five (2014 – 2019):** this phase saw SOAWR registering consistency in their campaign for the Maputo Protocol continentally while at the same time seeing their role also influencing local, national and sub-regional contexts. For instance, during this time it was noted that the work of the coalition inspired initiatives on domestication of the Protocol and adaptation to sub-regional realities. This contributed to the adoption of the Gender Protocol by the SADC Summit. The work of the Coalition led to the increased popularisation of the Maputo Protocol and increased knowledge of its complementary role to existing national and global frameworks. SOAWR scaled up its efforts in enhancing the knowledge and capacities of governmental and nongovernmental actors. SOAWR through its Secretariat increasingly engaged with governments through the Multi-Sectoral Approach (MSA) framework which is a mechanism for institutionalising commitment on women's rights across all sectors of government, thereby accelerating coordinated implementation. SOAWR also scaled up its engagement with civil society actors (members and non-members alike) by enhancing their capacities to engage with the Maputo Protocol (and their states' implementation and accountability) through advocacy, litigation and reporting. On ratification, the Coalition through its Secretariat carried out advocacy missions in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Ethiopia and Sudan amongst others to push for ratification of the Protocol. In this phase, **six more countries ratified the Protocol: Algeria, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone and Tunisia.**

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Ratified (42)	Not Ratified (13)
Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Swaziland (Eswatini), Zambia and Zimbabwe.	Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.  <i>*AU official status as at March 2020</i>

### 1.3 Successes and Highlights

- a) Member States have on several occasions written to the Coalition as a response to varied interventions by SOAWR at the national and regional levels. For example, there have been letters from Sudan indicating intention to ratify, although this is yet to happen. There was also communication from the President of Botswana that attempted to elaborate the State's record on protection of women's rights despite not having ratified the Maputo Protocol.
- b) Use of score cards to rate Member States at the AU Assembly in Abuja in 2005 proved very successful. There was heated debate among States based on the colour of the card received. A memorable outcome from this was that Senegal submitted its instrument of ratification in the course of the Summit.
- c) The passage of legislation on domestic violence by Nigeria after 16 years waiting was a major milestone, led by SOAWR members WRAPA and Alliances for Africa. Immediately prior to the passage of this law, there had been a well-coordinated lobbying effort by SOAWR membership at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights where each member made reference to the delayed enactment of the legislation. It became law soon thereafter.
- d) The place of the SOAWR Coalition as the leading champion of the Maputo Protocol within AU spaces is now settled. The Coalition 'is now synonymous with the Maputo Protocol'. Examples were given of how quorum at AU meetings is considered incomplete without SOAWR representation. Meetings have in the past delayed commencement to allow/confirm the Coalition's participation.
- e) The Coalition has employed innovative advocacy strategies to push Member States that had not deposited instruments after ratification. This was the case

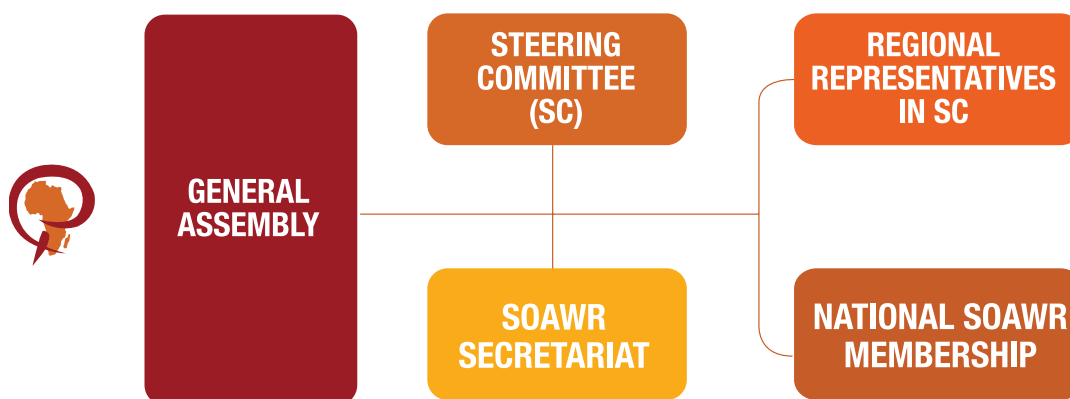


for Congo that expedited depositing instruments of ratification after the Coalition had pushed for inclusion of the list of States that had not deposited instruments in the annual activity report of the African Commission. Soon after sharing this report with the relevant official in Congo, the State deposited instruments of ratification. Similar lobbying also bore fruit in Equatorial Guinea that had also taken long to deposit instruments of ratification.

- f) SOAWR has also leveraged on instances where Member States host important AU meetings to lobby for ratification. For example, Akina Mama wa Africa – a Coalition member – led a national coalition known as Women First, comprising of SOAWR members and other local women’s rights organizations in Uganda, which capitalised on the hosting of the AU summit in Uganda in 2010 to drum up the push for ratification of the Protocol by Uganda in the lead up to the Summit in July 2010. The State ratified and deposited the instruments of ratification on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010.
- g) SOAWR through its members has also been a part of norm development elaborating on the Maputo Protocol towards guiding state implementation. The development of State reporting guidelines on the Protocol by the Centre for Human Rights – a Coalition member - and training of relevant focal persons in Member States on the Guidelines was an exciting moment for the Coalition. The Centre for Human Rights has also steered the development of two General Comments under the Maputo Protocol one on women and HIV and the other on child marriage, in partnership with Equality Now in the case of the latter. Another Coalition member, IPAS Africa Alliance, also steered the development of another General Comment on sexual and reproductive health.
- h) The enactment of the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011 in Kenya was an important illustration of giving life to the Protocol through domestication. Relatedly, through SOAWR’s CSOs in Malawi, there was a successful campaign on ending child marriage that saw legislative amendments to this effect in 2017.
- i) Under the leadership of Equality Now, SOAWR has undertaken lawyers’ and judges’ trainings that have created awareness on the Maputo Protocol and which have seen incremental application of the Protocol in domestic court cases. This has been coupled with pursuit of varied cases and resultant judgments in State Parties that have been favourable to the movement and advanced the quest for gender equality such as the court decision in Tanzania giving the government 12 months for synchronization of male and female minimum age of marriage.
- j) The use of bulk SMS as a campaign tool proved successful several years back and this is a good example of how to leverage on the technology of the day to advocate for rights under the Maputo Protocol.
- k) Adoption by the AU of the ‘All for Maputo Protocol’ campaign is a product of the work that SOAWR has been doing on the Continent in promoting ratification and implementation of the Protocol. Furthermore the AU program embraces the various strategies SOAWR has been using in its long campaign of breathing life into the Maputo Protocol.



## 1.4 SOAWR Structures



- The General Assembly: Meets once every three years and is responsible for approval of the SOAWR Strategic Plan, electing office bearers and giving major policy direction to the SOAWR Coalition.
- The Steering Committee: Consists of regional representatives elected from the members. Provides oversight to the Secretariat, approves new members and undertakes sub-granting to members and agencies for implementation purposes. The SC is also responsible for building solidarity among members and offering strategic support to the members of the Coalition.
- The Secretariat: Tasked with the day to day coordination of Coalition programs and activities.
- Regional Representatives in the Steering Committee: Coordinate sub-regional feedback to the Steering Committee concerning coordination and sub-region campaign related developments.
- National SOAWR Membership: Organizations at the country level committed to the full implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

## 1.5 SOAWR Vision, Mission and Values Statement

### SOAWR Vision

African women fully enjoy their rights as provided for under the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.



## SOAWR Mission

Hold African Union Member States accountable and enhance partnership to fulfil their obligations under the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and encourage other stakeholders to actively apply the Protocol for the promotion and protection of the rights of women.

## SOAWR Core Values

### 1. *Equality and non-discrimination*

We believe that the full implementation of the Maputo Protocol is key to addressing the patriarchal and sexist character of institutions, norms and governing values in order to end discrimination against women and girls and realise full equality.

### 2. *Solidarity and partnership*

We believe in solidarity as a means to building an effective transformative movement for change in Africa. We therefore envision SOAWR as a collective force for action for women's freedom and rights. We shall act together and support the struggles and initiatives of women rights champions and organizations across the continent and with vertical and horizontal partners on women's rights across the world.

### 3. *Freedom and dignity*

We believe that freedom is central to social justice. We are a force for African women's freedom; we are driven by the principle of defending and upholding women's voice, agency, dignity and rights across the African continent. We therefore envision SOAWR as a collective force for action for women's freedom and rights.

### 4. *Diversity and inclusivity*

We believe in the diversity of women and their unique strengths and insights. We also recognise that women's intersectional identities may interact to intensify violations and we work towards eliminating such discrimination. We believe in holding each other accountable to the indivisibility of women's rights and we believe in the importance of courage to confront patriarchy. Therefore, we consciously work in the margins of society and work with and for women in the margins.

### 5. *Commitment and accountability*

We believe that progress towards a continent where women's rights and dignity are secured will only flow from action by networked, committed and inspired





women and women rights champions who are guided by high standards of accountability. Without the passion, commitment and accountability internally and by Member States, transformation will be slow to achieve.

## 1.6 The Strategic Priorities of SOAWR

The strategic priorities identified seek to strengthen SOAWR's ability to achieve its vision and mission. They are:

- i) To support the domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol by states in order to transform women's lived realities in Africa
- ii) To contribute to the ratification of the Maputo Protocol in 13 African states thereby ensuring universal ratification
- iii) To pursue state accountability to ensure fulfillment of state obligations under the Maputo Protocol
- iv) To promote the knowledge and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol among state and non-state actors
- v) To strengthen the SOAWR Coalition and support movement building in the continent for the promotion and protection of women's rights

## 1.7 The Strategic Plan Development Process

The SOAWR Strategic Plan has been developed through a process that is reflective, analytical and consultative. Reflective and analytical in that the process comprised of undertaking an appreciative inquiry of SOAWR's previous Strategic Plan and notable highlights and achievements; an assessment of SOAWR's organisational/ institutional capacity including strengths and potential; an analysis of the normative and external socio-political environment of women's rights in Africa. Consultative in that the process was significantly guided by the ascertainable views of the Coalition as communicated by the SOAWR Strategic Plan Working Group, the SOAWR Secretariat and other SOAWR members.

The methodology deployed to develop the Strategic Plan has included: a document review of all available SOAWR documentation; the holding of a consultation retreat with the SOAWR Strategic Plan Working Group; data collection through key informant consultations comprising of internal and external SOAWR stakeholders; and substantive validation by the SOAWR Annual General Meeting. This was followed by regional cluster reviews and a final review, validation and adoption by the Steering Committee and Working Group members. All the foregoing processes have informed and culminated in the development of the SOAWR Strategic Plan 2020-2024.





## THE STEERING COMMITTEE (2020-2022)

Standing from left to right: Rainatou Sow (Secretariat), Carole Agengo (East Africa), Bunmi Dipo-Salami (West Africa), Maureen Mwaka Samulela (Southern Africa) Esperance Nijembazi (Central Africa), Esther Waweru (Secretariat). Sitting from left to right: Laureen Karayi (East Africa), Soukeyna Diallo (West Africa), Dr. Morissanda Kouyate (Continental), Hannah Forster (Continental), Patience Mungwari (Continental), Samia Melki (North Africa)

# 2

## CHAPTER TWO

### **CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE SOAWR COALITION**

#### **2.1 Analysis of the SOAWR Coalition Internal environment: Assessing the Five Core Capabilities of the Coalition**

The SOAWR Internal environment was assessed against five core capabilities of the Coalition.

- C1: Capability to act and commit
- C2: Capability to deliver on development objectives
- C3: Capability to adapt and self-renew
- C4: Capability to relate to external stakeholders
- C5: Capability to achieve coherence

C1-Capability to act and commit: is about the ability to work properly: to plan, take decisions and act on these decisions collectively. It includes efficient structures and ability to mobilise financial, institutional and human resources.

C2- Capability to deliver on development objectives: concerns the Coalition's skill to ensure that it is producing what it is established to do. Also having a base for current and future resources to deliver on its development objectives.

C3- Capability to adapt and self-renew: concerns the ability of an organization to learn internally and to adjust to shifting contexts and relevant trends. This is influenced by: active pursuit of and internal openness to learning; confidence to change; ability to analyse current trends; and use of opportunities and incentives.

C4- Capability to relate to external stakeholders: concerns the relational competency to build and maintain networks with external actors. These actors include governmental structures, private sector parties, civil society organisations, funding partners and all others relevant to the realization of advocacy outcomes.



C5- Capability to achieve coherence: concerns the strength of an organizations' identity, self-awareness and discipline which includes a clear and coherent mandate (vision & strategy) known by members and used to make decisions. Also concerns: well defined internal organisational principles; and an ability to balance stability and change while retaining a consistent quality and reliable management.

The Working Group on the Strategic plan and the SOAWR membership at the General Assembly conducted an internal Coalition environment assessment exercise using these criteria and the results of the Coalitions core capabilities assessment resulted in the following averages out of 10:

C4 Capability to relate to external stakeholders	7.88
C3 Capability to adapt and self-renew	7.13
C2 Capability to deliver on development objectives	7.1
C5 Capability to achieve coherence	6.9
C1 Capability to act and commit	6.85

#### Conclusion from the assessment results:

- SOAWR's leaders and workers are great at relating to external stakeholders and the general membership of SOAWR has a strength of being able to adapt and self-renew. These two capabilities have helped the Coalition to achieve the results it has achieved. These strengths will be needed even more over the next five years of the Strategic Plan (2020-2024).
- The weakest areas for the Coalition members assessed is C1- the Capability to Act and Commit. This calls for deliberate investment in the following actions:
  - More consistent and effective annual planning that gets all members participating in driving the strategy. Currently the annual planning and reporting is not as regular and systematic.
  - Taking Coalition level decisions and acting on these decisions collectively in a consistent manner. Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning practice.
  - Making the SOAWR structures more efficient towards mobilising financial, institutional and human resources. The Coalition now in its consolidation and performance stages is gaining new members and workers within member organizations who may not have the full history of the Maputo protocol and the related struggles. Continuous member movement building sessions whether off or online, in country, region or across the continent. These sessions shall provide the platform for all leaders and workers in SOAWR to internalise the Coalition's strategy, identity, values, mission and vision.



## 2.2 Reflecting on The Terrain in the Previous Implementation Period (2014 – 2018)

The commitment to advancing the objectives outlined in the Maputo Protocol on national, regional, and continental levels has strengthened in the past five years. On the continental level, supportive normative frameworks such as the Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030) reflect a renewed engagement to the status of women's rights throughout the continent. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights efforts to develop soft law standards to guide implementation of the Maputo Protocol also provides impetus for domestication and advocacy. These normative standards include; General Comments on Women and HIV (2012), General Comment No.2 on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (2014), the Joint General Comment with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on Ending Child Marriage (2017) and the Guidelines on Combating Sexual Violence and its Consequences in Africa (2017). The introduction of specifically protected women's groups, such as the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons (2016), marks a shift in the approach to women's rights in Africa that prioritizes the intersections of gender with other social, economic, and political statuses. On the regional levels, all five of the economic communities have passed or are in the process of passing normative frameworks on gender equality and/or women and girls rights. These binding commitments include ECOWAS 'Supplementary Act of 2015,' SADC 'Protocol on Gender and Development 2016,' and COMESA's 'Revised Gender Policy of 2016.' These new frameworks exemplify regional and national efforts to build upon existing guidelines, with the objective of improving the autonomy, wellbeing, and status of women in society.

Despite many of the socio-economic and socio-political strides being made in women's rights advocacy in Africa, social and cultural norms continue to constitute barriers to access equality and justice for many. Patriarchal standards, fear of social reprisal, unequal power dynamics, quality of services, and lack of infrastructure have substantially impacted women's ability to make autonomous decisions regarding health outcomes, economic circumstances, physical integrity, and marriage status among other things. While the domestication of treaties such as the Maputo Protocol clearly continues to be a challenge in many realms, there is observable progress where some African countries have taken it upon themselves to address existing gaps in the legal, social, and economic protection of women's rights in the past five years as can be seen at the national level through shifts in legal and policy reform.

As of 2019, 49 countries have signed the Maputo Protocol, 42 of these states have ratified it. Seven countries have ratified with reservations, often concerning women and girls' rights on SRHR issues, especially in relation to marriage or access to safe abortion. These numbers mean that three-fourths of women in Africa are now under the protective cover of the Maputo Protocol. However, ratification of the Protocol and other similar women's rights norms is just the first step in achieving gender equality. What needs to follow is accelerated domestication, implementation as well as adherence to state reporting and compliance with any recommendations or decisions issued in respect of the Protocol.



## 2.3 SOAWR Working Areas: The Maputo Protocol and Women's Rights in Africa

SOAWR's vision and mission is centered on the promise and potential of the Maputo Protocol. That women fully enjoy their rights as facilitated by the full implementation of the Protocol by African states. This premise resultantly informs SOAWR's main areas of working.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights oversees the implementation of the Maputo Protocol. In line with its mandate to promote human rights, the Commission in its Guidelines for State Reporting under the Maputo Protocol has provided guidance on how the Protocol should be perceived from a thematic approach. This thematic approach guides states in implementation of and reporting under the Maputo Protocol. Correspondingly, SOAWR adopts these thematic areas in fulfillment of their mission to hold states accountable to fulfill their obligations under the Maputo Protocol.

Accordingly, the SOAWR areas of focus include:

### 1 Equality/Non-discrimination

- 1.1 Elimination of discrimination (article 2)
- 1.2 Access to justice, including legal aid and the training of law enforcement officials (article 8)
- 1.3 Political participation and decision-making (article 9)
- 1.4 Education (article 12)

### 2 Protection of women from violence

- 2.1 Bodily integrity and dignity, including sexual violence, trafficking of women and medical and scientific experimentation (article 3 & 4)
- 2.2 Practices harmful to women, including female genital mutilation (article 5).
- 2.3 Female stereotypes (article 4(2)(c))
- 2.4 Sexual harassment
- 2.5 Domestic violence (article 4(2)(a))
- 2.6 Support to victims of violence, including health services and psychological counselling (article 5(c))

### 3 Rights relating to marriage (articles 6-7)

- 3.1 Marriage and its effect on property relations, nationality, name (article 6(e) to (j))
- 3.2 Minimum age of marriage (article 6(b))
- 3.3 Registration of marriages (article 6(d))
- 3.4 Protection of women in polygamous marriages (article 6(c))



3.5 Protection of women during separation, divorce or annulment of marriage (article 7)

3.6 Protection of children in the family (article 6(i) &(j))

#### **4 Health and reproductive rights**

4.1 Access to health services (article 14(2)(a))

4.2 Reproductive health services, including the reduction of maternal mortality (article 14(1)(a) & (b))

4.3 Provision for abortion (article 14(2)(c))

4.4 HIV/AIDS (article 14(1)(d))

4.5 Sex education (article 14(1)(g))

#### **5 Economic, social and cultural rights**

5.1 Economic and welfare rights (article 13)

5.2 Right to food security (article 15)

5.3 Right to adequate housing (article 16)

5.4 Right to positive cultural context (article 17)

5.5 Right to a healthy and sustainable environment (article 18)

5.6 Right to sustainable development, including the right to property; access to land and credit (article 19)

#### **6 Right to peace (article 10)**

6.1 Women's participation in peace and conflict prevention and management (article 10(1)) and in all aspects of post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation (article 10(2)(e))

6.2 Reduction of military expenditures in favour of social spending (article 10(3))

#### **7 Protection of women in armed conflicts (article 11)**

7.1 Indicate measures of protection for asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced women and ensure the punishment of all violators of such protection (article 11(1) – (3)).

7.2 Protection that no child especially girls take a direct part in hostilities and no child is recruited as a soldier (article 11(4))

#### **8 Rights of specially protected women's groups**

8.1 Widows, including their inheritance rights (articles 20 & 21)

8.2 Elderly women (article 22)

8.3 Women with disabilities (article 23)

8.4 Women in distress (article 24)



A detailed assessment of the normative and situational scope of these thematic areas is provided in **Annex 1** of this Strategic Plan.

## 2.4 Analysis of SOAWR External Environment Factors

SOAWR works within a policy and strategic context that is informed by several factors. Through the appreciative inquiry approach, the SOAWR members shared the experiences and stories that surround the great strides the Coalition has achieved over the last fifteen years. These accounts offered a deep insight into the external factors informing the SOAWR successes and progress. The external factors that influenced SOAWR significantly over the last five years include the following:

a) **An African Union that is increasingly sensitive and responsive to the need for equality and upholding of women's rights:**

Politically this presented the context of pressure on Member States to ratify the Maputo Protocol. Some did so with reservations which presents the opportunity for further engagement with these Member States to ratify without reservation as universal ratification is pursued as those who ratified with reservations lift them.

The SOAWR members have employed effective lobbying of AU Member States and the various AU organs involved.

b) **AU Member States that are gradually embracing equality and women's rights agenda:**

Even with difficulty and various internal contradictions, most African States do not want to be left behind or be singled out as states working against the agenda of equality and non-discrimination. Over the last five years SOAWR members have seen this as an opportunity to engage with Member States more proactively and in a targeted manner. The Council of Ministers and country representatives of Member States have been targeted for intensive lobbying and persuasion to ratify and take steps towards domestication and implementation of the Protocol.

However, realities at country level through claw backs on progress made such as withdrawal of article 34(6) declarations (under the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights) by States such as Rwanda and Tanzania will have a negative impact on gains made.

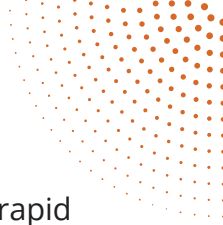
Similarly, hostile political environments and persecution of human rights defenders have resulted in shrinking of civic space which has constrained the progress in advocacy for women's rights generally.

c) **Social cultural factors:**

Community cultural practices in several African countries are changing slowly but at a huge cost to women. In SOAWR's lobbying and advocacy strategies, it







has become clear that voter-facing decision makers are reluctant to accept rapid behaviour and cultural changes in societies and communities. The voter-facing policy makers (such as Members of Parliaments and elected presidents who face elections every five or so years) therefore continue to hold the key to unlocking decision making by the advocacy and policy-facing agencies and decision makers (such as bureaucrats and executive ministries) in governments and states.

Gaps in women and girls' rights literacy and knowledge of their rights under the Maputo Protocol have made large sections of women and girls on the Continent unable to participate in advocating for implementation of the Protocol. This has complicated the work of advocates and activists who cannot do all the work by themselves and in absence of active participation from women and girls.

**d) Legal opportunities and challenges:**

Well-coordinated lobbying effort by SOAWR membership at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has produced precedence and sent a message that African women will not sit back and accept inaction and lethargy by Member States. There are significant challenges that have been faced on the legal front but great efforts to utilise the legal strategies and spaces have been made by SOAWR members.

Also; SLAPP suits (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) – negatively impacting on the work of SOAWR members as there are more and more powerful corporate and businesspersons using this strategy to intimidate individuals working in the sector through these frivolous suits.

**e) An increasingly assertive and adept global women's rights movement:**

SOAWR's successes are partly an outcome of the pressure and role of the various agencies globally that have been engaging and persuading African governments and the AU to overhaul policies, laws and practices that fertilise the violation of women's rights and discrimination of women in Africa. SOAWR continues to work with all international partners including governments, international agencies, institutes, universities and development partners in gaining ground towards universal ratification, domestication, implementation and accountability of governments in delivering their part of the promise and obligations. Nevertheless, shifting of priorities in terms of investments and commitments to gender equality has had a negative impact.

**f) Technological factors:**

SOAWR members have utilised technology tools and resources to cut costs of communication, of meeting, coordination, action planning and advocacy momentum building. While technology remains unevenly accessible to some members of SOAWR, great efforts have been made to utilise technology positively to advance the SOAWR strategic objectives.

## 2.5 Stakeholder Analysis: Identity and Expectations

### Internal Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Stakeholder Expectations	SOAWR's Expectations
<b>General Assembly Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative, logistical and diplomatic support</li> <li>• Introduction letters</li> <li>• Solidarity in putting pressure on the state</li> <li>• Providing support on short notice to a Coalition member at country level</li> <li>• Security and voice in numbers at the AU and Sub-regional levels.</li> <li>• Proactiveness from the SOAWR Steering Committee;</li> <li>• Re-igniting of solidarity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to advance SOAWR goals</li> <li>• Active participation in membership activities and generally</li> <li>• Shared resources and information</li> <li>• Solidarity with each other</li> <li>• Respect for diversity and inclusion</li> <li>• Responsiveness</li> <li>• To profile the Coalition</li> <li>• Collective resource mobilisation for major interventions</li> <li>• Hold leadership and peer structures accountable</li> <li>• Commitment to SOAWR's key strategic areas</li> </ul>
<b>Steering Committee Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Involvement</li> <li>• Timely information sharing</li> <li>• Regular feedback/updates</li> <li>• Fundraising</li> <li>• Joint activities</li> <li>• Profiling the Coalition</li> <li>• Solidarity</li> <li>• Proactiveness and quick feedback</li> <li>• Identify and inform of new opportunities and developments on women's rights</li> <li>• Inclusion and active campaigns to amplify women's voices in Africa</li> <li>• Support from Secretariat on coordination</li> <li>• Active engagement of members</li> <li>• Smooth communication flow from members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be custodians and coordinators of the strategic plan</li> <li>• Resource mobilization to implement the strategic plan</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Responsiveness</li> <li>• Proactiveness</li> <li>• Pragmatism</li> <li>• Inclusiveness</li> <li>• Periodic consultations</li> <li>• Getting members involved</li> <li>• Concise, objective and open decision-making</li> <li>• Regular updates</li> <li>• Spearhead strategy and planning for implementation and domestication of the Maputo Protocol</li> <li>• Regularly monitor progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan in meeting SOAWR mission</li> </ul>



Stakeholder	Stakeholder Expectations	SOAWR's Expectations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing with members to keep them updated on progress</li> <li>• Members to push governments and demand accountability</li> <li>• Members to take what is at regional to national and national to regional</li> <li>• Sharing periodic reports</li> <li>• Incentives for committee members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have regular meetings</li> <li>• Public relations activities to promote SOAWR</li> <li>• Deliberately look out for opportunities to steer SOAWR engagements</li> <li>• Communicate: information sharing and updates with members including successes and challenges</li> <li>• Joint in-country mission visits</li> <li>• Solidarity in pushing national priorities</li> <li>• Interaction and communication</li> </ul>
<b>Secretariat Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Cohesiveness</li> <li>• Engagement</li> <li>• Involvement</li> <li>• Responsiveness to communication and attendance to SOAWR engagements</li> <li>• Information sharing</li> <li>• Good communication</li> <li>• Coordination of members</li> <li>• Regular updates and documentation of SOAWR members' activities and achievements</li> <li>• Sharing information on concluded strategies</li> <li>• Update on current activities and next steps</li> <li>• A shared communication point where information and newsletters can be shared</li> <li>• Collective sharing of roles/tasks</li> <li>• Availability of members when required to undertake tasks for SOAWR</li> <li>• Members to include SOAWR activities in their own activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactive</li> <li>• Supportive</li> <li>• Responsive</li> <li>• Informative</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Solidarity</li> <li>• Information sharing on opportunities, good practices, activities and achievements</li> <li>• Responsive/active communication</li> <li>• Branding/profiling of SOAWR</li> <li>• Contribution to SOAWR goals and activities</li> <li>• Active engagement of SOAWR members through various media platforms nationally, regionally, and internationally</li> <li>• Effective coordination and convening of members</li> <li>• Support in facilitating solidarity actions</li> <li>• Logistical support</li> <li>• Documentation of SOAWR's activities and milestones</li> <li>• Provide direction and hold members accountable to the strategic plan</li> <li>• Support through capacity building and fundraising</li> </ul>



## External Stakeholders

No.	Stakeholder	Stakeholder Expectations	SOAWR's Expectations
1.	<b>AU and other specialized organs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AUC – AU WGDD; OLC; DPA; AGA; Department of Social Affairs</li> <li>African Commission</li> <li>ACERWC</li> <li>PAP</li> <li>RECs</li> <li>African Court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular and informative engagements with the AU SRRWA</li> <li>Submission of alternative/ shadow reports</li> <li>Monitoring and follow up on implementation of Concluding Observations and Decisions</li> <li>NGO Statements at ACHPR Sessions</li> <li>Well-developed cases at the RECs and the African Commission/ ACERWC/ African Court</li> <li>Provision of expertise by the Coalition</li> <li>Advocacy to influence Member States' implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective information sharing including timely and regular updates on the status of ratification (especially on the AU website)</li> <li>Solidarity and support for in-country advocacy missions</li> <li>Liaison and follow up with Member States</li> <li>Timely delivery of progressive and gendered decisions and Concluding Observations</li> <li>Adoption of relevant policies and norms on women's and girls' rights</li> <li>Greater involvement of SOAWR in gender related meetings</li> <li>Enhanced transparency by the AU organs towards mutual goals</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Member States</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ratification</li> <li>Domestication &amp; Implementation of the Maputo Protocol (including lifting of reservations)</li> <li>Timely reporting to the relevant bodies</li> <li>Support in implementation of Concluding Observations and judicial decisions and any other identified areas</li> <li>Partnership towards supporting the state in implementation of the Maputo Protocol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State accountability</li> <li>Credible and reliable information on the status of implementation</li> <li>Coordination and support in advocacy missions</li> <li>A favourable working environment</li> <li>States' honour their commitments to ratify, domesticate and implement the Maputo Protocol</li> <li>Financing realisation of the Maputo Protocol</li> <li>Demonstration of progress made in implementation of the Maputo Protocol and concluding observations</li> </ul>



No.	Stakeholder	Stakeholder Expectations	SOAWR's Expectations
3.	<b>Development Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery on the Strategic Plan and attendant activities</li> <li>• Regular information and updates on achievements, challenges and opportunities</li> <li>• Timely reporting</li> <li>• SOAWR's continued operation as a collective</li> <li>• SOAWR to address sustainability of interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial and technical (where needed and appropriate) support</li> <li>• Linkages for potential partnerships</li> <li>• Consult and be guided by SOAWR's expertise and insights</li> <li>• Full commitment to supporting implementation of the Protocol and the Coalition's agenda</li> </ul>
4.	<b>National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) / Gender Commissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborations/ partnerships/ follow-ups and advocacy missions</li> <li>• Information sharing and regular updates towards enhancing partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear understanding and use of the Protocol</li> <li>• Follow-ups with governments and regular information sharing</li> <li>• Strategic partnerships on the Coalition's agenda</li> <li>• Holding states accountable</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Non-State Actors (NSAs)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Religious</li> <li>• Private Sector</li> <li>• Trade Unions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing</li> <li>• Strategic partnerships</li> <li>• Capacity enhancement on women's rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic partnerships</li> <li>• Proper and objective information sharing</li> <li>• Tracking of state obligations</li> <li>• Highlighting women and girls' rights issues, developments etc</li> <li>• Advocacy and popularization on the Maputo Protocol in their spheres</li> <li>• Support SOAWR engagements and explore synergy with the Coalition</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Women and Girls in all their diversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solidarity</li> <li>• Inclusion in national engagements</li> <li>• Consultation</li> <li>• Advocacy on issues affecting them</li> <li>• Awareness raising and capacity enhancement on their entitlements under the Protocol</li> <li>• SOAWR to represent and act on their behalf e.g. through strategic litigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solidarity</li> <li>• Raising issues that affect them and information sharing</li> <li>• Utilisation of information from SOAWR to advocate for their rights</li> <li>• Undertake advocacy at the local, provincial and national level</li> <li>• Organise and build movements</li> <li>• Hold governments accountable on inaction related to implementation of the Maputo Protocol</li> </ul>





# 3

## CHAPTER THREE

# THE SOAWR STRATEGY 2020 - 2024

### 3.1 2024 Strategic Focus

The Strategic focus of SOAWR over the next five years shall externally be: Ratification, Domestication and Implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

Internally the focus shall be: Solidarity consolidation among SOAWR members in order to be a highly effective and leading women's rights coalition in Africa;

### 3.2 2020-2024 Strategy Map & Theory of Change

#### Theory of Change

##### *States*

IF we lobby and partner with governments and regional bodies in Africa to put in place progressive policies, laws and procedures and repeal retrogressive ones, through ratification, domestication, implementation and accountability as in the Maputo Protocol in a coordinated manner under the solidarity and partnership with our global friends;

##### *Society*

AND engage communities and socialisation agents and forces through dialogue, awareness creation and education on the negative impacts of discrimination, marginalisation and violation of women's rights;

THEN we will create an environment, programs, practices and budgetary allocations that will see the sustainable changes in behaviour, protection and promotion of women's rights;

AND this will lead to societies where women enjoy their rights and equality, where discrimination is not tolerated and hence the dignity, progress, peace and prosperity of women, families and communities all across Africa is upheld.





**VISION:**

African women fully enjoy their rights as provided for under the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa



**MISSION:**

Hold African Union Member States accountable to fulfil their obligations under the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and encourage other stakeholders to actively apply the Protocol for the promotion of the rights of women



**KEY RESULT AREAS (KRAS)**



Domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol



Universal ratification



Accountability



Popularization of the Maputo Protocol



Strengthen the SOAWR coalition and support movement building

**APPROACHES**



Awareness creation



Advocacy and lobbying



Local and international litigation



Research, Policy Analysis and dissemination



In-country monitoring and reporting

**Expected Outcomes**

Enabling laws, policies, budgeting and programs to implement the Maputo Protocol in member states

Universal ratification of the Maputo Protocol

Responsiveness and accountability of Member states in advancing women and girls rights

Maputo Protocol is extensively popularized, embraced and applied in the members states

A vibrant and celebrated SOAWR coalition leading a strong women rights movement across Africa



African women and girls' rights enhanced and protected, their lived experiences greatly transformed and the dignity of more secured



Promotion of women and girls rights as outlined in the Maputo Protocol institutionalised in all member states.

**I M P A C T S**

**SOAWR CORE VALUES**

Equality and non discrimination • Solidarity • Dignity • Diversity • Courage • Peer accountability • Freedom



### 3.3 SOAWR Strategy Goals (Key Result Areas)

- i) Domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol by states in order to transform women's lived realities in Africa.
- ii) Ratification of the Maputo Protocol in 13 African states thereby ensuring universal ratification.
- iii) Enhanced state accountability to ensure fulfilment of state obligations under the Maputo Protocol.
- iv) Popularisation and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol.
- v) Strengthened SOAWR Coalition.

### 3.4 Strategy Outcomes and Impact 2020 – 2024

#### Outcomes

- i) Member States support and adopt laws, policies, budgets and programmes and provide financial resources to promote the implementation of the Maputo Protocol;
- ii) The remaining 13 African States ratify the Maputo Protocol and ensure its universal ratification;
- iii) Member States and communities are highly responsive and accountable in advancing the rights of women and girls as provided for in the Maputo Protocol;
- iv) The Maputo Protocol is extensively popularised, embraced and applied in the Member States in advancing women's rights across the continent; and
- v) A vibrant and celebrated SOAWR coalition leading a strong women's rights movement across Africa;

#### Impacts

- African women and girls' rights are further enhanced and protected, resulting in a positive transformation of their lived experiences and the dignity of more women and girls secured;
- Continental power and decision-making structures are shifted towards increased recognition of the place and contribution of women and women's rights organisations as evident through institutionalization of promotion of women and girls' rights as per the Maputo Protocol.



### 3.5 Strategic Objectives

	Strategic Goal	Strategic Objectives
1.	KRA 1: Domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol by states in order to transform women’s lived realities in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To support state actors in implementation of the Maputo Protocol through legal and policy reform and other measures</li> <li>b) To influence gender responsive country-level budgetary reform</li> </ul>
2.	KRA 2: Ratification of the Maputo Protocol in 13 African states thereby ensuring universal ratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To influence the ratification of the Maputo Protocol without reservations in 13 AU Member States</li> <li>b) To undertake advocacy targeted at lifting of undermining reservations towards full implementation</li> </ul>
3.	KRA 3: Enhanced state accountability to ensure fulfilment of state obligations under the Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To undertake and promote litigation on the Maputo Protocol and promote state compliance with decisions</li> <li>b) To promote state reporting of the Maputo Protocol and undertake shadow reporting</li> </ul>
4.	KRA 4: Popularisation and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To enhance the visibility of, dialogue on and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol and its General Comments among state and non-state actors</li> </ul>
5.	KRA 5: Strengthened SOAWR coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To strengthen SOAWR’s solidarity, coherence and institutional effectiveness</li> <li>b) To enhance SOAWR’s networking, partnership and communication capabilities</li> </ul>

### 3.6 Strategic Objectives and Strategies

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
<b>KRA 1: Domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol by states in order to transform women’s lived realities in Africa</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To support state actors in implementation of the Maputo Protocol through legal and policy reform and other measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying of relevant actors towards legal and policy implementation</li> <li>• Strengthen SOAWR multi-sectoral approach</li> <li>• To track and document state implementation of the Maputo Protocol at national and continental levels</li> </ul>



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
b) To influence gender responsive country-level budgetary reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance SOAWR members' capacity to influence gender responsive budgeting</li> <li>• Advocate for and influence gender responsive budgets at country level</li> <li>• Influence states to undertake evidence and data building on thematic women's rights issues under the Maputo Protocol</li> </ul>
<b>KRA 2: Ratification of the Maputo Protocol in 13 African states thereby ensuring universal ratification</b>	
a) To influence the ratification of the Maputo Protocol without reservations in the remaining 13 AU Member States with minimal or no substantive reservations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a continental ratification agenda</li> </ul>
b) To undertake advocacy targeted at lifting of undermining reservations towards full implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake regional and national advocacy targeted at lifting reservations that undermine the objectives of the Maputo Protocol</li> </ul>
<b>KRA 3: Enhanced state accountability to ensure fulfilment of state obligations under the Protocol</b>	
a) To undertake and promote litigation on the Maputo Protocol and promote state compliance with decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance continental actors' ability to undertake women's rights litigation under the Maputo Protocol</li> <li>• Promote judicial utilisation of the Maputo Protocol</li> <li>• Advocate for state compliance with judicial decisions on the Maputo Protocol</li> </ul>
b) To promote state reporting of the Maputo Protocol and undertake shadow and alternative reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and facilitate state reporting</li> <li>• Enhance SOAWR members' capability to undertake effective shadow/ alternative reporting and monitor implementation of concluding observations</li> <li>• Develop the capacity of non-state actors to document women's rights issues</li> </ul>
<b>KRA 4: Popularisation and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol</b>	
a) To enhance the visibility of, dialogue on and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol among non-state actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support non-state actors in developing and implementing initiatives to popularise and utilise the Maputo Protocol</li> <li>• Enhance state actors understanding and application of the Maputo Protocol</li> <li>• Enhance the utilisation of the Maputo Protocol at the sub-regional level</li> </ul>



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
<b>KRA 5: Strengthened SOAWR coalition</b>	
a) To strengthen SOAWR solidarity, coherence and institutional effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance solidarity among SOAWR members</li> <li>• Strengthen the quality of SOAWR membership</li> <li>• Expand SOAWR's continental presence</li> <li>• SOAWR steering committee, members and secretariat mobilise resources towards supporting SOAWR's strategic plan</li> <li>• Enhance the influence and effectiveness SOAWR's advocacy on the Maputo Protocol</li> <li>• Strengthen SOAWR knowledge management and documentation</li> </ul>
b) To enhance SOAWR's networking, partnership and communication capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build and sustain strategic partnerships and networks</li> <li>• Enhance SOAWR's identity, image and visibility</li> </ul>

# 4

## CHAPTER FOUR

# THE 2020-2024 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, EVALUATION & LEARNING MATRIX

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
<b>KEY RESULT AREA 1: Domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol by states in order to transform women's lived realities in Africa</b>					
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To support state actors in implementation of the Maputo Protocol through legal and policy reform and other measures</b>					
1.1.1 Lobbying of relevant actors towards legal and policy implementation	Conduct country-level mapping studies to assess domestication priorities, gaps and actors in conformity with the Maputo Protocol	Laws, policies and other government measures domesticating the Maputo Protocol	SOAWR implementation and domestication action plan	2020/2021	SOAWR Members
	Develop an in-country legal and policy implementation agenda		SOAWR legal and policy implementation agenda	2021	SOAWR Members
	Convene lobby meetings for law/policy makers at country and regional levels		Meeting report(s)	2021 - 2023	SOAWR Members SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Secretariat
	Organize briefing and dialogue missions to countries and regional bodies		Policy briefs/ Aide-memoires	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Secretariat SOAWR Members



STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
1.1.2 Strengthen SOAWR multi-sectoral approach	Conduct regional-level assessments and map out countries targeted for MSA engagement	Prioritised Maputo Protocol implementation coordination and action plans towards domestication	SOAWR MSA Regional Action Plan	Phase 1: 2020-2022 Phase 2: 2022 - 2024	SOAWR Members
	Convene regional MSA working group to coordinate MSA trainings and consultative meetings		Regional MSA team meetings convened and MSA mission reports	Continuous	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Secretariat SOAWR Members
	Conduct follow-up missions in previously MSA-trained countries		MSA mission reports	Continuous	SOAWR Members
	Monitoring and tracking domestication actions of MSA-trained countries		MSA National Tracking Reports	2024	SOAWR Members
	Facilitate the formation of country-level Task Force on the Implementation of the Maputo Protocol		Task Force on the Implementation of the Maputo Protocol briefing reports	Continuous	SOAWR Members
	Convene CSO trainings on the MSA approach & enhanced monitoring of Maputo Protocol implementation	Enhanced ability of civil society to monitor state obligations	Training reports	2021 - 2024	SOAWR Members
1.1.3 To track and document state implementation of the Maputo Protocol at national and continental levels	Develop and implement an implementation tracking plan at continental and national levels	Enhanced commitment and Member States responsive to their obligations	SOAWR state of implementation monitoring report series	Annual	SOAWR Members
	Develop an annual score card		Annual score card(s)	Annual	SOAWR Steering Committee



STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: To influence gender responsive country-level budgetary reform</b>					
1.1.1 Enhance SOAWR members' capacity to influence gender responsive budgeting	Prepare a gender responsive budgeting guide/curriculum	SOAWR members able to influence gender budgeting	SOAWR gender budgeting guide/ curriculum	2020/2021	SOAWR Steering Committee
	Organise regional gender responsive budgeting trainings for SOAWR members		Gender budgeting training reports	2021 - 2022	SOAWR Steering Committee
1.1.2 Advocate for and influence gender responsive budgets at country level	Explore partnerships to develop national-level gender responsive budgeting agenda	Country budgets are responsive to women and girls' needs	SOAWR gender responsive budgeting action plans (per country)	2023 - 2024	SOAWR Members
	Hold lobbying activities for ministries of finance and parliamentary budget committees		Gender responsive budgets policy briefs	2021 - 2024	SOAWR Members
1.2.3 Influence states to undertake evidence and data building on thematic women's rights issues under the Maputo Protocol	Lobby state actors to generate reliable, current and gender responsive data	States develop gender responsive data on women's rights	Advocacy memoranda to states	2023 - 2024	SOAWR Members



STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
<b>KEY RESULT AREA 2: Ratification of the Maputo Protocol in 13 African states thereby ensuring universal ratification</b>					
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To influence the ratification of the Maputo Protocol without reservations in 13 AU Member States with no reservations</b>					
2.1.1 Develop and implement a continental ratification agenda	Organize lobby, dialogue and ratification missions to countries (in partnership with the AU/ led by SOAWR)	Universal ratification of the Maputo Protocol realised	Aide-memoires, Mission reports and Ratification instrument(s)	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members
	Organize lobby, dialogue and ratification missions to relevant regional and sub-regional bodies		Aide-memoires and Mission reports	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: To undertake advocacy targeted at lifting of undermining reservations towards full implementation</b>					
2.2.1 Undertake regional and national advocacy targeted at lifting reservations that undermine the objectives of the Maputo Protocol	Lobby the AG's/ Minister of Justice office towards legislative or such other action towards lifting of the reservation  Consider: In addition, for monist countries, lobby parliament for lifting of reservations  Engage ministerial actors (technical/ inter-ministerial taskforces) working on treaty implementation on lifting of reservations	Removal of reservations achieved	Legal opinion and outcome report of the advocacy meetings  Legal opinion and outcome report(s) of the advocacy meetings	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members  SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members





STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
<b>KEY RESULT AREA 3: Enhanced state accountability to ensure fulfilment of state obligations under the Protocol</b>					
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To undertake and promote litigation on the Maputo Protocol and promote state compliance with decisions</b>					
1.1.1 Enhance continental actors' ability to undertake women's rights litigation under the Maputo Protocol	Carry out litigation trainings and legal mobilisation conscientisation activities for SOAWR members, regional lawyers' membership organisation and other relevant actors	Increased litigation of the Maputo Protocol for women's rights protection	Training reports Court documents	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Members
	Support SOAWR members towards case building and institution of strategic litigation cases on the Maputo Protocol		Cases filed in courts Case progress reports	2021 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members
3.1.2 Promote judicial utilisation of the Maputo Protocol	Convene judicial dialogues at the regional, sub-regional and national level on utilisation and adjudication of the Maputo Protocol	Enhanced utilisation of the Maputo Protocol in court decisions	Judicial dialogue reports	2021 - 2024	SOAWR Secretariat SOAWR Members
1.1.3 Advocate for state compliance with judicial decisions on the Maputo Protocol	Lobby for the adoption of an AU regional mechanism on implementation of decisions of international adjudicatory bodies	Enhanced state compliance with judicial decisions on the Maputo Protocol	Regional mechanism on implementation of decisions of international adjudicatory bodies or progress towards the same	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Members
	Lobby states (AG and Ministry of Justice) to report on compliance with judicial decisions		Aide-memoire Compliance updates	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Members



STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
	Carry out in-country awareness creation activities on Maputo Protocol decisions (including through media engagement)		Awareness creation activity reports	2020 – 2024	SOAWR Members
	Carry out collaborative initiatives with NHRIs, gender commissions and other civil society actors		MOUs Outcome documents	2020 – 2024	SOAWR Members
	Generate annual reports on implementation of recommendations and decisions based on the Protocol		Annual report(s)	2020 – 2024	SOAWR Members
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: To promote state reporting of the Maputo Protocol and undertake shadow and alternative reporting</b>					
1.1.1 Promote and facilitate state reporting	Conduct trainings on state reporting of the Maputo Protocol	Improved frequency and quality of state reports	State reporting training reports	2020 – 2024	SOAWR Members
1.1.2 Enhance SOAWR members' ability to undertake effective shadow/alternative reporting and monitor implementation of concluding observations	Conducts SOAWR member trainings on shadow/alternative reporting & monitoring concluding observations	Increased frequency and quality of shadow/alternative and state reports Enhanced state compliance	CSO training reports	2020 – 2024	SOAWR Secretariat SOAWR Members
1.1.3 Develop the capacity of non-state actors to document women's rights issues	Develop a SOAWR research and analysis agenda (regional: national: thematic)	Increased capacity of SOAWR members to document women's rights issues	SOAWR Research and analysis agenda document	2020 – 2024	SOAWR Members SOAWR Secretariat



STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
<b>KEY RESULT AREA 4: Popularisation and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol</b>					
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To enhance the visibility of, dialogue on and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol and its General Comments among state and non-state actors</b>					
1.1.1 Support non-state actors in developing and implementing initiatives to popularise and utilise the Maputo Protocol	Carry out needs assessment and identify priority in-country Maputo Protocol themes and actors (popularisation agenda)	Increased reference and reliance on the Maputo Protocol by non-state actors at the country-level	SOAWR popularisation agenda	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members
	Carry out advocacy trainings for non-state actors on utilisation of the Maputo Protocol including branding of Maputo Protocol initiatives		Advocacy training reports Branded Maputo Protocol initiatives	2021 - 2024	SOAWR Members
	Hold flagship thematic national campaign initiatives including multi-sectoral dialogue forums	Increased awareness and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol among state actors	Campaign and dialogue initiative reports	2021 - 2024	SOAWR Members
4.1.2 Enhance state actors understanding and application of the Maputo Protocol	Convene high-level inter-ministerial and inter-agency trainings on the Maputo Protocol and state reporting (under the MSA activity)		High-level training report	2021 - 2022	SOAWR Members
	Develop a state-driven Maputo Protocol dissemination and popularisation plan in collaboration with state actors (such as the Task Force on the Implementation of the Maputo Protocol)		Maputo Protocol dissemination plan and report	2021 - 2022	SOAWR Members



STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
4.1.3 Enhance the utilisation of the Maputo Protocol at the sub-regional level	Engage identified REC actors in dialogue & technical support to assess and advocate for utilisation of the Protocol	Increased awareness and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol among state actors			SOAWR Members SOAWR Steering Committee

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
<b>KEY RESULT AREA 5: Strengthened SOAWR coalition</b>					
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To strengthen SOAWR solidarity, coherence and institutional effectiveness</b>					
1.1.1 Enhance solidarity among SOAWR members	Hold regular regional reflections, dialogue and thematic action among SOAWR members	Enhanced solidarity among SOAWR coalition	Regional dialogue reports	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members
	Undertake membership outreach visits and solidarity missions		Member visit and mission briefing reports	As required	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members
1.1.2 Strengthen the quality of SOAWR membership	Convene Maputo Protocol ideological member dialogue training and technical learning platforms (in-person or online)	Responsiveness and commitment of SOAWR members enhanced	Training reports	Rolling-basis	SOAWR Steering Committee
	Review existing SOAWR governance, operational and membership structures		Outcome report	2020	SOAWR Steering Committee
1.1.3 Expand SOAWR's continental presence	Recruit and induct SOAWR members particularly in Central and North Africa	Enhanced legitimacy, clout and SOAWR influence across the continent	New member organisations	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee



STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
1.1.4 SOAWR steering committee, members & secretariat mobilise resources towards supporting SOAWR's strategic plan	Develop and implement a resource mobilisation strategy	Enhanced ability to deliver on strategic agenda	Resource mobilisation strategy	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Secretariat
1.1.5 Enhance the influence and effectiveness SOAWR's advocacy on the Maputo Protocol	Develop and implement a SOAWR advocacy strategy	Enhanced ability to influence the Maputo Protocol agenda	SOAWR advocacy strategy	2020	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Secretariat
1.1.6 Strengthen SOAWR knowledge management and documentation	Develop a knowledge management and documentation strategy	Strengthened SOAWR documentation, knowledge and learning	SOAWR knowledge management and documentation strategy	2020	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Secretariat
	Prepare and consolidate SOAWR reports: SOAWR annual continental and regional report; SOAWR half-year member reports		SOAWR annual continental report SOAWR annual regional report SOAWR half-year member report	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Secretariat



STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TIMELINES	RESPONSIBLE ACTOR
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: To enhance SOAWR's networking, partnership and communication capabilities</b>					
1.1.1 Build and sustain strategic partnerships and networks	Develop a partnership and networking plan	Strengthened partnerships and networks	SOAWR partnership and networking plan	2020	SOAWR Steering Committee
	Conduct partnership sessions and forums with targeted intergovernmental, governmental, development partners, institutes and other relevant actors		Partnership MOUs Outcome reports	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee
	Provide opportunities for SOAWR members to interact and network with relevant external actors		Briefing reports	2020- 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members
5.2.2 Enhance SOAWR's identity, image and visibility	Develop and implement SOAWR's communications strategy	Enhanced SOAWR visibility and credibility	SOAWR Communications Strategy	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Secretariat SOAWR Steering Committee SOAWR Members
	Develop and implement SOAWR's branding plan		SOAWR Branding plan	2020 - 2024	SOAWR Steering Committee
	Update the SOAWR website to reflect its current identity and plans		Updated SOAWR website	2021 - 2022	SOAWR Secretariat



# Annex 1: SOAWR THEMATIC AREAS

## SOAWR THEMATIC AREAS

### A Normative and Situational Scope of Women's Rights in Africa (as at December 2019)

#### Key continental treaties on women's and girls' rights

- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)
- African Charter on the Rights & Welfare of the Child
- African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa (Protocol on Older Persons)

#### Other African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Instruments for Women's Rights

- General Comment No.1 on Women and HIV (General Comments on Article 14 (1) (d) and (e) of the Maputo Protocol)
- General Comment No. 2 on sexual and reproductive health rights (General Comment on Articles 14(1)(a), (b), (c) and (f) and articles 14(2)(a) and (c) of the Maputo Protocol)
- Joint General Comment on Child Marriage of the Maputo Protocol and African Children's Charter
- Guidelines on combatting sexual violence and its consequences in Africa

#### Other relevant commitments:

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Agenda 2063
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA)



Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
<p><b>1. Equality / Non-discrimination</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 2 of the Maputo Protocol commits states to combating all forms of forms of discrimination against women through appropriate legislation, gender mainstreaming, strategies and other necessary measures.</li> <li>Under Article 8 of the Protocol, women are ensured equality under <b>the law</b> with the right to equal protection and benefits.</li> <li>Article 9 commits states to promote the <b>equal participation of women in governance</b>.</li> <li>Article 12 outlines state parties commitment to eliminating all forms of discrimination and ensuring equal access to <b>education</b> for all women and girls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There continues to be a significant increase in <b>government sponsored women's equality initiatives</b>, with several African countries showing an active effort to adopt an integrated gendered lens when creating and implementing new policies.</li> <li>All five regional economic communities, ECOWA, EAC, IGAD, SADC and COMESA have normative frameworks on gender equality and/or women and girls' right in place.</li> <li>Over the last years, most States have adopted gender policies or put in place a type of gender machinery such as a ministry of gender or Ministry of Women's Affairs.</li> <li>As a result of quota provisions, there has been a considerable increase of female representation in decision-making bodies throughout the continent. To date, 25 out of 54 countries have adopted legislative gender parity provision. Others have gone even further to include gender parity law in their constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In countries who have created or enhanced structures aimed at combating discrimination against women in all spheres, many still lack clear mandates and responsibilities, influence over government policy, and the financial means to achieve their objectives.</li> <li>Several states lack laws that protect women from discrimination with 11% of countries in Southern Africa, 27% of in Eastern Africa, 29% in North Africa, and 57% in Central Africa failing to integrate non-discrimination provisions in national legislation. .</li> <li>Despite efforts in terms of legislation and policies adoption, women continue to be largely marginalized in both public and private bodies, due to the lack of laws and policies implementation and political commitment.</li> <li>Despite the provisions protecting women's access to the law, many continue to avoid formal justice systems for a range of reasons including fear of victimization and reprisal, a lack of understanding of complex legal processes, and biases amongst court officials.</li> </ul>





Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
<p><b>2. Protection of women from violence (including FGM)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Maputo Protocol expansively provides for the <b>protection of women from violence</b> including sexual violence, trafficking of women, harmful practices, domestic violence, sexual harassment and requires states to provide support to victims of violence, including health services and psychological counselling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A few countries (Ethiopia, South Africa and Rwanda) have achieved gender parity in their cabinets as women represent at least or more than 50%</li> <li>Programs aimed at alleviating barriers to education for women such as the elimination of school fees and providing menstrual health management services have increased in several countries.</li> <li>The specification of equal educational opportunities for girls and boys has become a popular provision in Constitutions throughout the continent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the biggest challenges in women political leadership is acceleration gains through direct election beyond the special seat system.</li> <li>The systems of accountability to hold our governments to account so that they can turn their commitment into actions to deliver on gender equality are very weak</li> <li>Negative social and cultural attitudes persist and practices such as early marriage and forced marriage prevent girls from or force them out of school.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Maputo Protocol expansively provides for the <b>protection of women from violence</b> including sexual violence, trafficking of women, harmful practices, domestic violence, sexual harassment and requires states to provide support to victims of violence, including health services and psychological counselling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Two thirds</b> of African countries have legal provisions regarding domestic violence.</li> <li><b>Three quarters</b> of African countries have legal provisions on sexual harassment with thirty-one of these countries having specific legislation on it, and twelve addressing sexual harassment in workplace-or education-related legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plural legal systems and continued contestations exist across the regions to <b>contradictions between codified and customary law</b>. These are linked to strong gender norms and attitudes that constrain women and girls' control over their bodies, sexuality and reproductive functions, and tolerate child marriage and/or FGM.</li> </ul>



Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3 of the Protocol specifically urges states to adopt and implement measures to protect women from all forms of violence, <b>particularly sexual and verbal violence.</b></li> <li>Article 4 compels states to <b>identify</b> the causes and consequences of violence against women, <b>penalize</b> the perpetrators of said violence, and actively <b>promote</b> peace education.</li> <li>Article 5 of the Maputo Protocol specifically <b>prohibits 'all forms of female genital mutilation,</b> scarification, medicalization and para-medicalization of female genital cutting and all other practices in order to eradicate them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The majority of African countries have industrialized at least one law on human trafficking however implementing these laws remains a widespread challenge</li> <li>About <b>half—that is, 27</b> countries—have a programmatic response or action to end FGM. This includes almost all countries in the Western region and two thirds in Eastern region countries.</li> <li>About <b>three out of five countries</b> have a statutory law prohibiting FGM specifically.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many forms of GVAW continue to be accepted among both women and men in African countries, owing to persisting gender norms, beliefs and practices that tolerate or justify GVAW.</li> <li><b>Three out of five</b> African countries do not criminalize marital rape. In at least 40 countries, marital rape is not prohibited. In addition to the many African countries that do not outlaw marital rape, there are also a few countries that explicitly exclude marital rape from the definition of rape. These then effectively allow unconsensual sexual acts within wedlock, which goes against the Maputo Protocol provision to prohibit unwanted or unconsensual sex in the private sphere.</li> <li><b>Eighteen countries</b> have legislation on domestic violence and sexual harassment but do not criminalize marital rape.</li> <li>The lack of comprehensive legal frameworks and holistic approaches to violence against women in most countries remains a critical gap and has only amplified the existing barriers.</li> </ul>





Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The majority of the countries have a law on <b>human trafficking</b> in place. Only six lack such a legal framework: Comoros, Congo Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. In terms of implementation, none of the African countries is meeting the minimum standards on the elimination of trafficking in persons, and they hence fall short in terms of the prohibition and prosecution of severe forms of trafficking in persons and/or their efforts to eliminate these forms of trafficking.</li><li>• FGM practices remain extremely high on the continent, with reports showing that half the countries on the continent have an <b>80% or higher prevalence</b>.</li></ul>



Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
<p><b>3. Rights relating to marriage (including Child Marriage)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Child marriage</b> is prohibited under the Maputo Protocol, with Article 6 stipulating that the minimum age of marriage for women shall be 18 years.</li> <li>• Under Article 6 of the Maputo Protocol State Parties are responsible for ensuring that <b>men and women are regarded as equals</b> in all aspects of marriage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of <b>33 countries</b> have launched national plans to end child marriage, most prominently in Western Africa (in only half of the countries in Southern, Central and Northern Africa).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight in ten countries set the legal age of marriage at 18. But there are <b>legal loopholes</b> in 34 of the 45 countries that have a legal age of marriage at 18, in the sense of not having guaranteed full and free consent and/or that the legal age of marriage applies to customary and religious marriages as well.</li> <li>• Full and free consent of the marrying parties is not guaranteed in a total of 36 African countries.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 7 ensures that all parties involved in a marriage have the same rights in cases of <b>separation, divorce or annulment</b>.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nine countries where the legal age at marriage is lower than 18 also do not explicitly guarantee full and free consent.</li> <li>• Women are disproportionately denied their inheritance rights and the practice of wife inheritance in countries such as South Africa, Kenya Malawi and Zimbabwe</li> </ul>





Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
<p><b>4. Health &amp; Reproductive rights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol extends absolute autonomy to women in <b>all matters related to sexual and reproductive health</b> including the right to control fertility, contraceptive methods, family-planning education, and HIV/AIDS education and protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Twenty-two countries have legal guarantees to access safe abortion</b> on the four grounds specified in the Maputo Protocol.</li> <li>Eight in ten have <b>constitutionalized the right to health</b> for women and girls.</li> <li>Three countries provide for access to safe abortion on three grounds articulated in the Maputo Protocol: when the life or the health of the woman is in danger and in case of sexual assault, rape or incest.</li> <li><b>Twenty-six</b> countries have legislation both ensuring non-discrimination on the basis of HIV and ensuring voluntary testing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>lack of comprehensive legal frameworks on reproductive rights and SRH</b>, which also are uneven and vary in what they cover and their rights-based orientation. This results in weak or absent legal provisions and guarantees for women and girls on their reproductive rights and non-discriminatory access to SRH services</li> <li>In most countries, SRH is addressed in a policy or strategic framework. These tend to place less emphasis on rights-based approaches to women and girls' reproductive rights and rights to non-discriminatory access to SRH services.</li> </ul>



Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A quarter of the African countries have highly restrictive</b> abortion laws. Six countries prohibit abortion under any condition, which means it can only occur on grounds of necessity (Congo Republic, DRC, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal). Another nine countries allow for access to safe abortion only when the life of the mother is in danger (Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan).</li> <li>• Provision of good quality, integrated and fully compulsory <b>comprehensive sexuality education</b> is not yet realized,</li> <li>• Thirty-one countries spend less than 5% of their annual budget on health.</li> <li>• Whereas many policies and strategic plans make a more or less elaborate reference to HIV prevalence among women and addressing gender differences or the underlying gender relations that contribute to the disproportionate effect of HIV among women and girls.</li> <li>• There is a bias in HIV testing towards pregnant women, and in some cases sex workers; this is often the case in practice, and sometimes also in legal regulations.</li> </ul>



Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
<p>5. <b>Economic, social and cultural rights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 13 of the Maputo Protocol guarantees women <b>equal opportunities</b> in work, career advancement, and other economic advancements.</li> <li>Article 15 ensures that women have the right to <b>adequate and nutritious food</b>.</li> <li>Article 16 extends the right to equal <b>access to housing</b> and to acceptable living conditions in a healthy environment.</li> <li>Article 17 outlines that right to live and participate in <b>positive cultural contexts</b>.</li> <li>Article 19 obliges states to ensure women can fully enjoy their right to sustainable development including the <b>right to property</b>; access to land and credit; control over natural resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Two-thirds</b> of women on the continent participate in the labour force, with a majority claiming self-employment.</li> <li>sub-Saharan Africa has the <b>highest rate of reform initiatives</b> aimed at promoting gender equality in the economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The average African country continues to give women half the legal rights of men in cases of property ownership.</li> <li>Low literacy levels have significantly disadvantaged women trying to advance their careers.</li> <li>Despite four-fifths of the food on the continent being produced by women, poverty and underpaid, substandard jobs continue to importunately impact living conditions and quality of life for women.</li> </ul>



Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
<p><b>6. Rights to peace &amp; protection from armed conflict</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 10 of the Maputo Protocol ensures the right to a peaceful existence specifically detailing increased <b>participation in peace and conflict prevention and management.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost <b>4 in 10 countries</b> have created National Action Plans (NAP) that specifically recognize the impacts of armed conflict on women. These NAP's outline measures aimed at including women in peace processes, providing social services for victims of gender-based violence, and increasing budgets for protective services during conflict periods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While many countries have expressed interest in new NAP, these efforts have stalled while others have been stopped due to non-prioritization and budgetary constraints.</li> <li>Refugee camps throughout the continent continue to lack adequate services, facilities, and protections for women leaving them vulnerable to gender based violence, human trafficking, and disease.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 11 extends <b>protection for asylum seekers, refugees, and internally displaced women</b> as well as ensures all violators will be reprimanded. The article also protects women and girls from being taken hostage in armed conflicts.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peace and conflict prevention structures are often dominated by males which has led to the marginalization of women in post-conflict dialogue and conflict management programming.</li> </ul>





Thematic Area	Relevant Protection and Normative Standards	Progress	Challenges/Threats
<p>7. <b>Rights of specifically protected women's groups</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articles 20 &amp; 21 of the Maputo Protocol obligate states to provide <b>equal protection for widows to familial inheritance</b> and ensures the right to remarry, claim custody over any children, and enjoy any and all human rights.</li> <li>Article 22 ensures that all <b>elderly women</b> are given specific and unique protections.</li> <li>Article 23 extends protection to <b>women with disabilities</b> and ensures that states take specific measures to ensure equality in all realms.</li> <li>Article 24 mandates that states take specific action to ensure the protection of marginalized groups including poor women, women headed households, and women pregnant or nursing while in detention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There has been a marginal rise in state sponsored measures aimed at protecting women with disabilities with countries such as Cameroon and Kenya adopting work quotes and training for women with disabilities.</li> <li>Since its adoption in 2016, the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons has been signed by fourteen countries: Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Togo, Benin, Comoros, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Zambia, but only two countries have ratified the Protocol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite slow changes, women with disabilities continue to face various barriers including educational, employment, and healthcare challenges.</li> <li>In Northern Africa, a majority of countries continue to have inheritance and property laws that unequally distribute assets among men and women.</li> <li>Widows continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups on the continent, with a majority experiencing social exclusion.</li> </ul>



## Annex 2: LIST OF SOAWR MEMBERS

### CENTRAL AFRICA

No.	Member Organization	Location
01	Collectif des Associations et ONGS Féminines de Burundi (CAFOB)	Burundi
02	Women Counselling and Information Centre	Cameroon
03	Women Peace Initiatives Association	Cameroon
04	Women's Advocacy and Communication Network (WANET)	Cameroon

### EASTERN AFRICA

No.	Member Organization	Location
01	Action for Development (ACFODE)	Uganda
02	Center for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)	Uganda
03	Centre for Justice Studies and Innovations (CJSI)	Uganda
04	Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW)	Kenya
05	Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI)	Uganda
06	Federation of Women Lawyers Kenya (FIDA-Kenya)	Kenya
07	Great Lakes Initiative for Human Rights and Development (GLIHD)	Rwanda
08	Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists	Kenya
09	Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)	Tanzania
10	Reproductive Health and Rights Alliance (RHRA)	Kenya
11	Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA)	Sudan and Uganda
12	Support the Empowerment of Women and their Rights for Development (STEWARWOMEN)	South Sudan



No.	Member Organization	Location
13	The Network Against Female Genital Mutilation [NAFGEM]	Tanzania
14	Tomorrow's Child Initiative (TCI)	Kenya
15	Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)	Uganda
16	Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti (UNFD)	Djibouti

### NORTHERN AFRICA

No.	Member Organization	Location
01	KADIRAT	Tunisia
02	The Association of Egyptian Female Lawyers (AEFL)	Egypt

### SOUTHERN AFRICA

No.	Member Organization	Location
01	Forum Mulher	Mozambique
02	Girl Child Network (GCN)	Zimbabwe
03	NGO Gender Coordination Network (NGOGCN)	Malawi
04	People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)	South Africa
05	Sister Namibia	Namibia
06	Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre (TLAC)	South Africa
07	Women and Law Southern Africa (WLSA)	Zambia
08	Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)	Zambia



## WESTERN AFRICA

No.	Member Organization	Location
01	Alliances for Africa	Nigeria
02	Association des Juristes Maliennes (AJM)	Mali
03	Association des Juristes Sénégalaises	Senegal
04	BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights	Nigeria
05	Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratiques Traditionnelles Affectant la Santé des Femmes et des Enfants (CPTAFE)	Guinea
06	Human Rights Law Service (HURILAWS)	Nigeria
07	Question des Femme	Togo
08	Réseau Inter-Africain des Femmes, Médias, Genre et Développement/Inter-African Network For Women, Media, Gender and Development (FAMEDEV)	Senegal
09	Voix de Femmes	Burkina Faso
10	Women NGO's Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL)	Liberia
11	Women of Liberia Peace Network (WOLPNET)	Liberia
12	Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternatives (WRAPA)	Nigeria
13	Young Liberian Women Organization For Improvement (WOFIM)	Liberia

## REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

No.	Member Organization	Location
01	African Centre for Democracy And Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)	The Gambia
02	African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)	Kenya
03	African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)	Ghana
04	Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA)	Uganda



No.	Member Organization	Location
05	Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR)	Kenya
06	Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVr)	South Africa
07	Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI)	Uganda
08	FAHAMU Networks for Social Justice	Kenya and Senegal
09	Inter-African Committee (IAC)	Guinea/ Ethiopia
10	Ipas Africa Alliance for Women's Reproductive Health and Rights	Kenya
11	Make Every Woman Count	Guinea
12	Oxfam GB	Kenya
13	University of Pretoria Centre for Human Rights	South Africa

#### SECRETARIAT

No.	Member Organization	Location
01	Equality Now	Kenya

#### RESPONSIBLE FOR SOAWR COMMUNICATIONS

No.	Member Organization	Location
01	Make Every Woman Count	Guinea



