Abridged
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
THE SOAWR STRATEGIC DIRECTION
2020-2024

About 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 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.

SOAWR Structure

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 realize full equality and 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 of 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 and commitment and accountability internally and by Member States, transformation will be slow to achieve.

SOAWR Working Areas

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. 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 solider (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)

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.
SOAWR 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 in 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, marginalization 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.

SOAWR Strategy Goals (Key Result Areas)

KRA 1 - Domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol by states in order to transform women’s lived realities in Africa.

KRA 2 - Ratification of the Maputo Protocol in 13 African states thereby ensuring universal ratification.

KRA 3 - Enhanced state accountability to ensure fulfilment of state obligations under the Maputo Protocol.

KRA 4 - Popularisation and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol.

KRA 5 - Strengthened SOAWR Coalition.
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;

v) A vibrant and celebrated SOAWR Coalition leading a strong women rights movement across Africa.

Impacts

i) 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;

ii) 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.
### SOAWR KEY RESULT AREAS (KRAs) & PRIORITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advocacy and Agenda Setting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Advocacy and lobbying</strong></td>
<td><strong>Accountability strategies</strong></td>
<td><strong>Awareness creation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Solidarity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support state actors in implementation of the Maputo Protocol through legal and policy reform and other measures</td>
<td>Influence the ratification of the Maputo Protocol in 13 AU Member States with minimal or no substantive reservations</td>
<td>Undertake and promote litigation on the Maputo Protocol</td>
<td>Enhance the visibility of, dialogue on and utilisation of the Maputo Protocol among non-state actors</td>
<td>Enhance solidarity and strengthen coherence among Coalition members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence gender responsive country-level budgetary reform</td>
<td>Undertake advocacy on state compliance with judicial decisions on the Maputo Protocol</td>
<td>Track and document state implementation of the Maputo Protocol at national and continental levels</td>
<td>Influence state actors to undertake public awareness as required in the Protocol</td>
<td>Strengthen SOAWR’s internal capabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popularise and enhance utilisation of the Maputo Protocol and its General Comments</td>
<td>Promote state reporting of the Maputo Protocol and undertake shadow/alternative reporting</td>
<td></td>
<td>Undertake evidence and data building on thematic women’s rights issues by non-state actors</td>
<td>Enhance SOAWR’s relational capabilities with external stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake advocacy targeted at lifting of undermining reservations towards full implementation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enhance the conceptual clarity of Coalition members around advocating for the Maputo Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Increase the Coalition’s membership, particularly in Central and North Africa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>