



REFADD'S POSITION PAPER ON THE CONSIDERATION OF THE DES GENDER AWARENESS AT THE TOP OF THE THREE BASINS OF BIO-DIVERSITY ECOSYSTEMS AND TROPICAL FORESTS IN BRAZZAVILLE - AND AT THE COP28 IN AI DUBAI

***Brazzaville from Oct. 26 to 28, and Dubai from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12,
2023***

The African Women's Network for Sustainable Development (REFADD),

A network specialising in gender issues and the empowerment of women in the sustainable management of natural resources in Central Africa, set up in 1998 in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, and active in the ten countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), through its national branches in Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, São Tomé & Príncipe and Chad: Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, São Tomé & Príncipe and Chad:

- ❖ *Meeting in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 19 to 22/09/2023, on the occasion of the sub-regional workshop to prepare and validate the advocacy documents for the aforementioned Three Basins Summit, under the leadership of COMIFAC and in compliance with the commitments made by the latter to support the Central African States, and partner organisations in the process of implementing the commitments signed by its member states, by adhering to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, in which all players involved in sensitive environmental areas are called upon to step up their actions in the fight against the harmful effects of climate change;*
- ❖ *Considering that the degradation of natural resources and climate change are environmental phenomena that threaten the living environment of humanity and diminish the socio-economic development efforts of countries in general, and those of developing countries in particular;*
- ❖ *Considering that the Three Basins Summit on Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forests to be held in Brazzaville will focus on regional and global forest governance, integrated investment plans, financial mechanisms, the carbon market and scientific*

cooperation;

- ❖ *Considering* also the wide range of issues that will be addressed at COP 28 in Dubai, such as the fair, orderly and equitable energy transition, the clean-up of climate financing, and taking account of nature, lives and livelihoods

- at the heart of climate action and, for the first time at a COP forum, COP28 will devote a day to health, relief, recovery and peace, bringing a human perspective to climate impacts;
- ❖ *Considering* that climate change, in addition to causing numerous conflicts around the world, has further aggravated the epidemic of gender-based violence and inequality;
 - ❖ *Considering* that the perceptible consequence of this situation is that women and young girls are exposed to more precarious situations when natural resources and agricultural production are under threat, while women make up more than half of the environmentally displaced people, together with young children, and are exposed to malnutrition and other health problems;
 - ❖ *Taking advantage of* the great opportunity offered to us by COMIFAC, through the GIZ Regional Support Project for COMIFAC, to take part in the two events in Brazzaville and Dubai :

We, African Women for Sustainable Development in Africa (REFADD), undertake to :

- ❖ *Participate in and defend the search for* gender-sensitive adaptation or mitigation *solutions that match our capabilities and address global climate issues;*
- ❖ *Develop and support advocacy in* favour of valuing and taking into account gender-specific sensitivities;
- ❖ *Raise awareness among the leaders of the Central African sub-region of the* need to strengthen or put in place equitable legal instruments for women's rights to access land in rural areas, women's inclusive vulnerability and household energy insecurity in the Congo Basin;
- ❖ *Raise international awareness of the* need to include women and girls from marginalised communities in the fight against climate change, because of their valuable local knowledge and their ability to reduce climate and environmental risks;
- ❖ *Promoting access to clean, affordable energy and* working for the energy transition as a means of reducing environmental impact;
- ❖ *Contribute to this by proposing the inclusion of gender in* energy transition policies, *promoting access to renewable energies in rural communities, building the capacities of young people and women, including indigenous women, promoting traditional know-how, and mobilising funding;*
- ❖ *Lobbying donors to* give African women access to climate finance, which has been available since the Earth Summit in 1992 but to which access remains low, even though financing mechanisms are available;
- ❖ *Uniting and pooling the activities of the network's country offices and building regional, international and global coalitions in the* fight against climate change to gain more effective access to international funding, in particular through the declaration by the COMIFAC countries known as FAIR-DEAL, signed at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021.

For achieve all of objectives above objectives, we request :

With donors and international partners of :

- *Support us* in our efforts to promote sustainable development and the empowerment of African populations, particularly women, by focusing on areas such as water, land, sexual violence, energy, land rights and partnerships;
- *To mobilise funding* for women's organisations in general and REFADD in particular, which is present in 10 countries in the Congo Basin, has numerous activities to its credit for the benefit of African women and is increasingly present in the field, with more than 25 years of existence and experience;
- *Establish transparent and reliable financial mechanisms*, avoiding corruption and directing payments directly to conservation operations and local communities;
- *Strengthen the trust* between them and us and establish solid partnerships.

The Central African sub-region of :

- *We also support* our efforts to promote sustainable development and the empowerment of African women, focusing on areas such as water, land, sexual violence, energy, land rights, women and partnerships ;
- *Implement* policies to secure land tenure for indigenous peoples and marginalised groups such as women and girls;
- *Strengthening* protection and support for victims of conflict-related sexual violence;
- *Promoting* the production of green energy and making energy accessible to all;
- *Advocating* recognition of customary land rights ;
- *Involve* Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) at all stages of community projects;
- *Raise awareness* of the energy transition and provide practical recommendations;
- *Advocate* for the safety of people living near protected areas.

Brazzaville, 28 September 2023,

The participants.