

**African Women's Political Leadership Conference:
Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies**
Brussels, October 8, 2008

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Palais d'Egmont – Place du Petit Sablon, 8 – 1000 Brussels

- 08h30** **Registration of participants**
- 09h00** **Welcome address**
Ambassador Raf VAN HELLEMONT, Director General, Egmont Institute
- 09h05** **Keynote speech**
Véronique ARNAULT, Director for Multilateral Relations at Directorate-General for the External Relations, on behalf of Benita FERRERO-WALDNER, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy
- 09h30** **Opening Plenary Meeting “Why Equal Political Participation and Leadership Matters to Democracy in Africa and Beyond?”**
- 09h30-10h45** **Panel session I: The Use of Gender Quotas to Promote Democratic Governance**
Moderator: Jacquelyne WEATHERSPOON, Technical Advisor UNDP
Discussion leaders:
Chandrika KUMARATUNGA, former President of Sri Lanka
Cassam UTEEM, Former President of Mauritius
Drude DAHLREUP, Professor of the University of Stockholm
Oladimeji BANKOLE, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nigeria
Bernadette LAHAI, Member of Parliament, Sierra Leone
Miguel Angel MARTINEZ MARTINEZ, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Spain
Questions & Answers session
- 10h45-11h15** **Coffee break**
- 11h15-13h00** **Panel Session II**
Impact of the Political Representation of Women on Policy Reform and Change
Moderator: Jacquelyne WEATHERSPOON, Technical Advisor UNDP
Discussion leaders:
Benjamin MKAPA, former President of Tanzania
Ketumile MASIRE, former President of Botswana
Pregs GOVENDER, Former ANC MP, South Africa
Winnie BYANYIMA, Director UNDP Gender Team
Amina IBRAHIM, Special Assistant to the President on MDGs, Nigeria
Rebecca KADAGA, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Uganda
Glenys KINNOCK, Member of the European Parliament, UK
Questions & Answers session
- 13h00-14h30** **Lunch**

14h30-16h00 Concurrent Thematic Panel Session I

Thematic Session 1: *Building Solidarity among Women through Networking, Caucusing and Coalition-Building*

Thematic Session 2: *Leadership Skill Building: What Works?*

Thematic Session 3: *Gendering the African Political Landscape: Use of Affirmative Action Strategies and Resources*

16h00-16h30 Coffee break

16h30-18h00 Concurrent Thematic Panel Session II

Thematic Session 4: *Engaging National Gender Mechanisms in Peace and Security Systems*

Thematic Session 5: *Domesticating CEDAW and AU Protocol on Rights of Women*

Thematic Session 6: *Transforming Attitudes towards Women in Politics: Role of the Media*

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