



THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL RATIFICATION MISSIONS IN EGYPT AND MOROCCO

October and November 2022



In October and November 2022, the Solidarity for African Women Rights Coalition (SOAWR) in partnership with various actors including the African Union Commission's Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (AUC-WGYD) conducted ratification missions in Egypt and Morocco to advocate for the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the "Maputo Protocol"). The two countries are among 12 in Africa that have not acceded the women's rights treaty.



Key among the critical stakeholders that SOAWR, which was represented by the Association of Egyptian Female Lawyers, Equality Now, KADIRAT and Sources of Peace, met during the ratification mission in Egypt were six Members of Parliament and the President of the National Council of Women, Dr. Maya Morsy. We were encouraged by their commitment and are optimistic that Egypt will ratify the treaty.



The SOAWR delegation also had a consultation meeting with several Egyptian civil society actors and media personalities. The event was graced by the Chairperson of EVE Future and Secretary General of the Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education.

We took them through the provisions of the Protocol to enhance their understanding because they are pivotal to its uptake and to advance the realization of women's rights. The CSOs actors committed to working together to advance ratification of the Protocol. The media has already highlighted the mission in various outlets.



In Morocco, the African Union Commission's Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (AUC-WGYD) partnered with SOAWR to conduct the ratification mission. It took place from 1 to 4 November 2022 in Rabat under the leadership of the 1st Vice Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Bureau, Honorable Peace Regis Mutuuzo.



The delegation paid courtesy calls to several high level state and non-state actors including a courtesy call to Honorable Aawatif Hayar, Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family, Members of Parliament, and the President of the National Human Rights Council, Amina Bouayach.



In her remarks, Honorable Hayar welcomed the delegation stating that the mission was timely as Morocco is in the process of revising the Family Code. She said that Morocco had made significant strides in enhancing women's rights and that ratifying the Maputo Protocol will present a lot of opportunities for the country to upscale these rights.

Hon. Hayar's sentiments were echoed by those made by the Members of Parliament. They explained that they were in full support of women's rights and that they would play their part in safeguarding the gains that the country had made in the women's rights movement.





The President of the National Human Rights Council, Amina Bouayach, noted that the implementation of laws was paramount to the advancement of women's rights. She added that it was also important to include women in decision-making and to support them in attaining leadership positions.





Finally, the delegation held a workshop with civil society actors in Morocco. In the presence of the Chairperson of of the Regional Human Rights Commission of Casablanca-Settat, Saadia Wadah.

The CSOs pledged to work with the government in addition to popularizing the Maputo Protocol to ensure that it was ratified.

SOAWR was represented by Equality Now, KADIRAT, FEMNET, JOSSOUR Forum des Femmes Marocaines and Y-PEER PETRI, Morocco.





Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



TWITTER: @SOAWR

FACEBOOK: Solidarity for Women's Rights (SOAWR)