



**RCF /16/45 (2023)**

## **Promoting the role of African women in stimulating intra-African trade**

*Resolution adopted by the 45<sup>th</sup> Conference  
(Abidjan, 15 december 2023)*

*The Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the African Parliamentary Union, meeting on  
13 December 2023 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire),*

*Considering* that African countries have enormous trade potential, both regionally and globally,

*Recognizing* the leading role that women play in regional trade,

*Considering* the key function that African women perform in trade in Africa,

*Underscoring* the essential place that African women must occupy with the objective of fully exploiting the commercial potential of the continent,

*Again underscoring* the need to advocate for the granting of land to African women producers,

*Aware* of the need for national consultations to promote better knowledge of the experiences of women in cross-border trade (producers of goods and services, investors, business owners and actors in the formal and informal sectors),

*Noting* that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is an opportunity for competitiveness within the African continent and outside the African continent,

*Highlighting* that the AfCFTA is also an opportunity to stimulate growth and achieve sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development,

*Again highlighting* the technical support provided by the UNDP and UN Women, in collaboration with the UN, to the AfCFTA for its initiative,

### **Proposes the following recommendations to the 45<sup>th</sup> Conference:**

1. Recognition by public authorities of the role of African women in trade and the promotion of their role in stimulating intra-African trade;
2. Relaying this recognition to civil servants at all levels;

3. Monitoring by African governments of the implementation of the rules and regulations governing trade at borders; This, for the purposes of helping women cope with the risks they face in their trade-related activities;
4. Fair distribution of the benefits of integration;
5. Training African women in managerial skills to improve their access to knowledge and the development of competences, thus facilitating their access to financing;
6. African women's access to information and knowledge of opportunities;
7. Access of African women to information relating to trade, policies, regulations, standards, taxes, markets and investment opportunities;
8. Establishing mechanisms to increase awareness of the opportunities offered by the AfCFTA;
9. Support for African women to use the agreements and market opportunities of the AfCFTA;
10. Promoting policies and laws that protect the rights and opportunities of African women;
11. Providing them with an environment conducive to export activity;
12. Promoting the leadership of African women and their participation in business and export networks for export trade;
13. Trade facilitation measures for African women in the AfCFTA;
14. Improving amenities offered to African women at border posts (safe storage, access to clean water and hygienic sanitation facilities, care, safe accommodation and transport infrastructure and public transport, etc.);
15. Implementation of personal security measures (harassment, gender-based violence, etc.) and property security (theft, confiscation of property and corruption, etc.);
16. Recovery from shocks: unexpected events or crises (e.g. COVID-19, climate-related events, conflicts, etc.) affect women exporters;
17. The adoption of coping mechanisms by women in commerce to deal with unexpected events and crises, as well as to strengthen their resilience.

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