

BANJUL DECLARATION

We, local and regional leaders from Africa, under the auspices of the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments and the leadership of Seine-Saint-Denis Department, its Observatory on Violence against women, and the Local Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) met in Banjul, the capital city of The Gambia, from the 22-24 January, 2024 on the occasion of the African Training on the theme “**Towards caring territories for women victims of violence**”.

The training took place under the distinguished patronage of the President of the Local Elected Women’s Network of Africa (REFELA), Hon. Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor of Banjul, The Gambia.

We, Honorable Mayors:

- Recognize the important role of female political leaders in the fight to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, especially female genital mutilation, forced marriages and sexual violence;
- Discussed of the necessity to speed up actions at the global, continental, national as well as the local level to eradicate all forms of violence against women especially female genital mutilation, forced marriages and sexual violences;
- Examined the initiative of the Observatory of Violence against Women of the Seine-Saint-Denis Department in partnership with UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy, and Human Rights (UCLG-CSIPDHR);
- Endorse the **Iztapalapa Statement** promoted by UCLG-CSIPDHR on behalf of the International Observatory on Violence against Women (OIVF), that commits to working together to strengthen Cities and Territories that Care for Women - in their plurality and diversity - victims of violence.
- Call on other territories to join this effort in favor of feminist municipalism in order that together, we collaborate to promote tools, public policies, and training sessions to advance towards an OIVF.

“We call on women and men from every corner of Africa in particular and all continents of the world in general to unite and combat violence against women - United Cities are United Women. Our cities are shaping the new generation of women and girls and their future should be free of violence, building on solidarity. Let us together embrace the notion of care to foster equality among us. We will strive in dignity to liberate ourselves from the shackles of all forms of violence. Our equality driven international municipal movement is committed to fostering societies where boys and girls, women and men, can define their future in dignity, justice, peace and in solidarity with all women worldwide ”

Done in Banjul, The Gambia

This Day, the 24 January, 2024

Signatures

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| Hon. Rohey Malick Lowe (Host) Mayor of Banjul, The Gambia | West Africa | |
| Hon. Bongile Mbingo Mayor of Ezulwini, Kingdom of Eswatini | South Africa | |
| Hon. Florence Eposi Mbuye Mayor of Limbe 1, Cameroon | Central Africa | |
| Hon. Folashade Olabanji-Oba National Chairman or National President ALGOVC and Executive Vice Chairman, Ikorodu | Central Africa | |
| Hon. Gladys Otae Addo Osei Representative of NALAG and President of REFELA Ghana | West Africa | |
| Hon. Isatou Njie National Coordinator of REFELA Gambia | West Africa | |
| Hon. Kiné Fall 2 nd Elected Secretary, Department of Zinguichor, Senegal | West Africa | |
| Mr. Lahoussine Tiicht 2 nd Vice President of the Provincial Council of Inezgane-Aït Melloul, Morocco | North Africa | |
| Ms. Maria Helena Jose Correia Langa Mayor of Mandlakazi and Vice-President REFELA Southern Africa | Southeastern Africa | |
| Ms. Mahamat Ardjoune Communication officer of REFELA CHAD | North Central Africa | |
| Ms. Pascale Labbé Vice President Departmental Council of the Seine- Saint-Denis, France | Europe | |
| Ms. Renée Jeftha Department of Social Development, Western Cape Province, South Africa | South Africa | |

With the support of:

