Federation Pour la Promotion Feminine et Enfantine (FPFE)- Madagascar

**Regarding:** Call for submissions to all stakeholders regarding the gap in incorporating and implementing the international and regional standards related to violence against women

***1.    Do you consider that there is a need for a separate legally binding treaty on violence against women with its separate monitoring body?***

* Yes. A separate legally binding treaty on violence against women with its separate monitoring body would be more efficient if actually implemented with accompanying measures or implementing structures at national levels up to international ones.
* But the first most important thing is to define clearly what is meant by ‘VAW’ and that it is internationally recognized as a violation of rights. Yet, there is no specific international legally binding document that addresses the gross violation of rights that is violence against women and girls . The UN must have it stipulated in a binding document , then the work of the monitoring body would be to sanction any country that acts against the convened provisions, without any consideration of the role or place that country may hold in recognized international bodies or institutions . Each non abiding country must be objectively sanctioned and treated the same way .

***2.    Do you consider that there is an incorporation gap of the international or regional human rights norms and standards?***

* Yes.The incorporation gap stems from the fact that each government or state feels sovereign in the interpretation of the norms and standards. Sometimes too, they do not consider them as really mandatory or binding. And even if a state declares to be against VAW ,it may take time before it actually implements it, due to either lack of political commitment, will , or lack of resources
* Regional mechanisms such as the Belem do Para in the Americas, The Maputo Protocol in Africa and the Istanbul convention in Europe may have legally binding provisions for those countries who have signed on, but there are no regional mechanisms in Oceania, Asia or the Middle East

***3.    Do you believe that there is a lack of implementation of the international and regional legislation into the domestic law?***

* Yes. First because of the inexistence of an internationally monitoring body and mechanism. The state just makes a declaration to have peace of mind ,but that’s all ; they are not legally bound to uphold these obligations
* The implementation of domestic law across countries represents a significant gap in the protection of women and prevention of violence due to customary and traditional laws that differ from every regions or provinces in the country.
* Implementation of domestic policies could be greatly strengthened by a legally binding document holding all governments to a specific level of account

***4.    Do you think that there is a fragmentation of policies and legislation to address gender-based violence?***

* As said before, every state is free to implement and understand what they like.
* In some countries the civil society does not have a recognized role , or lack power to make things change at decisional levels.
* Religion ,stereotypes, customs and harmful practices ill govern community life and are hard to die or change.
* Protection of women’s rights need strong involvement of civil society backed up by legal framework or mechanisms

***5.    Could you also provide your views on measures needed to address this normative and implementation gap and to accelerate prevention and elimination of violence against women?***

* Development of a Global Treaty on Violence against Women and Girls, with its own monitoring body, and working in conjunction with CEDAW and other established international and regional mechanisms
* Global recognition that violence against women and girls is a gross, endemic and systematic violation of the rights of women and girls to bodily integrity and life
* Effective and enforceable legislation that supports incorporation of strong domestic policies and education programs addressing violence against women at a family and community level
* Fostering Peace Culture within the community
* Need of a national action plan together with the allocated budget and precise timeframes and monitoring bodies.