

10-Year Report on the First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum in *Recognition of a Decade of Leadership, Advocacy, and Multilateral Engagement*

The **First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum**, convened under the coordination of the **Africana Women Working Group at the United Nations (AWWG)**, marks its **10th Anniversary** as a premier global platform advancing women's leadership in peacebuilding, sustainable development, and gender equality. Over the past decade, the Forum has mobilized First Ladies, senior government officials, diplomats, civil society leaders, and development partners to strengthen national and multilateral commitments to inclusive governance and human development.

For ten years, the Africana Women Working Group has stood as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change. Through the First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum, we have witnessed First Ladies rise as moral authorities, bridge builders, and diplomatic anchors, guiding communities through conflict, uncertainty, and social transformation. Their voices have shaped national agenda, influenced multilateral dialogues, and strengthened the global pursuit of peace and human development.

This Forum is more than a platform it is a legacy. A legacy built on the truth that women's leadership is not supplementary; it is foundational. It is the cornerstone of sustainable peace, inclusive governance, and the advancement of gender equality across continents. As we commemorate this decade of impact, we also honor two strategic pillars that reflect our enduring commitment to global gender advocacy:

My Sisters' Health Watch—a transformative initiative ensuring that women and girls have access to health, safety, and informed decision-making. It stands as a guardian of women's well-being, echoing the commitments made in Beijing in 1995, where the world declared that women's health is a human right, not a privilege.

The Gender Priority Strategy—a forward-looking framework that strengthens gender-responsive policies, amplifies women's leadership, and addresses persistent inequalities with evidence-based solutions. This strategy is a living tribute to the Beijing Women's Conference, reminding us that the work of gender equality is global, generational, and urgent.

The **10th Anniversary of the Africana Women Working Group (AWWG) – First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum** celebrates not only a milestone, but a movement. It is a movement shaped by courage, sustained by resilience, and carried forward by women whose stories continue to illuminate pathways for generations. Over the past decade, this Forum has demonstrated that when women lead with conviction, communities stabilize, policies strengthen, and nations advance toward peace and inclusive development.

The First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum was established to recognize the unique moral authority and influence of First Ladies as:

- Bridge builders between government and communities
- Champions of social cohesion and peace
- Advocates for gender equality and human development
- Catalytic voices in national and international policy spaces

The Forum emerged from the work of the Africana Women Working Group at the UN, a coalition dedicated to strengthening women's leadership across Africa and the global community. AWWG's mission aligns with the Beijing Platform for Action, **the** 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **and** UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, ensuring that women's leadership remains central to peacebuilding, governance, and sustainable development.

Achievements Over 10 Years

Strengthening Women's Leadership in Peacebuilding

Over the past decade, the Forum has:

- Elevated First Ladies as **national advocates for peace and stability**
- Supported community-based peace initiatives
- Promoted women's participation in conflict prevention and mediation
- Facilitated cross-regional dialogue on peace and security

Advancing Gender Equality and Inclusive Governance

The Forum has contributed to:

- Increased visibility of gender issues in national policy agendas
- Strengthened partnerships with UN agencies and regional bodies
- Expanded advocacy for women's political participation
- Enhanced accountability mechanisms for gender-responsive governance

Mobilizing Multilateral Partnerships

Through AWWG's coordination, the Forum has:

- Engaged Member States in high-level dialogues
- Strengthened South-South and North-South cooperation

- Built alliances with civil society, academia, and development partners
- Supported global campaigns on women's rights and empowerment

Strategic Initiatives

First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum

The **First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum** commemorates a decade of visionary leadership, diplomacy, and advocacy by First Ladies and women leaders advancing peace, gender equality, and sustainable development. Through its coordinated strategic initiatives, the Forum transforms global commitments into actionable programs that strengthen communities and inspire lasting change. The **First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum** itself stands as a **premier international platform** dedicated to elevating women's voices and agency in global governance and peacebuilding. Over the past decade, it has:

- Convened First Ladies, Heads of State, and global advocates to champion peace and inclusion.
- Advanced multilateral partnerships aligned with the **Beijing Platform for Action**, **UNSCR 1325**, and the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
- Strengthening women's leadership in diplomacy, conflict prevention, and national development.
- Promoted South-South and North-South cooperation to expand institutional capacity for women's leadership worldwide.

The Forum embodies the conviction that peace cannot be achieved without the full and meaningful participation of women.

My Sisters' Health Watch

A flagship initiative promoting women's health, safety, and well-being as foundational pillars of peace and development. Over the decade, it has:

- Expanded access to health education and preventive care.
- Supported community health programs for women and girls.
- Raised awareness on gender-based health disparities.
- Strengthened advocacy for women's health rights.

This initiative reflects the commitments of the **1995 Beijing Women's Conference**, affirming that **women's health is a human right**.

Gender Priority Strategy

The **Gender Priority Strategy** provides a structured framework for:

- Strengthening gender-responsive governance.
- Addressing persistent inequalities through evidence-based policy.
- Enhancing women's leadership in national development.
- Aligning national strategies with global gender commitments.

It reinforces the Forum's mandate to ensure that **gender equality remains central to peacebuilding and sustainable development**.

Africana Women Working Group at the United Nations

Serving as the **institutional backbone** of the Forum, the **Africana Women Working Group (AWWG)** has:

- Coordinated high-level engagements with First Ladies.
- Provided research and policy guidance.
- Facilitated UN-aligned programming.
- Ensured continuity, visibility, and global relevance of the Forum.

AWWG's leadership has positioned the Forum as a respected voice within the UN ecosystem, bridging African perspectives with global policy frameworks.

Documenting Women's Leadership through EMPTISTORY

The **EMPTISTORY of Esteemed Women Book** stands as a literary extension of the Forum's diplomatic mission. It has:

- Preserved leadership journeys of First Ladies and women of influence.
- Provided mentorship frameworks for emerging leaders.
- Strengthened global recognition of women's contributions.
- Created a repository of narratives informing future gender strategies.
- Institutionalized women's leadership documentation and intergenerational learning.

Through EMPTISTORY, the Forum ensures that women's stories become **policy-shaping** narratives and educational legacies for generations to come. EMPTISTORY serves as a literary extension of the Forum's diplomatic mission.

Together, these initiatives form the **strategic architecture** of the First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum advancing peace through women's leadership, transforming governance through gender equity, and building a world where dignity, health, and opportunity are shared by all.

Peace Bell Ring Ceremony

The **Peace Bell Ring Ceremony** has become a symbolic and ceremonial anchor of the Forum's global peace mission. Rooted in the United Nations tradition, the Peace Bell cast from coins

donated by children around the world carries the inscription “*Long live absolute world peace.*” Through this initiative, the Forum has:

- Elevated global awareness of peace as a shared human responsibility.
- Provided First Ladies with a unifying ceremonial moment to reaffirm their commitment to peace.
- Strengthened the Forum’s alignment with UN values, traditions, and multilateral peace efforts.
- Reinforced the message that peace requires collective action, moral leadership, and international solidarity.

The Peace Bell Ring Ceremony symbolizes the Forum’s dedication to **global unity, intergenerational responsibility, and the moral imperative of peace.**

Impact Assessment

The **10-year impact** of the First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum reflects a decade of strategic leadership, multilateral cooperation, and community-centered transformation. The Forum has delivered measurable and enduring results across governance, diplomacy, health, and gender equality:

- **Enhanced national gender and peace policies** — Member States strengthened legislative and policy frameworks to integrate women’s leadership, gender-responsive governance, and peacebuilding priorities.
- **Strengthened regional cooperation among First Ladies** — Cross-border collaboration expanded, enabling First Ladies to share best practices, coordinate initiatives, and amplify collective advocacy across regions.
- **Increased global visibility of women’s leadership in diplomacy** — The Forum elevated First Ladies as influential diplomatic actors, reinforcing women’s roles in shaping national and multilateral agendas.
- **Expanded community-level programs for women and girls** — Grassroots initiatives grew in scale and reach, improving access to education, protection, economic opportunities, and social support.
- **Improved health outcomes through My Sisters’ Health Watch** — Preventive health education, safety interventions, and community health outreach strengthened women’s well-being and reduced gender-based health disparities.
- **Institutionalized gender frameworks through the Gender Priority Strategy** — The Strategy embedded gender equality into national planning, monitoring, and accountability systems, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Collectively, these achievements affirm the Forum's role as a catalyst for sustainable change, advancing gender equality, strengthening peacebuilding systems, and elevating women's leadership across the global landscape.

The 10-Year Anniversary of the First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum marks a decade of transformative leadership, strategic advocacy, and global impact. Through the work of the Africana Women Working Group, the integration of My Sisters' Health Watch, and the implementation of the Gender Priority Strategy, the Forum has strengthened the global movement for women's leadership and peace.

Next 10 Years Agenda: The Covenant Harvest Center as a Legacy Resource for World Women

The next decade of the First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum will be defined by deeper institutionalization, expanded global reach, and strengthened legacy systems that ensure women's leadership continues to shape peace, governance, and human development. At the heart of this forward-looking agenda stands the **Covenant Harvest Center**, envisioned as a global legacy resource for women, a permanent anchor for learning, empowerment, and intergenerational transformation.

Vision for the Next Decade

The Covenant Harvest Center will serve as a world-class hub for women's leadership, designed to support the Forum's mission and expand its impact across continents. Over the next ten years, the Center will evolve into a global resource institution, offering structured programs, research, documentation, and community engagement aligned with international gender and peacebuilding frameworks.

Its mandate will be guided by:

- Women's leadership development
- Gender-responsive governance
- Peacebuilding and social cohesion
- Health, safety, and well-being through My Sisters' Health Watch
- Documentation and legacy through EMPTISTORY

The Covenant Harvest Center as a Legacy Resource

The Covenant Harvest Center will be positioned as a **global legacy institution**, serving women across nations through:

Leadership & Governance Institute

A dedicated training space for First Ladies, ministers, parliamentarians, and emerging women leaders, offering:

- Executive leadership programs
- Governance and policy training
- Diplomatic engagement modules
- Intergenerational mentorship networks

Global Gender Innovation Lab

A research and policy center advancing:

- Gender-responsive policy solutions
- Evidence-based interventions
- National Gender Action Plans
- Monitoring and evaluation systems aligned with the **Gender Priority Strategy**

My Sisters' Health Watch Headquarters

A continental hub coordinating:

- Women's health education
- Preventive care outreach
- Gender-based violence response systems
- Community health programs for girls and women

EMPTISTORY Documentation & Heritage Archive

A global storytelling and documentation center preserving:

- Leadership journeys of First Ladies
- Stories of resilience and transformation
- Cultural and historical contributions of women
- Publications, oral histories, and multimedia archives

This archive will serve as a global memory bank, ensuring women's stories shape future policy, scholarship, and leadership.

Peacebuilding & Social Cohesion Center

A dedicated space for:

- Conflict prevention training
- Community mediation programs
- Interfaith and intercultural dialogue
- Youth peace leadership development

Strategic Objectives for 2026–2036

Over the next decade, the Covenant Harvest Center will pursue the following strategic objectives:

- Institutionalize women's leadership training across Africa and the global community
- Expand multilateral partnerships with UN agencies, regional bodies, and academic institutions
- Scale My Sisters' Health Watch into a global women's health movement
- Strengthening the Gender Priority Strategy as a governance standard for Member States
- Grow EMPTISTORY into a global archive documenting women's contributions to peace and development
- Establish regional satellite centers to increase accessibility and reach
- Develop digital platforms for global learning, storytelling, and policy engagement

By 2036, the Covenant Harvest Center is projected to become:

- A recognized global institution for women's leadership
- A policy influence hub shaping gender and peace agendas
- A training ground for thousands of women leaders annually
- A documentation archive preserving the stories of women across generations
- A health and safety resource improving outcomes for women and girls
- A peacebuilding engine strengthening community resilience worldwide

The next ten years will transform the Covenant Harvest Center into a legacy resource for world women, ensuring that the vision of the First Ladies Becoming Peace Forum continues to expand, inspire, and empower. As a global institution, it will anchor leadership, health, peacebuilding, and documentation efforts creating a future where women's voices, power, and stewardship shape nations and generations.

