



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES JURISTES

FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ABOGADAS (FIDA)

www.fidafederation.org info@fidafederation.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2024 – 2027

PRESIDENT:

Ezinwa Okoroafor (Nigeria)
president@fidafederation.org

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

Laura Nyirinkindi (Uganda)
vicepresident@fidafederation.org

SECRETARY:

Charisse Brown (Bahamas)
secretary@fidafederation.org

TREASURER:

Inimefien Ifeyinwa Aguma (Nigeria)
treasurer@fidafederation.org

DIRECTORS:

Sheela Anish (India)

Jethlyn A. Burrows (Bahamas)

Olufunmi Oluyede (USA)

Hsiu-Fon Chen (Taiwan)

Gladys Mbuyah (Cameroon)

Silvana Vanadia (Italy)

UN REPRESENTATIVE:

Hadassah Swain (Bahamas)
unrep@fidafederation.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

Carolina Rios Villota (Colombia)
caambas@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN:

Joy Ejim (Nigeria)
historian@fidafederation.org

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS:

Constance McDonald (Bahamas)

Jumanah Behbehani (Kuwait)

Preeti Shah (India)

Chen Wenchi (Taiwan)

Kumudini Wickremasinghe (Sri Lanka)

Nomaswazi Shabanga-Mndawe (South Africa)

Afua Eyeson Laoye (Ghana)

Beryineta Grisales (Colombia)

Carmen Meza Ingar (Peru)

HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT:

Angela Dolmetsch (Colombia)

A Statement by the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) on March 8, 2025, International Women's Day

The 2025 International Women's Day holds a particular significance as we mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, alongside the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and 22 years of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). Also relevant is the Belem de Para Convention - the inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women: a landmark treaty adopted by the organization of American States (OAS) signed in 1994. These pivotal instruments established the groundwork for advancing gender equality and empowering women globally.

Only recently, during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), was adopted. We reflect on these instruments, platforms and treaties as we celebrate our achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to the work that lies ahead.

Over the past 20+ years, we have witnessed significant advancements of women's rights globally in the area of civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights. Women have increasingly occupied leadership roles in politics and decision-making, challenging historical norms. Yet, despite these successes, we must acknowledge that many of the goals outlined in various gender equality instruments remain unfulfilled, and new challenges have emerged. We must also confront the enduring realities where, in many parts of the world, women continue to face systemic barriers, including violence, discrimination, and insufficient access to resources and decision-making.

The 2025 IWD theme, calls for accelerated action, to achieve rapid advancements in gender equality focusing on recognising strategies and tools that drive women's progress in education, employment, and leadership.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES JURISTES

FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ABOGADAS (FIDA)

www.fidafederation.org info@fidafederation.org

FIDA as a global association commits to increasing her advocacy across the world with a renewed vigor:

- (1) To governments, non-state actors and the international community to adopt and implement relevant policies, prioritise gender equality in all spheres of governance and practices.
- (2) For the full implementation of critical gender equality instruments, ensuring that these frameworks are translated into tangible actions.
- (3) For the inclusion of budgetary lines by governments to establish institutions that support gender equality.

As we celebrate the 2025 International Women's Day, let us honour the legacy of the instruments enumerated above, by embracing the responsibility to accelerate the fight for gender equality, acting swiftly and decisively on issues of gender equality. Together, we can create a future where every woman has the opportunity to thrive, contribute, and lead - where their voices are not just heard, but amplified.

Let us stand united in the pursuit of equality, justice, and peace.

Happy International Women's Day!

Ezinwa Okoroafor
President, FIDA

Laura Nyirinkindi
1st Vice President, FIDA

Charisse Brown
Secretary, FIDA