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**MRS. ADAME BA KONARE BRINGS THE AFRICAN UNION TO
THE GRASSROOTS PEOPLE IN ADDIS ABABA**

Mrs. Adame Ba Konaré, spouse of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union has concluded the three days programme, she had mapped out in honor of underprivileged women on the occasion marking the International Women's Day celebrations by visiting some Women Associations located in the vicinity of Addis Ababa.

Mrs. Konaré accompanied by Adv.Bience P. Gawanas, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs; Mrs. Jacqueline Mendume Nze, spouse of the Ambassadors in Addis Ababa and some senior female officials of the Commission of the African Union and those from the Addis Ababa city Administration visited three Women's Associations today to express solidarity with them in their struggle against hardship.

These are the Ketchene Women Potter Association at the Gulele Sub-City, the Amare Merchandise, Baltina and Grain Trade Women's Group at the Kirkos Sub-City and the Brehane Taye Association engaged in hand craft production of the Alert Leprosy Centre within the Kerano Sub-City.

Mrs. Konaré told the Associations that her mission was and entry point to mobilize and encourage women in Ethiopia (the Headquarters of the African Union) and other within the African continent in their struggle to sustain life and as a mark of respect and solidarity with them on the occasion of the International Women's Day celebrations.

The various groups visited expressed appreciation to Mrs. Adame Konaré saying it was the first fo its kind coming from the African Union and hoped that it would be continued for mutual benefits in future.

The women visited were engaged in self-help projects ranging from pots making, hand crafts, cotton weaving and cloth designing to embroidery, tailoring and trading.

Addis Ababa, March 8, 2004