



## African women call for equality

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Madrid - More than 500 women's representatives from 45 African countries called on Wednesday for equal rights with men at a Spanish-African women's conference.

The reasons for discrimination against women are the same all over the world, Spanish deputy prime minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said at the inauguration of the women's forum "for a better world".

The conference was attended by dignitaries including Spain's Queen Sofia, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Mozambican Prime Minister [Luisa Diogo](#).

Vega stressed the seriousness of the problem of domestic violence, which did not result from the "bad luck" suffered by some women, but from "injustice".

Johnson Sirleaf said much remained to be done in Africa despite progress in some countries such as Rwanda, where almost half of MPs are women.

Diogo described how women held Mozambican families together during the recent floods in the southern African country.

The conference followed a similar event held in the Mozambican capital Maputo as a joint Spanish-Mozambican initiative in 2006.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero was scheduled to close the conference on Thursday, International Women's Day.

