My views on the questions asked on Gap in Incorporating & Implementing International & Regional Standards on 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

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

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

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

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? : It is common knowledge that even though we have the CEDAW which is an international treaty on women’s rights; it is void of any provision that speaks directly to violence against women. NGOS and other stakeholders have done a lot towards ending violence. But despite the critical work and increasing attention that has been paid to violence against women issues using national laws and existing international treaties, the required result of ending violence is yet to be achieved. From my personal experience as a human rights activist, it is glaring that it is easier to combat an ill that is legally defined than to change mindsets. I believe we can achieve success if we come out with an all englobing international treaty on violence against women that takes into consideration all details in defining violence against women and compels all states to implement same and prescribes specific sanctions for failure to implement.

FIDA CAMEROON NATIONAL PRESIDENT.