



Femmes Africa Solidarité

Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 Regional Civil Society Consultation for the Greater Horn of Africa,

Convened by Isis-WICCE and Femmes Africa Solidarité

Supported by UN Women

Kampala, 10-11 May 2015

FAS Welcome remarks by Coumba Fall Venn,

Administrator Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development

Mrs. Jane Mpangi – Director Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development

Mrs Hodan Addou - UN Women Country Representative

Hon members of CSO, Experts and Partners

Ladies and gentlemen

All protocol observed

Let me first give you the apologies of Mrs Harriette Williams-Bright, FAS Acting ED who due to the unexpected change of schedule in participating in the Bangui National Reconciliation Forum to support the women's agenda, could not make it today.

I am myself very honored to represent FAS, Member of the Taskforce designing the process of the Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 in New York and co-organizer of this Regional Civil Society Consultation for the Greater Horn of Africa supported by **UN Women**. Indeed we acknowledge and appreciate the appointment of our eminent African women and women of Africa to the High Level Advisory Group leading the Global Study and we have no doubt that their efforts and commitment will be of great value to the women, peace and security in Africa.

We are glad to have here eminent experts, women practitioners, researchers and academicians who despite busy schedule have been able to attend this strategic consultation. We are grateful for your availability which demonstrates your commitment to contribute to the global agenda for peace, security and stability.

Let me also thank the leadership of Isis WICCI, in the person of Mrs Ruth Ochieng Executive Director who has



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made this gathering happen and for all the warm welcoming and hospitality in this charming country, the Pearl of Africa.

Our mobilization has bear fruit when you look at the African Peace and security and the African Governance architectures that are building strategies to have a gender perspective in their programmes and structures. No doubt that the women agenda is necessary to achieve peace, security, stability and development in the world. We, the women peace movement called the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 adopted in 2000, our weapons, our guns but without bullets, our tools as it addresses the participation of women in peace negotiation, the protection of their bodies in time of conflicts and the prevention of all sorts of violence against women. 1325 has demonstrated its relevance, it is not just a piece of paper but create space for women participation and women contribution to peace processes.

We all remember when the women of Liberia pushed the door and got to the negotiation table and signed their Akosombo Peace Accord. They pushed the leaders to end violence and share the power through democratic process, through the ballots and not through the bullets.

Remember also the Burundi negotiations when President Mandela involved women to include their peace agenda in the final Arusha Peace Accord.

Remember the DRC peace talks in Sun City, where President Macire invited the women at last to push their leaders to sign a peace deal.

These examples demonstrate not only that gender awareness among mediators teams ensure meaningful role of women in the negotiation tables but also that providing space to women improves the quality of influence on the negotiation outcomes, that go beyond silencing the guns and enter into a more sustainable peace agreement. Women play positive role in peace processes as mediators, as peacebuilders and as reconstructors of society.

In this region of Greater Horn of Africa women played an active role to liberate their nations and are fighting against gender based violence, with good results. Despite being victims of rape and sexual violence, they have demonstrated a great deal of resilience and fighting to transform their society, in Rwanda in particular. The women situation room concept is another model for preventing violence during elections and ensuring women's effective participation in electoral processes.



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Within Agenda 2063, the African leaders have also set another target to silent the guns by 2020 and we need to meet this target in order to achieve our development. A Prosperous Africa and at peace with itself!

We cannot silent the guns if the majority of our population does not participate in peace processes. Women form the majority of our population but their voices are hardly heard in peace and security spheres.

20 years after Beijing, 15 years after adoption of UNSCR 1325, we are evaluating the impact of this resolution and the subsequent resolutions. Looking back and moving forward, a lot need to be done. Women refugees in Central Africa Republic are massively displaced throughout the country. In South Sudan, women are **confined** in UN camps and yet they are not fully represented at the peace table. In Somalia, women are targeted by Al Shabab and need more protection by the peacekeeping troops. In Nigeria on the issues of Chibok girls, Boko Haram have been denying them with their rights to be educated. In the DRC, the fragility of peace pacts such as the 2013 Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo or the Framework of Hope, continues not to hold, causing a multitude of refugees in neighboring countries, with minimal access to services. Uganda and Kenya's role in supporting the regional initiative in Somalia has left the two countries insecure, with the recent attack at Garisa University in Kenya that resulted into over 140 students dead. The new phenomenon of extremism are ruining all our efforts of bringing peace in our continent and moving towards real social and economic development.

We have been provided many opportunities, the biannual GIMAC Consultative meeting prior to AU Summits among others, to come together and discuss common strategies on effective implementation of UNSCR 1325. As we gather here today to reflect on the current situation of the women, peace and security agenda in the setting of the UN Global study on 1325 for the High level Review in October and noting 2015 as the AU year of women empowerment, let us share ideas and build collective and complementary actions, let us join forces to document and share best practices, let's use our capacities of mobilizing our women's leaders, youth and the media to echo our voices, let's build stronger alliances with the Gender Special Envoyes to support our advocacy. We need to look into the missing link between commitment and implementation.

What we need now is indeed the acceleration of the implementation of these instruments. No more resolution. Action, action, action.

I thank you.