

**Global Study on the Implementation of SCR 1325**  
**CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION IN THE GREATER HORN OF AFRICA**

Kampala, Uganda 10-11 May 2015

The civil society consultation on the *Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325* in the Greater Horn of Africa was held in Kampala, Uganda on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The two-day consultation was organized by Isis-international Cross Cultural Exchange and *Femmes Africa Solidarité*, with support from UN Women. The consultation, which was attended by 42 civil society representatives from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Somalia, Ethiopia, Senegal, South Africa South Sudan, and Uganda, provided opportunity for reflection and dialogue on the current status of the women, peace and security agenda and sharing of country priorities, progress and gaps, and proffering strategies and key recommendations for moving the agenda forward.

**Situational Issues**

The Greater Horn of Africa has endured several internal conflicts 15 years post resolution 1325, with militarization, protracted instability, and the recurrence of conflicts continuing to make the region one of the most unstable in the world. Some areas remain unable to overcome armed conflicts, while communal violence, electoral violence, political instability, states failures, religious fundamentalism and extremism, and the spread of terrorism by al Shabaab is increasing across the region. Some affected areas are concentrated along country borders and feature powerful cross-border interests and actors such as in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Armed conflict has resulted in massive flight and internal displacement with combatants committing gross human rights abuses, including sexual and gender based violence, with women and children as the main victims. There are thousands of refugees in Uganda and Tanzania

and over two million refugees in Kenya which hosts Africa's largest refugee camp with over 350,000 refugees. The gravity of the insecurity is illustrated by the existence of four UN peacekeeping operations in the region, with over 39,000 uniformed and military personnel under MONUSCO in the DRC, making it the largest peacekeeping operation in the world, while the African Union has a peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Since 2000 there has been progress in the development and adoption of national action plans in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Rwanda and in the implementation of women, peace and security programming, including women in the security sector; and the emergence of some best practices such as advocacy for women's participation in peace processes.

Resolution 1325 offers African women a window of opportunity to build sustainable peace and human security through addressing the root causes of conflict at both the vertical and horizontal levels. However UNSCR 1325 is limited in terms of its conceptualisation and implementation: it has de-politicised the women, peace and security agenda; failed to make the linkages with power, governance and the political economy in Africa, and ignores issues of tradition, patriarchy and masculinity. It has also operated in isolation and has not built complementarity with mainstream peace and security processes and mechanisms. With this background, we propose the following recommendation to the review of the Global Study.

### **Recommendations going forward**

1. Rethink the peace and security architecture as a whole, and the link between the structures, processes and the quest for peace and security. There is need to transform the mainstream structures and processes and dismantle the 'silo' approach to dealing with women, peace and security issues, because it

continues to be an 'add on' to the peace and security agendas of the UN, the African Union, as well as national agendas.

2. De-construct the way that sexual violence, especially rape has been normalised in the region, and broaden conceptual understanding and recognition of the multiple identities of perpetrators to include, not only rebels, militia groups and warlords, but also humanitarian actors and civilian peacekeepers. In this regard there is also need to develop effective responses to pervasive insecurity and to sexual and gender based violence in particular.
3. Prioritize access to justice for women, recognizing that in the Africa region many women live under bifurcated systems which include the formal justice system and the informal justice system. The informal justice system must be democratized in order to be more inclusive of women's rights and women's representation.
4. The leadership at regional level must instill integrity, transparency and accountability in the governance systems in order to advance human dignity and equality, and promote accountability through addressing economic crimes and corruption that has impacted the effective delivery of the women, peace and security agenda.
5. Address the unequal power relations between women and men around resources as well as the unequal resource distribution, and promote economic empowerment strategies that go beyond income generation activities for women.
6. Promote the participation of youth, particularly young women in the implementation of UNSCR 1325, as youth (18 to 30 years) constitute more than 25 percent of the population in the region. Strengthen inter-generational engagement and build

sustainability through succession planning so as to increase youth involvement in women, peace and security work.

7. Promote the collaboration with a plurality of actors including the inter-faith community and traditional/cultural structures in order to promote non-sexist and non-violent behavior.
8. Strengthen the global and regional women's movements to promote solidarity, gender equality, human dignity through peace and human security. In this regard women's movements should engage men and gender sensitive male role models in the implementation of the UNSCR 1325.
9. Ensure that regional and national budgets make provision for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and that donor funding earmarks and increases funding. Funding should also be channelled through women's rights organisations and should be predictable and long-term.