Regional Consultation on Global Study on the Implementation of Resolution 1325 to be held in Kampala, Uganda

Kampala, Uganda – On Sunday 10 and Monday 11 May 2015, members of the High Level Advisory Group for the Security Council mandated Global Study on the implementation of Resolution 1325, along with civil society organizations Isis-WICCE and Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), hosted a regional consultation on the Global Study. The consultation was held at the Imperial Hotel in Kampala with the support of UN Women, who serve as the Secretariat of the Global Study on 1325.

The Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR1325 is a Security Council mandated report, which will assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in improving women’s participation and protection in conflict and post-conflict settings. The aim of the study is to review the achievement of the objectives set out in UNSCR 1325 and six subsequent women, peace and security resolutions.

Starting Sunday, 10th May 2015, the two-day meeting saw 30 civil society representatives from the Greater Horn of Africa region meeting to discuss the key elements of the study – prevention, participation, protection, and justice and accountability – from a national and regional perspective with a focus on the Greater Horn of Africa. Ms Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng, member of the High Level Advisory Group to this study and Executive Director of Isis-WICCE, in her opening remarks, emphasized the importance of each participant to this consultation in ensuring the Greater Lakes regional voice in the study. Ms Ochieng stated, ‘We are here in our individual, national and country capacities, bringing our experiences of the implementation of UNSCR1325 to this round table. Therefore, I call upon all of us to internalise Buzani (1991) where he suggests, “we cannot understand the security concerns of survivors on a daily basis”

The two-day consultation was moderated by Yasmin Sooka, the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights and member of the High Level Advisory Group of the Global Study from Pretoria, and attended by Hodan Addou, UN Women Country Representative; Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng, Executive Director, Isis-WICCE; and Comnba Laobe of Femmes Africa Solidarité as well participants from across the Horn of Africa region. On day one, teams from each country presented on the subjects of the study in relation to their country’s context. On day two, participants from all represented countries worked to identify regional recommendations on the topics of prevention, participation, protection, peace building, accountability and emerging trends. The consultation drew on the wide range of civil society expertise and experiences from the Horn of Africa, working towards the full implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in the region.

Some of the key recommendations coming from the ongoing consultations include:

1. Implementation of UNSCR 1325: the need for member states to put mechanisms in place to finance their obligations on operationalising UNSCR 1325

2. Leadership, transparency and accountability: the impact of governance issues on the effective delivery of the women, peace and security agenda

3. Supporting the women’s movement: particularly at the grassroots where they are addressing the concerns of survivors on a daily basis

4. Non-violent mechanisms: there is a need for mechanisms to address conflict as a way of reducing militarism in responding to conflicts

5. Mitigating increased extremism: this is negatively impacting citizens of the region and affecting their social and economic development

6. Transitional Justice: to include both the formal and informal as a way of enabling women to access justice.

Recommendations from this consultation will be shared with Radhika Coomaraswamy, independent author of the Global Study. The findings of the Global Study, to be published in October 2015, will help chart the way towards a renewed global commitment through a set of major recommendations for the international women, peace and security agenda and a basis for future advocacy toward the full implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

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