



## Femmes Africa Solidarité

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### INFORMATION NOTE

#### **LANDMARK FUNDING PROPOSAL SIGNED BETWEEN FINLAND AND FAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SCR 1325 IN AFRICA**

Last week Femmes Africa Solidarité signed a landmark contract, with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for Finland, for a financial grant which will fund projects throughout the Great Lakes region. The project aims to realize National Action Plans (NAP) in the selected countries, in order to implement Security Council Resolution 1325. This was a milestone in FAS' history as the grant is sufficient to cover the commencement and completion of the proposed projects within the next three years, with the aim of ensuring their sustainability in the long term. The contract was signed by Ambassador Vesa Himanen, on behalf of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for Finland, and Mme Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS, with the signing taking place at the Finnish Consulate in Geneva.

Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) urges Member States of the UN to adopt gender equality and mainstreaming in peace, security and development policies and plans. Although the resolution is binding for the signatories, thus far it has only had a minimal impact on grassroots communities in Africa. The effective implementation of the Resolution requires that provisions be translated into concrete actions, which support and empower women and girls in conflict situations and insecure environments.



Ambassador Vesa Himanen, Ministry for Foreign Affairs for Finland,  
and Mme Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS

The grant will cover specific projects aiming to implement, and elaborate NAPs which are currently lacking in countries in West Africa. The adoption of NAPs, and the recognition of the grave situation of women in Africa, will demonstrate that these countries, and their

governments, are committed to respecting women's legal and human rights. In turn, the successful implementation of a NAP depends heavily on the following: advocacy; capacity building; networking; and the improvement in the means of communication in order to raise awareness and knowledge of the Resolution.

FAS lobbied for the adoption of SCR 1325, by contributing its experiences in the Great Lakes region in the Security Council debate, which preceded the ratification of the Resolution, and continues to contribute to its monitoring as the Chair of the NGO Working Group on Peace, which is part of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, based in Geneva. However, to further push the implementation of SCR 1325, the FAS project aims:

- i. To implement and elaborate National Action Plans on SCR 1325 in the selected countries;
- ii. To ensure the sustainability of the project by providing women with the competencies necessary to participate in the formulation and implementation of the project;
- iii. To raise awareness of SCR 1325 at a local and national level through the use of media and education;
- iv. To monitor and evaluate the process of implementing SCR 1325 so that best practises can be identified for future projects in the region, and elsewhere;
- v. For women to gain the capacity to advocate for their rights by providing them with training, education and alternative means of communication;
- vi. To allow grassroots advocacy to reach the policy level;
- vii. To promote, and sustain gender equality and equal representation of women in decision-making processes at all levels.

FAS will work closely with different African women's networks, NGOs, and representatives of the UN and governments, to ensure that the projects in each individual country are appropriately adapted to the specific conditions of the area; this will ensure that the projects are sustainable and effective. However, the targeted beneficiaries throughout the region will include civil society organisations, women parliamentarians, leaders, activists, peacebuilders, entrepreneurs and grassroots women and girls. Others who will benefit indirectly include African governments; organs of the AU and NEPAD; UN agencies; and the international partners of FAS who are also working to implement SCR 1325.

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