



Newsletter August 2010

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Dear FAS Members, Networks and Friends,

Since its inception in 1996, FAS has worked to strengthen and promote the leading role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts on the African continent. In last months, a number of events were organized by FAS, such as the Solidarity Mission in Guinea, the 2009 African Gender Award and the 16th Pre-summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in AU, in Kampala, Uganda.

In the coming month, we are participating in several events, such as the 10th Anniversary of the UNSCR 1325, the launching of the African Women's Decade and the General Assembly of ECOSOCC.

We would like to share our activities with you in this latest issue of FAS' Newsletter.

Yours in solidarity,

Bineta Diop, Executive Director

16TH PRE-SUMMIT CONSULTATIVE MEETING

The 16th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union took place between the 21st-23rd July 2010 on the margins of the Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU).



The meeting was organized by the **GIMAC network**, coordinated by **Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)**, in partnership with **Isis-WICCE**, the International Labour Organisation (**ILO**) and **Ipas** and with the support of the African Union (AU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (**UNECA**), the 2010 Year Of Peace, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (**OSIWA**), the Department For International Development (**DFID**), African Women's Development Fund (**AWDF**), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The main aim of the 16th GIMAC meeting was to mark the 10th Anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 as well as welcome the theme of the African Union Summit on Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa

The following issues were discussed in the meeting:

- Women, Peace and Security in Africa:
- Maternal, Infant and Child Health in Africa
- Social Economy and Women in Post-Conflict and Conflict Areas

After three days of intense experience sharing, dialogue and networking, the GIMAC Advocacy Team wrote up and presented Recommendations before the 16th African Union Summit. The key message sent out by the GIMAC was, firstly, an appreciated welcome to the recognition of the need to respect, promote and guarantee women's sexual and reproductive health and that every child has the ability to enjoy their basic human right.



GUINEA SOLIDARITY MISSION



Following the assault of citizens on 28th September 2009 by the armed forces of the Republic of Guinea, condemnation of these events was voiced by the 8th Regional Meeting on Women, held in Banjul ahead of Beijing +15; by the 54th Meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York; and by the High Level Panel, co-chaired by Mrs. Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and

Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS; which requested vehemently a mission had to be sent to Conakry to show solidarity with the women of Guinea. It is in this respect that a Guinea Women's Solidarity Mission went to Conakry from the 15th to 20th March 2010 on the initiative of West African civil society organizations in the UNOWA Working Group for "Women, Peace and Security".

The mission, coordinated by Femmes Africa-Solidarité (FAS), was conducted with the support of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the Urgent Action Fund (UAF) and the African Women Development Fund (AWDF).

While in Guinea, the Solidarity Mission held sessions with top Government Officials in the transnational Government, including the Interim President, and with Women's Civil Society Organizations the victims, etc. In the furtherance of these, the Mission made key recommendations, including:

- Strengthen and expand victim support programs in the short term;
- Undertake capacity building measures to strengthen relevant ministries and law enforcement agencies so that they can take the lead in handling the issues of women's rights.
- Develop and implement a National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions.

The Solidarity Mission is committed to advocate for the implementation of these

FAS AND PANEL OF THE WISE (AU)

On the 19th and 20th May 2010, the Panel of the Wise of the African Union (AU) held its eighth meeting in Kinshasa, to review the state of peace and security in Africa. The Panel of the Wise, an essential pillar of the Peace and Security Architecture of the AU, held its 8th meeting on the eve of the celebration of Africa Day, on 25 May 2010, in the context of increased efforts by the AU Commission and the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the resolution of crises facing the Continent.

The Panel of the Wise welcomed the success of the Experts' Workshop on the issue of Women and Children in Armed Conflict in which Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) played a key instrumental role. The event, co-organized by FAS and the International Peace Institute, was a great success on the road to pushing forward a high level reflection on women and children in armed conflicts.



2009 AFRICAN GENDER AWARD TO GRANTED TO MOZAMBIQUE



On 3rd April 2010, the PAC organized the **Third edition of the African**

Gender Forum and Award on the margins 50th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Senegal and the Inauguration of the Renaissance Monument. Upon invitation of His Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade,

FAS participated in the International Colloquium on the African Renaissance. The Delegation lead by Hon. Ambassador Mongella seized this opportunity to integrate the debate and remind the present high-level parties of the important role women play in this renaissance. The third African Gender Award ceremony was a success. His Excellency President Armando Guebuza of the Republic of Mozambique became the fourth African political leader to be awarded for his efforts in integrating women into Mozambique's national policies. The Award ceremony took place at the African Renaissance Gala Dinner, chaired by HE President Wade and attended by 15 African Head of States and Governments and High level delegations.

2010, a fruitful year for PAC

FAS **PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC)**, established as Centre of Excellence, provides advanced training and research in peacebuilding and development issues with a focus on gender. The Centre is preparing African women to assume leadership roles them to become full and equal participants in decision-making processes. 2010 is being a fruitful year of the programmes in term of strengthening the curriculum, building new partnerships as well as activities implementation.

WOMEN LED BUSINESSES

On June, Casa Africa hosted the Women-Led Business Negotiation Workshop in Las Palmas. Participants undertook a management education program designed to equip them with negotiation



skills and a working knowledge of IT networking. They had the opportunity to present their business plans to a jury that selected the 10 best profiles. The selected business plans will be presented to a group of investors sets to meet in autumn, which will include risk capital investment firms, together with European and African bankers and social investors.

The **“Training and Mentoring Programme for Women-Led Businesses in Liberia, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Senegal and**

Rwanda, organized in partnership with IE Business School and funded by the Spanish Government, had chosen from a mapping study, 24 women who have established small enterprises with strong growth potential to assist them in the expansion into consolidated medium-sized enterprises, generating employment and economic benefits in the entrepreneurs communities.

THIRD EDITION OF AFRICAN GENDER AWARD

LINK

African Gender Forum and Award

<http://www.fasngo.org/african-gender-award-2007.html>

WOMEN-LED BUSINESSES

WORKSHOP IN LAS PALMAS (SPAIN)

LINK

Brochure

<http://fsf-ngo.org/drupal/sites/default/files/Final%20Reviewed%20Brochure%20copia.doc>



**IMPLEMENTING UN
RESOLUTION 1325
IN MANO RIVER
AND GREAT LAKES
REGION**

**THE VALUE OF
COMBINING
EFFORTS TOWARDS
EQUITABLE AND
LASTING PEACE**

IMPLEMENTING UN RESOLUTION 1325

In the Mano River

A lot has been achieved with the adoption of National Action Plans (NAP) in countries like Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast, thanks to UNSCR 1325. One year into the “**implementing UN Resolution 1325 in the Mano River**” project, FAS is proud to have attended the launch of the NAP in **Sierra Leone** in June. Just a month later, their hosting of the first **Regional Conference on Resolution 1325 in the Mano River Region** in July secured a commitment amidst NGO’s, networks and officials of the region to work towards a regional perspective. **The Guinean delegation** presented its working document of a NAP to FAS and subsequently to the Regional Conference. A **Regional Action Plan** on 1325 is underway to ensure the harmonization of the process in this region.

In Great Lakes Region

Rwandese women’s organizations and the government of Rwanda’s political will at the highest level facilitated the rapid adoption of a NAP to implement 1325. In **Burundi** the civil society and government have drafted a strong document awaiting full adoption. The **DRC** has engaged in this process, and will be encouraged to join the share of regional best practices by hosting the next **Great Lakes Regional Conference**. FAS works to ensure a realistic implementation strategy of this key document to mainstream gender in peace and security issues. It reinforces the capacities of civil society and ministerial representatives to **review gender sensitive indicators and budgets** that will activate and monitor change.

The Global Open Days on 1325

It was a chance to listen to women’s priorities in terms of their post conflict experiences and take a closer look at what was being done in the implementation of 1325 ahead of the 10th anniversary of this important legislation. In Rwanda and Burundi FAS’s project in implementing UN Resolution 1325 enabled the inclusion of the gender analysis in conflict resolution practices.

REINFORCING CAPACITY

One of the best practices FAS has learned from is the value of partnerships with other actors to combine efforts towards lasting peace. FAS continue to work with UNOWA, thru the **Working Groups on 1325** and with the center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). FAS attended the “**Best Practices in Engendering the Security Sector in West Africa**” hosted by DCAF and UNOWA in Cote d’Ivoire and in Senegal in April and June. This was an opportunity for FAS to present its expertise in using UN Resolution 1325. As Cote d’Ivoire recently joined the FAS project in implementing UN1325, this was a key moment to meet security sector personnel.

In July, FAS was pleased to associate with the Angie Brooks International Center for Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development and International Peace and Security (ABIC) to take part in a training on “**Enhancing Women’s Participation in Peace building in Post Conflict and Crisis Prone Countries**” in Monrovia. FAS has seen in Liberia ABIC’s work in the promotion and the development of women’s leadership.



FAS'S NEW TEAM IN DRC

*CAFCO

A platform of civil society organizations and women's groups deployed throughout the DRC

CONSULTATION ON GUINEA IN THE GORÉE INSTITUTE

GLOBAL OPEN DAY ON WOMEN AND PEACE

LINK

<http://unowa.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?ta-bid=765&ctl=Details&mid=1796&ItemID=1811>

THE FAMILY GETS BIGGER

The Democratic Republic of Congo experiences alarming violations of human rights, yet its legal codes and the conventions it has ratified guarantee fundamental freedoms. In the East of the DRC human security is in danger, women and girls undergo systematic sexual violence's causing a physical and psychological destruction that has implications for the functioning of society.

FAS's new team is in Goma to help women advocate for their rights by organizing themselves and providing training in understanding legal texts and conventions to hold authorities accountable for their protection and the prevention of violence. This action is implemented in partnership with CAFCO*. So far, FAS's work has enabled a **mapping** of the area in terms of existing initiatives to protect and promote human rights, it has identified actor and will be looking into possible synergies. The **training** of a first group of local actors has begun, and the training of trainers is underway.

FAS in Goma is off to a great start, here is what Mrs Kitembo, FAS Program Officer in DRC, reports: "The Minister greeted the project with great enthusiasm, especially on learning that we would focus primarily on reaching women at the community level, victims of daily violence and abuse. Around 25 people were expected at a first workshop, but 44 people came".

FAS PARTICIPATION



Consultation on Guinea — The Gorée Institute, Gorée Island, Senegal, 26th May 2010

FAS as well as other member organizations of the Working Group on Women, Peace and Security established by UNOWA were invited by the Gorée Institute to take part in the meeting focusing on the participation of women in peacebuilding in Guinea. The meeting follows two days of consultations that took place on 24th and 25th May 2010 in Gorée with eight Guinean women representatives of various women human rights and civil society organization. This was a chance to share their current experiences in Guinea. This meeting provided an opportunity for women from Guinea to present a summary of their two-day consultation during which they identified the activities required in 2010 to support the participation of women in peace processes.

Global Open Day on Women and Peace — Dakar, Senegal, 8th June 2010

The 8th June, UNOWA, in collaboration with UNIFEM, organized a meeting, "The Global Open Day on Women and Peace" with women leaders and other experts on gender, conflict, peace and security in West Africa. The attendees included Mrs Soyata Maiga, Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights for the ACHPR, and The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Western Africa, Mr Saïd Djinnit. Ms Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS, was invited to this consultative meeting as part as scheme of activities commemorating the 10th anniversary of 1325. The objective of the meeting was to identify all the challenges and the synergies necessary for effective implementation of resolution 1325 in Western Africa. A guidance document will be shared and it will serve as a roadmap for monitoring the resolution in the sub-region.



THE BIG UPCOMING EVENT: THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1325

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNSCR 1325

LINK

Resolution 1325

http://www.un.org/events/res_1325e.pdf

*CSAG:

It is co-chaired by Mary Robinson, former Ireland president, and Bineta Diop, Executive Director for FAS, and was established to advise the High-Level Steering Committee of the heads of all relevant United Nations agencies to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the UN system to implementing UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security.

October will be the month which will host the 10th anniversary of the United Nation's landmark resolution on women peace and security 1325. This is a very important resolution for FAS, because it is his soul and reason to exist. The Resolution 1325 inspires the main conceptual framework of this NGO. This is the reason why FAS is facilitating and collaborating with various efforts to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 1325.

Let's get together to improve the implementation of the 1325

First of all, upon recommendation by the Civil Society Advocacy Group (CSAG)* and in collaboration with the UN, a high level meeting to call member states to action on the implementation of this important Resolution will convene in NY in September 2010 followed by a meeting with civil society and the Security Council on 1325. Moreover, another high level ministerial meeting in October will commemorate this 10th anniversary and will advocate for high level political support, concrete actions and accountability for enhancing an agenda for women peace and security by all actors.



Bineta Diop and Mary Robinson, co-chairs of the CSAG, with his Excellency [Yoweri Museveni](#), President of Uganda

Publications

As a member of the New York based NGO working group on women peace and security, FAS works on various publications to mark the anniversary. It will be published a compilation of the monthly action points briefs by the group assessing, the most critical gaps in the implementation of 1325 in specific countries affected by conflict and the critical challenges

OTHER UPCOMMING EVENTS

The General Assembly of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC-AU)

It will be holding in the Republic of Malawi. The Heads of the organs of the African Union are invited to the plenary and the Sectorial Clusters, the Statutes Committee and the Strategic Plan Committee will be meeting on the margins of this Session.

The African Women's Decade (2010- 2020)

The African Union (AU) will launch, on October 15th, the African Women's Decade (2010-2012). This new initiative will be a mechanism to accelerate the implementation of the goals stated in the various declarations and protocols that the AU has adopted over the years on improving women's lives. It is also a call on African member to implement programs for women.