Engendering the Peace Process in Africa

2009 Report of Activities
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

2009 has been a challenging year for the women’s movement, this has been linked to the global crisis impact in our economies, and this also impacted on the women’s peace movement. I am grateful to all Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) partners, Networks and friends who have responded and contributed towards profiling women’s voices through mobilizing them in order to move the agenda of women in the Horn of Africa, Great Lakes and Mano River Union region. In the Great Lakes Region, National Action Plan (NAP) on UN SCR 1325 have been developed in consultation with women groups. In Rwanda as an example, more than 50% of women are represented in parliament. In Liberia, FAS with the leadership of H.E Ellen Sirleaf Johnson participated in mobilizing women for the colloquium that took place in Liberia. This event served as an opportunity for other countries to have their NAP developed and launched.

All achievements in 2009 were made possible with support of partners, some of the key achievements include; Having women agenda based on human security formulated, response and creation of women conflict resolution mechanism, Ensure protection of women is realized through observance of the human rights instruments, women are mobilized to continue to participate in different events at the national, regional and international level, responding to the needs of women and IDPs by profiling their voices.

At the Regional level, Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) members have constantly reviewed, monitored and evaluated the implementation of the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), UNSCR 1325 and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights in Africa and have produced and shared shadow reports.

Africa can not be separated from the global world, UN through the General Assembly as well as the Security Council decisions are relevant to our continent. FAS in its activities has committed itself to link them to the regional mechanisms and Member States commitment to these instruments becomes a reality on ground.

I would like to thank all partners, donors who believe in FAS capacity to engage in war torn areas to support women groups that are in need and to accompany them in their struggle for peace, security and stability.

Yours in Solidarity,

Mrs. Baricako Marie
President Executive Board
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1) Background

The Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) 2009 annual report highlights and outlines the progress made towards the achievement of the main goal stated in its strategic Action Plan for 2008-2013: Engendering the peace process for the attainment of human security and durable peace in Africa. In order to accomplish it, FAS uses a twofold strategy: empowerment and advocacy, ensuring that the programme’s activities are complementary to create an enhanced impact. Moreover, FAS places special emphasis in promoting and reinforcing the critical role and involvement of women in conflict resolution and conflict prevention processes in Africa.

Building on its previous activities focusing on women, peace, and human rights, FAS continues its steadfast involvement in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution. For the last 14 years, the organization has been working in 7 conflict and post-conflict African countries in 3 regions: the Mano River (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), the Great Lakes (Burundi, DRC and Rwanda) and the Horn of Africa (Sudan). During this period, project implementation has focused on the promotion of women’s effective and efficient involvement in peace and democratic processes, as well as gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes relating to peace, security and development.

In the Great Lakes area, FAS has contributed to efforts aimed at supporting governments, gender machineries, parliaments, civil society and women’s groups to develop and implement National Action Plans based on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325\(^1\) (UNSCR). After this achievement, the organization is moving towards the development of a regional action plan. For the last two years, efforts in the Manu River area have been centred in Liberia. FAS actively collaborated with the national government in the preparation of the International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security\(^2\) and on the elaboration and launching of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.

In the Horn of Africa, the programme mostly focused on the crisis affecting women and children in Darfur, Sudan. FAS responded to calls made by the sisters of Darfur, asking for a change on the road map to peace in the region. By building the capacity of women, FAS seeks to contribute to the creation of a lasting solution to the conflict.

FAS activities are a significant contribution to the implementation of regional and international instruments that promote gender equality and women’s human rights. It particularly does so by linking its work with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

It is worth mentioning the contribution of FAS to the Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) network. The organization participates in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)\(^3\), UNSCR 1325 and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. FAS’ PanAfrican Centre for Gender Peace and Development has been a supporting mechanism to the activities in the field. Its trainings, short courses and workshops have provided new skills to the beneficiaries of FAS’ projects.

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2 The International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace & Security was held in Monrovia, Liberia, on March 7-8, 2009. An international group of women leaders met in order to identify the successes and failures of measures adopted for 1325.

3 African legal instrument signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 6-8 July 2004, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Through the Solemn Declaration, the heads of seven member states (Algeria, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia) and their governments commit to annually report on progress towards gender equality.
2) **Challenges**

During the 2009 implementation period, the economic crisis was one of FAS’ major challenges. The key difficulty was to secure the mobilisation of enough resources for the full implementation of the projects and programs that are a priority for FAS, its partners and allies.

Another challenge was linking the women’s agenda for peace with new emerging issues, such as the socio-economic rights of women in post conflict reconstruction and the engendering of their democratic utilities.

Attraction and retention of skilled staff for the stability of the projects was also complex.

The gap between women in leadership positions and grassroots women presented a challenge on matters of constituency building, accountability, commitment and solidarity. FAS solution focused on building the capacity of women for positive leadership and the encouragement of the full involvement of young peace-builders.

Despite of all the challenges aforementioned, FAS continued with its work serving its target group, and achieving a significant progress in its area of operation.

3) **Opportunities**

Governments recognised the key role FAS played in bringing civil society and women’s groups to the roundtable discussions especially through the process to develop UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans.

FAS was able to get funding from European Union by successfully responding to a call for proposal with a project targeting women in Eastern Congo.

FAS received funding from the African Women Development Forum to review its management strategies and to put in place processes, procedures and tools to improve its functioning.

4) **Way forward**

FAS has accompanied the Manu River region from conflict to peace-building. The launch of the National Action Plans on 1325 need to be reinforced with a creation of Regional Action Plan.

There is a continued need to pay special attention to women’s need in conflict and post conflict areas, such as East Congo and Burundi. African women require to be represented in events such as the 10th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325, and other international meetings related to the UN Beijing Platform for action. This kind of events will enable them to share their experiences and learn from others’ practices in the utilization of international instruments.

Furthermore, the different platforms that have been created are vital instruments for advocacy and for voicing women’s positions. These have acted as a powerful lobbying tool, as women continue to fight for their place at the negotiation tables.

Finally, FAS would like to thank its partners; all activities have been implemented with the generous support of the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union (EU), the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government of Norway, the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the University for Peace (UPEACE), and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). The organization is grateful to all the people who have supported its work. FAS looks forward to furthering its collaboration with its donors, partners, and friends to continue empowering the African women.

Bineta Diop  
Executive Director

**Femmes Africa Solidarité**
INTRODUCTION

This report is prepared as a narrative of the activities of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) from January to December 2009. It provides an overview of the activities undertaken by FAS to further the objectives of its five-year programme on engendering peace processes in Africa. It describes the background, objectives and outcomes of national, sub-regional, regional, continental, international and institutional-building activities.

The programme addresses the 3 phases of conflict: resolution, prevention and reconstruction. The strategies used to carry out these activities are empowerment and advocacy. Empowerment involves building the capacity of women and their organisation in order to have a positive impact in the peace process. The advocacy strategy transforms policies into practice for gender parity and mainstreaming.

Programme phases:

FAS has played a vital role in building the leadership and developing capacity of women in Africa. The organization perceives this as the most effective and efficient strategy for creating political, social and economic change in the community. In the past years, the organization stepped up its efforts to enhance the capacity of women who are able to have an impact on their countries' peace processes and development, helping to foster peace on the continent. To enable FAS to meet its intended goal, FAS created the PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development in Dakar - Senegal. The Centre offers training to African women in peace promotion process. Its objective is to enable them to effectively respond to the challenges to peace in their communities and countries at large.

FAS also uses tools such as information dissemination and media communication, capacity building, networking and partnership to further the organization’s programmes.
I. EMPOWERMENT

INTRODUCTION

In order to support the women to actively contribute and deliver in their various communities, FAS has supported and empowered women initiatives in the various communities by empowering them in the following areas:

- Building the capacity of women to fully participate in the rebuilding of democratic governance and the respect of their civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights
- Building the capacity of CSO, Parliament and government networks on human rights on transparency and good governance for the rebuilding of democratic institutions
- Raising awareness of military personnel on gender sensitive DDRR processes and security sector reforms
- Developing and providing training to women economy, leadership and governance
- Developing and providing short-courses to various sectors of society (youth, media,) on conflict prevention and peacebuilding
- Developing and providing a Master program on gender and peacebuilding
- Developing an online network constituted of people previously trained (alumni) in order to give them a mobilization tool to be used as an early warning mechanism that could complement other existing early warning systems in place

PROGRAMMATIC AREA 1: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

A) The Horn of Africa - SUDAN: Engendering the Peace Process in Darfur

Goal
The overall Goal of the project is to “Engender the peace process in Darfur, Sudan”.

Objectives
In order to contribute to the overall goal of the project, FAS directs its activities to support the implementation of the Sudanese Women’s Peace Agenda on Darfur.

Timeframe
The second phase of “Engendering the peace process in Darfur” started in 2008 and this was to continue through 2009. The duration of this project is two years.

Donors
The donors supporting the programme in Sudan are: DFID and the Government of Norway.

Partners
See table in the Annex

1. Background

Sudanese Women on Peace Agenda in Darfur, SWOFOD, is part of a larger project that aims to engender the peace process in Darfur by building on the capacities of Sudanese Women in order to mobilize various stakeholders and engage them in advocacy activities, to consolidate the peace
agenda on Darfur through a consultative process, and to facilitate the participation of the Sudanese Women in peace negotiations.

FAS developed the project ‘Engendering the Peace Process in Darfur’ following requests made during the field visits by several women’s organisations and authorities in Chad and Sudan. All the activities of the project are supported by DFID and Norway funds. The activities involved in this project is geared towards enhancing the capacity of Sudanese women to mobilize various actors and engage them in advocacy activities, the consolidation of the peace agenda on Darfur through a consultative process, and the participation of the Sudanese women in peace negotiations. The following are some of the achievements from the previous DFID and Norway funding:

- Mapping of women initiatives in Sudan.
- A capacity needs assessment on Sudanese women.
- The adoption of a Sudanese Women Declaration on Darfur
- Development of a consolidated Plan of Action for the Women Peace Agenda and a strategy for implementation
- The Establishment of a Sudanese Women Forum on Darfur (SWOFOD)
- Formalization of the SWOFOD Executive Committee and adoption of the constitution
- The Establishment of a FAS – SWOFOD Secretariat in Khartoum
- Capacity building on UNSCR 1325, that enabled the women of Darfur to articulate their priorities for their Peace Agenda
- Advocacy activities by Sudanese women leaders to target the AU, UN and other institutions were implemented
- The Action Plan was also used throughout the year as an advocacy tool at the AU summits, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the Security Council.
- Awareness raising on the situation through the media and other channels about the Darfuri women and their work for peace

2. 2009 Activities and Achievements

Activities undertaken during the reporting period were aimed at consolidating the achievements of 2008 by continuing to organise the consultation process, second forum, advocacy and capacity building.

North Darfur Consultation Forum, El Fasher, Darfur (January 2-3 2009)
The North Darfur consultation was part of the Preparatory phase for the 2nd Sudanese Women’s Forum on Darfur. It was held at the Sudanese Women General Union Hall in El Fasher, North Darfur, on January 2 and 3, 2009. The forum was a collaborative effort by various committees involved in all aspects of the forum, under the leadership of the Interim Steering Committee for North Darfur. It was attended by over 80 women, including professionals, government representatives, local women, internally displaced people (IDP) and international NGO and UN staff members. After two days of paper presentations, plenary discussions, working group reunions and deliberations, the meeting’s reporting team agreed to present the following security priority issues arising from the forum:

- Women have experienced rape – sometimes leading to death.
- Young women have been kidnapped, never to be seen again (it is unknown whether they are alive or dead). On December 27, 2008, near Kapkabiya, as a group of women returned home
from harvesting, 7 people wearing soldiers’ uniforms took a girl away from her mother. The girl has since died from the effects of gang rape.

- Kidnappings of husbands, sons and brothers – with its traumatic effects on the children
- Need for an effective ceasefire by rebels and government (silence the guns, bombings, burnings).
- Safety for men, women, children and animals.
- Unprecedented armed robbery (in homes and in streets) is now in epidemic proportions throughout Darfur. A little resistance has robbed families of heads of households – killed in front of their children, who are now traumatized for life. These appalling acts happened all over the country, in the towns, but especially for people living in IDP’s camps.
- The collapse of customary systems of governance has currently put justice for women out of reach. Customary leaders (Sheikhs and Oumdahs) used to regulate and mediate disputes and conflict in the communities. They lost their power and prestige in society through arbitrary Government of Sudan (GOS) decisions. Since the 1970’s there has been a leadership gap within the community. As a result, tribalism and tribal animosity has increased.

**Outcome**

Following the above highlighted areas, recommendations were drawn from the El Fasher consultation, including: a call for peace and justice to prevail by punishing perpetrators, the need for refugees and IDPs to be supported, based on the principle of a durable solution to the conflict and the recognition of civil society’s contribution in the development of the country – as it was established in the Addis Ababa Forum.

The organization of a national consultation resulted in the approval of the SWOFOD constitution, which was revised as per recommendations made during the 2nd Forum in Addis Ababa (2009). It also led to the election of the Steering Committee that was authorized to seek the legal registration of the organization in Sudan. The adoption of a Declaration was a road map to include women in the peace process.

**2nd Sudanese Forum in Addis Ababa (5 – 7 January 2009)**

The 2nd Forum on Darfur was organized on January 5–7, 2009 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Building in Addis Ababa. The Event was organized by FAS in collaboration with Realizing Rights (RR). The forum was represented by Ms. Mary Robinson the former Irish President and High Commissioner for Human Rights, who also brought an entourage of 8 eminent personalities.

From left to right: Mrs Nawal Hassan Osman, Sudanese SC, Ms Bineta Diop, Executive Director of FAS and H.E. Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland and President of Realizing Rights

It was attended by 101 women and 8 men from Sudan, particularly from three Sudanese states: Darfur, Southern Sudan, and Khartoum. Three men and three women represented the Sudanese in the Diaspora. Among other participants who attended the forum were: DFID, Norwegian Government representatives, AWDF, UNIFEM and the African Union/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID), Ambassador of the African Union Liaison Office in Sudan, the Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia, and the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC) representative.
The financial support was received from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID). The forum successfully achieved the goals of reviewing the progresses made in implementing the women’s agenda; adopting the constitution and other legal instruments to formalize the Forum; linking the forum with African and other international women leaders and mobilizing the international press on the situation of women in Darfur.

**Outcome**
The Sudanese women’s participation in the forum gave great visibility to their cause, enabling them to share their experiences and knowledge. SWOFOD gained new momentum from the 2009 Addis Ababa consultation, and the SWOFOD members who were represented in this consultation returned to their respective zones in Sudan and began activities for various advocacy purposes. There was a closed-door meeting to resolve conflicts among the groups and to sort out their differences. Review was made of the progress made in implementation, constraints faced particularly in Darfur were recognized and recommendations drawn for the women’s agenda. These recommendations were taken by Ms. Mary Robinson to the AU for a redress and for actions to be taken.

**Media Coverage in Addis Ababa (5 – 6 January 2009)**
There was extensive media coverage of the Forum with more than 25 journalists participating. They represented both the print and broadcast media. At the beginning of the Forum on January 5th, there was a Press Release distributed by FAS information and communication officer to all foreign and local media, reporting them on the Forum’s plans, and report to them its objectives and expected outcomes. FAS partners, Realizing Rights (RR), also distributed a Press Advisory to all international media informing them about the event.
A Press Conference was held on the 6th January 2009, at the UNECA press briefing room, with more than 20 journalists representing international, national and regional media. The Press Conference was led amongst others, by Mrs. Robinson and Ms. Diop, Ms. Leymah Gbowee from Women Peace and Security Network Africa, and Mrs. Mona Elshareif Tazorah, from the SWOFOD Interim Steering Committee. It focused on the conditions of women in Darfur, the role of the Sudanese Women’s Forum in the peace process, their involvement under the UNSCR1325, as well as issues regarding the country’s political situation. Ms Robinson highlighted the main issues under discussion, such as violence against women, absence of women in the peace negotiating tables, justice and impunity to the perpetrators. The panelists also discussed the aforementioned topics. Some participants had the chance to express their opinions and to clarify a number of political issues.
Outlook

The media coverage including the press conference at the national, regional and international level brought the plight of the Sudanese women to the attention of different stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. Members of SWOFOD steering committee were invited to the Doha process, increasing their visibility. The publication of a book on Sudan was also discussed.

SWOFOD Elected Officials Consultation (Khartoum: 2-3 February 2009)

Elected Officials of SWOFOD’s Executive Committee and Consultative Council held a Consultation meeting in Khartoum on 2nd-3rd February, to finalize the SWOFOD Constitution. A delegation attended the meeting of the GIMAC and the AU Summit in Addis Ababa. Upon their return to Sudan, they debriefed all participants on the outcome of their advocacy journey.

Engendering Mediation (10 February 2010)

On February 10th, H.E. Mrs. Mary Robinson, Ms. Bineta Diop, FAS Executive Director, and Ms. Nawal Hassan Osman, Board Chair of SWOFOD sent a letter to H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission. They reminded him of the discussions held in his office during the 2nd Forum in Addis Ababa, whereby he agreed that the AU should appoint H.E. Mr. Jibril Bassolé as a gender adviser for the mediation process.

Outcome

FAS and SWOFOD closely follow-up this process, in their efforts to continuously advocate for women inclusion and involvement in the mediation procedure.

West Darfur Forum (February 16-17 2009)

The West Darfur chapter held its forum on February 16th–17th, at the State Legislature in El Geneina. This forum was instrumental, as it marked the government’s support to SWOFOD. The forum was attended by at least 100 participants, including women from remote localities and IDPs’ camps. Guests included SWOFOD national officials and professionals from Khartoum, as well as a consultant from FAS, accompanied by two staff members. UNAMID, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNFPA sent representatives to the forum. A representative of the El Wali performed the official opening ceremony, with the presence of the state Minister for Information and other high-ranking government officials. The UNAMID representative addressed the opening ceremony, with the participation of UNAMID West Darfur Head, who is also the leader of UNAMID’s Civil Affairs department.
Outcome
The deliberations among the women of the different states, plenary presentations and panel discussions focused on the different issues that make up the women’s peace agenda for Darfur. There were presentations of unique practices that the Sudanese women could adopt. Debates on strategies for ensuring the inclusion of topics relevant to women in the peace agenda, and their inclusion in the peace negotiations, as well as group discussions of other relevant issues resulted in the Second Declaration on Darfur.

Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment (Monrovia, March 7-8 2009)
In their capacities as SWOFOD leaders, Dr. Mariam Al Mahdi (Khartoum) and the Honorable Betty Ogwaro (South Sudan) attended the historic International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, co-convened by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and President Tarja Halonen of Finland in Monrovia, Liberia, on March 7-8 2009. Dr. Al Mahdi and the Hon. Ogwaro were invited to share their experiences about their struggle to be attributed a place at the Sudanese peace table. The Hon. Ogwaro was a panelist in one of the sessions named “Experiences from Around the World: Women at the Peace Table.”

Outcome
The Monrovia Call for Action and the Call to Action of the UNSCR 1325 were adopted by the Colloquium.

UN Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 2-15 2009)
Sponsored by FAS, on March 2 - 15 2009, Ms Samira Hassan Mahdi (Khartoum) and Ms Mona Elsharief Tazorah (West Darfur) attended as the official representatives of SWOFOD the 53rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). A number of other SWOFOD members obtained separate sponsorship, with FAS-SWOFO D secretariat providing assistance in visa processing. Also included in this delegation was Ms. Niemat Ahmadhi from the Diaspora (USA). The theme of the 2009 UNCSW was “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS”. FAS organized four panels from 1st–7th March, to discuss HIV/AIDS and women, the effect of violence against women in conflict and post conflict zones and the role of men.

Ms Mona Elsharief Tazorah (West Darfur)

Outcome
The group was able to interact with women activists and also shared experience on the impact of violent conflict on women. They were able to meet with UN officials and partners and inform them about the situation in their region. The event helped the women to understand the Beijing +15 platform evaluation process. The occasion also enabled the women have an opportunity to share Sudan based experiences on the theme on “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS” in the panel that FAS organized.

UN Human Rights Council (Geneva, March 2-27 2009)
The 10th Session of the Human Rights Council took place from 2nd–27th March 2009. FAS organized a panel discussion entitled “A step forward on the Darfuri women’s Road to Peace”. Four Sudanese women were invited to take part in this event as panelists, sharing their experiences in the Darfur peace process.

FAS organized and facilitated training on March 28th 2009 in Geneva, on the following areas:


Besides these events, the women held advocacy meetings with different donors, including with the Norway Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, H.E Bente Angell-Hansen.

**Outcome**

The women were able to make a statement on the situation in Darfur and requested for the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Sudan. The delegation was well received by the international community and member states and the Human Rights Council received their statement with interest. Their panel presentation was also well attended and the group was able to interact with women activists and also shared experience on the impact of violent conflict on women. They had the occasion to meet with representatives of partners such as Norway, EU, and Finland. Finally, the women were trained to understand the Human Rights Council procedures, the complaints handling mechanism, the newly established Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and how they can contribute to the functioning of this tools when they return back home.

**3rd Short course on Gender, Media and Conflict (Senegal, April 1-5 2009)**

From 1st -5th April, 2009, FAS, in partnership with the University for Peace (UPEACE) organized a short course on Gender Media and Conflict in Mbodiène, Senegal. The focus of this 3rd course of its kind was based on the role of media in conflict prevention and transformation, media coverage of women in conflict, and feminist media. It also examined how the media perpetuates patriarchal behaviors in different cultures, and looked at critical analyses and debates on media and the position it plays in concepts of power and gender.

**Outcome**

Participants from Sudan had the opportunity to be trained among other attendees coming from all over Africa. The skills acquired will enhance their ability in combating issues such as violence against women.

**Field visit to Darfur (May 2009)**

In May 2009, SWOFOD Executive Committee chairperson, visited Darfur for a rapid assessment of the situation on the ground. The African Union Liaison Office facilitated her travel to three Darfur sates. During her visit, she met some representatives from the Zonal Forum executives. In Nyala, she discussed the South Darfur Forum proposal and budget with the executive chairperson to agree on a final document. The executive chairperson also met with West Darfur Governor who reaffirmed his commitment to support SWOFOD activities.
Representatives of African women’s organizations and civil society, met under the umbrella of the “Gender Is My Agenda Campaign” (GIMAC) at the 14th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender mainstreaming in Africa held in Tripoli, Libya, on 27th-28th June, 2009. The discussion centered on four areas: Implementation of SDGEA, the role of the African Union Commission (AUC), Peace and Security in Africa, Investigation in Agriculture for Economic Growth, Food Security and Regional Integration.

Ways forward were drawn for each of these areas, including: supportive institutional machinery to be put in place to ensure the inclusion of gender in the budget and planning processes of governments; to strengthen efforts aimed at engendering all the organs and units of the AUC; to speed up the process of establishing the Women’s Trust Fund as a significant element for implementing the SDGEA; to nominate women’s special representatives and special envoys in peace negotiations and peace keeping missions and to appoint gender focal points who will ensure that peace and security architectures are engendered; to reiterate the call to member states to design and implement national action plans on UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 on engendering the peace process and ending violence against women as stated in the Monrovia Call for Action (March 2009); to domesticate the regional instruments that address the issue of women’s access to land, which include the recently concluded Land Policy in Africa aimed at strengthening Land Rights and enhancing agricultural productivity and food security; and to fast-track the process of economic and political integration that will advance a people-centered sustainable development in Africa.

Outcome
High-level advocacy messages were included in the final GIMAC recommendations. At the end of the meeting, different actors were sensitized on gender issues. There was important media coverage and the participants were able to share their various experiences.

**3. Challenges, opportunities and way forward**

During the reporting period, the project faced challenges in the implementation of the activities, including delays in funding, unstable security situation, the preparation of 2010 elections and difficulties with registration and administrative procedures.
Consultations are vital for the continuity of the Forum; they are an opportunity to attract the interest of different stakeholders and to promote the women’s agenda. By creating room for discussion with various actors in the government and civil society, the Forum is putting pressure for the endorsement of the women’s agenda for peace.

It is important to continue advocacy by encouraging the participation of Sudanese women at Regional and International fora. The continued support of Ms. Mary Robinson is vital to continue building partnerships and lobbying with the appropriate leaders to ensure the support of high-level women and men in Darfur and Sudan at large. There is a need for continued collaboration with the UN and other agencies like UNAMID, UNIFEM and UNFPA, for building the capacity of women in Darfur and Sudan at large, and designing capacity building programmes. Finally, there is need to continue and further the inclusion of the needs of various target groups.

**PROGRAMMATIC AREA 2: POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION**

**INTRODUCTION**

In the aftermath of the conflicts in the Great Lake region, Burundi, DRC and Rwanda became aware of the importance of women's involvement in peace processes. It became clear that it was crucial to establish a project at both regional and national level to prioritize issues related to gender inequalities, and to allow the full implementation of women’s rights at all levels, in both times of peace and conflict.

To support this collective action, in 2007 FAS launched the National Action Plans (NAPs) project for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 to promote gender equality and its integration in peace, security and development policies. As a result, the three countries have drafted and later implemented NAPs. In doing so, they have demonstrated their commitment to promote gender equality in their peace policies and programmes; and to protect victims of gender based violence in conflict situations.

**A) Great Lakes Region: Implementation of National Action Plans on the UNSCR 1325**

**Goal**

*To create a new social order that will guarantee gender equality, and gender mainstreaming in peace, security and development policies and plans through sustained and systematic implementation of a NAP on UNSCR 1325 in Burundi, Rwanda and DRC.*

**Objective**

The purpose is the prioritisation of gender inequalities and obstacles to women’s empowerment and the full realisation of women’s legal and human rights in peace and security policy.

**Timeframe**

The project was for 3 years and the plan was to end in 2009.

**Donors**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland has supported the project for the development and implementation of National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 in Rwanda, Burundi and DRC.
**Background**

In 2007, FAS in its quest to further the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security began a regional project on the development and implementation of NAPs in Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC.

The main activities included to set up a regional Steering Committee for the Project; reporting to the United Nations community through the organization of panels; constituting high-level advocacy and lobbying networks; sharing good practices and lessons learnt during the AU pre-summits; awareness raising and education of all the actors concerned at the national and international level.

The following activities were undertaken in the previous years;

- **Baseline Study:** the objective of the baseline study was to conduct a comprehensive countrywide baseline survey, one for each country, which assessed the existing situation.
- **A mission was undertaken in the Great Lakes Region to support the implementation of the project’s fieldwork, ensuring technical assistance to the consultants operating at the grassroots level.**
- **A regional meeting took place in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss the launch of the NAP on the basis of the baseline study and to select the members and creation of the national Steering Committee in the three countries.**
- **Advocacy at national, regional and international level was undertaken with GIMAC and at the CSW.**
- **Publication of two books on UNSCR 1325.**

**Launch of Implementation Project of UNSCR 1325**

*Kigali, Rwanda, 15th-16th December 2009*

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1. **2009 Project activities and achievements**

In January 2009, FAS’ expert continued with a monitoring mission and with consultations to support the National Steering Committee activities in Burundi, Rwanda and DRC.
A semi-final evaluation report of the project in the Great Lakes region was done in 2009, with two objectives. First, to assist the partners of the project to agree on a way forward in the continued implementation of the project by clarifying progress made from January to July 2009, before the regional conference. Second, it permitted the identification of progress activities and of major gaps to be addressed before the completion of the project during the regional conference in order to better define priorities, and decide upon urgent measure to be implemented.

**National Steering Committee meetings**
National Steering Committee meetings took place in Rwanda and Burundi. In these meetings presentations and discussions focused on the concept of security. The Committee in Burundi validated the NAP on January 3rd, 2009; and Rwanda did it on June 5th, 2009.

**Outcome**
The Steering committee adopted the National Action Plan.

**Baseline Study Validation**
In 2009, the national baseline study was validated in the three countries; feedback was given to the members before validation was done. In Burundi, feedback was done on January 11th, 2009 and validation conducted on February 3rd, 2009. In Rwanda feedback was done on March 25, 2009 and validation in April 3rd, 2009. In DRC feedback was done on February 11th, 2009 and validation on May 20th, 2009.

**Outcome**
The regional baseline study was adopted.

**Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment (Monrovia, 7-8 2009)**
On March 7th-8th, representatives from the three different countries attended the Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment in Liberia. In their capacities of representatives from their countries, they were able to learn and share country based experience.

**Outcome**
A book on the project was released during the International Colloquium.
### Media coverage

In DRC all main activities of the project and the work of national steering committee were covered by the media – press, radio and TV- at the national, subregional and regional level.

In Rwanda, workshops launching the validation of the study and the NPA project have been covered by the radio and television. There were also banners outside and inside the meeting rooms and the meetings were attended by various actors ranging from government, parliamentarians, civil society organizations and women from the different communities.

In Burundi, the activities were aired out on three local radios, and the national radio. At least two journalists, including a woman representing the Burundian Press Agency (BPA) covered the Steering Committee activities. Community Radio "Voice of Women" initiated by Dushirehamwe produced 30 programs and 1 weekly radio drama on UNSCR 1325. The Community Media Centre translated the text in Kirundi, and produced visual aids to reach out to the population.

### Regional Consultation (Bujumbura, 13 - 14 August, 2009)

On 13th – 14th August, 2009, a regional consultation on strengthening the national action plans for UNSCR 1325 was held in Bujumbura, but covering the three countries. The meeting was attended by Ms. Rachel Mayanja, the UN Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), and Ms Elizabeth Rehn, representing the Government of Finland. The consultation was organised by the international Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Ministries in charge of Gender, and networks of women parliamentarians, in collaboration with women’s networks on civil society in the three countries, with support from FAS and the Finnish Government. Delegations from the three countries reviewed the situation of women in the region and came up with a common paper based on a synthesis of their National Action Plans. A committee that was created among the members of the national steering committees followed up this paper.
Outcome
There was a strong commitment from the three governments. There was clear indication that the UN was supporting the process. The participants adopted the “Bujumbura Declaration”: a step contributing to peace, security and development in the region.

Networking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Organisation type</th>
<th>Organisation focus/geographical focus</th>
<th>Number of associations under their umbrella</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAFCO, Permanent Framework of Dialogue for Congolese Women (Cadre Permanent de Consultation des Femmes Congolaises)</td>
<td>NGOs Network</td>
<td>Gender Issues/ DRC</td>
<td>50 organisations including gender-related NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRO-FEMMES</td>
<td>NGOs Network</td>
<td>Gender issues, Rwanda</td>
<td>40 organisations including gender-related NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAFOB, Collectif des Associations et ONGs Féminines du Burundi is a non-profit, NGO created in 1994 under the initiative of 7 women organizations and with the support of the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI). It works with refugees and internally displaced people.</td>
<td>NGOs Network</td>
<td>Gender Issues/FAS Africa</td>
<td>63 organisations including gender-related NGOs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republic of Finland</th>
<th>Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Human Rights and Gender, Republic of Burundi</td>
<td>Government Burundi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, Republic of Rwanda</td>
<td>Government Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Gender, Family and Child, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)</td>
<td>Government Congo (DRC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliaments</td>
<td>Rwanda, DRC and Burundi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Challenges, opportunities and way forward
While the evaluation was ongoing, some activities did not take place as planned. Manpower and time was dedicated to the evaluation, to ensure the high quality of the outputs of the process.
Activities should focus on the creation of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action by the three countries. In terms of partnership, a regional approach could be reinforced with the office of the International Conference on the Great Lakes based in Burundi and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries. National Action Plans have to be launched by the three governments and clear indicators need to be developed in order to guarantee the monitoring of the implementation of UNSCR 1325, together with the training on the implementation of NAPs.

**B) Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the DRC**

**INTRODUCTION**
FAS with a generous donation from the United Nation Development Fund (UNDEF), and in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and other UN agencies is implementing a project to further the participation of Congolese women’s groups in the country’s peace processes. With their assistance, the women of the DRC have been able to create national platforms to support their participation in peace negotiations and transitional mechanisms of governance as well as to establish the “Cadre de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises” (CAFCO), a nation wide association of women’s group.

![Building Democracy Institutions through Gender Equality in the Democratic republic of Congo](image)

**Goal**
The goal is to engender the democratic process in DRC, to ensure full and equitable participation of women in all decision making process, opportunities and the protection of women’s human rights for a peaceful and sustainable human development.

**Objectives**
The programme in DRC has two main objectives:

To build the capacity of DRC policy makers at various levels, focusing on leadership, advocacy, coalition building and women’s human rights.

To enable project beneficiaries in partnership with CAFCO and other stakeholders of the Gender is my Agenda Campaign to support the adoption of laws, policies and programs that promote justice, reconciliation and equitable participation.

**Femmes Africa Solidarité**
**Timeframe**
The programme duration is three years; 2007 - 2009.

**Donor**
The project was developed by FAS and supported by UNDP and UNIFEM with funding from UNDEF.

Activities conducted in the previous years were:

- Identification of guidelines for the finalisation of the UNDEF project, this was as a result of a workshop carried out in Kinshasa;
- Trainings held for DRC parliamentarians, civil society and traditional chiefs;
- Advocacy and awareness raising activities.

**1. Background**

After four decades, the first free round of parliamentary elections took place in July 30th, 2006. The elected parliament had a low representation of women. Out of the 608 parliamentarians, only 50 were women, representing a bit less than 10%. This project was developed with the aim of engendering the democratic process to ensure full and equitable participation of women in all decision making processes, opportunities and the protection of women’s human rights for a peaceful and sustained human development.

FAS worked in partnership with UNDP and UNIFEM to ensure that a network is put in place in the National Parliament to ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated in all its activities.

The objectives of the project are:

- To build the capacity of DRC policy-makers at various levels in leadership, advocacy, coalition building and women’s human rights;
- To enable project beneficiaries in partnership with “Le Cadre de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises” (CAFCO) and other stakeholders of the “Gender is My Agenda Campaign” to support the adoption of laws, policies and programs that promote justice, reconciliation and equitable participation.

These will be achieved through the provision of training on gender issues and advocacy within the framework of the Gender is My Agenda Campaign network and the landmark Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. The activities of the project have been executed by UNDP and implemented by FAS.

**2. 2009 activities and achievements**

The development of a manual was conducted during the reporting period. This manual was used in the Training of Trainers workshop conducted between the 1st – 6th April 2009, in the DRC. The workshop looked at different approaches for analyzing, integrating, monitoring and evaluating gender in social and public institutions.

The workshop was attended by different groups of participants, included civil society, NGOs, members of the Independent Electoral Commission, members of ministerial offices, Honorable Members, Ministers, provincial university professors, school prefects, church leaders, students and representatives from UN agencies such as UNICEF. The training focused on the following modules;

- Leadership, Negotiation, Advocacy and Communication assertive.
• Gender, analytical framework and planning cycle.
• Gender and Empowerment.
• Gender and Human Rights.
• Approaches the methodology of training trainers.

**Outcome**
The parliamentarians and trainers were able to gain skills and they will in turn train on gender other people in their provinces. Networks were created and operational, and they were able to review the laws including application of gender parity principles.

**Networking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Partners and Networks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the DRC | • UNDP, UNDEF, UNIFEM  
• Ministre du Genre, de la Famille et de l’Enfant République Démocratique du Congo (RDC)  
• “Le Cadre de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises (CAFCO)  
• GIMAC  
• Parliament |

**3. Challenges and way forward**
The fund was not disbursed on time. UNDP was the organization controlling the funds, and this affected the implantation of planned activities. Efforts were made to successfully clarify the responsibilities of the partners in the implementation of the programme.

**C) Women’s Advocacy on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; Eastern Democratic Congo**

**INTRODUCTION**
One of FAS lessons learnt from its past programme cycle is the need for an enhanced outreach to grassroots women to better meet their specific needs and concerns. This project will allow to capitalize on what FAS has already done in DRC (creation of the national women’s platform CAFCO and the Gender & Parity Network of Parliamentarians), strengthen overall CAFCO capacity to work as a democratic platform, and add an undermined component so far in FAS overall national, sub-regional, regional and international advocacy programmes. This project has been developed with the beneficiaries on the ground, after an intense consultation process.

**Goal**
To enhance the capacity of women in Eastern DRC to effectively advocate for their rights and fundamental freedom at the local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels in order to improve their own situation locally and also have an impact on the situation of women in the DRC, the Great Lakes region, and all over Africa.

**Donor**
European Union (EU)
Partners
Strategic partners and other stakeholders include the Government of the DRC, line ministries, the EU, the Association of Women Journalists in the DRC, MONUC, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNICEF, and other bilateral missions, local NGOs in the Women’s peace movement.

1. 2009 activities and achievements

The programme was successfully launched as a result of a visit to DRC in 13th -25th December 2009. FAS Regional Programme Officer made a detailed presentation of the project to the members of CAFCO, an umbrella organization for women’s civil society organizations. CAFCO members actively contributed, taking ownership of the programme. The organization participated in consultation meetings with the various stakeholders and partners. A courtesy visit was organised to the Ministry of Gender, Family, and Children and other diplomatic and bilateral missions. The official launching of the EU funded project ensured the support of the government, partners, donors, civil society and other stakeholders.

Outcome
The project was officially launched. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with CAFCO. A selection committee was established to recruit staff for the project, Terms of Reference were developed, and as a result a Programme Officer was hired.

D) MANO RIVER REGION

INTRODUCTION
FAS has been engaged in enhancing women’s participation in peace processes and ensuring that they are included during the peace building phase since it’s formation in 1996. The organisation has worked in Mano River union countries: Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

In the year 2006, just before the Inauguration of President Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson of Liberia, a few African women leaders including FAS Executive Director had a pre-session with President Ellen Sirleaf- Johnson and discussed how best to support Liberia, a post-conflict country, undergoing a peace building phase and most importantly with the first Woman President in Africa. It was during this meeting that the idea of the International Colloquium was borne. The International Colloquium aims to create an environment for women and their champions around the world to discuss, learn, demonstrate and act on the benefits and lessons learned from women in leadership.

Through this process, FAS has engaged not only in the colloquium but also in a broader project to include the Mano River countries for purposes of continuity and addressing issues that may be of stake to these countries. For peace to sustain in Liberia, the same situation needs to prevail in other basin regions.

Goal
The goal is to empower women in order to effectively get involved in the preparations and participation at the International Colloquium and to contribute in the designing of the 1325 National Action Plan.

Objectives
The overall objective is to contribute towards the efforts to engender the peace and reconstruction process. This is done to empower women within the overall framework of revitalising the Mano River region through capacity building and institutional strengthening.
**Timeframe**

**Donor**
Government of Norway

In the previous years FAS was involved in the following activities;

- FAS participated the development of the objectives and expected outcomes of the Colloquium in Liberia
- FAS organised and participated in various events and informed its partners and networks on the Colloquium and way forward
- Participation in the GIMAC event
- FAS participated in the launching of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 of Finland

1. **Background**
In 2008, FAS was mandated by the president of Liberia to be the Africa chair for the Africa Colloquium and to lead the team on UNSCR 1325. Activities were mainly focused towards the development of a National Action Plan for the Liberia Colloquium. This was in recognition of FAS’ commitment and continued engagement in women’s empowerment for peace and security in Africa. The International Colloquium aimed to create an environment for women and their champions around the world to discuss, learn, demonstrate and act on the benefits and lessons learned from women in leadership.

2. **2009 Activities Achievements**

*Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment (Monrovia, 7-8 2009)*
The International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security is co-convened by the President of Liberia, H.E Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson and the President of Finland, H.E Tarja Halonen.

The Colloquium sought to realize the aims of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security to ensure that women are protected from the worst abuses in times of conflict and empower them to play their rightful and vital role in helping their countries prevent, end and recover from conflict, an agenda at the heart of FAS work since its formation. The meeting was attended by high level delegates, including African Union members, UN, African Union leaders, representatives from the UN, government, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, Manu River Union (MRU) representatives and 1000 women.
Opening of the Governing Board and General Assembly Meetings (Liberia, Jan. 30, 2009)
The formal opening of MARWOPNET Governing Board and General Assembly was held on January 30, 2009 in the VIP Conference Room of the Samuel K. Doe Spots Complex in Monrovia, Liberia. The meeting brought together delegates from the three countries, a representative from Femmes Africa Solidarité, MARWOPNET partners, the donor community as well as well-wishers.

FAS believes that as sub-regional peace builders, MARWOPNET has a particular role to play and a contribution to make in ensuring that peace is realized in the Mano River Union (MRU).
Outcome
The meeting was an opportunity to share experiences since the adoption of the UNSCR 1325. The following decisions were adopted in the general assembly meeting:

- Support and strengthen the ongoing peace building and conflict resolution initiatives of MARWOPNET Guinea Chapter;
- Hold consultations with Head of States of the MRU countries, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote D’Ivoire;
- Meet with representatives of political parties, trade unions, women and youth organizations/groups, civil society organizations, the business community and private sectors and other stakeholders to impress upon them the need for the their sincere commitments and advocacies for an early restoration of democratic civilian rule;
- Organize and hold a sub-regional seminar to elaborate on the role to be played by MARWOPNET in supporting the electoral process in Guinea ensuring free and fair elections; and
- Maintain pressure, through advocacies, on the MRU, ECOWAS, AU, EU and UN for continued support to ensure speedy transition in Guinea.

National Action Plan in Liberia (January 2009)
In January 2009, meetings were held, and attended by high-level delegates, including civil society organization, UN representatives, government officials, and MRU representatives. The various theme leads reported on the preparatory activities that they had undertaken with regard to the International Colloquium. It was also an opportunity to look at the facilities in Liberia and deliberate on what needed to be done by March 2009. In partnership with UNIFEM, FAS gave out the draft proposed topics to the panelists for the UNSCR 1325 theme. Further to this, FAS organized an expert group meeting particularly focusing on effective engendered monitoring mechanisms and adequate resources to achieve the desired outcomes. During the meeting, the executive director of FAS stated that in preparation for the UNSCR 1325 theme at the International Colloquium, the Expat’s Group Meeting (EGM) would explore the various aspects of the resolution and come up with a statement.

Pre-events with women (Liberia, 6th March 2009)
On the 6th March, 2009, FAS organized a side event which was held under the peace tent at the SKD stadium. The event brought together women from diverse backgrounds to share on their experiences and challenges in peace work and in particular their engagement in the implementation of the UNSCR 1325. It also gave an opportunity for the women to voice their expectations from the Colloquium and to plan how to fruitfully engage during the Colloquium.
Pre-events with Youth (Liberia 6 March 2009)
During the pre-Colloquium youth event that was opened by the H.E Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson, FAS facilitated a break out group on UNCSR 1325, whose outcomes were shared during the main Colloquium event. An important aspect that is worth noting is the need for the youth, especially young women to be included at all levels and not just as spectators but as active participants. H.E Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson stressed the importance of all themes to be discussed in the Colloquium, and she further highlighted the significance of UNSCR 1325 to Liberia, as a post conflict country.

Colloquium (Liberia, 7-8 March 2009)
The colloquium took place on the 7th– 8th March 2009 in Monrovia, Liberia. FAS was the theme lead on UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security. The Colloquium represented the final point of a process started in 2007, with FAS as a Vice-Chair of the Africa team of the Steering Committee. It stressed the importance of building a global network in order to facilitate collective action among African women leaders. A status report on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 was shared. This report included concrete recommendations for improving the existing mechanisms of monitoring and accountability that aim to strengthen women’s participation on sustainable development.
The Ministry of Gender and Development held a two-day post colloquium event on 9th-10th, to give an opportunity to the Liberian women from grassroots to national level to participate in the Colloquium. Ms. Diop was invited to be one of the panellists and to share on FAS work in the region and on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

**National Consultation (Sierra Leone 1-4 September 2009)**
National Consultation on UNSCR 1325 was organized by WANEP-SL and MARWOPNET on 1st – 4th September. High-level delegates from the government and the UN, together with civil society, and regional and international participants attended the consultation.

The Executive Director of FAS played an important role in facilitating the process that brought to the successful adoption of the National Action Plan. She advocated at the highest level in the government for the adoption and launch of the NAP.

**Media Coverage**
There was wide spread media coverage of the event which represented both the print and broadcast media. The outcome documents (Monrovia and Bujumbura) declarations were presented.

**Outcomes**
During the International Colloquium, FAS was able to mobilize African women and to make sure that the whole network actively contributed to the Colloquium and elaborated on the National Action Plan, which was adopted

The Monrovia declaration was adopted (see annex). There was a call to action on the UNSCR 1325.

The event enabled participants to review the constraints faced in the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Experiences from the Great Lakes region (Burundi) and Uganda were shared.
Networking and partnership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Partners and Networks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening the capacity of the Mano River Women’s Peace Network (MARWOPNET)</td>
<td>• UNIFEM, Working Group on Peace and Security (New York)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Steering Committee of the Colloquium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Government of Liberia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Government of Finland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• GIMAC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Realizing Rights</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Challenges, opportunities and Way forward

Most of FAS resources were put towards the Colloquium and there was less emphasis on other countries. But this opportunity had a multiplier effect in that it served as learning process for Sierra Leon and Ivory Coast. It also enabled the visibility of the countries at the regional and international level.

FAS regional approach needs to be strengthened; drawing from the lessons learnt from the Great Lakes region.
II. ADVOCACY

PROGRAMMATIC AREA 1: TRANSFORMING POLICIES INTO PRACTICE FOR GENDER PARITY AND MAINSTREAMING

A) REGIONAL: Gender Is My Agenda Campaign

INTRODUCTION

Member States of the African Union (AU) are applauded for the efforts towards considering the gender agenda in Africa through the adoption of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and the ‘Durban Declaration on Mainstreaming Gender and Women’s Effective Participation in the African Union’, calling for the full promotion and protection of women’s rights at both a national and regional level. The SDGEA marks an unprecedented achievement of a continental organization towards gender-mainstreaming at the highest level, prioritizing issues such as HIV/AIDS, the recruitment of child soldiers and the implementation of gender-specific economic, social and legal measures.

FAS’ activities at the regional level are focused on programmes to mainstream gender, particularly in the structures and mechanisms of the African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). An evaluation of the priority areas identified in the SDGEA demonstrates that some progress has been made, but much remains to be done in the areas of governance, peace and security, human rights, health, education and economic empowerment. Additional progress must be made to recognize gender mainstreaming as a good governance and human rights issue.

Objective
To mobilize and strengthen the capacity of women so that they can contribute to decision-making processes in peace and development; and to ensure gender equality in the design and implementation of African programmes.

1. 2009 Activities and Achievements

13\textsuperscript{th} Pre-summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (January 27-28, 2009) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Pre-summit Consultative Meetings on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU was convened by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) with the support of the African Union Commission (AUC), AU Gender Directorate (AUGD), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Department For International Development (DFID), African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The meeting was represented by African women’s organisations and civil society organisations (CSO) under the umbrella of “Gender Is My Agenda Campaign” (GIMAC).
Over the years, consultative meetings have been held in different parts of the continent and have contributed significantly in the gender success enjoyed presently. The major purpose of the consultative meetings is to ensure that gender concerns are addressed and mainstreamed in the AU structures and processes.

The Goal of the 13th consultation was to discuss the changing environment at the regional and international level and elaborate a new paradigm in the work of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) advocating for effective gender parity policies and practice. There was also an opportunity to follow-up on the outcomes of the previous AU pre-summit consultation in Sharma el Sheik, which had recommendations from a GIMAC strategic planning meeting, plans for participating in the Liberian Colloquium and reviews of the state of cross-border trade and human trafficking. Updates on the GIMAC peace initiatives in Darfur, Sudan, Zimbabwe and in the Great Lakes were also deliberated upon.

Outcome
The Heads of States and Governments pledged to continue improving the livelihood of African citizens through various landmark initiatives, policies and programmes at the continental, regional and national levels; and recalled the commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment.
as stipulated in the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) and other instruments and decisions of the AU.

Among the various recommendations which emerged one was on infrastructural development which called upon the African Union and Member States to make deliberate effort to develop a gender-driven framework for infrastructural development in terms of design, funding and impact on the lives of African women.

The 13th African Women AU Pre-Summit Consultation also deliberated and made recommendations on other issues in Sudan and the Great Lakes Region which include:

In Darfur – Sudan;

- Support all efforts to end the violence and the violation so that women refugees, their families and displaced persons can go back to their homes;
- Support the women of Darfur to get to the negotiating table;
- Request AU Peace and security council to appoint a Gender Adviser with a focus on the Darfur Peace process;
- Steps to be taken towards justice and psycho-social support for women and girls victims of sexual and other forms of violence;
- Measures for compensation for displaced families and reparations for displaced communities;
- Support for institutional capacity building, human resource endowment and technical support for the Sudanese Women’s Forum on Darfur

In the Great Lakes region it included;

- Efforts to ensure that functional domestic legislative framework are put in place by the parliaments in GLR to punish perpetrators of crimes against women and not just depend on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to bring justice to few people while the majority of the perpetrators remain unaccountable;
- The need to incorporate trauma therapy and counselling into the rehabilitation of victims of all forms of violence specifically rape, domestic violence and violence during the time of war and conflicts;
- Governments of GLR should to stop the culture of impunity by ensuring government officials who participate in crime against women are brought into justice;
- Encouragement to the MS of AU to embrace the statute of Rome and work on them to domesticate the content of the statute which deals with crime against women.

On the international colloquium Members of the GIMAC pledged to provide technical and moral support to the initiative of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia.

There was high-level advocacy took place during the event with a representation of officials from the United Nations, African Union and other actors from different organisations and civil society. Media coverage and press releases were also made for the event.
14th Pre Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (Tripoli – Libya)

The 14th African Union pre-Summit was convened by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), the Libyan Youth National Organization, with support of the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF); and it was held in Sirte, Libya in July 1st – 3rd. High-level delegates, including heads of States, government officials, UN representatives, civil society organisations, and women representatives from Africa, attended the meeting. The Executive Director of FAS and the Women’s Rights Organization ‘Equality Now’ advocated for the adoption of the Resolution on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which was passed on the 30 September 2009.

African heads of State adopted the following recommendations:

Implementation of SDGEA
- Call was made on all the women’s organisations and other organisations working on gender issues to mobilise necessary resources that will support the successful execution of the Second Heads of States and Government Gender Summit in 2010;
- Supportive institutional machinery to be put in place to ensure the inclusion of Gender in the budget and planning processes of governments;
- UNECA to speed up the production of the GIMAC index that will assist the Member States in assessing themselves in the overall implementation of the SDGEA, which will give all the stakeholders a tool for advocacy and engagement;
- Having completed a consolidated evaluation on the implementation of the SDGEA by AU Chairperson, Member States and the GIMAC, will expedite action to act upon the recommendations and encourage the African Union Commission (AUC) and Member States (MS) to do the same and put in place national plans of action with appropriate indicators and checklist;
- Repeat a call on the remaining 35 countries that are yet to submit their mandatory reports on SDGEA to do so as a way of fulfilling their commitments toward gender equality in Africa.

African Union Commission
- Attempt at engendering all the organs and units of the AUC that need to be more gender responsive and;
- To speed up the process of establishing the Women’s Trust Fund as part of implementing the SDGEA towards advancing African women’s economic empowerment.

Peace and Security in Africa
- Nominate women’s special representatives and special envoys in peace negotiations and peace keeping missions and appoint gender focal points who will ensure that peace and security architectures are engendered;
- Allocate enough resources to provide gender training for peace keeping troops and personnel including the African Standby Force;
- Reiterate our call to member states to design and implement national action plans on UN Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on engendering the peace process and ending violence against women as stated in the Monrovia Call for Action (March 2009);
- Take urgent action to alleviate the unnecessary bloodshed in Somalia, which has cost the lives of several innocent women and children and other innocent citizen.

On Investing In Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security
Noting that women provide 60- 80% of the food in Africa, yet they are the most hungry and disadvantaged in terms of ownership and control of land urge the heads of states and governments to rise up to the obligations that they have committed themselves to under Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which include:

Femmes Africa Solidarité
Respect the ability the individual citizens, especially women to obtain and sustain adequate amounts of food for themselves and their families;

• Actively strengthen women’s capacity to effectively participate in agriculture to ensure food security;

• Domesticate the Regional instruments that address the issue of women’s access to land which include the recently concluded Land Policy in Africa aimed at strengthening Land Rights and enhancing agricultural productivity and food security;

• Develop a gender framework for investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security to better impact the lives of African women.

Regional Integration

• Fast-track the process of economic and political integration that will advance a people centered sustainable development in Africa

2. Challenges, opportunities and way forward
Challenges attributed to the two events are: ensuring the sustainability of the campaign, designing appropriate strategies to consolidate gains; ensure quality performance, sustainability and impact assessment on gender parity and mainstreaming; ensuring the independence of the campaign to strengthen its ownership and need for resource mobilization; Improve communication between members and network.

The opportunity is ensuring GIMAC campaign is sustained as an activity of the African women’s movement which determines and drives the African women agenda, learn from experience for futures projects, maximize the alternatives available for the advancement of women.

The way forward are: designing appropriate strategies to address consensual priorities, challenges and constraints confronting each thematic area of the campaign, Promoting unity among the women’s movement to ensure unity of purpose, Securing greater progress in women empowerment and security, raising awareness about the role and the power of media in popular mobilization, maximizing the alternatives available for the advancement to women.

B) INTERNATIONAL

1. Background
FAS has played a key role in the international arena through continuously getting involved in advocacy by profiling women related concerns based on field experiences. This is done by reading out statements about the women’s plight, organizing side events, having meetings with, among others, foreign government and non-governmental leaders, and representatives of the UN tasked to bring durable peace to the respective African conflict areas. FAS uses five different approaches to advocate for women’s rights at the international level. The approaches include; United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee, UN Security Council and UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

It is also worth noting that FAS has partnered with the UN Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues (OSAGI) and United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) in New York on various projects. FAS’ activities have focused on strengthening women’s influence on political processes and promotion of gender mainstreaming in peace and security at the national, regional and international level. Furthermore, FAS plays a key role in strengthening the leadership capacities of African women at the grassroots level by carrying out trainings on the different significant instruments of the UN, such as CEDAW and UNSCR 1325.
2. 2009 Summary Activities and Achievements

UN Human Rights Council
The 10th special session, 20th February 2009, Geneva was organized by Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to discuss the impact of the global financial crisis on the universal realization and enjoyment of human rights.

FAS’ Objective was to monitor the degree to which the international community addresses gender and women’s issues within the broader discussion on the financial crisis.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Pilay, highlighted the impact of the crisis on the poor. She called for a human rights approach to be taken into consideration, identifying the needs of vulnerable groups particularly women and children, minority refugees and indigenous people. It was also noted that reconstruction of the financial sector should be implemented in a way that takes into account the respect of human rights. A concern was also made on the migrant workers who normally suffer due to discrimination and xenophobic trends. This calls for protection of the rights of the migrants, and the need to integrate the responses to the crisis. Violence against women as well as women economic and social rights are jeopardized, and they are more likely to accept marginal and underpaid employment due to the circumstances they are in. A Preventive mechanism developed should be gender sensitive and non discriminative.

Panel Discussion March 24th, Geneva. FAS in partnership with Young Women Catholic Association organized a side event during the 10th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The discussion was on; ‘Sudanese Women on the Peace Agenda in Darfur, a Step Forward on the Darfur Road to Peace’. The objective of the session was to update the international community on the progress made so far in implementing the women’s peace agenda, inform the international community on the outcomes of the 2nd Meeting of the Sudanese Women’s Forum on Darfur, to keep Sudan on the international agenda, and to raise awareness about the current situation of Darfuri women.

Human Rights Council - Panel Discussion March 24th, Geneva
Training on the Human Rights Council, on 28th March, Geneva. The training was organised by FAS with the aim of training network, partners, Sudanese women and own staff on women empowerment through use of UN instruments. The participants were able to enrich their knowledge on how to use the UN instruments to empower women in Africa. It was a very meaningful training in that the participants were able to hold discussions on different issues and to learn from each other.

11th Human Rights Council Session, on June 6th–19th, Geneva, Switzerland. The session stressed the valuable work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. In this session, FAS read an oral statement, a call was made to the UN Security General to appoint a Special Representative for Women and Armed conflict.

Still linked to the above, FAS organized two parallel events in Geneva, where important issues related to women during and after conflict were presented and addressed. FAS also organized a training to share the outcomes of the Liberia Colloquium, to improve the work on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and to inform the international community on the actual situation of Darfuri women. FAS Executive Director and a representative from the International Organization for Migration facilitated the sessions.

Abstracts from Oral Statement by Ms Bineta Diop, Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité at the 11th Human Rights Council Session, 8th June 2009

We particularly call on the UN Security General to appoint a Special Representative for Women and Armed conflict, accompanied by adequate resources that will further raise awareness on the differential impact of violent conflict on women and men and the key roles women play in conflict prevention and resolution, peace building and decision making (to remove if necessary)

Finally, we strongly recall upon the UN Security Council to incorporate both UNSCR 1325 and 1820 provisions in all peacekeeping mandates. It should strengthen measures to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. The UNSC should also require all troop contributing countries to increase the number of female civilian and military personnel in peacekeeping missions.

12th Human Rights Council Session, September 14th, Geneva. FAS supported the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom statement on integrating a stronger perspective into the Council’s work, and advising the Council to act and support this major development by strengthening the Women’s Rights and Gender Unit within the OHCHR and facilitating information sharing with a new UN agency for women.

Universal Periodic Review
Femmes Africa Solidarité has been following the activites of the HRC related to Darfur since its inception, and has engaged in several advocacy efforts. It has written and presented statements emphasising the importance of engendering the peace process and ending violence against women.

UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York

Ticky Monekosso, one of FAS Executive Board members attended the 53rd United Nations Committee on the Status of Women session, which took place in March 1st – 9th. FAS facilitated the participation of the members of the Sudanese Women’s Forum in this session. The Sudanese women delegation had the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Margaret Vogot; UN Deputy Director, Southern and Eastern Africa Division, Department of Public Affairs (DPA). The Sudanese women shared field experiences regarding violence against women and women participation in the resolution of conflicts in Darfur.

Mrs. Vogt reiterated her commitment as the deputy director of DPA, to advocate for the engagement of civil society and to ensure women’s security and protection from harassment. She also stated that all these requirements for the peace building and peace keeping process were known but difficult to approach. Sudanese women advocacy message were made and the existing partnerships with UN bodies and Governments was strengthened.

Participants at the 53rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women
1st – 9th March 2009, New York, USA

Ms Samira Hassan Mahdi (Khartoum) and Ms Mona Elsharief Tazorah (West Darfur) attended as the official representatives of SWOFOD the 53rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). A number of other SWOFOD members obtained separate sponsorship, with FAS-SWOFO members providing assistance in visa processing. Also included in this delegation was Ms. Niemat Ahmadhi from the Diaspora (USA). The theme of the 2009 UNCSW was “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS”. FAS organized four panels from 1st – 7th March, to discuss HIV/AIDS and women, the effect of violence against women in conflict and post conflict zones and the role of men.

UN Security Council, New York

On September 30th a UN Security Council event was organized in New York with the theme “Towards the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325: joining forces for bringing real progress in the area of women, peace and security”. The objective was to build capacities and create opportunities to involve women in peace building. The UN was called upon to continue strengthening its support to Member States on the implementation on UNSC 1325. As an outcome, it was highlighted need to strengthen the UNSCR 1820 in the fight against sexual violence in armed conflicts.

CEDAW Committee

FAS participated in the 43rd Session of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which took place in Geneva from the 19th January - 6th February 2009. It was organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The objective was to review the nominated countries reports namely: Armenia, Cameroon, Dominica, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Rwanda.
This was an area of interest to FAS owing to the implementation of NAP on 1325 in the Great Lakes region, Rwanda.

The recommendations below were drawn following an agenda on women’s human rights and gender equality;

- Demand women’s participation in decision-making at all levels;
- Rejection of violence against women as it impedes the advancement of women and maintains their subordinate status;
- Equality of women and men under the law; protection of women and girls through the rule of law;
- Demand security forces and systems to protect women and girls from gender-based violence;
- Recognition of the fact that distinct experiences and burdens of women and girls come from systemic discrimination;
- Ensure that women’s experiences, needs and perspectives are incorporated into the political, legal and social decisions that determine the achievement of just and lasting peace.

A General Comment from CEDAW Committee was to strengthen women’s advocacy for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 at the country and community levels. Conversely, CEDAW’s relevance in conflict-affected areas would be underscored further by the two Resolutions. In other words, all three international instruments would reinforce each other and will be much more effective if used together in leveraging women’s human rights. Dr Jeanne D’Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Gender and the Promotion of the Family, of Rwanda, in her concluding remarks stated that Rwanda was a Government of political will, a Government and a country that wanted to promote and respect women’s rights, which were human rights. Rwanda was committed to putting into action all the Committee's recommendations and the Committee would see in Rwanda's next report.

Ms Naela Gabr, Chairperson of the Committee, thanked the delegation for their replies. She recognized the difficult circumstances that Rwanda had faced and was still facing. Among the concerns are education of women was of vital importance, women's health, knowledge and awareness of their rights, family planning, and awareness of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, were all major issues, and the Government had a responsibility to address these despite the challenges faced. Violence against women, including domestic violence, was a further matter for concern. It was noted that women's work was carried out predominantly in the informal sector.

**UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

This agency assists the UN General Assembly to promote international, economic, social cooperation and development. Its functions include information gathering, advising member states and making recommendations. It is through these functions that FAS received a consultative status with ECOSOC and provides input on the violation of women's rights in conflict areas.

To this end, FAS participated in the Conference of Non-governmental Organisations (CONGO) civil society conference in April, and helped to prepare a civil society contribution to the ECOSOC high-level panel.

**Other mechanisms**

**Peace-building Commission**

The establishment of the UN Peace-building Commission in 2005 is of great importance for FAS' New York office in its gender mainstreaming work. This is particularly so with the Commission’s selection of Sierra Leone and Burundi as its two first cases.
Beijing +15 Conference (Banjul, Gambia, November 15-20 2009)
FAS shared and acknowledged the progress made in the increased participation of women in decision-making process and in the promotion of women’s rights. FAS also noted and highlighted the under representation of African women in the political sphere leading to their basic human rights not being effectively ensured.

Durban review April 23, 2009
The meeting on “African Women’s Voices in the Durban Process” gave room to examine the extent in which intersection has been a catalyst for African women’s human rights, and how this created new legal and social avenues for greater empowerment and higher institutional representation. It also looked at barriers to women’s full participation in society. Recommendations and conclusions were drawn on these areas.

CoNGO
Ms Bineta Diop, the Executive Director of FAS, is the Vice-President of CoNGO, FAS is in the board team and plays a key role planning of activities; preparation meeting for CONGO Civil Society Development Forum took place from July 2 – 4, 2009. The ECOSOC High-level Segment and Annual Ministerial Review focused on: Implementation of internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health.

3. Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward

Among the challenges is the lack of funds to bring African women to attend the sessions, lack of follow-up mechanisms on the implementation of UN SCR1325. These events give the opportunity to empower women to effectively participate in conflict resolution, peace building and decision-making.
PANAFRICAN CENTRE FOR GENDER, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (PAC)

1. Background

FAS created the PanAfrican Centre on Gender, Peace and Development (PAC), as one of the Centres for Excellence in Africa, providing advanced training and research in peace building and development with an emphasis on gender. The Centre, based at its regional office in Dakar, Senegal, enables the promotion of greater gender equality between men and women in peace building, governance and development efforts.

The training programmes at the Centre are primarily on conflict prevention, the establishment of early-warning mechanisms, management and resolution of conflicts, mediation techniques, management of post-conflict phases and the implementation of reconstruction programmes. The Centre functions as an interface between different institutions and serves as a source for information for the development of UN programmes.

The Centre’s programmes have been endorsed by the institutional partnerships of FAS, University of Peace (UPEACE) of Costa Rica, and the Instituto de Empresa of Spain, in order to encourage the collective production of knowledge as well as the exchange of expertise, resources and methodologies. It has received the technical assistance of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Geneva.

Previous activities implemented by the programme;
- Preparation for the implementation of the 3rd short course
- Facilitation Workshop January 11 – 12, 2008
- Advocacy panel during the 52nd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, 25th February 2008
- Madrid Workshop; July, 14 – 18 2008
- Leadership programme
- African Gender Award

2. 2009 Activities and Achievements

Gender and Peace building Short Course Training
The 3rd Short Course on Gender, Media and Conflict took place in April 1st – 5th, in Mbodiène (Senegal). It is the third in a series of training sessions organised in collaboration with the Africa Programme of UPEACE.

“FAS promotes, and has made an effort to strengthen peace building in several countries. Through the Pan African Center, FAS addresses gender issues, and encourages and promotes the UNSCR 1325. Although these efforts have had an impact, there is still a need for increased cooperation”

Ms Bineta Diop, Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarité
3rd Short Course on Gender, Media and Conflict - SESSION 4: The Role of Media in Conflict

The objectives of the project were:
- To clarify concepts, terms and definitions of Gender, Media and Conflict;
To strengthen the capacity of participants in the areas of Media coverage before, during and after conflict with a focus on Gender;

To empower Media professionals and people working in communication;

To create a critical mass on gender issues among Media professionals.

The main objective of the training was to recruit 30 women and men working in the field of peace and Media, including Media and Communications professionals from civil society organisations, women’s grassroots organisations, and other institutions to reinforce their skills and allow them to refine their approach to issues of Media coverage during and after conflict.

**Outcome**

Participants were able to share their experiences and gain knowledge, which would be used when they return to their countries.
Training and Mentoring programme for Women Led Businesses programme has been developed by FAS in partnership with centre for Diversity in Global Management at the Instituto de Empresa (IE) and with support from the Government of Spain, to target and work with 25 women who have established business enterprises with strong growth potential.

The goal of this programme is to assist women entrepreneurs in the transformation and expansion of their businesses into consolidated mid sized enterprises, gendering employment and economic benefits.

The activity conducted during the reporting period was a mid-term evaluation for Phases I and II of the programme, which took place from January 15th to February 15th. Khadija Doucoure, an Economist specialist in Management and Development of Enterprises with a focus on women entrepreneurship, led the evaluation. Lessons were drawn from the exercise, which include: the need to mobilise and provide sufficient financial resources on time, reinforce institutional partnership and inter-sectoral synergies between different stakeholders, conviction and motivation of FAS and IE towards the empowerment of women.

Outcome
The table below illustrates the result of the evaluation; the level of achievement on the objective through a comparison between the outcomes and results. It also illustrates a gap analysis that categorised factors that helped or hindered the achievement of objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory phase (consultative meeting IE-FAS, hiring facilitators and consultants)</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>These activities helped to hire qualified partners, to set a clear understanding on FAS and IE partnership on the project implementation and timeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping and selection of 6 countries</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>The expected outcome of the activity was to gather relevant information on social, economical, political, financial and legal situation of six selected countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of candidates (criteria set by IE and according to a choice of four candidates in each country)</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>The selection process encountered a number of constraints which made the selection difficult such as: the nature of the selection, the practical organisation of the selection and use of English as a working language to some extent did not favour the applicants from francophone and Portuguese speaking countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonisation and development of modules</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>This exercise provided by IE and FAS examined the content of training to be delivered. The expected results were to develop training modules around different themes relating to the management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakar and Madrid workshops</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Participants recognised the relevance and efficiency of the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
two activities and they felt that the contents were in line with their needs for a more effective business management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dakar ICT session</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Participants believed that the activity could have been more effective if good preparations and suitable format (full day) was made. They expressed the need for the session and also the importance in anchoring the networking and ICT platform in the programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face to Face tutoring</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>The limited technological infrastructure in some countries created difficulties in developing business plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaboration of business plans (BP)</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Only 3 participants failed to present their BP. The quality was not the same for all the BP, but IE team were satisfied with the work done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking activities</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>85% of the participants were able to exchange information informally by email, 45% of the discussions focused on the program and 40% in the direction of developing business relationships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negotiation workshop Mentorship and online platform</td>
<td>To be delivered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The general assessment of the effectiveness of the program was very satisfactory (85%), it was beyond the effectiveness component, the Training and Mentoring Program for Women-Led Business project had impact in terms of its overall objective.

**African Gender Award and Forum (AGFA)**

The 6th Selection Committee meeting on the African Gender Award took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on January 29th. The meeting was organized with the aim of choosing a country to receive the African Gender Award. During this process, it was difficult to achieve consensus among the members on criteria used to nominate the potential recipient countries, but as a result ways forward were derived. The countries nominate for the award were Tanzania, Liberia, Botswana and Mozambique. During the meeting, the Delegation briefed the participants on the process of selection, which include: rate of domestic violence, good governance peace and security, girl’s education, and women’s empowerment.

**Outcome**

Mozambique was the country that won the nomination of the 2009 edition.

**Field Visits, August 26-29**

In August 26th–29th, the selection committee was able to carry out field activities in Maputo to introduce the work of the AGFA and to present its 2009 programme to the Mozambican Government’s authorities, civil society organisations, chamber of commerce and private Sector. The second objective was to get a visible agenda and activities set for the ceremony of the 2009 Award in
Dakar. In the visit, the President of Mozambique was grateful for the award and was surprised to learn that Mozambique’s victory was actually an outcome of a selection process between three competitors. In the meeting there was representation from FAS, The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Forum for African Women Educationalists, (FAWE), African Leadership Forum (ALF), Foundation for Community Development (FDC).

During this meeting, there was an opportunity to set in motion the local GIMAC’s Manifesto for Gender mainstreaming. Following several consultations with FAS members, it was decided to devote the 2009 Forum to the Global crisis defined as the 3 F’s Crisis (Fuel, Food and Finance) and its impact on the African women as it was a very pressing theme which required close attention, and special measures from both the African and gender perspective. A scientific committee was established to undertake thorough research on the issues and they proposed a programme with relevant potential partners to be approached to contribute to the Forum. It was also hoped that the 3rd edition would as well evaluate the progress made on the two first forum editions plans of Action

**Outcome**

H.E. President Guebuza committed himself to advocate for Gender mainstreaming within its peers, in the African Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The meeting with the President also involved a press conference session and the delegation presented the Award programme to the press. The press welcomed Mozambique’s victory and the conference was broadcasted throughout the country. The media strategy adopted by the FAS communication team helped successfully advertise the event both locally and internationally.

The visibility of the event was highly realized, the event and process was attended by a number of high dignitaries.
IV. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING

Partnership and Fundraising

FAS continuously strives to build partnerships and links with all stakeholders, including grassroots organisations, policy makers and implementers within governments, regional bodies, United Nations agencies and the private sector. By doing so, FAS reinforces initiatives related to gender, development, peace building, post conflict reconstruction and building of democratic institutions. The partnership and Fundraising officer is responsible for the relationship in this department.

FAS has been able to work around a common agenda to maximise resources, to create new opportunities for future programmes and to avoid duplication in the implementation of programmes. FAS has also facilitated sharing of best practices. The partnership and fundraising function in Geneva office conducts research and locates possible partners in support of activities carried out by Dakar and New York offices.

The partners which FAS has worked with during the year includes African Union, Action Aid, AWDF, DFID, ECA, Governments of Finland, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Roll Back Malaria, UNDP, UPPEACE, UNDEF, UNFPA, OSIWA, International Organisation for Migration and private donors

United Nations Bodies

FAS and UNECA signed a MoU in September 2007 in which they agreed to collaborate on UN ECA hosting the GIMAC Consultative Meetings on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union Pre Summits. Based on this, UNECA hosted the 2nd African Women’s Consultation on Darfur that took place from January 5 – 7, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Consultation was held as part of the 13th Pre-Summit Consultative Meetings on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union.

FASPAC and UPEACE signed an MOU, a short course on Gender, Media and Conflict. The two organisations are in the process of establishing and implementing a Master’s Degree in Gender and Peace building.

FAS and UN Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, an executive representative of the UN, has participated in events organised by FAS during the reporting period. This shows the continued interest and partnership that the UN in events organised by FAS.

FAS and AUGD, AUWC, ECOSOC, ACHPRS, NEPAD, The overall objective is to support the process of mainstreaming gender in the AU, mobilize and strengthen the capacity of women so that they can contribute to decision-making processes in peace and development. It is also to ensure gender equality in the design and implementation of African programmes through gender balance and gender mainstreaming.

FAS and ILO; support was received from ILO for the GIMAC event on “Decent Work” and a call was made to AU and Member States to work closely with the ILO in domesticating the initiative.

FAS and AWDF; AWDF is the first Africa-wide grant-making organization set up to provide grants to African women’s organizations across the continent. The organisation has partnered with FAS on various activities. AWDF is a continuous partner of FAS on GIMAC activities and the African Gender Forum and Award. They have continuously renewed their financial support for both activities, as well as the Sudan programme. They also supported the review of management process of FAS in 2009.

Governments

Femmes Africa Solidarité

A regional consultation on UNSCR 1325 was held in August 13 – 14, 2009. This was a regional consultation on strengthening the national action plans for resolution 1325 was held in Bujumbura but Rwanda and Burundi were held

**Government of Spain;** The Government of Spain has funded the PAC training and mentoring programme for women led business project. FAS has continued to build a relationship with Spain, strengthening the partnership in order to finalize the 3rd project on WLB. At Liberia colloquium, the Government of Spain represented by Deputy Prime Minister reconfirmed her personal commitment to support African women in post conflict areas and to also support the economic empowerment programme through the NEPAD and UNIFEM fund.

**Government of Norway;** FAS and the Norwegian government signed an agreement in which Norway would partly finance FAS’ project ‘Engendering the Peace Process in Darfur, Sudan’, second phase (July 2008 – 2010). A representative from Norway was part of Human Rights Council Sessions in Geneva and profiled the plight of women in Darfur at International level.

**Roll Back Malaria;** On several occasions, States have outlined their commitment to combat Malaria and other diseases. Millennium Development Goal 6 was reaffirmed recently by the participants of the International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, who called for urgent investment to support young people in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

**DFID** financed the project ‘Engendering the Peace Process in Darfur, Sudan’ from 2008 to 2009. The 2nd African Women’s Consultation on Darfur was financed by DFID and organized by FAS in partnership with the African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and Gender is my Agenda Campaign Network.

**European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);** financed the DRC programme on Building Democratic Institutions through Gender Equality in the DRC during the reporting period. FAS looks forward to build partnership with the EU.

**Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA);** OSIWA has supported the GIMAC activities for many years.

**Friends of FAS;** The relationship between FAS and Friends of FAS formally begun in February 2009 when FAS’s Executive Director was invited to London to attend a meeting convened by Ms Mariella Frostrup under the leadership of Ms Sarah Brown. It brought together a high level group of women leaders from diverse sectors including Philanthropists, Civil Society, Private sector and the Media. The objective of the roundtable was to discuss the feasibility of supporting the Africa Gender Award, initiated by Femmes Africa Solidarité and its PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development. Following this brainstorming, FAS’s Executive Director was invited on September 8th for a second visit to discuss the strategies to be put in place in order to contribute positively to this initiative.

**Private donor Switzerland;** A private donor in partnership with FAS offers the “Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship”. The selected candidate has the opportunity to work for a period of 9 months for FAS’ International Secretariat in Geneva, before returning to their country of origin and put their skills in practice through an additional 3 month placement with a local NGO.
**Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward**

Ongoing constraints are the lack of long-term commitments to provide the resources for programmes. FAS welcomed the three year project being supported by the Government of Finland, and the two year project, funded by DFID and the Government of Norway.

As a way forward, FAS is planning to submit various project proposals on the implementation of its projects.

**Networking and Outreach**

**1. Background**

The third objective of FAS’ Institutional Building, as laid out in its Action Plan, is to develop strong networking relations with civil society organizations.

FAS devoted itself in many networking efforts to cooperate with organizations which are also committed to women’s empowerment. In this process, FAS has created a number of networks in Africa: The Mano River network (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea); Great Lakes Region (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda) and SWOFOD (Sudan).

At the regional level, FAS coordinates the **Gender is my Agenda Campaign Network** which brings together various organizations working on gender and co-related issues in Africa.

At international level FAS is part of the CONGO **Working Groups on Peace & Security** in Geneva and in New York.

As illustrated by the African Union Women’s Committee (AUWC) experience with mainstreaming gender in the AU, the collaboration of women and other organizations on a continual basis is essential.

The Networking officer in Geneva works closely with these networks on various activities to be undertaken together regarding a common ground basis. These activities are realised with a view to support the programme activities in Dakar and New York.

**2. Constraints and the Way Forward**

FAS still acknowledges the absence of a strong **regional network** in Africa that works on the **economic empowerment** of women as a major challenge. While these kind of groups exist at the national level, there is no continent wide network that is focused on the promotion and protection of women’s economic rights. FAS believes that the creation of the Foresight Group could put in process the establishment of a network focusing on economic issues.
Research and Documentation
FAS hosted the first “Dr Wanjiru Kihoro Fellow” in 2008. This Fellowship Programme is implemented with the generous contribution of a private donor.

1. Background
FAS initiated the Dr. Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship with the aim of contributing to the development of a new generation of African women leaders who are dedicated to utilising their voices and experience to further women’s central role in peace building and development work in their country, region and continent.

During the reporting period, the first fellowship awardee, Ms. Beatrice Kizi Nzovu had the opportunity to work in FAS Geneva office for 9 months. She represented the organization in a number of meetings, developed a wide range of written material and experienced the international professional environment that the UN and other organizations offer. Later on she continued her practice in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. After 3 months in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, she will take back to her country the knowledge and experience gained.

Information and Communication
FAS is documenting women stories to amplify their voices at the national, regional and international level. FAS built on its work by editing “best practices” manual. The first best practice manual focuses on FAS’ work in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The second manual focuses on FAS’ work in the Mano River region. FAS produces a large amount of written information to use them as advocacy tools.

Publications and Information Tools

Advocacy tools
FAS disseminated information notes, press releases and regular newsletters to its members, networks, partners, partners and media. Information is disseminated by e-mail, as this is the most cost-effective and rapid means of reaching readers. FAS also use its website to disseminate information and make it easily accessible to FAS staff in all three offices and the public worldwide.

FAS presented statements to the Human Rights Council. Oral statements and written statement were made to the Human Rights Council. The oral statements were broadcast on the internet and the written statement was published on the website of the High Commission for Human Rights.

Press Releases and Information Notes
Information Notes and Press Releases were written for various FAS events and achievements. The Information and Communications Officers of the Geneva and Dakar offices collaborated on a majority of the events. Productions were made in both English and French. Press Releases were also produced and elaborated by FAS’ external media consultants. All of FAS’ Information Notes and Press Releases for 2009 are available on its website.

Communication
Liaison with Local and International Media is vital to publicised FAS work. For example, for the 13th Pre-Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and 14th Pre Summit in Libya, Tripoli, FAS worked with local and international media systems which included TV, press, radio

Website
The website includes news on FAS activities, FAS publications, as well as useful external resources.

Femmes Africa Solidarité
FAS Newsletter
Every three months, FAS distributes by e-mail to its members, networks, partners and interested individuals newsletter, FAS also shares its newsletters on the website.

2. Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forwards
FAS was faced with budget constraint which affected media coverage as it would be desired, in particular for FAS major events. However, the media interest and support across the 2009 was consistent and satisfactory. Furthermore, a deeper monitoring and evaluation of activities are needed to better face the future challenges of the Information and Communication office.

The stronger and closer relation with the same media represents an opportunity for FAS to have more visibility at national and international level. The efforts in field and the implementation of projects and events are well appreciated and highlighted.

Coordinatio
FAS worked conscientiously to increase the effectiveness of the human resources within the three offices of the organisation.

The methods of communication on a daily basis are by telephone, fax, email, Skype and the database that is available on the website which can be accessed by all employees in the three offices.

It conducted numerous activities which enabled staff of all our three offices to interact and strengthen relationships. Such combined activities aim to reinforce communication and capacity-building between the three FAS offices.

FAS Staff and Offices
International Secretariat, Geneva (Switzerland)
The International Secretariat, based in Geneva, co-ordinates programmes in Africa, it is involved in fundraising and serves as a contact point for international organizations, NGOs and donor agencies.

The Secretariat staffs participate in various activities of the Human Rights Council, meetings of CoNGO, the NGO/CSW and the Working Group on Peace as well as other meetings in Geneva.

Geneva office consists of the Executive Director, a Coordination Officer, a Finance Officer and a coordinator for the African Gender Forum and Award. FAS Geneva office also relies on the work of resource persons as interns in various sectors: Partnership and Fundraising; Networking and Outreach; Information and Communication; Research; Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Geneva office organised a team building workshop in November to orient the new staff to the organisation. The workshop was attended by all the new interns and the permanent staff. The FAS Executive director made the presentation.
Regional Office, Dakar (Senegal)
Since it became operational in 2005, the Regional Office in Dakar has been responsible for implementation of all programmes in Africa. The programmes include; the Great Lakes Region, Mano River Region and the Sudan programme and GIMAC.

The Regional Office in Dakar consists of a Programme Officer, Information and Communication Officer, an Administration and Finance Officer, a Coordinator for the Pan African Centre, and a Coordination Officer and local staff support.

The office is also supported by 4 resource persons as interns who have provided full time support.

Liaison Office, New York, USA
FAS’ Liaison Office in New York was first set up in late 2004 to provide FAS with permanent representation in New York and at the deliberations of the organs and agencies of the UN system, as focal point.

The Liaison Office in New York is represented by a Coordination Officer and three resource persons to support in Research, Partnership, Networking and Communication.

Executive Board
FAS is assisted in its work by members of its Executive and Advisory Boards, Members and Associate Members.

Selected in accordance with their outstanding achievements in the promotion of peace and the attainment of women’s rights in Africa, FAS Executive Board Members contribute voluntarily to the implementation of FAS’ programmes in the field and represent FAS at events essential for the fulfilment of its objectives.

Members meet at a General Assembly every three years in a plenary session where Board members are nominated and general policies and activities are reviewed and planned.

The Executive Board meets at least once every year to follow-up on programme implementation including financial and activity report.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward
In order to effectively sustain its work, FAS needs institutional support. This will allow the organization to hire full time professionals to carry out its work in a more efficient manner.

Monitoring and Evaluation
The effectiveness of FAS’ programme is ensured through the development of relevant monitoring and evaluation systems at all levels so as to influence the engendering of policies and programmes. Mechanisms are also supported to evaluate women’s participation in advocacy and training on UN SCR 1325 becoming an important guiding tool for FAS in making its assessments.

FAS created the post of Monitoring and Evaluation intern at its international Secretariat to support the regional Office.

FAS’ Monitoring and Evaluation system
These are implemented at the following level:
The Reporting Guidelines: a set of guidelines and instructions concerning the objectives and outputs of various activities which FAS staff members use to guide them in systematically reporting, tracking and evaluating an activity or event.

The Event Activity Report: the reporting guidelines are used to produce event/activity reports for all events attended by FAS. Qualitative and quantitative assessment indicators are made visible and recorded for further evaluation.

The Annual Audited Accounts: audited accounts are produced by an external auditor each year and are sent to all stakeholders who request them.

The Annual Financial Report: the annual financial report provides more detail than the annual audited accounts. It includes a comparison of actual results against budgeted, expenses and revenues and by key objectives and projects.

The Annual Narrative Report: presents the results of the year’s activities at each programme level and by function, with the inclusion of the year’s achievements, constraints and opportunities. This report gives narrative detail on events which FAS organized, participated in, or attended during the year.

Evaluation tools

Questionnaires for events such as conferences and seminars: Participants of conferences organized by FAS are requested to fill in questionnaires to assess on one hand the organizational side of the event and more importantly the quality of the programme and interventions. The questionnaire is usually composed of a number of closed answers and a second part of open questions that allow a more personalized feedback.

Evaluation forms for training: An evaluation is conducted by trainers together with their local partners to ensure the fulfilment of the objectives of each workshop. Participants are requested to fill an evaluation form and comment on several components of the training:

- Organization of Conference/Training;
- Provision of Training/conference;
- Support Trainers/Facilitators;
- Content of Training programme;
- Follow up to Training.

Project mini-evaluation: Throughout the duration of its projects, FAS conducts a series of mini-evaluations to ensure that projects are developing according to plans and to make adjustments where necessary.

FAS received external evaluators from DFID and Finland during the reporting period. The organisation embraced the evaluation process; it was a learning process for FAS because it happened at a time when it was reviewing its management process.

Constraints, Opportunities and the Way Forward

FAS experienced constraints in relation to monitoring and evaluation function. At the field level, it was able to use some tools such as evaluation forms to collect the feedback from the participants.

Nevertheless, due to the shortage of staff members, FAS has not always been able to analyse all the information in a timely fashion.
V. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND WAY FORWARD

Challenges and opportunities

2009 was a pivotal year for FAS, it received more demands to engage in other activities and events, but the human resources were limited, there was also a challenge of hiring and retaining competent staffs and interns.

There was no institutional support in the year 2009 which put the human resource development programme of the organisation at risk. Without this support, all the plans to increase the human resources and lessen dependence on resource persons could not be achieved.

Political resistance to the participation of women in the peace process particularly in Darfur, Sudan, meant the government did not want to give FAS the authority to function in Sudan.

As an opportunity, National Action Plans and UNSCR 1325, can bringing together civil society to the government, so that prevalent issues are shared like in Liberia.

Lessons learned

At the international level, more work is needed to increase the capacity of grassroots women’s groups, particularly those of Sudan, to augment their visibility at the Human Rights Council and the Security Council including the CEDAW Committee. An ongoing challenge is limited resources to bring women from the grassroots level to speak for themselves at these international gatherings, this will enable more pressure to be put on the government. There is also need to continue forming coalitions to demand for the implementation of the instruments at nation, regional and international levels.

Way forward

There is need to continue with the management reform process to attract new funding especially for core support and also to hire and retain competent staff to realise effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of activities. There is also a need to continue with capacity building of staff, to improve implementation of activities.

FAS will continue to implement its ongoing projects. In the case on NAPs on UNSCR 1325, it will seek to move from the country approach to the regional one.
FAS gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the following key partners:

- Action Aid
- African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF)
- The African Union (AU)
- Private Donor
- Department For International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom Government
- The Government of Finland
- The Government of Italy
- The Government of Norway
- The Government of Senegal
- The Government of Spain
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Justice Africa
- The Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)
- Roll Back Malaria Partnership
- The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)- Regional Programme for Africa
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- The University for Peace (UPEACE)
ANNEXES

APPENDIX No.1

Femmes Africa Solidarité

BACKGROUND

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) is a women’s non-governmental organization (NGO) working to engender the peace process in Africa, more specifically in the Great Lakes region and the Mano River region. Since its inception in 1996, FAS has worked to foster, strengthen and promote the leading role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the African continent.

FAS recognizes that women are disproportionately affected by violent conflicts; rather than perceiving women as passive victims, FAS acknowledges that women are active agents with skills, strengths, and the ability to bring about change. With this in mind, FAS works to strengthen the capacities of grassroots women’s organizations so that they can participate fully in the processes of peace-building and conflict resolution in their countries and communities.

FAS' International Secretariat, based in Geneva, Switzerland, coordinates programmes in Africa and serves as a point of contact for international organizations, NGOs and partners. It also facilitates the mobilization of resources and maximizes the visibility of African women’s initiatives. Additionally, FAS has a permanent representative in New York, located near the United Nations, to facilitate its presence at the international level, and has opened a Regional Office in Dakar in 2005, to guarantee effective collaboration with women’s organizations in Africa. The three offices work in a coordinated manner to link sub-regional, regional and international programmes.

FAS is headed by an Executive Director, an Executive Board, an Advisory Board, and Members and Associate Member NGOs in 35 African countries.

FAS has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR); Consultative Status with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF); Association Status with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI); and membership to the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC). FAS also received an IOM observer status in November 2007 (Member to the General Assembly), and is Vice-President of the board of CONGO.

FAS also coordinates the “Gender is my Agenda” campaign and co-chairs the Committee on the Status of Women’s Working Group for Peace in Geneva - an organ of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CONGO). Further, FAS is a member of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in New York and is also a member of the Gender Task Force of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

FAS’ Executive Director is a member and Vice Chairperson of the African Union Women’s Committee (AUWC), an advisory body to the Chairperson of the AU Commission on gender issues; and a member of the board of the Arab International Women’s Forum (AIWF).

VISION

FAS vision is to empower African women to assume a leadership role in peace building for sustainable development and to mainstream gender into policies and programmes relating to peace, security and development.

Femmes Africa Solidarité
**MISSION**

FAS’ mission is to:

- Promote and reinforce the critical role of women in conflict resolution and peace building in Africa;
- Strengthen women’s leadership capacities to play this role;
- Advocate for increased attention to African women’s concerns on the issues of peace and security;
- Strengthen women’s influence on relevant political processes, and promote gender mainstreaming in peace and security programmes at the national, regional and international levels.

**OBJECTIVES**

FAS seeks to meet the following objectives:

- To give value to women’s initiatives, enhance their capabilities and promote their rights as fully-fledged participants in peace making and peace building in their countries;
- To push for the creation of new social systems that allow women to have equal access to responsibilities and decision making;
- To build networks among women and strengthen their capacities as a group to enable them to make an impact in all spheres and at all levels;
- To encourage and support women in developing the self-confidence to participate in the struggle to institutionalize gender equality in national and sub-regional peace processes;
- To advocate for gender mainstreaming in national, sub-regional, regional and continental policies and programmes.

**STRATEGIES**

In order to meet these objectives, FAS employs the following strategies:

**Advocacy and lobbying** in a variety of forums, alongside local, regional, sub regional and international institutions, to promote greater involvement of women in decision-making processes and ensuring that their interests are taken into account;

**Capacity Building:** Builds capacities of local women’s NGOs through training and experience sharing;

**Development of Networks and Partnerships:**

- Mobilizes and encourages women to put forward their peace initiatives at all levels;
- Supports local women’s NGOs to establish networks with various actors both within Africa and internationally, thus maximizing the use of resources;
- Builds partnerships at the national, sub regional, regional and international levels on issues of common concern such as women’s participation in peace processes, violence against women, child soldiers, refugee women, HIV/AIDS, and disarmament;
- Research and dissemination of information on women’s best practices for peace building in Africa.
Moreover, FAS focuses on the following issues:

- **Promotion of Democracy through** workshops and training sessions in civic education; FAS has also monitored a number of elections, for example in Liberia, Sierra Leone and DRC.
- **Justice for Women - Justice for Humanity;** FAS is committed to the pursuit of justice against perpetrators of war crimes and violators of women's human rights. In keeping with this commitment, FAS develops and advocates for measures to ensure that national and international legislation in Africa protects women's rights. It also recognizes the link between justice for victims and lasting peace in communities. As part of this work, FAS participated in the drafting and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which includes a clause to address the culture of impunity and aims to establish mechanisms for justice.

**Members, Committee and Networks**

FAS is composed of Members and Associate Members of NGOs from 35 African countries. It has an Executive Board of 8 members and an Advisory Board composed of 10 eminent personalities. Members of FAS contribute voluntarily to the implementation of its programme in the field by conducting training seminars and participating in advocacy activities. FAS has set several support committees, composed of members, partners and independent experts, which are consulted on the specific activities as a think-tank.

**NETWORKS**

**Sub regional**

- Mano River region: Marwopnet Secretariat in Sierra Leone; Marwopnet Chapter in Liberia, Marwopnet Chapter in Guinea.
- Great Lakes region: Cadre Permanent de Concertation des Femmes Congolaises (CAFECO) in DRC; Collectif Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe in Rwanda; Collectif des Associations et ONG Féminines du Burundi (CAFOB) in Burundi.
- Horn of Africa: Save Somali Women and Children, in Somali; Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, Ethiopia; National Union of Eritrean Women, Eritrea; Sudanese Voice for Peace; Sudanese Women Forum.

**GENDER IS MY AGENDA CAMPAIGN**

**Thematic areas:**

- Governance: Africa Leadership Forum (ALF),
- Human Rights: Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF),
- African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRs)
- Peace and Security: Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCOUNT), Safer Africa
- Health: Roll Back Malaria (RBM), Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA), Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA),
- Education: Forum for Africa Women Educationalists (FAWE), African Network for the Campaign on “Education for All” (ANCEFA),
- Economic Empowerment: African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), Egyptian Business Women Association (EBWA)
Regional

- Western Africa: West African Women Association (WAWA)
- Northern Africa: Tunisian Mothers’ Association (ATM)
- Southern Africa: Foundation for Community Development (FDC)
- Central Africa: Association Congolais de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes (ACOLVF)
- Eastern Africa: Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA)

Other Organisations participating


International

- Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), Geneva
- Working Group on Peace of the NGO Commission on the Status of Women, Geneva
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACDHRS</td>
<td>African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies</td>
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<td>ACHPR</td>
<td>African Commission for Human and People’s Rights</td>
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<td>APF</td>
<td>African Partnership Forum</td>
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<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<td>AUGD</td>
<td>African Union Gender Directorate</td>
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<td>AUWC</td>
<td>African Union Women’s Committee</td>
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<td>AWDF</td>
<td>African Women’s Development Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWEPA</td>
<td>The Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAFOB</td>
<td>Collectif des associations et ONG féminines du BURUNDI</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEB</td>
<td>Chief Executive Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONGO</td>
<td>Conference of Non Governmental Organizations</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAW</td>
<td>Division for the Advancement of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development (UK)</td>
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<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECOSOCC</td>
<td>The Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union</td>
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<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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<td>GIMAC</td>
<td>Gender is My Agenda Campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLR</td>
<td>Great Lakes Region</td>
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<td>GTY</td>
<td>German Technical Cooperation</td>
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<td>HRC</td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
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<td>IC/GLR</td>
<td>International Conference on the Great Lakes Region</td>
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<td>ICRC</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
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<td>CSW</td>
<td>Commission on the Status of Women</td>
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<td>FAS</td>
<td>Femmes Africa Solidarité</td>
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<td>MARWOPNET</td>
<td>Mano River Women’s Peace Network</td>
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<td>NAP</td>
<td>National Action Plan</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
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<td>NGOWG</td>
<td>NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</td>
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<td>OIF</td>
<td>Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie</td>
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<td>PAC</td>
<td>Pan African Centre for Gender and Development</td>
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<td>SDGEA</td>
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<td>UN SCR</td>
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<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</td>
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<td>United Nations Development Fund for Women</td>
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<td>Women Gender and Development Directorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>WILPF</td>
<td>Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom</td>
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<tr>
<td>YWCA</td>
<td>Young Women Christian Association</td>
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