



October 2011

**Femmes Africa Solidarité**

**Statement on the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325**

As we celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, we are encouraged by the steps that have been taken to implement the resolution at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels in Africa. Eight African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda) have adopted a National Action Plan to guide implementation of resolution 1325 while several more are developing national action plans and are advocating for adoption and implementation by their respective governments.

Since 2006, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) has worked with governments, civil society groups and international organizations in countries of the Mano River Region (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire) and the Great Lakes Region (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda) to develop their National Action Plans on resolution 1325. FAS has also facilitated the development of Regional Action Plans on resolution 1325 to address cross-border issues related to the prevention of conflict and gender-based violence during conflict, women's protection during conflict, women's political participation and the full inclusion of women in peacebuilding efforts.

We welcome the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's September 2011 report on Women and Peace and Security, which highlights the still remaining institutional, legal, financial, political and security gaps in the implementation of resolution 1325.

We recall the commitments to resolution 1325 made by United Nations member states on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the resolution and urge member states to meet these commitments to accelerate implementation at the national and international levels.

Femmes Africa Solidarité would like to reiterate its call of last year:

- It is time to nominate women as heads of mediation and peacekeeping missions.
- It is time to provide resources for women to build their capacity, to facilitate their access to the peace table.
- It is time that all member states, not only in conflict, but also in peace, adopt National Action Plans, in partnership with civil society, to ensure effective prevention and protection measures.

We remain particularly concerned with the situation in the Eastern DRC where women's bodies continue to be used as battlefields and call for effective early warning and justice mechanisms to protect women and girls.

We call for the protection of the women of Somalia and their full involvement in distribution mechanisms noting that women along with children are experiencing the brunt of famine and are victims of sexual violence.

Taking note of political transitions in North Africa and the large number of electoral processes scheduled in Africa this year and in 2012, we urge the full participation of women in constitution reform and development, support for women political candidates, and the provision of a safe environment for women to fully exercise their rights in electoral processes.

We commend the work that has been done, but progress has been far too slow. We appeal to member states, international and regional bodies to put words to action and increase their efforts to address issues of women and peace and security.