Oral Statement

Follow up and Implementation of Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

15th session of the Human Rights Council,

September 13th -1st October 2010, Geneva

Thank you Mr. President,

The Vienna Declaration reaffirms that women’s rights are human rights and it reminds that states have the responsibility to protect women. As such Vienna Declaration should be linked to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

Femmes Africa Solidarité together with World YWCA and Equality Now is convinced that women bring an added value in peace and security. The 10th anniversary of 1325 is an opportunity for making positive changes to restore their dignity in armed conflicts, promote their rights, enhance their meaningful participation in decision making even at the highest level, ensure their protection under the law, prevent crimes and violation against them and persecute perpetrators of atrocities.

In Africa, the Vienna Declaration and UNSCR 1325 marked a major breakthrough for women: it was not only women’s right based approach to conflict resolution and peace building, but also their weapon for peace to implement the 3P’s approach of UNSCR 1325 namely prevention, protection, and participation.

A lot has been achieved in Africa with the adoption of National Action Plans in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Guinea-Bissau and Ivory Coast. Nevertheless, a scaling up approach is still remaining. States should engage their leadership in
accountability mechanisms with clear, budgeted and time bound goals indicators on UNSCR 1325 in order to monitor the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

We applaud the Human Rights Council Members’ decisions during the 14th session of the HRC to unanimously adopt a resolution on “Accelerating effort to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in prevention”. We hope that the proposed resolution on the elimination of discrimination against women will look into good examples of ways to remove legal obstacles to the participation of women in conflict resolution in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 1325 as well as ensure their full contribution to peace building.

We also hope that mandate holders and the UPR processes would adopt a perspective which integrates UNSCR 1325 indicator with national laws and Human Rights machinery to deal with prevention and protection issue in conflict situation.

I Thank you Mr. President.