



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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INFORMATION NOTE

On Tuesday, 8th June, 2010, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), in collaboration with UNIFEM, organized a meeting, "The Global Open Day on Women and Peace" with women leaders and other experts on gender, conflict, peace and security in West Africa.

This meeting took part within the scheme of activities commemorating the 10th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the United Nations wants to have a clear vision of the comprehensive process of its implementation (overview, proposals and recommendations) through regular consultations with stakeholders including women leaders. Such consultations are particularly timely as they create spaces for exchange, sharing progress, highlighting the challenges and the synergies necessary for a perfect implementation of this important resolution for peace, security and fundamental human rights. The objective of the meeting was to identify all the challenges and the synergies necessary for effective implementation of resolution 1325 in Western Africa.

Participants consisted of West African women leaders and other actors belonging to organizations of civil society, academia, sub-regional organizations and United Nations representatives accredited in West Africa.

The Special Representative of the United Nation Secretary General, M. Saïd Djinnit, delivered the closing speech and summarized the three key issues which emerged from the discussions.

1. The importance of involving women who are working in the field to this type of consultations and the need to evaluate the progress made and make an analysis of current perspectives on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
2. The need to vulgarize Resolution 1325 (i.e re-worded) into a language which is accessible and comprehensible by all.
3. The responsibility of States to put in place efficient structures in order to compel them to respect their expressed engagements by signing and ratifying international treaties and conventions

All exchanges, discussions and recommendations will be included in a guidance document to be shared which will identify challenges faced and synergies to be strengthened for full implementation of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa. This document will serve as a roadmap for monitoring the resolution in the sub-region. Moreover, the challenges identified will be the focus of the regional forum planned by UNOWA in September 2010 on the scope of the implementation of 1325 in West Africa.

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