

Thank you Mr. President,

Femmes Africa Solidarite welcomes the joint report of the seven UN experts and stands by the findings that limited progress has been made in the improvement of the human rights situation.

We believe that improving the situation for women in the DRC requires greater attention, efforts and funds regarding the restoration of peace and rule of law, and in particular the adoption and realization of the National Action Plan on implementing UNSC Resolution 1325.

FAS remains concerned with the continuing levels of discrimination and violence against women and girls, particularly in the east, and with women human rights defenders, journalists and peace mediators falling victims to reprisal attacks.

We welcome the small steps taken on combating violence against women and the related impunity. However, despite the governmental 'zero tolerance policy', armed forces with human rights records are still in place, or are even granted other authority positions. FAS calls the DRC for a full commitment - at ALL levels - in fighting the pervasive impunity.

We urge the DRC to realize the effective application and monitoring of the 2006 law on sexual violence, encourage investments in psycho-social counseling for victims, and support the enhancement of their social, economic and political rights. We strongly call upon the authorities to provide women with a voice in decision- and policy making and strengthen their capacities at all levels.

Finally, the human rights violations have a vast and substantial economic root cause. Illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources fuel and prolong the conflict in eastern DRC and the dire situation for women. While we consider the lack of transparent control over the mining sector a responsibility of the DRC, other states and multinational companies involved in the resource trade carry liability.

In this regard, FAS encourages the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative that will prevent illegal diversion of State revenues. These increased revenues available can, *inter alia*, be used to compensate women victims of violence.

Thank you Mr. President.



# FAS PARTICIPATION IN THE 13th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

*1-26th of March 2010  
Geneva, Switzerland*



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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8th of March 2010

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010, the COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN(NGO CSW) in Geneva organized two panels. The theme of the first one was "Watershed for Women's Human Rights and Empowerment", focusing on the integration of women's rights in the UN System with reference to innovative ideas, such as a better co-ordination between CEDAW and the UPR of the Human Rights Council. The theme of the second panel was "Beijing + 15: Creating New Mechanisms to Accelerate the Implementation of the Platform for Action", considering the effectiveness of some of the emerging mechanisms such as the recently adopted UNGA resolution to set up a composite entity in the UN on women, implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security", as well as SCR 1820, 1888 and 1889.

Ms. Bineta Diop participated in the Second Session as a panelist, where she expressed her concern about the andante progress for Implementation of 1325, due to lack of accountability mechanisms.



She summarized although those National action plan have been launched in some countries, such as Burundi, Rwanda, and DRC, there are no indicators to measure these action plans. Regarding the escalation of violence against women in Guinea, she stated that training should be arranged for military and peace keepers. Another problem should be paid attention to is that women are not aware of their own rights, and there are very few female judges or courts in this field. In the end Ms. Diop highlighted: "We do not need another Resolution. In fact, we need a trustable fund to send women to the table to participate in the

## FAS PANEL DISCUSSION

### *Women in DRC: The context of abuse - What they face, and how to progress* 23rd of March 2010

The Panel Discussion took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2010, from 1 to 3pm. Around 65 people attended, of which many people from partner NGOs and important International Organizations. The invited Panelist were:

- Mrs. Berhane Ras Work, President of the Inter-African Comitee (Moderator)
- Ms. Bente Angell-Hansen, Ambassador of the Norwegian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva.
- Mr. Scott Campbell, head of Africa Field Programs of OHCHR
- Mr. Yao Abgetse, International Advocacy & Training Director, Franciscan International
- Mr. Richard Lukanda, Advisor to the Minister of Human Rights and Justice of DRC
- Ms. Ilse & Femke van Velzen, Independent Film makers.

FAS Objectives in this event were to **inform the audience on the situation of women's rights in the DRC**, discuss the root causes of these abuses, the status of implementation of the UNSC Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (1325, 1820, 1888, 1889), and possible ways and strategies to move forward. FAS also wanted to **promote advocacy concerning empowerment of African women in leadership roles in peace-building processes**. Finally, FAS also wanted to **highlight the role men could play in fighting against sexual violence**.

These objectives were outstandingly met, thanks to the great expertise of the panelists.



## WORKING GROUP ON PEACE MEETING (WGOP) - 25th of March 2010

The Working Group of Peace was briefed on the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) mission & work on UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS): its function, objectives and structure concerning its members. The CSAG is **co-chaired by Mrs. Robison together with Mrs. Diop**.

The idea would be for the WGOP to feed information to the CSAG on best practices for implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Highlighted was that the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) will consult with a wide circle of civil society networks and organizations concerned with women, peace and security around the world that will provide a reference point for the Group's work. The group will recommend to the High-Level Steering committee effective ways to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSCR 1325 that bring civil society voices to decision-makers.

**UNESCO's decade Culture of Peace** - David Fernandez stated that 2010 is important year to make an assessment on Culture of Peace, Women, 1325. In cooperation with the Spanish government, an event will be organized in Santiago de Compostella in December 2010 (9-10<sup>th</sup> Dec). A possible cooperation with the WG concerning this event was opted.

The Next Meeting is planned for Monday April the 26<sup>th</sup> from 11.30 to 13.00 at the UN.