

FAS advocates for women's rights at the 26th Human Rights Council

During the 26th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Femmes Africa Solidarité intervened in four panel discussions including an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (VAW), its causes and consequences; an interactive dialogue with the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic; a general debate on the technical assistance in the field of Human Rights in South Sudan and a panel on women's human rights and the sustainable development agenda which took place during the annual full day discussion on women's rights.

FAS conducted successful advocacy activities through bilateral meetings with its partners and within the African group of the HRC to promote the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In this regard, in a one-to-one conversation with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic, FAS asked the expert to highlight UNSCR 1325 and ways to better involve women's groups in the peace processes which she did in her presentation at the Council.

FAS supported the draft resolution of Canada entitled "Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: violence against women as a barrier to women's political and economic empowerment" and requested the Human Rights Council to adopt a strong resolution that properly reflects the gravity of the situation in South Sudan.

Finally, FAS advocated for a stronger monitoring and reporting mechanism to pursue accountability to end impunity for human rights violations including sexual and gender based crimes and for stronger references to commitments on women's human rights and peace in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 26th Human Right Council was the last session of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanethem Pillay. In her speech, she referred to the office of the HCHR as '*a friend that is unafraid to speak the truth*', assisting States to identify gaps in their human rights protection policies and repair them. She called on the OHCHR to continue its work in a spirit of independence, impartiality and non-selectivity. FAS would like to thank Ms Pillay for her commitment and strong leadership.