



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Women, Peace and Security

Summary of Facts

- The Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework is the Gender, Women, Peace and Security Strategy of the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region (O/SESG). It aims to empower and support women of the region as peacemakers and leaders.
- The Women's Platform recognizes that Women are crucial partners in shoring up three key pillars of lasting peace: economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy. As such, it aims at empowering women's organization and women leaders to actively contribute to the implementation of the PSC Framework by supporting them to strengthen their collective action, providing grants for relevant projects, and enabling them to play an active and sustained role in peace processes.
- The Women's Platform oversees three components: advocacy, gender mainstreaming and provision of grants.

1. **ADVOCACY** – *Strengthening women's participation and leadership in conflict prevention and peace processes*

Expected Outcomes:

- increased capacity building, shared learning and political advocacy for and by women leaders in conjunction with regional and national women's organisations;
- increased women's participation and effectiveness in high-level regional and national dialogues in conflict prevention, peace processes and economic initiatives;
- ongoing presence of women and inclusion of their concerns and agendas in high-level peace processes and security forums.

2. **GENDER MAINSTREAMING:** *Mainstream gender perspectives in the Office of the Special Envoy's roadmap, programmes, outputs and initiatives*

Expected Outcomes:

The PSC Framework programmes, outputs, initiatives and their implementation integrate women's perspectives and are gender sensitive.



3. **GRANTS** - *Effective provision of small grants to women's rights organizations in the four (4) core countries¹*

Priority areas:

- Monitoring and advocacy on the PSC Framework and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325
- Combatting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- Advancing women's livelihoods and property rights
- Promoting equitable access to and control of natural resources

Expected Outcome:

Increased participation of women's rights groups on monitoring and advocacy on the PSC Framework and UNSCR 1325 ; increased women's civil society participation in combatting sexual and gender-based violence ; increased women's participation and influence in decision-making regarding women's livelihoods and property rights initiatives ; increased women's access to and control of natural resources management.

- The Women's Platform has an Advisory Board which provides strategic and policy guidance and supports the communication aspects of the Platform. The Advisory Board meets every four month mostly through conference calls.
- The Women's Platform is overseen and managed by the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region (O/SESG-GL) and it's key partners include: UN Women, the Global Fund for Women (Grant Making Manager), the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC), Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), and Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises (FFC).
- Since its launch in 2014, the Women's Platform has provided USD 1,400,000 to women's grassroots and community based organizations. Contributions have come from the Dutch, Norwegian and Irish Governments through the O/SESG Trust Fund as well as from the Oak Foundation through Global Fund for Women.

Next Steps

I. Advocacy Component

1. Development of a Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

¹ Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Support for the establishment of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Regional Women's Forum Secretariat in Kigali, Rwanda 3. Gender assessments of women's participation in political and peace processes 4. Support for capacity building, networking and advocacy activities of the Regional Women's Forum and of its national level forums 5. Support for women's political participation in peace processes and political dialogues <p>II. Grants Component</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuous support for grassroots and community based initiatives and activities that aim to support the participation of women leaders in peace related efforts in the region. 2. Continuous monitoring of the implementation of grants in the four core countries of Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda to ensure the desired impact is being achieved. <p>III. Resource Mobilization</p> <p>Ongoing advocacy for additional resources to scale up financial support for the implementation of the above-mentioned components and activities.</p>	
Messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equality remains a core aspect of the PSC Framework and women's role remains central in all peace building efforts in the region, including national dialogues processes. • Women's organizations and networks are effective vehicle for establishing peace and security in the Great Lakes Region and should be encouraged and supported by member states and international partners. • Financial resources should be increased to scale up the Women's Platform initiative. 	
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