



PRESS RELEASE

PR25 - 15.05.2015

Sixty women leaders from the Great Lakes region gather in Goma around the Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region

Goma, 15 May, 2015 – A three-day meeting of the Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region was held in Goma, North Kivu, from 13 to 15 May 2015.

In attendance were sixty women leaders representing 35 organizations that received grants from the Trust Fund established by the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, thanks to contributions from the Dutch and Irish Governments.

The Women's Platform was launched in January 2014 by the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region to enable women's organizations from the Great Lakes region to actively participate in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSCF), and to promote a participatory approach to the formulation of gender-related policies, especially with regard to the promotion of women's participation in public life, and the respect and protection of women's rights.

During three days of deliberations, participants exchanged views and shared their experiences in four thematic areas, namely: monitoring and advocacy for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); combating violence against women and protecting victims; advancing women's livelihoods; and improving access to clean energy in local communities.

The women leaders in attendance also explored opportunities for synergy and collaboration between their various organizations, including around projects intended to benefit the Great Lakes region at large.

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“I strongly believe that women’s empowerment is a fundamental requirement to achieving lasting peace and regional economic development. I am hence fully committed to the vision of the Women’s Platform which is to ensure successful peace processes in the DRC and the Great Lakes region, where women play a significant role at all levels, in line with Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000),” Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit, said in a statement read on his behalf at the opening ceremony.

In his closing remarks, the representative of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region noted that “the Women’s Platform initiative is a catalyst that should support the effective operationalization of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Women’s Forum to improve the lives of women in the region and to enable them to play active roles in the governance and development of the region.” “I call on us all to work together to achieve this objective. I count on your support as women and men agents of peace and change in the DRC and the region,” he concluded.

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