

***DRAFT REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY  
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325***

**2018-2023**

## FOREWORD

In 2000, The United Nations passed a landmark Resolution known as the (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace, and security. This important instrument recognizes the importance of women's contributions to conflict prevention and resolution, peace-keeping, and peace-building. This resolution is central to the effort to help women engage in peace processes in meaningful ways. Without their involvement in the conflict prevention and peace building interventions, women are disenfranchised, disempowered and denied their rightful place.

But with sound involvement in the resolution of deadly conflicts that affect their lives, women can flourish and can contribute to sustainable peace for all, on one hand and the advancement of society as a whole. Indeed, to bring about sustainable peace, women and girls are crucial players whose voices must be heard and whose role must be recognized and promoted.

The UNSCR 1325 is essential for leveraging strategic actions for equitable and sustainable interventions in peace-building processes through the promotion of their participation, the prevention of deadly conflict, their protection against Gender Based Violence and the mainstreaming of their needs and priorities in the recovery and relief interventions.

These instruments compliment other binding regional and global policy and legal frameworks to which all member states are signatories, underlining the ICGLR's commitment to promote, protect and fulfill women's rights in various as recommended by the resolution and other related subsequent related resolutions.

In this regard, ICGLR has shown steady engagement for the women's rights through different instruments such as the protocol for eradication and prevention of SGBV against women and children and the Kampala Declaration.

The present regional action plan is an additional milestone on this remarkable journey for a region free of violence against women and sustainable peace. Peace in this region is possible, but it will need a sustained effort from a range of relevant stakeholders and a clear coherent engagement. With this regional plan, ICGLR marks a new stage in its own contribution to this work.

Signed:

Executive Secretary ICGLR

UN Office of The Special Envoy

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Signed**

**ICGLR Secretariat**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Background

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region's economic potential has capacity to facilitate inclusion growth for its population. Unfortunately this has not been the case, because in the last two decades, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) has been plagued with grave threats to peace and security which has left it at the mercy of some of the most complex conflicts on the African continent.

Women are amongst the principal victims who pay a hefty price, as the different crises maintain them in a state of low social status vis-à-vis their men-folk who constitute the majority of power holders in social and political spheres.

In the *current* conflict, affected countries of the Great Lakes Region such as The Democratic Republic of Congo and The Republic of Burundi, women are largely excluded from political decision - making as well as from peace processes. Other critical issues that affect women in conflict and crisis prone areas, are displacement, poverty and sexual and gender based violence.

The countries in the Great Lakes Region have made some good progress towards achieving the objectives of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes and those of its sister agreement, The Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the region, signed in 2006 and 2013, respectively.

To-date, nine Member States of the ICGLR have developed National Action Plans (NAPs) on implementation of UNSR 1325 Resolution, these include: The Republic of Burundi, The Democratic Republic of Congo, The Central African Republic, The Republic of Kenya, The Republic of Rwanda, The Republic of Uganda, The Republic of Soudan, South Sudan, and The United Republic of Tanzania. *The Republic of Angola, The Republic of Congo, The Republic of Sudan, and The Republic of Zambia are yet to report on progress made on development of National Action Plans on implementation of UNSCR 1325.*

In addition to the National Action Plans, the ICGLR is in the process of developing a Regional Action Plan (RAP) on implementation of UNSCR 1325, as evidenced by this Draft.

### **The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325)**

**The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325)**, on women, peace, and security, was adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on 31 October 2000, after recalling Resolutions 1261 (1999), 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), and 1314 (2000). UNSCR 1325 acknowledges the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls. It calls for the adoption of a gender perspective to consider the special needs of women and girls during conflict, repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, and post-conflict reconstruction.

UNSCR 1325 was the first formal and legal document from the Security Council that required parties in a conflict to prevent violation of women's rights, to support women's participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction, and to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict. It was also the first United Nations Resolution to specifically mention women. UNSCR 1325 has since become an organizing framework for the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. The operational items in UNSCR 1325 broadly call upon member states to address the needs of women and girls in armed conflict and support their participation in peace negotiations. The key components and recommendations of the resolution are:

- **Preventing sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict:** Resolution 1325 calls upon all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from violence in armed conflict, particularly sexual and gender-based violence. It also calls upon Member States to end impunity for crimes against humanity, particularly sexual violence, and prosecute offenders.
- **Peace negotiations:** The Resolution calls for including a gender perspective in peace negotiations and increasing women's participation in peace negotiation, with particular attention to supporting local women's peace initiatives.

- **Protection of women and girls in refugee settings:** The resolution calls upon parties to conflict to consider the special needs of women and girls in designing and administering refugee camps.
- **Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR):** It also calls for considering gender in DDR, particularly the different needs of male and female ex-combatants.
- **Women's political participation:** The resolution calls upon Member States to increase women's participation at all levels of decision-making in national, regional, and international institutions.
- Incorporate a gender perspective into **peacekeeping operations**, consider gender in Security Council missions, and consult with international and local women's organizations.
- **Provide training** for the UN and Member States on the protection, rights, and needs of women; gender sensitivity; and the importance of involving women in peacekeeping and peace-building measures.
- **Gender balancing in the UN:** Increase women's representation as Special Representatives and envoys, and in field operations, particularly among military observers, police, and human rights and humanitarian personnel.
- **Reporting:** The Resolution requests that the UN Secretary-General conduct a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building, the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, and on gender mainstreaming in UN peacekeeping missions. It also invites the Secretary-General to report the findings of these studies to the Security Council and all Member States of the United Nations.

The Resolution also calls upon all countries to fully respect international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, in particular the obligation under the Geneva Convention of 1949 and Additional Protocol thereto of 1977, the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and both its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and its Optional Protocol

on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and finally to bear in mind the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The resolution ensures that the tools available for preventing conflict are at the forefront of efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism and address its root causes. UNSCR 1325 has contributed enormously to advancing the debate on women's roles in peace and security contexts and has expanded the understanding and acceptance of women's diverse roles in conflict resolution and peace-building. The resolution provides an important advocacy tool for promoting women's participation in decision making in conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes. UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace, and security have also catalyzed interest and action in policy formulation and research on the gender impacts of war, peace-building, security, and conflict resolution.

Seventeen years after its adoption, UNSCR 1325 has been implemented with varied global results regarding women's participation in national, regional, and international conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace-building processes. Concerted efforts at the international level to step up the prevention of crimes against women and girls, improve protection measures, and increase the participation of women in these processes have resulted in the adoption of additional regional security pacts and additional Security Council resolutions that affirm and strengthen the implementation of UNSCR 1325. These subsequent UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace, and security incorporated important lessons learned by the UN and member states.

It is against this background that the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is embarking on a Regional Action to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), on women, peace, and security.

## **THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR)**

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is an inter-governmental organization of the countries in the African Great Lakes Region. Its establishment was based on the recognition that political instability and conflicts in these countries have a considerable regional dimension and thus require a concerted



effort in order to promote sustainable peace and development. Most notable among the conflicts that have had cross-border impacts or origins are the 1994 Rwandan genocide that led to the loss of more than 800,000 lives, and the political instability in DRC. These conflicts constituted a major threat to international peace and security.

The ICGLR is composed of twelve member states, namely: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

The idea to set up ICGLR originated in 2000 when the United Nations Security Council, as stated in its resolutions 1291 and 1304, called for an International Conference on peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes region. Later that year, the Secretariat of the International Conference was established in Nairobi, Kenya, under the umbrella of the United Nations and the African Union.

In November 2004, the eleven Heads of State and Government of the member countries unanimously adopted the Declaration on Peace, Security and Development in the Great Lakes region in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This Dar-es-Salaam Declaration presented a political statement with the intention to address the root causes of intractable conflicts and constraints to development in a regional and innovative approach.

The Heads of State and Government convened once again in Nairobi in 2006 to sign the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. The Pact included the Dar es Salaam Declaration, Programs of Action and Protocols. This marked the end of the preparatory phase and ushered in the implementation period. The ICGLR Executive Secretariat celebrated its inauguration in May 2007 at its headquarters in Bujumbura, Burundi. Its responsibility is to coordinate, facilitate, monitor and thereby ensure the implementation of the Pact in order to attain peace, security, political stability and development in the Great Lakes Region.

The main divisions of ICGLR are:

- Peace and Security

- Democracy and Good Governance
- Economic Development and Regional Integration
- Humanitarian and Social Issues
- Cross Cutting Issues
- Gender, Women and Children

Three main principles guide the approach of the ICGLR;

- First, a sustainable solution for peace, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region has to be based on strong ownership of the countries of this region themselves.
- Second, the ICGLR is based on partnership with stakeholders, in particular the Group of Friends and Special Envoys which provides financial, diplomatic, technical and political support.
- Third is principle of inclusivity

In order to ensure the rightful implementation of its projects and protocols the ICGLR brings together experts and authorities from its Member Countries to meet on a regular basis. Twice every year, the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) - as Executive Board of the ICGLR to assess the progress made. The Summit of Heads of State which is the supreme organ takes place at least once every two years. In case of emergency the Chair of the Summit may call for an extraordinary Summit of the Troika. This emergency caucus comprises the Chair of the Summit, his/her predecessor and his/her successor and thus includes representatives of three member countries.

On the national level, each of the Member States has put in place a National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) also including representatives of civil society, women and youth in order to ensure the follow up and implementation of decisions made by the Summit and the RIMC.

### **The Normative Basis for the ICGLR Regional Plan of Action**

The UNSCR 1325 is a land mark Resolution which has the objectives of protecting women and children in situations of armed conflict and ensuring women's participation in post-conflict processes.

UNSCR is commended for enabling the incorporation of a gendered lens into peace and security interventions at the global, regional and national levels.

Africa has developed a normative framework for UNSCR 1325, at the continental level, the Protocol to the African Union Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) are key instances of significant progress made to embed UNSCR 1325 in African Instruments.

Accordingly, States have a mandate to report regularly on the level of implementation of the Maputo Protocol and SDGEA. The NAPs have led to concrete results in the actualization of the pillars of UNSCR 1325, which four Pillars include:

- **Participation and Promotion:**

Active and increased participation of women at all decision-making levels and in all institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.

The Normative legal framework of ICGLR mandates the substantive inclusion and active engagement of women in the public sphere and provides quotas for women's inclusion in decision-making positions.

"State shall take legislative and other measures including affirmative action programs and policies to redress any disadvantage suffered by individuals or groups because of past discrimination."

Promotion requires the active and increased engagement of women on issues of peace and security at all levels through deliberate gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women in all processes.

- **Prevention:** The prevention of violations against women and girls, in particular the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and discriminatory practices, abuse, and exploitation.

The prevention of violations against women and girls, in particular the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and discriminatory practices, abuse, and exploitation UNSCR 1325 calls for improving intervention strategies for the prevention of violence against women; accountability for violations; strengthening women's rights under national law; and supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.

- **Protection:** The protection of women and girls against violence, which negates their safety, personal dignity, and empowerment.

UNSCR 1325 calls for the full implementation of all laws that protect the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts, and for the adoption of special measures to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, including in emergency and humanitarian situations, such as in camps for refugees and internally displaced persons.

- **Relief and Recovery:** The effective, meaningful, and timely participation of women in all stages of the design and implementation of relief and recovery programs, including, where relevant, in disarmament and demobilization programs.

UNSCR 1325 calls for relief and recovery measures to take into account the gender-differentiated experiences of conflict by women and girls, and pay attention to the particular needs of women and girls during repatriation, demobilization, reintegration, and post-conflict reconstruction and recovery processes, including the design of camps and settlements for refugees and internally displaced persons.

As noted earlier, the founding members of the ICGLR are Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia. In 2012, the Republic of South Sudan joined

the organization composed now of twelve Member States. The Member States of the ICGLR adopted the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region in Nairobi in December 2006. All ICGLR Member States are signatories of this Pact. The Pact has the goal of creating the conditions for a secure, stable and development region. It serves as a legal framework for the ICGLR and provides the key elements for its agenda. The Pact is composed of ten protocols which are legally binding for all the signatory parties of the treaty. The protocols are the following:

- Protocol on Non-aggression and Mutual Defense in the Great Lakes Region
- Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance
- Protocol on Judicial Cooperation
- Protocol for the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and all forms of Discrimination
- [Protocol Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources \(RINR\)](#)
- Protocol on the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone
- Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children
- Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons
- Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons
- Protocol on the Management of Information and Communication

### **Regional Instruments**

- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol, 2003)
- The Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (2000)
- The Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000)
- The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (2000)

- The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004)
- The African Union Gender Policy (2009)
- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development Gender Policy and Strategy (2004)
- The Pact on Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region (2006)
- The Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (2006)
- The Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (2002)
- The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Gender Policy (2000)
- The Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2009)
- The Declaration of the Heads of States and Governments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (2011)
- The Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (2000)
- The Bamako Declaration on an Africa Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation, and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000)
- The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control, and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (2006)

### **International Instruments**

- The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966)

- The Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
- The Rome Statue (2002)
- The United Nations Charter (1945)
- The United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000)
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008)
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009)
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1889 (2009)
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010)
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 2106 (2013)
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 2122 (2013)
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (2001)

**RATIONALE FOR AN ICGLR REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR  
IMPLEMENTATION ON**

**UNSCR 1325**

In October 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This Resolution calls for recognition of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict management and peace building. The landmark Resolution invites Member States to undertake necessary action to increase the participation of women in these process and to ensure the protection of women before ,during and after conflicts.

In order to facilitate the implementation of UNSCR 1325, in 2004, the Security Council urged all Member States to develop and implement a national action plan for the Resolution and encourages all regional bodies to develop such plans at the regional level as well.

In addition to this, in the context of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC-F), signatories of the Framework have developed and implemented a number of interventions within national and regional action plans including the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of neighbor countries. To be translated into concrete action, this commitment needs to be supported by the involvement of civil society and women's organizations to uproot the sources of instability in compliance with UNSCR 1325 provisions.

One option to harness the effective implementation of this goal, the ICGLR and its partners have identified a participatory development of National and Regional Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. To-date, Eight Member States have developed National Action Plans and others are in the process of developing them in accordance with UN guidelines on how best to develop a participatory National Action Plan. There is a sub-regional action plan between Burundi, DRC and Rwanda.

In 2017, the ICGLR Secretariat in conjunction with the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary - General for the Great Lakes region, commenced the development of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan (ICGLR-RAP) for implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Further justification for a ICGLR Regional Action Plan is premised on several points which include:



- The ICGLR Regional Action Plan is a necessary tool for providing leverage to the various concerned parties working in the area of women's empowerment, particularly during discussions and other engagements with respective governments in the quest to develop NAPs (where this has not been done) and more importantly during their implementation.
- Enable consideration of the issues that from the basis of UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions in their entirety thus providing an appropriate regional response.
- To basically capture the role of women and their involvement in peace management mechanisms and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.
- To take into account the on-going programs and projects in different countries of the Region and the local specificities of ICGLR Member States.
- Its usefulness as an advocacy tool for UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions, as well as a standardization mechanism that would promote a coordinated approach in achieving the objectives of UNSCR 1325 in the region.
- An important tool for resource mobilization both at the ICGLR Secretariat and national levels.
- A tool to lobby Heads of State and Government to provide funding for the implementation and monitoring of National Action Plans on implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- Facilitate/help ICGLR to follow up on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and to provide necessary support where relevant;
- It would serve as a strong regional monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
- The ICGLR Regional Action Plan could be used as a model for Member States that have not yet made their National Action Plans to do so,
- to enable State Parties and other relevant actors to know their responsibilities in implementing UNSCR 1325.
- It would assist Member States in setting targets at the national level, thus making it easier to monitor and evaluate implementation of resolutions.
- Given that sexual and gender based violence is one of the areas of focus in the ICGLR-Regional Action Plan, would boost the support of ICGLR Member

States to participate fully in - realization of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 3 on gender equality;

- Provision of space and a forum for further discussions to take place between various actors from ICGLR;
- To rally ICGLR Member States with a view to finding solutions and creating a plan of action to operationalize the solutions.
- To promote convergence within ICGLR Member States with respect to understanding concerning the essence and merits of UNSCR 1325.
- To utilize the ICGLR Regional Action Plan as a tool for Member States to benchmark their own responses and National Action Plans (NAPs) to the core issues of UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions are founded.
- Eight of twelve ICGLR Member States have National Action Plans which are currently being implemented or under review, these plans vary in content and thus need to be synchronized at the regional in order to realize greater impact in implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions.
- A useful roadmap in defining important and distinct roles of implementers of UN Resolution 1324 both at policy and enforcement levels.

### **GAPS THAT THE ICGLR REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ADDRESSES**

The ICGLR Regional Action Plan on Implementation on UNSCR 1325 will address the following gaps articulated from an assessment of some of existing *National Action Plans*:

- Lack of a coordinated approach by Member States of ICGLR in implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions.
- Lack of a communication strategy to create public awareness about *the utility/ the importance, binding nature and mandate to implement* of UNSCR 1325 in the ICGLR region.
- Lack of accurate data on various pertinent aspects about women in the ICGLR Region and particularly the magnitude of vulnerable populations of women and girls with reference to the impact of armed conflict on women and girls.

- Lack of an accessible electronic documentation center housing reports and results on research conducted in the ICGLR *on the impact of* UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions.
- Lack of resources *and clear mechanisms* to operationalize National Action Plans on implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- Lack of early warning mechanisms and where early warning mechanisms exist limited success on their capacity to prevent break of armed conflict and other forms of violence.
- Resource based conflict affecting civilian populations thus creating populations of internally displaced persons and refugees most of whom are women and children.
- Underrepresentation of women on negotiating tables for conflict prevention, management and resolution.
- Non implementation of principles aimed at increasing women's representation in decision-making positions and ending sexual violence found in - ratified Treaties, Conventions, Constitutions, Statutes, Policies, Action Plans such as the National Action Plan on implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions.
- Non-compliance of legal statutes (Constitution, laws, and policies) with the requirements of UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions.
- Persistence and existence of sexual and gender based violence during and after armed conflicts perpetrated by the military and civilians with impunity.
- Lack of protection for vulnerable populations especially women and girls in areas of conflict.
- Lack of psycho-social support for survivors of sexual and gender based violence.
- Limited knowledge and understanding of sexual and gender based violence and ,mainstream a gender perspective in peace keeping missions/operations
- *Lack of specialized training for all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations.*
- Low/absence of percentages of women at various levels of security forces.

- Lack of/or inadequate content on peace, security and prevention of gender based violence in education curricula in all levels of learning
- Presence of unauthorized and uncontrolled small arms among sections of the population.
- Presence of organized crime syndicates, armed gangs and militia.
- Absence of means for measuring successful implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions in the ICGLR.
- Limited capacity of personnel serving in relevant government Ministries, Agencies and Departments, CSOs, Academia and volunteers in Member States to implement the UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions.
- Lack of adequate funding for Member States, CSOs in the ICGLR to implement the UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions.

In a nutshell, regional and sub-regional action plans can be an effective means of advancing gender justice, and can serve to promote sustainable peace. In some cases, regional action plans can play an even more important role than individual National Action Plans (NAPs) in promoting peace and security, particularly given the cross-border nature of many conflicts.

Regional and sub-regional plans also provide opportunities to share limited resources and build on neighbors' experiences, often in similar historical, cultural, and socio-economic contexts. Several regional and sub-regional organizations have developed action plans for implementing UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, either as discrete strategies or as part of a larger gender policy.

In addition to developing Regional Action Plans, groups of countries have worked cooperatively with each other to develop their individual NAPs. Civil society organizations or women's groups have also collaborated with their counter-parts across borders to encourage or pressure their individual governments to develop NAPs, or to push them to formulate Regional Action Plans.

## **ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ICGLR - REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON UNSCR 1325**

Some of the perceived challenges to implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, which will be mitigation by joint, concerted and coordinated strategic action under the ICGLR Regional Action Plan:

- Varying National priorities among ICGLR Member States; and
- Lack of harmonization and synchronization on execution of strategic actions in National Action Plans on implementation of UNSCR 1325 the four pillars - participation and promotion, prevention, prosecution, and relief and recovery, for example ICGLR Member States have different laws on SGBV and varying penalties/sentencing.
- Limited financial and human resources for implementation of UNSCR 1325, lack of political will, and inability to recruit champions for implementation of UNSCR Regional Action Plan.
- Absence of trained stakeholders' staff -which creates knowledge and skills gaps in the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.
- Lack of support from development partners; and lack of a sustainable financial mechanism to mitigate funding shortfalls and continuity of execution of work started under the ICGLR Regional Action Plan.
- Lack of interest by the media to adopt the cause of ICGLR-Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.
- Lack of human resources to executed strategic actions such as translation of UNSCR 1325 into National languages.
- Contingent on availability of Government and Civil Society Organization competent and willing to prioritize and carry out publicity and civic education on UNSCR 1325 as opposed to other competing interests that may attract more funding.
- Lack of political will by ICGLR Member States to prioritize implementation of UNSCR 1325 and cooperate with researchers.
- Difficulties in tracing available research and reports for storage in the electronic documentation center of ICGLR.

- Withholding of relevant and correct information by officials in government – particularly security circles and the Judiciary.
- Inertia on the part of local Monitoring and Evaluation teams to update the ICGLR website on implementation of activities and realization of indicators.
- Lack of cooperation from military and police forces.
- Reluctance and resistance to intervene in by selected men and women as part of a establishment and operationalization of strategy for early warning mechanisms in early stages of conflict.
- Skepticism by communities about the efficacy of peace committees; and lack of cooperation from communities in conflict
- Negative attitude to requisite inclusion of women in public life arising from patriarchy, negative cultural perceptions and lack of self esteem.
- Negative cultural attitude towards economic empowerment of women.
- Resistance to cooperate from extreme traditional, cultural and religious adherents.
- Slow permeation of messages on implementation the ICGLR Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 due to high illiteracy levels and poor communication and infrastructure in some societies of the Member States.
- Existence of on-going and unresolved conflicts that reduce or deter impact.
- Lack of available draftsmen/women to undertake drafting of laws and amendments.
- Resistance from custodians of culture and religion among parliamentarians and opinion shapers/leaders in communities.
- Bottlenecks in the legal processes in prosecution of Gender Based Violence such as lack of access to medical practitioners for forensic evidence, lack of witness protection, lack of legal aid, limited knowledge and skills in investigations.
- Lack of ICGLR Member States' cooperation, support, and provision for legal aid schemes and services for victims and survivors.
- Lack of cooperation from Victims and Survivors like in some cases of Gender Based Violence where lack fear of being ostracized and stigmatized.
- Negative attitude from troops towards gender mainstreaming in peace keeping missions.

- Resistance from some male police and military personnel to affirmative action programs to incorporate females or promote female to higher ranks.
- Resistance from experts in the education sector to introduction of content on women, peace and security in curricula at all levels of learning institutions.
- Resistance to change of attitude by students to introduction of content on women, peace and security into education curricula.
- Porous borders that facilitates presence of unauthorized and uncontrolled small arms among sections of the population.
- Continued insecurity with ICGLR Member States and unstable neighboring States with the ICGLR.
- High unemployment rates, youth bulge and poverty that create reservoirs for recruitment into organized crime, armed gangs and militia.
- Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction, high illiteracy levels and continued marginalization of sections of the population such as the youth which feeds into violence, instability, and presence of organized crime, armed gangs and militia.

## **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK -**

The ICGLR Secretariat in conjunction with the Office of the UN Special Envoy to the Secretary General of the Great Lakes and other relevant stakeholders provide strategic leadership and overall oversight of the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan for UNSCR 1325. Other key actors in the implementation of the ICGLR-RAP include:

- Ministers of Women/Gender from signatory countries of the ICGLR PACT (Gender, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Police and Security);
- ICGLR National Coordinators
- Gender Expert from ICGLR and UN Special Envoy Office
- ICGLR Regional Women Forum (RWF): Steering Committee of the ICGLR RWF
- *ICGLR – Regional Training Facility*
- ICGLR Women Fora
- *The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC-F) for the DRC region – Women’s Platform: Advisory Board on the Women’s Platform.*
- Guarantors (UN, African Union, ICGLR and SADC)
- Relevant UN Partners (UN Women Regional Office, UN Women Rwanda)
- *ICGLR Civil Society Forum*
- *ICGLR Youth Forum*

More pertinent information of some key actors which have mandate to implement ICGLR Regional Action Plan 1325 include the following:

### **Office of the Special Envoy of the Great Lakes Region**

In February 2013, the governments of the Great Lakes and the international community collectively committed to ending the conflict and finding solutions for lasting peace and stability in the region. The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC-F) for the DRC and region, was brokered by the UN and African Union and brings 13 countries together in a comprehensive pact to end the cycles of conflict by resolving the root causes and fostering trust and cooperation between the DRC and its neighbors.

The UN Secretary General appointed Mary Robinson in 2013 as his Special Envoy to lead on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, succeeded by Said Djinit who was appointed in 2014.

Office of the Special Envoy of the Great Lakes Region has a key mandate to lead on the implementation on the implementation of the Peace, Security Cooperation Framework. The Special Envoy in the implementation of his/her mandate strives to promote women's empowerment and their active roles in peacemaking as well as regional economic integration, including promoting "top-down and bottom-up ownership" of the PSC-F.

In this regard, the Women's Platform was established in 2014 by the Office of the Special Envoy and seeks to empower women of the region as pacemakers and leaders within the context of the PSC-F and UNSCR 1325. The Women's Platform has an Advisory Board, which Advisory Board is programmed to execute a regional fact-finding tour scheduled for January 2018. Information from the fact - finding tour is vital in the development of an ICGLR Regional Action Plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325.

In respect to the ICGLR-RAP on implementation of UNSCR 1325, the Office of the Special Envoy is *inter alia*, organizing with other partners and stakeholders a gender ministerial meeting on the "Implementation and monitoring of women, peace and security commitments in the Great Lakes Region" to be held early 2018.

This meeting brings together key regional decision-makers on gender, women, peace and security issues in the persons of Gender Ministers to discuss and move forward policy related matters. The specific objectives of this meeting are to *inter alia*, under (b) Discuss and adopt the Regional Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 prepared by the *ICGLR Regional Women Forum*.



The meeting scheduled for early 2018 will enable ICGLR to engage partners in the development of the first regional action plan for the implementation of the Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security in the Great Lakes regional...

The meeting scheduled for early 2018 will bring together: *Ministers of Gender from signatory countries of the ICGLR PACT; The PSCF Framework; Guarantors (UN, African Union, ICGLR and SADC); Steering Committee of the ICGLR Regional Women Forum; ICGLR – RTF (Kampala Center); ICGLR Women Fora; Relevant UN Partners (UN Women Regional Office, UN Women Rwanda); ICGLR Regional Women Forum (RWF).*

### ICGLR Regional Training Facility on Prevention of sexual violence

ICGLR Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention of sexual violence, stationed in Kampala, Uganda was operationalized in 2014, following the decision contained in Kampala Declaration endorsed by all the ICGLR Heads of State .

The RTF trains and sensitizes, judicial officers, medical officers, social workers, the police and all who handle cases of sexual violence on how to effectively handle such issues.

The RTF has over the last three years been able to train over 400 officials from ICGLR Member States.

Utilization of the ICGLR Regional Training Facility in the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan has the potential to guarantee results and sustainability since the ICGLR-RTF is high visible, vibrant and has already earned itself high credibility. It has established itself as a Center of Excellence and has a wide network of Master and National Trainers situated in all ICGLR Member States.

### ICGLR Regional Women Forum (RWF)

The ICGLR Regional Women Forum will have a Secretariat which will be hosted in Rwanda for a ten - year period.

The Regional Women's Forum is led by a Steering Committee of 12 representatives of Member States and a five - member bureau.

The ICGLR foresees establishment of the Regional Women Forum Secretariat by 2018. Establishment of the ICGLR Regional Women Forum is critical to effective implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan and thus should be expedited as matter of priority.

### Gender and security experts from the ICGLR

Gender and security experts from the ICGLR are expected to be part of a Meeting to review and validate The Regional Action Plan on 1325, which meeting will be facilitated by a consultant who has worked on the Draft ICGLR Regional Action Plan.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

In 2017, the ICGLR Secretariat in conjunction with the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary - General for the Great Lakes region, commenced the development of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan (ICGLR-RAP) for implementation of UNSCR 1325.

A consultant was sourced in accordance with ICGLR Policies with the main Objective to develop an Action Plan for the Great Lakes Region on the implementation of 1325, taking into account the developed and implemented National Action Plans by Member States and the sub-regional plan for effective participation of women in peace processes.

It was envisaged that the ICGLR Regional Action would be developed around the pillars on: Participation and Promotion, Protection, Prevention, and Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction. The ICGLR Regional Action on implementation of UNSCR will adopt language currently used in international documents, which refers to the four Pillars on UNSCR 1325 as: Participation and Promotion; Prevention, Protection, and Relief and Recovery. There is also the cross cutting Pillar on increased promotion of gender perspectives in conflict resolution processes.

As noted, the main objective of the assignment to develop an Action Plan for the Great Lakes Region on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 took into account the developed and implemented National Action Plans by Member States and the sub regional action plan between Burundi, DRC and Rwanda.

The implementation of six National Action Plans was assessed by utilizing literature review and suggestions were made on how to overcome implementation challenges. The literature review focused on assessment of National Action Plans of the ICGLR Member States of Burundi, *Democratic Republic of Congo*, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Sudan. The sub-regional action between Burundi, DRC and Rwanda was taken into consideration.

It was envisaged that lessons learned, **best practices, challenges and gaps identified in the** literature review would provide a concrete building block for the development of an ICGLR Regional Action Plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325.

The specific objectives of the literature review were to:

- Garner information on implementation of National Action Plans on implementation of UNSCR in order to identify lessons learned and challenges met in order to develop a realistic Regional Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- Assess the implementation of the sub-regional action plan to identify lessons learned, challenges faced and political options for addressing them.

- Propose a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

In respect to design methodology for the ICGLR Regional Action Plan – after the literature review, a consultative and inclusive process in order to build ownership and participation of relevant stakeholders will be accomplished through a meeting scheduled for February, 2018. The meeting will draw participants who will include ICGLR, representatives of Member States, Ministry of Gender Experts, Civil Society Organizations and other relevant stakeholders selected by the Special Envoy Office and the ICGLR.

Others offices which are expected to provide input into the development of the ICGLR Regional Action include representatives of women’s movements, Ministry of Defence and Security, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Coordinators, gender expert from Special Envoy Office and ICGLR. This methodology is in line with UN guidelines for the development of action plans that requires a participatory approach and inclusive consultations wherever and whenever resources can allow a high level of participation of the relevant stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the plan.

The assessment of selected National Action Plans of ICGLR Member States provided baseline information and was invaluable during the formulation of priorities, objectives, and SMAR (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound) indicators in the ICGLR Regional Action Plan implementation matrix. Some of the lessons learned from the assessment which were taken into account include the following:

- The imperative need for clear and strong coordination among actors for the effective implementation of National Action Plans.
- High level commitment from ICGLR Member States and the ICGLR Secretariat ensures the effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 by entrenching its responsibility within the budget and reporting on performance.
- The need for an effective communication strategy within the coordination agency – ICGLR Secretariat that highlights best practices and lessons learned in implementing the plan at the regional and regional levels.
- The engagement of other Regional Blocks; and men as champions of UNSCR 1325 boosts awareness, ownership, and commitments to the implementation of Regional and National Action Plans.
- The utilization of reporting and legal mechanisms enshrined under other international instruments such the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the Maputo Protocol to prompt for operationalization of UNSCR 1325 and generate data and information.

- The critical importance of having a resource plan with budgetary commitments accompanying the Regional Action Plan to ensure timely and effective implementation.

The process of developing the ICGLR took into account international best practices affirmed in the UN Secretary General's report to the Security Council on women, peace, and security (UN Doc A/2010/173).

### **Some challenges faced by the consultants.**

In the course of conducting the assessment, the consultants faced a number of challenges worth to be mentioned. First of all, despite several calls and requests to ICGLR focal points and national coordinators by the ICGLR secretariat, few have shared with the consultants information needed on the actual status of implementing national action plans. Consultants were left without other choice than scanning the internet and previous work in the field of women, peace and security agenda in the region.

This assignment does not take into account so much the Goma Declaration. In December and January, we were put in touch with a senior consultant tasked with developing a regional strategy for Goma Declaration and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC. After meeting with her both in Kampala and Kigali, we agreed to complement each other. We will focus on all aspects of UN 1325 Resolution and she will dedicate her valuable time to the operationalization of the Goma Declaration even though both instruments share some commonalities.

Her work focuses on states who have signed on the PSCF and ours cover all the twelve member states. As stated in the terms of reference, the period covered by this regional plan is five years while the duration of the regional strategy is for three years.

Lastly, given the constraints of time frame and resources, the consultants were not able to visit the eight countries as initially planned. They conducted interviews in Uganda, Rwanda and made phone calls to their focal contacts in Burundi and DRC. Hence, the report might be not fully accurate where information is not publicized because of this limitation.

### **3. STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ICGLR NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

Based on the intersecting thematic areas of UNSCR 1325, the ICGLR should employ several high-level strategies to advance the peace and security agenda contained in UNSCR 1325, in particular to promote women's empowerment, prevent violations, strengthen protection, and increase women's inclusion in decision-making positions and processes. The ICGLR Regional Action Plan proposes strategies for

implementation that will propagate achievement of positive outcomes for women and girls against each of the thematic areas. The strategies are cross-cutting and recognize the interconnectedness of the UNSCR 1325 pillars. Strategies for implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan will accomplish the following:

- Ensure policy and institutional coherence in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related ICGLR and ICGLR Member State plans among all stakeholders.
- Promote collaboration with national, regional and international bodies to promote the women, peace, and security agenda through diplomatic, development, and peacekeeping initiatives in conflict and post-conflict environments
- Promote the integration of a gender perspective into the ICGLR' and Member State's peace and security policies, and mainstream gender perspectives into all aspects of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace-building.
- Encourage and promote collaboration with, and support to, all stakeholders in their efforts to promote the participation of women in conflict prevention, peace-building, conflict resolution, and relief and recovery programs.

The ICGLR Regional Action is developed around four pillars: *Participation and Promotion, Prevention, Protection, and Relief and Recovery:*

**Participation and Promotion:** *Active and increased participation of women at all decision-making levels and in all institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict. Promotion requires the active and increased engagement of women on issues of peace and security at all levels through deliberate gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women in all processes.*

**Prevention:** *The prevention of violations against women and girls, in particular the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and discriminatory practices, abuse, and exploitation.*

**Protection:** *Protection of women and girls against violence, which negates their safety, personal dignity, and empowerment.*

**Relief and Recovery:** *The effective, meaningful, and timely participation of women in all stages of the design and implementation of relief and recovery programs, including, where relevant, in disarmament and demobilization programs*

### ICGLR REGIONAL ACTION PLAN PILLAR OBJECTIVES

Pillar	Participation and Promotion	Prevention	Protection	Relief and Recovery
<b>Impact Objective</b>	Active and increased participation of women at all decision-making levels and in all institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict	The prevention of violations against women and girls, in particular the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, discriminatory practices, abuse, and exploitation	Protection of women and girls against violence, which negates their safety, personal dignity, and empowerment	The effective, meaningful, and timely participation of women in all stages of the design and implementation of relief and recovery programs, including, where relevant, in disarmament and demobilization programs
<b>Output Objectives</b>	1. Laws, policies, and practices that empower women, strengthen and promote gender equality, and eliminate barriers to women's access to justice, equality, and peace	1. Improved gender-responsive early warning and early response systems and conflict prevention mechanisms and strategies	1. Enact and strengthen laws and policies that protect women's and girls' rights	1. Promote gender perspectives and ensure the inclusion and participation of women in humanitarian, early recovery, relief and peace-building programs, with particular focus on refugee and internally displaced women and girls
	2. Meaningful inclusion and active engagement of women in county, national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict at	2. Decreased risk of sexual and gender-based violence during periods of instability, emergency or conflict	2. Improve access to services that protect all citizens – in particular women and girls and survivors of, and those at risk of, sexual and gender-based violence	2. Strengthen response mechanisms and structures and enhance women's access to basic socio-economic rights and services in line with international humanitarian minimum standards

	all levels of decision making			
	3. Resources are mobilized and allocated to facilitate the active engagement and participation of women in county, national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict	3. Increased capacity of security sector institutions to respond to threats of violence against women and girls and other vulnerable groups	3. Increase accountability through timely and effective access to justice for victims	
		4. Increased awareness on sexual and gender-based offences and prevention of all forms of violence against women		

#### **4. THE IMPLEMENTATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REPORTING STRUCTURE OF THE ICGLR-RAP**

##### **The Coordination Mechanism**

Effective coordination will be necessary for successful implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan at the regional and ICGLR Member State levels.

##### **ICGLR and Special Envoy Office**

The ICGLR Secretariat in conjunction with the Special Envoy Office will provide overall coordination of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan.

A Desk tasked with implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 will be established at the ICGLR Secretariat to execute day to day operations.

The ICGLR Secretariat will liaise with all Stakeholders and work with the ICGLR Steering Committee to ensure that the key outcomes of the ICGLR Regional Action

Plan under the four pillars (Participation and Promotion, Prevention, Protection, and Relief and Recovery) are realized.

*The ICGLR Secretariat, ICGLR Regional Women Forum (RWF) in conjunction with the Women's Platform for Peace, Security Framework will provide oversight to ensure compliance and accountability by actors in implementing the ICGLR Regional Action Plan.*

The ICGLR Regional Action Plan Desk shall be managed by the ICGLR Secretariat and will carry out the day-to-day work related to the implementation of the ICGLR Action Plan by providing the necessary support.

### **ICGLR Secretariat and National Coordinators**

The ICGLR Regional Action Plan Desk will be the liaison between ICGLR Secretariat and National Coordinators and Gender Experts from Special Envoy Office regarding ongoing work on women, peace, and security at the Great Lakes and ICGLR Member State level.

The ICGLR Regional Action Plan Desk will be housed within the ICGLR Secretariat. The ICGLR Secretariat is responsible for reporting on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and will work closely with all stakeholders in the mobilization of resources for the ICGLR Regional Action Plan implementation.

### **Regional Steering Committee**

The Regional Steering Committee on implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan on 1325 will be the Regional Women Forum (RWF) in conjunction with the *Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Network – Advisory Board*. (The Regional Women Forum is led by a Steering Committee of 12 representatives). The Committee's central role is to provide guidance in the implementation process and assist the ICGLR Regional Action Plan ICGLR Desk in planning, coordination, and resource mobilization.

The Regional Steering Committee will provide overall guidance and shall be responsible for technical guidance and resource mobilization towards the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan. The Committee will be co-chaired by ICGLR Secretariat and *RWF or Women's Platform for PSC Framework*.

The Steering Committee will have *quarterly/bi-annual meetings* to review progress by all actors working to implement the ICGLR Regional Action Plan. The recommendations of the committee will assist in the review of strategies, and will inform programming as well as other action on women, peace, and security as outlined in the ICGLR Regional Action Plan.

The Steering Committee's functions include the following:

- Providing strategy direction and ensuring result-oriented management and accountability to all ICGLR Regional Action Plan implementing organs.



- Resource mobilization towards the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan.
- Developing and guiding all processes in the design of the mechanism to implement the ICGLR Regional Action Plan
- Designing a Monitoring and Evaluation framework.
- Monitoring and Evaluating the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan

### **Pillar Working Groups**

The stakeholders and responsible actors will be organized and clustered around the four pillars: 1) Participation and Promotion, 2) Prevention, 3) Protection, and 4) Relief and Recovery. The pillar working groups will meet regularly (**at least once every month/quarterly**) to coordinate, allocate, and report on the activities of each pillar. The Pillar Working Groups will present project reports during the Steering Committee Meetings.

The ICGLR Secretariat will in liaison with the Special Envoy Office and representatives of ICGLR Member States consult on the establishment of the relevant mechanisms for the ICGLR Regional Action Plan coordination.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The ICGLR Regional Action Plan has been developed in cooperation between the ICGLR Secretariat, Office of the Special Envoy, Focal Ministries of ICGLR Member States, Members of Civil Society, ICGLR Women's Forum, ICGLR Youth Forum, and other relevant Stakeholders.

The actors responsible for implementing the activities in the ICGLR Regional Action Plan will ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation for results. The ICGLR Secretariat and Regional Steering Committee have a central role in the Monitoring and Evaluation of the plan and will meet once every quarter.

*Responsible actors identified in the Regional Action Plan will report on progress as provided in the set Time Frame.*

Based on the objectives and indicators of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan, ICGLR Member States will prepare detailed National Action Plans - *focused their respective indicators and those of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan* to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Action Plan. The focus of a NAP will vary depending upon the context of the state, including whether it has recently emerged from conflict, is a troop provider to peacekeeping missions, a recipient of foreign aid, or a donor nation.

As noted above, overall Monitoring of the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan will be led by the ICGLR Secretariat. The ICGLR Secretariat will report to the ICGLR Member States and UN Secretary General as required.

To monitor the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan, the plan will undergo annual, mid-term, and end-term reviews in order to ensure adherence to the accountability and reporting mechanisms. Information from these reviews will be openly and accurately reported to the ICGLR Member States and made available to civil society and the general public. These reviews will track implementation and address specific areas of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan which can be further strengthened.

## **Budget and Resource Mobilization**

### **Acronyms**

#### **THE ICGLR - RAP IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX -**

##### **ANNEX 1: UNSCR 1325**

##### **ANNEX 2: THE UNSCR 1325 ICGLR STEERING COMMITTEE? Or RWF Steering Committee & Advisory Board?**

##### **ANNEX 3: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES**

**THE ICGLR REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1820 AND 1325 RESOLUTION  
OF UNITED NATIONS' SECURITY COUNCIL**

*General Objective: The main objective of the Action Plan of Regional ICGLR is to strengthen the implementation of Resolution 1325 and 1820 in ICGLR Member States.*

<b>Objective strategique1: Improve women participation in the conflict prevention in ICGLR member states.</b>				
<b>strategy</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Priority actions</b>	<b>indicators</b>	<b>Responsible actors</b>
<i>Promote the ownership of the Res.1325 and its Action Plan by Member states and Partners as an Advocacy tool for Negotiation and Accountability.</i>	<i>Member states and ICGLR partners own the Res Regional Strategy and Action Plan. 1325 as a reference document for their planning strategies.</i>  <i>Mobilized Resources.</i>	<i>- Develop a program of public awareness and dissemination of Res. 1325 and its Regional Action Plan.</i>  <i>-Organize a round table (platform) of donors for PAR funding.</i>	<i>Number of country members that implemented the Regional Action Plan.</i>  <i>Number of partners integrating the objectives of the Res. 1325 PAR in their program.</i>	<i>ICGLR Secretariat ministries United Nations Regional Women's Forum CSO.</i>  <i>ICGLR Secretariat United Nations.</i>  <i>ICGLR Secretariat.</i>

<p>Strengthen women's organizations and civil society</p>	<p>Member States and communities know the Res.1325 PAR.</p> <p>-Systematic and regular Consultation of CSO, Strengthening of women organizations</p>	<p>-Vulgarization of the Regional Action Plan.</p> <p>- To sensitize Member states on the existence of Res.1325 and its PAR.</p> <p>Organize sensitization sessions on the PAR at Member State level.</p> <p>Organize annual workshops to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the PAR at Member State level.</p> <p>Setting up open days for regular consultations between stakeholders and the ICGLR.</p> <p>* Strengthen the institutional capacity of the ICGLR to initiate, facilitate and</p>	<p>Percentage of Member States with knowledge of PAR content.</p> <p>Report of PAR Monitoring and Evaluation Workshops.</p> <p>-The consultations' frequency.</p> <p>-Number of members of ..... who have their institutional capacities strengthened in each Member State of the ICGLR.</p>	<p>Secretariat of the ICGLR MNC Partners</p> <p>MNC National Women's Forums of the ICGLR.</p> <p>ICGLR Secretariat</p>
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<p>organizations (CSOs)</p> <p>Strengthen Women Organizations &amp; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)</p>	<p>Institutional capacity of the members of the <i>ICGLR Regional Forum of Women / Women platform for monitoring the implementation of an Agreement Framework</i>, been strengthened in all Member States.</p> <p>-Consultations that are organized have allowed <i>members of national Fora</i>, women and CSOs, to appreciate their roles in the implementation of the National Action Plans.</p>	<p>monitor the implementation of the PAR.</p> <p>* Organize consultations with members of National Forums, women organizations and civil society organizations to emphasize their role in the implementation of Res1325 and 1820.</p> <p>*</p>	<p>-99% of <i>members of national forums for women</i> and civil society organizations are aware of their roles in the implementation of National Action Plans on Res. 1325.</p>	<p>Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region.</p> <p>United Nations entities <i>Lusaka Regional Center on Democracy and Good Governance</i></p> <p>Regional Forum of Women of the ICGLR</p> <p>ICGLR Secretariat</p>
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<b>Specific Objective 1: Improve the participation of men and women in conflict prevention in ICGLR member states ( continued)</b>				
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Priority actions</b>	<b>indicators</b>	<b>Responsible actors</b>
Promote the development of a culture of prevention of conflict and peace building.	<p><i>A peace network of peace clubs consists in secondary schools and universities and established in the member states of the ICGLR.</i></p> <p><i>Peace committees established in affected communities.</i></p> <p><i>Tools are developed and disseminated in ICGLR Member States.</i></p>	<p>Develop regional network of peace clubs in secondary and tertiary education system including universities.</p> <p>*Develop and disseminate practical tools on mainstreaming the gender perspective into conflict prevention efforts.</p> <p><i>Create peace committees composed of men and women in conflict affected communities to continue dialogue and promote social cohesion.</i></p>	<p>A regional network of peace clubs of secondary school education and students from established university.</p> <p>Practical tools on integrating the gender perspective into efforts of conflict prevention developed and disseminated.</p> <p><i>Minutes of meetings of men and women on dialogue and social cohesion</i></p> <p><i>Number of meeting minutes</i></p>	<p><i>ICGLR Secretariat</i> <i>MNC</i> <i>universities</i> <i>National Women Forums</i></p>
Strengthening the early warning mechanism.	<i>Regular update of data and regularly review of these data.</i>	Ensure early warning data is updated to review ICGLR Early Warning Mechanisms.	Regularly updated data and revision of CIR GL mechanisms	

<p>Support for research and documentation</p>	<p>Results of research are released and are made available to decision makers.</p> <p>Availability of database on women participating in peacekeeping operations in ICGLR member states.</p> <p>Examination reports and comparative analyzes.</p> <p>A database of experts is developed and constantly updated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Conduct research on lessons learned, best practices, on one hand and causes and conflict dynamics, on the other hand from a gender perspective.</li> <li>* <i>Revitalize the Observatory on Gender and SGBG of the Lusaka center to conduct regular research on women, peace and security.</i></li> <li>* Compile data on women's participation in peacekeeping operations.</li> <li>* Document and review lessons learned and best practices to improve gender balance and integrate a gender perspective into a personnel uniform work in peacekeeping operations.</li> <li>* Set up a gender expert database of Res.1325 in the region.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of researches on lessons learned and published, causes, conflict dynamics from a gender perspective.</p> <p><i>Observatory on Gender and VSBG leads the research on women, peace and security.</i></p> <p>Consideration of data on women's participation in peacekeeping operations.</p> <p><i>Best practices for improving gender balance and mainstream a gender perspective into the work of uniformed personnel in peacekeeping operations.</i></p> <p>Database of gender experts on Res. 1325.</p>	
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<b>Specific objective 2: to ensure the effective protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.</b>				
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Priority Actions</b>	<b>indicators</b>	<b>Responsible Actors</b>
Prevention and repression of gender-based violence in armed conflict.	The capacity of judges, lawyers and paralegals to prevent, prosecute and punish acts of sexual violence is strengthened.	Train judges, lawyers and paralegals on the prevention, protection, prosecution and punishment of sexual violence.	Number of judges, lawyers and paralegals whose capacity has been strengthened for the prevention and prosecution of sexual violence.  100% of ICGLR member states have awareness and training programs for women, girls, security forces and the judiciary on violence.	ICGLR Secretariat  Member States of the <i>ICGLR</i> ;  Judicial power of the Member States, the bar associations - judges, lawyers and paralegals.  Women from ICGLR member states, NGOs, CSOs, political parties.
	Eliminate impunity where perpetrators are not punished.	Strengthen joint mechanisms for verification and eradication of armed groups through close collaboration of member states in accordance with the ICGLR non aggression and mutual defense protocol.	Number of women and girls who received legal aid.	United Nations entities  parliamentarians from ICGLR member states
	Women and girls to have easy access to legal services, rights and security for women and girls in pre- and post-conflict	Encourage the establishment of legal aid clinics.	Number of violation cases of the rights of women and girls that have been submitted	

	situations, and perpetrators of women's and girls' rights are held accountable and punished through effective justice mechanisms.	Take advantage of petition mechanisms available at the African Court of Justice, African Commission on Human Rights and encourage member states to adhere to the court's optional mechanism for individual petitions.	to courts / tribunals and sentences handed down.
	Conventions related to the protection of women are ratified by all Member States of the ICGLR.	Ratify and domesticate Conventions that provide the protection of women and girls (CEDEF Maputo Protocol, the Kampala Declaration ... and the ICGLR protocol	. 100% of ICGLR Member States ratify the Conventions on the Protection of the Rights of Girls and Women.
	International laws and standards are domesticated in National laws. These national laws related to the protection of women and girls are disseminated and known by all relevant stakeholders, citizen and various actors. of women and girls.	Harmonize and popularize international laws as well as national laws on the protection of women and girls.	95% of legal documents are adapted to international laws.  95% of national and international laws are known and used for the protection of women and girls.
	Victims are assisted through the provision of legal, medical and financial support.	<i>Support victims through psychosocial support and provisions of medical, legal and economic support.</i>	Number of women and girls who received legal and medical assistance. At least 50% of the victims are assisted and monitored.

Specific objective 2: provide protection women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations <i>conflict (continued)</i>				
Strategy	Expected results	Priority actions	indicators	Responsible actors
Prevention and repression of gender-based violence in armed conflict.	<p>A better understanding of reproductive health issues in communities facing post-conflict situations.</p> <p><i>Prevention and elimination of SGBV during armed conflicts</i></p> <p><i>Armed groups sensitized and trained on SGBV.</i></p>	<p>Provide training and support to vulnerable groups on the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV.</p> <p><i>Sensitize and train armed groups on SGBV</i></p>	<p>Number of trainings or participants, the number of cases treated.</p> <p><i>Number of armed groups sensitized and trained on SGBV</i></p>	
	<p>Guidelines on awareness of rights and attitudes towards women and girls in conflict and <i>post-</i> conflict situations are available.</p>	<p>Develop and disseminate policy guidelines.</p>	<p><i>Production of an orientation guideline.</i></p> <p><i>Number of copies distributed.</i></p>	
Gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding including	<p>Heads of Security Services have been sensitized on the needs of women participating in peacekeeping operations.</p>	<p>-To sensitize heads of security services about the needs of women participating in peacekeeping operations.</p> <p>-Lobby and advocating for an effective gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations.</p>	<p><i>Number of security service chiefs sensitized on the needs of women participating in</i></p>	

<p>security sector reform</p>	<p>Increase in the number of women in peace and security institutions.</p> <p>The SSR process is gender sensitive.</p> <p>The training manuals peace and gender are harmonized, organized workshops on gender and gender-awareness.</p> <p>Joint agenda of gender advisers and focal points.</p>	<p>-Lobby and advocate for increasing women's participation in peace structures and security institutions.</p> <p>-To sensitize and train military, police and humanitarian personnel on how to mainstream gender perspectives into peace and peace building.</p> <p>- Promote the systematic gender mainstreaming in the reforms of the judicial system and the security sector including increase of female judicial personnel and gender friendly court environment.</p> <p>- Harmonize gender, peace, security and training manuals in the ICGLR region.</p> <p>- E establish a network of advisors for gender equality and responsible people <i>both</i> regionally and nationally.</p>	<p><i>peacekeeping operations</i></p> <p><i>Number of women involved in peacekeeping operations</i></p> <p><i>Number of women involved in key areas of peace and security</i></p> <p><i>Number of SSR materials and policies integrate gender</i></p> <p><i>Number of people trained and deployed in the region</i></p> <p><i>Number of manuals designed, adopted and effectively used in State members</i></p>	
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			<i>Number of network meetings</i>	
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**Specific objective 3: To ensure equal participation of women and men in peace, security and reconstruction processes in post-conflict situations.**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Actions Priority</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible actors</b>
The promotion of women's participation and ensure the availability of women experts in mediation.	Parliamentarians from ICGLR member states, including members of the Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians have adopted legislation for the contribution / participation of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts.	Hall at the level of parliamentarians and the network of women ministers and parliamentarians.	<i>Number of women in delegations during peace agreement negotiations</i>	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)  Women from ICGLR member states (NGOs, political parties ...)  <i>The Lusaka Center</i>  Judges, lawyers and paralegals, police
	Women's capacity in protection techniques and conflict resolution strengthened.	Training women in lobbying, advocacy, public speaking, mediation and negotiation skills. Train actors (women, girls, judicial staff, and opinion leaders) and	Number of women in each ICGLR State whose capacity for conflict prevention and resolution technique has been strengthened.	ICGLR Secretariat (gender) Office of the Special Envoy of Member States of the ICGLR.  United Nations entities

		provide technical skills for effective ways of protecting women in conflict situations including tools for mediation and peace negotiation.		Women's ICGLR Regional Forum
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<b>Specific objective 3: To ensure equal participation of women and men in peace, security and reconstruction processes in post-conflict situations.</b>				
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Priority actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible actors.</b>
Elaboration of National Action Plans (NAP)	Have a national action plan in each of the <i>ICGLR</i> Member States <i>and /or revise existing NAPs</i> and promote its effective implementation.	Conduct high-level <i>outreach</i> missions to (i) develop NAPs for countries that do not yet have NAPs.  (ii) Work towards the effective implementation of the NAPs in each <i>ICGLR</i> Member State.	100% of <i>ICGLR</i> member states have national action plans in place that are effectively implemented.	<i>ICGLR Secretariat</i>  African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (A
Ensure the representation of women in decision-making bodies.	Promote that the minimum of 30% of women is reached in all <i>ICGLR</i> member states.	-The <i>ICGLR</i> urges Member States to respect a quota of women of at least 30% participation.	Percentage of women in decision-making positions <i>and elective positions</i> .	- <i>ICGRL</i> Secretariat -Office of the Special Envoy

	<p>Women's access to decision-making <i>positions</i> and <i>elective positions</i> on an equal basis with men.</p>	<p>-Target for 50% representation in all decision-making bodies and <i>elective positions</i>.</p> <p>-Train election workers and candidates including women at the local level.</p>		<p>- Member States of the ICGLR. -United Nations Entities - Regional Forum women of the ICGLR -The Member States of the ICGLR</p>
<p>Vulgarization and popularization of resolutions</p>	<p>- Ensure that the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 are widely disseminated and understood at all levels.</p> <p>-Support open doors and day events on women, peace and security.</p> <p>-</p>	<p>-Inform and sensitize women on resolution 1325 and 1820.</p> <p>-Translate Resolution 1325 and 1820 in ICGLR Member States (in liaison with Member States, NGOs, CSOs)</p> <p>-Promote and facilitate the open doors event World Day centered on women, peace and security.</p>	<p>-Number of women informed and sensitized century are about UNSCR 1325 and 1820.</p> <p>-Number of languages in which UNSCR 1325 and 1820 have been translated</p> <p><i>Number of open doors and days organized</i></p> <p><i>Open doors and days Reports</i></p>	
<p>Supports traditional conflict</p>	<p>. Traditional conflict resolution methods are used effectively century.</p>	<p>- To associate the traditional authorities in the settlement of the</p>	<p>-Many of the conflicts are settled amicably within the communities.</p>	

resolution processes.	Traditional mediators are identified and informed about UNSCR 1325 & 1820.	conflicts and the protection of the victims.  -Identify and train traditional mediators (men and women) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.	-Number of traditional mediators who have a good knowledge of UNSCR 1325 and 1820.	
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Specific objective 4 : fund the delivery of s process services of relief and recovery in situations post-conflict (Alternative 1)				
Strategy	Expected results	Priority actions	Indicators	Responsible actors
Ensuring women's post-conflict economic recovery	Training and other forms of support for income-generating activities.	Conduct gender-based analysis in the planning and execution of post-conflict rehabilitation programs.	Number of women accessing economic recovery support	<i>ICGLR Secretariat Regional Women's Forum Partners</i>
		Design and implement livelihood programs		
		Perform a specific professional training.		
		Provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs.		



**Pillar 4. Relief Relief (Option 2)**

**Impact Objective: substantive, effective and timely, women's participation in the design and implementation of relief and recovery programs, including, where appropriate, disarmament, demobilization, and recovery programs that respond to specific needs and concerns of women and girls.**

**Outcome Objectives: xx promote a gender perspective and ensure the inclusion and participation of women in humanitarian assistance, early recovery, relief and peacebuilding programs, with particular emphasis on refugee and displaced women and girls.**

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Xxx strengthening mechanisms and structures of intervention and improving women's access to socioeconomic rights and services, in line with international human rights standards.**

Goal	stock	Actor	Indicators	Targets
Promoting a gender perspective and ensuring the inclusion and participation of women in humanitarian aid, early recovery, aid and peacebuilding programs, with particular emphasis on	Monitoring the implementation of policies that integrate women's perspectives in relief, recovery, reintegration, reparations, and reconciliation efforts and in disaster risk management.		# &% of women in decision-making bodies implementing a relief and recovery policy # Policies that take into account women's perspectives in relief and recovery efforts	

refugee women and moved.				
	Support the implementation of gender mainstreaming programs - sensitive.		# From s women and girls beneficiaries in establishment of livelihood programs. Documentation of good and best practices of Alternative Dispute Resolution approaches.	
Strengthening the response mechanism and structures and improving women's access to basic socio-economic rights and services in line with the minimum standards of international humanitarian law.	Encourage women's access to basic socio-economic services, including community land for all women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations.		# Women and girls to access advanced funds for socio-economic development and livelihood support. #, The quality and type of livelihood and facilities available for women and girls in crisis situations. #Women with access to & control of land and other productive resources.	
	Support the provision of comprehensive health care for women and girls affected by conflict, insecurity, and humanitarian crisis.		Women and girl s accessing reproductive health care, HIV / AIDS, health services fund and psychological services.	
	Support for the establishment of reparation funds for victims of sexual violence and violence - during conflict or crisis situations.		The incorporation of legislation victims of crime s # Women and girls receiving reparations	

	Support the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission on Women, Peace and Security.		# Relevant and complete reports to Parliament by the supervisory bodies.	
	Fund the provision of adequate security services for women and girls in conflict and crisis situations. Support the incorporation of a gender perspective in all disarmament, demobilization, and rehabilitation issues		# Specially trained security and humanitarian personnel deployed to protect women in conflict and crisis situations. % Reduction of SGBV incidents in crisis / conflict situations.	
			# DDR initiatives that integrate a gender perspective and analysis.	

<b>Pillar 4: Relief (Alternative 3)</b>				
<b>Ensuring a gender perspective is embedded in all relief and recovery efforts to support specific needs of women and enhance the capacity of women and girls in relief and recovery.</b>				
<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Results / Impact</b>	<b>Actors' responsibilities</b>	<b>Calendar</b>
Conduct a study on the implementation of policies that integrate women's perspectives in				

relief, recovery, rehabilitation, reparation and reconciliation efforts.				
Sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to regulate and manage the flow of arms into the region Recommend member states that have not yet signed it to do so.				

**MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICGLR: 2018-2023 REGIONAL ACTION PLAN**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Priority actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible actors</b>
Establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. (In June 2018)	Baseline is on implementation of <i>Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council in the Member States of the ICGLR</i> available area.	Conduct implementation baseline study of <i>Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council in the ICGLR member states.</i>	Level of operationalization of the regional action plan.	ICGLR Secretariat. United Nations entities  The gender ministries <i>member states of the ICGLR.</i>  The professional
	The implementation of the Regional Action Plan is provided e at each stage.	Establish a network of gender and empowerment of women ministers of the ICGLR to monitor and ensure the commitment on the level of peers to share information and best practices in leaning on the existing REFAMP.	The availability of operational mechanisms.  <i>Level of collaboration with the Network of Women Ministers</i>	organizations that advocate for women's rights and the implementation of <i>Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council.</i>  The members of the <i>Women's Regional Forum, the Women's</i>

	The control of the respect of the commitment taken by the various actors is ensured.	Conduct annual survey missions (on a regular basis).  Driving a quarterly review of the implementation process.	Number mission's monitoring performed.  Number of quarterly reports produced.	<i>Platform, the Members of the Forum, Women's Platform, CSOs, NGOs</i>
	Advice is provided as needed.	Conduct an annual gender audit	Number of gender audit reports  <i>Any measures taken for the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820.</i>	
	The targets of the Regional Action Plan are met.	Establish and implement an annual awards event for heroes / for the implementation of <i>Resolutions 1325 and 1820 to the extent of available resources.</i>	Number of prizes awarded to heroes and of the implementation of the <i>R1325 and 1820 and the resolutions.</i>	

1. Alternative 3 on pillar 4 has a short timeline, thus we also need to adopt in our subject matrix of our discussion on what can be reasonably accomplished and delivered on a quarterly, biannual, annual, over a period of two / three / four / five a
2. On the responsible actors, the consultants have tried to catch the main actors - but they strongly believe it's better to divide each activity with a lead actor. Those could include:

- ICGLR Secretariat.
- Gender / Women from Ministries of ICGLR Member States
- UN entities
- Ministries of the ICGLR States: Gender / Women (in the lead), Justice, Foreign Affairs, Education
- SCO, NGO, media
- Ministries of ICGLR Member States in charge of security; - the security organs of the Military Police of the ICGLR Member States
- Ministries in charge of planning and finance whose responsibility is to assess, plan and allocate budget in accordance with the needs and priorities for relief and recovery.
- Entities in charge of relief and recovery for refugees and displaced persons
- Parliaments of ICGLR member states to ensure that laws are sensitive to the relief and recovery needs of women and girls.