

**FINAL DRAFT- STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTING COMMITMENTS ON WOMEN PEACE  
AND SECURITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CAR:	Central Africa Republic
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FFC	Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises/Funds for Congolese women
HOS	Heads of States
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
LMRC	Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
PSCF	Peace Security and Cooperation Framework
ROM	Regional Oversight Mechanism
RTF	Regional Training Facility
RWF	Regional Women Forum
SADC:	Southern Africa Development Cooperation
SESG	Special Envoy of the Secretary General
TSC	Technical Support Committee
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNWomen	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
RWF	Regional Women's Forum
WP	Women's Platform
WPS:	Women Peace and Security

## INTRODUCTION

Five years after the signing of the Peace Security and Cooperation Framework agreement (PSCF) by the Great Lakes Heads of States, two years since the adoption of the Goma Declaration (2016) and more than seventeen years after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution SC/RES/1325 (2000), progress in implementing commitments made on Women Peace and Security (WPS) are uneven and women remain under represented in all conflict prevention and peace building initiatives in the Great Lakes Region.

Resolution 2098 (2013), by the UN Security Council , called on the Special Envoy of the Secretary General (SESG), in coordination with the Special Representative for the DRC to *“lead, coordinate and assess the implementation of national and regional commitments under the PSC Framework, including through the establishment of benchmarks and appropriate follow-up measures”*.

More specifically the Special Envoy through his good offices is mandated, inter alia, to mainstreaming gender as well as WPS perspectives in all aspects of Peace and security in the region.

Furthermore, both the Eighth High-Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism on Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region, and Security Council Resolution 2389 (2017) *“encouraged the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, in consultation with the ICGLR Secretariat, SADC and the African Union, to convene regular meetings to review progress in the implementation of the Declaration of the Women’s Platform of the PSC Framework adopted in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo in July 2016. and further “Urges continued regional and international support for initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive dialogue amongst national stakeholders and stresses the importance of opening political space to enable the full and free participation of peaceful political parties, civil society and the media as well as the full participation of both men and women in the political process, (...) , respectively.*

It is in response to these calls that the SESG, in fulfilment of his mandate, is developing a Regional Strategy on WPS with a view to infuse a renewed spirit of greater cooperation and coordination between major stakeholders in accelerating implementation of commitments made to WPS, including implementation of the Regional Strategy for RES 1325 -SC/RES/1325 (2000) and the Goma declaration.

## FORMULATION OF THE STRATEGY:

This strategy has been developed following a literature review and a wide consultations with stakeholders in the region. These include consultations with the SESG and staff from his Office, past and present leadership of the ICGLR Secretariat, including the Director for Gender, Women and Children at the ICGLR Secretariat; the AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes region and Head of Liaison office in Burundi as well as the Advisor on Electoral affairs and Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development, the AU Special Envoy for WPS, leadership of the Regional Women's Forum and

grantees of the Women's Platform, The ICGLR Regional Training Facility, the Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre for Democracy and Good Governance, members of the Technical Support Committee to the Great Lakes, Government Officials from the Ministry of Women and women machineries, development partners, UN agencies including the leadership of UNWomen at regional level (Nairobi) and country representatives in core countries of the Great Lakes, and DPA at HQ .

This proposed strategy aims to guide advocacy and good offices of the SESG in the Great Lakes region towards greater implementation of established gender equality and women rights commitments. It further aims to continue efforts to ensure women across the diversity of civil society and women's organisation's to substantively and qualitatively participate in conflict and violence prevention initiatives including mediation, as specified in existing instruments and frameworks, specifically the WPS UNSC/RES/1325 (2000) and its subsequent Resolutions, and the Goma Declaration (2016).

The document includes (I) A brief background on the context of conflict in the Great Lakes and women's participation; (II) WPS normative frameworks and instruments; (III) Initiatives taken by the O/SESG: progress and challenges; (IV) the Strategy, its purpose, vision, overall objectives, guiding principles, priority focus, expected results; (V) Implementing the strategy, means and mechanisms of implementation (VI) Proposed Activities (VII) Monitoring and Evaluation framework; (VIII) Resourcing the strategy (IX) Next steps.

In annexes 1,2,3,4,5 are an indicative Work plan matrix , the Monitoring and Evaluation framework, an outline of the coordination mechanism with roles and responsibilities of each stakeholders and the Advisory Board revised TOR as well as a list of major frameworks and instruments on WPS .

## **I. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF CONFLICT IN THE GREAT LAKES AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION**

Since the second war in the DRC in 2003, despite initiatives by regional and international stakeholders, there has been a marked increase in political and armed violence in the Great Lakes Region with (i) conflicts related to control of territories and natural resources with a growing number of armed groups with various political and economic links in the DRC and the region and various agendas (Eastern DRC and CAR) - (ii) tensions related to elections and competition for power (Burundi, DRC and South Sudan). Further developments include: stalled political processes in Burundi and the DRC, slow process in the repatriation of ex-combatants and their dependents, civil conflicts in South Sudan and a worsening humanitarian crisis. Of particular concern is the emergence of violent extremism, perpetrated by extremists groups in Eastern DRC and whose actions require particular attention.

Countries which are not at the epicentre of the conflict and are not priority of the PSCF are equally marked by a range of conflicts related impacts e.g. Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan and CAR.

The above context not only affects the resolve of Member States to effectively address the implementation of the PSC Framework, it also has a disastrous impact on the lives of citizens of the

Great Lakes region, particularly on women and their ability to be active agent of change and transformation. Persistence of gender based violence perpetrated by armed elements to the conflicts and the continuous prevalence of impunity hinders women's ability to engage fully in conflict prevention and resolution. Additional key pervasive challenges are limited political will of regional and national institutions, as well as traditional males/female roles in decision making and very limited technical and financial resources to reinforce women leaders' capacity and to strengthen their advocacy/lobbying activities. These factors are compounded by the continuous shrinking of the political space within which women's organisations are operating.

Due to their low social and political status, women and girls experience disproportionate impacts of violence, displacement and disruption.

Although they mobilise to resist violence and war at various levels, women and girls in the Great Lakes Region, are largely and systematically excluded from conflict prevention and transformation processes set by national and international institutions.

From a gender and women's' rights perspective, this changing context requires a radical change of approach that puts emphasis on an analysis of the gender dimension of this change and the impact on women's position and ability to act on the one hand, and taking bold initiatives to enhance women's contribution and decision making in conflict prevention and resolution on the other.

Such approach will aim to secure a consistent and substantive integration of women's views and decision making in conflict prevention and management as per SC/RES/1325 (2000) and its subsequent Resolutions, and the Goma Declaration (2016).

A number of normative frameworks and instruments related to WPS have been, over the years, developed by the International Community with the aim to ensure women's participation in all processes related to Peace and Security.

## **II. GLOBAL AND REGIONAL NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY**

A comprehensive list of all Resolutions on WPS are in Annex 5. Below are the most important ones.

### **At Global level:**

- The landmark *Security Council Resolution SC/RES/1325 (2000)* and its subsequent Resolutions (see documents of all the subsequent Resolutions in Annex 2) urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict, in peace negotiations, in peace operations as soldiers, police, and civilians and as special representatives of the UN Secretary General.

- The **Secretary General's Seven Points Action Plan** on SC/RES/1325 (2000), contained in his 2010 Report on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding, outlines measures for the UN system to undertake as a whole. (See document in Annex 3). A number of benchmarks have been developed through the Action Plan and as such, it is an excellent tool that will serve as a valuable contribution to the implementation of SC/RES/1325 (2000).
- The **Secretary General's Vision on Prevention** (see document in Annex 4) urges the UN to uphold a strategic commitment to a “culture of prevention”, pledged in 2005 but yet to materialize. Calls for a surge in diplomacy for peace. Under the guidance of the Security Council and in accordance with the Charter, the SG should actively, consistently and tirelessly exercise his good offices and mediation capacity as an honest broker, bridge builder and messenger of peace. Full use would be made of the Organization’s convening power, as a forum for dialogue, to ease tensions and facilitate peaceful solutions.

#### At Regional level:

- The **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa** adopted by the AU assembly, in July 2003 in Maputo Mozambique, better known as the **Maputo Protocol**, guarantees **comprehensive** rights to women including the right to take part in the political process, to social and political equality with men, improved autonomy in their reproductive health decisions, and an end to female genital mutilation.
- The **Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)** was adopted by AU Heads of State and Government at their July 2004 Summit. In the SDGEA, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to: the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (L) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various regional, continental and international instruments on human and women’s rights. They also committed themselves to continue, to expand and to accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels, and the determination to build on the progress that have been achieved in addressing issues of major concern to the women of Africa.

The AU’s approach to the advancement of women’s rights and gender equality has been informed by the UN frameworks and specific needs of the continent.

#### At sub regional level

- The ICGLR **Pact on Security, Stability and Development for the Great Lakes Region** (2013) and its **ten Protocols**. Signed by eleven countries of the Great Lakes Region, it aims to provide a legal framework governing relations between its signatories, through additional protocols and programmes of action in the following areas : non-aggression and mutual defence, democracy and good governance, judicial cooperation, prevention and punishment of the crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and all forms of discrimination, struggle against the illegal exploitation of natural resources, specific reconstruction and

development zone, prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children, protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, property rights and returning persons, management of information and communication. It also establishes follow-up mechanisms comprising the Summit, a Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee and a conference secretariat.

- The ***Dar Es Salam Declaration (2004)***: Parties to this declaration affirm their collective determination to transform the Great Lakes Region into a space of sustainable peace and security. They support all the national peace processes in the region, and commit themselves to strengthen their cooperation in the areas of defence, arms trafficking, DDR, and struggle against terrorism. They shall promote *democracy, good governance and human rights*, as well as *political participation and gender equality*. The parties also commit themselves to cooperate in supporting economic development, especially through regional integration. They shall address the humanitarian problems of the region, especially concerning internally displaced persons, land-mines, child soldiers and HIV/AIDS.

The **Protocole on Democracy and Good Governance (2006)**: The Protocole on Good Governance and Democracy is implemented through a Regional Action programme comprising of five protocols on Rules of Law, the fight against crimes against Humanity and Human rights. Though the Regional centre on Democracy and Good Governance, Heads of State of the Great Lakes region affirm their political will to promote common policies and strategies to rehabilitate citizens' confidence in their State, entrench the values of democratic good governance in the region and rebuild a peaceful and prosperous region. Mechanisms have been put in place which would enable democratic principles to be established, entrenched and institutionalised to guarantee the promotion of sustainable human development in the region. The mission of the Regional Centre to promote democracy, good governance, human rights and civic education is to strengthen institutional capacities in the different fields, through research, training, the promotion of observatories and facilitating frameworks for dialogue and consultation between the social and political actors of the region. The initiatives of this Regional Centre will allow institutions guaranteeing the rehabilitating of the rule of law to be developed. This will stimulate partnerships between the State and the other players (the private sector and civil society), but also external partnerships with the peoples and States of the region and to harmonise the policies and strategies between the different countries in order to respond effectively and equitably to the citizens' needs.



## **INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE O/SESG, ICGLR, AND MEMBER STATES: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS:**

To implement WPS's commitments the O/SESG and ICGLR have undertaken a number of initiatives. These have included:

### **Advocacy**

- In partnership with MONUSCO and UNWomen, provided support to women to develop and draft the Goma Declaration (2016), which is in line with the Maputo Protocol and AU Gender Policy, demanding women's inclusion in meetings of all organs of the O/SESG and calling on AU, ICGLR and SADC to set up policy on monitoring and evaluation (July 2016)
- The fielding of a fact finding mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to assess women's involvement and participation under the PSCF (July 2016)
- The three days Global Open Day held in where several important recommendations were made by women leaders from five countries of the Great Lakes region to provide a platform for women leaders to share their experiences of participation, identify challenges and best practices in the region, to have their views on participation heard and taken into consideration by key regional leaders and national decision makers attending the workshop. (January/February 2017)
- Production of a monthly newsletter/Gender updates in consultation with UN Women, AU and SADC, all guarantors of the PSC-F in 2017,

### **Grant Making**

- Setting up a grant making programme for grassroots women's organisations with a focus on economic security and to facilitate their participation in Peace and Security decision making at community level.
- Between 2014 and 2018, the Global Fund for Women, who is managing the Grants in collaboration with the O/SESG has raised a total of 1,380.348 USD which provided 66 grants to 44 women's organisations in Burundi (12 grants), DRC (39), Uganda (5) and Rwanda (8) and to 2 grants to Regional Organisations. In addition, the GFW provided funds to the Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises, to enable them provide funds to 33 organisations in the DRC. Average grants are between 5000-25000 USD.

- Grants were attributed along four thematic areas (1) Peace building, (2) GBV; (3) Property Rights; (4) Access to Natural Resources.

### Capacity Building

- Providing support to the Regional Women Platform participation to the 16<sup>th</sup> TSC meeting and the 8<sup>th</sup>ROM meeting held on October 2017 respectively.
- Convening Women's organisations to the meeting on Natural resources.

### Partnership

- Enhanced cooperation with AU gender focal points and ICGR Secretariat through their respective Senior Programme Adviser for Gender.
- Engagement with the Panel of the Wise through their initiative Femwise and with guidance from the AU gender desk, has contributed to strengthening the advocacy component with plans to hold joint solidarity missions especially for CAR and South Sudan being considered. This engagement has also resulted in the Special envoy to be invited to the Fem Wise General Assembly meeting in Algiers in
- Provided support to ICGLR for the development of a Regional Action Plan for implementation UNSCR 1325 (2000).

### Resources:

- Improved resources through secured funding from the EU to contribute strengthening of the RWF's capacity to engage in regional initiatives for women and which will allow close collaboration with UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA.

### Communication and Information:

- Production of a monthly newsletter/Gender updates in consultation with UN Women, AU and SADC as well as all Guarantors of the PSC-F, to ensure that women are fully informed of initiatives taken by various stakeholders and identify entry points for their positive engagements.

Despite these several initiatives however major challenges needs to be addressed. In particular:

- Engagement of the Great Lakes Women’s Organisations and the Women’s movement and their participation in political decision making bodies at community level has not been fully recognised by major institutions in the region nor have their experience been validated
- The fragmentation of women’s organisations/movement in the Great Lakes Region, reflected in the existence of two entities i.e. the Women Regional Forum and the Women Platform hinders the possibility to define common advocacy goals to advance WPS agenda and is contrary to the principles of coherence and efficiency.

The coverage, mandate and funding resources of these two entities is perceived to be an unhelpful mode of operation that leads to competition rather than complementarity. The uneven character of engagement, of the RWF and the WP at regional and community level respectively, and the lack of linkages between these organisations does not lead to their strategic positioning in the Great Lakes search for Peace and Security.

- The minimal availability and/or total absence of human and financial resources contribute to weaken institutions in the Great Lakes
- Past practices reveal that women were mere “observers” and “advisors” in major political initiatives rather than full participants in decision making.
- The prevalent deficit of actions by the security and justice systems to stop impunity, protect women and ensure their security, limit the latter full participation in matters related to WPS
- The mechanisms of governance for monitoring implementation of the Framework Agreement and the PACT do not facilitate women’s participation nor are they accountable to ensure this participation
- The absence of a monitoring and accountability framework to report on implementation of commitments, achievements and challenges faced by all stakeholders in the Great Lakes Region, prevents reporting on results and giving qualitative assessment of women’s participation and contribution.
- Uneven access and attribution of resources to the RWF and the WP further deepen the lack of a coherent approach to Peace and Security

It is against the above context and background, and in order to address the challenges described above, that the Regional Strategy on WPS has been developed.

## THE STRATEGY

### IX. PURPOSE

The main *purpose* of this strategy is to ensure women's full agency and political participation in preventing conflict and achieving Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region.

It places women at *the centre* of the search for Peace and Security in the Great Lakes, by suggesting a participatory process supported by an institutional framework that will facilitate women's *access* and *participation* in *decision making* in **all** processes and mechanisms set by all institutions addressing peace and security in the Great Lakes i.e. talks, missions, negotiations and mediation.

It *underscores* not only the immense benefits of ensuring women's empowerment and participation in the search for peace and security but also the inherent value of women's rights as a political imperative.

It is informed and aligned with key global and regional intergovernmental norms and standards including the Secretary General Seven Points Action Plan on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding and his vision on prevention.

### IX. VISION

A Great Lakes Region where women are at the centre of Peace and Security processes and are effective decision makers in conflict prevention and management

### IX. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To ensure that women participate and are decision makers in all Political and Security processes and mechanisms to prevent and manage conflict in the Great Lakes Region.

## IV. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure that interstate conflicts are prevented.
2. Ensure that all mechanisms and processes in the Great Lakes region include the required number of women as per commitments made through international and national instruments.
3. Ensure that the women movement in the Great Lakes are organised and empowered to be decision makers on Peace and Security in the Region.
4. Ensure that resources are available to support implementation of the WPS Strategy.

## V. THREE YEARS STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOCUS

- A. Undertake Preventive diplomacy<sup>1</sup>
- B. Consolidate the Great Lakes Women's Movement's engagement in PS
- C. Securing sustainable financial resources for WPS in the Great Lakes

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<sup>1</sup> Preventive diplomacy refers to diplomatic action taken to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of conflicts when they occur (UN definition )

## VI. APPROACH AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In line with existing instruments available at global, regional and sub regional levels, the strategy on WPS

- Reinforces support to and *ownership of priorities* set by the Great Lakes Member States through the ICGLR , the African Union and SADC
- Strengthens the *political mandate* of the SESG
- Follows a *Human Rights Based approach* that provides support to duty bearers (States, Organisations and Institutions) and right holders (women’s organisations) and ensures accountability by each party
- Places women *at the centre* of the Peace and Security agenda of the Great Lakes region, gives visibility to their contributions, support their growth.
- Is focussed on, delivered and resourced through *partnership, coordination and coherence* with Regional and Sub Regional Institutions, the Private Sectors and the UN system, development partners
- Commits to a systematic and regular communication and focussed consultations to ensure coherence of purpose
- Commits to monitor and assess progress and results in line with International and Regional Norms and Standards

## VII. MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE STRATEGY

- Initiatives on prevention in the Great Lakes are up scaled.
- Women Advisory Board is expanded and plays a prominent political advocacy role; their support to women’s effective engagement in conflict prevention in the Great Lakes are strengthened.
- Coordination, collaboration and communication between all stakeholders are enhanced and streamlined.
- Strategic alliance between Women Regional Forum and Women Platform is built.
- Women’s capacity to engage in negotiations and discussions at all levels of decision making in the Great Lakes region is strengthened.
- At least 30% of women participation in all major political processes and institutional mechanisms in/on the Great Lakes region is secured.
- Sustainable resources to implement the Strategy on WPS increased and secured.

## VIII. MECHANISM OF IMPLEMENTATION

The mechanisms of implementation proposed in this strategy reflects the guiding principles and the transformation it sets to achieve.

It outlines the integrated relationship between major stakeholders and their respective roles and responsibilities in implementing the Strategy.

These roles and responsibilities are defined below and in the attached graphic in Annex 3.

- Member States: Ensure existence of policies and processes to ensure Women's effective participation in decision making.
- Gender Ministers : Define policies and processes for women's participation and decision making in partnership with key Government Ministries and the Women's Movement
- SESG: Leads, convenes stakeholders and assess progress of implementation
- SESG, AU, and ICGLR: Jointly define policies and political actions and accountable for ensuring women's representation, participation and decision making in all initiatives in the Great Lakes.
- ICGLR: Develop programmes to respond to strategic priority focus through its organs such as the RTF and the MLRC
- AU: Monitor compliance of initiatives with main regional instruments and frameworks and engage in initiatives to support the vision and overall objective Applies an Accountability Framework in accordance with its mandate.
- Advisory Board to undertake political advocacy for women's participation in decision making, in support of Women's organisations position.
- UNWomen facilitate access to the women movement/organisations and provide technical and financial support for their engagement under Pillar 5 of the UN Strategic Framework for the Great Lakes.
- UN system, contribute to the realisation of the overall objective through the Strategic Framework Programmes for the Great Lakes region
- Women's organisations (Regional Women Forum and the Women Platform) to be main stakeholders in political decision making and influencing policies.
- Development partners, Multilateral and Regional Development Banks, Private Sector, to leverage financial and technical support for the implementation of the Strategy.

## **IX. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

### **On Advocacy:**

- Analysis and mapping of progress made, what agreements were honoured which ones were not and why- identify gaps
- Agreement on advocacy messages on preventive diplomacy with ICGLR, AU and SADC on women's political engagement
- Revised Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board putting emphasis on its political advocacy function on preventive diplomacy
- Mechanisms for advocacy on relevant issues agreed with Member States
- Women Champions that have access to HOS and convince them

### **On Building Partnership and inclusion:**

- Programmatic partnership with and in support to the ICGLR secretariat
- Working relationship with the AU and its Special Envoy for Women Peace and Security as well as with FEMWISE
- Leadership capacity to enable joint collaboration between WP and the RWF with facilitation of the SESG with Gender Advisor's contributions
- Joint programmes by the two women entities, under the leadership of ICGLR
- MOU with UN women on accessing and supporting women's organisations
- Cooperation agreement with financial institutions and the private sector to provide ethical support to women's organisations

### **On Convening:**

- Mechanism which enable exchanges, discussions, analysis and concrete actions of engagement by the Women Platform and the Women forum in preventive diplomacy in crisis countries. (i.e. solidarity missions, seminars on women and natural resources )
- A framework to enable joint cross border activities by the Women Platform and the Regional Women forum
- Joint programming by the UN System within UNDAF and the UN Great Lakes Strategic Framework

### **On Capacity Strengthening on issues of prevention and mediation**

- A communication strategy to support women's advocacy work
- INGO or academic institution, to support and enhance women's knowledge and mediation capacity for their political engagement in prevention and mediation
- Accountability mechanisms with qualitative indicators of progress to be reviewed at each meetings of the Advisory Board
- A resource mobilisation strategy



## **X. ACTIVITIES**

Activities are detailed in the Action Plan Matrix in Annex 1

## **XI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK**

The proposed draft monitoring and evaluation framework in annex 2, lays down the principles, objectives, system, and tools on reporting mechanisms that will support implementation of the main strategic priorities. It aims to

- Measure quantitative and qualitative progress and achievements as understood by the different stakeholders
- Ensure accountability to all stakeholders by demonstrating progress
- Identify the need for corrective or remedial actions
- Link with existing frameworks and measure the extent to which actions undertaken are in line with these frameworks.
- A consultative and collaborative process. for the development of indicators will be established under the leadership of the LMRC

## **XII. RESSOURCE MOBILISATION**

The litmus test of accountability to implement commitments on women peace and security is the level of resources provided to enable women to participate in decision making on Peace and Security

There is a resounding consensus among women's organisations that predictable and sustainable financing is a prerequisite for the effective realization of the WPS agenda.

To ensure predictability, a costing of this regional strategy's implementation is crucial.

The mobilisation approach to fund the implementation of this strategy will be based on this costing and towards a goal that ensure that at least 15 per cent of UN managed funds are dedicated to address women specific needs, advance gender equality and empower women.

Funds should also be secured through existing channels of funding mainly the Multi Partners Trust Fund.

New partnership with Regional Bank and the Private Sector will be sought and a re-mobilisation of the Friends of the Great Lakes is proposed.

## **XIII. NEXT STEPS:**

1. Seize the opportunity of the next TSC and ROM meeting as well as the 5th Anniversary of the PSC Framework to present the Strategy on WPS for the Great Lakes Region and seek commitments for its implementation
2. In coordination and collaboration with the ICGLR Secretariat, the African Union, ECCAS and SADC, and the Women movement define political initiatives on preventive diplomacy to be taken to the region crisis countries

3. In close collaboration with UNWomen, ICGLR&AU gender advisors, provide technical and financial resources for the development and establishment of a modality of collaboration and cooperation between the Regional Women Forum and Grantees of the Women Platform to enable them build a solid alliance and use their comparative advantage, experience and strength to influence political decision making on Women Peace and Security within the ICGLR political and geographical space; to identify minimum common objectives and concerted strategies/activities on conflict prevention and management (February/March 2018)
4. Plan and undertake Solidarity missions to CAR, South Sudan, and Burundi with the express objective of conflict prevention
5. Signing of an MOU between O/SESG and UNWomen to facilitate access to women's organisations at national and regional levels, and enable UNWomen to provide technical support to the alliance of women's organisations described above and to develop programmes in support of women participation in decision making
6. Recruit a dedicated Gender adviser in the O/SESG to provide gender analysis and support the process of implementation of this Strategy
7. Develop an innovative incentive and accountability framework that ensure Member States accountability to commitments they have made on WPS and that work for women
8. Ensure availability of resources for implementation of this Strategy

#### **XIV.CONCLUSIONS**

To translate the principles enshrined in this Strategy and demonstrate commitments towards its implementation the following immediate actions are proposed:

- Advocate with the highest authorities in the region and particularly DRC, CAR, South Sudan and Burundi to ensure women's participation in political and dialogue processes.
- Strengthening partnership between the RWF and the WP and support a convening of a first initial dialogue between the two entities to map the way forward.
- Advisory board to undertake a solidarity mission to the DRC to lend support to the Congolese women and newly appointed Un SRSG for MONUSCO in support to peace and stability in the DRC and the Great Lakes Region, and to ensure women's participation in all Peace and security Processes in the DRC.
- To produce a brief on political issues in the region to be used by women's organisations in preparation of their participation in decision making in conflict prevention and management.

END

## ANNEX 1: INDICATIVE MATRIX OF ACTION PLAN (2018-2020)

<b>OVERALL OBJECTIVE: To ensure that women participate and are decision makers in all Political and Security processes and mechanisms to prevent conflict in the Great Lakes Region</b>						
<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOCUS 1. Undertake preventive diplomacy</b>						
	<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESSOURCES IN USD</b>
	1. Initiatives on prevention in the Great Lakes with full women's participation are up scaled	1. 1. Develop messages on preventive diplomacy especially in crisis countries (DRC -South Sudan -Burundi- 1.2 Identification of Women Champions for advocacy initiatives 1.3. Meetings with Women Movement to discuss the message and plan actions for DRC , Burundi ,CAR, South Sudan 1.4 Inform Member States of Strategic focus priorities and seek their agreements 1. 5. Planning & undertaking of Solidarity missions to crisis countries 1.6 Produce report on outcome of solidarity mission  1.7. Organise workshop with Women's Organisations to develop Early Warning Indicators.	1.1. O/SESG+Women  1.2 -"-Advisory board members  1.3 O/SESG  1.4 Advisory Board members 1.5 -"-  1.6 Advisory Board AU+O/SESG+Advisory Board 1.7 UNW+O/SESG	1.1 Existence of clear message to leadership of crisis countries  1.2 Publication of names and profiles of women leaders  1.3 Meetings held and messaging developed  1.4 Written and public agreement of member states  1.5 Objectives of Solidarity missions agreed by all , (2016-2010missions have taken place  1.6 Existence of report  1.7 Indicators developed	1.1. March  1.2. April  1.3. May  1.4 June  1.5 June  1.6. Sept  1.7 From November	

	<p>2. Coordination , collaboration and communication between all stakeholders enhanced and streamlined</p>	<p>1.8. Use indicators to analyse conflicts in the region and to plan responses</p> <p>2.1 Define frequency of consultations and coordination between the Triumvirate (SESG, AU, ICGLR) to monitor progress , plan joint future actions and set targets with Women's organisations )</p> <p>2.2 Define working relationship with AU special Envoy and FemWise</p> <p>2.3 Inform Women Ministers in the Region on the division of roles and responsibilities in the Great Lakes and the role they will have to play</p> <p>2.4 Sign MOU with UNwomen</p> <p>2.5 Convene a meeting of Gender Ministers to discuss progress and challenges on implementation of the strategy and prepare for advocacy with HOS</p> <p>2.6 Produce an information Bulletin informing women on political issues they should mobilise on</p>	<p>1.8. Women's movement</p> <p>2.1 SESG/AU/ICGLR</p> <p>2.2 SESG/AU Spécial Envoya/Femwise</p> <p>2.3 O/SESG, ICGLR</p> <p>2.4 O/SESG</p> <p>2.5 O/SESG+ ICGLR</p> <p>2.6 O/SESG+UNWomen</p>	<p>1.8 Conflict analysis developed and communicated to all Response plan ready and used</p> <p>2.1 Calendar of meetings defined</p> <p>2.2. Working agreement with FEMWISE defined and agreed</p> <p>2.3 Information transmitted to Ministers -tacit agreement on their roles obtained</p> <p>2.4 MOU signed and implemented</p> <p>2.5 Gaps on implementation identified and recommendations made on how to fill them.</p> <p>2.6 Information Bulletin produced quarterly and contains relevant information</p>	<p>1.8. August/ September</p> <p>2.1.</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3.March/April</p> <p>2.4. March /April</p> <p>2.5. July/August</p> <p>2..6 October/November June 2018</p>	
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	3. Qualitative results of actions are evaluated	<p>3.1 Undertake analysis of implementation of the Goma Declaration</p> <p>3.2 Facilitate and support process for the development of qualitative indicators to analyse results of preventive diplomacy</p> <p>3.3 Convene stakeholders fora to undertake analysis of results</p> <p>3.4 Document analysis of results</p> <p>3.5 Undertake mid term evaluation of implementation of strategic priority. (development of TOR and defining the process )</p>	<p>3.1 All</p> <p>3.2 O/SESG+AU+ICGLR+WM</p> <p>3.3 O/SESG+ICGLR+AU+WM</p> <p>3.4 O/SESG +A CONSULTANT</p> <p>3.5 O/SESG</p>	<p>3.1 Analysis undertaken</p> <p>3.2 Indicators developed and harmonised with AU indicators</p> <p>3.3 Meeting held and results of analysis produced</p> <p>3.4 Analytical Document highlighting results produced and distributed</p>	<p>3.1 April 2018</p> <p>3.2 May 2018</p> <p>3.3 March 2019</p> <p>3.4 March 2019</p> <p>3.5 Mid 2019</p>	
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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2. Consolidate the Great Lakes Women's Movement's engagement in PS

	4. Strategic alliance between Women Regional Forum and Women Platform built	<p>4.1. Present Extended Advisory Board TOR to the Advisory Board meeting</p> <p>4.2 Convene meetings of RWF and WP on forming alliance to define vision and specific actions on WPS</p> <p>4.3. Identify organisations to manage the present grant making</p>	<p>4.1 O/SEG</p> <p>4.2 UNW+O/SESG/ICGLR</p> <p>4.3. ADVISORY BOARD</p> <p>4.4 UNW+ ICGLR</p>	<p>4.1 TOR agreed by consensus</p> <p>4.2 Meetings held an agreement reached on way forward</p> <p>4.3 grant making management successfully</p>	<p><b>4.1 February 2018</b></p> <p><b>4.2 April/May 2018</b></p> <p><b>4.3 September 2018</b></p>	
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	<p>5. Women's capacity to engage in negotiations and discussions at all levels of decision making in the Great Lakes region strengthened</p>	<p>4.4. Support the development of a joint programme by RWF and WP with emphasis on cross border programmes .</p> <p>5.1 Organise information sessions on political issues and challenges for women's organisations</p> <p>5.2 Identify an academic institutions or centre that can provide training on mediation and preventive diplomacy for women's organisations</p> <p>5.3 Organise training sessions on preventive diplomacy and mediation for women's organisations</p> <p>5.4 Develop a communication strategy to provide regular information on political situation in the region to support women's advocacy</p>	<p>5.1 O/SESG</p> <p>5.2 UNW+AU</p> <p>5.3. UNW+AU</p> <p>5.4 O/SESG+UNW</p>	<p>handed to an identified organisation.</p> <p>4.4 Programme developed</p> <p>5.1 Sessions held and women identify political challenges they will have to address.</p> <p>5.2 Institution identified and briefed</p> <p>5.3 women knowledgeable about process of prevention and mediation</p> <p>5.4 communication strategy developed on a regular basis</p> <p>6.1 Decisions owned by all instances in the Great Lakes</p>	<p>5.1 April</p> <p>5.2. Nov.</p> <p>5.3 Sept 2018</p> <p>5.4 Sept</p> <p>6.1. Dec/Jan 2019</p>	
	<p>6. At least 30% of women participation in all major political processes and institutional mechanisms in/on the Great Lakes region secured</p>	<p>6.1 Remind all instances of the Great Lakes region about decision at international and regional levels about proportion of women in decision making</p>	<p>6.1. AB</p>			

		<p>6.2 Support women's organisations in identifying women leaders to be part of political processes and institutional mechanisms</p> <p>6.3 Review implementation mechanism of NAP in countries of the Great Lakes Region</p> <p>6.4 Undertake evaluation of all actions in implementation for the strategy</p>	<p>6.2 AU ( AWLN); O/SESG</p> <p>6.3 .ICGLR</p> <p>6.4</p>	<p>6.2 Women leaders identified and take part in institutional mechanisms</p> <p>6.3 Implementation review highlights successes and gaps to be filled</p> <p>6.4</p>	<p>6.2 . May 2018</p> <p>6.3 . 2019</p>	
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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 : SECURING SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR WPS IN THE GREAT LAKES

<p>Financial resources for WPS in the Great Lakes increased and secured.</p>	<p>7.Sustainable resources to implement the Strategy on WPS identified and mobilised .</p>	<p>7. 1. Update the existing resource mobilisation Strategy</p> <p>7.2 Give content and implement recommendations of the investment conference</p> <p>7.3. Engage in discussions with Regional Development Bank on partnership and funding possibilities</p> <p>7.4 Contact former Friends of the Great Lakes to advocate for their support</p>	<p><b>7.1 O/SESG</b></p> <p><b>7.2 O/SESG +ICGLR</b></p> <p><b>7.3 SESG</b></p> <p><b>7.4 ICGLR+SESG</b></p>	<p>7.1 Resource mobilisation strategy developed</p> <p>7.2 Recommendations analysed with women's organisations and proposed actions developed</p> <p>7.3 Meetings with the AfDB held</p> <p>7.4 meetings with Former friends of the Great Lakes held and commitments obtained .</p>	<p><b>July</b></p>	
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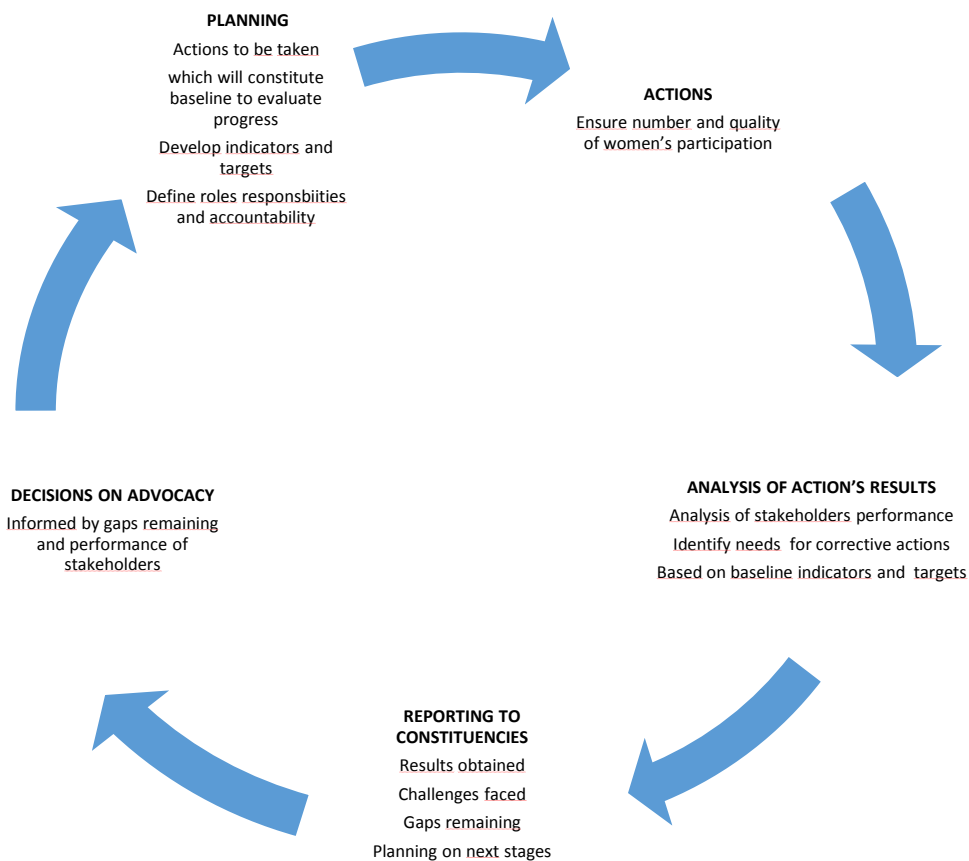


## ANNEX 2: MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The framework below provides an overview of the monitoring process.

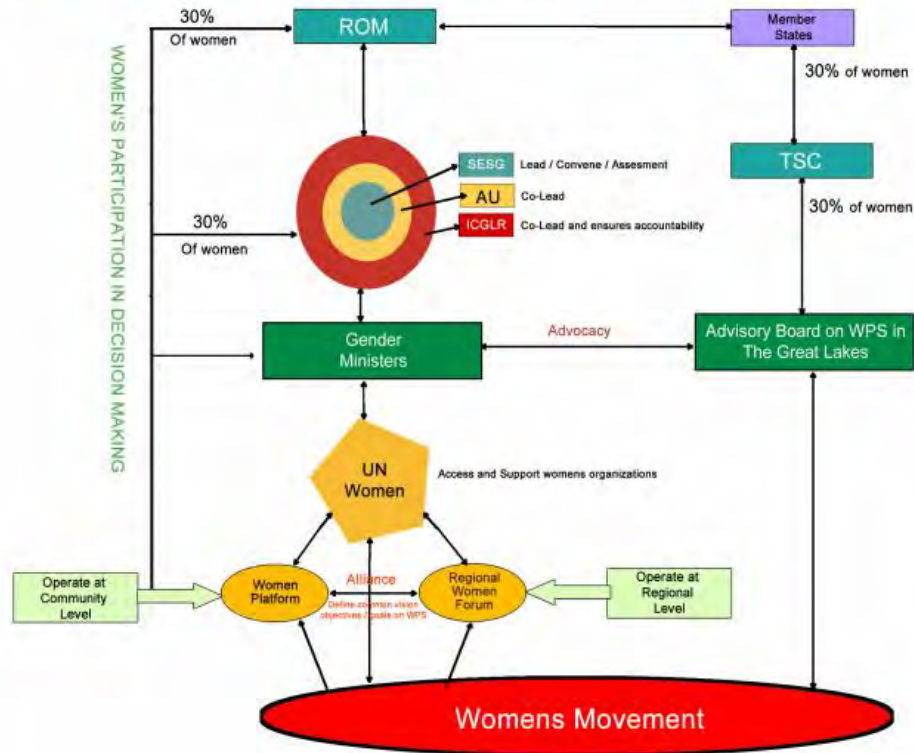
Baselines, indicators, tracking systems, dedicated budgets and time-bound targets will have to be developed in a participatory manner

Indicators will be aligned with other Regional indicators (AU, UN, Regional action plan on RES 1325)



## ANNEX 3: MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION- ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Annex 3: Outline of coordination mechanism with roles and responsibilities



men's

effective participation in decision making.

- **Gender Ministers** : Define policies and processes for women's participation and decision making in partnership with key Government Ministries and the Women's Movement
- **SESG**: Leads, convenes stakeholders and assess progress of implementation
- **SESG, AU, and ICGLR**: Jointly define policies and political actions and accountable for ensuring women's representation, participation and decision making in all initiatives in the Great Lakes.
- **ICGLR**: Develop programmes to respond to strategic priority focus through its organs such as the RTF and the MLRC

## **ANNEX 4**

### **PROPOSAL FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD (updated February 2018)**

#### **Advisory Board for Women's Participation and Engagement in Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) in the Great Lakes**

The Advisory Board for Women's Participation and Engagement in Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) in the Great Lakes is a body which brings together Women leaders and Women rights organisations and networks of the Great Lakes region.

Led and coordinated by the SESG in partnership with the ICGLR and the AU, the Board aims for the following objectives:

#### **GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD**

The main objective of the Advisory Board for women's participation and engagement in Peace and Security is to ensure that the views and opinions of women leaders and women's rights groups, at national and regional levels in the Great Lakes Region are taken into consideration in all decision making institutions and processes of the Great Lakes region and that women are fully engaged and participate in all peace and security efforts in implementation of the PSC Framework.

- Specifically, the Board will work towards the objectives set in the Regional Strategy on Women Peace and Security to advocate for women effective participation in conflict prevention, political and peace processes at national and regional levels
- To undertake political advocacy at national and regional levels on issues of peace and security in the region that have an impacts on women rights and security
- To provide advice and support for the mobilisation of resources towards supporting the Great Lakes women's participation in conflict prevention

#### **ROLE AND FUNCTION OF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

It is proposed that the Board plays the following functions:

1. Contribute knowledge and expertise to current and future work of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes on Women's peace and security with a view to engender political processes in the Great Lakes region;
2. Advise the SESG and all relevant institutions involved in the Great Lakes on issues that impact on women's participation in peace and political processes at local, national or regional levels in the Great Lakes region
3. Make recommendations to relevant donors that could support initiatives taken by the women movement and support the Office of the Special Envoy in fundraising;
4. Convene women's organizations for capacity-building, shared learning and policy dialogues;
5. Mainstream gender perspectives in the Office of the Special Envoy's roadmap, programs and initiatives.

#### **ADVISORY BOARD MODE OF OPERATION**

1. The Board will constitute working groups related to specific thematic issues as and when it deems necessary.
2. Advisory board meetings will be convened once a year for a face to face meeting
3. The O/SESG will convene the Advisory Board, when and if the situation in the region warrant such a meeting These emergency meeting will be via conference calls
4. Board members will receive updates on activities undertaken by the Great Lakes women movement twice a year and by email.
5. Board membership is for two years term renewable
6. It is expected that members attend all meetings and when unable to do so will designate a duly accredited representative

## **ANNEX 4**

### **PROJET DE MANDAT DU COMITÉ CONSULTATIF (mise à jour : février 2018)**

#### **Le Comité consultatif pour la participation et la contribution des femmes à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération dans la région des Grands Lacs.**

Le Comité consultatif pour la participation et la contribution des femmes à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération dans la région des Grands Lacs est un organe qui réunit des dirigeantes et des représentants d'organisations et de réseaux de défense des droits des femmes de la région des Grands Lacs.

Dirigé et coordonné par l'Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général pour la région des Grands Lacs en partenariat avec la Conférence internationale pour la région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL) et l'Union africaine, le Comité vise à la réalisation des objectifs ci-après.

#### **BUT ET OBJECTIFS DU COMITÉ CONSULTATIF**

L'objectif principal du Comité consultatif pour la participation et la contribution des femmes à l'action pour la paix et la sécurité est de veiller à ce que les points de vues et les opinions des dirigeantes et des représentantes des groupes de défense des droits des femmes, aux niveaux national et régional dans la région des Grands Lacs, soient prises en considération dans tous les processus et organes de prise de décision de la région des Grands Lacs, et que les femmes soient associées pleinement et participent à toutes les activités de paix et de sécurité mises en œuvre en application de l'Accord-cadre.

- Plus précisément, le Comité s'emploiera à atteindre les objectifs établis dans Stratégie régionale sur les femmes, la paix et la sécurité, notamment mener un plaidoyer pour une participation effective des femmes à la prévention des conflits, à la vie politique et aux processus de paix aux niveaux national et régional.
- Entreprendre des activités de plaidoyer politique aux niveaux national et régional sur toutes questions relatives à la paix et la sécurité dans la région et qui ont une incidence sur les droits des femmes et sur leur sécurité.
- Fournir des conseils et un appui aux fins de la mobilisation de ressources destinées à financer la participation des femmes de la région des Grands Lacs aux activités de prévention des conflits.

#### **RÔLE ET FONCTION DES MEMBRES DU COMITÉ CONSULTATIF**

Il est proposé que le Comité consultatif exerce les fonctions suivantes :

1. Apporter des connaissances et des compétences dans le cadre des travaux actuels et futurs du Bureau de l'Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général concernant les femmes et la paix et la sécurité, afin d'assurer une participation et une contribution égale des femmes et des hommes dans tous les processus politiques dans la région des Grands Lacs ;
2. Donner à l'Envoyé spécial et à toutes les institutions concernées dans la région des Grands Lacs des conseils sur les questions ayant une incidence sur la participation des femmes à la vie politique et aux processus de paix aux niveaux local, national ou régional dans la région des Grands Lacs ;
3. Formuler des recommandations qui pourraient favoriser les initiatives prises par le mouvement des femmes, auprès des donateurs et apporter son concours au travail de levée de fonds du Bureau de l'Envoyé spécial ;

4. Réunir les organisations de femmes afin qu'elles renforcent leurs capacités, échangent sur les enseignements tirés de leurs expériences et pour qu'elles puissent se concerter sur les dialogues politiques à mener ;
5. Prendre en compte de manière systématique les questions liées à la problématique hommes-femmes dans les feuilles de route, programmes et initiatives du Bureau de l'Envoyé spécial.

#### **FONCTIONNEMENT DU COMITÉ CONSULTATIF**

1. Le Comité constituera des groupes de travail concernant certaines questions thématiques quand et lorsqu'il le juge nécessaire.
2. Les membres du Comité consultatif se réuniront une fois par an en présentiel.
3. Le Bureau de l'Envoyé spécial convoquera le Comité consultatif si la situation dans la région le justifie ; ces réunions d'urgence se tiendront par conférence téléphonique.
4. Les membres du Comité consultatif recevront, deux fois par an et par courrier électronique, un bulletin d'information sur les activités du mouvement des femmes de la région des Grands Lacs.
5. Les membres du Comité consultatif ont un mandat de deux ans renouvelable. Les membres du Comité consultatif sont censés assister à toutes les réunions et, s'ils en sont dans l'impossibilité, désignent un représentant dûment accrédité

## ANNEX 5

### FRAMEWORKS AND INSTRUMENTS ON WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY

#### AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

. **Resolution 1325**: SC/RES/1325 (2000): Urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women in all decision-making levels in national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.

. **Resolution 1820**: SC/RES/1820 (2008): Urges the Secretary General and his Special Envoys to invite women to participate in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security and post conflict peace building.

. **Resolution 1888**: SC/RES/1889 (2009): Reiterates that sexual violence exacerbates armed conflict and impedes international Peace and security. Calls for leadership to address conflict related sexual violence; calls for deployment of teams of experts where cases of sexual violence occurs.

. **Resolution 1889**: SC/RES/1889 (2009) : Urges Member States, international and regional organisations, to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes [...] including by enhancing their engagement in political, economic decision making at early stages of recovery processes through [...]promoting women's leadership and capacity to engage in aid management planning, supporting women's organizations, and countering negative societal attitudes about women's capacity to participate equally.

. **Resolution 1960**: SC/RES/1960 (2010): Reiterates the call for an end to sexual violence in armed conflict; sets up "naming and shaming" listing mechanisms, sending a direct political message that there are consequences for sexual violence including, listing in Secretary General's annual reports, referrals to UN sanctions committees and to the ICC, international condemnation and reparations.

. **Resolution 2106**: SC/RES/2106 (2013): Focuses on operationalising current obligations rather than creating new structures /initiatives. Includes language on women's participation in combating sexual violence; supports recourse to avenues of justice.

. **Resolution 2122**: SC/RES/2122 (2013): Request the secretary general and his special envoys and special Representatives to United nations missions, as part of their regular briefings, to update the council on progress in inviting women to participate, including through consultations with civil society, including women's organisations, in discussions pertinent to the prevention of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security and post conflict peace building.

Further expresses its intention to include provisions to facilitate women's full participation and protection in: election preparation and political processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs, security sector reforms and wider post-conflict reconstruction processes where these are mandated tasks within the mission.

. **Resolution 2242** SC/RES/2242 (2015): Outlines sweeping actions to improve implementation of its landmark Women, Peace and Security agenda, (SC/RES/1325 (2000) , covering its work on countering violent extremism and terrorism, improving working methods and broadly taking up the gender recommendations of the completed global Study on women Peace and Security.

It pledged to integrate women, peace and security concerns across all country-specific situations on its agenda. It expressed its intention to dedicate consultations to the topic of women, peace and security implementation, convene meetings of relevant Council experts as part of an informal experts group on women, peace and security, and invite civil society to brief during its country-specific considerations.

More broadly, the Council urged the Secretary-General and United Nations bodies to better integrate gender perspectives into their work so as to address accountability deficits, including through the addition of gender targets as an indicator of individual performance in all compacts with senior managers at Headquarters and in the field.

.**Resolution 2271**: (2016): SC/RES/2271(2016) : Calls on troop-contributing countries to take the necessary steps to conduct investigations of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel.

The Secretary General's seven points Action plan on SC/RES/1325 (2000)

The secretary general's vision on Prevention

### **AT REGIONAL LEVEL**

Constitutive Act of the African Union

Gender Parity Principle (2002)

Maputo Protocol: Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)

Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004)

African Union Agenda 2063

Pact on Security, Stability and development for the Great Lakes region 92013) and its ten protocols

Dar es Salaam Declaration (2004)

Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, (2011)

Goma Declaration on Sexual and gender Based violence (2008)

Goma Declaration addressed to HOS Summit in Kigali (2016)