

Situation of SGBV in the Region

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**WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE GREAT LAKES
REGION**

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Background information

- ▶ RWF is a creation of heads of states working through ICGLR mechanism to reach women from top to grassroots in the 12 member states of ICGLR.
- ▶ It is composed of 12 women representatives representing each member state, picked by the member states and form the steering committee of RWF. There are 4 other members from each country who join the steering committee in a General Assembly whenever it is convened making a total of 60 members of RWF in the Great lakes region.
- ▶ RWF is guided by an Accord approved by Gender Ministers, which is the legal framework that informs RWF activities.
- ▶ RWF has a mandate to ensure peace and security, good governance, economic empowerment and a host of cross cutting issues for women in the region and addresses the Heads of States directly on the same during Heads of States Summit.



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It is during such a summit in Lusaka in 2010 that the heads of State pledged to fight SGBV in the region.

With a lot of Pressure from RWF, the Heads of States did hold a special summit in Kampala in Dec. 2011 and the Kampala Declaration came to be. The main aim of this Declaration was to fight SGBV in the Region. We remain grateful to Ambass. Mulamula seated with us here today for her dedicated support to make this happen.



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- ▶ Articles 2,7,8 and 19 of Kampala Declaration address mechanisms to be adopted to fight SGBV issues in the region.
- ▶ Article 19 specifically called for a creation of a training facility for all possible support providers in matters of SGBV. Uganda offered to host this facility and RTF here in Entebbe was born.
- ▶ Whereas RTF is doing a good job no doubt to carry out its training mandate, a gap between its activities and envisaged support to RWF in fighting SGBV in terms of coordination at national level which is vital to WPS is facing teething challenges. RWF has called for a meeting with ICGLR to address these challenges.



Khartoum Declaration

- Upon realization the fight on SGBV was not reaching the grassroots, a General Assembly for RWF was organized in Khartoum in July 2013 whose outcome was the Khartoum declaration. CSOs and grassroots women involvement were identified as crucial in the fight against SGBV.
- Every country was mandated to form a National Women Forum that will run with support from the Government. RWF was to make this happen

However, Mechanism to ensure effective, formation of the said national fora has been elusive with an exception of Rwanda

AS a result,

✓ In a meet organized by our useful partners The WPS desk of AU, in Arusha last week, it was agreed the matter is brought to the attention of the Gender ministers and our countries adopt the Rwanda National Women Council model.

UNSCR 1325

With full involvement of RWF, 10 out of 12 countries have NAPs. However we cannot take pride in the implementation of these NAPs. The responsibility to implement them lies with the Ministries of Gender who receive no specific budget for their implementation making matters of WPS and effective fight against SGBV in our region elusive at the worst and very little at best.

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Birth of RAP

With the help of our dear friend Altnie of AU , the government of Sudan, and support of OSE, RWF organized a meeting of the RWF steering committee in Khartoum to map a way forward on WPS in the region..

- On realization that NAPs were underfunded at national level and therefore not effectively implemented where they exist, with some countries not having any, the idea of a RAP was born.
- A RAP would attract the attention of AU, UN, OSE and other development partners for funding since it covers the total Great Lakes Region and would provide a uniform implementation of all the countries of the great lakes region.

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- Our heads of States committed to support great lakes region activities and it was our opinion that ICGLR would be in a better bargaining position for an enhanced WPS budget with a RAP in place. A decision for a RAP as a means for focused attention on WPS in the region was floated and encouraged.
- A decision was also arrived at to organize a gender ministers meeting to address among others the challenges especially funding of WPS agenda in the region. This call was repeated in Advisory committee meeting in Nairobi grazed by among others FemWise. We are grateful to Uganda that here we are and the Gender ministers will be with us tomorrow.

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We thank the office OSE for bringing Michelin to us. Through Skype, phone calls adhoc teas and coffees, Michelin, armed with a notepad spoke to all members of RWF to seek their views and input into what we are seeking to ratify, the RAP on 1325. Thank you OSE. Thank you Michelin.

RWF Secretariat

ICGLR has over the last few years struggled with funding. Member States were meant to fund activities of ICGLR through annual contributions. These contributions have dwindled to almost nil. Since the pact did not outline penalty for member states ICGLR remains helpless. Activities of RWF meant to be funded by ICGLR have ground to a halt.

Against this background, RWF requested the RIMC in 2014 to support a RWF secretariat to enable the forum source for funds to promote WPS from development partners who can not do so to an unstructured forum. RIMC approved and Rwanda offered to host the secretariat.

A meeting supported by OSE in Kigali drafted a host agreement between ICGLR and Rwanda but to date this has not been signed. Mirada who was then the officer attached to us in OSE and is here with us in a different capacity must be shocked to hear that nothing much has come out of her effort while at OSE towards RWF Secretariat.



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- ▶ Activities of RWF therefore as envisaged in RWF Accord have been very limited in the fight against SGBV due to lack of funds.
- ▶ **RWF highly welcomes the proposal to adopt the Rwanda model where the finance ministry ensures all other ministries have a 30% budget allocation to women Agenda.**

Key partners

- ❖ Appreciative of the vital role, and the undisputed place of CSOs in enhancing WPS in the region
- ❖ Recognizing the Youth agenda and the collaboration with RWF that would ensure achievement of WPS
- ❖ Aware of the crucial place of the media in message delivery, advocacy and support that can make a difference in WPS agenda in the region
- ✓ RWF will be calling on the Gender ministers tomorrow to in cooperate meaningfully the CS Fora, The Youth Fora and the Media fraternity into the steering committees that fight SGBV at National level.

In conclusion

- **RWF notes with appreciation and thanks the commitment of OSE to advance the RWF agenda on P&S and appreciates the various initiatives including ensuring RWF was part of the Goma Declaration, involvement into peace initiatives in the region , membership of RWF into TSC , Advisory Board and “sneeking” RWF into ROM. We use the word sneeking because RWF does not talk but at least listens. These are initiatives of that office that we don’t take for granted. Sometimes I look at all of you girls at OSE and see real sisters of RWF.**
- **UN office, Jebbeh you give us hope, a lot of it.**
- **We welcome being embraced by AU..... Altine, Catherine, and the bosses attached to you, thank you for putting RWF on the visible line to help us shape the peace and security table.**
- **Our new found mum, of FemWise, Dr. Speciosa thankyou for your mentorship formally and informally.**
- **COCAFEM for thinking about us all the time and involving us where you think we will benefit in advancing WPS including sponsorship to this meeting.**
- **Last but in no way the least the one partner who has walked with us within RWF Accord and mandate, without showing fatigue, one who sponsored the national meetings on challenges of 1325 throughout the region with each country involving all the stakeholders, A big thankyou ,The Swiss cooperation.**



AND.....

➡ **THANK YOU ALL FOR LISTENING to
RWF.**

