



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

Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework

Subject: Minutes of the Second Conference Call of the Advisory of the Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework

Date: 13 November, 2014

Moderator: Special Envoy Said Djinnit, Nairobi

Participants:

- OSESG- Climate Change, Dublin, Special Envoy, Mary Robinson
- UNEP Nairobi, Ibrahim Thiaw
- UN Women, Nairobi – Jebber Foster
- OSRSG-SVC, New York - Innocent Balemba Zahinda
- Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises – Julienne Lusenge
- Kinshasa (RDC) : Mme Annie Bambe
- Kinshasa, DRC – Annie Bambe
- Global Fund for Women, USA – Musimbi Kanyoro and Muadi Mukenge
- O-SESG-GL, Nairobi– Miranda Tabifor and Theresa Smout
- Femme Africa Solidarite (FAS), New York– Wore Ndiaye Kandji

Apologies

- UNDP Nairobi, Nardos Bekele -Thomas
- FANPRAN, South Africa -- Dr Lindiwe Sibanda
- OSRSG-SVC, New York – SRSZG Zainab Bangura

Note takers: Miranda Tabifor and Muadi Mukenge

Introduction

The Special Envoy Said Djinnit welcomed Advisory Board members to the Second Conference Call on the Women's Platform for the PSC-F and appreciated members for their understanding after the postponement of the Conference Call twice -- 7 October and 4 November due to conflicting agendas. He noted he is truly committed to chair this in person as was done by his predecessor, Special Envoy Mary Robinson. He commended all members again for accepting to serve in their personal and voluntary capacity in the Advisory Board, which shows their commitment to issues of women, peace and security. While the meeting first began in English,

upon request from Francophone members, all discussions were bilingual. Also, as some members were joining the Advisory Board for the first time, others promised to bring them up to speed on earlier conversations and agreements.

Approval of Minutes of July Meeting

On the basis of minutes of the Inaugural Conference call held on the 8th of July, 4 key action points emerged for which 3 had been executed and the one related to fundraise for the Women's Platform was critical. SESG Djinnit noted that without financial resources, the vision and objectives of the Platform cannot be met.

He recalled resource mobilization as one the key roles that the Core Implementing Partners are supposed to play for the Women's Platform. He noted that an estimate of US\$2.5million is supposed to be awarded per year for 60 grants. He commended efforts by Special Envoy Mary Robinson, who raised funds from the Dutch and Irish governments through the Trust Fund to the amount of US\$700,000, of which the first installment is currently being disbursed to Global Fund for Women (GFW) for grantmaking by GFW. He also noted **that OSESG-GL** is also engaged with Norway and Sweden as part of the process to secure additional funding.

Vision of the new SESG-GL

This was the first interaction between SESG Djinnit and the Board. He took the opportunity to expand on his vision with respect to the Women's Platform and the important role of women in peace processes. He reiterated his commitment to continue the work of his predecessor, SESG Robinson and noted that that no transformation, peace and security in the Great Lakes region would come about without the empowerment and full inclusion of civil society groups, women, and youth in peace processes. The SESG stated that the Great Lakes has an opportunity to move from the chapter of conflict and suffering to one of development and trust. He noted his concern with the high incidence of sexual and gender based violence and pledged to support its eradication, including through direct support to the SGBV Training Facility in Kampala. Given his visit to the ICGLR in Bujumbura the day before the conference call, he informed Members of the full support of the Regional Women's Forum to women, peace and security initiatives implemented on the ground. He pledged to consult SESG Robinson further in this regard.

SESG Mary Robinson sought whether NGO grantees of the Women's Platform had received funds for their project activities given the considerable delays with due process followed by UN HQ. It was confirmed that the first installment of Netherlands funding of the OSESG-Trust Fund amounting to US\$193,000+ had been released and Global Fund for Women, the designated Secretariat of the Women's Platform, are overseeing the signing of contracts with grantees, which would be followed by disbursements to NGOs during the week of 17–21 November. SESG Robinson noted that while delays in the disbursement of funds was no fault of either OSESG-GL or the Global Fund for Women, the lengthy delays reflected badly on the UN particularly as promises were made to support women's groups on the ground and momentum

was at risk of being undermined, including on the credibility of the PSC-F.

It was noted since the Women's Platform aims to support grantees up to a total amount of US\$2.5 million per year, concerted efforts were urgently needed to collectively mobilize resources to meet this target. The Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict pledged their support to this work and Global Fund for Women also confirmed they had engaged with potential donors and would share further details as soon as they received funding confirmation in writing. There was consensus on a collective approach to resource mobilization through the setting up of a small committee that would focus on developing and carrying out a coherent resource mobilization strategy. A one page summary providing key information on the Women's Platform was also endorsed to enable Advisory Board members to speak with one voice as they embark on resource mobilization. The SESG indicated that all amounts of fundraising are welcomed and play a strategic role in the Women's Platform. Advisory Board should seek all sizes of grants.

Advisory Board members were informed of the major global study on UNSCR 1325 that UN Women will be leading in 2015, to which Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS) as one of the core implementing partners of the Women's Platform has been actively contributing to preparations. The meeting on the study will be held tentatively in January, in Rwanda, in conjunction with the review of implementation of the UNSCR Regional Action Plan. OSESG-GL will be involved, and closely monitor this initiative.

Women's Platform Secretariat Update

Muadi Mukenge, Program Director for Sub-Saharan Africa at Global Fund for Women, provided a very brief update of the Women's Platform Secretariat activities from July –November 2014.

Administration

- Met with Special Envoy's Office in Nairobi Aug. 4. During that meeting, Mukenge met entire staff; discussed technical challenges for UN wire transfers to GFW; and participated in an interview with the M&E team about the 1st phase progress of the Women's Platform.
- Held periodic calls and Skypes with the Senior Gender Advisor to support progress on the objectives of the Women's Platform.
- GFW CEO Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro met the new Special Envoy Said Djinnit in NY in September during UNGA. She also met with FAS, Special Rapporteur Bangura, and UNWomen to strategize on positioning the Women's Platform.

Fundraising Activities

A key task for the Secretariat has been to fundraise for the Women's Platform. The Secretariat is targeting prospects in foundations as well as individual donors. The Secretariat also supports the Office of the Special Envoy to formalize customized proposals for government donors. The

Secretariat had been anticipating the Dutch transfer since May 2014. From July 2014-November 2014, the Secretariat accomplished the following:

- Provided input for OSESG's progress report due to the Irish
- The value of GFW institutional contributions to the Women's Platform since January 2014 is over \$200,000.
- The Secretariat received the 1st grant for the Women's Platform from OSESG on October 17 (Dutch). This will cover the first cohort of 14 recommended groups. We began setting up the systems infrastructure for the grant October 27.
- We have received tentative approval from a major foundation for Women's Platform funding and will announce to the Advisory Board when it is confirmed.

Proposal Processing

- Solicited and finalized groups for the 2nd round of grants of the Women's Platform, to be supported by the Irish. There are 18 groups, which include 10 renewal grantees. The division is \$220,000 for women's livelihoods; \$57,000 for renewable energy. Country breakdown is: 4 Burundi, 13 Congo, 1 Uganda. This includes a grant to Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises who will sub-grant to 3 groups. 1 grant to Rwanda is being made via an individual donor sourced by GFW.
- The Secretariat received the 1st grant of Women's Platform from OSESG on October 17 (Dutch).
- Liaising with Finance, Information Management, and Development teams at GFW to log and integrate first installment of Dutch funds and develop tracking systems.
- Liaising with Grants Operations team to plan the process for contract preparations.
- **1st 14 grantees have been notified and contracts are being issued today 13th November, and wire payments starting the 14th of November.**
- Prepared a detailed Implementation Plan through April 2015, and submitted to OSESG.
- Waiting on transfer of Irish funds for the 2nd round of grants. We anticipate making 18 grants with the Irish funds.

This summary was also provided in French. Mukenge will be sending the full narrative Secretariat report via email in the following weeks.

Priority Activities for November-January

The following priority activities were presented for the next three months:

- Processing of contracts and payment of grants
- Monitoring implementation of grants in the four core countries on funds disbursed
- Complete project summaries for Round II grants (Irish funding), on thematic areas 3 and 4
- Continue Fundraising on the Women's Platform
- Follow up the transfer of Irish funding from the UN to GFW

Closing

In closing, SESG thanked everyone for their participation and recalled that, a key recommendation of the last conference call was to consider holding a face-to-face session of the Advisory Board, meeting preferably in the margins of the AU Summit in January 2015. In this regard, it was recommended that the next Conference Call will take place in the margins of the AU Summit tentatively scheduled from 23-30 January 2015. Exact dates will be confirmed by the OSESG.