



**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 Third Conference Call of the Advisory of the Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework

Date: 18 June 2015

Moderator: Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser, Modibo Toure, Nairobi

Participants:

- OSESG- Climate Change, Dublin, Special Envoy, Mary Robinson
- UNDP Nairobi, Nardos Bekele- Thomas
- FANPRAN, South Africa -- Dr Lindiwe Sibanda
- UN Women, Nairobi – Jebbeh Forster
- Global Fund for Women, USA –Muadi Mukenge
- O-SESG-GL, Nairobi– Miranda Tabifor
- Ministry of Gender -Bujumbura– Donatienne Girukwishaka

Apologies

- UNEP Nairobi, Ibrahim Thiaw
- UNEP, Geneva, Hendrik Slotte

Note takers: Miranda Tabifor and Muadi Mukenge

I. Introduction

On behalf of SESG Djinnit, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Special Advisor, Modibo Toure welcomed everyone to the Third Conference Call on the Women's Platform for the PSC-F and thanked the participation of members. He noted that due to other commitments, SESG Djinnit deeply regrets for not being able to attend and chair the 3rd Conference Call in person, especially following the very successful Inaugural Grantee Convening that took place held in Goma, May. He apologized for the delayed start of the meeting and the challenges encountered by members to get connected to the Conference Call.

II. Review and adoption of the Minutes of Addis Ababa First Face-to-Face Meeting Matters Arising/ Action Points from the Face-to-Face Meeting

On the basis of the minutes of the First-to-Face Meeting held in Addis Abba on 29th January 2015, ASG Toure informed Advisory Board Members that GFW wrote to the Special Envoy on the 7 May 2015 requesting correction of the minutes on the section on Oak Foundation contribution as reported at the First Advisory Board Face – to- Face Meeting held in Addis Ababa in January 2015. The correction was read as captured below for which he noted he was bring the same to the attention of Board Members for their records and to request the minutes to be amended and recirculated accordingly.

- « a new grant in support of the Women’s Platform was received from Oak Foundation on 14 January 2015, which includes approximately US\$ 194,000 for direct grants in Year 1. This amount will award additional 12 grants and support some of the Secretariat’s operating costs. The total amount of the grant from the Oak Foundation is \$750,000 over 3 years (\$250,000 per year).

GFW, OSESG-GL and FAS were subsequently called upon to provide updates on the action points as appropriate. The table below reflects the status of Implementation of action points on the First Face –to Face Meeting of the Advisory Board as reported.

	Action Points	Status of Implementation
1.	GFW to circulate the list of grantees who have received funding under the Dutch contribution	This was done in February 2015
2.	The Women’s Platform should be made visible and transparent, with increased flow and sharing of information among members. In this regard, a dedicated webpage should created on OSESG-GL website with linkages to other relevant websites as appropriate, etc....	The website has been created and can be accessed at www.ungreatlakes.unmissions.org Once accessed, <u>click pillars</u> and under pillars, <u>click Gender</u>.
3.	FAS to communicate the dates of the holding of the Steering Committee of the Regional Action Plan of UNSCR 1325 with Advisory Board Members	FAS to provide update
4.	OSESG to hold a joint donor round table on gender equality and women empowerment initiatives in the region in Nairobi. The content should be informed by UNSCR 1325, Women’s Platform initiative, ICGLR Gender Action Plan and AUC Special Envoy Plan on women, peace and security – (partners – OSESG-GL, ICGLR	Plans are ongoing

	RWF, FAS, Gender Ministers of the 4 core countries (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda), Advisory Board Members, Special Envoy of the AUC on women, peace and security and UN Women	
5.	SESG to convene a meeting of Gender Ministers of the 4 core countries (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda), on the gender issues as they related to PSC-F and the Women's Platform	OSESG has been trying to organize this meeting. In Goma during the Grantee Convening and recently at the margins of the AU Summit in South Africa in collaboration with FAS. It has been difficult thus far, including the crisis going on in Burundi. Only the Gender Minister of DRC has been available on both occasions. This is affecting progress and the ability to strengthen buy-in and commitments by the Ministers. Further options will be explored to address the situation.
6.	OSESG-GL and GFW to review the Fund Raising Paper to reflect suggested recommendations	Done and circulated
7.	With the view to expand the membership of the Advisory Board, SESG to invite the World Bank to join the Advisory Board, including other relevant partners and individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Makhtar Diop - the World Bank's Vice President for the Africa Region and Dr Attiat Halleem, the ICGLR RWF Chairperson have been invited to join the Advisory Board
8.	GFW Secretariat and OSESG-GL to prepare a calendar of events for the year and circulate among Advisory Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done and circulated

III. Reflections on the Inaugural Women's Platform Grantee Convening : Questions/Discussions

ASG Toure commended the successful holding of the Inaugural Women's Platform Grantee Convening in Goma and appreciated Global Fund for Women, Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises, Femmes Africa Solidarite and OSRSG-SVI, OSESG-GL, MONUSCO and all partners for their support.

GFW noted that the convening was a success given that the grantees were able to meet each other and were able to deepen their understanding of the PSC-F as well as the objectives of the Women's Platform. The grantees met the implementing partners of the Women's Platform, they heard the message from the Special Envoy, particularly on the political context of the sub-region,

and they were inspired by each other's Platform projects. The convening agenda included plenary presentations, breakout groups, and a site visit. Grantee representatives were able to participate in the press conferences and did a good job describing their work and context. It was a comprehensive program but rich in substance, which enabled grantees to make quality of presentations and also work together to reflect on potential collaborations. Global Fund sent a photographer to take pictures during the 3-day convening. These images will support the development of the Women's Platform website. Grantee representatives were able to participate in the press conferences and did a good job describing their work and context. Participants committed to remaining in contact and beginning collaborations upon returning home.

It was reported that the preparation of the convening took a lot of efforts and coordination between the Secretariat, Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises, and the Office of the Special Envoy. In particular, the financial aspects were demanding as the costs surpassed the budget provided - the convening cost about \$36,000 and it was suggested that for future convening planning, a minimum of \$40,000 should be budgeted for.

In terms of key conclusions of the convening, 1) enhancing understanding of the political context in the Great Lakes Region and the status of the implementation of the PSC Framework, including to what extent would grantees be invited in the formal political processes related to implementation of the PSC-F in the Great Lakes Region; 2) strengthening partnership and synergies for the implementation regional peace-building frameworks including UNSCR 1325; 3) linking grantee activities as interventions for transformative change in the region; 4) strengthening organizational capacities of women's organizations to sustain their work and attract potential partners -- were the broad areas advanced to shaping women's continuous and meaningful involvement in the PSC F.

During the discussions, issues of fund raising of the Women's Platform activities ensued. SESG Mary Robinson and board members in attendance were pleased to note that the Convening went well, that the Platform is progressing positively and women have begun connecting across the region. SESG Mary Robinson reiterated her commitment to support the Women's Platform either directly or indirectly including through the mobilization of Foundations and Philanthropic organizations.

ASG Touré commended the efforts deployed by Special Envoy Mary Robinson which have been instrumental to raise funds from the Dutch and Irish Governments through the Trust Fund which gone a long way to support the Women's Platform Initiative. Appreciation was also extended to Oak Foundation and Individual donors for their contributions and support to the Platform. Advisory Board Members and Core Implementing Partners of the Platform were reminded of their role to support to support the resource mobilization efforts of the Women's Platform.

Ms Lindiwe suggested that CLIMATE SMART and AGRICULTURAL projects should be integrated into the Women's Platform activities as there are several women at the grassroots level involved in this. Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas shared UNDP's experience in engaging local authorities in conflict resolution in Kenya and Ethiopia to demonstrate the significance of a grassroots approach to solving disputes.

To strengthen the fund raising activities of the Platform, it was further suggested we explore the possibility of creating a platform of *Foundations and Philanthropists* on the activities of the Women's Platform. Madame Nardos Bekele pledged to "loan" an expert consultant for 2 weeks to assist O/SESG on how to identify potential donors in Kenya to create the platform.

Ms Jebbeh Forster of UN Women highlighted on the UNCT Regional strategy in support of the implementation of the PSC Framework. The strategy has a gender pillar component on economic empowerment, peace and security and GBV which will contribute to supporting the objectives of the Women's Platform.

GFW further updated the meeting on the following: 1) its travel to Seattle in April to present on the Women's Platform in a program hosted by the World Affairs Council, 2) its visit to Kinshasa to meet Open Society Foundation Southern Africa (OSISA) to discuss potential collaborations, in terms of providing capacity-building to women's groups, 3) its meetings with Women's Platform grantees - FFC, Shalupe and AFIA MAMA. With FFC, an exchange visit to Global Fund for Women in July to acquire skills in fundraising, information management, evaluation, and program planning was agreed upon. 4) On June 15, 2015, GFW held an update call with Oak Foundation on the convening and other Women's Platform management issues. It was reported that Oak Foundation wanted to know to what extent grantee groups would be invited to participate in the formal political processes related to implementation of the PSC-F in the Great Lakes Region. In response to this issue, SESG Robinson noted that women's participation is at the very heart of the vision of the Platform and OSESG should continue to work to ensure women participate at the Technical Support Committee Meetings and link the significance of women's leadership in this regard.

IV. Priorities for next 3 months June-August

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

- Reconciling the financial reports related to the convening in order to propose a budget for monitoring visits to grantees of the Women's Platform.
- Monitoring implementation of grants in the four core countries on funds disbursed
- Summarizing the mid-term reports that 14 grantees supported by the Dutch have submitted and subsequently mid-term reports from the 18 groups supported by the Irish.
- Drafting progress reports to account for grants received from the Dutch and Irish governments.

- Working on the Women's Platform website, using materials and images collected at the May convening.
- Finalizing the award of the last 2 grants under Oak contribution

V. Closing

In closing, AGS Toure thanked everyone for their participation and indicated that the Conference Call will take place in October 2015. Bearing in there are key global and regional events in October e.g. The Rural Women's Day, the UN Day and UNSCR 1325 15th Anniversary, the exact dates will be confirmed with everyone.