

**Statement**  
**10th meeting of the Advisory Board of the**  
**Women's Platform**

Excellences

Mesdames et messieurs,

Chers participants et collègues,

C'est un honneur de vous accueillir à Nairobi pour la dixième réunion du Comité consultatif de la Plateforme des femmes de l'Accord-cadre.

Je me réjouis de la participation personnelle de S.E. Madame Samba Panza, co-présidente de FEM Wise-Africa, et de Madame Chantal Safou, Présidente du

Comité spécialisé en genre de l'UA et Ministre du Genre, de l'Enfant et de la famille de la RDC.

Notre sœur Bineta Diop, Envoyée spéciale du Président de la Commission de L'Union Africaine sur les questions Femme, Paix et Sécurité, avait prévu de prendre part à cette réunion. Suite à la convocation d'une réunion de concertation avec les représentants et envoyés spéciaux de l'UA à Addis durant la même période, elle a dû s'excuser et s'est faite représentée par son Directeur de cabinet.

Je salue également la présence des représentants de haut niveau du Burundi, de la RCA et du Soudan du Sud ainsi que les partenaires régionaux, internationaux et du système des Nations Unies.

Je note et apprécie l'engagement des uns et des

autres dans la promotion de la participation des femmes dans les processus politiques et de paix.

Je me félicite des progrès réalisés dans certains pays de la région des Grands Lacs. Néanmoins, force est de constater que les femmes continuent d'être sous-représentées dans les instances décisionnelles clés. Cela doit changer.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

At the Gender Ministers meeting held in November 2018, countries in the region committed to speed up efforts to achieve a minimum quota of 30 percent women's representation in political and

peace processes by 2020.

This is an important commitment, which needs to be backed with the requisite political and financial support. Let us work together to make this happen.

The formation of a new Government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the peace deal signed between the Government and armed groups in the Central African Republic and the ongoing efforts to implement the peace agreement in South Sudan all present important opportunities to integrate women in these processes and make their voices heard.

As you know, I strongly believe that women can bring new perspectives, different leadership styles, and greater innovation to the table.

Let us therefore ensure that they are also included in upcoming election processes in the Great Lakes region, not just as voters but also as candidates.

Strategies to enable member states to achieve gender parity should include not only advocacy for women's political participation but also exchanges of best practices and mutual learning.

2018 has seen encouraging achievements, including the repatriation of former FDLR combatants and their dependents and some ex-

M23. This was achieved thanks to the close cooperation among the DRC, Uganda, and Rwanda, with the support of the Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region. We should build on such achievements and use such efforts to promote greater women participation in the search for peace and security in the region.

In 2018 the Ministers of Gender from the region adopted the Regional Action Plan. This plan needs to be implemented, including to deliver more effective action against Sexual and Gender Based Violence, by ensuring concrete measures are in place to deliver justice for the victims. Impunity

should no longer be tolerated.

The Advisory Board is well placed to offer leadership in this context and reach out to leaders of the region to demand that they abide by the commitments they have signed up to and meet their obligations now.

I look forward to our deliberations today.

Thank you very much.