



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

Women Peace and Security (WPS)

OSESG’s priority areas in support of WPS in the Great Lakes Region

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased engagement with women and youth leadership networks to promote their role and contribution in conflict prevention and socio-economic development. ▪ Increased women’s participation and effectiveness in high-level regional and national dialogues, in conflict prevention, peace processes and economic initiatives. ▪ Inclusion of women’s concerns and agendas in high-level peace processes. ▪ Strong commitment by member states to achieve the minimum quota of 30 percent women participation by 2020 and ensure effective monitoring and reporting mechanism. ▪ Increased participation of CSOs and women’s rights groups on monitoring the PSCF. ▪ Focused attention to the fight against SGBVs and impunity across the region. ▪ Coordinated approach with relevant regional bodies and UN entities to promote women’s participation in electoral processes and advocate with electoral systems and framework to better address their protection during and after elections.
-------------------	---

The Advisory Board (AB) of the Women Platform for the implementation of the PSC-Framework

Summary of Facts	<p>The Advisory Board of the Women’s Platform was established in 2013 to enhance the participation of women in leadership and political decision making in support of peace-building efforts. It is an initiative of the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General to the Great Lakes region (O/SESG-GL).</p> <p>Building on the objectives of the UN Agenda for sustainable development for 2030 and the AU agenda 2063, the Women’s Platform focuses on empowering women’s organizations and women leaders to actively contribute to the implementation of the Peace, Security & Cooperation (PSC) Framework by supporting them to strengthen their collective action. The mandate of the Women’s Platform is also centered around United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The four pillars that support the goals of the Resolution are: ‘Participation’, ‘Protection’, ‘Prevention’ and ‘Relief and Recovery’.</p> <p>The members of the Women’s Platform are drawn from regional peace actors, including UN (O/SESG-GL, SRSG-CRSV, UN Women, UNCTAD, UNEP), African Union (AU special Envoy for WPS, AU SRSG-GLR, Femwise co-chairs, International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), ICGLR Women Forum, Academics, the Global Fund for Women (GFW), OAK Foundation and regional women organisations.</p>
-------------------------	--



	<p style="text-align: center;">COMPONENTS OF THE WOMEN’S PLATFORM</p> <p>The Women’s Platform oversees three components:</p> <p>Women’s participation in electoral and political processes: Through Increased women’s effective participation in political, electoral and peace processes. Assessing the value and make recommendations for temporary special measures including quotas.</p> <p>Promoting inclusion of CSOs, (women and youth) and regional fora in conflict prevention, mediation and peace building: Through inclusive peace building efforts, broadening constituencies to increase the potential to identify and address the root causes of conflict and meet the needs of those it affects.</p> <p>Prevent and address conflict related sexual violence: Consultation with local women and Civil society organizations, in support of ICGLR to address issues relating to transitional justice and reparation, advancing women’s livelihoods and property rights.</p> <p>Programmatic: Ensuring gender mainstreaming in all projects through resource allocation.</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>In August 2018, at the initiative of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (SESG-GL), the expanded Advisory Board of the WP-PSCF, comprising high-level women representatives from AU FemWise-Africa, ICGLR and the UN undertook solidarity missions to Burundi, CAR and DRC.</p> <p>The objectives were to; (i) Express solidarity with women in the Great Lakes region; (ii) Strengthen women's coalitions and support their meaningful participation in all aspects of conflict resolution, peacebuilding and humanitarian interventions; (iii) Raise awareness among political leaders of the need for women’s participation in democratic processes and socio-economic development, and; (iv) Bring attention to the issues of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and abuse against women, and the need for accountability and measures to address human rights violations.</p> <p>Dr. Speciosa Kazibwe Wandira, former Vice-President of Uganda, led the solidarity missions to Burundi (9 - 11 August) and CAR (12 - 15 August), accompanied and supported by Ambassador Liberata Mula-Mula, Dr. Attiat Halleem, representatives of ICGLR Executive Secretariat and UNWOMEN.</p> <p>From 16-19 August 2018, H.E. Catherine Samba-Panza, former Transitional President in CAR, led the solidarity mission to the DRC.</p> <p>The mission appealed to the legislature to consider legal reforms and address discriminatory measures against women and minorities. Concerns about the electronic voting system were also brought to the attention of the mission. The delegation encouraged the CENI and political actors to engage in a constructive conversation on this critical issue and to continue promoting awareness and intensifying civic education. The mission also noted the vital role of the media in advancing women's causes and called on the media to redouble their efforts to ensure that women's voices are heard. The mission noted the security and humanitarian challenges across the country and the impact of conflict on women, particularly in rural areas, and emphasized the need to build the capacity of grassroots women and youth at the local level to improve their socio-economic conditions and enable them to better realize their role as transformers of society.</p>



On 8 October 2018, H.E. Samba Panza addressed, the 9th ROM on behalf of the Advisory Board of the Women Platform and made a strong appeal for the promotion of women's meaningful participation in the political and peace processes in the Great Lakes Region. This was the first time that a women senior leader had been afforded the opportunity to address a high-level summit of the ROM. In her address, H.E Catherine Samba Panza encouraged the countries of the region to continue to expend every effort to achieve full gender parity. Regional leaders reiterated their support for women's advancement, welcomed and endorsed the recommendations of the UN-AU-ICGLR solidarity missions to South Sudan, Burundi, CAR and DRC.

On 23 November 2018, the O/SESG-GL and the Executive Secretariat of ICGLR co-organised a meeting of the Gender Ministers from the Great Lakes Region in collaboration with the Government of Uganda. The Gender Ministers meeting was a follow-up to the 8th ROM, which had encouraged the O/SESG-GL, in consultation with the Guarantors of the Framework agreement, to convene regular meetings to review the progress in implementing relevant decisions pertaining to WPS. The meeting resulted in the adoption of the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000), which provides a framework to advance the WPS Agenda in the region.

On 15 February 2019, the Advisory Board held its 10th meeting in Nairobi.

From 5 - 7 June and 9 - 12 June 2019 following the advocacy "solidarity missions" undertaken in 2018, OSESG in partnership with the African Union Commission, the African Union Network for Conflict Prevention and Mediation (African Union-FemWise Africa), ICGLR and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women facilitated a follow-up mission of the Advisory Board to Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Burundi, the Advisory Board stressed the importance of peace and national cohesion and the need to ensure inclusive participation, particularly by women, in the elections due in 2020. In the DRC, the delegation urged the leadership to address discriminatory provisions in national legislation, particularly as they relate to women and welcomed the commitment of the President and Prime Minister to strengthen the role of women in political and economic decision-making. Meetings were also held with women political leaders and representatives of political parties and civil society organisations from North Kivu and South Kivu, who requested support to national institutions to promote the rule of law and justice, with attention to the needs of women.

From 8 - 9 September 2019, OSESG-GLR facilitated an inaugural consultative meeting of regional Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Foras, including nine (9) CSOs from the Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises (FFC) and eight (8) from the Concertation des Collectifs des Associations Féminines dans la région des Grands Lacs (COCAFEM-GL). The meeting also included the five (5) fora of ICGLR, notably women, youth, civil society, parliamentarians, and the private sector forum. The objective of the meeting was to establish a new network and promote a civilian agenda to offer policy makers a wider perspective on progress and challenges faced, primarily by women and youth, since the signing of both the ICGLR Pact (2006) and the PSC-Framework (2013) and offer recommendations. The meeting brought together a total of 45 participants, including 12 men 33 women. As a first opportunity for engagement between CSOs and



	<p>regional fora, it was viewed as a critical platform, and one that must be maintained to sustain the momentum generated by the event. The initiative was used to support CSOs and Fora’s contribution to peace and stability and ensure that they are provided with an opportunity to further expand their role and offer a collective voice during a period of profound change for the Great Lakes region. This process is linked to the convening role of OSESG and completes engagement in pursuit of the SDGs goals in order that no one is left behind. In doing so, the CSOs and Fora were invited to present their findings to the governance mechanisms of the PSC-Framework.</p> <p>CSO representatives were energized by coming together to form a coalition of likeminded stakeholders and further sought support to provide an assessment from their perspective with a focus on prevention and early warning.</p>
Upcoming events	<p>11 November 2019: 11th Session of the Advisory Board at the AUC HQs, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in coordination with the Office of the AU Special Envoy for WPS.</p> <p>12-13 November 2019: Gender and elections meeting organized in cooperation with the AU/DPA at the AUC HQs, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).</p>

	Drafted by	Distribution
	Nene L. Bah	O/SESG
Date:10 October 2019		