

OUTCOME DOCUMENT
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF GENDER
ON IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

ENTEBBE, UGANDA

23 NOVEMBER 2018

1. Ministers of Gender from signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC-F) for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) met in Entebbe, Uganda on 23 November 2018. The participants discussed the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), appraised progress on women's meaningful participation and representation in political, economic, and security spheres, and in peace processes in the Great Lakes region. They agreed on critical initiatives to advance the WPS agenda.
2. The Office of the United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG-GL) and the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR, co-organised the meeting in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the ICGLR Regional Training Facility (ICGLR-RTF), the Government of Norway, the Swiss Cooperation, and COCAFEM/CARE.
3. The Meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Mutuuzo Peace Regis, Minister of State for Gender and Culture Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, representing the current Chair of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) of the PSC-F; Mr. Said Djinnit, the United Nations (UN) Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, and Mr. Zachary Muburi-Muita, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR and Madam Ines Bertille Nefer Ingani, Minister of Gender Promotion and Integration in Development of the Republic of Congo, representing ICGLR Chairperson.
4. A two-day technical meeting, on 21-22 November 2018, with experts from Member States, the ICGLR Regional Women's Forum, national, regional, and international organizations, development partners, representatives of the UN, and of civil society, preceded the Ministerial meeting.
5. The meeting endorsed the conclusions of the technical meeting and the ICGLR Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 (2000).

Following the deliberations, the Ministers:

The Regional Action Plan 2018-2023 on UNSCR 1325 (2000)

6. Welcomed the development of the Regional Action Plan (RAP), as a key framework to advance the WPS agenda in the Great Lakes region.
7. Endorsed the RAP, and committed to ensure it informs strategies and actions to promote women's meaningful participation, protection, and socio-economic empowerment in the region.
8. Requested the ICGLR Secretariat, in collaboration with UNWOMEN, and other partners to develop the budget to implement the RAP, including to support its translation into Official languages for broad dissemination by Member States. Ministers agreed to take all necessary measures to support the implementation and monitoring of the RAP, and to collectively report back to the next Summit of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) of the Peace Security Cooperation – Framework (PSC-F) and the Summit of the ICGLR.
9. Agreed to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) aligned with the RAP and to ensure these are integrated into national development planning and financing, monitoring, and reporting processes. In this regard, asked development partners, including the UN Agencies, to provide technical and financial support to implement the NAPs.
10. Agreed to adopt the AU Continental Results Framework to monitor the implementation of the RAP and NAPs. Requested the ICGLR Secretariat and O/SESG-GL to undertake bi-annual reviews, and convene bi-annual meetings of Ministers of Gender to assess implementation of the RAP.

Ensuring women's participation and representation in political and dialogue processes including the achievement of the minimum quota of 30% by 2020

11. Recalled the relevant UNSCR Resolutions on WPS and the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Maputo Protocol (2003), CEDAW (1981), and noted existing challenges in achieving gender parity in Government institutions, as well as in on-going dialogue and peace processes in the region.
12. Agreed to urgently undertake legislative, judiciary, and policy reforms to address discriminatory practices against women at community, national, and regional levels, including breaking down institutional barriers that hinder the achievement of the

minimum 30% quota for women's meaningful participation by 2020, as set by the UN Security Council.

13. Recommended the launch of women leadership initiatives across the region to strengthen capacity of women to participate in public, business, security, and peace-keeping sectors, and in elected offices. With specific regard to on-going peace processes, urged those responsible to take the necessary steps to ensure equal participation of women in the ongoing peace implementation processes in South Sudan and in the African Initiative for Peace in the Central African Republic (CAR). Also called on the Governments of the DRC and Burundi to take necessary measures to maximize women participation in the on-going dialogue and electoral processes, including by enabling access to the media and ensuring their security during the electoral process.

14. Commended the Republic of Rwanda for its leadership in advancing women's representation in political, public, and socio-economic life. Encouraged the ICGLR, supported by O/SESG-GL and AU, to facilitate the sharing of best practices in this regard among Member States.

15. Commended the joint initiative by the UN, the AU and the ICGLR, through the Advisory Board of the Women's Platform, on joint high-level WPS focused missions to South Sudan, Burundi, CAR, and DRC between June and August 2018 to assess and advocate for progress with the WPS. Requested that similar missions be undertaken to the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and Sudan.

16. Encouraged AU FemWise and the AU Special Envoy for WPS in collaboration with UN and the ICGLR Secretariat to continue to engage Heads of State of the region to achieve the 2020 objective of women meaningful participation by the 20th anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 (2000).

Strengthening actions to address sexual and gender-based violence

17. Welcomed the attribution of the 2018 Nobel Prize to Dr. Denis Mukwege, for his work in alleviating women's suffering from conflict related sexual violence in the DRC; and encourage other existing initiatives in support of victims of SGBV.

18. Noted with concern the continued prevalence of SGBV in some countries of the Great Lakes region, particularly in areas affected by violent conflict and insecurity, including the DRC, Burundi, CAR, and South Sudan.

19. Urged regional and international organisations to take all necessary steps to ensure the prevention and the prosecution of those responsible for human rights violations, including SGBV. Committed to strengthen national legislation and mechanisms to protect women's rights, and to establish where they do not exist, dedicated laws, special courts, and procedures to fast track the management of pending cases relating to SGBV and to enable more effective procedures to address the cases of violence against women. Called on the Judicial Cooperation Network of the Great Lakes region to prioritise the treatment of cases of SGBV.

20. Recognized the important role of the ICGLR-Regional Training Facility (RTF) and appealed to Partners to ensure financial and technical support to this Centre of Excellence.

Supporting women's socio-economic empowerment

21. Recognized the humanitarian challenges across the Great Lakes region and the dire socio-economic situation of women, characterised by high levels of poverty, marginalisation, insecurity, limited access to basic services in particular for those living in rural areas. Emphasized the urgent need for dedicated and innovative initiatives to support grassroots women and youth improve their socio-economic conditions.

22. Called for initiatives, in partnership with the private sector, including financial institutions, to provide women financial and other resources to advance their socio-economic empowerment. Requested OSESG-GL and the ICGLR in consultation with the Advisory Board of the Women's Platform, the Office of the AU Special Envoy on WPS, UNWOMEN, UNFPA and civil society organizations, to establish a task force to develop a proposal for a Regional Women's Economic Empowerment Programme and for the establishment of a Special Investment Fund for Women.

23. Committed to promote the necessary measures to enable women's increased ownership, control and access to land, skills, information, financing, and other productive resources, as necessary steps to enabling socio-economic empowerment.

24. Commended the Republic of Congo for the enforcement of the 21-2018 law enacted on 13 June 2018; and laying down the rules governing the acquisition and occupation of lands in the Republic of Congo, with focus attention paid on women's rights and access to land.

25. Agreed to expedite the implementation of the Declaration of the Heads of State and Governments on the promotion of youth employment in infrastructure development and investment promotion to reinforce efforts to empower young women in the region.

Strengthening existing fora and build new coalitions for change between Governments and civil society organizations

26. Called for urgent measures to promote Member States' engagement with women and youth networks through the existing national and regional fora to advance inclusivity and accountability of policy- and decision-making.

27. Agreed on the need to assess the situation and strengthen the DRC based Regional Centre for Research and Documentation, Women, Gender and Peacebuilding and to ensure greater ownership by the other Member States of the ICGLR in order to promote its technical capacities and ensure informed decision-making on WPS issues.

28. Commended the Republic of Rwanda for proposing to host the Secretariat of the ICGLR Women's Forum and urged the Government to fast track the establishment of the Secretariat of the ICGLR Regional Women Forum in Kigali, Rwanda.

Acknowledgements

29. Extended appreciation to H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Government and the People of Uganda for the hospitality and generosity in hosting the Gender Ministers meeting.

30. Further extended gratitude to O/SESG-GL, ICGLR, COCAFEM GL, CARE and international partners, including the Government of Norway, Swiss Cooperation and the World Bank for sponsoring and supporting the high-level Gender Ministers Meeting.

31. Expressed appreciation for the joint efforts of the Secretariat in supporting the meeting.

32. Welcomed the offer by The Republic of Sudan to host the next Meeting of Ministers of Gender on WPS that would take place in Khartoum in November, 2019.

Done in Entebbe, 23 November 2018