

**OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE 09th ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
OF THE WOMEN'S PLATFORM FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND THE REGION**

NAIROBI, KENYA, 22 FEBRUARY 2018

1. The Advisory Board of the Women Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, held its ninth meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on 22 February 2018 under the chairmanship of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Said Djinnit.
2. The Advisory Board was graced by the presence of its new members, Her Excellency Mrs. Catherine Samba-Panza, former Interim President of the Central African Republic and Co-President of the Pan African Network of Women Mediators (FemWise-Africa); the African Union Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security, Ms. Ndeye Bineta Diop; Her Excellency Mrs. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, Former Vice President of Uganda and Co-President of FemWise-Africa; and Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Former Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).
3. Attendees also included former Advisory Board members, Mrs. Chantal Safou Lopusa, Gender Minister of the Democratic Republic of the DRC and Mr. Felix Ngendabanyikwa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights and Gender of Burundi; Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) Director General; and Ms. Coralie Ikia-Dimi, Representing the Republic of Congo, current Chair of ICGLR, Ambassador Éliane Mokodopo representing the Executive Secretary, ICGLR. The UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Isabelle Durant addressed the meeting via video.
4. The Advisory Board meeting was preceded by a technical-level meeting that included representatives from the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes (OESG-GL), the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA), UN WOMEN, UNEP, UNFPA, the African Union Commission (AUC), ICGLR, Femmes Africa Solidarite, Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises (FFC) and Global Fund for Women (GFW), as well as grassroots organizations and beneficiaries of grants from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda, namely the Developpement Agropastoral et Sanitaire (DAGROPAS); Solidarite des Femmes Activistes pour la Defense des Droits Humains (SOFAD and Isis-Women International Cross-cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE).
5. The Advisory Board extended its congratulations to Mrs. Julienne Lusenge, Director of FFC for receiving the 2018 Women's Rights Award at the 10th Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy.

Political engagement

6. The Advisory Board noted with concern the slow progress in implementing commitments on Women Peace and Security and reiterated the centrality of the Great Lakes women's enhanced political engagement and the promotion of greater accountability and ownership by regional leaders in implementing these commitments, to ensure women play a key role in preventing conflicts and building peace in the Great Lakes Region.

7. In this regard, the Advisory Board agreed to engage with women's civil society organizations at all levels, including at the community level, it also proposed to include representative of youth organizations, women business leaders, and the private sector as members of the Advisory board. Members acknowledged the importance of bringing together women's representatives with Heads of State and Government to discuss and agree on ways to promote the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

8. The Board agreed to deploy, jointly with ICGLR and FemWise, missions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, South Sudan and the Central African Republic to support women's political engagement in peace and political processes. The Board welcomed the support offered by OSESG-GL to facilitate and contribute financially to the holding of such missions.

9. The members agreed to work with regional and international Centers of Excellence to formulate evidence-based policies to further guide decision makers.

10. They encouraged the ICGLR to pursue consultations with the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Kenya with the view to coming to an agreement on the venue and dates of the upcoming Ministerial gender meeting.

Coordination of WPS initiatives in the region

11. The Advisory Board noted the many important initiatives in support of the WPS agenda in the region, including, among others, by FemWise, the ICGLR Regional Training Facility (RTF) to address SGBV, the *Centre Regional de Recherche et de Documentation sur les Femmes, le Genre et la construction de la paix dans la Region des Grands Lacs* (CRED-GL) and efforts of the United Nations under the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework. The Advisory Board stressed the need for strengthened coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders to maximize synergy among these initiatives.

12. They agreed on the need to develop a communication tool to facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge.

Regional Plan of Action on UNSCR 1325 (2000)

13. The Advisory Board commended the collaboration between the OSESG-GL and the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR to develop a Regional Plan of Action to implement UNSCR 1325 (2000), as requested by the Eighth High-level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the PSC Framework, in Brazzaville, the Republic of the Congo, in October 2017. It asked for the rapid finalization and swift implementation of the plan. Noting that out of thirteen signatory countries of the PSC Framework, nine have National Action Plans in support of UNSCR 1325. The Board urged the remaining countries to finalize their National Action Plans ahead of the next Regional Gender Ministerial meeting in mid-2018.

Strategy to promote the implementation of the WPS agenda in the region

14. The Advisory Board welcomed the draft Regional Strategy to promote the implementation of commitments on WPS presented by the OSESG-GL (Annex 1) and endorsed its focus on women political engagement. It further recommended that the mechanism for implementation proposed in the Strategy be led by UN Women with the support of ICGLR and in collaboration with OSESG-GL and the African Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region.

15. The Board encouraged UN Women, the AU, and ICGLR to further strengthen efforts to support the development and implementation of a robust monitoring framework to measure quantitative and qualitative progress and achievements, identify gaps, in promoting the role of Women in Peace and Security and welcomed the African Union initiative to develop the Continental Results Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa.

16. They requested the Special Envoys of the UN, the AU and ICGLR to conduct joint initiatives to mobilise technical and financial resources, including with non-traditional donors, to enable implementation of the Strategy for WPS and other initiatives in the Great Lakes region.

17. The Board recommended that the Strategy for WPS in the Great Lakes region be presented at the next Technical Support Committee (TSC) and ROM meetings as well as at the workshop on the occasion of the 5th Anniversary of the PSC Framework on 26-27 February 2018, and to seek commitments by the signatory countries to support its implementation.

On the grant component of the Women's Platform

1. The Advisory Board received a presentation by the Global Fund for Women (GFW) on the achievements of the Grant component of the Women's Platform in support of the implementation of the PSC Framework and UNSCR 1325 (2000), in combating Violence Against Women, and in promoting equitable access to and control of natural resources in the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. The Board welcomed the efforts by the Global Fund for Women in raising additional funds in support of grassroots women's organizations.

2. The Board members acknowledged the presence of representatives of the Women's Platform Grantees and extended appreciation for their role in promoting peace and security through cross border initiatives. They requested GFW to share information on progress in the four priority areas of the Women's platform to give greater visibility to the contribution of grassroots organizations in confidence and peace building.

3. The Board re-emphasized the need for the Women's Platform to remain focused on political advocacy and recommended a re-assessment of the terms of reference for the grant component.

4. The Advisory Board agreed that in close collaboration with UN Women, ICGLR and the AU, a modality of cooperation between the Regional Women's Forum and the Grantees of the Women Platform be developed in order to ensure the complementarity of both the community level work and the high level advocacy efforts.

Terms of Reference

5. The Advisory Board agreed to review its Terms of Reference at its next meeting.