



UN GREAT LAKES

PEACE, SECURITY AND PROSPERITY



UNITED NATIONS
GREAT LAKES
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The Women's Platform was established in 2013 by the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region and seeks to empower women of the region as peacemakers and leaders. The Women's Platform oversees three components: advocacy, gender mainstreaming and provision of grants.

WOMEN'S PLATFORM – STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016 TO 2019 FOR THE PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION (PSC) FRAMEWORK FOR THE DRC AND THE REGION

GOAL

Empower and support women in the Great Lakes Region as peacemakers and leaders

OBJECTIVE

Ensure that women leaders and women's rights groups, at national and regional levels, play a prominent role in peace efforts in the region and actively participate in the implementation of the PSC Framework

<p>Advocacy: Increasing women's effective participation in conflict prevention, political and peace processes at national and regional levels</p>	<p>Gender Mainstreaming: Mainstream gender perspectives in the Office of the Special Envoy's roadmap, programmes and initiatives</p>	<p>Grants: Effective provision of small grants to women's rights groups at grassroots and community levels in the four core countries</p>
<p>Expected Outcomes</p> <p>Increased capacity building, shared learning and political advocacy for and by women leaders in conjunction with regional and national women's organisations</p> <p>Increased women's participation and effectiveness in high-level regional and national dialogues in conflict prevention, peace processes and economic initiatives</p> <p>Ongoing inclusion of women's concerns and agendas in high-level peace processes and security forums</p>	<p>Expected Outcomes</p> <p>Gender sensitive Peace and Security Cooperation Framework implementation</p>	<p>Expected Outcomes</p> <p>Increased participation of women's rights groups on monitoring and advocacy on the PSCF and UNSCR 1325</p> <p>Increased women's civil society participation in combatting sexual and gender-based violence</p> <p>Increased women's participation and influence in decision-making regarding women's livelihoods and property rights initiatives</p> <p>Increased women's access to and control of natural resources management</p>
<p>Expected Outputs</p> <p>Financial, technical and advocacy support provided for specific projects and initiatives by regional and national level women's advocacy organisations</p>	<p>Expected Outputs</p> <p>Integrated gender sensitive analysis, data and inputs in the Special Envoy's roadmap, programmes and initiatives</p>	<p>Expected Outputs</p> <p>Small grants (up to \$30,000) disbursed to women's community based and grassroots organizations in the four core countries (DRC, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi)</p>



**UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
(31 October 2000)**

The four “pillars” that support the goals of the Resolution are: Participation, Protection, Prevention, and Relief and Recovery.

Why is participation important to Resolution 1325?

Resolution 1325 calls for increased participation of women at all levels of decision-making, including in national, regional, and international institutions; in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict; in peace negotiations; in peace operations, as soldiers, police, and civilians; and as Special Representatives of the U.N. Secretary-General.

Peace processes - why women matter?

- Women are the most affected in conflict contexts
- Women experience war differently and can bring new understanding of conflict, insights into the causes and solutions
- Women are too often sidelined in dialogues and negotiations on peace and security
- Absence of women in peace talks creates inequality that is a powerful fuel for conflict
- Women must be involved at every stage of efforts to rebuild societies and ensure that experiences, knowledge & the needs of half of the population are considered

“ **Women can create lasting Peace,**
BUT
Women are not at the Table... ”



Achievements by the Women's Platform

Grants Component

- US \$1,400,000 (June 2014 to June 2016) provided to women’s grassroots and community based organizations in four core countries: DRC, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda
- 80 initiatives and activities have been financially supported through the grants component during the same period

Advocacy Component

- Dialogue in 2016 on Women, Peace and Security Issues:
 - A first ever **dialogue and technical meeting** took place in July 2016 in Goma, DRC, and brought together representatives from women’s grassroots organizations which received grants, Advisory Board members, UNWOMEN, the ICGLR Regional Women’s Forum and other women leaders from Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC. The event provided an opportunity for experience-sharing, capacity building and direct dialogue between women of the region and the Special Envoys of the African Union and the United Nations, and the Executive Secretary of ICGLR.
 - The **Goma Declaration** was prepared by participants and presented to the UN Special Envoy, the African Union Envoy to the Great Lakes region and other dignitaries present. The Declaration notes progress and challenges in the implementation of the PSC Framework and the urgency for action and policy to achieve durable peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region with the active and full participation of women.

Women’s Platform 2017 - 2018 Plans

Advocacy Component

1. Development of a Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325
2. Support for the establishment of the ICGLR Regional Women’s Forum Secretariat in Kigali, Rwanda
3. Support for capacity building, networking and advocacy activities of the Regional Women’s Forum
4. Support for women’s political participation in peace processes and dialogues

Grants Component

5. Support for grassroots and community based initiatives and activities that aim to support the participation of women leaders in peace related efforts in the region.

In partnership with Global Fund for Women and UN Women.

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