REPORT OF THE REGIONAL FORUM
ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325
IN WEST AFRICA

DAKAR, SEPTEMBER 2010
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CCDG: Mme Aminata DIBBA, Director, ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development
GAMBIA: Her Excellency Aja Isatou NJIE-SAIDY, Vice President, Minister of Women Affairs
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CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS
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WIPSEN
AMLD
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – CÔTE D’IVOIRE
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS OF MALI (AJM), MARWOPNET
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AJM : Association of Women Lawyers of Mali
AMLD : Alliance for Migration, Leadership and Development
CEDAW : Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COFEMCI-REPC : National Coordination of Women’s Associations for Post Crisis Reconstruction
CSO : Civil Society Organisations
ECGD : ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development
ECOWAS : Economic Community of West African States
FAS : Femmes Africa Solidarité
FGM : Female Genital Mutilation
GBV : Gender-Based Violence
HCR : High Commissioner for Refugees
HIV/AIDS : Human Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
RBM : Results-Based Management
UNHCHR : United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
MARWOPNET : Mano River Women’s Peace Network
MRU : Mano River Union
MGD : Millennium Development Goal
NGO : Non Governmental Organisation
NOPSWECO : Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region
UNDP : United Nations Development Programme
PRSP : Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
R.1325 : Resolution 1325
RENACOT : National Network of Traditional Communicators
SRSG : Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNFPA : United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR : United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF : United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIPSIL : United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone
UNOWA : United Nations Office for West Africa
UN-INSTRAW : International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
UNWOMEN : United Nations Entity for gender equality and women empowerment
WANEP : West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WIPNET : Women in Peacebuilding Program
WIPSEN : Women Peace and Security Network
THE DAKAR DECLARATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 IN WEST AFRICA

The Regional Forum on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was held in Dakar, Senegal from 15 to 17 September 2010 at the initiative of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and in close collaboration with the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union (MRU), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNIFEM (now part of UNWomen), UN-INSTRAW (now part of UNWomen), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

The Forum was attended by the Vice President of the Republic of the Gambia, the Ministers in charge of gender and women empowerment of Senegal, Niger, Togo, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Mali, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and senior government officials from Cote d’Ivoire, Benin, Liberia and Nigeria. Representatives of the African Union, United Nations Peace Missions as well as Civil Society institutions and organizations from West Africa also participated in the forum.

For three days, participants took stock of the implementation of resolution 1325 in the Member States and devoted particular attention on the challenges as well as the perspectives of the resolution in the area of participation, protection, prevention, relief and recovery.

The Forum, adopted the ECOWAS Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in West Africa. The implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan will be coordinated by ECOWAS through its Centre for Gender Development. The Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS region (NOWPSWECO) will serve as the coordinating body for civil society organisations in West Africa. An entity comprising West African Ministers in charge of women affairs and gender, ECOWAS, MRU, the African Union, and United Nations will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Forum agreed on the following recommendations:

1. Member States of the West African Region that have not yet done so should, before December 2010, elaborate a national action plan on the implementation of resolution 1325 with the financial support of the United Nations.

2. Member States shall guarantee and promote systematic mainstreaming of gender in judicial and security sector reform processes.

3. UNIFEM/UN-INSTRAW (now part of UNWomen) should work with ECOWAS through the Centre for Gender Development to support key actions of Ministries in charge of gender in the implementation of their national action plans and the United Nations Secretary General’s campaign to end violence against women.

4. Technical and financial partners should be committed to supporting the actions of civil society organisations in the area of peace and security.

Participation

- Promote women’s participation in mediation: more women will be trained as mediators and a community of practice of women mediators will be established at the regional level;
databases of female mediators in the region will be created; ECOWAS and the AU will appoint more women as special envoys and senior mediators.

* Ensure the representation of women in post-conflict management by strengthening measures promoting women’s full participation in electoral and governance processes at all decision-making levels.

Resolutions 1325 will be popularized through their translation into local languages, trainings, sensitizations, and awareness campaigns targeted at decision makers, police and military, judicial sector, schools, youth, local women as well as men groups. In addition the ‘Global Open Day’ will be institutionalized as a means for SRSGs to consult with women’s representatives regularly and be briefed on women’s concerns in the region as well as an opportunity for awareness raising on the resolution at both national and regional levels.

**Protection**

* Strengthen measures to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV): political and security measures will be strengthened to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence during and after conflict. Existing measures will be strengthened and new measures put in place, where necessary, to punish perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence. Furthermore, trainings, including pre-deployment trainings, on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence will be harmonized and conducted targeting civil and military personnel in peacekeeping operations.

**Prevention**

* Strengthen preventive diplomacy: request the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to use his good offices to actively and systematically consult with women, representing their demands in their efforts at preventive diplomacy in the region.

* Promote the development of a culture of peace by drawing on women’s traditional role as mediators and educators for peace so that future generations can be spared the scourge of war and violence; establishing a regional network of peace clubs in secondary schools and universities.

* Strengthen early warning mechanisms by launching the ECOWAS gender and early warning indicators and making resources available to populate them with data.

* Encourage research and documentation of lessons learned as well as causes and dynamics of conflicts to enhance response effectiveness.

**Relief and Recovery**

* Ensure provision of adequate and accessible humanitarian services: measures will be adopted to ensure that humanitarian services provided reach women and girls, and that such services can be accessed safely.

* Ensure effective post-incident relief: measures will be strengthened to provide adequate access to health, psycho-social services and trauma counseling for sexual and gender-based violence survivors.

* Ensure socio-economic reintegration: measures will be strengthened to ensure effective socio-economic integration of women in post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes.

4. Technical and financial partners should be committed to supporting the actions of civil society organisations in the area of peace and security.
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- Ensure socio-economic reintegration: measures will be strengthened to ensure effective socio-economic integration of women in post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes.
Resolution 1325 aroused great hope at the time of its adoption - hope to have finally found an instrument that will enable effective and systematic adoption of a gender equity and equality-based approach in conflict resolutions. This hope has also underlain the adoption of Resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1889 by the United Nations Security Council, all bearing on better consideration of the rights of women in peace and security efforts.

This year 2010, marking the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325 is an opportunity to assess progress made by the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Mano River Union, their Member States and civil society as well. It is also an opportunity for a candid appraisal of steps to better take into account women’s expectations and ensure their full participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution in West Africa.

Promoting women’s participation in peace processes requires above all the promotion of gender, political, social and economic equality. Gender equality should not be considered solely in a power struggle perspective between women and men. It should rather be viewed in terms of balance regarding each one’s contribution to social welfare.

I wish to pay tribute to West African women, both young and old, for the exemplary role they have been playing for peace, security and development in the sub-region. I would like to thank you for your leadership and your commitment. In the light of the impact of your actions, especially on peace processes in communities in crisis, I can rightly assert that the slogan of the tenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325 – “women count for Peace” – has its full meaning here in West Africa.

This publication emanating from deliberations of the regional forum on the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820 is therefore a way of immortalizing those women through their activities in the areas of peace and security. I hope it will serve as a reference and planning book.

Said Djinnit
Special Representative
Secretary-General
West Africa
SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS

A Regional Forum on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 15 to 17 September 2010 at the initiative of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), and in close collaboration with the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union (MRU), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNIFEM (now part of UNWomen), UN-INSTRAW (now part of UNWomen), the Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

The Forum was attended by the Vice President of the Republic of the Gambia, the Ministers in charge of gender and women empowerment of Senegal, Niger, Togo, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Mali, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and senior government officials from Cote d’Ivoire, Benin, Liberia and Nigeria. Representatives of the African Union, United Nations Peace Missions as well as Civil Society institutions and organisations from West Africa also participated in the Forum.

For three days, participants took stock of the implementation of resolution 1325 in the Member States and devoted particular attention to challenges and perspectives of the resolution in the areas of participation, protection, prevention, relief and recovery. At the close of the forum, participants adopted a regional plan of action for effective implementation of the resolution.
BACKGROUND:

In October 2010, the international community commemorated the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, which was considered a landmark resolution at its adoption in 2000. It was the first ever resolution to have acknowledged the critical impact of armed conflicts on women and girls.

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 offers an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the resolution in West Africa to date and, building on previous achievements, seek to develop a regional strategy to further enhance the implementation of the resolution.

The resolution calls on United Nations Member States to ensure greater participation and representation of women in decision-making processes within governance institutions and within national, regional and international conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms.

It urges parties to armed conflict to take appropriate measures to protect women and girls from violence during war and conflict periods and to get them involved in peace processes. It exhorts all actors, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender sensitive approach while taking into account the special needs of women and girls during their repatriation and resettlement in the context of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Resolution 1325 also calls on the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint more women as Special Representatives and Envoys in UN good offices and peacekeeping missions worldwide.

Its implementation has mobilized various stakeholders over the past ten years, notably civil society organisations, governments, regional institutions and the United Nations. The resolution has also led to the development of instruments, mechanisms and processes by regional and sub-regional organisations to strengthen its implementation. In Africa, the African Union launched, during its 15th meeting on gender mainstreaming - the African Women’s Decade 2010-2020. In West Africa where women have been severely impacted by conflicts and played but limited role in the search for peace, UNOWA has placed emphasis on promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

After supporting the establishment of the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS region (NOPSWECO), UNOWA continues to facilitate activities of the Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in West Africa, which brings together the United Nations System and civil society organisations with a view to promoting ‘One UN’ approach to the implementation of resolution 1325.

United Nations peacekeeping Operations, United Nations peace building offices in the region, United Nations Country Teams and UNOWA have participated in the ‘Open Days’ events during which SRSGs from UN missions consulted with representatives of women’s organisations to listen to their priorities for peace and security in order to generate concrete commitments from SRSGs on how to strengthen implementation. These efforts build on existing initiatives by the UN missions to promote women’s role in peacebuilding, such as supporting women's protection against gender-based violence through justice and security sector reform, and women’s effective participation in governance processes.

UNOWA has also sought to mainstream the principles of UNSCR 1325 in its peacemaking and conflict prevention activities. Thus, in the framework of the electoral process in Guinea, SRSG Djinnit held a series of consultations with Guinean women which contributed to mitigate electoral violence in the country. In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Mano River Union (MRU), UNOWA
commissioned a study of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The outcomes of these studies were reviewed during the Regional Forum.

Given the close collaboration and partnership between UNOWA and the African Union, ECOWAS and other regional actors, the regional Forum focused on assessing opportunities and challenges to the implementation UNSCR 1325 in the context of regional partnerships.
PROCEEDINGS:

The opening ceremony took place at 9:00 am on Wednesday, September 15th, in the Hotel Méridien President conference room, Dakar. In his opening speech, the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Said Djinnit, saluted the courage of women, both young and old, who have contributed in various ways, both loudly and silently, in ensuring peace and security in the West African sub-region. While stressing the importance of ensuring women’s participation in peacebuilding, Mr. Djinnit pointed out that without gender equality in the politico-socio-economic context, Resolution 1325 cannot be effectively implemented.

He therefore enjoined that all efforts at ensuring the effective implementation of resolution 1325 should do so in the holistic context of all other instruments that have been elaborated concerning gender equality and women empowerment. While appreciating the fact that the 10th anniversary is an occasion to take stock of the various contributions of actors of resolution 1325 in the region, he urged participants to undertake a thorough analysis of the stages that need to be crossed to ensure a more effective participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution.

In his conclusion, the SRSG assured participants of his commitment to present the outcome of the forum to the Secretary General of the United Nations during the Global Open day in New York in October 2010. He also ensured participants that, at the regional level, the outcome of the forum will be translated into an action plan that will be supported by UNOWA.

In their speeches, the representatives of the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS region (NOPSWECO), the Mano River Union, ECOWAS, and the African Union, lauded the timely initiative of UNOWA in the organisation of the regional forum. They also thanked UNOWA for the fruitful collaboration they have shared thus far on gender and human rights issues and expressed their commitment to further work towards the enhancement of this collaboration in the specific area of women, peace and security in the context of UNSCR 1325. They pointed out that although some achievements have been made in the implementation of resolution 1325, much still needs to be done, emphasising that an accelerated implementation can only be conceived in the context of harmonized programmes at regional level and partnership with all actors concerned including the United Nations entities, regional institutions and organisations, Member states, CSOs and women organisations.

On her part, the Vice-President and Minister of Women’s Affairs of the Republic of the Gambia, Her Excellency Aja Isatou Njie-Saidy, while expressing her belief in peace for all as the only valid solution to security issues, acknowledged the importance of resolution 1325 as an instrument which ensures that, in the inevitable situation of breakdown of law and order, measures are put in place to ensure that all citizens, men and women, are equally involved in the resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping operations as well as peace building initiatives to ensure durable peace. She expressed her availability to ensure that the outcome of the Forum is forwarded to the highest instances within the region.

While declaring the Forum open, Mrs. Awa N’Diaye, the Minister of State, Minister of Gender and Relations with African Women Organizations, Republic of Senegal, thanked the organisers for choosing Senegal to host the important event and expressed the commitment of Senegal to ensuring the implementation of resolution 1325 in the country as well as within the ECOWAS sub region.
The first session of the forum, commenced with a presentation of the background to the regional forum by UNOWA during which the recapitulation of resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 as well as a draft report of the study on the implementation of resolution 1325 in some countries in the sub-region were presented.

Member States of the ECOWAS sub-region, represented by Ministers of Gender and Women Empowerment, thereafter took turns, in alphabetical order to make their presentations highlighting the key achievements they have made in the implementation of resolution 1325, major obstacles as well as practical measures they plan to engage in to ensure a more effective implementation of the resolution in their specific countries.

In session 2, regional organisations and institutions as well as United Nations entities also presented their achievements, challenges as well as perspectives on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its associated resolutions.

Session 3 witnessed the presentation of achievements, challenges and perspectives of the implementation of resolution 1325 by representatives of civil society organisations as well as women organisations, at the regional and national levels.

Having exhausted presentations from Member states, regional institutions and organisations, the United Nations entities, and the civil society organisations, participants divided into working groups, to further deliberate on the presentations, highlight major achievements and challenges and conclude with key recommendations on the way forward in the implementation of resolution 1325 in the context of partnership at the regional level.

Four working groups were constituted and carried out discussions on the issues of prevention, protection, participation and relief and recovery in the context of the effective implementation of resolution 1325. A fifth group was constituted to study and review, where necessary, the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820 which was presented to the forum by the ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development.

At the end of the group work, draft reports were presented at the plenary and were amended, where necessary. Amended reports were consolidated and presented as two key outcome documents at the closing session.

At the closing session, the two outcome documents entitled ‘Dakar declaration’ and the ‘ECOWAS regional action plan for the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820’ were adopted.

In addition, motions of gratitude were sent by the participants to the President of Senegal and the Special Representative of the Secretary General. A motion of felicitation was sent to the newly appointed Head of UN Women, Michele Bachelet and a motion of solidarity sent to the women of Guinea.

In his closing remarks, SRSG Said Djinnit, represented by the Chief of Staff of UNOWA, Ms Dominique Eliaers-Wouters, thanked the participants for their patience and hard work in the course of the 3 days deliberations. She conveyed the acceptance of the SRSG to present the outcome of the Forum to the Secretary General of the United Nations as requested by the participants. She also reiterated the SRSG’s personal commitment to ensure that UNOWA supports the implementation of the Regional action plan.
In the final closing remarks, the Vice-President of the Gambia, H.E. Mrs. Aja Isatou Njie Saidy congratulated participants for their zeal, dedication and commitment during the 3 days deliberations and urged them not to relent in their efforts as the green light had just been given for more intensive work at a regional level with reinforced partnership.

The Forum closed at about 2pm on 17 September.
ECOWAS PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1325 AND 1820

General Objective: In the framework of the African Union Decade for Women, the West African Plan of Action aims at the improvement of the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 in West Africa by 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Expected results</th>
<th>Priority actions</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Actors / responsible</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Specific objective 1</strong>: to improve women's participation in the prevention of conflicts in ECOWAS countries</td>
<td><strong>Strengthening women organisations and CSOs</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Systematic NGO consultation, enhanced capacity of women’s groups&lt;br&gt;- Institutional capacities of members of NOPSWECO are strengthened in all the member states&lt;br&gt;- Consultations that are organised have enabled women organisations and the civil society organisations to know their roles in the implementation of the plans of action.</td>
<td><strong>- Institutionalise ‘open day’ for regular consultation of SRSG and the President of ECOWAS with women groups and representatives</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Strengthen the institutional capacity of NOPSWECO&lt;br&gt;- Organise consultations with women organisations and Civil Society organisations to underline their roles in the implementation of the plans of action.</td>
<td><strong>- Frequency of consultations</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Number of members of NOPSWECO that have their institutional capacities strengthened in each member state&lt;br&gt;- 99% of women organisations and civil society organisations now know their roles in the implementation of the plans of action.</td>
<td>ECOWAS Centre for Gender and Development&lt;br&gt;United Nations entities&lt;br&gt;NOPSWECO</td>
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<td><strong>Promoting the development of a preventive culture of peace</strong></td>
<td>- A peace network made up of peace clubs in secondary and universities from ECOWAS Member states is established</td>
<td>- Establish regional network of peace clubs of secondary and university students</td>
<td>- Percentage of national network of peace clubs that are members of the regional network of peace clubs</td>
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<td>- Tools are elaborated and disseminated throughout ECOWAS member states</td>
<td>- Elaborate and disseminate practical tools on integrating gender perspectives into conflict prevention work</td>
<td>- Number of Member states that are aware of the tools</td>
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<td><strong>Strengthening early warning mechanisms</strong></td>
<td>- Provision is made for regular data update and revision</td>
<td>- Ensure regular data update and revision of ECOWAS early warning mechanisms</td>
<td>Frequency of update and revision</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Encouraging research and documentation</strong></td>
<td>Results of research are documented and made available to decision makers - Availability of data base on women participating in peace keeping operations in all the ECOWAS Member state - Review reports and comparative analyses - A database of experts is created</td>
<td>- Conduct research on lessons learned, causes and dynamics of conflicts from a gender perspective - Put in place a documentation centre for research on women, peace and security issues - Compile data on the participation of women in peace keeping operations - Document and review best practices for enhancing gender balance and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work of uniformed personnel in peace keeping operations</td>
<td>- Number of researches carried out, - number of reviews published, - number and status of persons using the documentation centre</td>
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### Strategy: Preventing and responding to gender based violence in armed conflict

- The capacity of judges and paralegals (lawyers, JPO) to prevent, prosecute and punish acts of sexual violence is strengthened.
  - Decrease in impunity
  - Women and girls easily access legal services, rights and security of women and girls in situations of pre-conflicts, conflicts and post conflicts are respected, Actors of violations of rights of women and girls are sanctioned
  - Conventions on protection are ratified by all countries
  - National laws are in line with international laws and are known and used for the protection of women and girls
  - Victims benefit from paid medical expenses and followed-up

### Expected results

- Number of judges and paralegals (lawyers, JPO…) whose capacities have been strengthened for the purpose of prevention and prosecution of acts of sexual violence
- 100% of ECOWAS Member States have training and sensitization programmes for women, girls, security forces and judiciary
- Number of women and girls that have benefited from legal assistance
- Number of cases of violations of women/girls that have been taken to the tribunals and judged
- 100% of countries ratify the conventions of protection of the rights of women
- 95% of legal documents are adapted to international laws
- 95% of national and international laws are known and used for the protection of women and girls
- Number of women and girls that have benefited from legal and medical assistance
- At least 50% of victims benefit from assistance and are followed up

### Priority actions

- Train judges and paralegals (lawyers, Officers of the Judicial police) for the prevention, protection, prosecution and punishment of acts of sexual violence
- Urge ECOWAS Member States to eradicate private militias
- Encourage the setting up of legal clinics
- Use existing protection mechanisms (ECOWAS court, African Court of Justice, ECOWAS parliament, the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights)
- Ratify the conventions for the protection of women
- Harmonise and popularise international laws with national laws
- Support victims through psychosocial support and provision of medical services, legal services and economic support

### Indicators

- Number of judges and paralegals (lawyers, JPO…) whose capacities have been strengthened for the purpose of prevention and prosecution of acts of sexual violence
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### Actors / responsible

- ACHPR
- Women of ECOWAS Member States (NGOs, political parties)
- Judges and paralegal (Lawyers, Officers of the judicial police)
- Centre for Gender and Development
- ECOWAS Member States
- United Nations entities
- OPSWECO
- Parliamentarians of ECOWAS member states
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integrating gender in peace making and peace building efforts including security sector reform</th>
<th>Heads of security services have been sensitised on the needs of women participating in peace keeping operations</th>
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<td>- Increase in number of women in peace and security institutions</td>
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<td>SSR processes are gender sensitive</td>
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<td>- Gender and peace training manuals are harmonised, gender workshops organised and gender awareness raised</td>
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<td>Common agenda of gender advisers and focal points</td>
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<td>- Sensitize heads of security services on the needs of women participating in peace keeping operations</td>
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<td>- Lobby for the integration of gender in peace keeping operations</td>
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<td>- Lobby and advocate for the increased participation of women in peace structures and security institutions</td>
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<td>- Raise awareness and train military, civilian police and humanitarian personnel on how to integrate gender perspectives in peace making and peace building activities</td>
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<td>- Promote the systematic integration of gender dimension in reforms of the judicial systems and security sector</td>
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<td>- Harmonise gender, peace and security training manuals in the region</td>
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<td>- Establish a network of gender advisers and gender focal persons at regional and country levels</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Number of heads of security service that have been sensitized on the needs of women participating in peace operations</td>
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<td>- Number of women involved in peacekeeping operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Number of women involved in the key areas of peace and security</td>
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<td>- Number of SSR policy documents in which gender is integrated</td>
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<td>- Number of persons trained in the region</td>
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<td>- Frequency of meetings of network</td>
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<td>Strategy</td>
<td>Expected results</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Promoting women's participation and ensuring availability of female mediation experts</strong></td>
<td>Parliamentarians of ECOWAS Members States, including members of the Network of Female Ministers have adopted legislations for the contribution of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts. - Capacity of women in the technique of protection and resolution of conflicts are strengthened.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ensuring women's post conflict economic recovery</strong></td>
<td>Training and other supports to income-generation activities provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Developing national plans of action</strong></td>
<td>Have a plan of action in each ECOWAS member state and effectively implement it</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ensuring representation of women in decision making instances</strong></td>
<td>- The minimum 30% is attained in all member states  - Women access positions of decision making on an equal footing with men</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Popularising resolutions 1325 and 1820</strong></td>
<td>Resolutions 1325 and 1820 are widely known at all levels</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supporting indigenous processes for conflict resolution</strong></td>
<td>Traditional methods of settlement of conflicts are effectively used  - Traditional mediators are identified and educated on resolutions 1325 and 1820</td>
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<td>Strategy</td>
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<td>Putting in place a monitoring and evaluation mechanism</td>
<td>- Reference situation on the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820 in the Member States in the ECOWAS region is available&lt;br&gt;- The implementation of the plan of action is assured at every stage&lt;br&gt;- Monitoring of respect of commitment taken by the different actors is assured&lt;br&gt;- Guidance is given where necessary&lt;br&gt;- the targeted objectives of the plan of action are attained</td>
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I bring to you the warm greetings of the African Union Commission and its Chairperson, His Excellency, Mr Jean Ping and of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate. His Excellency was looking forward to being here personally but for a previous engagement.

He therefore thanks the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa (UNOWA), Ambassador Said Djinnit for the invitation and sends his apologies and best wishes for the success of this gathering. It is his expectations that this regional forum, on the 10th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that is focusing on the challenges and opportunities for the effective implementation of the Resolution in West Africa, will achieve its laudable objectives.

The AU congratulates UNOWA for its efforts in promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and also implementing it as evidenced by its support for the establishment of the ECOWAS’ Women Network for Peace and Security (NOPSWECO), and facilitating the activities of the Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in West Africa, among other synergy initiatives to promote women’s participation in peace and security processes in West Africa.

The West African Region is especially lucky to have Ambassador Said Djinnit at the helm of affairs in UNOWA; being a former Assistant Secretary General of the OAU in charge of Peace and Security and part of the transformation of the OAU to the African Union and as African Union’s first Commissioner for Peace and Security. The OAU/AU gender programme on peace, security and development thrived during his time with the establishment of the first ever African Women Committee on Peace and Development. He also successfully guided the process that led to the adoption, by AU Member States, of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. The AU salutes your continued efforts to ensure that women’s role and concerns in peace and security matters are in accordance with all the UN and AU Resolutions and Decisions, considering the fact that you straddle both Organizations.

As observed, this meeting is taking place against the backdrop of AU’s declaration of 2010 as the Year of Peace, the launch of the 2010 to 2020 as African Women’s Decade, the 10th Anniversary of Resolution 1325, among others. The focus of this Forum is very important and timely, as it is critical to look at challenges that have been faced in the past ten years and opportunities that came with the implementation of the Resolution. This will guide in preparing the way forward. It is hoped that this would be replicated in other regions of Africa in other to have a comprehensive overview.

The African Union is cognizant that efforts at promoting gender equality and development in Africa will fail if a peaceful and violence-free environment is not ensured for women. This realization has, over time, led to the adoption by AU Member States of several policy and legal frameworks, African and global, for the benefit of African women and children. Some of these initiatives are the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the African and Global Platforms for Action on Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, UN and AU resolutions, including the UN Resolution 1325, among others. I am happy to note the presence of the Vice President of the Gambia who has been with us in the AU Gender Directorate in all processes related to the AU Gender Policy, the Fund for African Women, the processes related to the declaration of the African Women’s
Decade. She has been giving leadership and hosting various meetings in this regard. We salute you, Your Excellency.

I am also glad to note that participants at this meeting include ECOWAS, FAS, MARWOPNET, WANEP and other partners that the AU and its gender programme have been collaborating with and have been having a symbiotic relationship with since it’s coming into being in the early 1990s. I wish Dakar Forum serves as a model to the other regions constituting together with West Africa the pillars of the African Union.

I look forward to sharing details of the AU Gender Architecture including the African Women's Decade and other initiatives for women and peace in the implementation of Resolution 1325 with you in subsequent sessions of this Forum.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish us all good and fruitful deliberations.

Mrs. Yetundé TERIBA
Head, Gender Coordination and Outreach Division
Women, Gender and Development Directorate
African Union Commission
On behalf of the President
MANO RIVER UNION

On behalf of the leadership of the MRU Secretariat and that of the MRU sub region, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the organizers of the conference for inviting us and giving us the opportunity to bring out some issues that will help to enrich the deliberations. My presentation will briefly outline a few issues that have hampered, not only individual and community progress, but negatively affected overall human well being and development nationally and sub regionally.

The conflicts in the sub region have clearly demonstrated the nature and extent to which women can fully contribute to conflict resolution and peace building. The role of the Mano River Women’s Peace Network (MAWOPNET) in the resolution of the conflicts in the sub region is a clear case in point. The organization has now become a critical partner in addressing peace and security issues in West Africa.

Due to the fact that the four member states of the MRU have experienced conflict in one way or the other, three out of the four countries already have national action plans published and launched. The fourth is far advanced in formulating its national action plan. This is very commendable and therefore makes it a lot easier to collaborate from a regional perspective.

In July this year, UNOWA and MRU conducted a mapping exercise of best practices in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the four MRU. The services of two consultants were procured to carry out this exercise and their findings have been presented in this forum.

The ECOWAS Protocol on free movement needs to be popularised as most people are not aware of their rights under this protocol especially women. As a result it affects cross border trade, economic empowerment and regional integration. This protocol needs to be implemented to its fullest and the MRU intends to take this forward through its Communication Strategy that it is currently formulating.

Challenges

- Mobilisation of resources for the following:
  - Operationalisation of the Sub Regional Steering Committee – a lot of momentum has been gained on SCR1 325 and this must not be allowed to die down. It is therefore important that UNOWA assists in providing needed resources to ensure that these national action plans are implemented.
  - Continuation of the HIV/AIDS programme in the border communities.
  - Lack of knowledge of the ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of people especially by border personnel. Need to have this popularized so that it does not negatively impact on women.
  - Needed capacity at the Secretariat to enable it effectively carry out its coordinating role.

Mrs. Linda Koroma,
Deputy General Secretary of Mano River Union
**SENEGAL: Mrs. Awa N'Diaye, Minister of State, Minister of Gender and Relations with African Women Organizations, Republic of Senegal**

While thanking organizers for choosing Senegal to host the forum, the Minister greeted all initiatives undertaken by UNOWA that resulted in this meeting. She drew the attention of all Ministers in charge of gender on the urgent need to put emphasis on indicators 12 and 13 of resolution 1325 in order to ensure “increased representation and involvement of women in national and local leadership” and “the participation of women’s organisations in conflict prevention, management and resolution efforts” in their respective countries.

In reference to the Casamance conflict, she acknowledged that women, through their initiatives, are not regarded as mere observers but as full stakeholders involved in the process. They are sensitized and trained for the recovery of arms in exchange for funding for their economic projects. Their domestication of the guidelines of Resolution 1325 evidences the accelerated return to peace in Casamance. Subsequently, she commits herself to supporting the programmes that are currently being implemented in the Casamance region.

Beyond the initiatives for this specific region, she undertook to establish a steering committee on UNSCR 1325 that will be responsible for periodically reporting on progress of the above-mentioned programmes. She also announced that President Abdoulaye Wade had taken significant measures to accelerate the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Senegal.

She ended her speech by reiterating the commitment of Senegal to further accelerate and consolidate the implementation of this Resolution, including in the southern region of the country. She also reiterated the gratitude of the Senegalese Government to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, UN partners, ECOWAS, the African Union and to all the participants for holding this Forum that will also trigger anew women’s awareness about their critical potentials to lead this peace and conflict resolution process on the continent.

**ECGD: Mrs. Aminata DIBBA, Director of the ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development**

The Director of the ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development reiterated her full commitment to support the implementation of resolution 1325. She also noted the active participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

The Director informed participants of the existence of mechanisms implemented in relation to this resolution, namely an action plan adopted as an early warning mechanism. She also mentioned that the ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development has established a network for Peace and Security for Women, in the ECOWAS region (NOPSWECO).

In the consolidation process of actions for the implementation of the Resolutions 1325 and 1820, the centre held a regional consultation in the Republic of Guinea. This consultation aimed at adopting the development and implementation of a regional action plan.
Republic of the GAMBIA: Her Excellency the Vice President and Minister for Women’s Affairs Madam AJA ISATOU NJIE-SAIDY

It is with pleasure and gratitude that I deliver the closing statement, at the regional forum for the 10th anniversary of the United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325 on this day the 17th of September 2010, at Meridien President Hotel in Dakar the Republic of Senegal.

I would like to first of all thank the Government and people of the Republic of Senegal and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the United Nations Peace Mission in the sub-region, for graciously hosting the regional forum in preparation of the 10th anniversary after the adoption of the resolution. In the same way, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union and Commission are thanked for their benevolent support and contribution. The regional forum has indeed given us the opportunity to take stock of the progress made and the challenges that some of our countries are grappling with on the implementation of the United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325 and other international conventions, protocols and treaties such as the UNCEDAW, the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and on the Rights of Women’s in Africa just to name a few.

As we are all aware, October 2010 marks ten years of the existence of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security. A decade after the resolution was unanimously adopted women and women’s rights activists across the globe are assessing the level of its implementation, celebrating successes, exchanging ideas and pointing out the challenges, gaps as well as the long road that still lies ahead. The regional forum no doubt gave us the opportunity to be able to deliberate smoothly and reach useful conclusions on how to enhance women’s effective participation in conflict prevention and peace building and also prepare adequately for the New York Anniversary meeting.

May I also seize this opportunity, to commend the participants, from Member states, Pan African institutions, Regional Economic Communities, Multilateral and Bilateral partners for the good turn up, and especially for your active participation and valuable contribution during our discussions.

I wish in particular to register my appreciation to the participants for the rich inputs during countries presentations and sharing experiences on good practices, challenges and perspectives.

I believe that you will all agree with me that the regional forum has once again proved itself as an avenue where all the relevant constituents get together to share experiences, review progress and collectively design a way forward, informed by thorough analysis.

The Dakar regional forum has taken place at the time when there is growing global and continental interest around the effective implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and the outcome of the meeting has indicated our commitments in putting in place mechanisms, actions, principles and targets for results. In this connection, it is gratifying that there is a concerted effort to develop harmonised guidelines for government and civil society involvement on the popularisation and implementation of the UNSCR 1325 at all levels.

On behalf of the Ministers of Women’s Affairs, Non-Governmental Organisations here present, I wish to recognize and appreciate the continued support provided by the development partners and call for a faster mechanism for accessing resources for the implementation of the resolution, especially
ensuring that resources are mobilized for implementing sustainable programmes at country level before the October anniversary.

I am glad that we have all pledged to build on the progress made in the period under review. We have agreed on how regional institutional mechanisms (ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre, United Nations Office for West Africa) will work faster and more closely towards harmonizing regional efforts to deliver services more efficiently and effectively especially in support of regional and country action plans on peace building and post conflict management processes.

I believe that the high-level events like the forthcoming 10 Anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 to be held in New York in October 2010, will be very critical in enhancing global support and emphasizing alignment of national strategies to international development priorities such as the PRSPs and MDGs to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889.

With these remarks I wish to officially declare the regional forum for the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Peace and Security officially closed. I wish all of you safe journey back home- Bon Voyage.
**UNWOMEN (The United Nations Entity for gender equality and women empowerment)**

**Actions taken**
- Development of performance indicators to assess the implementation of the resolution; these indicators examine the number of women in peacekeeping, the number of women human rights activists that are killed, etc.,
- Focus on strengthening global mechanisms for women’s rights.

**Challenges:**
- Fragmented approach to the implementation of the resolution which contributed to the ineffective implementation of the resolution,
- Limited understanding of the significance of the resolution by Member States,
- Lack of support for women in the definition of a common agenda for effective sensitisation, which constitutes the missing link to peace and security processes as well as the MDGs and PRSPs.

**UNIOGBIS**

Support to national authorities and civil society organisations for the implementation of resolution 1325
- National and regional consultations for the establishment of a Strategic Peacebuilding Framework.
- Establishment of the Defence and Security Institutions Women’s Committee.
- Developing a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (coordination, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting).
- Support and training for the implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.
- Training law enforcement officers (police and justice) and civil society organizations on human rights and gender; support for gender analysis mainstreaming in Security Sectors.

**Gender working group activities**

Technical assistance and financial support for the promotion of:
- strategies against gender-based violence (gender analysis, responses to the justice system and customary norms) the implementation of the National Action Plan mainstreaming of gender perspective in the national dialogue and reconciliation process (women’s participation and gender issues) radio Programmes and debates on UNSCR 1325, 1820, and the rights of women (FGMs, early and forced marriages, GBVs)

**Security Sector Reform**
- Training of law enforcement officers in gender and human rights

**Lessons learned**
- Strong Gender advocacy group at all levels;
- More research and situational analysis contributing to produce case studies used in outreach activities and production of more concrete actions.
- Revitalizing and strengthening the capacities of existing women, peace and security organisations.
Challenges:

- Inadequate financial and human resources, which results in a low absorption capacity and enormous difficulties in programming.
- Many leaders of women organisations holding several positions concurrently, which delays the implementation of some activities.

UNOWA

In the framework of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325, the United Nations Office for West Africa, in partnership with the Mano River Union, the Office of High-Commissioner for Human Rights/West Africa Regional Office (HCHR-WARO) and the Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in West Africa, conducted a study on “Mapping best practices in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa”

In conducting this study, field visits were conducted in the Republic of Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The choice of these countries was based on the existence of an action plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325. The study presents achievements and experiences gained in these countries.

During the field visits, specialised agencies and United Nations country teams (UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM-now part of UNWomen, UNICEF) as well as Human Rights offices were consulted. Moreover, work sessions were held with national institutions namely Ministries in charge of women and children affairs, Ministries of Security, Ministries of Justice, Parliaments, women’s networks for peace and security, and other civil society organizations involved in the implementation of this resolution.

In the framework of this study, UNOWA took part in the regional conference on “the role of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in promoting and protecting women’s rights in Africa” held from 13 to 15 July 2010 in Bamako. This conference gave us an opportunity to collect important data from individual experts and participants on “Women, peace, security and human rights” issues.

This study, which lasted for two months highlights the progress made by each country in relation to this resolution. It concludes by pointing out some challenges and barriers, and suggests ways to enhance the implementation of the resolution.

Given the current specific situation of the Republic of Guinea, as a country simmering with conflicts, early warning strategies have been developed. This country is endowed with a peace consolidation fund, which contributes to the implementation of peace preservation and peacekeeping programmes. As regards Guinea Bissau, it focuses on security sector reform which is a major concern for the establishment of democracy and sustainable peace. Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone are engaged in a simultaneous three-stage approach consisting of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, although the approach is still very slow in some countries.

In the implementation strategy of resolution 1325 in these countries, one could notice that women and girls are eager to participate actively in the management of public affairs. They initiate and undertake actions, including advocacy to draw the attention of the general public on their situation. They are also determined to get involved in peacebuilding and potential conflict resolution by strengthening the work of associations, women’s - and sometimes mixed - networks and federations of civil society organisations (CSOs).
Regarding best practices, it should be noted that there are still considerable challenges and obstacles to be overcome by countries for resolution 1325 to be effectively implemented. These challenges and obstacles still remain due to inadequate resources for early warning responses or support to victims. In the light of the aforementioned, one could argue that improving the implementation strategy of the resolution in the countries visited implies dynamic result-based partnership. Cote d’Ivoire, for instance, resorted to Result-Based Management (RBM) to develop its action plan. It is also necessary to sensitise those who still wonder about the legitimacy of women’s participation in peace negotiations. Building sustainable peace in a given country largely depends on the ability to repair its social fabric that was torn as a result of conflict.

Ultimately, it should be noted that this study is not intended to take stock of the implementation of resolution 1325 in the various countries visited. Instead, it helped to highlight experience gained by these countries in domesticating UNSCR 1325 which should be shared and objectively exploited to encourage other countries that still have no action plan for the implementation of the resolution to develop one. Thus, all best practices related to the implementation of this resolution and other conventions on the protection of women and girls in times of conflict that are highlighted in this report stand out as a form of experience sharing glossary intended to boost women’s participation strategies in peace processes and women and girls’ protection in West Africa.

United Nations Integrated Bureau for Peace in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL).

The various conflicts in the sub-region have partly hampered the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Nevertheless, the peace and security process has made very significant progress.

This forum gives us an opportunity to take stock of challenges to effective implementation of this resolution. Preliminary actions have already been undertaken by the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg and the whole system, through a consultation with women’s organisations in Freetown. That opportunity enabled women to express their concerns about issues such as security, representation and access to justice, and to call for a revision of the Constitution arguing that current laws are outdated and discriminatory.

We are convinced that resolutions 1325 and 1820 cannot effectively be implemented unless through a comprehensive approach combining political, humanitarian, development and security actions. Huge challenges still persist, including unequal and marginalized status of girls and women in Sierra Leone, etc. However, the United Nations system continues to work with women for better implementation of the resolution in various areas (political participation of women, etc.) and under various forms (informal meetings, etc.). Other programmes such as the introduction of a quota of at least 30% of women at all levels by 2012 are underway.

Ultimately, it should be noted that during the training sessions of 7200 staff members of law enforcement agents and defence forces, topics on human rights and women’s role in the security sector were among the main modules. Although there are challenges, progress achieved and efforts towards a peaceful and egalitarian society need to be saluted. We seize this opportunity to thank Sierra Leonean women for their unfailing endeavours to establish and keep peace in their country.
BENIN

This country did not experience armed conflicts and this allowed it to pioneer democracy. Nonetheless, the President of the Republic of Benin finds it wise to commit himself to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 if necessary.

Challenges:
- Ignorance of resolution 1325 and related instruments;
- The law on women’s representation quota is still being developed.
- Illiteracy and ignorance of women;
- The lack of interest of Members of Parliament in the Law on violence against women and girls left the bill unvoted despite women’s protest march against the National Assembly.

Prospects:
- Prepare a National Action Plan on Resolution 1325;
- Popularise and disseminate Resolution 1325;
- Organise communication and awareness sessions for populations on peace and peacekeeping;
- Translate all legal instruments into local languages and popularise them;
- Establish a reliable database on gender based violence;
- Establish a National Network of Peace and Security for Women in Benin;
- Bring MPs to understand the importance of voting this code. This entails planning training sessions for the latter while taking into account their availability.

COTE D’IVOIRE

It is the first African country to have developed an action plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Activities carried out for the implementation of UNSCR 1325:
- Execution of Programme: « Support to the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 » in 2006;
- Adoption by the President of the Republic of the Solemn Declaration of Côte d’Ivoire on equal opportunities, equity and gender on February 21 2007;
- Development of a five-year National Action Plan (2008–2012) for the implementation of R. 1325 while focussing on Results-Based Management (RBM);
- Creation of centres of operational excellences and platforms for holistic assistance to victims of sexual and domestic violence;
- Implementation of projects to identify income generating activities for women victims of war in the framework of post-crisis reconstruction;
- Training members of the integrated command centres (ICC), judges, police forces, gendarmerie and military on gender mainstreaming in the Ivorian army restructuring;
- Implementation of a National Coordination of Women for Elections and Post-Crisis Reconstruction (COFEMCI-REPC) and a strategic plan of the CSO for elections and post-crisis reconstruction in 2008;
- Support to the establishment in Côte d’Ivoire of the national and regional ECOWAS Network of Peace and Security for women (NOPSWECO).
**Challenges and prospects**

- Undertake mid-term assessment of the National Action Plan on R.1325.
- Take actions to ensure domestication of this action plan by all stakeholders including in areas under the control of the New Forces;
- Mobilize resources for effective implementation of various pillars of the Action Plan.
- Build capacities of the civil society to support the process.

Resolution 1325 was a valuable tool for Côte d’Ivoire in its post-crisis reconstruction planning stage. We should therefore mobilise necessary resources for its effective implementation.

**GHANA**

Development of a National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 is in progress.

**Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges**

- Poor consideration of the resolution by the Government
- Limited number of highly qualified women professionals to engage effectively in peace processes as mediators and negotiators

**Prospects**

- Need to finalize the development and implementation of the national Action Plan of Ghana on UNSCR 1325;
- Analyze the gender dimension for the implementation of peace operations, policies, legal instruments and community funding where there are victims of disaster (Alavanyo, Dagbon, Bawku, Anloga etc.);
- Build the capacity of security personnel to be sent in peacekeeping missions on the rights of women and girls;
- Ensure a gender balance in recruiting security personnel to be sent in peacekeeping missions;
- Integrate peace studies in curricula, at all levels and in higher studies, and put emphasis on training of high-level mediators and negotiators;
- Ghana’s architecture for peace is a commendable policy framework. It is necessary, as an urgent matter, to provide legal support to the process by turning it into law;
- Increase the number of women in councils to meet the specific needs and aspirations of women in peacebuilding processes;
- Simplify and translate the key instruments (such as CEDAW, resolutions 1325 and 1820) so as to empower women to engage in peace processes.

**REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**

The Government of the Republic of Guinea, in collaboration with civil society organizations, has developed strategies and appropriate solutions in order to respond to the looming threat of conflict.

**At the Government level**

- Developing a strategic plan with a 2009-2013 National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820;
- Establishing a support programme for Women’s Movement funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding fund;
- Developing a national strategy to end Gender-Based Violence;
- Creating an Office for the Promotion of Gender, Children and Manners in the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection;
• Organizing regional workshops for the domestication of Resolution 1325 and its Operational Plan of Action intended for Judges and representatives of the Law;
• Distribution of 200 booklets on CEDAW and Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 in eight garrisons and military regions intended for Defence and Security Forces.

At the Civil Society Organizations level
• Installing two community radio for women, one at Lola which covers the border areas of Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire, and the other in Coyah covering Coyah, Dubréka, Boffa, and Forécariah prefectures as well as part of Conakry;
• Mainstreaming some resolutions in the training curricula of the Defence and security forces.

Challenges:
• Poor mobilization of financial resources; Low representation of women in prevention, management and peacekeeping mechanisms; Lack of reference and transit centres for psychosocial care and healthcare for women victims of violence;
• Non-compliance with the 30% quota of women in recruiting security forces;

Prospects:
They mainly consist in mobilizing financial resources for broadening synergy actions by all stakeholders to ensure that strategic objectives outlined in the action plan are fully implemented with good results.

GUINEA BISSAU

Achievements in the implementation of Resolution 1325:  
• Adoption of a National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325;
• Setting up a Steering Committee responsible for implementing UNSCR 1325;
• Mainstreaming two women organizations in the Peacebuilding Steering Committee;
• Creation of Women’s Political Platform as a consultation framework for lobbying by political parties and public authorities to facilitate the representation of Guinea Bissau women in decision-making spheres;
• Creation of the International Committee for Peace and Security, a platform that brings together Women involved in politics and Military;
• Launch of the Guinea-Bissau branch of the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS (NOWPSWECO) in November 2009;
• Women held senior political and judicial positions in the country, including:
  • Minister of the Presidency of the Ministerial Council;
  • Minister of Women, Family, Social Cohesion and the Fight against Poverty;
  • President of the Supreme Court of Justice;
  • Minister of Interior;
  • Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration;
  • Secretary of Treasury and Fiscal Affairs.

Challenges
• High rate of illiteracy among women;
• Little consideration of women’s issues by decision-makers and political parties;
• Frequent political and military instability with its detrimental effects on women and children;
• Political and cultural barriers;
• Inadequate domestication of the Law with the main international instruments protecting the rights of women.
Prospects:
- Adopt and implement strategies to enable greater participation of women in all decision-making spheres;
- Recruit more Women in the defence and security sector;
- Mainstream gender in all peacebuilding efforts;
- Revise, adjust and implement the electoral legal framework in force in order to allow fixing fair and equal access to political offices.

LIBERIA

Activities implemented:
- Establishment of a Steering Committee for R.1325 in five regions to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan;
- Establishment of psychosocial support and protection centre to prevent domestic GBV;
- Development and implementation of a communication strategy and creation of a popularisation working group;
- Amendment of the Criminal Code and legislation for better consideration of violence against women and all forms of discrimination against them;
- Establishment of a Criminal Court and a Sex Crime Unit in the Ministry of Justice to ensure prosecution in case of sexual assault;
- Establishment of a mobile unit of prosecutors within the Ministry of Justice;
- Developing a gender module and its mainstreaming in training manuals for security officers and paralegals;
- Instituting a gender equality policy and a Fund for GBV survivors;
- Establishing a programme to ensure training for women in peacebuilding, conflict mediation and women leadership;
- Establishing a training Institute for legal and paralegal professionals;
- Setting up a Women’s Democracy radio station;
- Building decentralised courts (in areas where they were non-existent);
- Setting up a Community Watch Forum all over the country to improve relations between citizens and police;
- Establishing village ‘peace houses’ with rural women responsible for preventing violence against women and peacebuilding;
- Setting up a Journalist Network against Sexual and Gender Based Violence;
- Establishing a Religious Leaders’ Network to accompany and support the fight against GBV;
- Develop programme involving men in the fight to end violence against women;

Challenges:
- Harmonisation of international, regional and sub-regional instruments with national laws;
- Recruitment of women within the security sector, including the armed forces;
- Adoption of bill on gender equity in politics;
- Enhancement of the quality of traditional peace-building mechanisms;
- Mobilisation of financial resources;
- Female illiteracy which limits their full participation in politics;

Prospects by the end of 2011:
- Develop a strategy for a 20% presence of women in security;
- Implement a programme for rural women empowerment;
• Identify and train women, men and young people to serve as UNSCR 1325 crusaders; in order to lobby at the national level to strengthen violence prevention policies;
• Establish a mechanism to report on the implementation of the R.1325 Action Plan to be sent to the President.

MALI

Measures for the implementation of UNSCR 1325:
• Establishment of a peace and security consultation framework through a shared Peace and Security governance programme, in which women must now play their full role.
• Elaboration, in 2003, of a directory of women executive to serve as an advocacy tool by decision-makers.

Challenges:
• Ignorance of resolution 1325 by decision-makers and women; Inadequate financial resources to support women; Ignorance of women’s rights protection instruments by the actors (the judiciary, security forces ...); Low representation of women in decision-making spheres; Illiteracy of the vast majority of women; Deep-rooted socio-cultural beliefs; Persisting violence against women.

Prospects:
• Popularizing and disseminating Resolution 1325; Communication and awareness sessions intended for the population;
• Popularizing CEDAW through national languages;
• Building women’s capacity in conflict management;
• Establishing a reliable database on violence against women;
• Setting up the Malian branch of the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOWPSWECO- MALI) in a near future;
• Developing a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325;
• Popularizing a peace education culture.

MAURITANIA

Some measures taken by the Mauritanian government in relation to the implementation of UNSCR 1325
• Implementing a “conflict prevention” pilot project in four border and agricultural regions of the country since 2009;
• Establishing a national agency responsible for the overall repatriation and reintegration process;
• Developing a national strategy to end Female Genital Mutilations accompanied with a five-year action plan that is materialised by the implementation of a programme to combat FGMs in the five regions with high prevalence, in 2007;
• Implementing an HIV/AIDS programme through a multi-sectoral response involving such aspects as information and training women, armed force and security personnel in particular;
• Training 1,800 female popularisers and mediators;
• Sensitising 120,000 women and girls on the prevention and the fight against HIV / AIDS; Training and informing military and security forces about HIV / AIDS prevention.
NIGER

The Northern part of the country is faced with rebellion. Such a situation fosters widespread poverty within the country. Niger has adopted the resolution but has no action plan for its implementation.

Strategies developed:

- Developing strategies for effective implementation of resolution 1325;
- Initiating mediation strategies to end violence;
- Supporting the network of women in peacebuilding and conflict management;
- Building capacity on conflict prevention and strengthening partnership between women and men in conflict prevention and peacekeeping.

NIGERIA

Progress on conflict resolution and peacebuilding issues

- 454 female police officers sent to India, Bangladesh and the United States as part of the United Nations police;
- Reform of the defence and security sector, the armed and police forces, as required for TCCs in order to address and implement such issues in wartime;
- Adopting a policy promoting the recruitment of women into national Defence and police services and subsequently facilitate their deployment in peace missions;
- Establishing an Inter-ministerial Committee on Gender and peace initiated by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, consisting of military, paramilitary, police, staff of ministries and departments, as well as civil society groups involved in this field. The aim is to implement UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and other global instruments to increase the representation of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution;
- Holding of a national forum on Women, Peace and Security; Drafting a national report on resolution 1325 in the context of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of its adoption.

Challenges:

- Poor understanding of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions; Inadequate resources allocated for the popularisation of the resolution; Lack of sensitisation / popularisation of the resolution; Lack of collaboration between the Government and CSOs in this field.

Prospects:

- Capacity building for all stakeholders; Strengthening partnership; Developing a national action plan for the implementation of this resolution;
- Popularising the resolution.

SIERRA LEONE

Activities realised:

- Developing an Action Plan for the implementation of R.1325;
- Organising workshops on indicators;
- Developing guidelines for a quota of at least 30% of women representation in decision-making bodies;
- Appointment of women to the position of Deputy Chief of Defense staff of the Army, Chief
Immigration Officer, and police Assistant Inspector General;
• Participation of women in peacekeeping missions in Darfur and Haiti;
• Developing a gender-sensitive policy within the police and the army and providing equal access to opportunities within these forces;
• Establishing Women’s Forum to promote women’s leadership in all areas including peace and security;
• Mainstreaming R.1325 implementation action plan in PRSP 2;
• Recruiting gender focal points and providing logistical and technical support for their operationalization;
• Member State of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which promotes women’s participation in the reconstruction process;
• Establishing national committee to end violence against women in order to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence related crimes;
• Setting up a Family Support Unit (FSU) within the police to address specific cases of sexual and gender based violence;
• Developing a national protocol guidance for children survivors of sexual and gender based violence;
• Passing the Law on Domestic Violence.

Challenges:
• Low representation of women in peacekeeping and security institutions within the security forces and in the civil service;
• Need to build the capacity of the judicial system to effectively address women related cases;
• High rate of unemployment among the youth;
• Lack of mechanism to support actions for the implementation of Resolution 1325;
• Lack of collaboration in proceedings against violence or crime perpetrators;
• Lack of technical infrastructure and adequate screening equipments to conduct forensic tests on victims of sexual and gender-based violence;
• Lack of competence of certain media in GBV information processing;
• Poor mainstreaming of gender in political parties and lack of accountability mechanism requiring political parties to abide by women’s quotas;
• Low involvement of young women and girls in peace and security issues;
• Low funding for women’s activities and projects on peace and security;
• Poor technical capacity of women and organisations responsible for designing and reporting on funded activities.

TOGO

Togo has not developed a national action plan for implementation of Resolution 1325. Nonetheless, actions inspired by UNSCR 1325 were conducted by both the Government and civil society organisations.

• The Independent National Electoral Commission was chaired by a woman in 2005;
• Successful organization of a training workshop on the role of women in conflict prevention and management and on Resolution 1325;
• Two women’s organizations representing civil society organisations managed, during the inter-Togolese dialogue, to bring political parties that had signed the Global Political Agreement to commit themselves in writing to “work toward ensuring fair representation of women in
electoral processes and the social politics”;
• The Togolese branch of the Network of Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region has been established and its statute, rules and procedures and an action plan have been developed as directed by the regional NOPSWECO.

Challenges:
• Inadequate budget resources allocated for the implementation of gender programmes, plans and policies;
• High rate of illiteracy and poverty among women, and inefficient legal assistance preventing the vast majority of them to benefit from public service of justice (e.g. charges for procedures, difficulty to enforce court decisions);
• Low involvement of women in conflict prevention, management and peacebuilding.

Prospects:
• Popularizing resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 in local languages;
• Advocacy with government agencies to formally implement the resolutions and preferably in close collaboration with Civil Society Organisations;
• Effective participation of women in peace processes.
Network On Peace and Security for Women in the Ecowas Region (NOPSWECO)

Actions taken for the implementation of UNSCR 1325

• Mediation for the development of a dialogue and consultation framework to end crisis in Côte d’Ivoire, "the Ouagadougou political Agreement" of March 2008 led by the Facilitator, President Blaise Compaore;
• Capacity building of women in leadership and prospective female candidates. This action resulted in a female candidate running for the presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire;
• Active participation in advocacies by the Heads of State for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Subsequently, the President of the Republic had signed on February 21 2007, the Solemn Declaration on Equal Opportunities, Equity and Gender;
• The Ivorian President signed an ordinance requiring public and private institutions to apply a quota of 30% participation of Ivorian women in political and administrative business management, so as to achieve gender equality as stipulated in the Constitution;
• Active participation of local platforms to end gender-based violence;
• Participation in the support movement with ECOWAS, the ECGD, the United Nations and international community partners for the establishment of the National Action Plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Republic of Guinea.

Challenges at the sub-regional level

• Lack of a regional instrument for monitoring the implementation of resolution 1325 in West Africa; Lack of necessary financial resources for the establishment and proper functioning of a Regional Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325; Inadequate information sharing and exchanges on best practices, techniques and approaches for effective implementation of resolution 1325.

Prospects:

• Develop and implement an Action Plan, including full national domestication of Resolutions and protocols in the sub-region.

WANEP

Activities implemented:
Establishing the Women in Peace building Program (WIPNET).

WIPNET Experience in the sub-region:

• Collaboration with ECOWAS gender Unit to develop a policy framework for mainstreaming women’s issues in peace & security in West Africa;
• Establishment of Rural Women peace Committees in 4 countries as pilot study to build capacity of West African women so as to participate actively in peace building in Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire.

At national levels:

• Development of manuals on Resolution 1325 and their translation into 7 West African national languages.
Challenges:
- Underrepresentation of women in decision-making bodies;
- Limited access to justice for women and girls affected by armed conflicts and violence (absence of gender justice);
- Inadequacies in the development of national action plans: only three countries have NAPs.

Prospects:
UN and ECOWAS:
- Establish links with local stakeholders working on gender dimension of peace & Security;
- Create and sustain forums for periodic exchange of ideas & knowledge;
- Develop a framework in favor of women in West Africa to support the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and to provide monitoring and evaluation oversight;
- Support and fund national actions for effective implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Civil Society Organisations:
- Encourage organisations to actively participate at grassroots and policy levels for the effective implementation of the resolution 1325;
- Encourage networking among organizations for the effective implementation of the resolution 1325.

National Governments:
- Clearly define indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of the National Action Plan (NAP) in relation to women, peace and security;
- Allocate resources for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325;
- Mainstream resolutions 1325 and 1820 in foreign and security policies.

WIPSEN

Extent of women’s involvement in peacebuilding processes in line with UNSCR 1325.
- Raising awareness, carrying out sensitization activities, simplifying and building capacity on the resolution at both leadership and community levels. See actions undertaken in Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, and in Ghana.

Challenges:
- Lack a collective security agenda;
- Poor accessibility and underrepresentation of women in formal structures of peace and security at regional, national and even community levels.

Prospects:
- Make peace and security a women’s agenda;
- Provide gender expertise to Peace & Security structures including traditional bodies;
- Devise strategies for promoting accountability for 1325 in Peace and Security institutions;
- Build and/or support women-led peace and Security institutions that provide viable and complementary options to policy makers and implementers.
The following strategies were adopted in the Senegalese defense forces:
Creating a working platform: This platform aims to plan, implement and coordinate activities related to the implementation of UNSCR 1325. It is based on an inclusive approach involving the State, civil society organizations and development partners. Moreover, it reflects the multidisciplinarity (NGOs, Universities, private and public sectors, etc.) required to embrace as many points of view as possible for consistent and effective implementation of resolution 1325.

Following the recommendations of the resolution, indicators related to women's mainstreaming and management processes within the Senegalese armed forces have been defined by the platform to assess the level of implementation of the resolution.

Indicator 15: Regarding the protection of fundamental rights of women and girls by national legislation in accordance with international standards, the Ministry of Armed Forces, while working on Gender Equity and Equality, takes into account the protection of the above-mentioned rights. The platform is also working towards reviewing laws and regulations in the force and proposing their harmonization with sub-regional, regional and international standards. For instance the Act 7023 which makes military service mandatory for men and optional for women is considered discriminatory because it violates social, economic rights, and involves unequal tax treatment etc.

Indicator 17: There are now national mechanisms for small arms control, etc.

Prospects:
- The platform is currently producing an initial document on a ‘Study and Analysis of legal texts: Assessing 25 years of experience of women’s mainstreaming in the Armed Forces including Peacekeeping Operations’;
- Four (4) transitional justice mechanisms are expected by the Platform:
  - Truth commissions;
  - Compensation programmes: Application of Act 81-52 relating to the code of civil and military pensions; proposed revision under way to deal with the issues of inheritance for women soldiers who died in military operations, benefits under the compensation programmes, and types of benefits to women and girls;
- Justice for Women;
- Criminal prosecution.

Amnesty International – CÔTE D’IVOIRE

Challenges:
The State of Côte d’Ivoire
- Establish the rule of law;
- Provide medico-psychological and social assistance to women victims of sexual violence and atrocities in peacetime and in times of crisis;
- Implement programmes on sexual and reproductive health at national level. Women themselves should play important role in the design and implementation of these programmes;
- Comply with the 30% quota of women in decision-making spheres, Government and within their political parties;
- Establish a sustainable gender-sensitive budgeting mechanism.
Ivorian civil society organisations, especially women’s rights organisations:

- Ensure the visibility of UNSCR1325;
- Establish a regional network of UNSCR1325 caucuses: best practice and experience sharing and knowledge dissemination communities; create a regional database to monitor progress in the implementation of resolution 1325 in each country;
- Establish a focal point of violence against women and one-stop centre on violence against women-related information and statistics.

International Organisations and Donors

- Find an independent and impartial national focal point that can professionally and reliably guide, monitor, advise and assist them to better read and decode social governance context in Côte d'Ivoire in general and UNSCR1325 environment in particular.

Prospects

- Establish sexual and gender-based violence task-forces within defence and security forces.
- Solicit health authorities to deliver medical certificates free of charge to victims of rape.
- Solicit the United Nations, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, ECOWAS, the AU to support the implementation of Resolution 1325 national caucus, the creation process of the African Network of resolution1325 caucuses and the establishment of funding system for these caucuses.

Association of Women Lawyers – MALI

Achievements:

- Establishment, within each country’s Staff headquarters, of a woman officer-led unit responsible for educating and informing members of the armed and security forces about the provisions of resolution 1325 concerning the rights of women and children in conflict zones;
- Participation of some “Malian female soldiers” as "military observers" or "peacekeepers" in peacekeeping missions worldwide.

Challenges:

- Establish a mechanism that enables all stakeholders involved in prevention and peace management to know about and understand the spirit of UNSCR 1325;
- Work towards the ownership of UNSCR 1325 by women’s organisations and all actors involved in the life of the nation (armed and security forces, civil society, opinions leaders...);
- Strengthen the gender dimension within the armed and security forces as well as in any other areas where actors are involved in prevention, resolution and peacebuilding processes.

Prospects:

- Harmonize legal instruments, resolutions and conventions;
- Formalize and harmonize the recruitment methods of women within armed and security forces;
- Enact specific legislation to end violence against women and girls;
- Build a reliable network between different organisations and technical partners on resolution 1325.
**MARWOPNET**

**Actions undertaken for the implementation of UNSCR 1325:**
- Conflict Resolution: Recipient of United Nations Prize for Human Rights in December 2003, given the critical role the organization played and is still playing in the resolution of conflicts in the Mano River Basin;
- Capacity building: on conflict prevention and resolution techniques;
- Sensitization: 22,577 people have been sensitized on UNSCR1325, including 17,600 pupils, students and teachers; 2783 women and 1634 youngsters from civil society organisations, political parties, public, private and informal sectors have been sensitized in 5 municipalities of Conakry in addition to the use of rural and community radio;
- Popularisation of UNSCR 1325: More than 38,000 copies of UNSCR 1325 and related documents made and distributed for a better understanding of resolution 1325;
- Translation of the resolution into malinke, sousou, pulaar, Kpele, toma and kissiei.

**Achievements:**
- Establishment of the National Network of Guinean Traditional Communicators;
- Socio-professional reintegration of 360 former agricultural volunteers and their training in conflict prevention and resolution techniques in the prefectures of Macenta and Guéckédou;
- Setting up consultation frameworks for conflict prevention, and peace committees in schools;
- Establishment of village early warning observatories, especially in border area communities.

**Challenges**
- Poor ability of women to influence decision-making processes;
- Insufficiency of resources mobilized for the implementation of activities;
- Dissipated initiatives in the implementation of resolution1325 by various national and international institutions; Poor involvement of rural women in the implementation of resolution 1325.
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