

# 1325+10 WOMEN COUNT FOR PEACE

IN WEST AFRICA

## THE DAKAR DECLARATION & ECOWAS PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1325 AND 1820 IN WEST AFRICA



OUTCOME DOCUMENTS OF THE REGIONAL FORUM ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY  
DAKAR, SEPTEMBER 2010





The Dakar Declaration on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 and its related regional plan of action for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) were adopted in Dakar on 17 September at a Regional Forum entitled «Women Count for Peace».

The event took place at ministerial level on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. It was organized under the auspices of the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in collaboration with various Regional Offices in West Africa such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Information Centre in Dakar (UNIC).

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## THE DAKAR DECLARATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 IN WEST AFRICA

A 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), the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UN-INSTRAW, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner 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, Programs and Funds as well as Civil Society institutions and organizations from West Africa also participated at 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 and relief and recovery. The forum adopted the ECOWAS Plan of Action for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in West Africa. The implementation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action will be coordinated by ECOWAS through its Gender Development Centre while the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOPSWECO) will serve as the coordinating body for Civil Society Organisations in West Africa. An entity comprising West African Ministers in charge Women Affairs and Gender, ECOWAS, MRU, the African Union and United Nations will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Plan of Action. 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 plan of action on the implementation of resolution 1325 with the financial support of the United Nations.
2. Member States should guarantee and promote the systematic integration of gender in the processes of judicial and security sector reforms.
3. UNIFEM/UN-INSTRAW should work with ECOWAS through the Gender Development Center to support key actions of the departments in charge of gender in the implementation of the national plans of action 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 organizations 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; ECOWAS and the AU will appoint more women as special envoys and senior mediators; database of female mediators in the region will be created; measures will be strengthened to encourage women's full participation in electoral process and at all levels of decision making instances;
- Popularise Resolution 1325: through translations in local languages, training, sensitization, and awareness campaigns targeted at decision makers, police and military, judicial sector, schools, youth, local women as well as men groups. In addition the 'Open Day' will be institutionalized as a means for SRSGs to meet with women's representatives regularly and be briefed on women's issues in the region as well as an opportunity for sensitisation on the Resolution at national as well as 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 peace keeping operations.

## Prevention

- Strengthen preventive diplomacy: request the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations 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

- Adopt measures to 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;
- Strengthen post-incident relief measures - measures will be strengthened to provide adequate access to health, psycho-social services and trauma counseling for sexual and gender-based violence survivors
- Strengthen socio-economic reintegration measures - measures will be strengthened to ensure effective socio-economic integration of women in post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes.

The Forum mandated H.E. Aja Njie-Saidy, Vice-President of the Gambia, H.E. Henriette Olivia Akossiwa-Kouevi Minister for Women of the Republic of Togo, and H.E. Awa Ndiaye, Minister of State for Gender and African Women Organisations of Senegal, to submit the West African Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 to the forthcoming ECOWAS Summit of Heads of States for consideration.

The forum further requested H.E. Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary General to present this declaration and the regional plan of action to the UN Secretary-General and Member States during the 'Global Open Day' on 21 October held in the context of the 10th anniversary celebration of Resolution 1325 for recognition and support.

The Forum,  
Dakar, 17 September 2010

## 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

Strategy	Expected results	Priority actions	Indicators	Actors / responsible
<b>Specific objective 1: to improve women's participation in the prevention of conflicts in ECOWAS countries</b>				
<b>Strengthening women organisations and CSOs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Systematic NGO consultation, enhanced capacity of women's groups</li> <li>-Institutional capacities of members of NOPSWECO are strengthened in all the member states</li> <li>-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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institutionalise 'open day' for regular consultation of SRSG and the President of ECOWAS with women groups and representatives</li> <li>- Strengthen the institutional capacity of NOPSWECO</li> <li>- Organise consultations with women organisations and Civil Society organisations to underline their roles in the implementation of the plans of action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frequency of consultations</li> <li>- Number of members of NOPSWECO that have their institutional capacities strengthened in each member state</li> <li>- 99% of women organisations and civil society organisations now know their roles in the implementation of the plans of action</li> </ul>	ECOWAS Centre for Gender and Development  United Nations entities  NOPSWECO

<p><b>Promoting the development of a preventive culture of peace</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A peace network made up of peace clubs in secondary and universities from ECOWAS Member states is established</li> <li>- Tools are elaborated and disseminated throughout ECOWAS member states</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish regional network of peace clubs of secondary and university students</li> <li>- Elaborate and disseminate practical tools on integrating gender perspectives into conflict prevention work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage of national network of peace clubs that are members of the regional network of peace clubs</li> <li>- Number of Member states that are aware of the tools</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strengthening early warning mechanisms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision is made for regular data update and revision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure regular data update and revision of ECOWAS early warning mechanisms</li> </ul>	<p>Frequency of update and revision</p>	
<p><b>Encouraging research and documentation</b></p>	<p>Results of research are documented and made available to decision makers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Availability of data base on women participating in peace keeping operations in all the ECOWAS Member state</li> </ul> <p>Review reports and comparative analyses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A database of experts is created</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct research on lessons learned, causes and dynamics of conflicts from a gender perspective</li> <li>- Put in place a documentation centre for research on women, peace and security issues</li> <li>- Compile data on the participation of women in peace keeping operations</li> <li>- Document and review best practices for enhancing gender balance and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work of uniformed personnel in peace keeping operations</li> <li>- Put in place a database of gender experts on resolution 1325</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of researches carried out,</li> <li>- number of reviews published,</li> <li>- number and status of persons using the documentation centre</li> </ul>	

Strategy	Expected results	Priority actions	Indicators	Actors / responsible
<p>Specific objective 2: to ensure effective protection of women and girls in pre -conflicts, conflicts and post conflicts</p>				
<p><b>Preventing and responding to gender based violence in armed conflict</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The capacity of judges and paralegals (lawyers, JPO..) to prevent, prosecute and punish acts of sexual violence is strengthened.</li> <li>- Decrease in impunity</li> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Conventions on protection are ratified by all countries</li> <li>National laws are in line with international laws and are known and used for the protection of women and girls</li> <li>- Victims benefit from paid medical expenses and followed-up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train judges and paralegals (lawyers, Officers of the Judicial police) for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of acts of sexual violence</li> <li>- Urge ECOWAS Member States to eradicate private militias</li> <li>- Encourage the setting up of legal clinics</li> <li>- Use existing protection mechanisms (ECOWAS court, African Court of justice, ECOWAS parliament, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights)</li> <li>- Ratify the conventions for the protection of women</li> <li>- Harmonise and popularise international laws with national laws</li> <li>- Support victims through psychosocial support and provision of medical services, legal services and economic support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of judges and paralegals (lawyers, JPO...) whose capacities have been strengthened for the purpose of prevention and prosecution of acts of sexual violence</li> <li>- 100% of ECOWAS Member States have training and sensitization programmes for women, girls, security forces and judiciary</li> <li>- Number of women and girls that have benefited from legal assistance</li> <li>- Number of cases of violations of women/ girls that have been taken to the tribunals and judged</li> <li>- 100% of countries ratify the conventions of protection of the rights of women</li> <li>- 95% of legal documents are adapted to international laws</li> <li>- 95% of national and international laws are known and used for the protection of women and girls</li> <li>- Number of women and girls that have benefited from legal and medical assistance</li> <li>- At least 50% of victims benefit from assistance and are followed up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACHPR</li> <li>- Women of ECOWAS Member States (NGOs, political parties</li> <li>- Judges and paralegal (Lawyers, Officers of the judicial police)</li> <li>- Centre for Gender and Development</li> <li>- ECOWAS Member States</li> <li>- United Nations entities</li> <li>NOPSWECO</li> <li>-Parliamentarians of ECOWAS member states</li> </ul>



	<p>Increased awareness of reproductive health issues in communities facing post-conflict situations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Orientation guideline on knowledge of rights, behaviours and attitudes to adopt towards women and girls in situations of conflicts and post conflicts are available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide training and support to vulnerable groups on prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections/HIV</li> <li>- Elaborate and disseminate an orientation guideline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of training/ participants, number of cases attended to</li> <li>- The orientation guideline</li> <li>- Number of copies distributed</li> </ul>	
<p><b>integrating gender in peace making and peace building efforts including security sector reform</b></p>	<p>Heads of security services have been sensitised on the needs of women participating in peace keeping operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in number of women in peace and security institutions</li> </ul> <p>SSR processes are gender sensitive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender and peace training manuals are harmonised, gender workshops organised and gender awareness raised</li> </ul> <p>Common agenda of gender advisers and focal points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensitize heads of security services on the needs of women participating in peace keeping operations</li> <li>- Lobby for the integration of gender in peace keeping operations</li> <li>- lobby and advocate for the increased participation of women in peace structures and security institutions</li> <li>- Raise awareness and train military, civilian police and humanitarian personnel on how to integrate gender perspectives in peace-making and peace building activities</li> <li>- Promote the systematic integration of gender dimension in reforms of the judicial systems and security sector</li> <li>- Harmonise gender, peace and security training manuals in the region</li> <li>-establish a network of gender advisers and gender focal persons at regional and country levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of heads of security service that have been sensitized on the needs of women participating in peace operations</li> <li>- Number of women involved in peacekeeping operations</li> <li>- Number of women involved in the key areas of peace and security</li> <li>- Number of SSR policy documents in which gender is integrated</li> <li>- Number of persons trained in the region</li> <li>- frequency of meetings of network</li> </ul>	

Strategy	Expected results	Priority actions	Indicators	Actors / responsible
Specific objective 3: to ensure equal participation of women and men in peace, security and reconstruction processes in post conflict situations				
<b>Promoting women's participation and ensuring availability of female mediation experts</b>	<p>Parliamentarians of ECOWAS Member 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</p> <p>- Capacity of women in the technique of protection and resolution of conflicts are strengthened</p>	<p>- Lobby at the level of parliamentarians and the Network for Female Ministers and Parliamentarians</p> <p>- Train women in the technique of lobbying, advocating, public speaking, mediation and negotiation skills</p> <p>- Train actors (women, girls, judiciary personnel, opinion leaders) in the technique of protection of women in conflict situations, peace mediation and negotiation</p>	<p>- Number of women in the delegations constituted to negotiate peace agreements.</p> <p>- Number of women in each Member State whose capacity in the technique of prevention and resolution of conflict have been strengthened.</p>	<p>- ACHPR</p> <p>- Women of ECOWAS Member States (NGOs, political parties)</p> <p>- Judges and paralegals (Lawyers, Officers of the judicial police)</p> <p>- Centre for Gender and Development</p> <p>- ECOWAS Member States</p>
<b>Ensuring women's post conflict economic recovery</b>	<p>Training and other supports to income-generation activities provided.</p>	<p>- Conduct gender analysis in planning and execution of post conflict rehabilitation programmes</p> <p>- Design and implement livelihood creation programmes</p> <p>- Conduct specific skills training</p> <p>- Provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs</p>	<p>Number of women that have accessed economic recovery support</p>	<p>- United Nations entities</p> <p>- NOPSWECO</p> <p>- Traditional chiefs</p>

<p><b>Developing national plans of action</b></p>	<p>Have a plan of action in each ECOWAS member state and effectively implement it</p>	<p>- Carry out high level missions for i. the elaboration of plans of action for countries that do not have one ii. work towards the effective implementation of plans of action in each country</p>	<p>100% of Member States have plans of action that are being implemented.</p>	
<p><b>Ensuring representation of women in decision making instances</b></p>	<p>- The minimum 30% is attained in all member states - Women access positions of decision making on an equal footing with men</p>	<p>- Urge ECOWAS member state to respect women quota - lobby for 50% representation in all instances of decision making -train women electoral workers and candidates including women at the local levels</p>	<p>Percentage of women in positions of decision making</p>	
<p><b>Popularising resolutions 1325 and 1820</b></p>	<p>Resolutions 1325 and 1820 are widely known at all levels</p>	<p>- Inform and sensitise women on resolutions 1325 and 1820 - Translate resolutions 1325 and 1820 in the national languages -Disseminate resolutions 1325 and 1820 in the ECOWAS Member States (ministerial departments, CSO etc)</p>	<p>- Number of women informed and sensitised on resolutions 1325 and 1820 -Number of languages into which the resolutions have been translated</p>	
<p><b>Supporting indigenous processes for conflict resolution</b></p>	<p>Traditional methods of settlement of conflicts are effectively used -Traditional mediators are identified and educated on resolutions 1325 and 1820</p>	<p>- Involve traditional authorities in the settlement of conflicts and the protection of victims - identify and educate traditional mediators (men and women) on resolutions 1325 and 1820</p>	<p>- A large part of conflicts are settled amicably within the communities - Number of traditional mediators that have a good knowledge of resolutions 1325 and 1880</p>	

Strategy	Expected results	Priority actions	Indicators	Actors / responsible
<b>Monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of the plan of action</b>				
<p><b>Putting in place a monitoring and evaluation mechanism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reference situation on the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820 in the Member States in the ECOWAS region is available</li> <li>- The implementation of the plan of action is assured at every stage</li> <li>- Monitoring of respect of commitment taken by the different actors is assured</li> <li>- Guidance is given where necessary</li> <li>- the targeted objectives of the plan of action are attained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carryout a baseline study of the implementation of resolution 1325</li> <li>- Establish a network of Gender and women empowerment Ministers to monitor and ensure commitment on peer level</li> <li>- Carry out regular monitoring missions</li> <li>- Conduct quarterly review of implementation process</li> <li>- Conduct annual gender audit</li> <li>- Carryout annual prize giving event for heroes of implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- extent of operationalisation of the plans of action</li> <li>- Availability of operational mechanisms</li> <li>- Number of follow up missions that have been carried out</li> <li>- Number and quality of reports produced</li> <li>- Number of measures taken for the implementation of the resolutions,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development</li> <li>- United Nations entities</li> <li>- AU/ACHPR</li> <li>- MRU</li> <li>- Member States</li> <li>- Professional Organisations such as FIDA</li> </ul>

## RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 was unanimously adopted in October 2000. It is a landmark legal and political framework that acknowledges the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. Resolution 1325 has 4 main focus areas.

1. 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 conflicts;
  - in peace negotiations;
  - in peace operations, as soldiers, police and civilians;
  - as Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General.
2. Protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, including:
  - in emergency and humanitarian situations, such as in refugee camps;
  - through pre-deployment and in-theatre training to peace operations personnel on the rights of women and girls and effective protection measures.
3. Prevention of violence against women through the promotion of women's rights, accountability and law enforcement, including by:
  - prosecuting those responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and other violations of international law;
  - respecting the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps;
  - excluding sexual violence crimes from amnesty agreements, as they may amount to crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide;
  - strengthening women's rights under national law;
  - supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.
- 4 Mainstreaming of gender perspectives in peace operations, including by:
  - appointing Gender Advisors to all UN peace operations;
  - considering the specific needs of women and girls in the design and development of policy in all areas;
  - incorporating the perspectives, contributions and experience of women's organizations in policy and programme development.

## RESOLUTION 1820 ON CONFLICT RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Resolution 1820 (2008) recognizes conflict-related sexual violence as a matter of international peace and security. The resolution calls for:

- a. armed actors to end the practice of using sexual violence against civilians to achieve political or military ends
- b. all parties to conflict to counter impunity for sexual violence and provide effective protection for civilians
- c. the United Nations and peace operations to develop mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

