
PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Regional Training Series for Women Leaders From West Africa Civil Society on Mediation

Second Session
from 3 to 7 October 2011- Saly, Senegal

Dakar, 30 September 2011 - The United Nations entity for Gender equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women) and the United Nations Office in West Africa (UNOWA), in close collaboration with the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre, the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOPSWEKO), and with the support of the kingdom of Norway and other organizing partners, are convening the second session **of the regional training series on mediation** in Saly, Senegal, from the 3 to the 7th October. This training will bring together **32 high-level women leaders from across the West African region**, 2 from each of the 16 countries.

The training series **aims at strengthening the role and increase the participation of women mediators in West African peace processes**. The goal is to increase the knowledge and skills of the participants on mediation and gender related issues, to strengthen their capacities on the techniques of advocacy, negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, as well as to train the participants to put the skills and knowledge acquired into practice.

This training session is **the second meeting in a series of three**. The focus of this session will be **Outreach and Advocacy**. The goal is to emphasize the role of outreach and advocacy as a means for greater participation of women in the process of negotiating and implementing peace agreements in the sub-region. The previous session was held in Abuja, Nigeria between the 19th and the 23rd of July 2011, and focused on skills development. The theme of the third and final session, scheduled for November this year, will be 'Forming a community of practice'.

The initiative behind this training series derives from the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 in West Africa. One of the key actions defined in the Regional Action Plan is to ensure that a number of high level female mediators from Civil Society are prepared to effectively intervene in the resolution of conflicts across the region.

This training responds to **the need for women's increased involvement in mediation processes** in order to significantly contribute to peace and stability in West Africa.

Contacts:

Marie Pierre Raky Chaupin

TRUST FUND and EVAW coordinator -
UN WOMEN- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
West Africa Sub Regional Office
Dakar Senegal
Email: mariepierre.raky.chaupin@unwomen.org
Tel Office +221 33 869 9972

Peter R SAMPSON

Head of Mediation Support /advisor
United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)
Dakar, Senegal
Tel Office+22133 869 85 82 (landline)
Email: sampsonp@un.org

Media and Press

Mariam Tendou KAMARA

Regional Communication Officer
UN WOMEN, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
West Africa Sub regional Office,
Dakar, Senegal
Email : Mariam.kamara@unwomen.org
Tel Office: 221 33 869 9978

Laurence Gérard,

Public Information
United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)
Dakar - Senegal
Tel Office: +221 33.869.8560 –
E-mail: gerardl@un.org –

Blogsite: www.unwomenwestafrica.blog.com

Website: www.unwomen.org

www.unowa.unmissions.org