

Women's Peace Dialogue – April 5-6, 2013

Kinshasa Call to Action - Women Speak, Women Act for Peace!

We, women leaders, peacebuilders and human rights activists from Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, participated in the Women's Peace Dialogue in Kinshasa, DRC on April 5-6, 2013 facilitated by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and CAFCO to contribute to the attainment of genuine and sustainable peace throughout the whole of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes Region.

We reaffirm our commitment for women's rights throughout the region to promote peace, security and sustainable development in the region and the full and effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, and 1960.

Over the years, various interventions and peace negotiations for the attainment of peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been undertaken. Yet, armed conflict still persists and various armed groups such as the M23 continue to wreak havoc on the lives of Congolese people especially in the eastern region of the country.

A Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, has been signed by 11 African states in Addis Ababa on February 24, 2013. There were also other instruments, resolutions, and agreements adopted such as the Comprehensive Strategy on Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Yet, in spite of numerous efforts and resources spent on securing peace and stability in Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, the incidence of sexual and other forms of violence against women continue to rise.

We remind our governments, international and regional actors of their obligations enshrined in the human rights instruments they have committed to.

We demand concrete actions to end the violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, and to protect women and girls from rampant sexual and gender-based violence.

In the spirit that peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will also lead to peace in other countries in the Great Lakes region, and the world, we demand the following:

To the Institutions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Organize an "Inclusive Peace Dialogue" at national and provincial levels that incorporates political parties, CSOs particularly women's organizations, traditional leaders, faith-based organizations, police

and military, justice sector, private sector, the diaspora and all key national and provincial ministers to discuss and address the root causes of the conflict.

- Guarantee at least 50% active participation of women in all peace negotiations and peace processes.
- Take into account women's concerns in the implementation of agreements particularly the March 23, 2009 agreement and Peace and Security Cooperation Framework signed on February 24, 2013.
- Increase the number of women in decision-making positions and implement the parity law in accordance to Article 14 of the Constitution.
- Sign the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, operationalize the steering committee and monitor its implementation.
- Ensure national unity and territorial integrity through reforms of governmental institutions, laws that reflect good governance and setting up of truth and reconciliation mechanisms.
- Prosecute all perpetrators of violence in the country to end impunity and render justice to victims.
- Implement a holistic program that will benefit all victims of sexual and gender-based violence including provision of financial support, legal assistance, and medical and psychosocial counseling services.
- Honor the memories of victims of the conflict by establishing structures such as hospitals, women's training centers and schools.
- Intensify efforts for the protection of the civilian population especially women and children.
- Ensure equitable development and just distribution of revenue within all regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with Article 58 of the Constitution.
- Strengthen and implement a national legal and regulatory framework to address the proliferation and circulation of arms in the country and adhere to the newly adopted UN General Assembly on Arms Trade Treaty.
- Ensure the participation of women in consultations planned for the operationalization of the Peace and Security Cooperation Framework.

To the signatories of Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and the African Union

- Honor the commitments made under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and the Kampala Declaration to eliminate violence in the region.
- Employ good governance practices of transparency and accountability.
- Adhere and implement the regional legal and regulatory framework as well as the UN General Assembly Arms Trade Treaty to address the proliferation of arms in the Great Lakes Region and across Africa.
- Increase women's participation in the current peace process facilitated by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, in particular the laws on traceability of the four minerals (gold, coltan, cassiterite, wolframite).
- Ensure the transparency, accountability and accessibility of relevant information as well as the enforcement of laws and policies regarding the extraction of natural resources in the Great Lakes Region.
- Introduce programs such as peace education in the Great Lakes Region as well as public sensitization campaigns on peace.
- Find solutions for nationality, ethnicity and citizenship issues, some of the key factors that are fueling the conflict in the Great Lakes Region and in Africa.
- Address the needs of refugee and IDP population in the neighboring countries by facilitating their return, setting up mechanisms for choice of residence or revitalizing the mandate of the Tripartite Commission on refugees set up by Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and UNHCR.

- Enforce laws and established mechanisms to combat human trafficking in the Great Lakes Region and across Africa.

To the United Nations

- Ensure that MONUSCO continue to effectively monitor and report on the human rights situation and support national and international efforts to protect, promote and fulfill the human rights of Congolese people.
- Ensure that the Intervention Brigade that was recently approved by the Security Council under UNSCR 2098, does not violate the rights of civilian populations especially women.
- Facilitate discussions with women groups to ensure that their perspectives on UNSCR 2098 are taken into account in its implementation.
- Ensure that all peacekeeping forces, including the Intervention Brigade, adhere to the principles of zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse in the execution of their mandates.
- Incorporate women's concerns in the future execution of the Intervention Brigade's mandate.
- Provide gender sensitization training of security forces, national militaries, and the police.

To the Donor Community

- Support the establishment of a fund for victims and survivors of conflict particularly sexual and gender-based violence.
- Support the establishment of memorial structures for victims of the conflict such as hospitals, women's training centers and schools.
- Support the implementation of a reparation program that will benefit all victims of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Support all initiatives of women's organizations that advance the women, peace and security agenda.
- Support capacity building initiatives that enable women to effectively participate in conflict resolution processes in the country and the Great Lakes Region and across Africa.

To Civil Society

- Conduct advocacy campaigns with the African Union, European Union, United Nations and other multilateral and bilateral partners to ensure that peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will contribute to the attainment of sustainable peace in the Great Lakes Region and across Africa.
- Identify and appeal to prominent women and men leaders in the Great Lakes Region and around the world who could serve as champions of the women and peace and security agenda in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Great Lakes Region and the rest of Africa.
- Name and shame government officials who are involved in corrupt practices.
- Report multi-national companies who are involved in resource exploitation and corruption and bring them to justice.
- Engage in the monitoring of the implementation of 1325 including the ongoing civil society monitoring coordinated by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders.
- Conduct a gender analysis of the peace agreements on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region with a special emphasis on popularization of the agreements at the grassroots level.
- Continue to undertake capacity building trainings and dissemination of information on women's rights and issues with a particular emphasis on sexual violence.

- Monitor and report on the implementation of the recent agreement signed between the Congolese government and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence.

The Women's Peace Dialogue and Women's Peace Delegation is an initiative of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and its member organizations Cadre Permanent de Concertation de la Femme Congolaise (CAFCO), African Women's Active Nonviolence Initiatives for Social Change (AWANICH)-Democratic Republic of the Congo, Réseau Femme et Développement, Women International League for Peace and Freedom-Democratic Republic of the Congo, and other civil society partners.