



BRIDGING POLICY AND PRACTICE: ENHANCING CIVIL SOCIETY ROLES IN AU PEACE AND SECURITY FRAMEWORKS

*JOINT ECOSOCC AND WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTRE CSO
MEETING REPORT ON THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA.*

Date: 12-14 September 2024

Location: Radisson Blu Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia



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BACKGROUND

The Joint ECOSOCC and Women's International Peace Centre CSO Meeting on the State of Peace & Security in Africa and Regional Learning and Networking Exchange, held from 12th to 14th September 2024 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia, was convened in response to the persistent peace and security challenges faced by the African continent. These challenges included violent conflicts, unconstitutional changes of government, and the rise of militant groups, which continued to threaten stability and governance across Africa. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have played a critical role in addressing these issues, advocating for inclusive governance, human

rights, and social justice at the grassroots level.

The African Union's Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC) has been pivotal in facilitating CSO engagement in the AU's peace and security agenda, particularly through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the AU Agenda 2063. In recognition of the growing need for civil society to be involved in the continent's peace efforts, AU-ECOSOCC partnered with the Women's International Peace Centre (The Peace Centre) to organize this important meeting. With three decades of experience promoting women's leadership in peace-

building in conflict and post-conflict settings, The Peace Centre has been a leading force in amplifying the voices of women and youth in peace and security processes.

The Peace Centre's work is supported by its participation in the Just Future Alliance, which includes partnerships with international CSOs and regional actors such as Cordaid, the Africa Security Sector Network (ASSN), and the West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP). Together, these organizations work to create a world where shifts in power dynamics lead to more inclusive and accountable security and justice systems. The Just Future programme focuses on strengthening the capacity of primary stakeholders, enabling collective advocacy, and promoting more accessible and responsive institutions—particularly in the inclusion of women and youth in decision-making processes.

The meeting was part of the ECOSOCC and APSA @20 Anniversary

commemorations, celebrating two decades of civil society contributions to the AU's peace and security agenda. It also aimed to highlight the significant gaps in CSO participation within AU peace and security frameworks, such as the Livingstone Formula and the Maseru Conclusions, and to propose strategies for overcoming these challenges.

The event provided a platform for over 55 participants from across Africa, including CSOs from Botswana, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia to share experiences, reflect on challenges, and develop strategies to enhance their role in peace and security and develop actionable strategies to enhance civil society's role in peace and security. It also fostered deeper partnerships between CSOs and AU-ECOSOCC, focusing on the implementation of the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) and Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agendas.

In addition to in-depth

discussions and collaborative sessions, participants were given the opportunity to visit the AU-ECOSOCC Headquarters and the home of Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's first president, now a museum. Dr. Kaunda's legacy as a champion of African unity, peace, and self-determination served as a source of inspiration, reinforcing the importance of civil society's role in shaping a peaceful and secure Africa.

By the end of the meeting, participants developed a detailed action plan and agreed on key recommendations aimed at enhancing CSO participation in AU peace and security initiatives. The meeting not only reinforced the need for continuous collaboration between CSOs and the AU but also underscored the importance of including women, youth, and grassroots communities in decision-making processes.

The work program was divided into seven key sessions as follows:



PROCEEDINGS

2.1. Opening Ceremony

The meeting commenced with opening remarks from:

Ms. Sandra Adong Oder, Executive Director of the Women's International Peace Centre, in her remarks, acknowledged the significant gaps in CSO involvement in peace mechanisms across Africa. She emphasised the need for youth and women to be fully engaged in peace and security conversations, as their roles are central to the implementation of peace initiatives and ensuring the peace dividend of the continent is realised. To highlight the added value CSOs bring to achieving Agenda 2063, she proposed that the African Union

consider designating the 2026/2027 the Year of Civil Society Organization and the Realization of Agenda 2063.

She further underscored the importance of recognising the legacy of President Kenneth Kaunda in peace and security, proposing that the Kenneth Kaunda Museum be designated a specialised AU centre. Noting that there has been progress in advancing women's leadership role in peace-building, she also invited all stakeholders to begin preparing for celebrations in 2025 for the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform, and the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

“Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is about creating an environment where everyone, especially women and youth, can thrive and contribute meaningfully,” Ms. Oder remarked. *“These reflections and conversations must be taken seriously if we are to achieve the Africa we want.”*

Mr. William Carew, Head of Secretariat, AU-ECOSOCC, expressed his gratitude to all attendees and emphasised the need for collaboration in addressing Africa’s complex peace and security challenges. He praised the partnership between AU-ECOSOCC and the Women’s International Peace Centre as a significant milestone in the journey toward inclusive peace-building.

“For two decades now, AU-ECOSOCC has been the voice of African civil society within the African Union. Our partnership with the Women’s International Peace Centre is a significant milestone in this journey,” Mr. Carew noted. He highlighted the achievements and gaps that

remain in CSO engagement within AU peace and security frameworks, emphasising the need for actionable strategies and honest dialogue. He invited participants to bring their experiences, ideas, and passion to the discussions, stating, “As we embark on this journey over the next three days, I urge us all to remain committed to the vision of a peaceful, secure, and prosperous Africa. Let us build on our shared strengths, address our common challenges, and seize the opportunity to shape the future we want—a future where peace is not just an aspiration but a reality for all Africans.”

Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga, the Emeritus Presiding Officer opened the meeting by emphasising the urgency of peace-building efforts in Africa as the International Day of Peace which will be commemorated on 21st September 2024 approaches. “The International Day of Peace is more than just a date on the calendar; it is a call to action. It challenges us to work together in solidarity to

achieve a world where peace is not just an aspiration but a lived reality for all,” he stated.

He highlighted the critical challenges Africa faces, including violent conflicts, unconstitutional changes of government, identity politics and political instability, and called for inclusive dialogue, collaboration, and sustainable development as the core principles guiding the African Peace and Security Architecture and the AU’s Agenda 2063. He commended the assembly for taking this opportunity to strategise and reflect on how CSOs can engage more effectively in the peace and security discourse. “I am especially pleased to see so many esteemed delegates and partners here today,” he added, acknowledging the presence of key partners and stakeholders. “Our dialogues here in Lusaka will directly inform our side event at the Summit for the Future in New York, where we will ensure that African civil society voices are amplified”.

2.2. Overview of Existing Frameworks for CSO Engagement in Peace & Security

The first session provided a comprehensive analysis of AU-ECOSOCC's structures and their strategic role in promoting peace and security across Africa. Mr. Nana Osei, Head of Programs at AU-ECOSOCC, led the session by presenting on AU-ECOSOCC's central role in implementing the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and key frameworks like the Livingstone Formula and Maseru Conclusions.

The objective of the session was to equip Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with a deeper understanding of AU-ECOSOCC's mandate, structure, and strategic approaches to addressing the peace and security challenges on the continent. Mr. Osei elaborated on the primary security challenges Africa faces and

the need for CSOs to actively engage with AU frameworks. Participants discussed the various challenges CSOs encounter in engaging with these frameworks, such as limited access to AU decision-making processes, and identified potential solutions to enhance collaboration between CSOs and the AU.

The session emphasized the critical role of CSOs in supporting the AU's peace and security agenda, particularly in implementing key frameworks like the Livingstone Formula, which facilitates CSO participation in AU peace and security mechanisms. Overall, it was a productive exchange that reinforced the importance of strategic partnerships between CSOs and AU-ECOSOCC in promoting continental peace and security.

Emerging Issues:

1. There is a significant gap in CSO involvement in peace mechanisms.
2. Full engagement of youth and women in peace and security discussions is necessary.
3. Recognition of CSO roles in implementing peace and security frameworks is crucial.
4. There should be commemoration and reflection on CSO contributions to peace-building, such as recognizing Kenneth Kaunda's legacy and the Beijing Platform for Action.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Enhance CSO involvement in AU peace and security mechanisms by strengthening the capacity of CSOs to engage effectively in peace processes, especially in decision-making spaces at the AU.
2. Institutionalize CSO roles in policy implementation by formalizing their role in implementing peace and security frameworks, such as the Livingstone Formula and Agenda 2063.

Support commemorative events for awareness and engagement, such as the Beijing Platform for Action anniversary, to raise awareness and foster dialogue.

2.3. The Role of States, Regional Institutions, and Non-State Actors in The Effective Implementation of The Livingstone Formula and Maseru Conclusions.

This session explored the collaborative roles of states, regional institutions, and non-state actors in effectively implementing the Livingstone Formula and Maseru Conclusions, both key frameworks for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engagement in peace and security within the African Union (AU). It aimed to highlight best practices and challenges in multi-stakeholder engagement, while offering recommendations to enhance collaboration in AU peace and security mechanisms.

Chaired by Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga from the Centre for Basic Research, the session featured presentations from several prominent stakeholders. Ms. Makda Mikre Tessema from the African Union Commission (AUC) provided an overview of the AU's normative frameworks for democracy and governance under the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). She emphasized the crucial role CSOs play in promoting



inclusive governance and democratic processes, which are vital to sustainable peace efforts.

Ms. Valentine Atonde from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) shared her insights on engaging CSOs in West Africa's peace and security efforts. She discussed the regional strategies employed to foster collaboration between states and non-state actors and highlighted the institutional challenges faced in ensuring effective CSO participation in conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives. Ms. Salma El Tanany from the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) focused

on CIDO's role in facilitating civil society engagement within the AU. She highlighted the challenges in fostering cooperation among various stakeholders, while pointing out opportunities for deeper CSO involvement, particularly in conflict resolution and early warning systems.

Dr. Oita Etyang from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa COMESA presented COMESA's governance, peace, and security framework, emphasizing their initiatives to implement the Livingstone Formula. He underscored the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in peace-building processes

and discussed COMESA's efforts to support CSOs in addressing security challenges across the region. Ms. Marie Bebey from the Pan African Parliament provided insights into the Parliament's role in legislative advocacy for peace and security, elaborating on how CSOs can collaborate with parliamentarians to influence policies related to conflict prevention, governance, and human rights.

Key takeaways from the session included the

recognition of regional institutions like ECOWAS and COMESA as key actors in implementing peace initiatives and fostering stronger CSO engagement. Effective multi-stakeholder collaboration remains critical to the success of frameworks such as the Livingstone Formula and Maseru Conclusions. CSOs were acknowledged as essential contributors to advancing peace and security, particularly through advocacy, capacity building, and providing grassroots perspectives to inform policy.

Opportunities for deeper engagement between CSOs and regional institutions were identified, but the session also underscored the need to address institutional challenges to ensure more inclusive and sustainable peace processes. Overall, the session reinforced the importance of strengthening partnerships between states, regional bodies, and CSOs to effectively implement peace frameworks and promote long-term stability across the continent.

Emerging Issues:

1. There is a need for a stronger understanding of AU and ECOSOCC roles and frameworks.
2. The integration of faith-based and professional organizations in peace and security discussions is required.
3. There is a need for monitoring and evaluation of AU-ECOSOCC frameworks.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Develop educational campaigns on AU-ECOSOCC frameworks by creating accessible materials and campaigns to educate CSOs on AU-ECOSOCC mandates and structures.
2. Incorporate faith-based organizations in peace processes by recognizing and integrating the significant role of churches and religious groups in community peace-building efforts.
3. Establish robust monitoring mechanisms by setting up clear monitoring and evaluation frameworks for CSO and AU engagements to ensure accountability and transparency.

2.4. Experiences of CSOs in Promoting Peace and Security

This session highlighted the practical experiences, contributions, and challenges faced by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promoting peace and security across Africa. Chaired by Dr. Gosnell Yorke from the Pan-African Development Forum and University of Copper Belt, the session emphasized the central role of CSOs in supporting member states, regional institutions, and continental bodies in peace efforts, including early warning systems, conflict prevention, peace-building, good governance, and connecting with grassroots communities.

Mr. Jonathan Sandy, Head of the ECOSOCC Peace and Security Cluster, reflected on the spaces created for dialogue and CSO input into AU initiatives. He discussed strategies for strengthening CSO engagement with ECOSOCC, particularly

through enhancing dialogue and collaboration on peace and security issues.

Ms. Yobu Annet Modi from EVE Organisation, South Sudan, shared insights on the role of CSOs in promoting peace during the upcoming elections in South Sudan. She discussed strategies for monitoring elections, mediating disputes, and facilitating dialogues between political actors and communities to prevent violence and ensure peaceful outcomes.

Mr. Clovis Kadda from Réseau pour la Réforme du Secteur de Sécurité et de Justice (RRSSJ) DRC, focused on CSOs' role in addressing armed conflict and militancy in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He emphasized how CSOs have implemented community-based peace-building initiatives, working with local

communities affected by violence to promote peace and stability.

Ms. Marie-Louise Baricako from Mouvement Inamahoro, Rwanda/Burundi, presented examples of community-driven initiatives within displaced and refugee populations. She highlighted how these local initiatives have contributed to peace and security and influenced national, regional, and continental agendas.

The session underscored the importance of CSO involvement in peace processes, particularly in conflict-affected regions. The experiences shared by the speakers illustrated how CSOs play a critical role in early warning systems, mediation, and post-conflict reconstruction, emphasizing their contribution to long-term peace and security on the continent.

Emerging Issues:

1. Women and youth are excluded from peace negotiations.
2. There is a need for consistent CSO engagement and dialogue with government bodies.
3. There are gaps in understanding of electoral processes and frameworks.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Ensure inclusive participation in peace negotiations by mandating the inclusion of women and youth representatives in all peace negotiation and agreement processes.
2. Establish continuous dialogue platforms with governments by developing formal platforms for regular engagement between CSOs and government bodies to address peace and security challenges.
3. Provide civic education on electoral processes by partnering with CSOs to provide training and resources on electoral processes, especially in post-conflict settings.

2.5. The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agendas in Africa

This session focused on enhancing the participation of women and youth in peace-building efforts across Africa, from local to regional levels. Chaired by Mr. Erwau Emmanuel from Women Partners for Health, South Sudan, the session addressed strategies for strengthening the implementation of National Action Plans on WPS and YPS, with an emphasis on locally led participation, leadership, and mainstreaming women and youth in peace processes.

Ms. Godelieve Manirakiza from Association des Femmes Rapatriées du Burundi (Association of Repatriated Women of Burundi) (AFRABU), East Africa, opened the discussion by presenting strategies to enhance the involvement of women and youth in formal peace negotiations in conflict regions such as the DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. She reflected on the ongoing challenges and progress in ensuring their participation in peace talks and negotiations, stressing the importance of creating more inclusive spaces for women and youth in decision-making processes.

Ms. Mea Monde from the Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network spoke about regional strategies to address socio-economic challenges while promoting women and youth as key actors in peace-building. She emphasized the need for gender-sensitive and youth-inclusive approaches, highlighting how states can support these groups to become pivotal in resolving conflicts and rebuilding societies.

Mr. Patrick Longonia from Centre d'Etudes sur Handicap, Justice et Resolution 1325 (CEHAJ1325) Central Africa, compared the strategies for implementing National Action Plans on WPS and YPS across different countries within the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). He shared best practices and lessons learned from countries that have successfully integrated women and youth into peace and security agendas, offering valuable insights for other regions seeking to improve their WPS and YPS efforts.

The session underscored the critical role of women and youth in peace-building and the importance of integrating their voices into peace processes at all levels. By enhancing the implementation of National Action Plans on WPS and YPS, the speakers emphasized the need for sustained efforts to ensure that women and youth are not only participants but leaders in peace and security initiatives across Africa.

Emerging Issues:

1. Socio-economic challenges disproportionately affect women and youth.
2. There is resistance and intimidation against women in peace-building roles.
3. Cross-border challenges affect women's participation in peace processes.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Support socio-economic empowerment of women and youth by developing targeted programs to address socio-economic barriers for women and youth, including grants and capacity-building initiatives.
2. Combat intimidation and violence against women in peace-building by implementing protective measures and support systems for women involved in peace and security processes.
3. Facilitate cross-border cooperation and dialogue by establishing platforms for cross-border dialogues to address regional peace and security issues affecting women and youth.

2.6. Conversation Circles on Re-imagining Peace and Security in Africa - Policy Recommendations for Effective Peace-building

This session focused on identifying strategic priority areas for strengthening civil society advocacy in advancing the African Union Peace and Security Agenda, with an emphasis on building strategic alliances to address emerging challenges to human security. Moderated by Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga from the Centre for Basic Research, this segment facilitated 3 group discussions aimed at generating policy recommendations and advocacy strategies for addressing the root causes of conflict in Africa.

The meeting identified key actions to be taken forward. Participants committed to continuous collaboration and follow-up on the agreed outcomes.

2.6.1.Key Emerging Issues and High-Level Recommendations:

a) Pressing Peace and Security Challenges in Africa:

Emerging Issues:

1. Proliferation of Firearms: In countries like South Sudan, Uganda, and Kenya, the widespread availability of military arms, especially in private hands, exacerbates cattle raiding and weakens legal authority.

2. Multiplicity of Armed Groups: In the DRC, the presence of regional armed groups and international forces such as the East African Standby Force and MONUSCO complicates peacekeeping efforts.

3. Inadequate Legal Frameworks: Countries like South Sudan lack robust legal systems, which weakens control over armed groups and arms proliferation.

4. Militarization of Politics: In many African countries, the military's involvement in politics undermines democratic institutions and encourages electoral violence.

5. Corruption: Widespread corruption hinders efforts to establish peace and security.

6. Ethnic Divisions and Language Barriers: Ethnicity and linguistic differences continue to fuel tensions, particularly in countries with diverse populations.

7. Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources: External investors exploit Africa's natural resources, as seen in Zambia, where licenses given to local investors are sold to international entities.

8. Land and Border Conflicts: Internal and external territorial disputes (e.g., South Sudan and DRC-Rwanda) remain sources of conflict.

Recommendations:

1. **Address Root Causes:** Focus on understanding and resolving the underlying factors driving arms proliferation and conflicts, such as poverty and inequality. This should include an AU-led disarmament and development program.
2. **Peace Education Advocacy:** Use community-based and social media platforms to promote peace education and challenge the militarization of politics.
3. **People-Centered Security:** Shift focus to security approaches that prioritize the needs and safety of local communities.
4. **Empower Local Communities:** Strengthen community-led networks and ensure controlled and sensitized empowerment of local populations to address land and border conflicts.

b) Tools, Technologies, and Approaches for CSOs:

Emerging Issues:

1. **Understanding Root Causes:** CSOs should adopt strategies that address the underlying causes of conflict rather than superficial symptoms.
2. **Community Advocacy:** Using community mainstream media and social media to push peace agendas is vital for raising awareness and challenging harmful ideologies.
3. **People-Centered Security:** Empowering local communities through education and legal frameworks helps to foster peace and stability.
4. **Controlled Empowerment:** Ensuring that local communities are adequately empowered without creating new power imbalances or vulnerabilities.

Recommendations:

1. **Root-Cause Approach:** CSOs should focus on addressing root causes such as poverty, corruption, and arms proliferation in their peace and security initiatives.
2. **Leverage Technology for Advocacy:** Utilize social media and community-based platforms to spread awareness on peace education and advocacy, specifically targeting youth and local populations.
3. **Build Community Networks:** Establish networks that facilitate better communication and coordination between local actors and national authorities to enhance security and community resilience.
4. **Empowerment Programs:** Develop local empowerment initiatives focusing on education, employment, and sustainable development.



CALL FOR ACTION

1. Innovative Tools and Approaches for CSOs to Address Peace and Security Challenges

For Member States	For African Union	For AU ECOSOCC	For Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach challenges through root causes, implement AU-led disarmament and development programs Promote peace education, adopt people-centered security approaches Empower local communities, invest in conflict prevention mechanisms Strengthen democratic governance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a clear deterrence policy for states starting wars Strengthen the implementation of the AU non-indifference policy Empower the African Academy of Languages Establish a centralized database for reporting and accessing information Promote regional cooperation and integration and support the development of sustainable peace building frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local infrastructure development, promote AU-led development plans, Support effective early warning systems, Play an active role in border conflicts, produce accurate election reports, Facilitate dialogue and mediation between conflicting parties, and Advocate for the inclusion of marginalized groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local development, promote AU-led initiatives Advocate for peace education Collaborate with CSOs to enhance their capacity and effectiveness Provide financial and technical assistance Raise awareness of peace and security issues.

3.2. Strengthening Strategic Alliances for Peace-building

For Member States	For African Union	For AU ECOSOCC	For Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a common strategic agenda for peace and security Establish platforms for regional and national-level consultations Collaborate with civil society organizations, and work closely with traditional leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate regional meetings and consultations Support the development of a common strategic agenda Ensure that CSOs are involved in policy development and implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote partnerships between CSOs, regional bodies, and governments, support community-level engagement Facilitate knowledge-sharing and capacity building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical and financial support to strengthen partnerships Promote regional cooperation Advocate for the inclusion of civil society in peace-building efforts.

3.3. Re-imagining Civil Society Advocacy within the AU Peace and Security Architecture

For Member States	For African Union	For AU ECOSOCC	For Strategic Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support consultative engagement between CSOs and communities Facilitate access to information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop online platforms for information sharing Facilitate communication between CSOs and AU bodies Support the development of regional peace and security definitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate collaboration among CSOs Promote knowledge exchange between CSOs and communities Advocate for financial resources to support CSO activities Coordinate with other AU bodies to ensure effective implementation of peace and security initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide capacity-building support to CSOs on peace and security issues, Explore alternative funding models for CSOs Promote the inclusion of marginalized groups in advocacy efforts.



CLOSING REMARKS

The meeting concluded with highly commendatory remarks from **Mr. Boniface Cheembe, a member of the ECOSOCC national chapter and Executive Director of the Southern African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes.** He praised the success of the event, emphasizing its significance in fostering stronger collaboration between civil society organizations (CSOs) and the African Union (AU) on peace and security matters.

Following Mr. Cheembe, **Mr. Jonathan Sandy, Head of the ECOSOCC Peace and Security Cluster,** reflected on the spaces created for dialogue and CSO input into AU initiatives

throughout the meeting. He highlighted the need to continue enhancing dialogue and collaboration, stressing the importance of CSOs in shaping effective peace and security strategies. Mr. Sandy discussed various strategies for strengthening CSO engagement with ECOSOCC to further amplify their impact on AU peace and security agendas.

Mr. William Carew, Head of the AU-ECOSOCC Secretariat, and Ms. Sandra Adong Oder, Executive Director of the Women's International Peace Centre, delivered the official closing remarks. Mr. Carew reflected on the importance of the spaces created during the meeting for dialogue and the

valuable input from CSOs in shaping AU peace and security initiatives. He reiterated the need for ongoing collaboration and partnerships to strengthen civil society engagement with ECOSOCC, emphasizing the role of CSOs in shaping a more peaceful and secure Africa.

Ms. Sandra Adong Oder proposed that this meeting be referred to as the “Lusaka Process”, given the high level of significance and impact it has had in promoting peace and security initiatives. She expressed optimism for the future of civil society engagement, calling the meeting a critical milestone in advancing the African Union’s peace agenda. Both leaders commended the participants for their active involvement and encouraged continued efforts toward sustainable peace and security across the continent



**Women's
International
Peace Centre**

Renforcer la voix et le pouvoir des femmes

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