



EMPOWERING VOICES, BUILDING PEACE:

ADVANCING THE WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY AGENDA IN EAST AFRICA

— INSIGHTS FROM THE 2023 REGIONAL
LEARNING AND NETWORKING EXCHANGE.

28TH - 30TH AUGUST 2023 / SALINERO KILIMANJARO HOTEL - MOSHI, TANZANIA

REPORT OF THE MEETING



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1. Introduction

1.1 Convening of the Meeting

The Regional Learning and Networking Exchange for Just Future Partners on Women, Peace and Security was held from 28th-30th August, 2023 in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania. The main objective of the Meeting was to create a platform for learning and knowledge sharing on matters of Women, Peace and Security.



1.2 Background

In the year 2000, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (UNSCR 1325) was signed. The resolution calls on all parties to the conflict to respect international treaties applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, taking into account their special needs during repatriation and resettlement and increase their representation at all decision-making levels for the management and resolution of conflict.

However, 22 years after the passage of the UNSCR 1325, women throughout the world are still excluded from most peace building and peacekeeping efforts including mediations and negotiations. In 2020, The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified 35 killings of women human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in

seven conflict-affected countries where data could be retrieved. Between 1992 and 2019, only 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators and 6 per cent of signatories in major peace processes were women (<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc14768.doc.htm>). In addition, the number of women remains low at the top levels of decision-making in peacekeeping missions, in the ranks of civilian and military personnel, at peace negotiating tables, and in post-conflict governance and development processes (EAC 2015).

The UNSCR 1325 was later consolidated by the UNSCR 1820 which stresses that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war in order to deliberately target civilians or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security.

In 2005, the Security Council called on State parties to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) to operationalize the implementation of the Resolutions. The NAPs are supposed to identify priority areas as well as the requisite resources to actualize the priorities. Africa has made progress in terms of providing legal and policy frameworks; establishing institutional mechanisms for implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda with over thirty (30) of its member states implementing National Action Plans (NAPs), UN State of Women Peace and Security Agenda Report 2022. In the EAC, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda have developed and are reporting on the NAP.

1.3 Objectives of the International Learning and Networking Exchange

The Learning and Networking Exchange had the following objectives:

- It enabled participants to understand the role of EAC, the mandate, structure and activities of the Community;
- Provided a platform to internalize the EAC frameworks and legal instruments on Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security with particular focus on the implementation, progress and challenges, the role of the Partner States and accountability mechanisms;
- It provided a platform for the participating States to share experiences on implementing the respective instruments on Women, Peace and Security;
- Provided opportunity for networking for Just Future CSO partners focused advocacy for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250; and
- Created a platform for Just Future partners to engage the EAC technical team on Gender, Peace, and Justice.

1.4 Participation

Participants to the Exchange and Learning forum were drawn from the Just Future partners from Republic of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Niger and Mali. The partners were joined by experts on Women, Peace and Security from the Ministries of East African Community Affairs from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republics of Burundi, South Sudan and Uganda. Technical expertise was provided by staff from the EAC Secretariat.



The Exchange and Learning Forum adopted a participatory approach. Delegates shared experiences of their work on implementation of Women Peace and Security (1325) as well as Youth Peace and Security (2250). In addition, presentations were made on the different frameworks under the EAC on Peace and Security and the EAC Gender Policy highlighting achievements, challenges and lessons learnt. There were discussions, question and answer sessions that fostered productive learning relationships among panellists and participants. This allowed for critical thinking and feedback.

1.6 Expectations of the Participants

The Meeting had a session where participants shared their expectations as follows:

Discuss how best to position women to participate in Negotiations, peace building and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Re-Integration (DDR)

- a. Share experiences on the challenges affecting women in peace and security in Africa and strategies for mitigation and overcoming the challenges
- b. Strengthen relationship with the EAC and advocacy with the UN on consolidating implementation of the different UN Security Resolutions
- c. Learn from the EAC and other Civil Society Organisations on how to advance Women, Peace and Security agenda through Civil Society Actions
- d. Strengthen internal relations and integration of Countries like DRC into the EAC. It is two years since DRC acceded the Treaty but visa is not yet applicable
- e. Establish relationships between WIPC and EAC up to African Union including the AU Member States
- f. Share experiences and advocacy on ratification of 1325 at State Parties' level
- g. Structures of decision making in the EAC specifically the structures through which regional partners can deliver submissions to the EALA
- h. Advocacy, networking, synergy among the WPS networks and how to push for the WPS Agenda
- i. Learn the Women Peace and Security Actions across the continent, share experience between the EAC and ECOWAS Countries
- j. How best Africa can sustain Peace and Security taking cognisance of the many global Treaties signed
- k. Create a conducive environment for the domestication of ratified instruments by state parties
- l. Appreciate the relationship between the CSOs and the EAC, and their joint initiatives on transitional justice for young women.
- m.

2. Opening of the meeting

2.1 Remarks by Mr. Didacus Kaguta, Coordinator APSA, EAC secretariat

In his opening remarks, Mr. Kaguta, welcomed the delegates to Moshi. He informed the Meeting that the EAC commenced implementation of its Peace and Security initiatives upon adoption of the Strategy on Regional Peace and Security in 2006 which was later enhanced by the adoption of the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security which entered into Force in November, 2018. He added that the fundamental principles of the Community, under Article 6(d) of the Treaty states that the Community will adhere to: “good governance including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, gender equality, as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights”.



With the passing of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) in 2000 and 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in 2015, all member countries of the United Nations, which include the EAC Partner States, recognized the respective roles women and young people play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security and prepared respective National Action Plans.

The East African Community, as a regional body, has therefore committed itself to ensuring that Partner States fulfil their obligations of providing the citizens with a peaceful and secure environment to enable them undertake other livelihood activities that allow for sustainable development. This mandate is contained in Article 5 (3) Clause (f), “The EAC shall ensure the promotion of peace, security and stability within and good neighbourliness among the Partner States”. This provision obligates it to support Partner States in ensuring compliance to the regional and international obligations enshrined in the different conventions, protocols, agreements, and declarations.

The Expanded provisions on Peace and Security are provided for under Article 124 of the Treaty which elaborate that Peace and Security are a prerequisite to social and economic development within the Community and vital to the achievement of the objectives of the Community. These provisions are further elaborated in the Protocol on Peace and Security and the Strategy on

Regional Peace and Security, as well as in the two Mechanisms on Conflict Prevention and Management Resolution (CPMR) and Early Warning Mechanism. He also informed the forum that EAC was in the process of domesticating the AU Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy but also developing a Regional Refugee management Policy.

Mr. Kaguta further underscored the importance of NAPs and stated that in 2015, EAC Secretariat had developed a Regional Action Plan on 1325 that provides a regional anchorage of all Partner States NAPs. Further the EAC had developed a Strategy on implementation of the Youth Peace and Security (UNSCR 2250) with an implementation plan and an M&E tool to measure its implementation; accompanied by other interventions in the Regional Action Plan 2022 on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts. He challenged the CSOs to advocate for gaining representation on the ongoing peace and security interventions such as lobbying for women and youth representation on the EAC led Process on restoration of Peace and Stability in the Eastern DRC led by the former Head of State of Kenya as the Facilitator HE Jomo Kenyatta.

Guided by the Article 127 of the EAC Treaty, the EAC, in collaboration with Partner States, continues to work with Civil Society networks to implement the provisions of the National Action Plans on Women Peace and Security and Youth Peace and Security. He highlighted the need to have women trained in mediation as a way to enhance their participation in peace efforts in the region and emphasized the invaluable role women play. He thanked WIPC for the Partnership in peace processes as mothers of the combatants who know better the feelings and mindsets of their combatant children. He pledged the EAC's will and commitment to working with WIPC as an international learning and networking forum on Women Peace and Security. He wished the workshop fruitful deliberations and interactions.

2.2 Remarks by Ms Juliet Were, Deputy Executive Director Women International Peace Centre

On behalf of Women's International Peace Centre, Ms. Juliet Were welcomed delegates to Moshi, Tanzania (Kilimanjaro) and thanked them for investing time in attending the learning forum. She informed the meeting that WIPC is a feminist organisation working with partners across conflict and post-conflict African countries and regionally to ignite women's leadership, amplify their voices and deepen their impact in recreating peace.



She noted that the delegates were a collection of actors under the Just Future Consortium whose vision is a world in which all security and justice seekers benefit from shifts in power dynamics at different levels towards more inclusive policy outcomes. The programme seeks to strengthen the

capacity of primary stakeholders, and enable their collective advocacy, influencing and action to bring about more inclusive, constructive, and legitimate power relations. The result of these changes is a drive towards a more accessible, responsive, and accountable security and justice institutions and more inclusive arrangements for political governance and peace-making.

Ms. Were added that the organisation was cognisant that working in partnership is strategic and the right way in attaining the desired JUST FUTURE. She acknowledged the team spirit and achievements reaped over the past three years albeit the different challenges. She noted that in the 23 years of UNSCR1325 (2000) – Women Peace and Security; under the four (4) pillars-Participation, Prevention, Protection, Relief and Recovery, as at May 2023; countries with Active NAPs were 18 (33%), expired NAPs 16 (29%) and No NAPs 20 (38%). A lot of attention was still required to catalyse uptake of Women, Peace and Security. In the same way it was 8 years of implementing UNSCR2025 (2015)- Youth Peace and Security; under the five (5) pillars-participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and re-integration.

The landmark resolution urges Member States to give youth a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels and to consider setting up mechanisms that would enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes.

She was cognisant that Africa is the youngest continent in the world with 60% under the age of 25 years. It was therefore important that the youth are positioned for productivity, leadership and protection of the resources and services. She highlighted the key AU frameworks towards WPS and YPS (among others) including; AU AGENDA 2063- The Africa we Want; Silencing the guns by 2030; African Continental Results Framework (CRF) (2019) as a regional accountability tool focussing on NAP implementation. To date, 80% of African countries with NAPs report using the CRF (15 out of 54 African Union member states). It complements the UNSCR 1325 with a fifth pillar: Prevention and Response to Emerging Security Threats. Reporting is still a challenge and uptake remains low.

Ms. Were added that, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): is a high ambition trade agreement, with a comprehensive scope that includes critical areas of Africa's economy. By eliminating barriers to trade in Africa, the objective of the AfCFTA is to significantly boost intra-Africa trade, particularly trade in value-added production and trade across all sectors of Africa's economy. The engagement of women and youth will be paramount if conditions are favourable.

She observed that persistent challenges in Africa include the tensions in the Democratic Republic of Congo following the escalating attacks by M23; Pre-Elections tensions with attacks on human rights defenders and activists. In Niger, the 26th July Coup and the ECOWAS sanctions; Climate Change impact (mitigation and readiness); Economic pressures; among others.

She underscored the importance of the Learning Exchange stating that it was hinged on the Regional Lobby and Advocacy work within the African Union, it was therefore imperative that engagement with the RECs was sustained to ensure that outcomes were implemented and for CSOs to contribute their expertise.

She expressed gratitude to the EAC for the partnership in organizing the Learning and Networking Exchange and was confident that the collaborative engagement would yield more initiatives. She thanked the different teams from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Mali, Niger, Netherlands and Uganda. She appreciated the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cordaid, and all partners that continue to invest in the Peace and Security Agenda and wished the meeting successful deliberations.

3. Presentations

3.1 Role, Mandate and Structure of EAC Secretariat on Peace and Security By Mr. Didacus Kaguta, Coordinator APSA

Mr. Kaguta underscored the critical role, mandate, and structure of Peace and Security in the EAC. He informed the workshop that the Treaty Establishing the East African Community and the EAC Development agenda emphasize that peace and security form the bedrock for sustainable economic development and successful regional integration.



To bring this vision to life, the EAC had operationalized Articles 124 on Peace and Security and 125 on cooperation in Defence. The two Articles detail the objectives and strategies for every identified area of cooperation. In a significant move towards consolidating peace and security interventions, a Protocol on Peace and Security was adopted. The Protocol seeks to amalgamate all peace and security initiatives under one binding legal framework. Alongside this, the EAC's Strategy on Peace and Security, complemented by its Action Plan have been developed and implemented.

The presentation also delved into mechanisms of the Peace and Security Protocol especially the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR) and the Early Warning Mechanism. These mechanisms draw inspiration from the broader African Peace and Security Architecture and are implemented through the Peace and Security Department of the EAC Secretariat.

The presenter further discussed the Peace and Security policy structures right from the Summit of the Heads of State, the Council of Ministers, the Joint Sectoral Councils on Defence, Interstate Security and Foreign Policy Coordination; the EAC Chiefs of Police, Chiefs of Defence and Chiefs of intelligence; the Meeting of Directors of CID and Registrars of Motor vehicles; the Multi Experts Working Group; the EAC/AU Liaison Office on Peace and Security as the main policy and decision making entities.

The EAC Protocol on Peace and Security, as detailed in the presentation, has a myriad of provisions. It aims to protect the community from potential destabilizing factors such as internal conflicts, aggression, and breakdowns in law and order. It also fosters improved cooperation in peace and security matters, peaceful conflict resolution within and among Partner States, and adherence to international conventions on disarmament, arms control, and peace. The protocol further encourages the development of peacekeeping capacities and ensures alignment in peace support missions. Other areas of focus include bolstering capacities in disaster management, handling refugees, combating terrorism and piracy, and steadfastly implementing the regional peace and security strategy.

In his conclusion; the presenter outlined Articles in the Protocol on Peace and Security that directly impact on Women. These articles span a wide array of themes, from counterterrorism, genocide prevention, and peace support to the management of refugees, control over arms proliferation and addressing cattle rustling. Lastly, key interventions for peace and security were highlighted including; the Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (SALW) Project, the EAC Protocol on Anti-Narcotics, initiatives for conflict early warning, the African Peace and Security Architecture, Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution framework; address cross border motor vehicle thefts and human trafficking; and of coordination frameworks especially UNSCR 1325 and 2250.

3.2. Presentations from member states

The Member States' presentations centred on progress on implementing UNSCR 1325 and the broader Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the Youth Peace and Security Agenda as well as other Gender equality commitments.

3.2.1. Republic of Burundi

The presenter gave a highlight of Resolution 1325 as adopted by the United Nations Security Council in October 2000. The objective is to protect women and girls during and after armed conflicts and to fully involve women in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts, peace-building, and reconciliation. The resolution emphasizes the role and position of women in all decisions related to peace and security. The Republic of Burundi is committed to reviewing and adopting policies and laws that support the participation of women in peace process and security. It is also committed to disseminating the content of national laws, regional and international conventions related to women's rights, including resolution 1325.



The Meeting was informed that, prior to the adoption of the resolution and the development of a related action plan the Republic of Burundi had recorded progress due to good governance and political will that characterized the Burundian government. It was also observed that Women have significantly contributed to the implementation of various strategies designed to restore peace and security. These strategies include but are not limited to:

Institutional Mechanism: Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender; Women's Forum; National Independent Commission on Human Rights (CNIDH).

Legal Framework; Constitution of Burundi of June 7, 2018, as amended to date, respects the gender principle. At least 30% of positions in decision-making bodies are granted to women to ensure equality between men and women. Moreover, the principle of gender equality is a cross-cutting issue in all laws, policies, programs, and projects.

Peace and Security; Women continue to play their role in strengthening peace and security at the national, regional, and international levels through their involvement in the National Police of Burundi, the National Defence Forces, and various peacekeeping missions. Adoption of various protocols on security, stability, and development in the region.

Economic Level; The Investment and Development Bank for Women (BIDF) plays a major role in training women in entrepreneurship, savings, credit, and the creation of cooperatives; strengthening capacities and empowering women at the community level.

In her presentation, she highlighted some good practices from the Republic of Burundi including; consideration of domestic violence as violation of human rights, creation of Gender Offices within the Ministry of Defence and the National Police (the two institutions involved in maintaining security are now more sensitive to gender issues thanks to this new mechanism), setting up community police committees at the local level, engendering staffing of Ministry of Defense and the National Police, existence of a gender-sensitive legal framework, high number of women in various decision-making bodies, collaboration with Civil Society in promoting gender through joint missions to international bodies, information sharing, joint activities and conferences.

Some of the challenges that need to be addressed include; limited mechanism for monitoring and evaluation, under representation in the National Police missions, the Army, and peacekeeping, full inclusion of women in peace-consolidation mechanisms and decision-making positions, Persistence of cultural barriers to women's rights.

Proposals to mitigate the challenges:

- More efforts in disseminating international and national instruments and commitments.
- Advocate for an increase in the number of women in the National Police, Defense Forces, and peacekeeping missions.
- Development of an action plan for the resolution's implementation.
- Continuous awareness campaigns on laws and international conventions related to women's rights.

Specific challenges to Youth Peace and Security in the EAC (identified by Republic of Burundi)

- Governance challenges remain a key source of grievances and conflicts, resulting in underdevelopment manifested by youth unemployment.
- Young people are usually considered as perpetrators or victims, especially when it comes to participation in violence and gender-based sexual violence, with women always viewed as victims.
- The non-recognition and non-inclusion of young people in formal peace processes, including peace negotiations and peacekeeping.

Proposals

- Provide training to young people to enable them to actively participate in peace and security processes.
- Promote the participation of young people in formal and informal peace processes and facilitate their access to decision-making processes.
- Strengthen regional and national systems and mechanisms for the protection and participation of youth in peace and security

3.2.2. Democratic Republic of Congo

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo is committed to implementing Human Rights instruments, including the UNSCR 1325. There's also a commitment to eliminating all forms of violence against women. The DRC acceded to the Treaty on 8 April, 2022 and became a full member on 11th July, 2022. It is dedicated to promoting the free movement of Persons and goods. It's crucial that the EAC Integration ensures peace so that women and children can look to the future with hope.

The DRC is actively seeking peace and human rights, promoting equality and non-discrimination for all citizens, and reforming the justice system. As Chairman of the African Union, the President of the DRC spearheaded several efforts, including the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 2250. The DRC government is currently implementing the NAP 2250 which was developed in 2018; the Minister of Youth and the Coordinator in charge of youth in the President's office, along with organizations, are implementing activities. Further, the Ministry of Gender and women's organizations are popularizing the Maputo Protocol, and services have been established to meet women's needs. Youth and women's organizations, in collaboration with the Ministries of Youth, Gender, and Family and the Coordinator in charge of youth and combating sexual violence, with the support of partners, are also implementing activities on positive masculinity.



A draft law on gender-based violence and domestic violence initiated by Civil Society Organizations was presented by the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice to the government and sent to Parliament. The country also reviewed the family code, and CSOs are implementing it. Women no longer need to ask for marital permission to seek employment, responsibilities are shared, and there are several reforms of discriminatory articles in the code. Consultations were conducted to gather victims' opinions on the implementation of Transitional Justice.

The National Fund for Compensation for Victims of Sexual Violence and Conflicts against Peace has been established and opened its office. The President passed laws for the protection of people living with disabilities, albinos, and indigenous peoples. Awareness is being raised for the voluntary recruitment of young women and girls into the Army. The Presidency of the DRC, through the office of the High Representative of the Head of State, and the government, through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Regional Integration are committed to peace solutions in the region.

The M23 Rebel Group and other military groups continue to destabilise the Eastern DRC and this situation only exacerbates the humanitarian crisis, for instance: sexual violence with over 3613 cases in the territory of Masisi, 3210 in Goma, 3233 in Lubero, totaling 15193 cases in North Kivu between January and May 2023; massacres, forced displacement with over 5.6 million internally displaced people.

The appointment of a new team to the national monitoring mechanism of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement is a strategy for the DRC to revitalize the monitoring of the implementation of these commitments to allow proper revitalization and/or review. It's essential that a regional (GL) evaluation is conducted promptly to determine each country's progress level. The Electoral Law in the DRC provides for freedom of participation in electoral processes, but different political parties have been reluctant to implement these laws. Women are always at the forefront of implementing public initiatives, including during pandemics like Covid-19.

Women demand significant participation in the Nairobi and Luanda processes or others. They have created a synergy for WPS to amplify their voices and ensure that the WPS agenda is considered. The Ministry of Integration will soon establish a framework for dialogue with women to allow them to bring their messages and participate in various regional meetings.

Challenges to the peace process in DRC

- **Severe humanitarian crisis, dehumanization of the population by the aggression of a member country.**
- **Persistent conflicts due to the rich country's resources.**
- **Youth unemployment, posing a significant risk of attracting them to armed groups.**
- **Non-compliance with various instruments signed by member countries for the restoration of Peace.**
- **Weak/lack of judicial cooperation in the region; criminals hide in neighbouring countries.**
- **Language: many/all documents in English.**

Recommendation:

It's essential that the EAC creates a platform for women to share ideas with the Ministers to ease the inclusion of their recommendations in the Directives and decisions. All parties should respect and implement directives to promote the Women, Youth, Peace, and Security agenda.

Conclusion:

All countries must respect the various instruments and work for Peace. Peace in the eastern DRC will contribute to the region's development. Peace in the DRC is the peace of the region and all of Africa.

3.2.3. Republic of South Sudan

The Republic of South Sudan (RSS) is committed to empowering women to engage in peace building and civil society leadership; preventing sexual and gender-based violence, and engaging both men and women for gender equality. The applied tools are: gender analysis and reporting; capacity building; media, communications and outreach; network and alliance building; and gender mainstreaming.



After South Sudan's devastating civil war, there has been low women representation falling below the original quota of 25% women's participation in government institutions set in 2011. Women are common victims of violence and are connected to prominent drivers of inter-communal conflict (including cattle raiding to pay for high dowries, sexual and gender-based violence, and land disputes around inheritance). The Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) was signed in September 2018, ending the five year-long civil war and responded to this issue by setting a 35% requirement for women's representation in all institutions created by the R-ARCSS. On 21st February 2020, the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) in South Sudan was formed. The objective is to promote social cohesion, resilience, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts among individuals and communities. The RSS partner with and engage local actors including civil society organizations, women's groups, youth, media professionals, and others through conflict transformation and conflict-sensitive journalism training, participatory theater, radio programming, ongoing conflict analysis, community-led dialogues, and local peace initiatives.

In terms of women in the South Sudan peace process and conflict dynamics, women and children are the major group affected by any conflict in South Sudan. Previous localized violence in South Sudan has been linked to drivers related to the role of women within the family and community. Criminal activities, like cattle raiding, are often connected to acquiring necessary funds to meet the cultural practice of bride prices and dowries. In other cases, familial disputes over marriage turn violent or divide communities.

When it comes to participating in peace processes, several barriers have been identified including gender norms, decision-making, power and authority. Gender roles and responsibilities strongly influence time use for women, who are expected to focus on activities in the home, which prevents participation in peace processes and other activities such as local governance initiatives, trainings, work, etc. The gender norms were said to be culturally enforced and reinforced by men. Another limitation on women's time use is that it's culturally taboo for women, especially married women, to go out at night, which some reported is often when important political meetings take place. It is important to consider the intersection of gender identities as well as the barriers different groups face.

Gender-based violence: Domestic violence is the type of violence most commonly reported by women, nearly one quarter of women in South Sudan report that the last conflict they experienced was violence in the home. These cases of sexual or physical abuse often go unreported and unaddressed. Local customs and attitudes on gender have perpetuated abuses toward women and precluded them from accessing justice. Victims of gender-based violence often face stigmatization by community members and are sometimes discouraged from reporting these cases by the police, who may tell them to go home and settle the issue with their families. Women also report early and forced marriages as key gender based conflicts they face in the community. COVID-19 has put women and girls at an increased risk of gender based violence. Quarantine measures, reduced access to external support such as legal interventions, and stress associated with economic and social disruption are all factors which increase the risk of gender based violence in the home.

Dowry price: Dowry system in South Sudan, male family members arrange marriages and set the bride price for their female relatives. The most popular form of dowry compensation is the exchange of cattle from the bridegroom to the woman's father/family for permission to marry. The deteriorating economy has left many men unable to pay for the traditional dowry. This accounts for some, though not all, of the cattle raiding in South Sudan, as men seek to add cattle to their dowry payment in order to marry. Cattle raids are linked with cycles of revenge attacks between and among communities. A surge in the availability of weapons due to the conflict has increased the lethality of cattle raids, leading to an increased number of deaths that can trigger cycles of revenge killings.

Familial and inter-tribal disputes: Family disputes are often associated with marriage, including issues of inter-tribal marriage, rape, divorce, and abducted women for marriage. In marriage arrangements, women are often treated as property and the arrangement treated as a transaction. Conflicts also arise when the traditional/cultural marriages procedures are not followed. "Taking girls for marriage" is reported as a major conflict trigger in South Sudan. When this occurs, it often results in violent conflict between the two families, who demand compensation for "theft."

Economic and livelihoods constraints: Political instability, ongoing violence, and reduced international investment have created a rapidly deteriorating economic environment, characterized by volatile currency fluctuations and limited employment opportunities. Yet, even

as they head households, they face significant constraints including frequent denial of formal ownership of property, even in instances where husbands or male relatives have passed away. Only 13% of women were aware of their legal and constitutional right to own property.

The presenter highlighted a number of opportunities for mitigating the above challenges as follows:

Inclusion in peace processes; Accountability measures for peace networks so that exclusion (e.g. based on one's tribe or clan) can be systematically addressed; working with existing networks supporting young people or women's inclusion in peace efforts and expand the network's access in rural areas; using local languages to convey messages; and making networks more accessible through promotion on more commonly available media platforms (e.g. radio).

Elevate Women's Voices; This is reflected in intersection of marriage, age, wealth, gender and level of education in a way that would increase the ability to be heard in one's community. Amplifying women's and young women's perspectives, stories, and voices in media or informal settings (like radio listening clubs) can be an accessible approach to enable women to feel comfortable to share.

Coalesce Around Shared Interests: The notion of work at the grassroots was said to be able to improve the level of women's participation in peace efforts significantly, specifically through awareness raising, education, and providing access to information. These actions corresponded to what was said of how young women and men could collaborate through peace advocacy and civic education at a community or grassroots level.

Addressing GBV: addressing this vice requires a shift in social norms regarding the acceptance of domestic violence and GBV, an increase in reporting and justice/accountability mechanisms in place and opportunities to participate in trauma healing. Some community members suggested that women should seek justice on GBV cases through chiefs or the police; others insisted that elders, heads of clan, family members or neighbours are the more appropriate actors to approach. The family courts and other customary systems still appear to be the first mechanism through which victims are expected to report cases.

Economic Activity: Economic spaces such as markets are critical areas to engage women. As noted above, inter-tribal tensions are a major conflict driver and as inter-tribal relationships deteriorate, women often retreat from engaging in trade and other economic activities with groups other than their own, reducing opportunities for constructive inter-group collaboration and exchange. Efforts to expand economic empowerment can be connected with social cohesion work to improve interactions, promote collaboration, and develop relationships between divided groups. There is a strong correlation between the number of interactions between tribes and levels of inter-communal trust.

Intersectionality and Identity Shifts: There have been improvements in incorporating women into national level peace building initiatives, women are generally absent from local peace building and conflict resolution mechanisms. Women and young women in South Sudan need to be incorporated into local peace building initiatives to promote inter-tribal trust, non-violent dispute resolution mechanisms and empower women as a constituency for peace in their communities.

The EAC Partner States' presentations are attached as Annex III- V

3.3. Experience sharing from Just Future partners

3.3.1. Case Study on advocacy: A successful lobbying & advocacy experience with the support of WIPC / JUST FUTURE by FORANREV-DRC

FONAREV Law: Law on the fundamental principles relating to the protection and compensation of victims of sexual violence and other crimes against peace and humanity's security.

The presenter informed the meeting that the DRC has been deliberate in adhering to International Protocols and is in the process of Transitional justice. The First Lady has been involved in Transitional Justice and has engaged on the issue of reparations for victims of Sexual Violence; Large mobilization of actors has taken place on the implementation of Transitional Justice mechanisms;



The presenter outlined the strategies so far utilized including:

- Establishment of a National Advocacy Alliance of CSOs and INGOs to support the FONAREV process (SOS IJM is the Lead) which brings together several CSOs and INGOs in the 26 provinces of the DRC including SOPEPADI. This activity benefited from WIPC's support in the Just Future process;
- Drafting and submission of technical notes and arguments on the FONAREV Law and the operation of the FONAREV Commission itself;
- Organization of exchange workshops with the FONAREV Commission to amend its operational texts;
- Organization of press conferences and publication of press releases on the position of the ANPR, etc.;
- Development of specifications that summarize the victims' needs in terms of justice and individual and collective reparations;
- Advocacy mission to Kinshasa (DFJ & SOS IJM) with the victims and meeting key figures such as the First Lady, government members, and diplomatic missions.

The key players in implementing the strategies and programmes highlighted above include; the First Lady, Prime Minister, Ministers of Justice and Human Rights; PAJ Commission of the National Assembly; United Nations and Diplomatic Missions; among others.

Achievements were recorded as follows:

- FONAREV Law enacted on 26th December 2022;
- Decree establishing the Fund voted in the Council of Ministers with several government funding sources, mainly an annual budget allocation and an initial US\$100 million;
- Decree for the implementation of the FONAREV Law finalized between the ANPR and the FONAREV Commission in April 2023;
- Ordinance appointing members of the Board of Directors and the general management of FONAREV issued on 30th June, 2023, with the appointment of two women who are survivors themselves;
- Specifications of the needs of survivor organizations from various massacre sites in South Kivu and North Kivu presented to key political actors of FONAREV implementation in Kinshasa, in June 2023.

Current Status of FONAREV

- Article 28 of the FONAREV Law provide for the commemoration of the Congolese GENOCOST every 2nd of August. The first event took place on 2nd August 2023, in the evolved square in Kinshasa and at the OAU City in the presence of the President of the Republic, his wife, survivors, and CSOs assisting victims from 26 provinces, as well as other guests including the country's top figures;
- Promulgation of the Ordinance establishing the CIAVAR- FONAREV Advisory Commission while waiting for the appointment of the animators;
- The effective start of FONAREV operations with Board meetings and consultation with survivors and civil society organizations assisting victims;
- Submission of the CSOs memorandum on the priorities that should attract FONAREV's attention, especially the prioritization of victims with a final judicial decision as well as the creation of the International Tribunal for the DRC.

Challenges; the major challenge envisaged is the risk of politicization of FONAREV.

Next Steps:

- Ensure that the victims are at the centre of the entire FONAREV process, respecting the principles of inclusiveness, non-discrimination, equality, etc.
- Monitor the commitment of the Head of State instructing the Government to expedite the request for the creation of the ICTY for the DRC to the Security Council;
- Support the effectiveness of ANPR to ensure regular monitoring of FONAREV activities and strengthen CSOs with legal clinics that daily assist women victims of sexual violence to access justice and individual and collective reparations.

3.3.2. AFRABU-BARREAU DES AVOCATS DE BUJUMBURA –OAG; Experience on the FJPPS agenda through the Just Future program

The presenter noted that involvement of beneficiaries contributes to advancing the Women, Youth, Peace, and Security agenda on all pillars, especially their participation and contribution in conflict prevention and youth disengagement. The approach is that if the beneficiaries of advocacy actions understand the agenda, they commit on their own.



AFRABU and CORDAID are members of the National Steering Committee for the implementation of the UNSCR1325 National Action Plan; Burundi is in its 3rd generation since 2013. AFRABU in collaboration with CORDAID implements the FJPS agenda- The JF program (2021-2025) with a particular focus: advocacy for "an inclusive political decision-making and peace process." AFRABU collaborates with WIPC in terms of capacity building for beneficiaries/allies and undertaking research studies. Policies and strategies for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 are advanced in comparison to the UNSCR 2250 but have remarkable initiatives to advance the YPS agenda.

The average representation rate of women as of 31st December 2022 was 22%. Articles 173 and 213 and the electoral code for the 2020 elections have been improved. The JF program has been embraced by government authorities, especially the Ministries in charge of Interior; Gender; Justice; and Youth. In the field of advocacy on the FJP&S agenda, it was important to first, understand the country's commitment and cooperation at the sub-regional and regional levels:

- (i) National policies and their localization, strategies, initiatives taken, regional cooperation, societal norms, the place of women, youth, perceptions, limitations;**
- (ii) Political will, initiatives taken? A legal framework that can correct inequalities, societal norms that are unfavourable, building lobbying and advocacy strategy:**
- (iii) Who to mobilize? With whom? How? Challenges to overcome.**

Strategies employed include: Studies, evaluations, analysis as a basis (with CORDAID and WIPC)- some texts not domesticated, texts with gaps, low representation, weak gender consideration; building new strategies and have national and community experiences; creating spaces and engaging in debates with political decision-makers, administrators, elected officials at different levels; Community dialogues, with parliamentarians, local administrators, in the media; policy notes to decision-makers; collaboration with CORDAID and the steering committee for strategic advocacy actions in terms of access to justice and inclusive participation.

In addition, capacity strengthening of partners, allies, beneficiaries, and decision-makers has been key on the agenda. Commitment of allies and beneficiaries by having advocacy plans and capacities to carry out joint advocacy actions; advocate for their rights and contribute to conflict prevention.

Another strategy has been through networking at both national and international level, having a stronger voice including ambassadors at the local level.

AFRABU has created a platform for exchange, collaboration, and advocacy composed of women, youth from civil Society, and elected officials (in 7 provinces out of 18), peer strengthening, coaching of elected women and youth, and conflict prevention.

Concrete cases through Just Future include; The council of notables from the hill or neighbourhood with a representation rate of women of 24% (first time that local elections give such a rate for women) thanks to advocacy and initiative taken by decision-makers; Integration of women, youth, and the most excluded groups (with specific needs) in the localization of the National Development Plan and in the processes of drafting Communal Development Plans (PCDC) and integrating their priorities (in 28 communes); and Integration of women, youth, and the most excluded groups in local peace and development committees.

AFRABU made the following recommendations to the EAC

- **Monitor/Require the domestication of the EAC's Gender Policy in member countries:**
- **Put in place a structure responsible for the domestication of texts in the countries.**
- **Monitor indicators: open a debate with EAC member countries on the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda**
- **Create pre and post-summit spaces with Civil Society: they are essential actors who can make good proposals for the women, youth, and security agenda.**

Lessons learned in the FJPS field

- **The burden of customary law should be prioritised in the FJPS agenda discussions.**
- **The Legal framework is difficult to establish and implement. Advocacy for a favourable legal framework takes a lot of time.**
- **Advocacy for an improved, more inclusive Family and Persons Code**
- **Advocacy for the establishment of a law on succession, marital regimes, and gifts.**
- **Advocacy for the introduction of quotas in non-elective positions and at the local level.**

3.3.3. Experience sharing by Women Partners for Health by Harriet Poni Dumba, Gender Focal Person South Sudan JF Project

The presenter informed the meeting that Women Networks have been lobbying and increased advocacy on a number of areas including; implementation of Maputo protocol after its deposition and ratification at the AU; full implementation of the affirmative action 35% women quota in the peace agreement and in the Road Map and adaption and implementation of the Second NAP.



In addition, there has been lobbying, advocacy and awareness in the following areas;

- Awareness among women at grass root level on safeguarding women's rights in the Permanent Constitution making processes and Women participation in Election (i.e. Women candidature) and training women in their role and participation in decision making processes at all levels.
- Documenting challenges women face and develop lobby messages for media houses, social media, and other platforms.
- Lobbying with the regional bodies like IGAD, RIEMC, CTSAMM-VM,
- Lobby Strategy Defence Security Board (SDSB), and AU to aid in amplifying of women voices on the key security issues they are faced with.
- Lobbying with legislatures and ministry of Justice and other key actors to ensure that women issues are prioritized
- Women groups are pushing for the construction of female prisons (for example in Magwi, UNMISS under the quick impact project made commitment of constructing prisons in 2024, however, this need closer monitoring so that this can be realized)
- Women in Magwi County participated in fighting rampant case of Logging that.
- Supporting excluded constituencies especially women to access national IDs prior to voting.

Successes registered include:

- Production of a gender analysis of the peace agreement which is translated into 4 dialect (Bari, Arabic, Dinka and Nuer) to ease comprehension and utilisation for the grassroots women;
- The network is Working on the gender Analysis of the commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing focusing on gender gaps and women's participation.
- Lobbying for the commissions to be gender sensitive during appointment
- Creating linkages with women led CSOs for better engagement and reporting.
- The Women CSO networks are engaged in lobby of EAC and other regional actors to share recommendations, reports and technical advise from EAC think tanks.

Observations and emerging issues from Partner States presentations

- a. Is there a structure that brings together all Civil Society Organisations and structures that respond to the needs of Women and Youth at National level?
- b. The Republic of South Sudan is in the process of conducting an election. How is the EAC prepared to support RSS in implementing the electoral Road Map?
- c. The EAC is implementing a protocol on cattle rustling “Mifugo” protocol which has an implementation plan. How can this protocol be applied to mitigate the cases of cattle rustling in some Partner States?
- d. Involvement of CSOs to influence decision making at national level and strengthening Communication and accountability mechanism
- e. More involvement of young people in peace and security matters to protect them from manipulation and radicalisation
- f. What strategies are in place to sustain peace and handle violence against women and men?. There is wide spread violence including Sexual and Gender Based violence in some countries
- g. Activities of armed groups have had devastating effects in the DRC. A number of peace agreements have been signed. How is the EAC involved in these processes?
- h. To what extent are women involved in peace processes particularly the Nairobi process?
- i. South Sudan was reminded that it had accented to EAC Treaty and therefore should take advantage of implementing the Protocol on illicit Drug Trafficking
- j. It is important to fund intervention on Youth, Peace and Security specifically on areas of mind set change and Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- k. Initiatives that empower citizens economically. How far is EAC On implementation of the EAMU??
- l. Need to translate documents into French and Kiswahili and disseminate very widely

3.4 Presentation on Gender, Peace and Security in the EAC, Youth Peace and Security, and EAC Consultative Dialogue Process by Mr. Morris Tayebwa

3.4.1. Gender, Peace and Security in the EAC – UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security

In his presentation, Mr. Tayebwa from the Gender and Community Development Department of the EAC Secretariat informed the meeting that the EAC Gender Policy, adopted in 2018, is central to the East African integration process and draws its mandate from Articles 5(e), 5(f), 5(g), and 6(d) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. These articles emphasize gender mainstreaming, promotion of peace, and the upholding of human rights among other objectives and principles of the EAC.



Under the EAC Development Strategy, gender is earmarked as a key priority. The strategy stresses gender mainstreaming into projects and programmes, it highlights the pivotal role of women in socio-economic development; and champions community participation. As such, a standalone Sectoral Council for Gender, Youth, Children, Social Protection and Community Development was established and is operational. The Sectoral Council has been pivotal in adopting policies and programmatic frameworks that have a significant positive impact on the lives of Youth, Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities.

The presentation stressed out that various policy frameworks augment these efforts, including the EAC Social Development Framework (2013), EAC Youth Policy (2013), and guidelines such as Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for EAC Organs (2013) and accountability mechanisms like the gender audits which are conducted after every five years to evaluate progress.

The workshop was informed that the Priority Area 13 of the EAC Gender Policy particularly focuses on Peace and Security and was developed from an understanding that the breakdown of peace through stress, strife, violence, and armed conflicts disproportionately affects and impacts women. Despite the brunt they bear, their representation in peace processes remains minimal.

The presentation highlighted that the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is a global instrument landmark that integrates the issues of women into the peace and security discourse of all members of the United Nations. It has laid standards for women's involvement in peace processes, emphasizing prevention, protection, participation, and post-conflict recovery as the key pillars. The presentation therefore discussed the initiatives of Partner States in implementing the UNSCR 1325 through the National Action Plans (NAPS) for the holistic involvement of women in peace and security processes.

3.4.2 Youth Peace and Security in the EAC

Mr. Tayebwa further delivered a presentation on the participation of youth in the EAC Integration Process. He noted that the EAC States are currently implementing the EAC Youth Policy (2013) with the main objective of mainstreaming youth issues at the community level, sensitize policymakers, empower the youth to harness their potential, ensure their active involvement in political processes, and promote the values stated in the policy. The policy identifies priority areas such as sustainable livelihoods, education, health, ICT, peace and security, sustainable development, gender, leisure, culture, community service, youth in the diaspora, poverty eradication, decision-making, and networking, among others.

The policy further emphasizes the role of youth in peace and security by strengthening their capacity in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, advocating for a culture of peace, condemning youth's involvement in armed conflicts, and supporting their recovery after conflicts. The avenues for youth engagement discussed include a proposed East African Youth Council, annual EAC university debates, EAC Youth Clubs, the East African Youth Network, essay writing competitions, and a proposed EAC Youth Parliamentary Forum.

The presentation stressed that the vision for youth engagement is a stable, secure, and peaceful East African Community, with the mission to ensure the inclusive involvement of youth in the region's peace and security. Strategies for achieving this vision include enhancing youth participation in political processes, increasing their involvement in conflict prevention, protecting youth in peace and conflict situations, strengthening coordination among institutions, and focusing on youth-centred disarmament and security reforms.

The EAC has also developed a Strategy on Youth, Peace and Security which aims at increasing youth participation in conflict prevention, management, and political processes for the stability of the East African Community (EAC). It also seeks to enhance protection of youth in various stages of conflict and to strengthen the EAC's capacity in peace and development research. In addition, The EAC has further established a Youth Peace and Security Platform to promote dialogue between EAC Partner States, institutions, and the youth on peace and security issues. It aims to strengthen partnerships between Youth Networks at different levels and enhance the capacity of youth in conflict prevention and resolution. A Communication Strategy for Youth Peace and Security was developed to increase awareness and understanding of laws and policies on Youth Peace and Security (YPS), promote media coverage on peace and security matters, and strengthen partnerships towards the implementation of YPS matters.

Further, the EAC has established a Monitoring Framework for Youth Peace and Security as a tool to track progress on the implementation of the EAC Youth, Peace, and Security Strategy, measure regional and international commitments, and provide a platform for monitoring and responding to cross-border Youth, Peace, and Security issues. Finally, a Roadmap for Strengthening Child Protection Systems and Cross border collaboration was developed to guide regional and national strategies to address the needs of refugee and migrant children and young people in the EAC.

3.4.3. Plenary Discussions, Insights and opportunities for CSO engagement on WPS and YPS

The Meeting took note of the fact that, the Partner States had domesticated the UNSCR 1325 and EAC Secretariat had, through the development of regional policies, strategies and guidelines, been active in supporting the Partner States regarding the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (on Women Peace and Security) and 2250 (on Youth Peace and Security). There is positive momentum in implementing the NAPS of the UNSCR 1325 and a rising trend for domesticating actions espoused in UNSCR 2250. The EAC has strategically nurtured this progress through capacity-building initiatives and collaborations. In particular, Civil Society Organizations and Community Based Organizations have a key role in popularizing these resolutions, advocacy and jointly promoting implementation with governments and other stakeholders. Some of the key areas to focus on include:

- a. **Formulating** a dedicated Strategy for Women Peace and Security, its Action Plan, Monitoring Framework and Communications Strategy.
- b. **Introducing** peer review mechanisms to oversee Partner States' implementation of key regional, continental, and global commitments on WPS and YPS.
- c. **Amplifying** training endeavours targeting governmental and non-governmental institutions to speed up implementation.
- d. **Broadening** the understanding of resolutions by translating them from English to other major EAC languages French and Kiswahili and if possible local languages and disability friendly formats.
- e. **Collaborating** with the East African Legislative Assembly to monitor implementation and the East African Court of Justice for litigation, justice, and legal opinions on matters of Peace and Security.
- f. **Mobilizing** increased financial resources specifically aimed at youth and women empowerment programs.
- g. **Championing** cultural and religious dialogues to rectify norms obstructing effective implementation of the respective UNSCR resolutions.
- h. **Advocacy** for Partner States to implement NAPs with adequate funding and monitoring frameworks.
- i. **Promoting** intergenerational dialogues to enrich peace building.
- j. **Periodically** launching research and assessment initiatives to track progress.
- k. **Fast tracking** actions in the new members of the EAC namely Republic of South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

3.4.4. Engagement of the Civil Society in the EAC integration process

The EAC Secretariat made a presentation on the role of Civil Society in the EAC Integration Process. The presentation described the Civil Society in the EAC as the NGOs, INGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Trade Unions, Professional Associations, Academia, media, and other interest groups. The EAC Treaty in Articles 127, 128 and 129 emphasizes the importance of an enabling environment for these groups and the Private Sector to actively participate in community development.

The workshop was informed that there are various umbrella bodies representing the different Civil Society Organisations namely; the East African Youth Network (Youth); the East African Child Rights Network (Children); the East African Trade Unions Confederation (workers); the East African Local Governments Association; the East African Health Platform and the East African Civil Society Organisations Forum (EACSOF). EACSOF aids in enhancing civil society participation in the EAC processes. National chapters of EACSOF collect grassroots perspectives which are then consolidated at a national level through conferences. These deliberations are presented to the EAC through the Regional Dialogue Committee. EACSOF also maintains active communication with various stakeholders involved in the EAC regional integration process.

The presentation highlighted the achievements realised from the EAC's engagement with CSOs. It was established that CSOs have contributed to the agenda setting of several EAC forums and spearheaded discussions on various EAC policies. They have also established multiple working alliances with developmental partners and stakeholders, enhancing governance and policy-making practices. The presentation pointed out issues like delays in registering national chapters, weak linkages with certain bodies, staffing limitations, financial dependencies, political barriers, and inadequate support from Partner States as the main challenges affecting CSOs.

The presentation underscored the potential for CSOs to collaborate with academic institutions, faith-based organizations, and other bodies. Encouraging member organizations to prioritize EAC issues, expanding inter-regional networking opportunities, and partnering with apex bodies for policy advocacy were some highlighted opportunities.

The EAC Secretariat informed the workshop that a clear pathway for CSO engagement is through the Consultative Dialogue Framework which was adopted in 2012. The CDF has enabled extensive civil society participation across all policy-making stages, from inception to evaluation. It has also fostered valuable connections with the EAC Secretariat, other EAC organs, and numerous apex bodies and stakeholders.

Suggestions for enhancing the role of CSOs included intense sensitization efforts at all levels, bolstered feedback mechanisms, establishing monitoring protocols to ensure national actions align with regional commitments, deepening the collaboration between MEACAs and CSOs, and mobilizing resources for continuous dialogue.

4. Group Work

The Meeting constituted groups and made recommendations under a number of themes:

Group 1

Question 1:

How can the EAC structures be further strengthened and integrated to ensure consistent and effective implementation of the NAPs (WPS and YPS) across all Partner States

- a. Establish National CSO forum in South Sudan, DRC, Mali, Burundi, Niger, Tanzania and Uganda to liaise with EAC secretariat;
- b. EAC CSOs to collaborate with the West African Regional bodies and work on areas of WPS/YPS;
- c. Establish a liaison office in all member states to facilitate the harmonization of the EAC structures;
- d. Develop a Monitoring and Evaluation tool for WPS in member states;
- e. EAC Secretariat should ensure proper resource allocation is made in annual budgets to ensure effective implementation of the NAP;
- f. CSOs should directly participate in lobbying for resources which are needed for effective implementation of the NAP and WPS and YPS;
- g. CSOs should support the revival of the South Sudan Civil Society forum to champion the implementation of WPS/YPS

Question 2: Working at National Level

How can national governments ensure that their legislative and strategic measures are both effective at the ground level and consistent with EAC wide initiatives?

- a. The national governments should ensure enforcement and implementation of laws both at the national level and at the regional level.
- b. The governments should harmonise and amend its laws to be consistent to the wider EAC.

Group 2:

How can CSOS, EACSO, WIPC, and JUST FUTURE partners work to amplify their impact in the field of peace and security?

Recommendations:

- a. Comply with national legislation and network;
- b. Consult with CBOs to develop terms of reference to elevate to the national and regional level;

- c. Share information with allies (CBOs);
- d. Unify civil society at the national level;
- e. Identify the existing consultation framework and platforms that interact with EAC and other key and influential actors;
- f. Produce periodic and alternative reports for publication within the framework of the Barometer;
- g. Create a regional consultation framework on WPS (Women, Peace, and Security) and YPS (Youth, Peace, and Security) issues;
- h. Organize capacity building sessions for CSOs on the procedure to follow when collaborating with EAC;
- i. Establish relations with the EAC presidency, which is Burundi, through the Ministries of regional integration of our respective countries;
- j. Request observer status from the EAC.

How do States ensure that their legislative and strategic mechanisms are effective at the local and regional level?

Recommendations:

- a. Carry out periodic assessments of the measures taken by the EAC;
- b. EAC observer team supports the accreditations in electoral observation;
- c. EAC strengthens mechanisms for post-electoral conflict prevention and management;
- d. Organize roundtables between two countries (DRC-Burundi) to enhance mutual capacity-building;
- e. Set up a Barometer (Monitoring Mechanism) for WPS and YPS situations;
- f. Update the Gender policy that expires this year;
- g. Organize a meeting to create regional solidarity on themes concerning regional interest;
- h. National Governments must actively involve civil society in the development and assessment of various WPS and YPS policies;
- i. Consult with civil society before holding EAC summits by organizing exchange sessions;
- j. Formalize representatives for the pre-summit of youth and women for WPS and YPS;
- k. Translate into French and disseminate EAC documents.

General Recommendations of the Learning Forum

- a. EAC Partner States to involve more women and the youth in the Nairobi and Luanda peace processes as well as other peace mediations and negotiations, peace operations, and lobby for more positioning in peace keeping operations regionally and internationally;
- b. Partner States should domesticate the resolutions in their national laws and dedicate more resources to implementing the Peace and Security Agenda in their respective Partner States;
- c. EAC Secretariat should explore ways of mobilising resources to support implementation of NAPs in the EAC;
- d. EAC to develop a standardised format of reporting on Women, Peace and Security for Partner States to constantly share progress on implementation of the UNSCR1325.
- e. EAC to develop a Regional Strategy to handle violence against women and men including Sexual and Gender Based violence;
- f. EAC to provide spaces for women rights defenders to interact with the Council of Ministers and its subsidiary bodies so that their agenda can be taken up by the Summit;
- g. EAC Secretariat, Partner States in collaboration with Civil Society to sensitize and involve more young people in peace and security matters to protect them from manipulation and radicalisation;
- h. EAC Secretariat and Ministries responsible for EAC to strengthen involvement of CSOs through the Consultative Dialogue Framework and other implementation, communication and accountability mechanisms;
- i. EAC Secretariat and Partner States to dedicate more funds to Youth, Peace and Security specifically on areas of mind set change and Sexual and Gender Based Violence;
- j. EAC should fast track the implementation of the EAMU Protocol to empower the citizens economically; and
- k. Need to translate EAC documents especially those related to WPS and YPS into French and Kiswahili and disseminate widely among the key stakeholders.

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