

**Experts' Workshop for the Conceptualization of the Regional Women's Platform on
Security Sector Reform and Governance**

18 - 19 July 2019 Hôtel Fleurs de Lys, Dakar – Senegal



REPORT

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CISLAC	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDG	Danish Demining Group
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECPF	Ecogas Conflict Prevention Framework
EMP ABB	Ecole de Maintien de La Paix Alioune Blondin Bèye
FES PSCC	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Peace and Security Centre of Competence Sub-Saharan Africa
GPSC	Geneva Peace and Security Centre
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NDC	Nigerian Defence College
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSR	Security Sector Reform
SSRG	Security Sector Reform and Governance
TED	Training, Evaluation and Development
TI	Transparency International
UN	United Nations
UNOWAS	United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNWOMEN	United Nations Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WGWYPS	Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security
WILPF	Women International League for Peace and Freedom
WIPNET	Women in Peacebuilding Network
WIPSI	Women Peace and Security Institute
WIPSEN	Women Peace and Security Network
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
GPS	Gender, Peace and Security

Introduction

The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Peace and Security Centre of Competence Sub-Saharan Africa (FES PSSC) organized a two-days Experts' workshop which took place from 18 to 19 July 2019 in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting was held at Hôtel Fleurs de Lys and brought together 12 participants including 6 experts from ECOWAS and ECCAS regions, the Gender and SSR Consultant and FES PSSC (Annex: Attached is a list of participants). The Experts were coming from the following organizations):

- The West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP)
- Women Peace and Security Institute (WIPSI) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
- UNwomen Regional Office in Dakar
- Danish Demining Group (Sahel)
- Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and Transparency International Defence and Security Programme (TI-DSP)
- Women International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, Cameroon's chapter).

The overall objective of the meeting was to discuss the conceptualization of a Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance. The idea of the Regional platform is one of the components of project *Security For All*, which is a three-year project co-funded by the European Union Delegation in Senegal and which aims to promote inclusive security and democratic governance through the participation of civil society organizations in Mali, Nigeria, Cameroon and throughout the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Specific objectives of the workshop were the following:

- Discuss the objectives of the platform, its structure and operating mechanisms;
- Discuss strategies of positioning and possible partnerships;
- Themes and axes of intervention as well as membership criteria;
- Learn from the experience of other women's platforms; and
- Discuss key steps for the launching of the regional platform.

Outcome of the Experts' workshop

Opening Session

The workshop started with welcome remarks and an opening statement from Mr. Holger Grimm, the Director of the FES PSCC Regional Office based in Dakar. Mr. Grimm expressed his pleasure to see participants attending the meeting and bringing in their contributions, which he thinks will give us a better understanding of how the women's platform will work in practice and also a better understanding of the process of the operationalization. Mr. Grimm further reminded that the Experts' workshop was the first activity of the overall project Security for All which will run from March 2019 up until 2021.

Mr. Grimm elaborated of the presence of the FES PSCC regional office which started operating in Senegal in 2016, but further stressed FES national presence in Senegal in addition to other offices they have in Africa. He commented they work through strategic dialogue in Europe and in Africa and that peace and security activities are mainly financed by EU and Germany, as far as FES is concerned. He further indicated that in this project, they will be collaborating with the co-applicants located in Senegal, Mali, Nigeria and Cameroon. For this particular activity which is the establishment of a regional platform on women in Security sector reform and governance, the project will be limited to Mali, Nigeria and Cameroon at the national level, but will nevertheless go regional as far as the activities of the platform are concerned. In terms of funding, he indicated that it is a 2 million Euro project in which FES PSCC will play a coordinating role and that FES has been working for years on security sector reform and governance.

Mr Grimm indicated that the project Security for All is made up of four components which are:

- The Regional women's platform on security sector reform and governance;
- Capacity building activities for the Media, Youth, Women and Defence and security forces;
- The establishment of a barometer on security sector governance;
- And a baseline research in 4 countries on security sector reform and governance, which will translate into policy papers and feed into other activities of the project.

He finally emphasized the importance of the experts' inputs on the process as to what may work better for the operationalization of the regional platform, given their experience and lessons learned from such processes in Africa.

This was followed by a round of introduction of the participants. Overall participants expressed their gratitude to FES for the invitation and for being given the opportunity to make some inputs and recommendations in the process of the operationalization of the regional women's platform.

Session 1: Summary presentation on the regional women's platform on security sector reform and governance.

In this session, FES PSCC Programme Officer provided participants with information of the regional women's platform, as planned in the project document (the objectives, expectations and expected impacts of the women's regional platform on SSR/G). He further put emphasis on the fact that the whole idea of the women's regional platform was focused on CSOs activities to be

able to improve on women's involvement in security sector reform and governance by means of advocacy, capacity building, research and alliance building. As far as co-applicants of the project are concerned, it was indicated that the latter will work with FES offices at the national level and national CSOs involved in gender, women and SSRG activities.

Session 2: Legal frameworks for the promotion and participation of women in peace and security, security sector reform and governance: opportunities and challenges for implementation

This session provided participants with an overview of the women, peace and security instruments as well as frameworks on security sector reform and governance, such as the UN SSR framework, the AU SSR Framework and the ECOWAS Policy framework for security sector reform and governance.

The purpose of the section was to remind participants of some of the existing frameworks that can be used as guidance for the activities that will be implemented within the framework of the women's regional platform on SSR. In addition to the opportunities for entry points provided by these frameworks, it was also indicated that lessons could be learned from their implementation challenges at various levels. A few ongoing initiatives that include women, gender and SSR activities were mentioned, such as:

- The UN Strategy for the Sahel;
- The ECOWAS women, peace and security network;
- The G5 regional platform for preventing violent extremism in the Sahel;
- Women and SSR programming; and
- The African Women Leaders' Network.

As far as lessons learned are concerned, the following challenges were mentioned:

- Cultural paradigms that confine women to secondary roles;
- The absence of trust between armed and security forces & communities;
- The lack of gender sensitive approaches;
- The inefficient monitoring mechanisms; and
- The lack of coordination and synergy of actions.

The session provided also an overview of the AU Operational Guidance notes on Gender and security sector reform. It first reminded of the definition of SSR which refers SSR to *the process by which countries formulate or re-orient the policies, structures, and capacities of institutions and groups engaged in the security sector; in order to make them more effective, efficient, and responsive to democratic control, and to the security and justice needs of the people*. Building on this definition, security and justice needs of the people are at the core of the AU Policy framework, which makes women and gender related issues very relevant in the security sector and important to be taken care of. The AU SSR policy frameworks provides guidelines for mainstreaming women's issues and gender in the security sector reform and governance as stipulated in the policy document¹. The document indicates areas of focus that could guide the work of the regional women's platform such as:

¹ For more details, refer to section B, (i) at page 11 and section E, p.23 of the AU policy framework on SSR.

- The implementation of gender best practices and women focused activities at all levels and in all the elements of the security sector;
- The improvement of mechanisms for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence;
- The involvement of women at all levels of SSR processes including in leadership positions, with the aim of creating gender balance in security sector institutions;
- Addressing the specific needs of women and girls formerly associated with armed forces or groups as well as wives and widows of former combatants;
- The provision of gender, international human rights and humanitarian law training to all security personnel; and
- Increasing the recruitment, retention and advancement of women in all security sector institutions.

The guidance notes, which were developed by the African Union following the release of the AU SSR Policy framework, offers guidance on how to increase the security sector's knowledge of and responsiveness to the rights, perspectives and needs of women and girls that are often missing from security discussions. Such activities will be guided by the rule of law and respect for human rights. It was indicated that there were also gender and SSR guidance notes from UN, ECOWAS (toolkits) and other organizations and that the regional women's platform could get build on them as well. Furthermore, it was agreed that implementation of policy frameworks seems to be one of the main challenges, and that one way of addressing such issue, could be putting measures on states that do not fulfill their commitments in terms of making the security sector gender responsive. In addition, the issue of lack of trust between the civilians and the security happens to be a remaining challenge and that the regional women's platform could also contribute to bridging the gap.

Overall, the need for capacity building for actors to be able to fill in some of the gaps was highlighted, and also the need to undertake some targeted research. Lack of coordination and mushrooming of initiatives on gender and SSR seems to be a preoccupation, and that going forward, the regional women's platform could play a key leading role in coordination, synergy of activities, capacity building and research.

Session 3: An overview of women's participation in security sector reform and governance: lessons learned from Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria.

Building on the previous sessions, the objective of this session was to learn from some of the initiatives on women's participation in security sector reform and governance being implemented in Mali, Cameroon and Nigeria. The purpose is to examine some of the good practices that the regional women's platform could build on.

This session started with the experience from Cameroun which was presented by **Fouezet Jacqueline Sylvie NDONGMO** from WILPF. The speaker indicated that women's participation in security sector reform and Governance has been a main challenge despite CSOs' advocacy around the implementation of key legal frameworks, and also despite their continued engagement with the security sector. As a matter of fact, it was indicated that in the Police service, out of 700 personnel, there are only 83 women at the highest ranks, i.e 20 Police Commissioners, 50 Principal

Police Commissioner, and 13 District Police Commissioners. It was further pointed out the quasi-absence of women in some elite corps such as Rapid Intervention Battalion, which is partly due to the masculinization of theaters of operations and also some socio-cultural constraints. For instance, it was indicated that due to the challenging security environment in Cameroon, some institutions and commissions have been put in place where it was found out that women were completely excluded. It is the case of the Commission for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants where the Ministry of women empowerment and family is not represented.

A few following challenges were highlighted during the presentation:

- The fact that activities of CSOs' are often misunderstood by security institutions. Such a situation has often led to the absence of a conducive environment for CSOs to operate characterized by bans on certain activities they are implementing and on demonstrations, as well as arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society and political actors;
- Lack of trust between CSOs and security forces which result in non-acceptance of CSOs' invitations extended to them, or security forces behaving like spies when they attend;
- The very low involvement of civil society organizations in the activities of the government or security forces; and
- The increased level of violence in Cameroon.

The experience of Mali was shared by **Ornella Moderan from the DDG**. The speaker indicated that the country is going through a formal national SSR process and that there are conversations around national security. This constitute an opportunity to talk about women's involvement and effective participation in security sector reform issues. It is also an opportunity for women to speak out the issues they have. A following challenges were pointed out during the presentation:

- The need to do more than putting policies and frameworks in place, i.e. make sure that they are being implemented, by putting 'sanctions' for instance;
- The need to address stereotypes;
- And also give opportunities to women.

Some of the lessons learned include the following:

- Tokenism does not help, there is a need to take up space for women;
- Institutional culture, leadership and ranking matter;
- Laws and policies are not enough, there is a need to move into practice by providing trainings;
- Focus should be also on the experience of uniformed female personnel in their own forces;
- The need to strengthen female staff association;
- Make the security sector institutions women and gender friendly;
- Create partnerships between women's CSOs (some were heard, some were not) and women in the security sector institutions.

It was also recommended to avoid perpetuating the same stereotypes (such as women are peaceful...) and the use of language that excludes women.

The experience of Nigeria was presented by **Bertha Eloho OGBIMI** from CISLAC. The speaker indicated that , in Nigeria, CSOs have found it urgent to engage with the security sector with regard to the numerous security challenges that the country has been experiencing, such as:

- Boko Haram insurgency in the North East;
- Intra and inter communal conflicts, some of which are resource based, political or origin;
- Nomadic herders and farmers' crisis across country;
- Militancy and criminality in the Niger Delta;
- Political, electoral and election related crisis.

More specifically on security sector a few initiatives have been undertaken by CSOs such as:

- Capacity building activities for the strengthening of women's capacities for peacebuilding, on inclusive leadership and human rights for different constituencies, communities and cultures across Nigeria;
- Activities around women's political participation in Nigeria, drawing from existing legal provisions nationally and internationally to seek more affirmative action for women's active participation in governance in Nigeria;
- The promotion of women's participation in peace and security related issues through the Women Peace Network which is an initiative of CISLAC's broader security intervention;
- Engagement with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to develop the out of date Defence policy. The reviewed Defence policy is the first that recognizes the civil military relations component but there are still some challenges;
- Engagement with the Parliament on areas that strengthen civilian oversight and more attention to be given to the role of women in peacebuilding; and
- Media providing a platform for CSOs to share knowledge and information with security agencies;

The following challenges were pointed out regarding the relationships between CSOs and the security institutions:

- Lack of awareness from both side;
- Trust deficit and violations of women and girls in particular in conflict areas;
- Weak Grievance mechanism;
- Weak community governance system;
- Lack of capacity amongst women;
- Lack of synergy amongst women;
- Socio-cultural norms;
- High level of discrimination against women especially in security decision making process;
- Unwillingness of security agencies to put in place gender specific policies;

In order to move the process forward, it was recommended that an increased partnership at the regional level with ECOWAS, with Political Parties, Security Agencies and all other bodies relevant to the advancement of Women Affairs at the national level is advised.

Session 4: Conceptualization of the regional women's platform on security sector reform and governance

The objective of this session was to have a detailed discussion on the practical modalities of the establishment of the regional women's platform.

Below is captured the outcome of the brainstorming session on each objective:

Objective 1: Improve monitoring and observation of SSR/G processes to ensure that women's perspectives and needs are integrated in accordance with existing normative frameworks of the United Nations (UN), the AU and ECOWAS

It was agreed that there was the need to look at what the existing monitoring and observation of SSR/G processes are so that strategies can be devised as to how they were going to be improve. Examining further the objectives, it was said that usually monitoring and observation are put in place for organizations that implement SSR processes such as the UN, the AU, ECOWAS and other continental bodies and organizations. It was also added that the monitoring and observation mechanisms can be specific to a particular donor, but in all what are usually worth to identify in order to be able to measure progress are:

- Indicators
- Reporting mechanisms; and
- Milestones

Objective 2: Empower women on this issue, closing the gaps through inclusive political dialogue that promotes mutual understanding

About this objective, it was agreed that there was the need to undertake a mapping of the already existing gaps which include capacity building, perceptions and power imbalances. In relation to that, there will be the need to undertake capacity building activities, awareness raising activities, and promote women in leadership positions by doing some mentoring, coaching; it was also indicated that such activities should also be undertaken at the community level through community dialogue and using a bottom-up approach.

Objective 3: Jointly analyze gaps in the implementation of national and regional legal frameworks and the quality of security services and governance from a gender perspective, in order to ensure that women's SSR perspectives and needs are integrated in accordance with the AU SSR policy framework and to involve women at all levels of the SSR process

Under this objective, research was mainly identified with the use of focus group discussions and key informant interview, mainly when it has to do with security sector institutions. Data collection is also key.

Objective 4: Create a lobbying alliance between women's organizations for political change and their involvement in SSR/G processes at the national level (Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria) as well as in the ECOWAS region

It was indicated that lobbying alliance could be done at two levels:

At the national level

- networking with other platforms at the national level between CSOs; and between CSOs and CSOs working on security sector; and between CSOs and security institutions;
- mapping of stakeholders;
- the setting up of guidelines and standard operating procedures; and
- experience sharing through online and face to face platforms, and exchange visits.

At the regional level by identifying opportunities for exposure through international gatherings.

Objective 5: *Strengthen women's capacities in advocacy and communication to formulate progressive proposals in SSR/G at national and regional level (ECOWAS and ECCAS- Economic Community of Central African States).*

It was agreed that progressive proposals underscore innovations and that they will depend on the national level, on the context of the country and will include specific activities.

2. Structure of the platform

It was discussed that there is need to put in a formal structure for the platform and a charter or statute. Deliberating on that, it was agreed that a founding charter would fit better. FES will have to decide on that.

3. Operating mechanisms

It was proposed that there is need to identify a core group of people that can move the forward the work of the regional platform, namely:

- a. an advisory board
- b. a technical committee

The advisory board could include:

- FES
- A member of Civil society (from women's group, academia and security sector)
- UN
- AU
- ECOWAS
- ECCAS

It was recommended for such advisory to include influential people that can influence, open doors and position the regional women's platform at the highest level internationally.

The technical committee would be a larger group of technical persons which could include:

- Members of CSOs from Mali, Cameroon and Nigeria (3)
- A representative of armed and defence forces (3) (ideally a high rank officer)
- A member of the academia
- A member of FES
- An expert on security sector reform
- A technical expert from UN
- A technical expert from AU
- A technical expert from ECCAS; and
- A technical expert from ECOWAS.

A total of 13 technical persons. This is a larger group as compared to the advisory board, however it could be agreed that the technical committee would meet at a regular set period if at least 8 to 10 people are available.

In between the advisory board and the technical committee it was suggested to have the FES country office and the co applicant that will feed information from the technical committee to the advisory board.

Some expressed their view that they were not comfortable with such proposal, and others advised that there should be a technical committee in each country at the national level for the sake of ownership and hierarchy. Based on this option, the national technical committee would be made up of:

- A member of FES country office
- The co-applicant in the country;
- Reps of CSOs; and
- Reps of security sector institutions.

The discussion was put on hold to be referred to FES to decide on a better fit, and also building on FES experience in running similar platforms, as well as the suggestions made above. What was commonly agreed was that whatever names it will bear, there would be a need to have a core group of advisors providing guidance and networking at the highest level for the regional platform, and also another more technical group.

4. Strategies and positioning mechanisms

In terms of strategies, it was said that strategic partnerships should be built at the national, regional and global level. It was further indicated that the strategies could involve:

- a. Partnership building by establishing connections and collaborative work with state institutions, regional economic communities (in this case ECOWAS and ECCAS), regional bodies such as AU(with the Gender and Development department, Femwise Africa, the Defence and Security Division, and the Office of the Special envoy on women peace and security) , as well as continental bodies such as the UN;
- b. Identifying champions at the national level;
- c. Establishing relationships with the existing training centre of excellence such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping training centre (KAIPTC), the Ecole de Maintien de la Paix in Bamako (EMP) and the Nigeria Defence College (NDC) which are ECOWAS Centres of Excellence) in terms of research and capacity building and have activities that include gender and SSR;
- d. Organizations such as WAPNEP, WILPF, and CISLAC and other targeted women's platforms in order to also learn from their experience; and
- e. Peace and Security Networks.

5. Axes/Themes of intervention:

In terms of axes of intervention, it was agreed that a good strategy would be to operate around 3 axes: *Research, Capacity building, Advocacy, and influencing.*

It was further agreed that, in addition to that, this will also depend on the priorities of the countries, and also the security sector institutions that are being engaged during the implementation of the project, at the country level.

6. Membership

Two types of membership were proposed: *Organizational and Individual*.

As far as the organizational type is concerned, it was agreed that it could be a women's CSO working on gender and women issues and that is willing to incorporate an element of SSR/G in their activities; or an SSR/G organization that is willing to undertake activities promoting women and gender; or organizations working on governance, DDR, small arms and light weapons, etc. as long as there is interest to support the objectives of the network. It could be also a women's umbrella organization.

The individual membership will be for experts working on gender, SSR or any other topic of interest. They can also be individuals working at the community level in a particular committee or local level structure, etc.

It was further agreed that, whether it is individual or organizational membership, there should be some sort of:

- Vetting process;
- Background check on the organization;
- Recommendation;
- Status of the organization, documents, integrity, etc.
- Form to fill; and
- Expression of commitment as to how they are ready to support the regional women.

In discussing the type of regional women's platform, we are aiming for, experts further suggested that we should also think of the added value this network will have as compared to other existing network; and keep on answering the question: why are we doing this? Some of the main reasons why the platform is being established are:

- Gaps that are existing in terms of implementation of frameworks, given that fact that policy does not match with practice at the country level;
- The lack of coordination on gender and SSR activities which could confer a harmonizing role to the regional women's platform;
- The gaps in training and women not accessing opportunities;
- The fact that SSR/gender expertise is scattered or unknown;
- And also the leverage, the positioning, and the exposure that the platform could give to its members, being a repository of knowledge, contact building, and partnerships (example was given about the partnership that is going on between, Danish demining group and WANEP through their collaborative work on a women's leadership programme for security sector governance in Sahel project which covers Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso).

Session 5: Experience in coordination of regional platforms: What can we learn from there that will serve in the work the regional women's platform for women in security sector reform and governance will be doing?

This session entailed listening to the experts from WANEP and WIPSI/KAIPTC regarding their practical experience in coordinating regional activities. Following the presentation, it came out that key areas where there could be collaboration include research, capacity building, policy advocacy as well as networking. It was also clear that WANEP and the WPSI have connections with regional women's platforms, and also women's platforms at the community level. In addition, they could make their alumni and network and experts' roster available to the regional women's platform on Gender and SSR and also provide partnership contacts as entry points at the level of ECOWAS and the AU. It was also interesting to see that both organizations have some experience in evidence-based research that inform training and advocacy activities. On this topic, it was indicated that there are baselines studies that will be done for the Security for ALL project and that the latter could build on existing research on gender and SSR. Pushing the idea further it was pointed out that there are already existing gender and SSR research available but they are scattered, and one thing the regional women's platform on gender and SSR could do, is kind of finding a way of making these available in one place and that could be accessed easily by various people for their own use. The same idea was said about the available opportunities for training on gender and SSR, as well as the available qualified expertise on Gender and SSR.

Quite a number of challenges were highlighted. These range from mistrust between CSOs and the security sector institutions; lack of collaboration; capacity building gaps; gender sensitive and women-focus gaps in the institutional culture, the leadership and policies of security sector institutions; difficult access to opportunities for women; to lack of funding; and elitism among the women (exclusion of certain women) came out among other issues. Moving forward, it was indicated that the regional women's platform on SSR/G should have this at the back of its mind in its future activities.

Session 6: Launching of the regional women's platform: A brief on what is planned

This session was the opportunity for FES PSCC to provide participants with the overview on the roadmap towards the launching of the Platform. In October a meeting will be organized at the regional level in Abuja (Abuja Dialogue) with other FES officers and stakeholders. During the Abuja Dialogue, the outcomes of this meeting will be presented and share with other co-applicants to the projects and experts for further inputs and comments. The Abuja Dialogue will discuss the format and working methods of the newly created platform and its founding charter. Besides the Abuja Dialogue, 6 national meetings will take place subsequently in 2020 in Mali, Nigeria and Cameroon as countries where the project is focusing on. The official launching of the platform is planned for November 2019.

Experts' advised to make use of other platforms on women peace and security, and also the need to create mechanisms about the sustainability of the project at the national level through strategic partnerships and involve key ministries, including the ministries of gender and women's affairs of the countries targeted by the project. It was also indicated to target leadership of the security sector institutions in Mali, Cameroon and Nigeria and train them, as well as identifying male champions.

Session 7: Next steps toward the launching and operationalization of the Women' regional platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance

The purpose of this session was for experts participating in the meeting to give an indication of their commitments to the operationalization of the platform, and also make some final recommendations.

For Ms Ornella Moderan from the Danish Demining Group, shared that they are currently developing a pool of women experts on SSR with WANEP and that they could share with the platform how the pool is being built. Subsequently, she is also suggesting that pool members could be part of the platform and that women experts on SSR/G and gender could serve as mentors for pool members. This would be within the framework of a women's programme on SSR that they are currently implementing.

Ms Ogbimi from CISLAC indicated that they could support in engaging legislators' policies through legislative advocacy, capacity building and research. She further added that her organization will be able to provide more details on that.

Ms Otoo from KAIPTC highlighted that research and capacity building are key areas of collaboration. On this, she recommended that it would be good for the platform to identify mid-level women's CSOs for countries involved in the project to participate in the Women's leadership programme organized by KAIPTC WIPSI. She indicated that the programme takes place once a year and that places are limited to 15 participants due to the mentoring and coaching aspect that is involved after the course. She also made mention of networking and advocacy, cooperation with other components of the *Security for All* project and also the TED of KAIPTC for monitoring aspects of the regional platform's activities.

Ms Ndongmo from WILPF advanced that her organization will be in a position to support co-applicant countries for the implementation of the activities of the regional platform at the national level, in addition to supporting them to engage with the Ministry of gender about the platform's activities. WILPF could support in advocacy activities through the use of core upcoming events on the women peace and security agenda, in capacity building on the women peace and security agenda. They could support in building cross-collaboration between members of the platform in Cameroon, and also build synergies with Nigeria national chapter for the platform; and also, will cross-check how the African section of WILPF could support the regional women's platform.

Ms Tawo from WANEP also proposed the regional women's platform to make use of WANEP's broad networking links, in addition to their experience in capacity building. WANEP could open doors to the regional platform by making their contacts at the national and grassroots level available. WANEP's Liaison officers could support in building strategic partnerships. The regional women's platform can also benefit from their evidence-based research that is already available and establish partnership on new areas of research.

A general recommendation in terms of research was to take stock of the documentation on various gender SSR work undertaken by various CSOs. It was also added that a roundtable was being organized in Bamako the following week and that the event will bring together stakeholders from Mali, Burkina and Niger working on women's participation and leadership in SSRG. Some of the outcomes could be shared with FES. The importance of involving the media throughout the implementation of the regional women's platform was highly recommended for visibility.

Concluding remarks

Participants, first all, appreciated the opportunity given to their organizations to participate in this important gathering in order to discuss practical aspects for the operationalization of the regional women's platform on SSR/G. They expressed the expectations that the regional platform will drive in better capacities in addressing gender and women related issues in security sector reform and governance, and that the platform will operate in an innovative way and will look for added value and not do business as usual. They further expressed their wish for greater collaboration with FES PSSC, beyond the women's regional platform. They also indicated that there should be cross sharing of experience between the countries and discussions on areas of commonalities. In conclusion, this regional women's platform on gender and security sector reform has to be seen as an additional opportunity for building peace in Africa.

« Expert workshop for the conceptualization of the Regional Women Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance »

18 – 19 July 2019, Hôtel Fleurs de Lys - Dakar/Senegal

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 17 July

Arrival of participants

Note : *Due to the different arrival times of the participants, there is no common meal on the first evening. Dinner will be available from 7pm on the Hôtel Fleur de Lys Plateau*

Thursday 18 July

08.30 - 09.00

Registration of Participants

09.00 - 09.30

Opening Session

- Welcome Remarks/Opening statement on the project ‘Security for All, **Holger GRIMM**, Director FES PSCC, Senegal
- Introduction of participants

09.30 - 10.30

Session 1 : Summary presentation on the Regional Women’s Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance : Objectives, Expectations and Impact (followed by discussion)

Speaker : *Rémy Arsène DIOUSSE, Programme Officer FES PSCC, Dakar*

Moderator: *Aïssatou FALL, Gender and SSR Consultant*

10.30 - 11.00

Tea/Coffee Break

11.00 - 12.00

Session 2 : Legal frameworks for the promotion and participation of women in peace and security, security sector reform and governance (UN, AU and ECOWAS) : Opportunities and Challenges for Implementation (followed by discussion)

Speakers (15 mn each) :

- **Khady Ba FAYE, Peace and Security Specialist, UN Women Regional Office, Dakar**
- **Aïssatou FALL, Gender and SSR Consultant**

Moderator: *Adelaide OTOO, Women Peace and Security Institute - KAIPTC*

12.00 - 13.00

Session 3 : An overview of women's participation in security sector reform and governance : lessons learned from Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria, (followed by discussion)

Speakers (15 mn each) :

- ***Fouezet Jacqueline Sylvie NDONGMO***, President Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cameroon
- ***Ornella MODERAN***, Sahel Head of Programme, Danish Demining Group, Mali
- ***Bertha Eloho OGBIMI***, Program Officer Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and Transparency International Defence and Security Program (TI – DSP)

Moderator : Mrs Queeneth TAWO, Regional Coordinator - Women, Peace and Security, **WANEP**

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch Break

14.30 - 15.45

Session 4 : Conceptualization of the Regional Women's Platform on Security sector Reform and Governance (Group Discussion)

Part 1 - Discussion on:

- 1.Objectives of the platform*
- 2. structure of the platform*
- 3. Operating mechanisms*

Moderator: Aïssatou Fall, Gender and SSR Consultant

15.45 – 16.00

Tea/Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30

Session 4 continued :

Part 2 - Discussion on :

- 4.Strategies of Positioning and Partnerships*
- 5. Themes and Axes of Intervention*
- 6. Membership*
- 7. AOB*

Moderator : Aïssatou Fall, Gender and SSR Consultant

17.30

End 1st Day

19.00 - 21.00

Official Dinner at Restaurant Bideew of Institut Français de Dakar

Friday 19 July

08.30 - 09.00

Wrap up Day 1

Speaker : *Aïssatou FALL, Gender and SSR Consultant*

09.00 - 10.00

Session 5 : Experience in Coordination of Regional Platforms : Case of WANEP – What can we learn from there that will serve in the work the Regional Platform for Women in Security Sector Reform and Governance will be doing? (followed by discussion)

Speakers:

- *Mrs Queeneth TAWO, Regional Coordinator - Women, Peace and Security, WANEP (15mn)*
- *Adelaide OTOO, Women Peace and Security Institute – KAIPTC (15mn)*

Moderator: *Khady Bâ FAYE, Peace and Security Specialist, UN Women Regional Office, Dakar*

10.00 - 10.15

Tea/Coffee Break

10.15 - 11.15

Session 6 : Launching of the Regional Platform - A brief on what is planned (followed by discussion)

Speaker : *Rémy Arsène DIOUSSE, Programme Officer FES PSCC, Dakar*

Moderator: *Fouezet Jacqueline Sylvie NDONGMO, President Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cameroon*

11.15 - 12.30

Session 7 : Next steps towards the launching and operationalization of the Platform

Points to be discussed :

- *Organizations / Experts' Commitment*
- *Recommendations*
- *Next steps*

Speaker: All

Moderator: *Aïssatou FALL, Gender and SSR Consultant*

12.30 - 12.45

Concluding remarks and end of the workshop, Holger GRIMM, Director FES PSCC Dakar

13.30 - 15.00

Lunch

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 July Departure of the participants to the airport

Rapporteur : *Aïssatou FALL, Gender and SSR Consultant*

Annex 2: Concept Note

Expert Workshop for the Conceptualization of the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance

18-19 July 2019, Hotel Fleurs de Lys, Dakar

CONCEPT NOTE

Description of the context

Despite the fact that the inclusion of women's perspectives, their effective participation, their specificity and gender aspects are well embedded in the existing legal frameworks and strategies of the African Union (AU) and ECOWAS for security sector reform and governance, it must be recognized that the application of these principles remains a challenge at the national level, despite the political will of some states and the advocacy efforts of some civil society organizations in this regard. Thus, the idea of establishing a Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance comes at the right time, with the countless security challenges in the Sahel States, Africa and the rest of the world.

The overall objective of the Platform will be to contribute to actions and institutions that ensure that security services are more accountable, responsive and equitable to women's peace and security needs.

The specific objectives of the Regional Platform as targeted by the project are as follows:

- Improve monitoring and observation of SSR/G processes to ensure that women's perspectives and needs are integrated in accordance with existing normative frameworks of the United Nations (UN), the AU and ECOWAS.
- Empower women on this issue, closing the gaps through inclusive political dialogue that promotes mutual understanding.
- Jointly analyse gaps in the implementation of national and regional legal frameworks and the quality of security services and governance from a gender perspective, in order to ensure that women's SSR perspectives and needs are integrated in accordance with the AU SSR policy framework and to involve women at all levels of the SSR process.
- Create a lobbying alliance between women's organizations for political change and their involvement in SSR/G processes at the national level (Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria) as well as in the ECOWAS region.
- Strengthen women's capacities in advocacy and communication to formulate progressive proposals in SSR/G at national and regional level (ECOWAS and ECCAS- Economic Community of Central African States).

In order to begin the process of implementing the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance, FES PSCC is engaged in a participatory process and first intends to gather expert opinions on the theme by organizing a two-day expert meeting in Dakar (18-19 July 2019 at the Hotel Fleurs de Lys). This expert workshop is part of the "Security for All" project, co-financed by the European Union delegation in Dakar, which aims to promote inclusive security and democratic governance through the participation of civil society organisations in Mali, Nigeria, Cameroon and throughout the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Thus, the establishment of the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance by FES PSCC is one of the essential activities of this project.

Purpose of the expert workshop

The two-day workshop will bring together eight (8) experts - in gender and security sector reform and governance - to reflect on the design and operationalization of the Regional Women Platform. In other words, the workshop will aim to reflect and exchange on the content, form, objectives, mechanisms and operating strategies of the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance. In addition, the modalities for launching the Platform will be among the topics discussed in the workshop discussions.

Expected results

At the end of the two days of work, the expected results are as follows:

1. Determination of the Platform's positioning axes: Participants first have a global appreciation of the challenges in terms of Women-Gender-Reform and Governance of the Security Sector in general and in particular on Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria and will be able to make recommendations on the main axes on which the Platform should position itself.
2. Platform positioning strategy: A reminder of the normative frameworks of the UN, AU and ECOWAS is given with regard to taking into account women's, gender, security sector reform and governance perspectives to find an optimal positioning and partnership strategy for the regional platform.
3. A detailed understanding of the regional platform, its objectives and operating methods: Refinement of the platform's objectives and concrete recommendations will be made on its content, form, status, operating mechanisms and strategies.
4. Learn some lessons from existing platforms : The experts will exchange lessons learned on the functioning of other platforms from which the regional platform could learn.
5. The criteria for membership of the platform : the experts will make recommendations and suggestions.
6. The different themes of the platform : the experts will brainstorm on the themes.
7. Agreement on an initial list of organizations : that could be part of the regional platform from its launch.

Participants at the expert workshop

In order to enrich the debates and draw on each other's knowledge and experience in the field of Women - Gender - Security Sector Reform and Governance, participants will come from civil society organizations, think tanks and representatives of regional platforms such as the Women Peace and Security Institute of KAIPTC and WANEP. Representatives of the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS will also participate in this workshop. At the national level, participants will come from Mali, Nigeria and Cameroon (countries concerned by the project) and Senegal.

Dates and place

The workshop will take place from Thursday, 18 to Friday 19, July , 2019 at Hôtel Fleur de Lys.

Schedules

On Thursday, July 18, the workshop will start at 9:00 am and end at 6:00 pm. On Friday, July 19 the session will start at 9:00 and end at 14:00

Annex 3: Participants' list

1	Aïssatou	FALL	Gender and SSR Consultant	Senegal
2	Khady Ba	FAYE	UN Women	Senegal
3	Ornella Mafio	MODERAN	Danish Demining Group	Mali
4	Sylvie Jacqueline Fouezet	NDONGMO	Women International League for Peace and Freedom - Cameroon	Cameroon
5	Bertha Eloho	OGBIMI	Civil Society and Legislative Advocacy Centre	Nigeria
6	Adelaide Ekua Mrenfoa	OTOO	Women Peace and Security Institute of Koffi Annan International Peace Training Centre	Ghana
7	Queeneth	TAWO	West African Network for Peacebuilding	Ghana
9	Holger	GRIMM	Director FES PSCC	Senegal
10	Rémy Arsène	DIOUSSE	FES PSCC	Senegal
11	Adji Khadijatou	NDIAYE	FES PSCC	Senegal
12	Oureye	FALL	FES PSCC	Senegal
13	Fouaty	LIGNON	FES PSCC	Senegal