

CONFERENCE FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE REGIONAL WOMEN'S PLATFORM ON
SECURITY SECTOR REFORM AND GOVERNANCE
28-29 November 2019, Gorée Island, Senegal

FINAL REPORT



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights
CISLAC	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DSF	Defense and Security Force
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EGDC	Ecowas Gender and Development Centre
ECPF	Ecowas Conflict Prevention Framework
FES PSCC	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Peace and Security Centre of Competence Sub-Saharan Africa
GAPEF	Groupe d'actions pour la promotion de l'éducation, la formation de la Femme et de la jeune fille
GORIN	Gorée Institute
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NDC	National Defence College
REDHAC	Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits Humain en Afrique Centrale
REC	Regional Economic Community
SSR	Security Sector Reform
SSRG	Security Sector Reform and Governance
UN	United Nations
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WPSI	Women Peace and Security Institute

Introduction

The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Peace and Security Centre of Competence Sub-Saharan Africa (FES PSCC) organized a conference for the launching of the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance. The conference, which took place from 28 to 29 November 2019 at Gorée Institute (GORIN), Gorée Island in Senegal, brought together a total of twenty-five (25) participants drawing from civil society organizations, women's platforms, peace and security organizations, research and training centres of excellence, as well as staff from FES PSCC and the Gender and SSR Consultant. Representatives from defence and security forces (DSFs), regional economic communities (RECs) such as ECOWAS and ECCAS, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) were invited to attend the launching. Participants came from following countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal (attached is the list of total participants).

The Regional Conference aimed at officially launching the Regional women's Platform on Security sector reform and governance. Besides, the event provided opportunities to reflect on how CSOs will collaborate with the security sector at the national and regional levels. Participants also discussed practical aspects relating to membership and functioning of the network.

Activities that were planned for the launching lasted for a day and half. Below is captured the outcome of the interaction that went on.

Day One: Thursday 28 November 2019

Opening Session:

Welcome statement from Dr. Doudou Dia, Director of the Gorée Institute

The launching of the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance started with opening remarks from the Director of the Gorée Institute, Dr. Doudou Dia who expressed his gratitude to the FES PSCC for giving him the honor to host this important event at the Gorée Institute, which is as he further advanced, a Centre for Democracy, Development and Culture in Africa, a Pan African institution working for the emergence of peaceful and autonomous African societies and a framework for research, dialogue and facilitation.

After welcoming participants and partners, Dr. Dia added that the launching of the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance will constitute a step forward for the participation of the citizens in the elaboration and implementation of public policies, in particular for security sector reform and governance. Such an initiative, he further indicated, constitutes an opportunity to put in practice principles of good governance which are based on the establishment of efficient institutions that comply with the rule of law and respond to the needs of the citizens. In other words, he added, the regional women's platform will be a catalyst for mobilizing energies for more efficiency and integrity from actors and institutions in charge of defense and security.

Dr Dia further expressed his wishes for the Regional women's platform to constitute a framework for advocacy, dialogue and strategic reflection for collective actions on security sector reform and governance. Furthermore, he emphasized that such an initiative can contribute in a valuable way to mainstreaming gender in the security sector and governance through knowledge generation and provision of expertise to national and regional institutions. Dr. Dia finally congratulated the FES-

PSCC for the initiative and wished participants and partners fruitful deliberations at the Gorée Island.

Opening Remarks of Rémy Arsène Dioussé, Programme Officer, FES PSCC

Mr. Rémy Arsène Dioussé, on behalf of M. Philipp Manfred Goldberg, Director of FES PSCC, welcomed the distinguished participants for attending the conference for the launching of the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance. Mr. Dioussé went on further providing to the audience information on the broader mandate of FES PSCC on peace and security in Africa, putting emphasis on its collaboration with scholars, policy makers, civil society, as well as defense and security forces through various means such as strategic dialogues between its various actors in Africa; workshops and conferences; the promotion of innovative ideas and inter-connections between the regions in Africa, given the current peace and security challenges.

The Security for All Project, as Mr. Dioussé reminded, is one of the programs being put in place to operationalize the mandate of FES PSCC. The project comprises four main components including capacity building, a baseline survey, the establishment of a barometer and the regional women's platform whose launching is the purpose of the gathering in Gorée Island. Still speaking about the interest of FES on gender, Mr. Dioussé made mention of the opening of a Competence Centre based in Maputo, dedicated to gender in 2019, as one the key achievements of the FES.

Opening statement from Mrs. Salimata Thiam, Senior Gender Programme Officer, Ecowas Gender and Development Centre

Mrs. Salimata Thiam, on behalf of the Dr. Bolante Adetoun, Director for the ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre (EGDC) expressed her gratitude to participate to the launching of the regional women's platform on security sector reform and governance, which is timely given the current peace and security challenges we are facing, she emphasized. She further added that the launching could not come a better time when the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) is looking back on 20 years of implementation, and also a moment when ECOWAS is about to end its Vision 2020 of an ECOWAS of the people to transit to a new sustainable development agenda in which questions relating to the participation of women in institutions dealing with prevention, peace keeping and security are key. Mrs. Thiam further indicated the keen interest of EGDC on security governance which, as she said, culminated in the creation in 2009 of the Network for Peace and Security of the women in the ECOWAS subregion, among other key platforms, instruments and frameworks. Mrs. Thiam made mention of the already existing Lomé Declaration (2018) between ECOWAS and ECCAS, based on which the EGDC has already started engaging the ECCAS Direction for Gender. The above, as she indicated, demonstrates the interest of EGDC in taking part of this launching ceremony of the regional women's platform on security sector reform and governance, hoping that the latter will be a catalyst for added value as compared to already existing networks in the region. Closing her statement, Mrs. Thiam reiterated ECOWAS commitment to supporting such activity and declared the Regional women's Platform for security sector reform and Governance officially launched.

Session 1: Security For All Project: Key highlights

The purpose of the session was to provide participants with a brief overview of the Security for All project and provide them with key highlights on the activities that preceded the official launching of the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance. Key information provided by Mr. Dioussé, Programme Officer in charge the Regional Women's Platform was the division of the Security for All project into the main following components:

- 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 3 countries on security sector reform and governance.

As far as the regional women's platform is concerned, Mr. Dioussé indicated the holding of an experts' meeting in July 2019 which discussed practical modalities of the establishment of the platform. As a follow-up of the experts' meeting, Mr. Dioussé reminded the propositions that were made including the establishment of an advisory board, technical committees, founding charter, and membership form. He concluded by indicating that the latter will be discussed during the conference and participants would have the opportunity to reflect on the preliminary achievements and make some inputs.

Session 2: Country Panels

By way of introducing the discussions, this section provided the opportunity for civil society members, defence and security forces (DSF), representative of regional platforms, and peace and security research and training centres of excellence to give insights on the relationships between DSF, CSOs and civilians (in Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria) as well as women's inclusion and participation in security sector and governance. More specifically, the contributions of the panel evolved around four following guiding questions that can be found in annex 4.

Below is captured the results of the discussion that followed.

1. Cameroon Panel

The panel on Cameroon was moderated by Mr. Didier Charles Kobena from UNWOMEN, West and Central Africa Regional Office. The panel brought together two speakers, Mrs. Maximilienne C. Ngo Mbe, Executive Director of the *Réseau de Défenseurs des Droits Humains au Cameroun* (REDHAC) and Mrs Sylvie Ndongmo, President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom / Cameroon (WILPF Cameroon). The absence of DSFs from Cameroon was noted on this panel.

After a brief presentation of the mandate, vision and mission of REDHAC, Mrs. Ngo Mbe gave some insights on the challenging security environment marked by the socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West of Cameroon (Anglophone regions), the Boko Haram insurgency in the extreme North, road hijackers in the North, East and Adamaoua regions and thousands of internally displaced persons in the Littoral region. It is against this background that the speaker identified the following challenges:

- DSFs who are misusing their power on civilians;
- Difficult relationships between the DSFs, CSOs and the civilians;
- Total impunity giving room to gross violations of fundamental rights and freedoms (freedom of opinion and freedom of expression) by DSFs;
- Use of military tribunal to do trial for civilians;
- Lack of confidence between civilians, civil society and DSFs.

Direct consequences of the above, noted the speaker, is the deteriorating relationships between the DSFs and the civilians and lack of joint efforts to devise strategies for the security challenges the people are facing. To this, she further added the bad image which is being projected of Cameroon as being a country where DSFs violate the rights of the people, including international humanitarian laws.

Despite this, and since Boko Haram attacks started in the extreme North of the Country in 2013, some beginning of collaboration has been noted between the Simbock Defense School and their organization through the provision of trainings to junior officers on how to deal with the protection of human rights in the fight against violent extremism. Moreover, this has led to more open mindedness and collaboration opportunities with the DSFs, the speaker added. By way of example in November, when REDHAC was celebrating its 10-year anniversary, they receive a letter from the DSFs stating that they will provide them with a discrete security coverage during the activities planned for the celebration. She indicated the existence of unformal platforms of exchange between DSFs and CSOs and displayed willingness from the side of the DSFs to receive trainings in human rights and get exposed to regional and international treaties and conventions on human rights, peace and security. In addition, sanctions and trials against DSFs who have been found guilty took place, the speaker added.

Building on the above, the speaker suggested that the Regional women's platform could play a significant role in capacity building for the women who have an important role to play in peace, security, conflict prevention and resolution but have been limited by the patriarchal nature of the Cameroonian society which seems discriminatory. Furthermore, sharing of experience between the CSOs and the DSFs is a must as it fosters collaboration, she further added. The speaker also indicated the important role of advocacy that the platform could play through the dissemination and domestication of regional and international resolutions on peace, security, human rights and gender.

Mrs. Ngo Mbe pointed out the need for capacity building opportunities in leadership and democratic governance, human rights, peace and security, gender, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace keeping. As far as exchange of good practices is concerned, she indicated the need to organize experience sharing and lessons learned workshops, roundtables on personal development, and the mapping of other existing platforms for interaction. She further indicated the need for advocacy which would involve participating in the meetings and consultations of regional organs, institutions and frameworks such as UN, AU, ACHPR, ECCAS, and ECOWAS, etc. Important to note is also the need to compile all resolutions and recommendations of this organs in a simplified manner in order to reach out to communities and disseminate them, she finally added.

The next speaker sharing the panel on Cameroon, Mrs Sylvie Ndongmo, President of the Women's International League, adding to the insights provided by her co-panelist, pointed out the following difficulties, among many others:

- Lack of collaboration between DSFs and the civil society;
- The absence of the DSFs in the activities organized by CSOs;
- Sharing of information and good practices is not happening;
- Women's participation in the DSFs not being obvious;
- The Ministry of women Affairs not being involved the security issues;
- Problems in terms of governance; and
- Lack of capacity building opportunities.

Building on the above, she advanced the following opportunities that could improve the situation, such as:

- Making use of the existing frameworks such as Agenda 2063 of the AU and 2020 Agenda;
- Promote early warning mechanisms;
- Mainstream gender in the security sector;
- Draw concrete plans of actions;
- And establish platforms at the national level; and
- Provide capacity building opportunities for women.

The Q&A session that followed provided participants with opportunity to interact. The interaction raised quite a number of issues of concern as indicated by the two panelists. These are:

- The fact that the strategies put in place by the Cameroonian state in order to fight against Boko Haram has resulted in a conflictual situation between the DSFs and the civilians. More specifically some laws that have been put in place (23 Dec 2014 Law n° 2014/028 on the repression of terrorist acts and the Law n° 2010/012 relating to cyber criminality and cyber security) are being misused to arbitrarily arrest civilians and track human rights defenders;
- The Executive Power is taking all other powers in the country;
- The civil society in Cameroon is not unified and autonomous, mainly due to lack of funding opportunities;
- Women's participation is undermined, and they are not speaking with one voice;
- There is a need to undertake an analysis of the specific needs of women, in particular in of those in refugee camps;
- Quite a number of human rights defenders are displaced, fearing for their lives in a repressive environment;
- Effective participation of women in peace and security matters is important, however there is need for accompanying measures including capacity building in the areas of leadership for example.

Despite the challenges highlighted above, some achievements that have been made include, among others:

- The existence of peace ambassadors whose advocacy led to the creation of the Network for women in peace and security in Cameroon;
- The creation of a pool of women mediators working at the community level; and
- Awareness raising on the role of women in peace and conflict resolution.

In concluding this panel, speakers indicated, for the case of Cameroon, the need to create first of all the enabling conditions for a dialogue between the DSFs, civilians and the civil society, using informal and formal strategies and learning from other countries some of the good practices.

2. Mali panel

The panel on Mali was moderated by Mrs. Queeneth Tawo, Regional Coordinator on Women, Peace and Security, WANEP-Ghana. Three speakers have the opportunity to provide some insights regarding the opportunities and challenges with regard to the collaboration between CSOs and the security sector in Mali.

The first co-panelist, Mrs. Nana Aïcha Cissé, Coordinator of the G-5 Sahel Women's Platform, provided some background information on the peace and security challenges that Mali is facing internally, due to the increasing insecurity and armed violence perpetrated by extremist groups, but also at the borders with Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. She further indicated that the inability of DSFs to provide the needed security for the population has contributed to the deterioration of the relationships between them, on the one hand. On the other hand, she pointed out the DSFs need the support of the populations on the ground, to be able to be successful in their mission on fighting violent extremism. Building on the above, she identified the following challenges:

- Lack of trust;
- Crisis of confidence between DSFs and civilians;
- Lack of the space for dialogue;
- Lack of misunderstanding on the role of the DSFs;

The speaker made the following suggestions for improvement:

- Work for a common understanding of the role and responsibilities of the DSFs and the populations with regard to the management of the security in the country through the inclusion of modules on citizenship in the curricula of institutions dealing with education; the organization of information sharing sessions and platform for dialogues;
- The establishment of local consultative security committees for an inclusive and concerted management security;
- Strengthen the capacities of the DSFs for them to be able to respond adequately to the changing security environment; review their methods and means of intervention.
- Use transparency, equity and efficiency as the basis for recruitment of the DSFs and avoid corruption and traffic of influence; and submit recruits to proper background check.

With regard to women's participation, the speaker indicated that it could trigger confidence between DSFs and civilians. She further advanced that women have a key role to play for the development and return to peace in the Sahel crisis and that it is important that their specific roles, capacities and experiences be taken into consideration by the countries in the Sahel region, and the international community. Furthermore, she deplored their low level of involvement in the process despite the skills they have and as a fundamental pillar in the families. Finally, she added that the implication of women in the management of peace and security challenges in the Sahel, goes beyond number, but also has to do with the fact that mainstreaming women's perspectives and gender into security have the potential to trigger positive changes in the legal frameworks, the

objectives, strategies, means and actions, thus providing opportunities for women to be able to influence decision-making, participate in missions and benefit from them.

Building on the above, the speaker recommended that the regional women's platform on security sector reform and governance provide the space for constructive dialogue between the civilian and the military, given the fact that in Mali, community-based radios have not been successful in facilitating positive relationships between the two actors. She further emphasized the need for such platform to trigger opportunities for the G-5 Sahel force such as:

- Identify and document the specific needs of women living in the cross-border areas covered by the G-5 Sahel Force;
- Organize more information sharing and communication campaigns, as well as platforms for exchange with the women and the populations on the role of the G-5 Sahel Force, including members of G-5 Sahel Force in neighboring countries who eventually undertake patrols beyond their borders; and
- Ensure active participation of the female personnel of the five countries that constitute the Force in the patrols and other activities.

The second co-panelist from Mali Col. Aminata Diabaté, General staff of Force of the Malian Armed Forces, peacekeeping operations shared some important insights with regard to the need for collaboration between the DSFs and the civilians. In her contribution, she put emphasis on the following points:

- Collaboration between the populations and the military is a must;
- Currently, the situation has shifted because it is more of a fight between communities than tensions between civilians and military, thus the need for the civil society to play a key role in reconciling divided communities;
- There is also the need for the DSFs to win the hearts and the minds of the civilians;
- The psychological healing of the civilians is also a must in order to break the myths and negative attitudes towards the DSFs; and
- This will foster the necessary information sharing between the two actors.

Lawyer Fatimata Dembélé Djourté, President of the *Groupe de Travail sur les Droits Catégoriels* (i.e. the working group on the rights of the groups such as women, children and other vulnerable groups) brought in her contributions to the panel. In addition to the points already mentioned by the preceding panelists, she indicated that lack of technical equipment, logistics and human resources has mainly contributed to the tensions between the DSFs and the civilians whose protection has not been assured. She further added that the feeling of being left alone to provide their own security displayed by the civilians is reinforced by the fact that there has been impunity with unpunished violations of human rights perpetrated by the DSFs and abuses committed by non-state actors.

Building on the above, she suggested the following as ways in which relationships could improve between the civilians and the military:

- Create inclusive and sustainable platforms of exchange that will allow both actors to mutually reinforce each other;
- Strengthen the role of the civil society, including the media in the governance of the security sector between the two actors;

- Increase dissemination of good practices on collaborative approaches between civilians and military; and
- Sensitize on the negative effects of social media by breaking down rumors and manipulations that certain actors can fall victims of.

With regard to women participation, the speaker added that despite the presence of women in the security sector, some more efforts need to be done for more implication at the leadership level, and in the management of peace and security institutions. However, efforts are also being noted with certain laws being put in place for women's appointment in certain bodies. In the local communities, efforts have been done to take care of their specific security needs and provide the enabling conditions for the respect of their rights and the adoption of preventative measures against gender-based violence. She indicated the need for advocacy and sensitization actions for the promotion of gender equality and gender related issues through the implementation of various regional and international conventions and resolutions the Republic of Mali has subscribed to.

In addition to the ideas put forward by the previous panelists, the speaker suggested that the platform should also serve as a catalyst for resolving or minimizing some antagonisms about women's leadership (that is to say woman's leadership on woman); and encourage national civil society organizations to support communities by reinforcing their capacities on opportunities and challenges related to women participation in peacebuilding and peace keeping.

Following the contributions of the panelists, the discussion that followed mainly pointed out to the need to devise strategies in order to break the cycle of mistrust and misunderstanding between the civilians and the DSFs in Mali. It came out strongly that they have to complete each other and not compete. A key role that was identified for the platform is to serve as an information and sharing of good practices mechanism.

3. *Nigeria Panel*

The Panel on Nigeria was moderated by Mrs. Joana Ama Osei-Tutu, Head of Women, Peace and Security Institute (WIPSI) at Kofi Anan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC). Panelists provided interesting insights on the challenges and opportunities regarding collaboration between DSFs and CSOs. The first co-panelist, Mrs Bertha Eloho Ogbimi from the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), in addition to the previous challenges added the following:

- Lack of collaboration between the two actors due to the secretive nature of the security sector;
- Lack of synergy amongst CSOs;
- Lack of transparency;
- Lack of funding (most of the funding being donor-driven); and
- The opposition to change.

Some of the opportunities she identified for improvement in the collaboration between CSOs and the DSFs include the following:

- Making good use of existing legal frameworks and commitments on gender and women empowerment;

- Making use of available government institutional structure for the implementation of gender policies such as the federal ministry of women affairs and social development in Nigeria;
- Mapping of gaps and creation of new and innovative areas of engagements; and
- Appreciation (in the sense of rewarding) of gender sensitive issues by government and non-government organizations.

As far as the role of the Regional Women Platform is concerned, she indicated the need to:

- Mobilize regionally for increasing awareness and peer learning;
- Organize regional events on capacity building and shared learning for security actors and members of parliaments; and
- Support effective coordination for gender sensitive security sector reform and governance through international partnership programs and develop strategies for resource mobilization and utilization.

Mrs Aishatu Morido Yanet from the Centre for Strategic Research and Studies of the National Defence College (NDC) in Nigeria, after providing an introductory background on the work of her organization, identified the following challenges with regard to the collaboration between CSOs and DSFs:

- The authoritarian legacies of the military in the country;
- The secrecy surrounding DSFs, being a closed organization;
- The prioritization of national security concerns;
- Violations of human rights;
- Resistance to change; and
- Fragmentation of the CSOs.

As opportunities for collaboration, she indicated the following areas as being key to improving collaboration between CSOs and the DSFs:

- Advocacy and awareness raising activities;
- Training and capacity building programmes;
- Monitoring and evaluation of achievements;
- Research for a better understanding of issues;
- Undertake gender audits and budget analysis;
- Establish partnerships;
- Generate documentation;
- Review of normative frameworks; and
- Creation and sustenance of lobbying alliances between DSFs, women's organizations, regional and international organizations such as ECOWAS, AU and UN.

With regard to women's participation in the security sector and peace processes, the speaker made a number of recommendations including:

- Interventions to reduce force marriages;
- Community engagement with women groups;
- Giving women ample space in decision-making;
- Capacity building for women in the security sector for command and control;

- Mentoring the women in the army;
- Proper integration of the Women peace and security agenda in the work of DSFs through prevention, protection and participation;
- Address the push-back syndrome, cultural and religious barriers that promote gender stereotypes;
- Gender auditing of the defense and security institutions;
- Creating support mechanisms for inclusive participation of all stakeholders including women;
- Create conditions for continuous dialogue or Ombudsman;
- Gender sensitive recruitment into combat positions;
- Respect for the rights of women; and
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse.

The next co-panelist to speak was Mrs. Olubukola Ademola-Adelehin, Gender and peacebuilding expert from the UNwomen Nigeria. Building on the previous panelists from Nigeria, she drew attention on two key elements:

- The increasing number of informal security actors providing security;
- And the patriarchal nature of society being factor limiting women's participation in the security sector.

Speaking about challenges she indicated that one key aspect was the lack of understanding of the mutual benefits CSOs and DSFs can provide to one another. She went on providing the following ideas for a better collaboration:

- The need for DSFs to make use of the openings and opportunities provided by the CSOs;
- The need to making use of the normative frameworks such as UNSCR 1325; and
- To identify gender friendly champions in the DSFs.

With regard to women's participation, she suggested the need to officialize and recognize the work that women are doing in private. As far as the role of the platform is concerned, she suggested the platform to provide a pool of experts, undertake research activities; lobbying and advocacy. By doing so, she proposed the use of men as allies, gender advisors, gender desks and the need to create capacity building opportunities on relevant topics for DSFs.

Session 3: Information sharing on the Regional women's platform

This session, moderated by Mrs. Gnane Nougara Zorom, Second-Vice President of the Groupe d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Education et la Formation (GAPEF) in Burkina Faso, provided the opportunity to share information with the participants on the regional women's platform. The draft founding charter and membership form were circulated for inputs and comments. The discussion further went on the structure and working methods of the regional women's platform as well as how national chapters of the platforms will be collaborating with the regional office in Dakar. All feedback and comments received from participants were noted and would be considered or taken to the appreciation of the FES PSCC for further action.

On the founding charter, participants enquired about the mechanisms that will be put in place to facilitate the collaboration between the national chapters of the regional women's platform and the FES PSCC in Dakar and the periodicity upon which consultation will be done between the advisory

board and the technical committees. In order to respond to these concerns, it was indicated that the advisory board would be set up with a maximum of 6 members who ideally should be able to give direction and open doors for the regional women's platform to position itself at the national, regional and international level. It was further said that ideally, the board and the technical committees would operate a mix of civilian and uniformed members, with the expertise on gender, security sector reform and other relevant topics. For the national chapters of the regional women's platform, it was indicated that there was a need to target relevant CSOs and other members at the national level, which are committed to move the agenda of the regional women's platform forward. It was indicated that the periodicity of the meetings of the advisory board and technical committees will be determined by FES PSCC.

On the membership issue, participants indicated the need to include some national institutions such as those dealing with the rights of the women and other vulnerable groups, in additions to CSOs, women's networks and individual members.

Day Two: Friday 29 November 2019

Day 2 started with a wrap-up session in order to summarize the key ideas discussed on Day 1. Participants took also the opportunity to seek clarifications and add comments on the founding charter and membership form. As opposed to Day 1 which mainly focused on country panels, Day 2 provided the opportunity for all participants from various countries attending the conference to discuss on the collaboration between CSOs, civilians and the DSFs. Participants were split into 3 groups. Below is presented the summary of the ideas emanating from the group discussions.

Session 4: Dialogue between CSOs and security sector institutions

1. Ideas to strengthen the collaboration between CSOs, civilians and the security sector actors

- Increase information sharing via websites and media community outreaches;
- Organize capacity building trainings on human rights, women, peace and security, gender and civil military relations;
- Strengthen effective oversight capacity of relevant oversight bodies;
- Ensure permanent commitment of different stakeholders to enhance confidence;
- Undertake regular follow-up of activities in order to reduce violations of human rights by DSFs;
- Establishment of a permanent space/framework for exchanges and consultations;
- Provide opportunities for the inclusion of civil society and communities in all stages of the process by identifying problems, risks, threats and propose solutions;
- The need to recognize the civil society and its status in some cases;
- Provide opportunities to mainstream gender;
- Ensure mutual confidence between DSFs, civilians and CSOs;
- Set up community platforms to sensitize population about security sector;
- Using media for sensitization and advocacy;
- CSOs and DSFs to organize joint activities for the benefit of the populations; and
- Establish gender desks in the security sector structures and institutions.

2. *Sharing of experience and good practices*

- The organization of joint activities for the communities such as provision of health care; medical and school outreaches; sport activities, concerts; and distributions of meals, etc.)
- The effective integration of police and military within the civil space as in Senegal with the concept of Army-Nation;
- The setting up of joint inclusive security committees for civilian and security sector actors to discuss issues affecting the communities;
- To establish a joint consultative framework in order to discuss peace and security issues;
- Setting up of mechanisms that allow to solve problems instantly at the community level and at the inspector level in order to reduce judicial proceedings;
- Organization of open days sessions in the security sector institutions for the civilians to have a better understanding of their work;
- Creation of retired police women's association that can share experience;
- Creation of Association of policewomen;
- Existence of Association of spouses of military officers in some countries;
- Organization of sessions of collective prayers between civilians and DSFs;
- Dissemination of the Army-Nation concept of Senegal which helped in nation-building and cohesion in Senegal;
- Provision of assistance to populations in the country (for instance provision of water in cases of shortage);
- Creation of a post of civil military relations officer whose job is to make sure they entertain good relationships with the populations;
- Establishment of specific collaboration with some NGOs, for instance within the framework of the Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- Establishment of special courts for the military for violations of human rights committed
- The Army to organize entertainment programs for the civilians in order to build their confidence;
- The Neutrality of DSFs and non-interference into politics;
- The promotion of civic education and the portrayal the militaries as heroes;
- Dissemination of the Armies' peace keeping experiences which have made them conscious of the need to be very friendly with the population;
- Invite the DSF to workshops and panels;
- Raise civilians' awareness for them to understand better the role of the DSFs and build confidence (through radio and TV programs);
- Establishment of gender desks in DSFs' institutions.
- Establishment of hotline for Civilians in need of assistance to reach the police and the gendarmerie easily;
- Provide humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees; and
- CSOs to organize capacity building activities for DSFs.

From above, and based on the interaction that followed the presentations of the different groups, it came out that the collaboration between DSFs, the civilians and the CSOs is a must given the

current security threats that dictate cooperation, mutual understanding, inclusivity and information sharing. It further came out that DSFs and CSOs need to have a better understanding of each other's role through capacity building, workshops, panels and other platforms for exchange. The need for information sharing mechanisms and opportunities, as well as the organization of joint activities were emphasized by the participants.

Building on the above and as far as the role of the regional women's platform on security sector reform and governance is concerned, it was pointed out the latter could provide or facilitate opportunities for dialogues, workshops, panels, capacity building opportunities and research that could inform other activities. A condition for that, as pointed out during the discussions, was the need to speed up the establishment of the national chapters of the regional women's platform, that are expected to continue the work of platform after the project has ended and beyond. It was also noticed that countries are at different levels when it comes to mainstreaming gender in the security sector, in terms of civil military relationships and civilian participation in the security sector, in particular women. A few good practices were shared by participants from Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal that could be replicated.

Concluding Session

While making his closing remarks, Dr. Doudou Dia, Director of the Gorée Institute, put emphasis on the important role the platform could play in terms of advocacy. In order to fulfil this role, he indicated the importance for the platform to position itself and also to collect information for further analysis. He further stated that sustainability of the platform was an important factor and the latter would require efforts from the members to share information generously and also exchange of ideas. Furthermore, he thanked all participants and partners present at the launching, the Director of the FES PSCC and his team for honoring his institution by inviting the Gorée Institute to host the launching of the regional women's platform on security sector reform and governance.

On behalf of the Director of FES PSCC, M. Philipp Manfred Goldberg, Mr. Dioussé indicated that FES PSCC is conscious of the challenges that such a project can face, but is relying on the efforts of one another to be able to meet the goals. He further stated that FES PSCC is aiming for the successful implementation of the project and its sustainability beyond, thus the importance of building strong coalitions at the national level which will advocate for a gender sensitive and inclusive security sector that will respond to the needs of the civilians. He thanked the Gorée Institute for hosting the event and collaborating with FES PSCC, all participants and partners present at the launching, including UNwomen and the ECOWAS. He finally ensured participants that they will share all follow-up activities after the launching and will provide them with the necessary information for them to be able to become members of the regional women's platform.

Mrs. Salimata Thiam, on behalf of the Director of the ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre thanked all participants and partners for attending the meeting and their valuable contributions. She further indicated the EGDC is happy to partner for such activity and re-emphasized that the launching of the platform could not come a better time when ECOWAS is doing the evaluation of its policies. She congratulated the FES PSCC and encouraged them to deepen the reflection. She furthermore indicated the commitment of the EGDC to partner with them on this project and beyond and also to help them in disseminating the information related to the platform and its activities. She finally declared the conference officially closed.

Annexes

Annex 1: Agenda of the conference

Wednesday 27 November 2019

Arrivals of participants coming from African countries

Note: Dinner will be available from 7pm on the terrace of Gorée Institute.

Thursday 28 November 2019

8.30 – 9.00

Registration

9.00 – 10.30

Welcome and Opening

- Welcome and remarks, **Dr. Doudou DIA**, Director of Gorée Institute, Senegal
- Presentation of the FES PSCC and the objectives of the conference, **Rémy Arsène DIOUSSE**, Program Officer FES PSCC, Senegal
- **Mrs. Salimata THIAM**, Senior Gender Program Officer, ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development, Senegal

Presentation of participants – Round table

10.30 - 11.00

Group Photo and Coffee Break

11.00 - 11.30

Session 1: Security for All Project: key highlights on the Regional Women's Platform, Rémy Arsène DIOUSSE, Program officer FES PSCC, Senegal

11.30 - 12.30

Session 2: Country panels

Panel 1 Cameroon: Opportunities and Challenges for collaboration between CSOs and security Sector: The Role of the Regional women's platform

Moderator: Mr. Didier Charles KOBENA, Programme Officer Peace and Security UN Women West and Central Africa Region, Senegal

Panellists:

- **Mrs. Maximilienne C. NGO MBE**, Executive Director of REDHAC, Cameroon
- **Mrs. Sylvie Ndongmo**, President Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cameroon

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.00

Session 2: Country panels (continued)

Panel 2 Mali: Opportunities and Challenges for collaboration between CSOs and security Sector: The Role of the Regional women's platform

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

Panellists:

- *Mrs. Nana Aïcha Cissé, Coordinator Women's Platform of the G-5 Sahel, Mali*
- *Lt Col Aminata DIABATE, Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, General Staff of the Malian Armed Forces, Peacekeeping Operations Division IHL DH, Chief IHL DH Section, DBV VSS Focal Point, Mali*
- *Maître Fatimata Dembélé DJOURTE, President of the Working Group on Categorical Rights (women, children, vulnerable groups), Mali*

Discussions:

15.00 – 16.00

Panel 3 Nigeria: Opportunities and Challenges for collaboration between CSOs and security Sector: the Role of the Regional women's platform

Moderator: *Joana Ama Osei-Tutu, Head, Women Peace and Security Institute (WPSI), KAIPTC, Office of the Commandant, Ghana*

Panellists:

- *Ms. Bertha Eloho OGBIMI, Program Officer Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and Transparency International Defence and Security Program (TI – DSP), Nigeria*
- *Mrs. Aishatu Morido YANET, Centre for Strategic Research and Studies National Defence College, Nigeria*
- *Mrs. Olubukola ADEMOLA-ADELEHIN, Gender and Peacebuilding expert with the United Nations Women Commission, Nigeria*

Discussions:

16.00 - 16.30

Coffee Break

16.30 – 17:30

Session 3: Dissemination of information regarding the regional women's platform, Mrs. Aïssatou Fall Gender and SSR Consultant and Rémy Arsène Dioussé, FES PSCC

- Founding charter
- Membership
- Structure
- Working methods
- National platforms/ FES working relationships
- AOB

Moderator: *Mrs Gnone Nougara ZOROM, 2nd vice-president, GAPEF, Burkina Faso*

Discussions:

Friday 29 November 2019

<i>08.30 – 09.00</i>	<i>Wrap-up day one</i>
<i>09.00 – 10.30</i>	<i>Session 4: Dialogue between CSOs and security sector institutions (group discussions)</i> <i>Moderator: Mrs. Aïssatou FALL, Gender and SSR Consultant, Senegal</i>
<i>10.30 – 11.00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<i>11.00 – 12.00</i>	<i>Session 4 Continued (Presentation of group discussions)</i>
<i>12.00 – 12.30</i>	<i>Recommendations for the Regional women's Platform moving forward</i>
<i>12.30 - 13.00</i>	<i>Conclusion and end of the conference</i>
<i>13.00 - 14.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>15.30</i>	<i>Departure (transfer of participants from Gorée Island to the airport)</i>

Rapporteur: ***Mrs. Aïssatou FALL Gender and SSR Consultant, Senegal***

Chairwoman: Adjì Khadijatou NDIAYE, PSSC FES Program Officer, Senegal

Annex 2: Concept Note

- Concept Note -

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation Peace and Security Centre of Competence Sub-Saharan Africa (FES PSCC) is organizing a conference for the launching of a Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance. The conference will take place from 28 to 29 November 2019 at the Gorée Institute, Gorée Island, Senegal.

This conference is organized within the framework of the 'Security for All' project which is co-funded by the Delegation of the European Union in Dakar. The 'Security for All Project' aims to promote inclusive security and democratic governance through the participation of civil society organizations in Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). One of the key outcomes of the project is the establishment of a Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance.

Activities around the Regional Women's Platform on Security Reform and Governance started with an Experts' meeting which took place in July 2019 in Dakar. During the meeting, Experts from civil society organizations, peace and security institutions in the ECOWAS and ECCAS regions, and UNWOMEN discussed the challenges pertaining to CSOs' engagement with the security sector, emphasizing on challenges related to women's inclusion, participation and promotion in security sector reform and governance. Gaps relating to the implementation of legal frameworks on security sector reform and governance were brought up during the discussions in order to point to areas where the Regional Women's Platform could play key roles in filling some of the gaps. Practical modalities for the operationalization of the Regional women's Platform were largely debated during the meeting. The outcome of the Experts' meeting was subsequently shared at the Regional Abuja Dialogue (15-16 October 2019) for further inputs and ideas from Experts who attended the event.

Objectives of the Conference

Building on the above, the FES PSCC will gather thirty (30) participants for one and half day in Gorée Island in order to launch the Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance. The launching of the platform will be the opportunity for participants to reflect on how they are going to collaborate at the national level to engage the security sector, and how cross-country collaboration would work. Practical information relating to functioning of Regional Women's Platform will be disseminated during the conference.

Expected outputs :

1. The Regional Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance is officially launched.
2. Ideas for collaboration and dialogue between the CSOs and the security sector at the national level
3. Ideas for collaboration between the countries.
4. Information on the structure, membership and working methods of the Regional Women's Platform is disseminated.

Participants

Participants attending this conference are coming from Women's CSOs and Platforms, peace and security organizations, research centres, training centres of Excellences, as well as Representatives from Armed and security forces. Representatives of ECOWAS, ECCAS, the African Union and the United Nations are invited for the launching of the Platform.

Dates and venue :

The Conference start on Thursday 28 November and will end on Friday 29 November 2019. Venue is at the Gorée Institute located in the Gorée Island, where participants will be hosted during the meeting days.

Agenda:

It will be one and half day event. A detailed agenda of the conference will be provided.

Annex 3: List of participants

1	Aïssatou	FALL	Gender and SSR Consultant	Senegal
2	Dr. Doudou	DIA	Director of Gorée Institute	Senegal
3	Didier Charles Kobena	KOUADIO	Programme Officer Peace and Security UN Women West and Central Africa Region	Senegal
4	Maximilienne Chantal	NGO MBE	Executive Director of REDHAC, Cameroon	Cameroon
5	Sylvie Jacqueline	NDONGMO	President Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Cameroon
6	Queeneth	TAWO	Regional Coordinator - Women, Peace and Security, WANEP	Ghana
7	Nana Aïcha	CISSE	Coordinator Women's Platform of the G-5 Sahel	Mali
8	Colonel Aminata	DIABATE	Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, General Staff of the Malian Armed Forces	Mali
9	Fatimata Dembélé	DJOURTE	Chair of the Working Group on Categorical Rights (Women, Children, Vulnerable Groups),	Mali
10	Salimata	THIAM	Senior Gender Programme Officer ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development	Senegal
11	Bertha Eloho	OGBIMI	Program Officer Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)	Nigeria
12	Aishatu Morido	YANET	Centre for Strategic Research and Studies National Defence College	Nigeria
13	Joana	OSEI-TUTU	Head, Women Peace and Security Institute (WPSI)- KAIPTC	Ghana
14	Olubukola	ADEMOLA-ADELEHIN	Gender and Peacebuilding expert with the United Nations Women Commission	Nigeria

15	Gnone	NOUGTARA ZOROM	2ème Vice-Présidente GAPEF	Burkina Faso
16	Mouhamadou Moustapha	BA	FES PSCC	Senegal
17	Rémy Arsène	DIOUSSE	FES PSCC	Senegal
18	Adji Khadijatou	NDIAYE	FES PSCC	Senegal
19	Abdoulaye	NDIAYE	FES PSCC	Senegal
20	Dr. Ousmane	NIANG	CERAD	Senegal
21	Colonel Jean	DIEME	Etat-major particulier du Président de la République	Senegal
22	Sergent Seynabou	Bah NDIAYE	Etat-major particulier du Président de la République	Senegal
23	Penda Seck	DIOUF	Plateforme de Veille des femmes pour la Paix et la Sécurité Femmes Africa Solidarité	Senegal
24	Lieutenant-Colonel Ndeye Fatou	NDIAYE	Chef de la Subdivision des Douanes de Fatick	Senegal
25	Aissatou	NDIAYE	Commissaire de Police	Senegal

Annex 4: Guiding questions for the panel

1. What are the challenges to the collaboration between DSFs and CSOs?
2. How can we improve upon the collaboration between the two actors and what are the possible areas of collaboration?
3. Are women involved in peace processes and in security related matters? Are their specific needs taken into consideration? If yes, how can we enhance their participation? If no, how to involve them?
4. Which role can be played by the regional women's platform for a better collaboration between actors in the security sector and the CSOs, including inclusive and meaningful participation of women in the promotion of peace and security?

Annex 5: Next steps of the project:

Activities	Objectives	Venue	Calendar
National awareness-raising workshop in Cameroon	Discuss SSG/R challenges at the national level; develop a women's network at the national level that will feed the regional platform and be inspired and strengthened by interaction at the regional level	Yaoundé	June 2020
Abuja Dialogue	Present and discuss the results of the national workshop (steering committee FES – Co-applicants – Experts – Consultants – European Union)	Abuja	July 2020
National awareness-raising workshop in Nigeria	Discuss SSG/R challenges at the national level; develop a women's network at the national level that will feed the regional platform and be inspired and strengthened by interaction at the regional level	Abuja	September 2020
National awareness-raising workshop in Mali	Discuss SSG/R challenges at the national level; develop a women's network at the national level that will feed the regional platform and be inspired and strengthened by interaction at the regional level	Bamako	November 2020
1 st regional meeting of women's platform	Jointly discuss activities and initiatives taken to monitor and observe the situation of the SSR/G as well as national outreach activities planned and realized.	Dakar	November 2020