



**DURBAN STATEMENT ON
RESOLUTION 1325 IN 2020 –
LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK**

**HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR ON THE PROMOTION OF
WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**

08 – 09 October 2010 • Durban, South Africa

A High Level Seminar of practitioners, academics and policy makers was convened on the promotion of women in peace and security in Africa, on the 8th – 9th of October 2010 in Durban, South Africa. It adopted the following decisions to accelerate the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women peace and security (2000) in the context of the African Union (AU) Year of Peace and Security (YoPS), the decade of the African Women 2010–2020.

The Seminar affirmed the value of resolution 1325 as a tool for galvanizing the participation of women in peace processes, the protection of women and girls from sexual violence in conflict, and promoting the leadership role of women in the prevention of conflicts.

While acknowledging some progress towards implementation of resolution 1325 over the last ten years, the Seminar noted a persisting gap between the aspiration of the resolution and the reality of women's continued marginalization in formal peace processes, increased insecurity and high levels of violence against women and girls.

The High Level Seminar identified the following key factors which impede the full implementation of resolution 1325:

- Structural factors, including the lack of political will and patriarchal power relations which are embedded in many aspects of our societies
- The absence of a strategy to mobilize the wealth of endogenous actors and resources, operating

outside the state machinery, with the potential to drive and guarantee effective implementation of resolution 1325.

- Limited dissemination of information on resolution 1325 particularly to women at the grassroots.
- Lack of dedicated financial resources to advance implementation of resolution 1325

To address these challenges and to accelerate implementation of resolution 1325 by 2020, the Seminar adopted the following action points:

- Adopt and promote a paradigm-shift from debate around the resolution, to meaningful application and action.
- Linking implementation of resolution 1325 with other relevant instruments for the promotion and protection of women's rights including CEDAW
- Appointment of more women to high-level decision-making positions, specifically as Special Envoys and Special Representatives, mediators and negotiators, and at all levels in the technical teams and working groups that support peace processes.
- Expanding engagement with women at the grassroots in different conflict settings to foster their participation in peace processes to thus promote organic peace initiatives.
- Promotion of efforts that enhance solidarity among women for early action to prevent sexual violence and to facilitate the pursuit of justice





- Promotion of women's participation in conflict prevention and early warning activities.
- Establish a funding mechanism to support implementation of resolution 1325 within the budgets of peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions of the UN and regional organizations;
- Supporting efforts to increase the numbers and quality of women in the armed forces, broadening opportunities for their deployment to peacekeeping missions, and improving their conditions of service
- Advocate for greater accountability from African states to protect the rights of women and girls to promote their participation in peace processes.
- Development of standardised indicators for tracking, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Africa by all stakeholders including the AU and its Member States
- Advocate and support the development and implementation of National Action Plans towards the full implementation of Resolution 1325 by all African countries.
- Documentation of the different country experiences in implementing the provisions of resolution 1325 as a basis for sharing good practices.
- Expanding partnerships to mobilize financial resources to enable Africa women to meaningfully implement the provisions of resolution 1325
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The following specific modalities will facilitate implementation of resolution 1325 by 2020:

- Investment in knowledge development and knowledge transfer on the situation of peace and security for women in Africa including through:
 - ◆ Ensuring that the language of the resolution is accessible and understood by all
 - ◆ Creating a database of women experts in the field of peace and security

- Creation of lateral linkages to promote women's participation in all aspects of peace processes
- Harnessing women's participating in formal and informal peace processes as a complement to the efforts of governments
- Accelerate development of national action plans on resolution 1325 in all African countries
- Establish a partnership forum of African women and donors to discuss modalities for expanding support to the women in peace and security agenda
- Establish a rapid response fund to support women in conflict areas
- Mandate ACCORD to bring together a task force to develop a concrete work plan on the basis of recommendations emerging from this Seminar – A vision of Resolution 1325 in 2020.

Delegates from Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo challenged the Seminar to help prevent and curtail sexual violence against women and girls in both countries. In the particular case of the Sudan, the prevailing volatile security environment in the run-up to the forthcoming referendum on the status of South Sudan generated calls for early action to prevent possible widespread sexual violence against women and girls from South Sudan living in North Sudan.

In response to this call to action, the Seminar recommended the immediate deployment of a solidarity mission to Sudan by African women, and also called on the recently appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to urgently mobilize international support and initiate high-level political advocacy to avert any widespread incidences of sexual violence against women in South Sudan.

