

Guidelines for -
Message on Behalf of H.E. Madam Samba Panza,
Co- Chair of FemWise Africa, former president of the
Central Africa Republic Delivered by Ms Lina Ekomo,
Former Minister Counsellor

Protocols and Salutations

On the occasion of the Joint Annual Retreat of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the African Peer Review Mechanism, allow me to thank Madam Graca Machel, the chair of the ACCORD board of Trustees for the invitation to ACCORD's 30th Anniversary Dinner.

It is such an honor to join you to celebrate and be part of what is, no doubt, a formidable milestone of our very own Pan African Peace and Security Organizations - ACCORD.

During the Central African Republic's peace process and our efforts to end the war in my country and bring peace, I recall ACCORD and the team being with the people of CAR. You were there when the pathways to peace for the people of CAR, the Great lakes region and ultimately Africa were designed through what commonly known as the Bangui Forum.

Again, I was privileged to have an institution like ACCORD in the region when I took up the being the first women to lead the people of CAR and only the second African Women President. It was institutions like ACCORD that we could rely on to consolidate our new Peace.

But it is not just the peace efforts in my country that I encountered ACCORD's work first hand. I have had the honor of working with ACCORD on various initiatives across the continent and beyond.

When the African Union Panel of Wise and the Civil Society Actors across Africa, were unhappy about the lack of the involvement of women in mediation processes on the continent, a novel Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation -

FemWise Africa was established in Constantine in 2017. As one of the founding co-chairs of FemWise Africa alongside my sister Dr Wandira Sepciouza Kaziburi, we witnessed ACCORD's experience and expertise to provide technical support, its convening abilities and facilitation in the area of Women, Peace and Security.

Today FemWise Africa which ACCORD is a founding member and a member of the steering committee, has established itself internationally. I am pleased that FemWise Africa went on to shape a global trend in the set up of women Mediation networks, as a strategy to address the gap in Women's meaningful participation in peace process like my own country went through. In 2023, FemWise Africa will chair the Global Alliance on Women Mediation Networks and we will continue to count on ACCORD's 30 years of experience and expertise.

It is on this 30th Anniversary, allow me to recall ACCORD continued work in building peace in CAR. During 2017–2018, CAR experienced further conflict and peace efforts began once again. Once again ACCORD joined the people of CAR to bring peace to the country. The Government Team that went to the negotiations, that led to the peace agreement being signed in February 2019, came to the ACCORD offices in Durban to be trained for the negotiations that took place in Khartoum Sudan. The organisation did not stop at this point, it set up offices in Bangui and provided a first ever "Peace Facility" headed by Amb Ntahuga who is also here with us tonight, with the support of the European Union to provide ongoing technical advice and support to the newly appointed political leaders who assumed office. The Prime Minister of CAR - HE Firminn Ngrabada is on record and also went on national television to appreciate the work of ACCORD in CAR. As the world and Africa continue to experience new challenges, I want to believe that we will be able to count on the support of the Pan - African resources ACCORD.

Thank You