

« SENTINELS OF “WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY RESOLUTIONS” AND SOCIAL COHESION

Partners West Africa – Senegal has been implementing, **since 2021**, the **“Sentinels of the Women, Peace and Security and Social Cohesion Resolutions” Program** in partnership with organizations, platforms, and networks dedicated to the defense and promotion of women’s rights at the national and regional levels. The programme specifically targets countries in West Africa and the Sahel.

This regional monitoring program on women’s participation in West Africa and the Sahel has successfully mobilized networks, platforms, and organizations for the promotion and protection of women’s rights throughout the region. Among its core objectives are addressing the challenge of producing data by and about women and contributing to the advancement of their rights, in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related instruments.

The initiative has gained the commitment of several women’s rights platforms and networks, including:

- **Sahel Women’s Platform (PFS)**
- **REPSFECO – Regional (Peace and Security Network for Women in the ECOWAS Space)**
- **GTFJPS/AOS (Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel), Guinea and Senegal Chapters**
- **WANEP – Senegal (West Africa Network for Peace) – Senegal and Mali**
- **WILDAF – Mali (Women in Law and Development in Africa)**
- **SERENTI Foundation – Côte d’Ivoire**
- **RASALAO – Benin**
- **ACDRHS (African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies) – The Gambia**
- **Mano River Women’s Peace Network (REFMAP) – Guinea**
- **FAD (Women, Action, Development) – Niger**
- **AWLN (African Women Leaders Network) – Benin**
- **PAG-LA-YI-RI Association – Burkina Faso**
- **ROAJELF/Senegal (West African Network of Young Women Leaders)**
- **Femme Active – Mauritania**
- **Dar Salam Consortium – Mauritania**
- **Association of Women for Peace Initiatives (AFIP) – Mali**
- **TASSAGTH – Burkina Faso**

The participation of women in political and peace processes, as well as the promotion of their rights, remains a challenge at all levels. States, civil society organizations, and decision-makers at the national and international levels continue to mobilize their efforts to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Women, Peace and Security Resolutions, the Sustainable Development Goals (3, 5, 10, 16, and 17), and relevant regional and national frameworks, including those of the African Union. This community resilience programme promotes the leadership of women and youth across West Africa, the Sahel, and Central Africa.


Its overall objective is to strengthen and coordinate the efforts of women’s networks to ensure that their roles and voices in decision-making, peacebuilding, security, and social cohesion processes are heard and valued. It also seeks to ensure that the voices of women in these regions are better recognized, in line with the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions of the UN Security Council—particularly 1325, 2250, and 2242—the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and the ECOWAS Protocol A/SP1/12/01 on Democracy and Good Governance, which complements the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Security.

Ultimately, the programme aims to produce regular decision-support documents for policymakers, technical and financial partners, regional economic communities, the African Union, international organizations, and civil society.

Recognizing that UN Security Council Resolution 2242 has not been sufficiently promoted, despite **placing women, peace, and security issues at the heart of responses to emerging global challenges such as the intensification of violent extremism, the increase in refugees and internally displaced persons, and the global impacts of climate change and pandemics**, the members of the Sentinels of the Women, Peace, Security and Social Cohesion initiative have decided, in addition to promoting Resolutions 1325 and 2250, to place a particular focus on Resolution 2242 (2015).

Perspectives

The Sentinels intend to advocate for **the adoption of a new Resolution** that recognizes the impact of sociopolitical crises and poor governance on democracy—factors that disproportionately affect women and children, just as armed conflict and violent extremism do.

 **The adoption of a Resolution that also addresses the needs of women and youth living under repressive or authoritarian regimes.**

The main recommendation is to support women-led CSO networks and platforms through this regional programme. This will enable them to continue their activities freely, within an initiative that promotes Resolution 2242 and highlights: the role of women in border governance, the impact of climate change on women’s vulnerability, and the mutual empowerment of women in preventing and combating all forms of violence, including violent extremism and terrorism.

Another key outcome of the programme is **the growing awareness of solidarity among women’s organizations**. Civil society actors have advocated for **the importance of strengthening the “She for She” concept**, promoting women’s mutual support as a means of resilience and defense against the rollback of hard-won gains.

The Sentinels also reaffirmed that “He for She” is a valuable concept, as positive masculinity encourages men to reinterpret traditional gender norms often associated with domination, violence, and coercion, and instead embrace the values of family and respect for women as its cornerstone. They stressed that He for She actors work not only for women’s well-being but also for the good of society as a whole — a significant contribution to advancing positive masculinity.

The experience, expertise, and leadership of these women can be harnessed for mediation and advocacy, and above all, they can play a key role in reconciliation and social cohesion within and between West Africa, the Sahel, the AES region, and Central Africa.

