



Regional Advocacy and sharing workshop

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MINISTER OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND ACDHRS

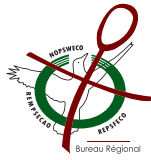
BANJUL'S STATEMENT

Sentinels of "Women, Peace and Security" and social cohesion" Resolutions

Regional program for monitoring women's participation – ECOWAS and Sahel region



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The participation of women in political and peace processes as well as the promotion of their rights remains a challenge at all levels. States, CSOs, actors and decision-makers at the national and international level are mobilizing their efforts to achieve the objectives of the so-called “Women, peace and security” resolutions of the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals: 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17 and relevant national and regional provisions on the promotion and protection of women’s rights, including those of the African Union and ECOWAS.

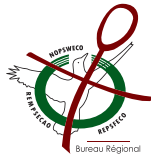
It is in this dynamic that, with funding from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Partners West Africa-Senegal is implementing the Program “The Sentinels of “Women, Peace and Security” and Social Cohesion” Resolutions in partnership organizations, platforms and networks for the defense and promotion of women’s rights at the national and regional level. As part of this project, 17 countries in the ECOWAS region and the Sahel are targeted.

This regional program for monitoring the participation of women in the ECOWAS region and the Sahel is a concerted initiative of networks, platforms and organizations for the defense of women’s rights: REPSFECO (Peace and Security Network for Women in Space ECOWAS) – G5 Sahel Women’s Platform – ACDHRS (African Center For Democracy and Human Rights Studies) – WANEP-Senegal (West Africa Network for Peacebuilding) – GTFJPS-AOS/GN (Women, Youth, Peace and Security Working Group) – ROAJELF (West African Network of Young Women Leaders). The program aims, among other things, to meet the challenge of producing information by and about women and contribute to the promotion and protection of their rights following the example of Security Council resolutions 1325 and related resolutions of the United Nations and the ECOWAS protocol A/SP1/12/01 on democracy and good governance additional to the protocol relating to the mechanism for prevention, management, resolution of conflicts, maintenance of peace and security.

It is in this context that we, different actors committed to achieving the objectives of the program, are brought together in a regional advocacy and sharing workshop with the theme: “The sentinels with the “He for She” to strengthen/consolidate the rights of women and children for peace and social cohesion”. **This workshop was organized by Partners West Africa-Senegal (PWA-Senegal), African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACD-HRS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection of The Gambia (MOGCSW) under the leadership of the honorable Minister Fatou KINTEH, on May 30 and 31, 2024 in Banjul.**

At the end of this workshop, we make the following declaration.





CONTEXT

The workshop is being held in a context where Africa is at a marked turning point in terms of gender equality, a proliferation of instruments, as well as a clear awareness of the importance of women's participation. and young people. Africa is facing all forms of insecurity with a negative peace situation.

However, we note that:

- The gap in equality and equity is very large and is far from being closed;
- The regressions in acquired knowledge are considerable;
- Funding for “women, youth, peace and security” programs is increasingly oriented towards States, to the great dismay of CSOs/NGOs;
- The participation rates of women in decision-making bodies throughout Africa have declined for reasons due to: socio-economic standards and constraints; weak political will; the underfinancing of actions to promote equality between women and men and to combat all forms of violence of which women and young people are victims.

Such a situation has the consequence of harming the “Women, youth, peace and security” agenda.

This observation comes at a time when leaders and the international system recognize the relevance of women's participation in processes in our countries and that gender equality is an essential condition.

OUR POSITION

Faced with such a situation, we reiterate that the participation of women through or with the support of civil society is an absolute necessity throughout Africa and more precisely in the ECOWAS and Sahel region; and that civil society actors can and must participate in the emergence of civic and collective consciousness in socio-political transitional situations.

👉 On the looming debate on the repeal of the law against FGM in The Gambia, we would like to point that we, women in West Africa, have the same problems and challenges and must work together on the issue.

👉 On the threat of the AES countries to leave ECOWAS, we recall that women's organizations in these countries should not suffer collateral damage and reaffirm that they have their place in our spaces of exchange

👉 We, the Sentinels, are for strengthening the cohesion and resilience of CSO networks/ platforms of women, but also of young people for peace, security and sustainable development of our countries.





RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering that nothing is moving forward, we recommend:

The adoption of a new resolution that considers the needs of women and children living in countries with authoritarian regimes;

That we, women and men, must accept our differences while collaborating and harmonizing our actions;

- The popularization of 2050, especially its pillar 5, which promotes the significant reintegration of young women and men directly involved in an armed conflict;
- There are not many women leaders in the world but we can observe that women leaders have emerged mainly in Latin America: therefore, there is a need to study the why;
- To work on the notion of positive peace, including inner peace;
- To conduct studies on the emergence of female leaders in Latin America to learn lessons and promote female leaders in West Africa and the Sahel to draw inspiration from them in order to create a critical mass of women's leaders in all spheres of society;
- To strengthen the capacities of women on legal instruments and their rights;
- Strengthen the capacities of women to monitor the implementation of ratified texts and commitments;
- To conduct a study on the qualitative impact of 1325 and related laws on citizens;
- To facilitate access to new technologies (NT) for young people and women, because NT offers them a multitude of opportunities;
- To take measures to prevent and combat cybercrime and all forms of cyber-violence against women and children;
- To carry out actions to educate young people and women on responsible and civic use of NT;
- Undertake capacity building programs for women and young people on violent extremism and radicalization.

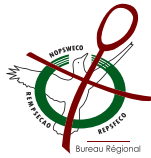
Actions to be undertaken

- Popularization of the Banjul Declaration 2024
- Carry out awareness-raising activities in schools
- Work with young people, empower them and prepare the next generation.

Advocacy to be carried out:

- o **Legal proceedings for violence against women remain few in number in Africa so there is a need for an advocacy campaign so standard prosecution be the standard;**
- o **Advocacy for women's organizations facing the threat of exit from AES countries.**





Urges to rely on the levers

- Political will;
- Prevention and fight against corruption and embezzlement;
- Tolerance and acceptance of our differences;
- Restoration/respect for equity and social justice.

ABOUT THE “HE 4 SHE”

● The He 4 She is indeed a good concept. It should be noted that He 4 She works for the well-being of all and for society as a whole, but not only for women.

● In this same vein, we recognize the need to promote the concept of “She 4 She” to strengthen each other.

ABOUT FINANCING BY THE GOVERNMENTS

- An advocacy campaign remains to be undertaken for the governments to agree financing national action plans “Women, Youth, Peace and Security;
- An advocacy campaign for governments and technical and financial partners to further support and strengthen the institutional capacities of CSOs/platforms and networks that defending and promoting women’s rights.

CALL

We appeal to all stakeholders (Governments, with its different branches, the DFS, the TFP and the populations represented by CSOs/NGOs) to work in synergy in order to rethink strategies, policies and action plans to be adopted in favor of promoting women and youth rights in political, peace and development processes.

«Towards women, we say to them “take what is due to you»

At Banjul May 31, 2024

