



A STRATEGIC REFLECTION FORUM FOR WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING
HOSTED BY
THE WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY NETWORK AFRICA (WIPSEN-AFRICA)

INSTITUTIONALIZING WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

SUPPORTED BY THE AFRICAN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT FUND (AWDF), THE GERMAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION (GTZ) AND THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)

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FORUM REPORT

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gtz



African Women's Development Fund



ELCA.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

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List of Abbreviations

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| AU | African Union |
| AWDF | African Women Development Fund |
| BPFA | Beijing Platform for Action |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CS | Civil Society |
| DDRR | Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration |
| DKPO | United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| ECOWARN | ECOWAS Early Warning System |
| EGDC | ECOWAS Gender Development Center |
| ELCA | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America |
| GTZ | German Technical Cooperation |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| KA IPTC | Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center |
| OMC | Observation Monitoring Center of the ECOWAS Commission |
| PSO | Peace Support Operations |
| RECs | Regional Economic Commissions |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| UNIFEM | United Nations Development Fund for Women |
| UNSCR | United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 |
| WANEP | West Africa Network for Peacebuilding |
| WIPNET | Women in Peacebuilding Network |
| WIPSEN-AFRICA | Women Peace and Security Network Africa |

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The Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-Africa)

The Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-Africa) is a newly founded non-governmental, not-for-profit, Pan-African women's peace and security network organization. It was established on May 8th 2006 and has its headquarters in Accra, Ghana. The organization has wide-ranging experience in mobilizing women for conflict intervention and Peacebuilding in West Africa, and is working increasingly on a pan-African (continental) basis to strengthen and valorize African women's leadership capacities to promote constructive, innovative and collaborative approaches to non-violent transformation of conflict, Peacebuilding and human security.

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre was opened in 2004 as an international peacekeeping training centre to build on Ghana's four decades of experience and competence in peace support operations. As a regional centre of excellence, the Centre is dedicated to the provision of quality training to peacekeepers, as well as responding to the changing demands of complex and multidimensional peacekeeping.

The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

GTZ is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations. Its corporate objective is to improve people's living conditions on a sustainable basis. Its office in Ghana was established in 1983. Over the years its operations has expanded and currently includes a liaison unit in the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre that was created to provide direct technical support to the Centre in specific areas. The principal purpose of the GTZ project at the KAIPTC is to enhance collaboration between the Centre and Civil Society networks in West Africa to strengthen the civilian dimension of PSO.

The African Women Development Fund (AWDF)

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) is a fundraising and grant-making initiative that was established in 2001 to support the work of the African Women's movement. The vision of AWDF is "for African women to live in a changed world in which transformed women can live with integrity and in peace." To realise this vision, the Fund's

mission is “To mobilise financial, human and material resources to support local, national and international initiatives for transformation led by African women.” Since its establishment, AWDF has awarded grants to 386 women’s organizations in 40 African countries.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America resulted from a union of three North American Lutheran church bodies in 1982: The American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the Lutheran Church in America. In response to the UN General Assembly designation of the years 2001-2010 as "The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World", the ELCA Church wide Assembly in 1999 committed to work with other churches and organizations to build a Culture of Peace and Non-violence in the decade 2001-2010. It is within this framework of operations that the ELCA supports organizations like WIPSEN-Africa.

About the Forum Rapporteurs

Mrs. Tema Agera is the Executive Director of the Centre for Women’s Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation in Kaduna, Nigeria. She has extensive experience in organizational development and strategic planning.

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Executive Summary

The Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-Africa), through an AWDF and ELCA support, and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, through a GTZ support, collaborated to co-host a four-day strategic reflection forum for women in Peacebuilding on the subject of “Institutionalizing Women Peace and Security in Africa” from the 21st to 24th May 2007 in Accra, Ghana. The goal of the forum was to review progress made in the level of participation of women in peace and security processes, relations and institutions against the bedrock of the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security six years ago in 2000, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) and the Solemn Declaration of African Heads of States and Governments on Gender Equality in 2004.

Given that WIPSEN-Africa in its former status focused its operations predominantly in ten (10) West African countries, forum participants were largely drawn from civil society groups and gender ministries/women’s bureaus within West Africa with minimal representation from the Eastern and Southern regions of the continent. Participants also included representatives from the Gender Development and Observation and Monitoring Centres of the sub regional grouping -- ECOWAS, the Gender Unit of the United Nations Observer Mission in Cote d’Ivoire (ONUCI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

In attendance at the Forum’s opening ceremony were the following: the Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Major-General John Attipoe; the Gender Minister of the Republic of Liberia, Mrs. Vaiba Gayflor; the Director of International Partnerships at the Ghana Women’s Affairs Ministry, Mrs. Marian Tackie who represented Hajia Alima Mahama the Minister; Mr. David Nii Addy, the GTZ Technical Advisor in KAIPTC; Madam Amelia Ward, former Minister of Economic and Planning in Liberia; Ms. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Executive Director of the African Women’s Development Fund; Ms. Kathrim Meissmer the Country Director of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Ms. Aminata Dibba, Acting Director of the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre in Senegal; Ms. Tavares Fernanda the Senior Gender Advisor at the United Nations Observer Mission in Cote d’Ivoire (ONUCI); Hon. Afsatu Kabba, Member of Parliament in Sierra Leone; Comfort Lamptey the Gender Advisor at DPKO; and Ms. Jebba Forster from UNIFEM Sierra Leone. Many of whom made presentations that reiterated the relevance of the theme and their commitments to the continued advancement of women’s rights in Africa.

In reflecting on the progress that has been made towards the realization of gender equality and women’s empowerment in peace and security in Africa, the forum also took stock of the unique experiences, successes and challenges of women in peacebuilding that are brought about mainly because of their sex. Strategies that have been employed over the last six years were interrogated with a view to identifying gaps, as well as best practices and lessons learned that could be harnessed into a region-specific model for future interventions. In this regard, an existing field guide that was developed in 2004 to provide peace practitioners a framework for mainstreaming women’s issues into peace and security in West Africa was re-validated. The forum further provided a platform for

women working with conflict and on peace across the continent to interact with ECOWAS and national gender machineries. The review also afforded women an opportunity to collectively re-examine their agenda for peace in light of the changing realities in the political, economic, socio-cultural and security landscapes of the continent; and in a manner that better guarantees their active and visible leadership roles in peace and security processes at all levels --from grassroots activism, intellectual trajectories to policy formulation and decision making. Central to this agenda-setting process was the development of a three-year strategic plan of action and needs assessment to identify areas for capacity strengthening and volarization.

Among others, some of the major constraints to women's full and active participation in decision making in peace and security as highlighted by participants include the widespread and continued flagrant discrimination of women and girls; the use of rape as a weapon of war, torture and dehumanization; the mere act of lip service exhibited by public office holders to gender equality and women's empowerment concerns and the concomitant lack of genuine political will on the part of governments to commit to the implementation of the instruments they have signed on to; persistent gender inequality, injustices, the reinforcement of patriarchy at the institutional arena; and its implications on the women's movement when the latter is situated within such conventionally conceptualized male-dominated peace and security structures. The recent experience of WIPSEN-Africa speaks to this and demonstrates the gravity of the challenges women's groups are confronted with when positioned within a broader network that is both patriarchal and not women-only focused.

In light of these challenges, participants reiterated the importance of an extensive review that not only borders on practice, but also on culture, epistemology, theory and policy. In this regard the theoretical apriorisms of Women in Development (WID) and Gender and Development (GAD) were reweighed vis-à-vis their praxis and policy orientations. While acknowledging the importance of partnership and need for the creation of meaningful relationships between men and women as postulated in the GAD framework, participants reiterated the need to rethink the rules of the game underlying organizational forms -- particularly those relating to peace and security institutions/organizations. In recognizing the futility of trying to integrate women (and gender) into existing narrowly defined structures and work of organizations and broader networks, participants espoused the necessity to revert to the WID model as a step towards the realization of the gender mainstreaming strategy advanced in the GAD framework.

The future trajectory for women peace and security in Africa was further explored within this frame of WID and its relation to institution building. In advocating for women-only spaces and platforms, the major role of institutions in reducing uncertainty by establishing a stable structure to human interactions was reconnoitred; and it is in this light that a consensus was reached to institutionalize women peace and security in Africa. For most participants who were largely drawn from the civil society sector, the first step in this institutionalization process is the creation of a civil society architecture that is solely dedicated to the protection and promotion of women's rights, concerns, needs and priorities in peace and security at all levels and times.

As recommended by participants, this women's (civil society) peace and security architecture would among others:

- Provide a platform for women (particularly grass roots women) across all levels of African societies to exchange, share and harmonize strategies for women's leadership and through women's coalitions and networks act collectively to promote peace and security in Africa.
- Strengthen and valorize the capacity of women to play leadership roles in conflict prevention, non-violent conflict transformation, peacebuilding and security processes at all levels.
- Promote the twin approach of mainstreaming of women's perspective into national, regional and international mechanisms on peace and security; and mainstreaming peace and security into women's issues including processes such as transitional justice, psychosocial and health interventions, and security sector reform in Africa.
- Influence policy development on women, peace and security through rigorous research, documentation and publishing of women's initiatives for peace and security in Africa.
- Provide technical expertise, as well as monitor and evaluate the peacebuilding efforts of women's organizations and network.
- Develop a database on women peace practitioners and experts that would serve as a resource pool.

The formal launch of the Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-Africa) which took place on the last day of the forum (May 24th) heralded the birth of this women's civil society peace and security institution. WIPSEN-Africa would play a critical role in mobilizing other women's groups, organizations and networks to collectively implement the three-year plan of action that was developed as an outcome document from the strategic reflection forum to promote women's leadership in peace and security in Africa.

Strategic Reflection Forum to Institutionalize Women Peace and Security in Africa

1. Introduction

The Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-Africa), a Pan-African women peacebuilding organization and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) through its Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) collaborated to organize a strategic reflection for women in peacebuilding in West Africa on the theme of "Institutionalizing Women Peace and Security in Africa". The Forum which was supported by GTZ, AWDF and the ELCA sought to review the progress made in the realization of gender equality and women's empowerment in the field of peace and security generally, and as explicitly spelt out in the UNSC Resolution 1325, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and in the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. The forum ultimately aimed at providing a framework that would better guarantee the active and full participation of women in decision making in peace and security processes and structures on the continent.

The forum was structured into three main sessions: 1) the strategy review session which focused predominantly on the experiences, successes and challenges of women in peacebuilding in West Africa; largely because over the last six (6) years WIPSEN-Africa's (then Women in Peacebuilding Network --WIPNET) peace activism work has been implemented in the sub region; 2) the strategy development session which adopted a two-pronged approach of re-vitalizing old workable strategies and the creation of new ones to respond to identified gaps and emerging needs/concerns. 3) The development of a three-year plan of action that sets out broad recommendations for ensuring the centrality of African women in, and the infusion of their issues into mainstream intellectual, policy and praxis agendas on peace and security in Africa.

The strategy review, development and plan of action sessions focused on five (5) broad thematic areas: 1) the implementation and increasing application of international and regional instruments on women, peace and security; 2) engendering conflict prevention and early warning; 3) mainstreaming gender and women's perspective into peace support operations; 4) promoting women's participation in peace processes and decision making; and 5) enabling women's access to, and participation in post-conflict rebuilding processes and institutions such as the peacebuilding, truth and reconciliation, electoral commissions.

1.1 Objective(s)

The primary intention of the Strategic Reflection Forum in May 2007 was to explore African women's demand for an institutionalized women-focused and -led entity that would focus on gender equality and women's empowerment in peace and security; and to develop strategies for its effective operations (both in terms of programmes and institutional governance). In this regard the forum set out to review past strategies and progress made; as well as to harness best practices and lessons learned. The forum also addressed the complex task of articulating women's issues within a broader network that is not solely women-focused and patriarchal. The traditional narrow definition of security as military security resulted in the establishment of security institutions that are not only male oriented and dominated, but that also view issues of war, peace and security as

male preserves. This equally applies to the establishment of civil society peace and security institutions which were created against the backdrop of lack of “experienced” and “trained” women’s peace builders prior to 2000. Engendering these structures is challenging and requires a shift in the understanding of security within the emerging notions of human security, which posits sustainable development, gender justice, human rights and democracy.

More specifically, the Strategic Reflection Forum had three (3) main objectives:

1. To review past strategies employed by women in peacebuilding with the aim of identifying lessons learned and best practices that could serve as continent-specific/indigenous models for women’s engagement in peace and security.
2. To develop new strategies that respond to emerging needs and in the process identify specific training needs as a basis for the possible design of a train-the-trainer course.
3. To provide a platform for interaction and exchange between women’s civil society groups, national gender machineries, regional intergovernmental institutions and UN agencies.

1.2 Background

In the last decade, there has been growing acknowledgement of the ways in which armed conflicts affect and transform women’s lives and livelihoods. The differing impact of peace, conflict and recovery situations on men and women, boys and girls have been recognized and the inequalities created therein ameliorated, largely at policy level with the adoption of a number of international and regional instruments that seek to address the traditional exclusion of women and their issues from peace and security processes. Since the espousal of the UNSC Resolution 1325, the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Solemn Declaration on Gender, and the gender policies of the different sub regional groupings such as ECOWAS and SADC, which calls for the recognition of women as critical actors (in both construction and deconstruction of violence and peace) and for gender parity in all areas of political, economic and social life, efforts have been intensified to integrate and mainstream women’s (and gender) considerations into the practice of peacebuilding.

While this call has gained significant grounds at the grassroots and activism levels, the realization of gender parity in policy and decision making levels, particularly on peace and security, is still far-fetched. First, peace and security issues are still largely viewed as the preserve of men. Second, at the governmental level, the political will of African governments to promote women’s issues is limited and their commitment to implementing the international instruments they have signed and/or ratified is weak. Third, at the civil society (and particularly NGO) level, though a number of initiatives have been launched to promote women’s participation in peacebuilding, gains made are increasingly resisted, challenged and too often represent exceptions rather than the norm. Existing patriarchal systems and structures within these organizations do not automatically change because a gender policy or an organizational mechanism has been put in place to facilitate gender-equal and women-friendly work (what is called “add gender” to the existing structure and “stir” model); and most times the organization and/or its male managers seek to empower women on their own terms. The long-term implications which this has on women’s leadership

and decision making roles are clearly adverse, but yet widely unknown. Not only is this a major impediment to the advancement of women's rights in the areas of peace and security; but if allowed to thrive poses a threat to the realization of gender equality and sustainable development.

1.3 Participation and Methodology

The Strategic Reflection Forum created a platform for over forty (40) participants, including representatives of ECOWAS, ONUCI, UNIFEM, GTZ, Oxfam America, national gender machineries, national parliaments and civil society groups to assess progress, review strategies, share best practices, network and map out future directions for consolidating the work of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacemaking, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. The forum methodology was three-pronged; comprising of 1) paper presentations which provided relevant background information for shared understanding and critical reflection; 2) group exercises which allowed for more critical analysis and 3) experience sharing which facilitated peer based learning. Both paper and group work presentations were followed by plenary discussions in which key points were further examined and debated.

2. Forum Themes and Debates

Women's involvement in peace and security processes in Africa has gained momentum over the last two decades largely as a direct consequence of living and/or working in conflict zones. In light of the harsh realities of wars and armed conflicts, women have undergone several transitions in terms of their roles as they struggle to find appropriate coping and survival mechanisms. Consequently women have become both victims and perpetrators of violence; and have played significant roles to either find lasting solutions to the war (for example as peace activists) or to sustain the war (for example as combatants). With regards to the former, the experiences of women in peacebuilding on the continent have encompassed activities initiated and implemented around early warning and conflict prevention; conflict management and resolution; direct and/or indirect engagement in peace processes such as mediation, peace talks, signing of peace agreements, picketing (e.g. the Liberian women mass action for peace); and post-conflict rebuilding. International and regional instruments such as UNSC Resolution 1325, Solemn Declaration and the Protocol to the African Charter on Women's Rights further represent a significant step in the process of engendering peace and security. However, given the implementation challenges which these instruments face, it is critical to revisit them with a view to exploring the opportunities they present as a framework for effectively engendering of peace and security processes, relations and structure.

Thus, the Forum presentations and discussions focused on the following five (5) themes:

1. International and Regional Instruments on Women, Peace and Security: Challenges to, and Opportunities for its Domestication and Operationalisation in West Africa.
2. Engendering Conflict Prevention and Early Warning in West Africa: Gaps and Entry Points for Women's Groups.
3. An Introspective Analysis of the Role of Peacekeeping Missions in Protecting and Promoting Women's Rights: a) a Mission Perspective, and b) a Civil Society Perspective.
4. Women's Engagement in Peace Processes in West Africa: Experiences, Gaps and Needs.
5. Promoting Women's Leadership in Post-Conflict Peace and Security Processes: Filling the Gaping Lacunae.

Generally, all the papers started off by examining the impact of conflict on women, including the psychological and physical abuse of women through rape, torture, and their abduction as 'bush wives' which all amounts to gross human rights violation. In drawing specific examples from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, DRC, etc., it was emphasized that neither conflict prevention nor peace consolidation can be realized without greater gender equality that ensures that:

- Women are fully recognized in their capacity as peace constituents and are not excluded from peace negotiations during conflict;
- Gender concerns are reflected in the design of reintegration programmes for ex-combatants and other aspects of post-conflict reconstruction;
- The different needs of men and women are included in the development of early warning mechanisms, security sector reform programmes and other peace-building efforts.

The importance of promoting women's participation in decision making (e.g. through affirmative action or quota systems) was specifically recommended by all paper presenters. To demonstrate the imperative for this, statistics were provided to illustrate that only 17 percent of the world's parliamentarians and 13 percent of UN Peacekeeping Operations professional staff as at 30th June 2006 were women.

All papers presented also alluded to the adhoc, marginal and most often unsystematic manner in which women peace and security issues are articulated. Paper presentations were thus structured in a way that gave resonance to the quest for an institutional framework and expression of African women's peace agenda. Such an institutional structure, it was argued, would among others:

1. Address the need to define peace and security from the perspective of the African Woman (e.g. from a human security dimension).
2. Provide women with a political voice
3. Ensure the formal recognition of women's roles in rebuilding communities both during and after conflicts
4. Analyze the quality of women's leadership and ensuring that accountability is a priority in political and leadership spheres.
5. Promote knowledge building through increased documentation of women's peace initiative
6. Create a women-specific peace and security mechanism that transcends geographic, linguistic, disciplinary and generational boundaries
7. Deconstruct existing stereotypes and groom/mentor younger women to take up leadership roles in peace and security

Participants stressed that a strategic objective for a women-focused peace and security institution is the strengthening and valorisation of the capacities of women, particularly women in leadership and women at the grassroots, as a quality assurance mechanism. Mentorship of younger women and girls was emphasized as a strategy to raising greater consciousness on the significant role of women in political spaces; particularly as these political spaces are increasingly becoming the arena where key decisions are taken. It was further stressed that an institutionalized women peace and security structure should be dedicated to strengthening the African women peace movement, and to becoming a cohesive bloc for engaging the peace and security architectures of other institutions such as the UN, AU, ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD, etc, in a manner that seeks to eliminate gender inequality.

2.1 International and Regional Instruments on Women, Peace and Security: Challenges to, and Opportunities for its Domestication and Operationalisation in West Africa

This paper explored the flurry of Resolutions, Protocols and other instruments that exist at the international, continental and sub-regional levels to promote the equal participation and full involvement of women in maintenance and promotion of peace and security. At the global level, this includes the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the ILO 1998 gender guidelines for empowering women in conflict situations, UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; and more specific resolutions like the UNSC Resolution 1479 on Cote d' Ivoire. At the continental level are the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality which

not only led to gender parity within the AU, but also to the transformation of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) into the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC) as an advisory body to the chairperson on Gender and Development at the African Union (AU) Commission, and among others charged to ensure that women and peace issues are regularly reviewed and reported. This development, although yet to be translated into concrete action, is seen as both historic and timely for institutionalizing gender perspective in the pursuit of peace and conflict management at the regional level. At the ECOWAS sub-regional level, the revised ECOWAS Treaty of 1993 which enables ECOWAS to deal with security issues in recognition of the linkage between stability and economic advancement and the ECOWAS Protocol of 1999 relating to the mechanism for Conflict prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security and its additional protocol of 2001 were discussed. Critical components of the Mechanism such as the Early Warning System was also highlighted.

The paper reiterated that implementation was the main challenge and attempted to specify reasons for the implementation challenge. This include lack of domestication, entrenched patriarchy and women's systemic disadvantaged situation, minimal consideration of gender issues in early warning, limited political will on the parts of government, and limited sanctions. Some of the opportunities highlighted include the on-going restructuring of ECOWAS into a Commission, the existence of a gender policy in ECOWAS which is an advocacy tool. Participants noted that despite the implementation challenge, the increasing hands-on work of ECOWAS in peace and security such as in early warning, peace support operations and peacemaking provide windows of opportunity for women to lobby for their inclusion.

2.2 Engendering Conflict Prevention and Early Warning in West Africa: Gaps and Entry Points for Women's Groups.

The paper highlighted the general structure of the Observation and Monitoring Centre which is situated within the department of political affairs in the ECOWAS secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria. The OMC houses the early warning system of ECOWAS --ECOWARN. To be effective in its operations, the ECOWARN works with civil society groups, including women groups. Again, this is merely the ideal. Gaps identified include the male-dominance of the OMC; the nominal engendering of indicators for early warning as a result of undue reliance on indicators which reflect macro level factors at the expense of the micro level; the poor interface between the OMC/ECOWARN and women's groups (even its Gender Development Centre --EGDC); and the disconnect between Early Warning and Early Response which arises because of the isolation of early warning researchers/workers from mainstream political decision-making processes. When juxtaposed by the exclusion of women from political decision-making processes, it becomes more apparent why Early Warning does not currently wear a gender garb.

Despite these gaps, entry points for women in conflict prevention and early warning were identified in the following areas: information collection, conflict data analysis, and scenario building and the development of response options. A SWOT analysis was further used to identify other possible entry points for women. Participants noted that the presence and extensive work of women at the micro level is a strength and cornerstone of effective Early Warning System. The significance of the existence of women's networks

engaged in conflict related work for cross fertilization of ideas and approaches was highlighted; and within this premise a framework that would institutionalize and facilitate regular exchange among women and between women and early warning systems was espoused. Participants emphasized that major weaknesses to engendering early warning include the disadvantaged status limit of women which narrows their participation mostly to the private sphere. Given the current prioritization of macro level issues, micro level issues –and hence women’s issues- are neglected. The high probability for women’s peace building activities to influence legal and political changes presents an opportunity for women to mobilize around for their issues to become centre stage of macro level engagements. Special attention was given to the possibility of developing a common document that would ensure the centrality of women’s concerns in early warning on the continent.

Participants pointed out that there is little knowledge of the existence of early warning and its systems at the grassroots. In this regard the need for increased awareness creation was identified. With reference to the early warning signs currently emanating from Sierra Leone, Niger Delta, etc participants stated that early warning is still a myth. The differences between early warning and early intervention (response) were examined; and the highly political nature of early response highlighted as one major reason for the ineffectiveness of the system. Broader participation of civil society and particularly women’s groups was demanded; and in this regards RECs were called upon to adopt a more open and inclusive policy, rather than work with just a single network (as is the case with ECOWAS’ ECOWARN). In the same vein the need for greater collaboration between early warning and gender units within RECs was emphasized.

2.3 An Introspective Analysis of the Role of Peacekeeping Missions in Protecting and Promoting Women’s Rights

The presentation on the introspective analysis of the role of peacekeeping missions in protecting and promoting women’s rights was interrogated from a dual approach: a mission and civil society perspective. Both perspectives emphasized the need to peace support operations to uphold the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination. The flagrant abuse and disregard of international humanitarian and human rights law and code of conducts by peacekeepers was questioned against the backdrop that most often this goes with impunity. Participants also probed the number and position of women in missions (in civilian, police and military capacities) and restated the crucial importance of women’s presence for influencing greater gender sensitivity in operations and in enhancing the mission’s capacity to work more effectively with the local populations. DPKO’s field mechanisms for mainstreaming gender in peacekeeping operations were examined in light of the role of peacekeeping mission in facilitating gender justice in post-conflict environments. For instance in advocating for fair gender balance in cases where truth and reconciliation committees are to be established. Participants noted that more efforts should be made to create awareness on troop contributing countries (TCC) and the police contributing countries (PCC) and advocate for the inclusion of personnel with experience on handling gender-based violence. On the issue of accountability, participants called for increased accountability and transparency among member states in dealing with allegations of violation on the part of their peacekeepers. They further suggested that the Convention Agreement (CA) for Peace Support Operations be amended to provide a

clause where the heads of mission are kept informed by member states of the progress of investigations or proceedings with respect to charges related to abuses committed by their nationals while in Peace Support Operations. It was also suggested that the Status of Force Agreement (SOFA) could be revised to take into account a second jurisdiction for nationals of a contributing country and to include a provision for the settlement mechanisms in Peace Support Operations that would help determine paternity and child support in situations where children have been conceived by peacekeepers while serving in a mission. Special attention was drawn to the opportunities the AU's recent policy framework for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) presents for women.

2.4 Women's Engagement in Peace Processes in West Africa: Experiences, Gaps and Needs

This was a special experience sharing session among participants. The experiences of women in peace processes were culled from conflict zones from across the continent. These examples from Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger Delta, Casamance, Uganda, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Rwanda, South Africa (during apartheid), DRC and Sudan were crucial for generating new comparative insights into the structure, level and impact of women's peace work. On a general scale, it was established that women's interventions are largely ad hoc and reactionary. To a greater extent, women (particularly at the grassroots) lack the technical skills and capacities to engage at the more formal and structured level. Participants noted that this was not peculiar to grassroots women alone, as most women in top decision making positions also have very limited knowledge on issues pertaining to peace and security. Examples of gender ministries and women's bureaus were given. These gender machineries have a broad focus without any specificity on peace and security or working relations with the national machineries responsible for peace and security issues such as the ministries of defence. Participants emphasized the need to strengthen women's capacities through regular training that are structured to meet specific needs of women at different levels; strengthen the interface between gender/women ministries and the ministries of defence and finance; and support women in decision making through information sharing on topical debates on peace and security. In this regard, it was opined that peace and security should be mainstreamed into women's issues and concerned. Specific suggestions were made on the need to bridge the gap between practice and policy. Research, documentation, mentorship and resource mobilization were also prescribed as critical for valorising women's participation.

2.5 Promoting Women's Leadership in Post-Conflict Peace and Security Processes: Filling the Gaping Lacunae

The paper argued that while significant gains have been made in the area of women's leadership and involvement in decision making, such gains have been uneven. In illustrating this point, the presenter indicated that in alternative power structures at the grassroots and in NGOs and CBOs women have made giants strides in ensuring their involvement in decision making, but at the level of national politics such progress has been slow. This situation, as it relates to peace and security the presenter highlighted demands urgent action particularly in a post-conflict environment that presents opportunities for change; including the break away from stereotypical cultural and traditional barriers. It was noted that women's leadership in decision making at the national level is necessary for the ratification and domestication of all mechanisms that are cardinal to gender equality and

women's empowerment. The need to address security from a human security dimension was encouraged in light of the feminization of poverty and threat it portends to women's peace and security. In this regard women's groups and organizations are called upon to engage governments in the development of national Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSP) in a manner that ensures the integration of women's issues. Participants reflected on the tendencies to relegate and exclude women from mainstream peace and security processes in the aftermath of conflict; and emphasized the need for a common women's vision and agenda for peace in post-conflict situations. Such an agenda should not be homogeneous but should pay special attention to the needs of different categories of women: grassroots, girls, women in decision making, survivors of violence, refugee and internally displaced.

Participants identified a number of strategies for promoting women's leadership in post-conflict peace and security; including: supporting women's education and economic empowerment policies and programmes; appointing as a must, qualified women in areas traditionally reserved for men, especially in the justice and security sectors; increasing the number of women law-makers in parliament through quota systems, elections laws and guidelines, training of women candidates running for political offices, especially in areas of: campaigning including fund raising, setting agenda (platform) and public speaking; providing support to women's networks that have played critical roles in securing justices (e.g. punishment to perpetrators); and in training of women leaders in techniques of partnership building, networking in support of their roles of advocacy, lobbying and leadership.

3. Strategy Review

Over the last few decades women have employed diverse strategies in their efforts to promote peace and rebuild war-torn and conflict-ravaged communities. These have ranged from mobilization and the building of a common platform, capacity building, networking and partnership building, advocacy and lobbying, picketing, shuttle mediation and negotiation, and intermarriages. While significant gains have been made, these approaches have been used in an ad hoc and most often reactionary manner. Given the progression and trajectory of conflict along the continuum of pre, during and post it is imperative to review these strategies in order that their relevance or suitability to current realities is determined. Thus in reviewing the afore-mentioned strategies, participants were called upon to identify best practices, lessons learned, gaps and the needs derived thereof.

To adequately examine the gamut of women's peace and security work, the strategy review session was structured along the five (5) sub-themes of the Forum presentations and debates. Namely: policy; early warning; peace support operations; conflict management, resolution and peacemaking; and post-conflict reconstruction. Examples were elicited from different countries and in the spirit of the review an existing field guide that was designed by WIPSEN-Africa in its former status for peace practitioners on frameworks for mainstreaming women's issues in peace and security was revalidated.

1. On mobilization, participants emphasized the significance of women's numerical strength and cited examples to illustrate numerous obstacles that have been surmounted through unity, common voice and collective action. The case of Burundi was highlighted as a prime example. During the Burundian peace negotiation in Arusha, women mobilized across ethnic and class divides to advocate for the lifting of the embargo on the country. What they could not realise when they were a group of 12, they achieved when the group grew to 60. The example of the women of Somalia is another case in point. Their historic mobilization along the 6th clan gained them recognition, allowed for their participation at the peace talks in Arta, Djibouti and for the subsequent incorporation of the "women's agenda for peace and gender inclusion" in the outcome document. In the same vein, the Liberian women's mass action for peace that mobilized women across religious, ethnic, class, age barriers; including refugee women and women from the diaspora was recounted as critical to the cessation of violence in Liberia. The major gap identified in relation to this strategy lies in the categorization and treatment of women as a homogenous entity. This, participants noted have resulted in the tendencies to address the specific needs of a particular category of women at the expense of others. To address this gap, it is important to identify the different categories that constitute womanhood and to respect the diversities in this "homogeneity" in policy formulation, as well as in the design and implementation of initiatives that seek to promote women's rights.

2. Directly linked to the strategy of mobilization is the strategy of building a common platform. Given the interrelatedness of these strategies there has been the erroneous assumption that once women are mobilized, they have and share a common platform. Thus very little attention has been paid to this strategy; and this is responsible to the retrogression that plagues the women's movement. Women, like men, are not a homogenous group. They have different needs, interests, belong to different political

parties, represent different ethnic, clan or tribal groups, have different social status and experiences, etc. To have women with all these variations adopt a common platform a number of steps are necessary. First is mobilization. Second, track-two, informal negotiations and shuttle diplomacy skills and techniques are often needed to help reach a consensus. Though women have used several approaches such as round-table discussion, focus-group discussion and informant interviews to achieve the level of success so far recorded, for different reasons, women lack the requisite formal skills or know-how needed to engage in these processes. This is also the main reason that is given for the exclusion of women from formal peace negotiations. Addressing this gap ushers in the next strategy --capacity building.

3. The capacity building strategy has been consistently applied over the last six years as a way of providing women, and other stakeholders, the requisite skills and technical know-how needed for their engagement in formal peace and security processes. Significant grounds have been covered in this area with trainings for women in a number of subject areas on peace and security; e.g. basic fundamentals of peace and conflict, advocacy, mediation and advanced negotiation, DDR, peace support, leadership, policy analysis, security sector reform, transitional justice, etc. Participants however questioned whether or not the goal of building a critical mass of skilled and knowledgeable women on peace and security issues has been achieved. The methodologies used in these trainings were also examined. In this regard, women from Francophone countries appealed for the simplification of existing modules to improve accessibility. Participants also reviewed the role of community animators and the use of the media and ICT as methodologies for training. The benefits and constraints to training in local languages were equally examined in this regard.

4. As a strategy networking and partnership building are closely linked to mobilization and building a common platform; and has been used extensively by women to pave the way for their involvement in peace and security processes at different level. The main challenge to effective networking and partnership building borders on the issue of autonomy. Participants illustrated this by citing examples of some groups and organizations that have lost their identity and/or mandate in the process or in extreme cases ceased to exist. To avoid this problem, women's groups were encouraged to remain focused, constantly align and realign their activities along their vision and mission, and make conscious effort to remain autonomous. For more effectiveness, networking and partnership should also be established along both horizontal and vertical lines.

5. Advocacy and Lobbying is one of the main strategies that have been used by women to attain the gains made in the area of peace and security. However, results achieved have mainly been in the area of policy as demonstrated by the abundance of instruments such as UNSC Resolution 1325; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, CEDAW, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Gender policies of RECs, national gender policies, etc. These advocacy and lobbying skills must now be applied to ensure that these instruments are adhered to and/or implemented.

6. Picketing and other forms of public demonstration as a strategy have been useful for

drawing public attention and concern to different aspects of women's issues at all levels -- international, continental, sub-regional, national and local. Examples abound in this regard --the Liberian women's bodily barricade of the venue of the peace talks in Accra and their popular sit-in at the air field in Monrovia, the Guinea Bissau women's violent-free elections campaign, the Ivorian women's historic "peace" visit to rebel camps, the DRC women's open call to belligerents to "sit down and negotiate", women's peace check point activities across West Africa that aimed at transforming abusive police checkpoints, etc.

Generally, participants noted that these strategies are not stand-alone; but are interrelated. In terms of relevance, it was agreed that these strategies remain highly constructive for sustaining women's participation in peace and security processes. However, there is a need for innovativeness and modernisation in their usage. Each of these strategies was also reviewed against the forum sub-themes to identify specific gaps and lessons learned.

4. Strategy Development

An expected deliverable of the strategic reflection forum is the development of new strategies that will contribute in ensuring women's leadership in peace and security processes in Africa. Participants made general recommendations on a number of new strategies; recalled some existing strategies that have not been fully utilized; and gave some concrete examples on how these can be applied. These include:

1. Capacity valorisation, which implies capacity strengthening through value-added training. Over the last six years, capacity building training has been prioritized for women in peace and security to provide them the requisite skills needed to guarantee their engagement in these processes. In providing this training the justification has been that women lack the requisite skill and know-how; and in this regard it is important to raise a critical mass of women that are competent in different aspects –training, mediation, negotiation, psychosocial support, etc. Today, capacity building is still strongly espoused. While this is important, the question is has this critical mass been raised? What has been the impact of these trainings? Just how much longer will capacity building go on? In light of donor fatigue and beneficiary complacency participants observed the need to focus on valorising the capacities of women whose capacities have already been built in different areas such that peer training is promoted.

Understanding this proposed strategy requires an analysis of the basic theoretical assumptions underpinning capacity building and capacity valorisation. Capacity building is based on the premise that there is absence of capacity (e.g. women lack the skills for Peacebuilding). Capacity valorisation on the other hand presumes that there is capacity, which only needs to be maintained and adapted to specific contextual realities; or re-tooled to meet emerging needs. It is perceived as the end of a continuum whose beginning is capacity building. In valorising women's capacity for peace and security therefore, their already acquired skills and know-how becomes the take-off point for new knowledge building.

2. Specific fundraising to provide for the human and organizational capacities necessary to implement already existing mechanisms. The lack of political will, among others, has been adduced as the reason for the non-implementation of existing instruments on the protection and promotion of women's rights. However, at the level of civil society there are also numerous frameworks and recommendations that are yet to be implemented. More resources go into the organizations of workshops, conferences and seminars that end up as mere talk shops. If women's leadership in peace and security is to be promoted and sustained, it is crucial to move towards the implementation of these policies and recommendations and specific resources must be raised for this.

3. Research and Documentation as a strategy already exists. However as it relates to women, peace and security issues, minimal work has been done in this regard. To make women's intervention more structured and systematic it must be informed and backed up by research. Such research must be carried out in a manner that defines peace and security from the perspective of African women. As a knowledge building measure, successes, best practices, lessons learned as well as gaps and challenges must be documented and extensively disseminated.

4. Mentorship: If women's peace activism and movement is to be sustained mentorship cannot be overemphasized. While this strategy is already in use its significance as a sustainability tool has not been fully appreciated. The women's movement has been generally characterized by an intergenerational divide; the implication of which is completely detrimental in the long-run. Special attention and efforts must thus be institutionalized within women's organizations to ensure that younger women are groomed and brought on board mainstream peace and security processes.

5. Creating an institutionalized women peace and security structure. Participants affirmed the need for an institutionalized structure that would be solely dedicated to protecting and promoting women's issues in peace and security. Given the male-oriented nature of existing peace and security structures such as traditional chiefs at the local level; state security machineries and apparatuses at the national level; the OMC, CEWARN, at the sub-regional level, etc, such an institutional structure will be women-led and would work towards becoming a model centre of excellence. Beyond the technical issues, participants noted that an institutionalized women peace and security structure would also be committed to valorizing women capacities in the governance and administration of peace and security institutions hitherto seen as the preserve of men. It was within this framework that the Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-Africa) was launched.

As an organization committed to institutionalizing women, peace and security in Africa, WIPSEN-Africa was established as a pan-African women's civil society Peacebuilding organization; with a core mandate to institutionalize women peace and security in Africa; and thereby valorise African women's leadership capacities to promote constructive, innovative and collaborative approaches to non-violent transformation of conflict, peacebuilding and human security. WIPSEN-Africa is both women-led and focused; and envisions a *"violence free, non-discriminatory continent that fosters peaceful coexistence, equality, collective ownership and the full participation of particularly women in decision making on peace and security"*.

5. Action and Resource Planning

Another expected deliverable from the strategic reflection forum is a three-year plan of action that would guide WIPSEN-Africa's work over the period of June 2007–May 2010. In developing this plan of action, strategies reviewed and developed were considered, as well as WIPSEN-Africa's defined thematic programmes. These thematic programmes have been structured in a manner that takes into consideration different need, priorities and realities of different categories of women as it relates to peace and security. These are:

- Rural Women's Peace and Security Initiative
- Women in Leadership and Decision-making Program
- Displaced Women Peace and Security Outreach Program
- Peace Generations (targeted at young people)
- Africa Women Conflict Watch (Engendered Early Warning and Conflict Prevention) Program
- Women and Post-conflict Recovery Program

The strategies that would be applied to realize objectives of these programmes include: mobilization, building a common agenda (platform), capacity valorisation, networking and partnership building, research, documentation and dissemination, mentorship and internship, lobbying and advocacy, specific fundraising for implementation, and hands-on activism.

Of strategic importance to this action planning are the membership drive and institution building components, which include recruitment, staff development, office furnishing, development of administrative and operational guidelines, technical support to member organizations, monitoring and evaluation; and impact assessment.

*Full text of the action and resource plan developed can be obtained from the WIPSEN-Africa Secretariat through the following address: wipsen@wipsen-africa.org

6. Conclusion







Despite the existence of a number of international and regional mechanisms calling for increased participation of women in decision making and peace processes, African women are continuously excluded from, or only marginally involved in peace and security processes. Notwithstanding and given that women are faced with the day-to-day realities and consequences of violent conflicts, women are mobilizing, taking initiatives and steadily making significant in-roads into the formal peace and security arenas. Most of the initiatives taken have been ad hoc and reactionary, and the successes short-lived.

In assessing the progress made, participants at the strategic reflection forum spent quality time on the review of strategies that have applied across the continent. In doing this, gaps, best practices and lessons learned were highlighted. Central to this reflection was the affirmation that governments are not genuinely committed to implementing the instruments they have signed and/or ratified; that peace and security structures, relations and processes are largely male oriented and dominated; that most women's peace initiative have been operationalized within organizations and systems that are themselves hierarchical, patriarchal and only interested in empowering women on their own terms; and that where significant gains have been made, it has been because an individual, a network, an organizational champion, or a unique confluence of 'push' factors is responsive and receptive to change. Even then, progress has been made only when women's rights advocates invest extraordinary interest, time and effort and, where required, take significant risks. It is against this reality that women demand an institutionalized entity that would be solely dedicated to advancing their rights in the area of peace and security. With the formal launch of WIPSEN-Africa, this has been set in motion and WIPSEN-Africa will take the lead in ensuring that the recommendations and plan of action from this forum is implemented.

The forum ended with a peace check point activity to commemorate the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament (May 24). Flyers with peace messages were distributed to pedestrians and motorists to raise awareness on the role of women in peace and security.

Annexes

1. Forum Agenda

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| WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY NETWORK AFRICA (WIPSEN-Africa) STRATEGIC REFLECTION FORUM FOR WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING IN WEST AFRICA | | | | | |
| 21 – 24 MAY 2007 | | | | | |
| VENUE: KOFI ANNAN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRE, ACCRA, GHANA | | | | | |
| Theme: Institutionalizing Women Peace and Security Africa | | | | | |
| AGENDA | | | | | |
| DAY ONE: 20th May 2007 | | | | | |
| Arrival | | | | | |
| DAY TWO: 21st May 2007 | | | | | |
| 8.30 – 9.00 Registration | | | | | |
| Session One: Opening Ceremony: | | | | | |
| Chair – Mrs Juliette Khady Sow, Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies | | | | | |
| 9.00 – 10.00 Introduction and Remarks | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Prayers• Opening Remarks – Major General J. K. Attipoe, Commandant KAPITC• Welcome Address – Leymah Gbowee, Executive Director, WIPSEN-Africa• Goodwill Messages :<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Executive Director, Africa Women Development Fund (AWDF)- Dr. Richard Konteh, Executive Secretary, WASCOF- Mamadou Biteye, Regional Director, Oxfam America- David Nii Addy, KAIPTC/GTZ- Gender Ministries<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Hon. Memunata Koroma, Sierra Leone– Mrs. Vaibah Gaylor, Liberia | | | | | |
| 10.30 – 10.40 Keynote Address – Minister of Women's Affairs, Ghana | | | | | |
| 10.40 – 11.00 Closing Remarks: Chair – Mrs. Juliette Sow | | | | | |
| 11.00 – 11.10 Group Photograph | | | | | |

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| 11.10 – 11.30 | Break |
| Session Two: Overview of Forum | |
| Chair - Ecoma Alaga, Director of Programs, WIPSEN-Africa | |
| 11.30 – 11.50 | Run-down of Agenda, Objectives and Expectations |
| 11.50 – 12.30 | Strategy Planning Process and Requirements – Mrs. Tema Agera, Executive Director WEPA and Consultant on Strategy Planning |
| 12.30 – 13.00 | WIPSEN-Africa: the journey so far – Ms. Leymah Gbowee, Executive Director, WIPSEN-Africa |
| 13.00 – 14.30 | Lunch |
| Session Three: Paper Presentations | |
| Chair – Ms. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Executive Director, African Women Development Fund (AWDF) Representative | |
| 14.30 – 14.50 | Why an Institutional Framework for Women in Peacebuilding? – Ms. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, AWDF |
| 14.50 – 15.10 | International and Regional Instruments on Women, Peace and Security: Challenges to, and Opportunities for its Domestication and Operationalisation in West Africa Presenter: Aminatta Dibba, Acting Director, ECOWAS Gender Development Centre |
| 15.10 – 15.30 | Engendering Conflict Prevention and Early Warning in West Africa: Gaps and Entry Points for Women's Groups Presenter – Colonel Kone, Director OMC, ECOWAS |
| 15.30 – 15.50 | An Introspective Analysis of the Role of Peacekeeping Missions in Protecting and Promoting Women's Rights Presenter – UNOCI Representative |
| 15.50 – 16.10 | Women's Engagement in Peace Processes in West Africa: Experiences, Gaps and Needs Presenter – Dr. Nana Pratt, MARWOPNET |
| 16.10 – 16.30 | Promoting Women's Leadership in Post-Conflict Peace and Security Processes: Filling the Gaping Lacunae Presenter – Mrs. Ruth Caesar |
| 16.30 – 16.40 | Break |
| 16.40 – 17.30 | Discussions |
| 19.30 | Welcome Reception/Dinner |
| DAY THREE: 22nd May 2007 | |

Session Four: Strategy Review Session

Chair – Ms. Nana Oye Lithur

- 8.30 – 9.00 Highlights of Discussions and Presentations on Day Two - Ms. Barbara Bangura, Executive Director GEMS Reliance & Board Member WIPSEN-Africa
- 9.00 – 11.00 Group Work – Strategy Review (Approaches, Identification of Best Practices, Lessons Learned, Gaps, Needs and Inter-generational demands)
- **Group One:** Domesticating and Operationalizing International and Regional Instruments on Women, Peace and Security at both regional and national levels in West Africa
 - **Group Two:** Women and Conflict Early Warning in West Africa
 - **Group Three:** Protecting and Promoting Women’s Rights During Peacekeeping
 - **Group Four:** Women’s Roles In Peace Processes and Institutions in West Africa
 - **Group Five:** Sustaining Women’s Leadership Post-Conflict Recovery Processes
- 11.00 – 11.30 Break
- 11.30 – 12.30 Group Presentations
- 12.30 – 13.00 Discussions
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
- 14.30 – 15.30 Experiences of Women in Peacebuilding in East Africa and the Great Lakes
- 15.30 – 16.00 Discussions
- 16.00 – 16.30 Highpoints and Closing – Chair, Ms. Oye Lithur
- 16.30 – 17.30 WIPSEN-Africa Board Meeting

DAY FOUR: 23RD May 2007

Session Five: Strategy Development Session

Chair – Mme. Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson, WILDAF Togo

- 8.30 – 9.00 Highlights of Discussions and Presentations on Day Three – Ini Onuk, Gender and Peace Consultant
- 9.00 – 11.00 Group Work – Strategies (research, training, documentation, etc) for Ensuring:
- **Group One:** International and Regional Commitments to Women, Peace and Security are applied in West Africa
 - **Group Two:** ECOWARN is Gender-Sensitive
 - **Group Three:** Peacekeeping Missions are Gender-Aware and

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| | Apply a Gender-Lens in their Operations |
| | ○ Group Four: Women Participate Actively and Visibly in Peace Processes and Institutions in West Africa |
| | ○ Group Five: Women's Leadership Post-Conflict Recovery Processes |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | Break |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | Group Presentations |
| 12.30 – 13.00 | Discussions |
| 13.00 – 14.30 | Lunch |
| Session Six | |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | Presentation of Policy Framework for Mainstreaming Women's Issues in Peace and Security in West Africa – Ms. Ecoma Alaga |
| 15.00 – 16.00 | Feedback on Use of Framework for the Development of a Field Guide <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mme. Helene Dandilou – Ivorian Women's Experience- Ms. Leymah Gbowee – Liberian Women's Experience- Dr. Bolanle Adetoun - The ECOWAS Experience- Mrs. Nkechi Ali-Balogun – Nigerian Women's Experience |
| 16.00 – 16.30 | Discussions |
| 16.30 – 17.00 | Highpoints and Closing – Chair, Mme. Adjamagbo-Johnson |
| 17.00 – 18.00 | WIPSEN-Africa Caucus Meeting |
| DAY FIVE: 24RD May 2007 | |
| Session Seven: Action and Resource | |
| Chair – Mrs. Tema Agera, Executive Director WEPA & SP Consultant | |
| 8.30 – 9.00 | Highlights of Discussions and Presentations on Day Four – Mrs. Pauline Yao |
| 9.00 – 10.00 | Action Planning – Mrs. Tema Agera |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Way Forward – Ms. Leymah Gbowee |
| 10.30 – 10.40 | Announcements |
| 10.40 – 11.00 | Break |
| Session Eight: Formal Launch of WIPSEN-Africa | |
| Chair – Major General J. K. Attipoe, Commandant KAPITC | |
| 11.00 – 12.30 | Introduction of Invited Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Prayers• Opening Remarks – Major General J. K. Attipoe, Commandant• Welcome Address – Mrs. Amelia Ward• Brief Overview of WIPSEN-Africa and run-down of three- |

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| | day session – Ms. Leymah Gbowee, Executive Director, WIPSEN-Africa |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks from Invited Guests• Vote of thanks – Nii Addy, KAIPTC• Closing Remarks/Announcements – Ms. Ecoma Alaga• Group Photograph |
| 12.30 – 14.30 | Peace Check Point Activity |
| 14.30 | Lunch |

2. Participants' List

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| 1. | Ms Affoue Pauline FCIEX / PASPA Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire | 2. | Mrs Helene Dandilou Amanan VAFAG Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire |
| 3. | Mlle. Kra Angele Adjoua Direction de légalité et de la Promotion Genre BPV 200, Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire | 4. | Mme. Tavares Femanda ONUCL Cote D'Ivoire |
| 5. | Ms Ini-Abasi Onuk Addis Ababa Ethiopia | 6. | Ms Patricia Formadi Women and Development Project Nkwanta, Volta Region Ghana |
| 7. | Ms Regine Dupuy Independent Consultant Ghana | 8. | Mrs Lucia Quachey Ghana Association of Women Entrepreneurs GAWE House Accra, Ghana. |
| 9. | Ms Kathrim Meissmer Friedrich Ebert Foundation P.O.Box 9722 KIA-Accra, Ghana | 10. | Ms Blessing Agboada The Ark Foundation P.O.BOX AT 1230, Achimota Accra, Ghana. |
| 11. | Ms Mardey Ohui Ofoe Foundation for Female Photo Journalists (FPP) P.O.BOX OS 1826 OSU, Accra, Ghana | 12. | Ms. Bisi Adeleye Fayemi African Women Development Fund (AWDF) Accra, Ghana. |
| 13. | Mr. Rudolf Amenga – Etego Foundation for Grassroots Initiatives in Africa (Grass Roots Africa) Ghana | 14. | Ms. Nana Oye Lithur Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) Accra, Ghana |
| 15. | Ms. Leymah Gbowee WIPSEN-Africa Accra, Ghana | 16. | Ms. Ecoma Bassey Alaga WIPSEN-Africa Accra, Ghana |
| 17. | Ms. Victoria Ake WIPSEN-Africa Accra, Ghana | 18. | Ms Dinah Sipmen Mensah WIPSEN-Africa Accra, Ghana |
| 19. | Ms. Emma Birikorang Kofi Annan International | 20. | Ms Awa Ebo Kofi Annan International |

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| | Peacekeeping Centre (KAIPTC) Accra, Ghana | | Peacekeeping Centre (KAIPTC) Accra, Ghana |
| 21. | David Nii Addy Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre (KAIPTC) Accra, Ghana | 22. | Madam Amelia Ward Mano River Women's Peace Network Monrovia, Liberia |
| 23. | Hon. Dr. Ruth Caesar National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Monrovia, Liberia. | 24. | Hon. Varba K. Gayflor Ministry of Gender Liberia |
| 25. | Ms. Vaiba Flomo WIPSEN-Africa Liberia | 26. | Ms. Tema Liti Agera Center for Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation (CWEPA) Kaduna, Nigeria. |
| 27. | Ms Florence Iheme ECOWAS Nigeria | 28. | Hon. Mrs Florence Gbinigie-Erhabor (JP) Forum of Nigerian Women in Politics (FONWIP) Nigeria |
| 29. | Mr Ethelbert Onuaha FORDESH Nigeria | 30. | Nkechi Ali Balogun Rights Initiative Nigeria |
| 31. | Mrs Juliette Khady Sow Institute for Political and Strategic Studies (IEPS) Dakar, Senegal | 32. | Ms. Eva Danty Kouka Oxfam America Dakar, Senegal |
| 33. | Mme. Aminatta Dibba ECOWAS Gender Development Centre Senegal | 34. | Ms. Jebbeh Forster UNIFEM Freetown, Sierra Leone |
| 35. | Ms. Barbara Bangura GEMS Freetown, Sierra Leone | 36. | Hon. Afsatu Kabba Member of Parliament Sierra Leone |
| 37. | Ms. Slu Hlonga Safer Arica South Africa | 38. | Mme Kpakpabia Badoumlé Somié Agent de Promotion Sociale á la Direction de la Promotion de la Femme/MASPF Togo |
| 39. | Ms Jessica Babihuga Nkuuhe Isis-WICCE | 40. | Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey IDEG |

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| | Kampala, Uganda | | Accra, Ghana |
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