Regional Conference on Implementing UNSCR1325 in the Mano River region

INFORMATION NOTE

On July 29th and 30th, FAS organized a Regional Conference on Implementing UNSCR1325 in the Mano River region. Ministerial delegations from each of the four countries, representatives of civil society organizations, representatives from civil society organizations and women’s groups as well as security sector personnel convened for two days of conference and working groups. A regional mapping of the implementation strategies was engaged, a share of best practice by country was presented to start forming regional share of best practices, while cross border issues and common objectives were agreed, culminating in the adoption of the Freetown Declaration. This was the opportunity to capitalize on the progress made in the region on integrating a gender perspective in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts through the elaboration and adoption of National Action Plans. The National Action Plans adopted in Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone and the draft document being elaborated in Guinea were used to map out progress and challenges in working with the pillars of the Resolution, to outline cross cutting issues and engage in a commitment to work together on ways forward.

The regional conference is a milestone in FAS’s project to implement UNSCR1325 in the Mano River region with a two step approach that encourages national level actions while fostering a regional perspective to secure lasting and equitable peace and security. FAS’s role is to provide technical assistance for the representation of the creation of a regional gender machinery to conceive, implement and monitor the progress made in effectively compromising the governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders for the efficient development and implementation of UNSCR1325. FAS is proud of the Mano River region, where it took part in the launch of the National Action Plan of Sierra Leone on the 8th of June 2010. A solidarity missions to Guinea by various partners of the project enabled Guinea to present a first strategic draft document. Of the 57 countries in Africa only 9 have shown affirmative action in elaborating and adopting NAP’s to implement 1325, ratified unanimously in 2000. Of those 9, 4 are now engaged in this process in the Mano River region.

The timing of the event was key, ahead of the 10th anniversary of the Resolution 1325 and within the African Union’s call to make 2010 the year of peace. The event also recalled the AU’s initiative to make 2010 -2020 the Decade of the African Women. The event was hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone under the leadership of the ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Children’s Affairs and the office of the First Lady of Sierra Leone and the Mano River Women’s Peace Network (MARWOPNET) and organized in partnership with Realizing Rights, the United Nations, the Mano River Women Peace Network (MARWOPNET) and with the support from the Government of Norway. It benefitted from the presence of ministerial representatives from the gender ministries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d’Ivoire and Guinea, experts, FAS, MAWROPNET, WIPSEN, women parliamentarian networks (FEFEEDES Cote d’Ivoire, REFAMP Guinea) and youth representatives.