



## **FAS organizes a two-day consultation with the women of Central African Republic in preparation of the National Reconciliation Forum in Bangui**

**Bangui, 4 May 2015** - In preparation to the National Reconciliation Forum scheduled to take place on 4-11 May in Bangui, and in order to make sure that the voices of women in CAR are heard loud and coherently on this crucial moment for the future of the country, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), in partnership with the Ministry for Social Affairs, Gender Promotion and Humanitarian Action of CAR and UNFPA facilitated a two-day consultation on 2-3 May, with 150 women taking part to fruitful debates, sharing their positions on crucial matters related to gender, women empowerment, peace and security. The outcome document of the two-day-consultation reuniting the recommendations issued from the women's deliberations, was read at the opening of the Forum, on the 4th of May. (Read the Women's Declaration [here](#))

Emphasizing once more the extraordinary occasion represented by the Bangui Forum for shaping a peaceful future for CAR, anchored in respect for human rights, women's rights and gender equality, the Declaration calls for, among others, the full inclusion of women in the peace building and reconstructive process of the country, the elaboration of a national plan of action for the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325, the strengthening of women's capacities in order to ensure their participation to the future of CAR, the restoration of the rule of law and the continuation of the fight against impunity, the inclusion of gender parity in the Constitution, and the acceleration of processes to economically empower CAR women, by supporting local entrepreneurship initiatives and ensuring access of women to markets, credit, and other factors of production.

FAS participated to the Bangui Forum, which welcomed more than 700 participants and gave the start to a week of debates, round tables and deliberations aiming at formulating a set of unanimous recommendations, to contribute to the consolidation of peace and the rebuilding of the Central African society. The themes that are up to discussion include peace and security, social cohesion and unity, economic revival, as well as justice and the fight against impunity.

Since the beginning of the crisis, FAS has actively advocated for women's participation in peacebuilding. In 2012, FAS facilitated the participation of representatives of women's organizations in CAR in the biannual Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC). FAS also facilitated the participation of women in women's rights and women empowerment meetings of African civil society organizations, to lobby with the African Union Heads of State, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union departments. FAS has continually raised the issue of CAR in international fora, including the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the UN Security Council in New York and the African Union Summit of Heads of State through the recommendations issued by the GIMAC. In Geneva, at the UN Human Rights Council, FAS has facilitated the participation of CAR women to deliver oral statements at every session since 2013. Also during the annual Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security in 2013, FAS facilitated the process for a representative from CAR, Ms. Brigitte Balipou, member of the Constitutional Court of the Central African Republic, member of FAS Executive Board and Founding Member of the Association of Female Lawyers (AFJC) in the Central African Republic, to address the Security Council on behalf of the civil society organizations.

For more information on FAS' advocacy work in favor of peace and women's participation in peace building in CAR, kindly refer to the links below.

## **FAS advocacy work for CAR**

### **Geneva, 24 March 2015 - 28th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, Interactive dialogue on technical assistance and capacity building to the CAR and Côte d'Ivoire**

Femmes Africa Solidarité delivered a statement calling for an end to impunity and the full participation of women in the reconciliation process.

- Watch the statement delivery here.
- Read the statement here.

### **Geneva, 25 September 2013 - 24th Regular Session of Human Rights Council, Interactive dialogue on the Human rights in Central African Republic**

- Intervention de Brigitte Balipou for FAS on behalf of the CAR Civil Society (at 2:03:00) here.

**New York, 25 October 2013 – UN Radio interview** with Ms Brigitte Balipou on the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2122. Listen to the interview here.

### **New York, 24 October 2013 - International Peace Institute**

Interview of Brigitte Balipou on the situation of women and girls in CAR.

- Read the interview here.

### **New York, 18 October 2013 - UN Security Council, open debate on Women, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict-Affected Situations**

Intervention of Brigitte Balipou on behalf of FAS and the Civil Society Organizations.

- Watch the statement delivery here.
- Read the statement here.

### **Geneva, 11 June 2013 - 23rd Regular Session of Human Rights Council, Panel Discussion on Democracy - 35th meeting**

Panel discussion on common challenges facing States in their efforts to secure democracy and the rule of law from a human rights perspective, and lessons learned and best practices in the engagement of the State with the international community to support such processes.

- Watch the intervention of Brigitte Balipou here.

### **Geneva, 5 June 2013 - 23rd Regular Session of Human Rights Council, Panel Discussion on Violence Against Women**

Intervention of Ms. Brigitte Balipou at the annual full-day discussion on women's human rights to set priorities for the future: strengthening the work of the Human Rights Council and other inter-governmental bodies and processes in the area of violence against women

- Watch the intervention here.
- Read the statement here.

**11 December 2013 – Interview in the French Newspaper Elle. Brigitte Balipou discusses the horror faced by women during the CAR crisis.**

- Read the interview here.