



## **Femmes Africa Solidarité**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

### **IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION**

Dakar, 7 October 2011

### **From the Communication Officer**

## **Liberian Elections: FAS Deploys 10 Women Observers**

In solidarity with the women of the region, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) is actively collaborating with the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET) and the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) in their joint effort to achieve political stabilization and women's participation in the presidential election in Liberia.

A high-level delegation of Femmes Africa Solidarité is due to arrive in Monrovia to observe the presidential election in Liberia. The 10 members of the delegation hail from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, all countries where FAS is implementing a project that addresses the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

The objective of the mission is to support and help implement a collaborative effort to encourage peace building, mediation, and conflict resolution through ensuring free, fair, and non-violent presidential general elections in October 11, 2011.

Ensuring that all citizens - regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status or gender - are able to participate in decision-making processes is paramount to building a culture of inclusive and participatory governance, and is a key tenet of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which emphasizes the need for women's participation and representation at all decision-making levels.

FAS, ABIC, and MARWOPNET's initiative trains, orients, and deploys women from the Mano River Union countries to serve as elections observers in Liberia and later in other identified countries. Elections are observed, results at polling stations counted, verified and reported. Women thus actively participate in the electoral and peace building processes in accordance with UNSCR 1325.

The women of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and by extension all citizens of the Mano River Union countries, will benefit short-term from these electoral and security initiatives, and will help pave a long-term path towards peace and stability throughout the Region.

From the grassroots level to regional and international organizations to national governments, the women of the Mano River Region in West Africa continue their work towards political stability and peace for their countries and communities.

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