



TERM OF REFERENCE ON THE DAY OF ADVOCACY WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE GAMBIA

I. Background and rationale

The sub region (Senegal-Gambia-Guinea Bissau) is considered to be a fragile area with socio-political instabilities.

The inauguration of current President in 2016, after 22 years under former regime, inspired a sense of optimism inside and outside the Gambia. Barrow promised to serve a three-year term which was an agreement made by the coalition and then to for call new elections indicating a commitment to democracy. However, he decided to remain in office until 2021 which was in accordance with the constitution of the country - and his apparent refusal to follow through on his election promise had sparked public protests. The government had shut down demonstrations, arrested several protest leaders and used tear gas and water cannon to force protesters to disperse. Cabinet reshuffles and Barrow's creation of a new party reinforced some concerns throughout the country.

Under current regime, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) began its mandate. An independent institution, the TRRC is "investigating and researching human rights violations committed during the former regime. The Commission focuses on preventing violence and conflict and will make recommendations to the government and civil society on how to preserve peace and stability. The TRRC has already collected testimony from victims, including women raped by government forces and alleged perpetrators. For example, testimony to the TRRC from The Junglers, an infamous squad under former regime, confirmed their responsibility for dozens of extrajudicial killings. While the TRRC says it is "victim-driven," the families of the Junglers' victims say they were not consulted on an agreement to release the Junglers in exchange for their cooperation with the TRRC. The TRRC may ultimately recommend prosecution of The Junglers, but public outrage over the deal has raised doubts about the Commission's ability to deliver justice.

It is clear that in order to strengthen advocacy, the issue of peace and stability in the sub-region will need to be better addressed by MPs, particularly women parliamentarians. The effective involvement of women parliamentarians will make it possible, in accordance with United Nations resolution 1325, to take into account their concerns and the role they can play in social, economic and political life of the country. It is therefore important to collaborate with women parliamentarians and their ECOWAS peers.

In addition, activities have already been carried out with women parliamentarians, such as training on R1325, a regional conference on peace and security in the sub-region and a day of advocacy with the ECOWAS parliamentarians. These activities saw the participation of women parliamentarians, women politicians, civil society organizations, strategic leaders, etc. They were an opportunity to frame not only the context of resolution 1325, but also to



motivate parliamentarians in the commitment to develop joint actions to ensure that a session of presentation of resolution 1325 for all MPs in the parliamentary agenda. In order to strengthen advocacy at the level of decision-making bodies and for a better handling of the issue of peace and security by MPs, in particular women elected to the National Assembly, it is important to organize a plenary session at the level of the different hemicycles.

With this in mind, the Platform of Women for Peace in Casamance (PFPC) with the support of AWDF (African Women's Development Fund) within the framework of the project "Strengthening Women's Involvement for Peace Consolidation in Casamance and Stability in the Sub-region", in collaboration with women parliamentarians from The Gambia, plans to take part in a plenary session in the hemicycle with the different parliamentarians from The Gambia.

II. Objectives of the workshop

1. General objective:

The objective of this activity will be to encourage parliamentarians to formally debate the issue of peace and security with the involvement of women in the whole process.

2. Specific Objectives

- ✓ To make women's voices heard for their involvement in accordance with the recommendations of R1325
- ✓ To enable parliamentarians to take decisions and/or orientations in order to generate a more proactive and operational attitude of The Gambia in matters of peace, security and conflict prevention.
- ✓ Create a network of women parliamentarians from Senegal, The Gambia and The Gambia on peace and security in this space and beyond.

3. The expected results

- ✓ Women's voices are heard thanks to the advocacy done by women parliamentarians in the hemicycle.
- ✓ The parliamentarians have taken decisions and/or orientations in order to generate a more proactive and operational attitude of The Gambia in matters of peace, security and conflict prevention.
- ✓ A network of women parliamentarians from Senegal, The Gambia and The Gambia on peace and security in this space and beyond was created.

III. Participants

The advocacy day will bring together about 70 participants, mostly parliamentarians, women in mediation and conflict resolution and women in civil society organisations.



IV. Duration and location

The day of advocacy will be held in one (1) day in The Gambia

V. Modalities / Organisationnel Methodology

The activity is organized in collaboration with the African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHR), will be an opportunity for women parliamentarians of the Gambia to advocate for women's involvement in peace building and conflict management. The meeting will also be a moment of exchange and sharing between the parliamentarians of The Gambia on specific themes developed on this occasion.