



*Concertation des Collectifs des Associations
Féminines de la Région des Grands-Lacs*

COCAFEM / GL

THE THIRD REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROBLEMATIC OF DOMESTICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF KAMPALA ON SGBV AND RESOLUTION 1325 OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY, HELD AT THE VENUS HOTEL, KINSHASA FROM 10 - 11 MARCH 2016.

Final Communiqué



Agence canadienne de
développement International

Canadian International
Development Agency



Schweizerische Eidgenossen
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

We, Delegates of the sectoral ministries of Burundi and D. R. Congo, the African Union Commission (Bureau of the Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security and Department Women, Gender and Development), the international organizations (CECI, ACTION AID, MEDICUS MUNDI,...), the ICGLR (Executive Secretariat, Regional Forum of Parliaments, Regional Forum of Women, Regional Centre on Sexual and Gender-based Violence of Kampala, CERED-GL), of the United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNDP) and the Civil Society Organizations of Burundi, the D. R. Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Central African Republic, and South Sudan; attending the 3rd regional conference on ***the problematic of domestication and the implementation of the Declaration of Kampala on the SGBV and the Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council*** held at the Venus Hotel, Kinshasa from 10 to 11 March 2016,

We joined the efforts of the COCAFEM-GL, which is a regional network of women organizations working in Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda since 2000 with a mission of contributing to the promotion of peaceful culture, tolerance, gender equality between women and men, improvement living conditions of women and children in the Great Lakes in region.

As such, COCAFEM/GL is preoccupied with the effectiveness of the implementation and domestication of the regional and international agreements and instruments, in particular the Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council;

Referring to the 3rd regional conference of COCAFEM/GL for the year 2016 which had a theme: ***«The problematic of domestication and implementation of Kampala Declaration on the SGBV and the Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council»***;

In reference with African Union theme for the year 2016: «The year of human rights in Africa, with particular attention to women' rights » translating the commitment of African Union member States and the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence and impunity;

Reaffirming the content of the ten-year plan of implementation of the Agenda 2063 of the African Union (2015), the Declaration of Heads of States or Government of SANDTON on « 2015, the year of gender empowerment and development for the accomplishment of the African Agenda 2063», the objectives for sustainable development or ODD (2015), the United Nations Charter (1945), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Convention on the Abolition of all sorts of Discrimination Against Women (1979), the Declaration of Beijing +20 and action plan, the 1325 (2000) and 1612 (2005). Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and other relevant resolutions on the question, the protocol to the African Charter of the Human and peoples' Rights regarding the women's rights in Africa called Protocol of Maputo (2003), the solemn declaration on the equality between men and women in Africa (2004), the ethical and security principles recommended by World Health Organization for research, documentation and follow-up of sexual violence in emergency situations, the Pact on Security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region as well as the Protocol on the prevention and Repression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children of the ICGLR (2006), the African ten-year plan for women (2010-2020), the Declaration of Kampala by the Heads of States and Government of the International Conference in the Great Lakes Region on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (2011) as well as other policies and frameworks on gender;

Recalling that the 3rd **Regional** Conference of the COCAFEM/GL held on the 10th-11th March 2016 at Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), at VENUS Hotel is part of COCAFEM-GL's advocacy process under the theme: "The effectiveness of the implementation and domestication of the accords of regional and international instruments, in particular Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and the Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council";

In recognition of efforts made by the respective governments of the Region for fighting Violence Against Women, even in the implementation of the Resolution 1325 by proposing the National Action Plan and by integrating women, though the number insufficient of women, in the conflict management and prevention structures;

Whereas there are still discriminatory laws against women;

Aware of the low representation of women in the state and non-state decision making organs at all levels as well as in political parties;

Considering the low economic empowerment of women and young ladies;

Aware of the lack of national and regional database on women's in governance, conflict prevention and resolution, mediation, peacekeeping and management competences;

Noting the lack of framework for dialogue between political and entrepreneur women and those belonging to the civil society to consolidate their efforts so as to establish capable mechanisms of promoting their implication in regional and international peace processes;

Aware of the extent of all sorts of violence against women in the Great Lakes Region and their adverse impact on women, children and the community;

Considering the deficit of the preventive warning mechanism to facilitate the reporting and documentation system in case of sexual and gender-based violence;

Considering lack of National Action Plan of the implementation of Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender-based Violence whose step indicators and medium to facilitate the monitoring of domestication process;

Aware of the persistence of the influence of cultural attitudes toward SGBV;

Given the challenges linked on proof administration of SGBV evidence caused by lack of appropriate laboratory equipment;

Aware that the lack of community education about protection of evidences/proof which plays a big role into the exacerbation of the problem, which leads to release of the presumed perpetrators;

Considering the non respect of the legal tariff regarding the costs of criminal justice as well as the prerequisite by the victim of prior deposit of 6% of the damages;

Noting the non-implementation of decision by ICGLR special fund for reconstruction and development, to assist the victims of SGBV in accordance with Article 6 of ICGLR 2006 Protocol, given the lack of precision on the role of each State;

Given the fatal consequences of violence against women, children and the community in general, and most particularly in the Central African Republic;

Aware that the problem of violence against women is posing a society problem, that can only be solved by increased commitment of States and governments;

Determined to pursue the pacification and fight against poverty in sub-region countries and in the whole African continent so as to influence respective governments and organizations to contribute to the eradication of all sorts of gender-based violence and in particular sexual violence, and to take appropriate measures for the reinforcement of capacities and equal representation of women and girls;

Convinced that the fight against Sexual and Gender-based Violence requires a work of synergy between governments, civil society organizations, men, women, boys and girls;

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

I. With regards to the resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council

- 1) *To the organizations, regional and national civil society structures* should sensitize women to be involved in the governance of states and non-state institutions;
- 2) *To the regional, national state structures and to the civil society* should create a framework of permanent dialogue between women politicians and entrepreneurs and those belonging to the civil society should join their efforts to establish mechanisms which can promote their implication in regional and international processes of conflict prevention and resolution, mediation, negotiation, peacekeeping and management;
- 3) *To the member States of the ICGLR* should embark and contribute to the fund at the national and regional levels, so as to facilitate accessibility of women with low income to loans with reduced interest rate;

II. With regards to the Declaration of Kampala on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)

A. *In the field of SGBV Prevention*

- 4) *To all stakeholders:* Should double their efforts so as to eradicate cultural attitudes on gender that is regarded as one of the causes of Sexual and gender-based Violence;
- 5) *To the member States of ICGLR:* Should create centres for the promotion of constructive masculinity in favour of the fight against Sexual and Gender-based Violence
- 6) *To the member States of ICGLR:* Should own the Protocol on the Prevention and Repression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children in the region in amending

the criminal code of member States, especially in integrating the provisions on sexual and gender-based violence;

- 7) *To the member States of ICGLR: Should integrate the gender dimension and the fight against SGBV in the Curriculum of Education*
- 8) *To the member States of ICGLR, technical and financial partners should support the civil society organizations in the awareness of legal instruments relating to the Sexual and Gender-based Violence;*

B. In the fight against impunity

- 9) *To the member States of ICGLR: Should make effective of the protocol on the judicial cooperation among member States of ICGLR;*
- 10) *To the member states of ICGLR, to accelerate the implementation of medico-legal laboratories and to facilitate in particular the DNA test, so as to obtain irrefutable scientific findings in case of sexual and gender-based violence*

C. In Supporting the victims of SGBV

- 11) *To the member states of ICGLR: Should integrate issues of Sexual and Gender-based Violence in the national planning and education system in granting them an autonomous budget;*
- 12) *To the member states of ICGLR: Should make effective commitment on the implementation of a special regional support and compensation fund for the victims of Sexual and gender-based Violence;*
- 13) *To the member states of ICGLR with technical and financial support from the donors, to make effective resolution 11 of Kampala Declaration on free charge services to the victims of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (comprehensive package medical, psychosocial, medical-legal and judicial assistance)*
- 14) *To the member States of ICGLR with the technical and financial support by the donors: Should integrate cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence in public health priorities of member States of the ICGLR;*

III. Final Provisions

- 15) The conference recommends the COCAFEM/GL to reinforce its relation with the African Union Commission and to request the observer status;
- 16) The conference recommends the African Union Commission in particular the Bureau of Special Envoy on Women , Peace and Security as well as the Department of Women , Gender and Development to reinforce their partnership with regional organizations aiming to promote women's rights so as to capitalize existing competences within organizations in governance, peace, promotion of gender and women's rights, fight against violence and emergence of women's economic power;
- 17) The conference recommends a mechanism of monitoring and implementation of present meeting;

It is composed of:

1. The COCAFEM/GL
2. The African Union Commission (Bureau of the Female Special Envoy, Peace and Security and Women's Department, Gender and Development)
3. The Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR
4. The CERED-GL
5. The ICGLR Women's Regional Forum
6. The CECI
7. The Swiss Cooperation/Bureau of Burundi
8. The UNDP /North Kivu
9. The Representatives of Ministries in charge of Gender and Justice in Burundi, Rwanda and DRC.
10. The Representatives of the civil society of the CAR, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

The Conference participants thank the COCAFEM/GL for organizing this regional conference, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Development of Canada (MAECD), the Centre for International Study and Cooperation (CECI) and the Swiss Cooperation-Bureau of Burundi for their financial support, and the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo through the Ministry of Women, Family and Children for their collaboration and hospitality.

Done at Kinshasa
on the 11th March 2016.