



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

COCAFEM / GL

Report on the 3rd regional conference on the problematic of the domestication and implementation of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council.

Held at Kinshasa the Democratic Republic of the Congo

At Hôtel Venus, from the 10th to 11th March 2016



Affaires mondiales
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

The consultation of the umbrella association of women in Great Lakes, COCAFEM in abbreviation has held its 3rd regional conference in collaboration with government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the Ministry of woman, family and child under the auspices of the ministry of foreign affairs, trade and development of Canada (MAECD), the centre of consultancy and international cooperation (CECI) and the Swiss cooperation- Burundi office. The COCAFEM strives to promote the equality of gender, rights of women, peace and security as well as the fight against violence perpetrated against women.

So, COCAFEM is concerned with the success of the implementation of regional and international agreements and instruments that aim at enhancing rights of women and children, peace and security especially the Kampala Declaration on GBSV dated 2011 and the resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council.

It's in this regard that the 3rd Conference has enabled the platform for exchange of views and reflection on the implementation of Kampala Declaration on sexual violence based on gender as well as the resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council for the representatives from concerned ministries from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Union Commission (the office of the special envoy for women, peace and security as well as the Department of Woman, Gender and Development), international organisations (CECI, ACTION AID, MEDICUS MUNDI,..) the ICGLR(executive secretariat, regional forum for parliaments, regional forum for women, regional centre on sexual violence based on Gender headquartered in Kampala, CERED-GL), UN agencies (UNFPA, UNDP) and the Civil Society Organisations from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, from the Central African Republic and from South Sudan.

This report seeks to present summarised analytical views that lead to positive outcomes, the final communiqué and the road map for the enforcement of conclusions and recommendations that sprout from the conference.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	3
I. REMINDER ABOUT COCAFEM-GL	4
1. Presentation of COCAFEM-GL	4
2. Analysis of the problem and the reason d'etre of the organization of the regional conference.....	4
3. Objectives	5
4. Expected results.....	5
5. Methodology.....	5
6. Participants	6
7. Partners and Co-organizers.....	6
II. COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE	7
1. Day one: March 10, 2016.....	7
a. <i>Opening ceremony speech</i>	7
b. <i>The work of the conference itself : Presentations Panel COCAFEM-GL, Panel gender, Panel Justice and Panel Health</i>	8
2. Day II : March 11, 2016	11
a. <i>Reopening of activities : Activities in sub groups</i>	11
b. <i>Winding up remarks of the Conference</i>	16
CONCLUSION.....	18
ANNEXES	20

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	: Agence Congolaise de Presse / Congolese Press Agency
ADDF	: Association pour la Défense des Droits de la Femme/Association for the Defence of Women's Rights
AMWIK	: Association of Media Women in Kenya
BCGP/RDC	: Bureau de Consultation en Genre et Participation Citoyenne en RDC/ Consultancy Bureau for Gender and Citizen participation in DRC
CAFED	: Collectif des Associations Féminines pour le Développement / Women Umbrella Association for development
CAFOB	: Collectif des Associations Féminines et ONGs du Burundi / Women Umbrella Association and NGOs of Burundi
CECI	: Centre d'Etude et de Coopération Internationale/ Centre for Consultancy and International Cooperation
CECORE	: Center for Conflict Resolution
CFPD	: Coalition de Femmes pour la Paix et le Développement / coalition of women for peace and development
CEPGL	: Communauté Économique des Pays des Grands Lacs / Economic Community of Great lakes States
CERED	: Centre Régional de Recherche et de Documentation sur les Femmes, le Genre et la Construction de la Paix dans la Région des Grands Lacs/ Regional centre for research and documentation on women, gender and peace building in great lakes region
CIRGL	: Conférence Internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs / International Conference on Great lakes region
COCAFEM-GL	: Concertation des Collectifs d'Associations féminines dans la région des Grands Lacs/ consultation of women umbrella association in Great Lakes Region
COFAS	: Conseil des Organisations Féminines Agissant en Synergie / Women's Organizations Council working in Synergy
CONAFED	: Comité National Femme et Développement/ National committee woman and development
CSNU	: Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies/ United Nations Security Council
CTZ	: Campagne Tolérance Zéro/ Zero Tolerance Campaign
DK	: Déclaration de Kampala/ Kampala Declaration
EAC	: East African Community
FARDC	: Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo/ Democratic Republic of the Congo Defence Forces
FEMNET	: African Women Development and Communication Network
FIDA/Kenya	: Federation of Women Lawyers /Kenya
GEDROFE	: Réseau Genre et Droits de la Femme/ Network for Gender and Rights of a Woman
JUPEDEC	: Jeunesse Unie pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Communautaire/ United Youth for the Protection of Environment and Community Development
MAECD	: Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, du Commerce et du Développement du Canada/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada
MAJ	: Maison Accès à la Justice/ House of Access to Justice
MINIFEFAE/RDC	: Ministère de la Femme, Famille et Enfant de la République Démocratique du Congo/Ministry for Woman, Family and Child of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
OCODEFAD	: Organisation pour la COmpassion et les DEveloppements des FAMilles en Détresse/ Organisation for the compassion and development of families in social difficulties
ONG	: Organisation Non Gouvernementale/ Non-Governmental Organisation
ONU	: Organisation des Nations Unies/ United Nations
OSC	: Organisation de la Société Civile/ Civil Society Organisation
PLUVIF	: Projet régional de Lutte contre les Violences envers les Filles et les jeunes Femmes dans la région des Grands Lacs Africains/Regional project for the fight against violence perpetrated against young women in african great lakes region
PNC	: Police Nationale Congolaise/ Congo National Police
RCA	: République Centrafricaine/ the Central African Republic
RDC	: République Démocratique du Congo/ the Democratic Republic of the Congo
RFP	: Réseau Femmes et Paix/ network women and peace
RTNC	: Congolese National Radio Television
SWIGO	: Support for Women In Governance Organization
TAWLA	: Tanzanian Women Lawyers Association
UFCOD	: Union of Congolese Women for Development
UA	: Union Africaine/ African Union
VSBG	: Violence Sexuelle et Basée sur le Genre/ Sexual and Gender Based violence
YWCA/Rwanda	: Young Women Christian Association of Rwanda

I. REMINDER ABOUT COCAFEM-GL

1. Presentation of COCAFEM-GL

The consultation of women umbrella associations in Great Lakes Region, COCAFEM-GL, in abbreviation, is a regional network created in 2000 following the initiative of some women umbrella associations from three countries: Burundi, DRC and Rwanda

This framework enables them to work together in order to attain peace, fight against the exclusion and stigma of the woman, to strengthen her participation in the political governance and woman leadership, emergence of her economic empowerment, the equity and the equality of gender in order to endow her with the status of inalienable interlocutor in the management of national, regional and international businesses.

Initially, COCAFEM was composed of four umbrella associations but to date, it is comprised of 11 umbrella associations of which three member associations are based in Burundi(CAFOB, Dushirehamwe and RFP) whereas five are in DRC(CAFED, CFPD, COFAS, CONAFED and UFCOD) and lastly three are based in Rwanda (Pro Femmes Twese Hamwe, YWCA/Rwanda and Rwandan Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS) These 11 umbrella associations coordinate/bring together 1.861 associations operating at grass root levels.

2. Analysis of the problem and the reason d'etre of the organization of the regional conference

Despite the fact that, the pact on peace, security, stability and the development is a binding instrument, member states of the international conference for great lakes region have fallen short, the state of art sensitization of ultimate goals of those documents and the commitments that they embody, mainly on the protocol on the prevention and eradication of sexual violence perpetrated against women and children in 2006.

Despite these debates aiming at addressing SGVB in municipal laws, there are still hurdles in the region as for the domestication of regional and international instruments in municipal laws. Besides, women from great lakes region face a number of hurdles that slow down their enjoyment of political, economic and social life depending on the circumstances, culture and particularly on structures as enacted in laws and discriminatory provisions. That atmosphere makes them vulnerable to poverty and squeezes their autonomy.

When all is said and done, peace, security, equality of gender and the fight against violence committed against women are important trigger mechanisms for the well-being of women and people from the great lakes region.

As the regional consultation that aims at promoting the equality of gender, rights of women, peace, security and the fight against violence perpetrated against women, COCAFEM-GL is concerned with the thorough implementation and domestication of agreements and regional as well as international legal instruments especially the Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council

That concern led COCAFEM-GL to adopt throughout this year, two regional themes of advocacy namely:

1. “A thorough implementation of regional and international instruments advocating for peace, security, fight against the SGBV and the rights of women in the great lakes region” , and
2. “An emergence of the economic empowerment of woman in the great lakes region”

In addition, COCAFEM-GL in its campaign zero tolerance against SGBV chose this year the following theme: **“Men, Women, and Youth let us get involved in the fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence for a social justice** Initially, an evaluative picture of the implementation of those two instruments in three countries where COCAFEM-GL operates has been drawn. A national level workshop has been held in Burundi, in DRC and in Rwanda in a bid to ratify key priorities of each country and draw recommendations From that perspective, COCAFEM-GL held a regional conference from 10th March to 11th March 2016 focusing on the problematic of the domestication and the implementation of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the resolution 1325. An encompassing report has been compiled; it will show the status of the implementation of the key priorities and recommendations by the states parties

and COCAFEM-GL in order to fossilize those two instruments. That encompassing report has been shared during the 3rd regional conference.

3. Objectives

- Present and share the status of the implementation of the commitments of Heads of States and Government on the Kampala Declaration on the SGBV and the resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council in Burundi, DRC and Burundi;
- Advocate for the concrete and thorough implementation of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council that fully reflect the rights and aspirations of women from the great lakes region.
- Analyse and prioritise the problems/stakes on which COCAFEM-GL and other stakeholders will build and hold a political dialogue in order to enable changes and the implementation of those instruments.
- Work on a partnership and networking between the COCAFEM-GL, civil society organizations and other organizations with a view to calling upon States to implement the 3rd conference recommendations.

4. Expected results

The main results expected from the 3rd conference by COCAFEM-GL are the following:

- Stakes and recommendations of the encompassing report on the status of the implementation of Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the resolution 1325 in Burundi, DRC and Rwanda are shared and noted;
- The status of the commitments of those countries not yet be implemented is unveiled;
- A common understanding by the participants of key stakes on which COCAFEM-GL and other stakeholders will build a political dialogue;
- Adoption of a road map for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations laid down by the 3rd regional conference of COCAFEM-GL, specifying actions, responsibilities and timeframe for the three countries where COCAFEM-GL operates;
- The creation of a multidisciplinary framework (Government, civil society organizations, partners) for the follow up of the implementations of decisions and recommendations;

5. Methodology

The 3rd regional conference of COCAFEM-GL adopted the following methodologies:

- Presentation of the contributions achieved by COCAFEM-GL, implementation status of Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council (Burundi, Rwanda and DRC), stakes and recommendations;
- Sharing the achievements, challenges and perspectives for the implementation of the Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council;
- Sharing the achievements, challenges and perspectives for access to health services for women and girls victims of SGBV;
- Group discussions on main stakes covering different topics, activities to carry out and perspectives by various stakeholders;
- Plenary sessions for the formulation of resolutions, conclusions and recommendations;
- Elaboration of a road map for the implementation of the resolutions adopted during the regional conference;
- Creation of a multi-sectorial mechanism responsible for the follow up and implementation of conclusions and recommendations of the conference;

6. Participants

The regional conference has brought together 108 participants clustered as follows:

1. Commission of African Union (office of the special envoy Woman, Peace and Security and Department Woman, Gender and Development)
2. ICGLR (Executive Secretariat, Regional Forum of Parliament, Regional Forum of Women, Regional centre on SGBV of Kampala, CERED-GL)
3. Embassy of Canada
4. Technocrats from ministries in charge of gender, justice, health matters and office of the general prosecutor of the Republic of Burundi
5. Technocrats from ministries in charge of gender, justice, health matters and the office of the general prosecutor of the Democratic Republic of Congo
6. DRC Defence Forces and Congo National Police
7. House of Access to Justice of Ruhango District in Rwanda
8. International organizations (ACTION AID, CECI, MEDICUS MUNDI)
9. United Nations Agencies (UNDP/Goma, UNFPA,)
10. COCAFEM-GL(board of directors, members of 11 umbrella associations and the executive secretariat team)
11. Civil Society Organizations from Burundi (ADDF, ASBL Nturengaho and Seruka Centre)
12. Civil Society Organizations from Kenya (AMWIK and FIDA-Kenya)
13. Civil Society Organizations from Uganda (CECORE and Isis WICCE)
14. Civil Society Organization from the Central African Republic (JUPEDEC and OCODEFAD)
15. Civil Society Organization from DRC(ABEC, AFEJUCO, AFEMAC, CAFCO, Cité Africain, GEDROFE, LIZADEEL, RFDP, SHALUPE, UCOFEM)
16. Civil Society Organizations from Rwanda (AJPRODHO-JIUKIRWA, CLADHO, Transparency International Rwanda)
17. Civil society organization from South Sudan (South Sudan Taskforce on the engagement of women in the peace process and SWIGO)
18. Civil society organization from Tanzania (Kivulini Women’s Rights Organisation and TAWLA)
19. BCGP/DRC
20. Different media houses from Congo (ACP, Référence Plus, RTNC, RTVS1, Top Congo)
21. They have asked to be excused from the meeting: the representatives of the ministries in charge of gender, health and justice matters and the Office of the General prosecutor of the Republic of Rwanda, FEMNET, CEPGL, EAC, SADC, Swiss and Belgium Embassies)

7. Partners and Co-organizers

The 3rd regional conference by COCAFEM-GL has been steered by the regional secretariat of COCAFEM-GL in collaboration with members from umbrella associations of the host country as well as the technical support of CECI/PLUVIF and financial support from partners such as MAECD and the Swiss Cooperation, Office of Burundi.

II. COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Day one: March 10, 2016

After the national anthem, the framing of the course of the conference was conducted by Ms Jeanne NZUZI, permanent secretary of CONAFED. The latter contextualized the creation of COCAFEM-GL. It was marked by a decade of war and armed conflicts of which women and the children have suffered and these conflicts have taken loud toll among them. This accounts for the vision, mission and objectives of COCAFEM-GL, as mentioned above that inspired the strategic plan 2016-2020, its 2 main themes of advocacy, and the slogan of the immediate zero tolerance campaign against SGBV, impunity and the regional conference of Kinshasa.

a. Opening ceremony speech

Under the moderation of the consultant Faïda MWANGILWA Fabiola, different speeches unfolded:

- Ms Béatrice UZELE, the chairperson of COCAFEM-GL, in her speech, has stressed out that COCAFEM-GL chose to share its contribution and analyses on the implementation of two important instruments that entwine in the creation of an open space for the exchange of views for the civil society organizations from 5 other countries neighbouring the great lakes region, for the ICGLR which groups together 12 States of which the Kampala Declaration is the battle horse and the African Union which spearheads the continental politics on peace and security and on the rights of women bearing in mind that this year has been declared African year of human rights and especially rights of women. Time is ripe, she said, for building up achievements, exchanges of success stories and analysis of perennial challenges in the fight against SGBV and implementation of Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the resolution 1325 that brings out perspectives and a road map that focuses on depiction of commitments that will be laid down by the conference as well as mechanisms for following up decisions and conclusions.
- With regards to the speech of Ms Florence BOLOKO, the representative of the president of the *Regional Forum of ICGLR women*, she disclosed the importance of a close collaboration between the Regional Forum for women as the mechanism of the executive secretariat of the ICGLR in order to raise awareness of sex-specific issues during the implementation of different programmes and projects of COCAFEM-GL. This is why the conference allotted time to combining efforts and energy for the attainment of zero tolerance against SGBV and the impunity of those degrading offenses.
- In her speech, the representative of the *Canadian Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo* expressed the wish to get viable recommendations to strengthen existing policies for the fight against SGBV and impunity in the region.



From right to left: Representatives Forum/ICGLR, COCAFEM-GL, MINIFFAE, ICGLR and Embassy of Canada

- In his speech, Mr. *Nathan BYAMUKAMA*, acting Director of Regional Centre for the Training on SGBV of ICGLR based in *Kampala*, hailed this initiative of COCAFEM-GL for the effectiveness of the regional and international instruments striving to fight against the SGBV and the rights of the woman in the Great Lakes Region and that initiative matches the objectives of the centre that he heads. That is why there must be a close partnership between the latter and COCAFEM-GL.
- As the guest of honour, Ms *Lucie KIPELE*, *minister of woman, family and child of DRC* pointed out that the issue of SGBV is regarded as a priority within member states of great lakes region and in Africa as a whole, vis-à-vis the two instruments mentioned above and recognised by Member States of the ICGLR. She further called upon the participants to explore all aspects of the problem and related consequences during second day of consultations since all of them are driven by a common ideal-fossilizing a participative governance, a sustainable and equitable development and specifically eradication of the SGBV scourge in each and every country that is represented and in the Region.



Excellency the Minister of Women, Family and Child of DRC, Ms Lucie KIPELE
Guest of honor of the conference, delivering the opening address

b. The work of the conference itself : Presentations Panel COCAFEM-GL, Panel gender, Panel Justice and Panel Health

Under the facilitation of Prof. Bernard LUTUTALA from CERED-GL, 4 Panels cutting across one another with questions- responses followed one another, namely: The Panel COCAFEM-GL focused on the contribution of **COCAFEM-GL**, status of the implementation of Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the 1325 UN Security Council resolution: stakes and recommendations presented by Claude KABUTWARE, Executive Secretary of COCAFEM-GL.

The following key priorities have been suggested by COCAFEM-GL:

- Adoption of a national action plan for the implementation of Kampala Declaration pointing out indicators of stages and timeframe that will enable the follow up of the domestication process;
- Setting up a harmonized regional system for gathering and processing data on SGBV;
- An education programme for the main stakeholders on evidence in case of rape, other sexual harassment and put in place different related manuals at disposal of users;
- Mapping existing capacities of women and their needs in terms of management and resolution of conflicts in Burundi, DRC and Rwanda;
- Advocate for the implementation of a regional strategy aiming at enhancing the involvement of women in peace process regionally or internationally;



*From left to right Claude KABUTWARE Executive Secretary of COCAFEM-GL
and Professor Bernard LUTUTALA from CERED-GL*

- ✓ **The panel Gender:** Comprised of the representatives of the office of special envoy Woman, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, of ministries of gender of the Republic of Burundi and DRC and the representatives of the civil society organisations from Uganda and Tanzania focusing on exchange of achievements, challenges and perspectives in the implementation of the Resolution 1325 of the United Nations (see presentations in annex) and here are the main recommendations:
 - Adopt (in each state) a model of inclusion in the budget that takes into account gender issues and ensure a follow up of that commitment at all levels;
 - Urge States to sign, ratify and domesticate policies, international, continental and United Nations legal instruments paving a way for the 50-50 representation of women by 2030;
 - Setting up a regional research programme and collection of empirical data on women, peace and security in Africa of which the implementation involves horizontally women in the realm of decision makers, practitioners and civil society actors;
 - Ensure a deep political analysis of different actors and institutions involved at grass root, national and regional levels, their interests and their influence.
 - Building and networking excellence centres and research within academic institutions that focus on the capacity building in the research on women, peace and security;
 - Convene a forum for sharing experiences and awareness of networks of women and men over peace rebuilding within post-conflict communities shielding them against the violent extremist agenda that are hovering over member states such as Kenya and Somalia;
 - Lean on the statistics of the international organisations in gathering and compiling data related to women, peace and security and give due consideration of their achievements;
 - Develop attainable, accessible and affordable mechanisms for organisations and local networks of women
 - Strengthen legislative capacities in order to address the impact of gender on cross border and regional conflict, humanitarian crisis, circulation of firearms and human trafficking;
 - Use the language gender, peace and security in order to avoid the feeling that the programme applies only to women, regulate the relationship between males and females and root causes of violence that can create a political spectrum of political actors in the communities, including local authorities, traditional and religious chieftains, and rebel groups seeking their commitment to implement the programme woman, peace and security.
 - Keep on advocating for the betterment of the mechanisms for the implementation and duty bearing about the resolution 1325, but lessening the bureaucracy approach;



From left to right: Representatives Mini Gender DRC, Civil society organization/Uganda, Office Special envoy/AU, Mini Gender Burundi, Prof Bernard, civil society organization/Tanzania

✓ **The justice Panel** comprised of the representatives of gender, woman and development department/AU, representatives of the ministries of justice and office of the general prosecutor from Burundi and DRC, representatives of MAJ Rwanda, Action Aid, UNDP together with the Canadian Project that fights against impunity and supports GBV/DRC as well as the representatives of Kenyan and South Sudan civil society organisations. That panel focused on the exchange of achievements, challenges and perspectives in the prevention, the fight against impunity and access for women and girls victims of SGBV to justice (see presentations in annex) and hereafter are the main recommendations:

- Strengthen the capacity of the police criminal investigation, public prosecutors and judges in the repression of sexual violence;
- Providing financial support to bar associations in the judicial assistance of the SGBV victims;
- Carry out actions agreed upon by the region States against terrorism (Al Shabab) and other armed groups whose atrocities and violations are unspeakable;
- Strengthen material and human resources of organisations that offer assistance in judicial proceedings
- Legal proceedings against suspects of those crimes because they will help uproot impunity and serve as a guaranty for not reoffending (recidivism);
- Reparation for the victims of those atrocities (compensation, medical care and psychological restitution, loans at a lower interest rate for hiring shelter and enrolment at schools of minor girls that have been affected by SGBV and others)



Photo exhibiting exchange of views and feedback of participants Towards presentation by the justice panel

- ✓ **The health Panel** comprised of the representatives of the ministries of health of Republic of Burundi and DRC, civil society organisations from the CAR, SERUKA Centre and COCAFEM-GL and their discussions turned around the access for women and girls victims of SGBV to health services (see presentations in annex) and hereafter are the major recommendations
 - Making a priority providing medical assistance to Victims of Sexual Violence and allocate available budget;
 - Continue advocating for administering health care free of charge by governments (by civil society organisations);
 - Remediate/build infrastructures for hosting, counselling/guiding and taking care of the victims;
 - Provide financial support to organisations as they take care of victims of sexual assaults via health centre and hospitals (by funders);
 - Strengthen the capacities of care providers depending on political orientations for caring for the SGBV that apply in each State;
 - Set up one of specialised committees in communities that gathers data on sexual assaults and identifies victims of SGBV and equip those infrastructures with necessary materials (by States in collaboration with the civil society organisations)
 - Establish a wide programme of socio-economic rehabilitation of the victims of SGBV (by States and partners)
 - Widen the network between organisations at local and national levels for effective advocacy and strengthen active involvement of the general public in the fight against SGBV and involve men and youth;
 - Make services available in all corners by establishing health structures in remote areas whereby women lack access to services;
 - Increase the exchanges of experiences on different approaches on the fight against the SGBV that are called upon in different countries of the Region and those approaches are meant for the representatives of governments and civil society organisations operating in the Region of the ICGLR with the support of the World Bank;

2. Day II : March 11, 2016

The second day has been launched by the read out of the synthesis of the first day and the disclosure of the programme for the second day done by the consultant Faïda MWANGILWA Fabiola, before embarking on the discussions in groups:

a. *Reopening of activities : Activities in sub groups*

Under the auspices of the consultant Faïda MWANGILWA Fabiola, four mixed working sub-groups have been made with a specific theme for each cluster, drawing inspirations from previous day presentations. The table below summarises the outcomes of different groups of discussion.

Group theme	Major Priorities	Actions to be carried out	Resolutions/commitments	Follow up mechanisms
Group 1: Resolution 1325	1. Less representation of women in government and nongovernmental organs of decision making at all levels and in political parties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urge women to get involved in governance of governmental and nongovernmental institutions and enrol in political parties 2. Carry out advocacies meant for political parties leaders to include women in the electoral list 3. Enhance capacity of political parties leaders on the theme of gender 4. Advocate for the integration of gender in their statutes, political agenda, and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dissemination of resolution 1325 at community level and translation into local languages 2. Initiate lobbying in favour of women 	National and regional steering committees

		<p>programmes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the capacity of women in leadership, communication and campaigning skills Guide the elected women in different organs that take decisions in leadership for being able to fulfil their mandate 	with leaders of political parties for the effective integration of the gender concept	
	2. Low rate of economic resilience of women	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Appeal to financial institutions so that they allow women with small incomes to benefit from loans with lower interest rate Advocate for enabling women, young and little girl , and boys to be entitled to education and land 	Initiate lobbies with financial institutions managers in a bid to secure for women with small incomes, easy access to financial resources	
	3. Lack of national and regional database centre that shows competences of women in terms of governance, conflict prevention and resolution, mediation, peace keeping and peace building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plea with the ministry in charge of gender for updating the database that portrays women competences Plea for the creation of a database centre in the region which is trustworthy and reliable and shows competences of women from the region in various domains Raise funds from development partners for the swift establishment of that centre. 	Establish a system for collecting data on skills of women on a regular basis at regional level	
	1. Persistency of discriminatory provisions against women	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To make an inventory in each country member of the ICGLR of all provisions, conventions and policies that discriminate against gender Plea with governments, parliaments and other governmental and non-governmental organisations for repealing all discriminatory provisions that are contained in different legal instruments 	<p>Identify discriminating provisions and submitting them to ministry for amendment</p> <p>Carry out campaigning actions at community level for behaviour change and mass education on degrading cultural practices</p>	
	2. Persistency of insecurity in the Great Lakes Region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plea for a better control of firearms bearing Call upon States to ratify the treaty on small arms and light weapons 	Convince political actors to effectively implement peace, security accords and stability	
	3. Insufficiency of financial resources for implementing resolution 1325	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plea for allocation of budgets to national plans for the implementation of the resolution 1325 	Convene meetings and round tables with technical and financial partners to for the sake of invigorating initiatives of civil society that aim at promoting peace and security	

Group Theme	Major priorities	Actions to be carried out	Resolutions	Follow up mechanisms
Group 2 PREVENTION	<p>1. Mechanism of preventive alert that enables condemnation and the documentation system of SGBV</p> <p>2. Adoption of a national action plan for the implementation of Kampala Declaration pointing out indicators and timeframe to enable the follow up of the domestication process</p> <p>3. Domestication and the implementation of protocols on non-aggression, collective self-defence and judicial cooperation</p> <p>4. Inclusion of the theme SGBV in the national planning and allocation of commensurate budget to the prevention and handling of SGBV for the ministries responsible for gender, justice, health, defence and security.</p> <p>5. Defy influence of cultural misrepresentations on gender which constitute one of the causes of SGBV</p>	<p>1.1. Plea for the creation of an effective and/or give an impetus to mechanisms of SGBV preventive alert within all member States</p> <p>1.2. Create a system of data collection and documentation on cases of SGBV</p> <p>2.1. Plea with different authorities , government and non-government actors for bestowing each member State with a national action plan for implementation of Kampala Declaration</p> <p>3. Plea with decision-makers for the implementation of the domestication of protocols and efficiency of the judicial cooperation</p> <p>4.1. Plea for making operative different national strategies that are akin to gender and SGBV</p> <p>4.2. Plea to governments of Member States for the inclusion in the budget of the fee to cover gender related issues and SGBV</p> <p>5.1. Convene a high level regional forum that will be attended by researchers who are culturally, spiritually, mentally, and intellectually independent in order to deeply reflect on the content of the training curricula on gender and SGBV to positively help reshape the human personality vis a vis cultural misrepresentations on gender in the region and that training should also be incorporated in the school curricula from the elementary</p>	<p>1. Join effort for advocating for matters that are of concern to the region and which crosscut common interests</p> <p>2. Plea for the creation of special tribunals and/or special proceedings in the fight against SGBV</p> <p>3. Sharing good practices that are akin to prevention</p> <p>4. Committing to empower the capacity of actors of judicial system</p> <p>5. Encourage the creation of early alerting systems</p> <p>6. Plea for the implementation of the commitments pledged by the Heads of States for the two instruments</p> <p>7. Carry out research on questions related to SGBV</p> <p>8. Empower capacity building for running regional centres on research and documentation on women, gender, and the preservation of peace in great lakes</p>	<p>1. Hold meetings for assessing the implementation</p> <p>2. Strengthen the consultation fora such as regional forum of women and other structures to follow up the implementation</p> <p>3. Strengthen networking (RWF-COCAFEM-GL, other reflection groups)</p> <p>4. Stimulate fundraising within those networks</p> <p>Make operative collaboration forum created</p> <p>6. Sharing of reports and information either by soft or hard copy</p> <p>7. Field trips to ensure effectiveness of the networks, common actions</p>

	6. Creation or empowering gender desk in all sectors of national life within member States	<p>university education</p> <p>5.2. Initiate dialogues that bring together different generations and exchange on gender and SGBV for a better harmony and cohesion within an innovative and transformed society</p> <p>6.1. Plea for the monitoring of the effective implementation of gender desks in all sectors of national life within member States</p>		
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Cluster Theme	Major priorities	Actions to be carried out	Resolutions	Follow up mechanisms
Group 3 FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY	<p>1. Corruption</p> <p>2. Difficulties occasioned by the handling of evidence related to SGBV due to the lack of appropriate laboratory equipment</p> <p>3. Non application of legal tariff for the justice fee and the burden for the victim to deposit beforehand 6% of damages</p>	<p>Plea for the sensitization and deterrence at all levels of the judiciary and general public, corruptors and corrupts</p> <p>Make a follow up of cases filed to courts in order to be able to evaluate qualitatively and quantitatively their outcomes and denounce delays due to slow legal proceedings in cases related to SGBV</p> <p>Plea for endowing member States with appropriate laboratory equipments that can address SGBV</p> <p>2.2. Train actors on different techniques of gathering and interpreting evidence</p> <p>2.3. Initiate DNA test free of charge for the victims of SGBV</p> <p>Set up a special fund for covering all fees spent in procedure of collecting evidence</p> <p>2.5. Promote networking of different stakeholders in criminal matters</p> <p>3. Plea for the strict respect of the legal tariff relating to the justice fee in terms of SGBV</p>	<p>1. It is submitted that the civil society should support member States in living up their commitments by implementing Kampala declaration leaning on the examples of States that have already complied with it</p> <p>2. Call to governments to be endowed with action plans for implementing the Kampala Declaration and commitments of civil society to disseminate Kampala Declaration</p> <p>Plea for the creation of the reparation fund for victims, granted funds and ensure that the victims avail it by transparent means</p>	<p>1. Elaboration of a database of what has been so far achieved and what is yet to be done (it will be managed by COCAFEM)</p> <p>Prepare also a road map</p> <p>Allocate a budget for the follow up of activities</p>

Group Theme	Major priorities	Actions to be carried out	Resolutions	Follow up mechanisms
Cluster 4: ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF SGBV	1. Poor capacity of health training that can match the expected services while caring for the victims of SGBV	<p>1.1. Strengthen capacity of health posts</p> <p>1.2. Set up or create reception centres for the victims</p>	1. Increase the number of care providers and ensure the care for all victims	Setting up a crosscutting structure at national and regional level to ease follow ups of the implementation of resolutions of

	<p>2. Insufficiency of specialized care-providers that have been trained in taking care of victims of SGBV</p> <p>3. Non-timely condemnation of cases of SGBV</p> <p>4. Lack of free of charge care for victims of SGBV</p> <p>5. Ignoring the implementation of the decision to establish a special fund of the ICGLR for the reconstruction and development in order to avail victims of SGBV, pursuant to article 6 of the ICGLR protocol dated 2006, in view of the vagueness on the role to be played by each State</p>	<p>2.1. Increase the number of care-providers that have specialized and have been trained in the matter</p> <p>3.1. Intensify actions for reminding the public to abide by the timeframe for denunciation</p> <p>3.2. Plea to governments and development partners for equipping health posts with appropriate tools for conducting DNA Test</p> <p>Plea for effective free of charge health care for SGBV victims within member States</p> <p>5.1. Call for the effective creation of a special fund for the reconstruction and development</p>	<p>2. Continue advocating for administering health care free of charge by governments (by civil society organisations)</p> <p>3. Increase the exchanges of experiences on different approaches on the fight against the SGBV that are called upon in different countries of the Region and those approaches are meant for the representatives of governments and civil society organisations operating in the Region of the ICGLR with the support of the World Bank</p> <p>4. Call for governments so that the care for the sexual violence victims be integrated in national public health programme</p> <p>5. Call for the integration of gender concepts and the fight against SGBV in education curricula</p> <p>6. Strengthen the technical and financial capacities of the regional training centre on SGBV based in Kampala by the ICGLR and urge the civil society organizations from 12 member States to avail it.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacities of regional research and documentation</p>	<p>current conference (for further planning)</p>
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			centre on women, gender and peace building in the great lakes region and urge regional networks of women to avail it	
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During the plenary session, participants shared the outcomes of the activities conducted in sub-clusters as presented by the reporter of the above mentioned groups

The impunity was the core issue of the second day debates, participants have especially drawn recommendations for member States of the ICGLR and appealed to them to make effective the protocol relating to the judicial cooperation among member States of the ICGLR and to speed up the creation of medical-legal laboratories and provide easy access to the DNA test which leads to scientific compelling evidence in case of SGBV.

In a bid to enable the domestication of Kampala Declaration and the resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council, it has been agreed upon that it is necessary to further explain the reason d'être and the stakes to political decision-makers, parliamentarians, representatives of the ministries and civil society organizations, the general public through advocacies, sensitization and dissemination of the above mentioned instruments that are still aliens to some sections of the society.

With regards to civil society organizations represented they recommended a need to have close collaboration with COCAFEM-GL and urged it (COCAFEM-GL) to strengthen its relationship with the AU Commission as an observing member.

Thereafter came the adoption of conclusions, wording of the final Communiqué of the Conference by the technical team.

b. Winding up remarks of the Conference

After the national anthem and the read out of the final Communiqué under the moderation of the consultant Faïda MWANGILWA Fabiola, different speeches unfolded:

- *MS Béatrice UZELE*, Chairperson of *COCAFEM-GL* reiterated her sincere acknowledgements to the government of DRC and the Ministry of Woman, Family and Child for having accepted to host the 3rd regional conference of *COCAFEM-GL*. She went on to vividly thank partners in their action namely MAECD, CECI and Swiss Cooperation, thanked participants of the conference and hailed them for their fruitful realizations, successful practices, challenges and key stakes for the domestication of the two instruments. She finally appreciated the commitment and collaboration of all social, governmental and international stakeholders in uprooting the SGBV scourge.
- In view of the problematic of the implementation of the decisions adopted, *Professor Alphonse NTUMBA*, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR called upon the member States of the ICGLR to domesticate and internalize the international instruments for the effective fight against the SGBV and impunity for the welfare of peoples in the Region



Professor Alphonse NTUMBA LUABA, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, delivering his speech

- In her speech, Colonel *Théophila SHAANIKA*, advisor in security of woman at the Office of the Special Envoy Woman, Peace and Security at the AU pledged the support of the AU Commission to the participants and especially the support of the office of the Special Envoy Woman, Peace and Security at the AU throughout the process of the domestication of the two instruments. She welcomed the conclusive commitment testified during the two working days and that commitment is driven by the common conviction that women should actively get involved in the management of the national assets, should women aspire to attain sustainable solutions, peace and security. For the foregoing, she urged participants to go along with the words of the Special Envoy Woman, Peace and Security of the AU who declared: time is ripe to act, time is ripe to impact, let us transform rather than modelling our conduct on someone else!
- *The Minister of Woman, Family and Child, Lucie KIPELE*, in her concluding speech, thanked participants to the workshop for the attainment of objectives, commitment in the fight against SGBV by member States of the ICGLR that give due weight to the problem.

CONCLUSION

Vis à vis the expected results, the 3rd regional conference of COCAFEM-GL wound up on a satisfactory note of all participants that were invited to take remembrance photos. It should be recalled that that two day conference had 4 objectives namely:

- Present and share the status of implementation of commitments of Heads of States and Government on the Kampala Declaration on the SGBV and resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council in Burundi, DRC and Rwanda;
- Advocating for the concrete and thorough implementation of Kampala Declaration on SGBV and the resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council that fully depict the rights and aspirations of women from the great lakes region;
- Analyse and prioritise the problems/stakes on which COCAFEM-GL and other stakeholders will build and hold a political dialogue in order to enable changes and implementation of those instruments;
- To forge a partnership and a networking between the COCAFEM-GL, civil society organizations and other organizations in a bid to calling upon States to implement 3rd conference recommendations.

The chart below draws the extent to which the expected results have been achieved

Expected outcomes	Level of attainment
1°. Stakes and recommendations of the encompassing report on the status of the implementation of Kampala Declaration on SGBV and resolution 1325 in Burundi, DRC and Rwanda are shared and noted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakes and recommendations of that synthesis-report have been shared and noted by the participants on the day one (Panel COCAFEM-GL) - The reading of the report with new inputs by the consultant Dr. Agée MUGABE with the report circulated to participants in the kit form of the conference before its presentation. This enabled participants to interact with the panellist as he/she concluded his/her presentation
2°. The status of the commitments of countries no yet implemented these resolutions is unveiled	<p>The status of the commitments not yet complied with by the 3 countries has been established and those commitments are summarised below in as the major challenges</p> <p>With regards to the Kampala Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of systematic training of criminal justice channel actors for handling GBV - Difficulties similar to the administration of evidence relating to SGBV. - Lack of ad hoc national tools that match the standards of collecting and analysing SGBV-related data - Mistrust even tensions among some States in the Region that hinder judicial cooperation among them; - Lack of mechanisms for rehabilitating victims of the SGBV; - Lack of budget to cater for the prevention and intervention in case of SGBV; - Adoption of a national action plan for the implementation of Kampala Declaration pointing out indicators of stages and timeframe that will enable the follow up of the domestication process; - Fund for reconstruction and development is yet to be set up in its present state of affairs, Kampala Declaration does not set forth the role that each State should play, which slows down the creation of the fund of which part of the liquid assets will be allotted to the victims of the SGBV; - In DRC, lack of legislation relating to sexual violence which is not defined in comparison with other forms of violence, non-application of legal tariff relating to the justice fee and a must for the victim to

	<p>deposit beforehand 6% of damages.</p> <p>With regards to Kampala Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of strategy for scaling up the participation of women in regional process of conflicts resolution and consolidation of peace. Despite the national conducive legal environment for that participation, women organisations have fallen short joining their forces in order to establish mechanisms that boost their involvement in regional and international processes of peace.
3°. A common understanding by the participants of key stakes on which COCAFEM-GL and other stakeholders will build a political dialogue	The charts of the outcomes of the activities in sub-cluster (day 2) shows that result
4°. Adoption of a road map for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations laid down by the 3rd regional conference of COCAFEM-GL, specifying actions, responsibilities and timeframe for the three countries where COCAFEM-GL operates	Physical presence of a road map/ action plan of COCAFEM-GL coming from the conference for the implementation of decisions and conclusions of activities
5°. Setting up of a mixed framework (government, Civil Society organisations, regional institutions, supporting partners) for the follow up of the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the 3 rd conference by COCAFEM-GL for 3 countries where COCAFEM operates	<p>The conference has set up a mechanism of follow up and implementation of the resolutions of different delegates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COCAFEM-GL 2. Commission of African Union(office of the special envoy Woman, Peace and Security and Department Woman, Gender and Development) 3. The executive Secretariat of ICGLR 4. CERED-GL 5. Regional Forum of ICGLR women 6. CECI 7. Swiss Cooperation/Office of Burundi 8. UNDP/ North Kivu 9. Representatives of Ministries in charge of Gender and justice of the Republic of Burundi, Rwanda and DRC 10. The representatives of the civil society organisations from the CAR, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania

ANNEXES

Final communique and Roadmap of the 3^d regional conference of Kinshasa