

African Union Commission

The Office of the Special Envoy
on Women, Peace and Security

at a glance





This document is published by:
The Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security of
The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
© African Union Commission, 2016 – All rights reserved.

African Union Commission
P. O. Box: 3243
Roosevelt Street
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
+ 251-11 551 77 00 Ext. 2047
www.peaceau.org / www.au.int

Connect:

 wpsa@africa-union.org
 @AUBinetaDiop
 AfricanUnionWomenPeace
#WomenTransform
#SecureWomenSustainPeace

AMEYIB Communication & Marketing Plc
www.acm.com.et / +2519 12 65 55 65, +251 11 126 2946/81



“Women should transform, not conform.”

H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, AUC Chairperson

Who we are?

Vision

An Africa where women and men enjoy equal rights and equal participation in the building of a peaceful, secure and prosperous continent in line with Agenda 2063.

Mission

- Promote the protection and advancement of the rights of women and children, in particular those affected by violent conflicts in Africa.
- Ensure gender mainstreaming and equal participation of women in peace processes, including in conflict prevention, management, resolution and peace building.

Mandate

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) appointed in 2014 the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), with the mandate to “ensure that the voices of women and the vulnerable are heard much more clearly in peace building and in conflict resolution”.

“I wish to call upon you to ensure that the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is fully integrated in our security practice and thinking, and not looked into as a separate or marginal agenda.”

H.E. Mme Bineta Diop, AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security



What we stand for

The Special Envoy's work aims to close the gap between policy and implementation. The mandate is anchored on the priority pillars of the landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, subsequent related UN resolutions and African Union instruments and policies. It is hence articulated around four main strands:

- The prevention of violence against women and girls in conflict, situations of insecurity and in times of peace;
- The protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, including in humanitarian situations;
- The participation of women at all levels of decision-making in the prevention, management, resolution of conflict and peace building processes.
- The recognition and incorporation of gender perspectives in relief and recovery efforts.

Goal and Objectives of the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE)

The overall goal of the Special Envoy's programme is to accelerate the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa and contribute to the overall African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

Objectives

- Support women and women's groups in conflict prevention and peace-building
- Develop a continental results framework for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of women, peace and security commitments at national, regional, and continental levels
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of the framework
- Promote women's leadership and initiatives and showcase best practices for replication
- Strengthen the efforts of the African Union on Women, Peace and Security for better impact
- Build partnerships with various stakeholders including developmental agencies, civil society organisations, women experts and groups and peace and security partners

Messages

The Office of the Special Envoy has developed three key messages to reach all stakeholders working for the realization of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa.

- **Women Transform**

The OSE recognizes women as agents of peace and development, hence transformation, in Africa. Women are not only victims of conflict and war, but actively work for sustainable peace and development in their societies.

“We need... a big change for the women next year. We need a national action plan to address the social problems that we are facing now”.

Amina Arale, Executive Director,
Somali Women Development Centre



International Women's Day 2016 (Photo: AMISOM)

- **Secure Women, Sustain Peace**

An appeal to decision takers, policy makers, practitioners, women's CSOs and activists, research institutes and academia, to work towards human security – improving the social, economic and political conditions of women and communities – which provides the basis for sustaining peace.

Troop and police contributing countries and organizations involved in peacekeeping and



Somalia: Police training (Photo: AMISOM)

humanitarian action should also ensure accountability and promote zero-tolerance on issues of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as ensuring protection from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

It is also critical to address systemic challenges to women's access to political and economic spaces in order to ensure prosperous and peaceful societies.

- **Together Women Deliver**

The OSE encourages the creation of women's networks for peace. It believes that when women join forces around a single or common agenda and work together – in this case for the peace agenda – the results and impact have a positive multiplier effect on society.



Women in Electoral Mediation Training (Photo: PAC)

What we do

The Office of the Special Envoy's activities are carried along four strategies:

High-Level Advocacy and Support to Women

The OSE advocacy strategy aims to promote women's participation and leadership and the effective integration of their agenda in peace processes. The advocacy aspect of the programme uses every opportunity to amplify the voices of women in conflict situations and to support women's initiatives.

The Special Envoy has supported women in conflict affected countries through her Solidarity Missions to these places and the OSE has also organized high-level meetings and conferences with stakeholders, among whom: member-states; the UN agencies and other international partners; women's CSOs and other grassroots organizations; research institutions and academia; the media; and the private sector.

Solidarity Missions

Central African Republic (CAR)

In May 2014, the OSE in collaboration with UN Women, the AU PSD, and ECCAS carried out a joint solidarity mission to CAR.

In May 2015, the Special Envoy returned to Bangui to support the women of CAR in their preparations for the National Reconciliation Forum.

In October 2015, the Special Envoy was back in CAR to support a training of women's groups in peace building and participation in the upcoming election.



Joint AU/UN Women Solidarity Mission to the Central African Republic – May 2014: Centre - President of CAR, Catherine Samba-Panza; left - UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka; right - AU Special Envoy, Women, Peace and Security, Bineta Diop

Somalia

In November 2014, the Special Envoy undertook a solidarity mission to Somalia to convey support to the women of Somalia, advocate for their needs at the highest levels, and reiterate the necessity to prioritise women's active participation in the rebuilding of the country.



Members of Somali Women NGOs (Photo: AMISOM)

Nigeria

In December 2014, the Special Envoy travelled to Nigeria in solidarity with women and families affected by Boko Haram. She echoed the voices of the women of Nigeria in their efforts to end all gender-based violence, and in particular the suffering of the Chibok school girls.



Consultation with "Bring back our Girls" Campaign Members



AU Special on Women, Peace and Security with school girls in Nigeria

South Sudan

In March 2014, the Special Envoy was appointed as one of five members of the Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, mandated by the Peace and Security Council to investigate the genesis of the conflict that was tearing apart the newly established Republic of South Sudan and to unveil the human rights violations committed during the crisis, with the aim of making recommendations on ways to address the crisis and to rebuild the country.



Special Envoy in Nasir, South Sudan with UNMISS Peacekeepers and IGAD Monitors

She particularly focused on the gender aspects of the overall Commission mandate and on violations perpetuated against women.

The Commission eventually published a report on its findings which is notable for being a first for the African Union Commission.

In November 2015, the Special Envoy participated in the meeting of the South Sudan National Women's Peace Platform to support the women of South Sudan to strategize on their role in the implementation and monitoring of the August 2015 peace agreement.

Ethiopia

The Special Envoy joined the refugee community at the Jewi Refugee Camp in Gambella, Ethiopia, to commemorate the twenty-sixth (26th) edition of the Day of the African Child on the 19th of June, 2016.



Mme Diop and participants at the Inter-generational dialogue

High-level meetings and conferences

The Office of the Special Envoy has also convened and participated in high-level meetings and conferences as part of its advocacy work on Women, Peace and Security.



*High-Level Panel on the margins of UNSC, New York, October, 2015.
Launch of booklet: "The African Union: 15 Years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa: Stocktaking and Perspectives".
Organised by the OSE, OSAA and UN Women*



Consultative meeting with AU Member States that have developed NAPs for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, Addis Ababa, December 2015

Policy Implementation

“What Africa needs now is implementation” – Mme Bineta Diop

Since assuming office in 2014, the Special Envoy on WPS has maintained that Africa has sufficient normative frameworks such as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). Consequently, the OSE has been working towards the development of a Continental Results Framework.

“It is crucial for gender issues to be captured systematically in PSC sessions”

– Mme Bineta Diop



AU Special Envoy on WPS briefs PSC – 18 May, 2016
L – R: Mme Bineta Diop; Ambassador of Botswana (PSC Chair in May); Dr Admore Kambudzi (Ag Director PSD)

Roadmap Towards A Continental Results Framework

14 - 15 December 2014

The OSE convened a consultative meeting of women’s groups and experts, in order to **develop clear and measurable indicators** on the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa.

16 December 2014

The Peace and Security Council urged the AU Commission, through the coordination of the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to **formulate a Continental Results Framework to monitor the implementation** by AU Member States and other relevant stakeholders of the various instruments and other commitments on women, peace and security in Africa’.

June 2015 AU Summit

AU Heads of State, in the ‘AU Declaration on 2015 as Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development Towards Africa’s Agenda 2063’ resolved to, “**develop, implement and report on National and Regional Action Plans on UNSCR 1325** to accelerate the Women, Peace and Security Agenda”.

14 – 15 December 2015

The Special Envoy followed on this and convened a consultative meeting with **AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities** that have developed UNSCR 1325 Action Plans **to review and share experiences** towards enhanced implementation and monitoring – at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

18 May, 2016

The Special Envoy **briefed the PSC on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Africa**. She also briefed Council on progress made with regards to developing the Continental Results Framework on WPS.

Building Synergy within the AUC

The Office of the Special Envoy works in collaboration with the Peace and Security Department, the Women Gender and Development Directorate, the Bureau of the Chairperson and other stakeholders who are critical in advancing the women, peace and security agenda in Africa.



Consultation with colleagues from the AU Peace and Security Department, Women, Gender and Development Directorate and Bureau of the Chairperson, on synergy and implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa



“We now have a draft Continental Results Framework, with indicators for Member States, RECs and the African Union to report against”

– Mme Bineta Diop

Building Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

Supporting the creation of networks of women in peace and security

In July 2015, the Office of the Special Envoy together with the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Sahel and UNWOMEN supported the Women of the Sahel to create a Regional Women Platform bringing together women from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The OSE also supported the launch of the IGAD Women and Peace Forum board in October 2015 in Djibouti.



Photo: Office of the Special Envoy on the Sahel

Empowering women as election observers and mediators

The OSE conducted trainings in election observation and mediation for women with the aim to build a critical mass of women experts. They will be part of a roster that will facilitate the representation of at least 50% women in election observation missions and in mediation in Africa.



Photo: PANWISE

Towards a network of centres of excellence

The OSE is working on the establishment of a network of centres of excellence on women, peace and security in Africa, reaching out to universities, think-tanks and institutions which have a

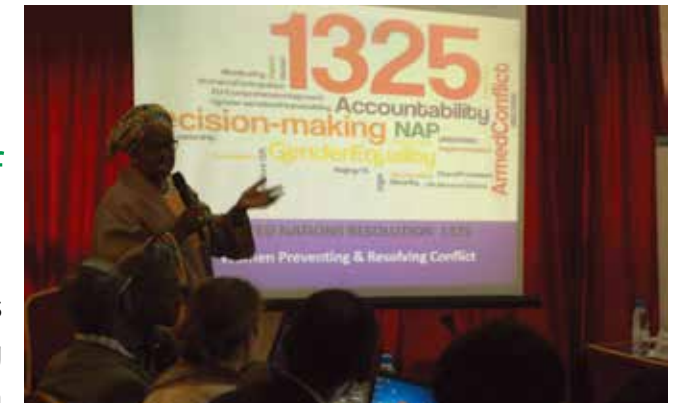


Photo: PAC

track record of excellence in research and capacity building on women and peace issues in Africa. Joint activities have so far been conducted with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana the Pan African Centre (PAC) in Senegal. The OSE's vision is to link up with at least one centre of excellence per region across the continent.

Strategising with partners to enhance the WPS agenda in Africa





AFRICAN UNION

*Office of the Special Envoy
on Women, Peace and Security*



Dr. Butera Jean-Bosco
*Special Adviser and Chief
of Staff*



H.E. Mme Bineta Diop
*Special Envoy on Women,
Peace and Security*



Col. Theophilia Shaanika
*Adviser on Women in the
Security sector*



Semiha Aldumelik
Gender Policy Officer



Franck Lemdjo Yankam
*Research Assistant AU
Youth Volunteer*



Wudassie Ayele
Intern



Paschal Chem-Langhee
Communication Officer



Connect:



wpsa@africa-union.org



@AUBinetaDiop



AfricanUnionWomenPeace

#WomenTransform

#SecureWomenSustainPeace



AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
P. O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 11 551 7700
Fax: +251 11 551 7844
www.au.int