

WE, multigenerational women peacebuilders and leaders from ten African conflict-affected countries, namely, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, and Swaziland gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, from 28–30 October 2025, on the occasion of Nalafem Women, Peace and Security Forum, marking the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

- **ACKNOWLEDGING** that the promise of Resolution 1325 has been undermined by shrinking civic space, militarized economies and superficial commitments to equality.
- **UNDERSTANDING** that across Africa, from Yaoundé to El Fasher, women initiatives sustain peace where states collapse and patriarchy plots our silence while we honor those lost to war, stand with those resisting and rise with those rebuilding.
- **RECOGNIZING** that Twenty-five years on, the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda stands at a crossroads while women mediate, rebuild and lead in the absence of political will and institutional support, yet our labor remains undervalued and underfunded.
- **ASSERTING** that displaced and stateless women are not passive beneficiaries of aid but rights-holders and active agents in shaping peace and recovery, who should not be spoken for but actively engaged in shaping outcomes that affect their futures
- **CELEBRATING** the courage of young women for their ongoing impact as current architects of peace, their vital perspectives, creativity and digital organizing strategies to reimagining the WPS Agenda for the next 25 years.
- **SHAMING** the lack of political will, both nationally and internationally as the greatest barriers to peace and security for women, despite numerous surveys and reports, including those by the United Nations Secretary-General, on unfulfilled protection commitments causing civilians to suffer.
- **NOTING** that despite global commitments, the WPS Agenda still fails to reflect the lived realities and leadership of women in conflict and post-conflict contexts, keeping their participation as symbolic, confined to consultations rather than decision-making, and further constrained by restrictive laws and shrinking civic space.
- **CONFRONTING** the reality that women can be both victims and instruments of harm, as systems of power manipulate women to act against one another ensuring our feminism remains self-critical, honest and transformative, committed to justice even when it is uncomfortable.
- **UPHOLDING** that representation is accountable to women’s movements and communities, not to political, ethical or patriarchal systems.
- **UNDERSTANDING** that the political economy of armed groups, border control and the privatization of security all contribute to the violence inflicted on women’s bodies during war and therefore conflict is sustained not only by arms but by the political and economic systems that fund and fuel violence.
- **REJECTING** militarized humanitarianism, patriarchal peace tables, tokenism and donor-driven priorities that exclude African women’s leadership and lived expertise.
- **NOTING WITH CONCERN** that The International Criminal Court continues to show weakness in addressing gendered crimes and ensuring accountability for those who commit them.
- **RECALLING** the vital contributions of UN Women, African Member States, the NGO Working Group on WPS FemWise-Africa and other partners in advancing this agenda while a shift toward intergenerational co-leadership, deeper inclusion of displaced and refugee women, young feminists and sustained support for grassroots women’s movements is more needed.
- **BOLDLY AFFIRMING** that the next generation of the WPS Agenda must be transformative, feminist, intergenerational and led by those who live war, not those who profit from it.

HEREBY CALL FOR CORE REFORMS TO THE WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

Centering Lived Experiences in Peace

- 1 Guarantee formal quotas and selection criteria within national, regional and international peace and political mechanisms to ensure the direct inclusion of displaced, refugee and young women in negotiation, mediation and reconstruction processes ensuring that those most affected by conflict are not spoken for but are present, leading and shaping outcomes.
- 2 Develop and implement camp management governance policies that are co-designed through equal partnerships between host governments, humanitarian actors and displaced women leaders, ensuring that women's lived feedback informs service delivery, protection systems and livelihood programs, transforming camps from spaces of survival into spaces of leadership and dignity.
- 3 Allocate dedicated and sustained funding from donor agencies, governments and implementing partners for technical capacity and knowledge programs that enable displaced and stateless young women to lead in mediation, negotiation and policy influence, supported by mentorship networks and access to regional and global decision-making spaces.
- 4 Integrate stateless and undocumented women within the WPS framework, by addressing barriers to mobility, education, employment, political participation obtaining refugee status, access to amenities as well as heightened risk of exploitation as core peace and security priorities, not peripheral humanitarian concerns, recognizing that the denial of citizenship and legal identity is a political act of exclusion.

Intergenerational Co-Leadership and Representation

- 1 Ensure women's equal leadership in transitional and post-conflict processes at all levels through affirmative action, with women serving as heads of delegation, chief negotiators and rapporteurs of peace and recovery frameworks.
- 2 Establish formal, resourced channels linking Track 3 actors; particularly young, displaced, refugee, and grassroots women leaders; to official peace negotiations, ensuring their analysis, priorities and lived realities are embedded in all agreements, monitoring and implementation frameworks.
- 3 Institutionalize intergenerational missions, delegations and mentorship models that promote continuity, best practice shared ownership and sustainability of feminist leadership across peacebuilding, governance and reconstruction processes.
- 4 Advance the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda as an integral part of intergenerational co-leadership by equipping young women peacebuilders with political and economic literacy, negotiation skills and digital organizing tools, ensuring their inclusion in formal mediation teams, and monitoring bodies that shape the future of peace and security.

Dismantling War Economies

- 1 Expand WPS Agenda at the G20, African Union Heads of State Meeting, United Nations General Assembly, Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Security Council, to include an analysis of how extractive industries, illicit trade and global economic interests shape women's lived realities in conflict settings.
- 2 Advance restorative and feminist approaches to justice that go beyond prosecution, centering healing, community repair, redistribution and the rebuilding of social trust, recognizing that justice is not only about punishment but also about restoring livelihoods and dismantling the economic structures that sustain violence.

- 3 Develop a continental feminist strategy of engagement with the International Criminal Court, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and other regional accountability mechanisms to ensure that economic and gendered crimes, such as resource plunder, sexual slavery, trafficking and forced displacement tied to extraction, are recognized and prosecuted.
- 4 Build a feminist architecture of accountability that dismantles the political economy of war, invests in women's everyday peace work, and ends the hypocrisy of equality without redistribution, ensuring that justice and economic transformation are inseparable from sustainable peace.

Accountability and Political Will

- 1 Strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms by leveraging existing bodies such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and establishing a Regional Women, Peace and Security Observatory led by young feminists to track state commitments, monitor gender-responsive peacebuilding, and collect and analyze gender-sensitive data across member states.
- 2 Demonstrate genuine political will by governments, regional bodies and international actors through the prioritization of women's safety, rights and leadership in every dimension of peace and security from ceasefire negotiations to post-conflict reconstruction.
- 3 Harmonize regional WPS frameworks by aligning national action plans under a unified regional strategy that establishes shared priorities and accountability indicators, measuring the quality, not just the quantity of women's participation in peace and governance processes.
- 4 Mandate annual public reporting and peer review of WPS commitments by all African Union member states, with clear sanctions, budgetary consequences and withdrawal of peacekeeping or aid partnerships for non-compliance, transforming accountability from a voluntary principle into a binding obligation.

Resourcing Feminist Peace

- 1 Mobilize serious and sustained financing for the WPS Agenda and its infrastructure, ensuring that resources are not diverted or cut during times of warfare, displacement, and escalating violence against women, but instead expanded to match the scale of crisis and women's leadership in response.
- 2 Prioritize and finance Track 3 diplomacy, grassroots, community and women-led peace processes, as central to informing Track 1 and Track 2 outcomes, and serving as the moral and political compass for peacebuilding.
- 3 Redirect and redistribute resources and decision-making power to women and feminist movements that bear the greatest cost of war, ensuring funding models are long-term, flexible and locally driven, rather than extractive or project-based.
- 4 Hold global and regional institutions accountable, including the United Nations, United Nations Security Council, African Union Commission, AU Peace and Security Council, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), East African Community (EAC) African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Pan-African Parliament, AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), Community of Sahel-Saharan States and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), to move beyond rhetoric to responsibility, embedding financial transparency, gender-responsive budgeting and reparative investment into all peace and security frameworks.

As we mark WPS25, our feminist movement stands united across borders demanding transformation, accountability and a future where women's peace work is recognized, resourced, and respected

Peace without justice is fragile. Justice without feminism is incomplete