



**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

Forces vives: Women

Summary of Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In implementing Special Envoy’s mandate and commitment on women’s empowerment and regional economic integration of the PSC-F, the Women’s Platform was launched in January 2014. ▪ The purpose of the Platform is to enable women’s organizations to actively contribute to the implementation of the PSC Framework by supporting them to strengthen their collective action, providing grants for relevant projects, and enabling women to play an active and sustained role in the overall peace process. ▪ The four thematic areas of the Women’s Platform are: i) monitoring and advocacy for the PSC Framework, as well as regional and national plans of action under Security Council Resolution 1325; ii) combating violence against women and supporting women affected by violence; iii) work on women’s livelihoods and development; and iv) access to clean energy at the local level with a view to delivering concrete peace dividends at the grass-root level. ▪ The Platform is managed by the Global Fund for Women as the designated Secretariat. The other implementing partners for the Platform include: the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC), Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), and Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises (FFC). ▪ The Governance of the Women’s Platform is ensured by an Advisory Board which provides strategic and policy guidance and supports the communication and participatory aspects of the platform. The Advisory Board conducts conferences calls every four months. ▪ Terms of reference to engage Gender Affairs Ministers of the region, the logical framework as well as indicators on the four thematic areas of the Platform have been prepared. ▪ Through the Platform, approximately 60 direct grants totaling \$2.5 million per year is expected to be awarded over the next three years to women’s organizations in the Great Lakes Region. ▪ Since its launch in 2014, the Women’s Platform has received approximately US\$700,000 as contribution by the Dutch and Irish Governments to the OSESG Trust Fund. Contributions have also been received from the Government of Norway and Oak Foundation. ▪ Over thirty-Five grants have been awarded to women’s organizations in the four core countries of Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. ▪ The Women’s Platform held its Inaugural convening from 13-15 May 2015 in Goma, DRC. Participants deliberated on achieving a common agenda to deepen their knowledge of, and participation in,
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	the peace processes in the Great Lakes region	
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women represent more than 50 percent of the population in the Great Lakes region. They have been the most affected by the conflict, together with children. ▪ Millions of women have lost their lives, family members, livelihood and property. They have been abducted to join armed groups and to serve as sex slaves. They account for the largest number of refugees and IDPs in the camps, where they have limited access to basic social services, health and education. They have suffered from extreme physical and psychological trauma and stigma in society. ▪ The disruption of economic activities and deteriorating conditions have required women to take up responsibilities for households with limited access to viable means of production and equitable access to benefits of resources. ▪ Women are vastly under-represented in the decision-making processes in peace building and their specific needs are unmet in most of the peace building initiatives that remain gender blind. 	
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalization of the monitoring exercise of the Women’s Platform Grantees aimed to assess progress on the implementation of grantee activities with the view to appreciate project results, challenges and identify implications for sustainability and improvement of implementation. ▪ Continuous monitoring of the implementation of grants in the four core countries of Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda to ensure the desired impact is being achieved. ▪ Continuous advocacy for additional resources to scale up grants for the Women’s Platform 	
MESSAGIN G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender equality remains a core value of the PSC-Framework and women’s role remain central in all peace building efforts in the region ▪ Women’s organizations and networks are effective vehicle for establishing peace and security in the Great Lakes Region. ▪ Financial resources should be increased to scale up the Women’s Platform initiative. 	
	Drafted by	Distribution
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