



## PRESS RELEASE

### Women take stock of the implementation of the Resolution 1325 in West Africa

**Dakar, 04 November 2015** – The Special Representative of the Secretary-general and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, chaired, on 03 November 2015, the sixth edition of the Open-Day on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000) and subsequent on women, peace and security. This reflection and discussion day gathered West Africa women leaders and representatives of the civil society, of regional organizations and United Nations agencies.

"I am delighted to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Resolution 1325 (2000) with all of you. This celebration marks fifteen years of commitment and mobilization of the international community for issues related to armed conflict impacts on women and the strengthening of women role in conflicts prevention and resolution processes, as well as in peace building," said Mr. Ibn Chambas at the opening ceremony.

Significant progress towards the implementation of the Resolutions 1325 (2000) and subsequent has been made in West Africa. Indeed, the sub region adopted in September 2010 a regional action plan. Moreover, 12 out of the 16 countries have initiated national action plan. Women and youth are more and more involved in peaceful electoral processes through, especially, the active observation of election related activities. This activity has been successfully implemented for the recent elections in Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.

Women of the sub region should be at the heart of efforts to fight both endemic factors that trigger conflicts as well as poverty ... and evolving security challenges including the increasing armed insurgency and violent extremism..." appealed Mrs. Diana Ofwona, UN Women Regional Director for West and Central Africa.

The Director of the ECOWAS Center for gender development, Mrs. Aminata Dibba, express her wish that "women contribution reinforces processes and mechanisms in place, not only to address the gender dimension of conflicts, mediation and peace edification, but also to respond to the range of peace and security challenges ECOWAS is facing."

At the end of the meeting, women leaders of the region recommended, inter alia, to set up and institutionalize a high level women contact group that will support electoral and mediation processes in the region, to sensitize and involve women, youth, religious leader and communities programs to fight violent extremism, terrorism and religious fundamentalism. Participants especially stressed the need, for all countries in the region that do not have it yet, to adopt a national plan, and the provision of adequate resources to facilitate the implementation of the Resolution 1325.

The annual Open-Day has been introduced since 2010 by the United Nations Secretary General to discuss with women and actors in different regions of the world to take stock of the implementation of the Resolution 1325 and subsequent of the United Nations Security Council on women, peace and security.

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