



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security for the IGAD Region

from commitment to actions!

2023 – 2030



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FOREWORD

Truly speaking, the framing of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa finds its history and origin in the Windhoek Declaration 2000 which led to the birth and adoption of UNSCR 1325. Since then, Africa has made progress in terms of providing legal and policy frameworks; establishing institutional mechanisms for implementation of the WPS agenda. Thirty of its member states have developed national action plans (NAPs) to implement the WPS agenda.

When IGAD hosted its first regional conference on women and peace which identified the need for regional support for the commitments articulated in Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) in 2011, only one country (Uganda) had developed a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). However, from the regional conference, IGAD was able to develop its first Generation Regional Action Plan (RAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (2011-2015).

Since then, first there has been a steady and consistent rise in the development of the NAPs with IGAD countries implementing various WPS related Resolutions related to women's participation and engagement as decision makers from conflict prevention through peace and transitional processes, and five focused on the prevention of and response to Conflict related Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV).

Over the years, IGAD and its member states have demonstrated a deep commitment to the WPS agenda and made considerable progress including in the establishment of strong and diverse continental networks of women leadership and mediators, the numbers of women, women's groups, and gender experts who serve as official negotiators, mediators, signatories, witnesses, or advisory bodies have also been increased in the past years. Nonetheless, women's participation in peace processes remains low and progress in the implementation of policies and action plans is too slow. Financing and monitoring the implementation of developed laws and policies, NAPs remain weak. Implementation of most National Action Plans on WPS are not budgeted and hence their implementation is heavily dependent on donor funding.

These are precisely the challenges this Regional Action Plan on WPS seeks to address. The RAP aims to accelerate the implementation of the WPS commitments across the IGAD region, is designed to be practical within the resources available within IGAD to implement. As such, the focus remains limited to improving upon what is already in existence, tackling the regional dimension of the challenges and building on the base of gender equality that is present across the peace and security related strategies.

We look forward to walking this journey with all member states, with development partners, Non State Actors, women leaders and networks, and all stakeholders in the region to engage together to advance the WPS Agenda in IGAD.

H.E DR. Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD)

IGAD Executive Secretary

MESSAGE FROM THE GENDER PROGRAM MANAGER



Today, we can all confidently say that women's absence from peace tables is no longer easily brushed off as normal. But it is still commonplace. At IGAD, we have continued to track women's overall participation in peace processes in the region. We track the inclusion of gender expertise and gender-sensitive provisions in peace agreements, and the requirement to consult with women's civil society organizations. In all of these indicators, our performance as a region show that a lot of progress is still necessary.

In part, due to this reason and owing to the dynamic nature of peace and security across the region and the evolving nature of the challenges facing women and young women, IGAD took a conscious decision to invest in a second generation of the RAP to effectively capture and update the regional dynamics through a new WPS strategy in continued alignment with all relevant normative frameworks.

This RAP is the product of a consultative process and reflects the efforts and inputs of a wide array of institutions and stakeholders engaged in women's rights, gender equality and peace and security work across the region. Over the past year, consultations were organized to ensure a diverse representation and depth of inputs into this process which included IGAD staff, panel of experts from IGAD Member States, UN agencies, civil society organizations, research institutes and all development stakeholders. This participatory approach helped guide and develop the content of the strategy, and its corresponding framework for action and implementation.

Our approach and strategy is to use the RAP to address perennial challenges in the IGAD region that include the fact that women's participation in peace processes and politics has quite often been symbolic and resisted by cultural norms. We also hope to address a history of the limited coordination and cooperation by different actors working on Women, Peace, and Security at the regional and national levels while simultaneously enabling women's civil society organizations who work on peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and gender equality to address the challenges of underfunding and poor integration into the mainstream policy discussions on WPS in the region. These are just some of the key challenges.

However, the women, peace and security agenda in the IGAD region continues to expand its footprint on regional policymaking. It is now an essential pillar in IGAD programs and its advocates and champions are animated by the conviction that this is only the beginning. This RAP demonstrates that we all share this conviction. This RAP unites us all in the region because people from all member countries, every day, look up to IGAD to provide this leadership for peace, equality and inclusion in the region.

Mrs. Amina Farah Maalim

IGAD Gender Program Manager

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the core of developing this Regional Action Plan lies steadfast support from all IGAD Member States and the pivotal engagement of women’s civil society organizations. Their proactive involvement in the development of the RAP, the many consultative and stakeholder engagement sessions where they all participated finally bore fruit. We salute them.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners— the UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (UN OSE-HoA) and UN Women East and Southern Africa Regional Office (UN Women ESARO) for fortifying our shared resolve with their steadfast support. Your unwavering support and commitments in supporting IGAD to cross this bridge demonstrates that we can always count on you to build on the progress we have made.

Lastly, much appreciation goes to the IGAD staff at the Secretariat and Specialized Offices under the leadership of the Executive Secretary Dr Workneh Gebeyehu and the Gender Department Program Manager Ms. Amina Farah and team for providing insights and technical leadership on the content of the program areas described in this Strategy.

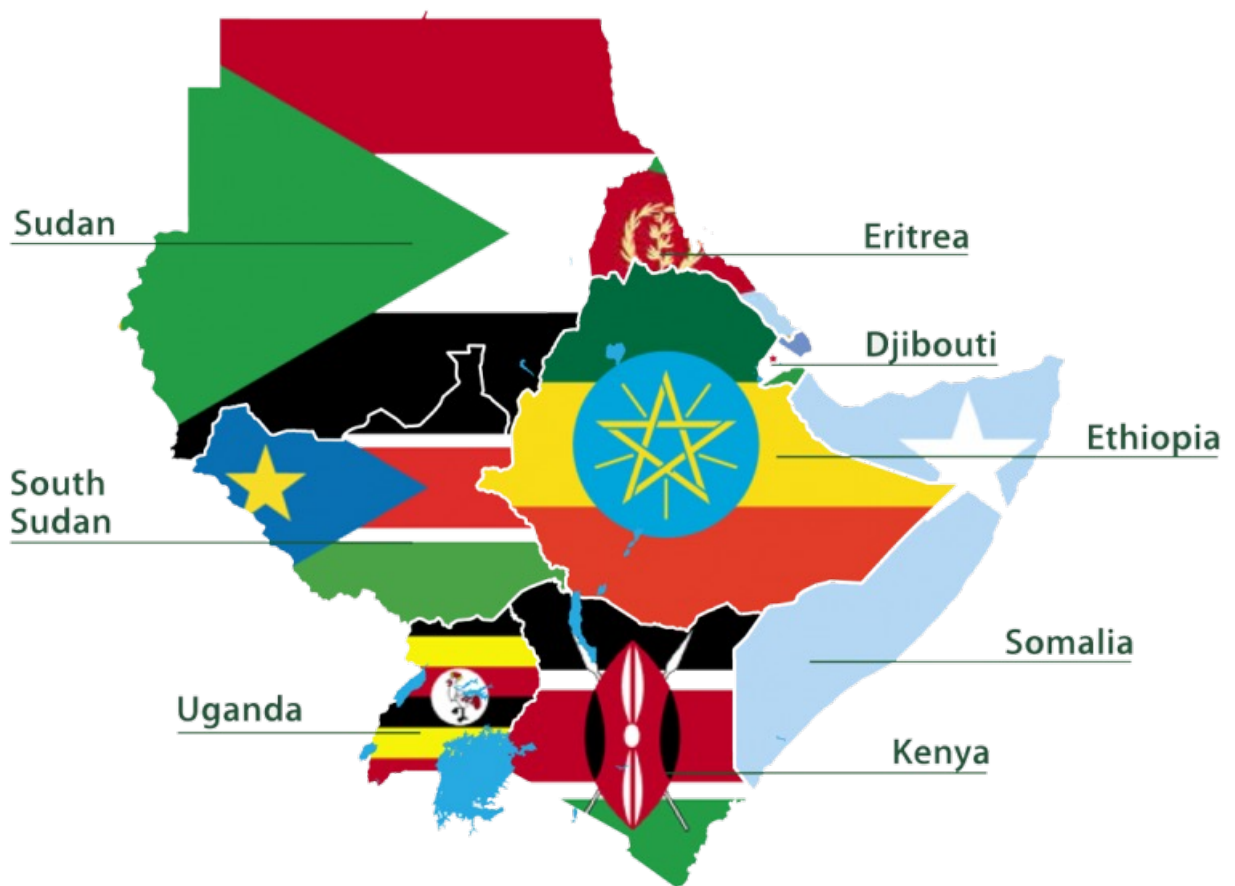
Please accept our deepest gratitude.



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MAP OF THE IGAD REGION



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

1325	UN Security Council Resolution 1325 of 2000
1820	UN Security Council Resolution 1820 of 2008
AU	African Union
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
GBV	Gender-based Violence
PCVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development I
IGAD-RAP	IGAD Regional Action Plan
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
NAP(s)	National Action Plans
RAP	Regional Action Plan
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSCR(s)	United Nations Security Council Resolution(s)
UN Women	United Nations Women
OSE- HoA	Office of the Special Envoy for Horn of Africa
WPS	Women Peace and Security
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapon

INTRODUCTION

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a Regional Economic Community (REC) consisting of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. Its primary objectives are regional economic integration and joint efforts toward peace, security, and prosperity. IGAD seeks to achieve these goals by advocating for regional cooperation and implementing programmes that add value to Member States' efforts for peace and sustainable development. Contributing toward the fulfilment of its mandate and mission, IGAD is committed to promoting gender equality, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity across its work streams.

One such area is its effort to address the challenges of gender inequality within the domain of its peace and security work. Drawing on international and continental normative frameworks, IGAD seeks to ensure that it fulfils commitments articulated specifically in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000) related to women, peace, and security (WPS) and 1820 (2008) on sexual violence, combined with the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and Agenda 2063. Together, these frameworks outline Member State commitments to address the core challenges related to WPS. In 2011, IGAD initiated efforts to bring these issues to the forefront of its peace and security work. The main strategy was the development of a Regional Action Plan (RAP) to Implement UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.

Owing to the dynamic nature of peace and security across the region and the evolving nature of the challenges facing women and young women in this respect, IGAD deemed it timely to invest in a second generation of RAP to effectively capture and update the regional dynamics through a new WPS strategy in continued alignment with all relevant normative frameworks.

The RPA WPS is the product of a consultative process and reflects the efforts and inputs of a wide array of institutions and stakeholders engaged in women's rights, gender equality, peace and security work across the region. The following is the result of this undertaking. Over the past months, consultations were organized to ensure a diverse representation and depth of inputs into this process, which included IGAD staff, UN agencies, civil society organizations, research institutes and representatives from the IGAD Member States. This participatory approach helped guide and develop the content of the strategy, and its corresponding framework for action and implementation.

The Regional Action Plan on WPS aims to accelerate the implementation of the WPS commitments across the IGAD region. It is designed to be practical, acknowledging the limited technical and financial resources available within IGAD to implement. As such, the focus remains limited to improving upon what is already in existence, tackling the regional dimension of the challenges and building on the base of gender equality that is present across the peace and security related strategies. This is an effort to activate and strengthen current commitments rather than create new ones. Equally, the strategy acknowledges the support requested by Member States and underscores the ongoing call for proactive engagement of women's civil society organizations and networks in advancing the WPS Agenda.

The presentation of the Regional Action Plan following starts with a brief primer and contextual landscape to provide the backdrop. The report then moves forward briefly detailing the challenges and opportunities for progress on WPS. This Regional action Plan outlines the strategic approaches and considerations of the RAP. The framework narrative is presented and concludes with the approach for implementation and monitoring. The document concludes with eight annexes providing additional details and support to the analysis presented in the report.

FIRST GENERATION OF IGAD REGIONAL ACTION PLAN 2012-2015

In 2011, IGAD hosted a regional conference on women and peace, which identified the need for regional support for the commitments articulated in Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). At that time, Uganda was the only IGAD Member State that had a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). Conference participants noted the need to support similar initiatives across all IGAD Member States, resulting in the formulation of IGAD's first Generation Regional Action Plan (RAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (2011-2015). The RAP was endorsed by the IGAD Council of Ministers and was intended as a benchmarking tool for Member States in the development and implementation of their own NAPs. Based on the WPS issues identified during the conference, the RAP offered a list of actions and activities, which the Member States could contextualize and customize in their NAP development process.

Since the first RAP was endorsed, and after the passage of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820, there are now a total of ten WPS-related resolutions: five pertaining to women's participation and engagement as decision-makers from conflict prevention through peace through transitional processes, and five focused on the prevention of and response to Conflict-related Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SRGV). Furthermore, it is important to also consider integrating CRSV considerations in the implementation of the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the IGAD-UN Joint Framework for Cooperation Agreement in support to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2331 (2016) and 2467 (2019) on Conflict-related Sexual Violence, in this RAP. What these resolutions increasingly endeavour to tackle is the continued need to fulfil these obligations and urge UN Member States to implement them accordingly. This range of commitments, coupled with the need for monitoring and measuring change cumulatively, is referred to as the WPS Agenda (see Annex I for summaries and links to the UNSCRs).

Recognizing the evolving need to shift focus from NAP development to implementation, in 2019, IGAD facilitated an assessment exercise with Member States and partners to ascertain the progress of the regional WPS Agenda and acknowledged the need for an updated regional strategy. This new iteration requires due consideration of the evolving regional WPS issues and context.¹ As of 2022, all active IGAD Member States, except Eritrea and Ethiopia, have currently put NAPs in place (see Annex II for summaries and links to IGAD Member State NAPs). Somalia launched NAP in mid-2022 and Ethiopia is in the process of developing its first NAP. Djibouti, Sudan, and South Sudan implemented NAPs, and Sudan and South Sudan are now in the process of developing second-generation NAPs. Kenya recently launched its second and Uganda its third version. Considering this progress, the updated strategy seeks to shift the focus toward increased IGAD-led support and coordinated collective action in this evolving regional context to accelerate the implementation of shared WPS commitments.

¹ The onset of the COVID pandemic in 2020 delayed this process until end of 2021.

CONTEXT

IGAD is comprised of eight Member States² spanning 5.2 million km² with a diverse geographical makeup across the Horn of Africa.³ The region is home to 290 million people; high population growth rates persist and nearly half the population is under the age of 18 years.⁴ The region, including the Great Lakes, hosts 67 per cent of the refugees on the African continent and the IGAD region has approximately 8.5 million internally displaced people.⁵

The region continues to embrace democratic constitutional reforms and empowerment of local communities through increased de-centralization, devolution, and federalism. Examples include accommodating diversity through the decentralization of power in South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, and to a varying degree in Sudan and Uganda. This has created a sense of ownership and accountability in the social development process. The deepening of this trend will ensure local authorities have the capabilities for designing and implementing peace and security commitments. However, political instability and conflict are on the rise in the region. The heightened tensions in Sudan and Somalia combined with the conflict in Ethiopia pushed a large part of the region into turmoil recently. The increasing presence of foreign security actors are militarizing the region and influencing the dynamics on far reaching issues from counter-terrorism initiatives to external trade and commerce.⁶ The internal and external political, economic, and social determinants of peace and security in the IGAD region originate from conflicts that arise from access to natural resources, extreme poverty, income inequality, governance problems, mismatches between performance legitimacy and popular legitimacy. Other issues include corruption, election-related disputes and violence, radicalization and violent extremism, trans-national security threats and organized criminal activities, as well as migration, smuggling and human trafficking. The Region has endured four droughts in a row and is coping with the stress of climatic induced conflict. A large share of the population continues to face endemic food shortages.⁷ Post-war governments face a complex set of challenges that can trigger renewed violent conflicts, while adjacent regions experiencing armed and violent conflicts which are another potential source of friction.

Approximately 70 per cent of the populations in IGAD counties are young, and 42 per cent are under the age of fifteen. The dearth of economic opportunities for young people and lack of participation in national affairs underscore their exposure to criminal activities, recruitment by extremist groups, and vulnerability to human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. The youth demographic also aggravates a range of pre-existing issues ranging from election-related disputes to identity politics and ethnic polarization. The humanitarian crises resulting from a mix of environmental, socioeconomic, and political drivers are compromising an entire generation's educational development.

2 Djibouti, Eritrea (non-active), Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda

3 <https://igad.int/about-us/the-igad-region>

4 <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/mapped-the-median-age-of-every-continent/>

5 <https://reliefweb.int/report/burundi/east-and-horn-africa-and-great-lakes-region-operational-update-october-december>

6 <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2019/sipri-background-papers/foreign-military-presence-horn-africa-region>

7 <https://www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/climate-related-peace-and-security-risks-in-africa/>

The common security threats that pose significant challenges and high level of risk to the security and stability of the IGAD region, as stated above, include terrorism, radicalization, violent extremism, human trafficking, money laundering, illicit trafficking of drugs, small arms and light weapons (IGAD, 2016a). Such Transnational Security Threats (TST) are the focus of the IGAD Security Sector Programme (ISSP), also housed in the IGAD Peace and Security Department Strategy.

Risks to state security (e.g., from groups like Al Shabaab), and human security (stemming from factors such as poverty, climate change, conflict, and violence) are pronounced in the region's borderlands.⁷ IGAD's gravest challenge to peace and prosperity, however, comes not from a lack of hard security but mainly from a lack of human security. Soft securities relate to vulnerabilities, extreme poverty, social injustice, discrimination, unjust inequality and shocks, etc. (IGAD, 2016b, p. XIV). Many of the conflict and climate-related risks and challenges are concentrated in adjacent Arid, and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) border regions traversed by pastoral communities that, for their pastoral livelihoods, are used to and depend on crossing freely international borders between IGAD Member States. (Danish Demining Group, 2017)

Three main types of conflicts affect the region: inter-state conflicts that manifest as territorial disputes; intra-state conflict that manifest as armed conflicts with rebel groups and civil wars focusing on political contestation among groups within one country; and inter-communal conflicts between ethnic and clan groups, especially in pastoral communities. Prolonged and recurrent conflict has had particularly negative consequences for the situation of women, leading to displacement, disempowerment, and alarmingly high levels of gender-based violence (IGAD,

The COVID-19 pandemic further affected the region, causing economic growth to contract from 2.4 per cent in 2019 to between -2.1 and -5.1 per cent in 2020. This has deepened poverty, reduced agricultural productivity and weakened supply chains.⁸ However, the past year reflected a gradual resumption of pre-COVID growth rates. Economies vary, with Kenya and Ethiopia currently having the highest growth rates at 5.9 and 6.1 per cent, respectively, while South Sudan has the lowest at -2.2 per cent, and the remaining countries hovering between one and four per cent.⁹

The political and economic situation of the region shows different scenarios, with some countries experiencing relative internal stability and economic growth, while others grapple with violent internal conflicts. The institutional inability to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflicts or to deal with emerging security threats has held the region back from attaining the envisioned regional integration. In this context, the IGAD region is still referred to as one of the most conflict-prone and ravaged areas in Africa, mostly plagued with protracted intra-state violent conflicts, leading to severe humanitarian disasters that jeopardize peace, security, development, and regional integration. Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Djibouti, the primary targets of Al Shabaab terrorist attacks, are contributing troops to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), while supporting the capacity development of the country's administrative and political institutions through an inclusive process of national reconciliation.

Each contextual element referenced above has differentiated impacts on women and men, accentuated by pre-existing gender inequalities that amplify the discriminatory effects on

⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/eastern-and-southern-africa>

⁹ <https://tradingeconomics.com/>

women. These structural disadvantages, such as lower social status, limited access to education and livelihood resources, child marriage, etc., all contribute to women's heightened insecurity during conflict-related events. The following is a brief list of the main challenges in relation to WPS in the region:

- **Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** is increasing across the region, especially during periods of conflict and instability. Instances of women being targeted as part of electoral violence, cross-border violence, and displacement. In addition, traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriages remain common in the region.
- While **women's participation in political leadership** has generally increased, **women's overall involvement in peace processes and security sector** remains low. Even when women do participate, they are often denied access to the corridors of power.
- The vast majority of **women in the region are employed in the informal sector**, predominantly in the small-scale agriculture and informal cross-border trading. **Climate- or conflict-related events exacerbate vulnerability, including food insecurity** with cascading impacts on families and communities.
- **Democratic space is at risk** as autocratic entrenchment permeates across the region. Recent and imminent elections and political transitions result in violence and oppression, with **women activists being specifically targeted**.
- **Peacekeeping troops continue to perpetuate violence and exploitation, engaging in the abuse of women and girls.** Member States of IGAD contribute troops and are recipients in the region, often failing to adhere to international norms and standards for women's rights.
- **The proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the region contributes to an increase of violence against women and girls.** This is increasingly prevalent in cross-border pastoral and resource-based conflicts.
- **Violent extremism frequently targets women and girls**, including abductions, forced marriages, restricted movements, and denial of access to basic services and rights.
- **Increased food insecurity and malnutrition are evident** among women and young children impacted by conflict.
- **Women and young women from pastoralist and nomadic communities** in border areas are socially, economically and politically marginalized.

WPS MEMBER STATES ACTION PLANS (NAPS)

To address to these contextual challenges, the IGAD Member States developed the NAPs to tackle these problems and the negative impacts on women and girls. However, these responses are difficult to activate. The following highlights the shared challenges expressed across the region:

- While the processes to develop the NAPs are highly participatory and the work substantive, there is **minimal implementation** on behalf of the government, especially at political leadership levels.
- There is an **absence of government funding** to implement the NAPs.

- **Political will** to support the WPS Agenda is limited for multiple reasons.
- There is **insufficient technical capacity and support** to effectively implement the NAPs.
- **Lack of donor and UN support** to implementation of NAP. UN Women is the primary provider of technical advice, but their resources are limited as well.
- **Monitoring and reporting** of progress and change is minimally occurring and is not well coordinated with other entities such as IGAD and the AU.
- **Elections of new governments can interrupt** the necessary continuity required for sustained commitments to and advocacy for NAP implementation.
- There is **insufficient outreach and participation of actors beyond the usual gender machinery**; an absence of understanding at local levels and too national-centric to be truly effective.
- **Lack of experience and knowledge sharing** on NAP implementation between and across Member States.
- **Lack of communication strategies, awareness and advocacy programming** related to WPS Agenda and its implementation in Member States.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL PROGRESS ON WPS

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Despite expanding regional insecurities and limited results in the implementation of WPS agenda, there are several opportunities across the region where collective action might result in progress, including the following:

- Since the first IGAD RAP, there are now seven NAPs in place, including those on their second and third versions, with several beginning second versions. The current **regional awareness and commitment to the WPS Agenda is in progress.**
- **IGAD's proven work on women's participation in peace processes** has been crucial and is a huge potential area to further cultivate.
- **IGAD's new peace and security strategy highlights the need for women's participation and the importance of integrating gender** across the work areas.
- The RAP facilitated **the creation of the IGAD WPS Forum**, which is now institutionalized and provides a platform from which the WPS Agenda can be advanced regionally.

LESSONS LEARNED

Since the creation of the first RAP and the development of the NAPs across the region, several lessons have been learned and can be applied to strengthen future regional and national strategies to advance the WPS Agenda. The following highlights several reported shared lessons:

- Despite the insufficient implementation to date, the **NAP development processes are inclusive and highly participatory, resulting in solid strategies**, a good starting point.
- NAP development requires substantive external support to ensure effectiveness, making **partnerships essential, as governments cannot perform these functions in isolation.**
- **Donors, international organizations, and UN regional agencies are essential partners** in the process, especially UN Women, for providing technical supports.
- The Office of Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa have a joint framework with IGAD to promote peace and security across the Horn of Africa and would be engaged in the implementation of this RAP.
- **Women's and security related civil society organizations must be engaged in the process from start to finish**, including in the coordination and oversight of NAP implementation.
- The implementation process requires commitment and **consistent engagement from ministries beyond gender machinery**, especially interior, finance and defence, including police; it needs to be situated within the broader security agenda of the state, rather than just a 'women' focus silo.

RATIONALE FOR A NEW IGAD REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WPS

Noting the continued challenges and possible opportunities for regional progress on the WPS Agenda, the following points reflect the importance of why a new RAP is needed, and its value in contributing to the overall advancement of the WPS Agenda in the region.

- The **RAP can be an effective and complementary framework in support of regional WPS work** if it is rooted in and limited to the core peace and security mandate areas of IGAD's work.
- The **RAP can provide the regional overlay that the NAPs cannot address**. Similarly, the RAP should avoid repeating or duplicating the NAPs.
- RAP can serve as a regional and complementary support for what can be achieved in WPS in the region and function as a **framework for collaborative efforts**.
- RAP can serve as a **practical link between African Union (AU) and national levels**.
- **IGAD is a voice that supports and elevates WPS Agenda, achieving what national counterparts cannot on their own**. IGAD can provide leverage and amplify voices at a political level.
- IGAD can provide the **unique space for Member States to unite, creating a regional platform to accelerate WPS work** that countries cannot do individually.
- **IGAD can coordinate work efforts on the WPS Agenda** in a manner that Member States cannot achieve individually, especially with other regional entities (e.g., ICGLR, League of Arab States, etc.)
- Post elections, **IGAD can be the voice of continuity**, explaining to new leadership and ministers the importance of fulfilling their commitments to WPS.
- **IGAD needs to build upon and expand its peace and security related successes**; mediation and political supports for peace are increasingly required for regional and cross border challenges.
- **A regional strategy for WPS creates an opportunity for needed Member State support to implement NAPs** through an integrated WPS Agenda across sectors and strategies.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Further to the above, it is worth noting three additional specific points that equally contribute to the design and focus of the second generation of regional strategic framework and the action plan for accelerating the WPS Agenda in the IGAD region: The four pillars of the UNSCR 1325 and the evolving security challenges faced by women and girls; the IGAD thematic priorities of focus in relation to the regional WPS Agenda; and the two-pronged approach tackling regional dimensions of WPS, along with the complementary support needed by Member States for the implementation of their respective WPS plans.

FOUR PILLARS OF UNSCR1325

In 2000, the UNSC passed Resolution 1325 related to WPS. Prior to 2000, there was no systematic consideration of the gendered impacts of conflicts on women and girls, nor were there explicit efforts to seek ways to advance women's rights and participation in this context. As such, Resolution 1325 served as a pivotal turning point. The core commitments encapsulated in the Resolution are structured into four main pillars (see Annex III for further details about each pillar):

1. **Participation** of women as decision makers in all matters related to peace and security.
2. **Protection** against sexual and gender-based violence
3. **Prevention** of conflict and violence against women and girls
4. **Relief and recovery** initiatives effectively integrate gender into design and response, and recently WPS framework in Emerging Security Threats has been added as part of the other 4 pillars lined in Resolution 1325.

Over the past decade, the IGAD region has endeavoured to contextualize and improve the situation of women in peace and security. Progress has been uneven, despite the existence of modicum of commitment to the WPS Agenda.¹⁰ The passage of time also has witnessed emerging issues as the security landscape continues to evolve in the region. As such, structuring a strategic action plan strictly according to the four pillars is limiting. Therefore, the **second generation of RAP is designed to realize the four pillars through a cross-cutting set of results aligned with the priorities of IGAD Peace and Security sector Strategy**, rather than repeating the results across the four pillars.

10 For further details about two decades of progress on UNSCR1325 in Africa, please see the following report: <https://www.accord.org.za/publication/the-twentieth-anniversary-of-uns-cr-1325/>

REGIONAL THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Seven thematic issues are prioritized in the new RAP. These issues are highlighted for three main reasons:

1. They contribute to and reinforce the realization of the four pillars and the other ten subsequent Resolutions related to the WPS Agenda, including the five pillars addressing WPS in emerging threats. They are also aligned with the findings of the IGAD 1325 Assessment Report 2019;
2. They encompass the key thematic areas of IGAD peace and security strategy; and
3. They are the main shared regional challenges related to WPS, which require collective action as articulated and prioritized by the Member States and relevant civil society actors.¹¹

Therefore, the approach used in addressing the WPS issues considers both the pillars and IGAD peace and security strategy priorities, ensuring intentional alignment between the WPS agenda and IGAD broader peace and security priorities.

The eight thematic priorities cut cross the three result areas of the strategy and their corresponding actions and activities. The eight priorities, listed in no particulate order, include the following (See Annex IV for a detailed explanation and possible gender action points):

THEMATIC AREA ONE: Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism [CEWARN] is an IGAD peace and security initiative with a mandate to collect data, conduct analysis and communicate information.

Action points:

- Strengthen IGAD and field monitor capacities to support the production and use of gender data collection and analysis.
- Include women and civil society networks in consultations and data collection; integrate gender into responses and other outcome processes.

THEMATIC AREA TWO: Conflict Related Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is captured as an area of focus in the IGAD gender strategy and the peace and security strategy.

Action points:

- Ensure SGBV is considered in the broad range of IGAD's interventions, including prevention and response.
- IGAD can coordinate with Member States, UN agencies and civil society actors to facilitate SGBV regional initiatives under development.
- IGAD can support data collection, research, and analysis on the nature of SGBV in cross-border conflicts and identify entry points to support prevention, mitigation, and responses to complement national efforts.

¹¹ It is worth noting here that these thematic areas also have implications for IGAD Member States implementation of their respective NAPs and these are cross cutting issues to the four main pillars of the UNSCR 1325

THEMATIC AREA THREE: IGAD Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE). Coordinate collective and proactive regional engagement to prevent and counter the security threat posed by radical ideologies and violent groups.

Actions points: IGAD can include women and young women in the design and response of CVE efforts.

- Analyse the gender dynamics in VE and identify ways to prevent women and young women's involvement.
- Understand the different roles women and young women can play in CVE efforts, especially at the community level, including in community-based policing and support services.

THEMATIC AREA FOUR: IGAD Security Sector Programme. Includes facilitating regional cooperation, coordination, and capacity building on illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) to advance the AU Master Roadmap for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030.

Action points:

- Integrate gender into the design and implementation of policies and programmes.
- Identify and make explicit the linkages in cross cutting agendas especially between SALW and the WPS Agenda and SGBV

THEMATIC AREA FIVE: Disaster Risk Management: IGAD's Disaster Risk Management strategy focuses on strengthening disaster preparedness, mitigation, and resilience in the IGAD region.

Action points:

- Collaborate with relevant UN agencies to integrate gender into the Sendai Framework for DRR.
- Ensure the DRM strategy and accompanying actions include gender considerations.
- Understand the differentiated impacts of climate change and disasters on women and men.

THEMATIC AREA SIX: Migration and displacement. The IGAD Migration programme focuses on promoting durable solutions for refugees and forced displacement in the region, and facilitating safe, orderly, and regular migration.

Action points:

- Ensure women and young women participate in refugee/displaced community groups especially where decisions are made on behalf of the local community.
- Ensure displaced women and young women have equal access to support, assets and services related to health, education, livelihood, etc.

THEMATIC AREA SEVEN: Women in peace diplomacy. IGAD's Mediation Support Unit undertakes mediation efforts to provide support to such interventions, including preventive diplomacy and mediation.

Action points:

- Seek to expand women's participation in peace and post conflict processes across the region, including in IGAD's roster, special envoys, commissions, etc.

Action points for effectively responding to these thematic areas generally include:

- Increase women's participation to create gender balance across the WPS Agenda
- Provide technical support to integrate gender into policies, strategies, program, and intervention design.
- Increase gender data collection and analysis.
- Assess to understand the differentiated impacts on men and women in relation to peace and security challenges.
- Strengthen partnerships, including with UN, regional entities and international organizations.

TWO-PRONG APPROACH: REGIONAL ISSUES AND MEMBER STATE SUPPORTS.

The RAP will employ a two-pronged approach to **tackle regional dimensions of WPS and provide support for Member States** in implementing their respective WPS plans. The framework focuses on cross-border/trans-boundary issues related to WPS rather than focusing on what is already addressed by the individual NAPs. Simultaneously, it seeks to specify the essential supports required by Member States to accelerate the implementation of their NAPs. Combined, the approach allows for tackling the regional aspect, missing at the national level, while supporting and reinforcing national efforts to implement.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR WPS

The Regional action plan is designed to achieve the five pillars of UNSCR 1325 and the IGAD WPS Thematic Areas, through a core set of results. There are seven prioritized thematic issues and the strategic framework employs a two-pronged approach to tackle the regional dimensions of WPS and provide complementary support for Member States in implementing their NAPs. **The new strategy accelerates the implementation and coordination of women, peace, and security commitments across the IGAD region.** The strategy is structured around three outcome areas, with four outputs under each area, and includes key corresponding actions and indicators (see Annex I for the results matrix):

RESULT AREA 1: Regional legal, policy and implementation frameworks in place to enable women, young women and girls' meaningful leadership in conflict prevention and management, political decision-making, peace building and peacemaking processes in IGAD region.

Women and children make up more than 80% of the refugee population in the IGAD region. However, the participation of women in all tiers of political representation and decision- makings on WPS is very limited.

This result area aims to achieve the following:

1. Enhanced internal and Member States capacity to accelerate gender equality in the seven thematic areas of the Peace and Security Sector Strategy (see Annex V for relevant details).
2. Enhanced internal and Member States capacity on gender data collection and analysis in the seven thematic areas.
3. Enhanced internal and Member States capacity to systematically engage women, women leg organizations, CSOS and networks in planning and implementing initiatives and projects.
4. Enhance the capacity of Member states on the implementation of NAPS to accelerate the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict management, political decision-making and peace building.

RESULT AREA 2: Regional laws, policies, implementation mechanisms in place to promote the protection of women, young women and girls' human rights during humanitarian crises, relief and recovery in conflict contexts

Main work planning actions

1. Regional Action Plan on Prevention and Response to VAWG in place to accelerate the protection of human rights of women and girls to be free from violence during conflict, transitional, post-conflict and election settings.
2. Regional coordination mechanism in place to prevent and respond to protect the human

rights of women and girls during conflict, transitional, post-conflict and election settings.

3. Enhanced internal and Member States capacity to protect women and girls during conflict, transitional, post-conflict, elections.
4. Enhanced Capacity of IGAD and Member States on data and reporting management on the protection of the human rights of women and girls

RESULT AREA 3: Strong and functioning regional coordination mechanisms in place to advance WPS commitments in IGAD region.

Main work planning actions

1. Strengthened coordination with the AU offices related to WPS, UN agencies (UN Women) and other relevant RECs (i.e., ICGLR and EAC) to ensure synergies and coordination on related WPS matters, and to acquire additional technical support on WPS issues.
2. Networks, knowledge and communication exchanges platforms strengthened among WPS organizations, CSOS, UN and IGAD and Member States.
3. The IGAD regional peace Forum strengthened and regularly convened for enhancing monitoring and reporting capacity of Member States.
4. Enhanced Capacity of IGAD and Member States on resource mobilization to implement WPS commitments.

IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING, AND LEARNING

A comprehensive **M&E framework matrix has been developed to ensure effective implementation of the strategy and to establish accountability**. The M&E implementation matrix provides the road map to implement, monitor and build the evidence base necessary for achieving results.

The AU Commission (AUC) appointed Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security developed a Continental Results Framework (CRF) for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the WPS Agenda in Africa, which provides a set of indicators that can be shared with Member States, aiming to standardize and streamline metrics and reporting for changes related to the WPS Agenda in Africa (see Annex VII for details about the AU peace and security architecture in relation to WPS). **The M&E implementation matrix has been designed utilizing the CRF of the AU, with the majority of indicators aligned with those of the CRF.** While originally designed for Member State NAPs, most of the indicators have been adjusted to reflect the regional dimension of the work. In cases where there were no indicators to align, independent ones have been developed (see Annex VIII for implementation matrix).

ANNEX I: REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR WPS

The following provides the strategic results framework as part of the overall IGAD RAP for WPS.

AIM:	To accelerate the implementation of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments across the IGAD region							
UNSCR 1325 Pillars	Women’s participation			Prevention	Protection	Relief and recovery	WPS in emerging security threats	
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>1.1. Internal and Member States capacity to accelerate gender equality in the seven thematic areas of the Peace and Security Sector Strategy has been enhanced.</p> <p>1.2. Internal and Member States capacity on WPS data collection and analysis, and utilization in the seven thematic areas has been enhanced.</p> <p>1.3. .</p> <p>1.4. Internal and Member States capacity to systematically engage women, women led organizations, CSOS and networks in planning and implementing WPS Commitments has been enhanced.</p> <p>1.5. Capacity of Member states on implementation of NAPS to accelerate the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict management, political decision-making and peace building has been enhanced.</p>			<p>2.1. Regional Action Plan on Prevention and Response to VAWG in place to accelerate the protection of human rights of women and girls to be free from violence during conflict, transitional, post conflict and election settings.</p> <p>2.2. Effective Regional Coordination Mechanisms in place to protect the human rights of women and girls to be free from violence during conflict, transitional, post conflict and election settings.</p> <p>2.3. Internal and Member States capacity to empower women, young women, and girls to protect their human rights during conflict, transitional, post conflict, elections has been enhanced.</p> <p>2.4. Capacity of IGAD and Member States on data and reporting management on protection of the human rights of women and girls has been enhanced</p>		<p>3.1. Coordination with WPS organizations including AU, UN agencies and other relevant RECs to ensure synergies and coordination on WPS matters, and to acquire additional technical support on WPS issues strengthened.</p> <p>3.2. Networking, Knowledge, and Communication Platforms strengthened among WPS organizations, CSOS, UN and IGAD and Member States</p> <p>3.3. IGAD region Peace Forum Strengthened and regularly convened for enhanced monitoring and reporting capacity of Member States</p> <p>3.4. Capacity of IGAD and Member States on resource Mobilization to implement WPS commitments in the region has been enhanced.</p>		
<p>Thematic priorities</p>	CEWARN	SGBV	P/CVE	SALW	Security Sector and peacekeepers	Disaster Risk Management	Migration and displacement	

Coordination Mechanisms

The Regional Action Plan will fall under the overall leadership and coordination of the IGAD Gender Department at the secretariat level, while various coordination platforms that will support knowledge exchange, peer learning, and experience sharing among member States will be strengthened to support the effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of WPS commitments at Member States and Regional Levels. The IGAD Peace Forum has been one of the platforms where Member States discuss pertinent issues. The IGAD Women, Peace, and Security Forum (IWPSF) was launched in 2013 and it was agreed that a Women and Peace Forum Board comprising of three members from each IGAD Member State represent the Executive, the Legislature, and the Civil Society. The IGAD Secretariat was also tasked with developing a strategic plan and financing plan for the operationalization of the IWPSF.

The IWPSF board, in cooperation with the IGAD Secretariat, IGAD Member States, the AUC, and UN Agencies wherever practicable, taps available resources and abilities to develop ways and means to affirm the role of intercultural cooperation in attaining a just and sustainable peace. At a strategic level, the IWPSF, regional CSOs, Department of Peace Operations, and AU relevant sectors will be brought together to strategically oversee and pass policy decisions.

The IGAD Youth Forum was established with the objective to establish a regional platform led by the youth for the enhancement of peace, security, and stability in the IGAD Region. At a technical level, Member States WPS focal persons, Regional CSOS, the IGAD Peace Forum and the IGAD Youth Peace Forum will facilitate the implementation and monitoring of this RAP.

The following diagram further shows the coordination mechanisms that need to be further strengthened to effectively implement this RAP.

Secretariat Level	IGAD Gender Department
Strategic level	WPS Forum (RAP): MSs, CSOs, DPs, AWLAN, AU
Regional level	Technical task force (RAP): WPS focal points on national level, CSOs, traditional leaders, private sector, youth, and faith based bodies, Femwise, AWLAN, academia, IGAD's divisions.
National level	National Steering Committee (NAPs)

ANNEX II: REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORKS

OUTCOME 1: Regional legal, policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms in place to enable women, young women and girls' meaningful leadership in conflict prevention, and Management, Political decision making and peace processes in IGAD region.

INDICATORS: Percentage of women participating in peace processes at Regional and Member States level
Percentage of women and young women in political leadership positions

Outputs	Indicators (AU CRF alignment)	Disaggregation	Baseline	Targets	Info/means of verification	Frequency	Responsible Party	Budget
1.1. Internal and Member States capacity to accelerate gender equality in the seven thematic areas of the Peace and Security Sector Strategy has been enhanced.	<p>1.1.1. Number of IGAD peace and security programmes integrate gender into their implementation plans (AU P1-1)</p> <p>1.1.2. Percentage of women in decision making positions in peace and security related offices within different levels in IGAD (AU P1-3)</p> <p>1.1.3. Number of women participating in IGAD led mediations, negotiations, peace commissions (AU P2-3 and 10)</p> <p>1.1.4. Number of special envoys for women</p> <p>1.1.5. Percentage of women in IGAD led peacekeeping missions</p> <p>1.1.6. Number of IGAD Interventions on peace and security that advance gender equality (new)</p>			15%	Member States WPS reports IGAD Periodic reports on the RAP implementation			
1.2. Internal and Member States capacity on WPS data collection and analysis and utilization in the seven thematic areas has been enhanced.	<p>1.2.1. Percentage of member states conducting gender, age and disability disaggregated data collection, and analysis (new)</p> <p>1.2.2. Percentage of women/women led CSOs meaningfully participated in WPS negotiations and early warning data collection (AU P1-4b)</p> <p>1.2.3. Percentage of Member States and IGAD Interventions on early warning system that incorporate gender specific data and capture gender related risk (AU P1-4a)</p> <p>1.2.4. Number of Gender data collection and analysis tools in IGAD, MSs and partners (new)</p>			20%	Regional WPS research reports, Member States WPS reports, IGAD periodic reports on WPS			

OUTCOME 1: Regional legal, policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms in place to enable women, young women and girls' meaningful leadership in conflict prevention, and Management, Political decision making and peace processes in IGAD region.								
INDICATORS: Percentage of women participating in peace processes at Regional and Member States level Percentage of women and young women in political leadership positions								
Outputs	Indicators (AU CRF alignment)	Disaggregation	Baseline	Targets	Info/means of verification	Frequency	Responsible Party	Budget
1.3. Internal and Member States capacity to systematically engage women and Women led organizations and CSOS and networks in planning and implementation of WPS Commitments has been enhanced	1.3.1. Percentage of women and women led CSOS actively involved in P/CVE, SALW, Disaster Risk Management, Migration/displacement and GBV related IGAD program and initiatives (AU P2-11 and P3-3) 1.3.2. Percentage of women involved in review and analysing of WPS commitments in peace agreements supported by IGAD (AU P4-1) 1.3.3. Number/ Per cent of women and women's CSOs engaged in humanitarian, relief, recovery, disaster risk, and post conflict programmes supported by IGAD (AU P4-4 and 5)			30%	Member States Reports			
1.4. Capacity of Member states on implementation of NAPS to accelerate the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict management, political decision making and peace building has been enhanced.	1.4.1. Number of women participating in national peace, post-conflict, and transitional processes with IGAD and partner engagement (AU P2-3 and 10) 1.4.2. Number of IGAD capacity building actions in support of MS implementation of NAPs (new) 1.4.3. Number of IGAD diplomatic initiatives in support for MS NAP implementation (new) 1.4.4. Percentage of gender responsive early warning response interventions (AU P1-4d)			15%				

<p>OUTCOME 2: Regional laws policies and implementation mechanisms in place to promote the protection of women, young women and girls’ human rights during humanitarian crisis, relief, and recovery, transitional and conflict as well as during elections.</p> <p>INDICATORS: Number of laws and policies put in place to protect the human rights of women, young women, and girls during emergencies. Availability of legislation and policy implementation mechanisms to protect the human rights of women, young women, and girls. Percentage of women and young women in leadership on peace negotiations</p>							
Outputs	Indicators (AU CRF alignment)	Disaggregation	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Frequency	Responsible Party
<p>2.1. Regional Action Plan on Prevention and Response to VAWG in place to accelerate the protection of human rights of women and girls to be free from violence during conflict, transitional, post conflict and election settings.</p>	<p>2.1.1. Regional Action Plan on Prevention and Response to VAWG in place (NEW)</p> <p>2.1.2. Number of Interventions with clear and results-based monitoring and review frameworks in IGAD supported P/CVE, SALW, Disaster Risk, migration/displacement and GBV related programmes and initiatives (AU P4-6)</p>		0	1	Regional Action Plan report		
<p>2.2. Effective Regional Coordination Mechanisms in place to protect the human rights of women and girls to be free from violence during conflict, transitional, post conflict and election settings.</p>	<p>2.2.1. Number of functional regional coordination platforms consisting of Member States, CSOS, Development Actors and UN (NEW)</p> <p>2.2.2. Existence and functionality of coordination mechanisms among relevant agencies involved in addressing gender-based violence and sexual violence, such as police, healthcare providers, social workers, and legal authorities.</p>			2			
<p>2.3. Internal and Member States capacity to empower women, young women, and girls to protect their human rights during conflict, transitional, post conflict, elections has been enhanced.</p>	<p>2.3.1. Mechanism in place to monitor implementation of gender responsive peace agreements (P4-1a and b)</p> <p>2.3.2. Availability of gender analysis in early warning reports (P1-4c)</p> <p>2.3.3. Number of regional forums held on protection of women and girls’ rights during conflict, post conflict and elections</p> <p>2.3.4. Number of Member states with legislations on prevention of VAWG during elections (new)</p>			15%			

OUTCOME 2: Regional laws policies and implementation mechanisms in place to promote the protection of women, young women and girls’ human rights during humanitarian crisis, relief, and recovery, transitional and conflict as well as during elections.

INDICATORS: Number of laws and policies put in place to protect the human rights of women, young women, and girls during emergencies. Availability of legislation and policy implementation mechanisms to protect the human rights of women, young women, and girls. Percentage of women and young women in leadership on peace negotiations

Outputs	Indicators (AU CRF alignment)	Disaggregation	Baseline	Targets	Means of verification	Frequency	Responsible Party
2.4. Capacity of IGAD and Member States on data and reporting management on protection of the human rights of women and girls has been enhanced.	2.4.1. Number of Member States collecting, analysing and utilizing data for effective planning and gender responsive humanitarian interventions (new) 2.4.2. Number of Member States reporting on WPS Commitments to AU (new)			15%			

<p>OUTCOME 3: Strong and functional regional coordination mechanism and platforms in place that will accelerate the advancement of WPS commitments.</p> <p>INDICATORS: Percentage of mobilized financial resources to advance the WPS commitments in the region Number of regional coordination platforms on women peace and security including functioning and regular convening of those platforms Number of regional cross learning and knowledge sharing platforms on advancing the WPS commitments</p>							
Outputs	Indicators (AU CRF alignment)	Disaggregation	Baseline	Targets	Info/means of verification	Frequency	Responsible Party
<p>3.1. Coordination with WPS organizations including AU, UN agencies and other relevant RECs to ensure synergies and coordination on WPS matters, and to acquire additional technical support on WPS issues has been strengthened.</p>	<p>3.1.1. Number of IGAD partners providing technical inputs for WPS (new)</p> <p>3.1.2. Number of established partnerships with UN, AU and other relevant organizations focusing on WPS</p> <p>3.1.3. Number of gender responsive interventions undertaken focusing on the thematic priorities IGAD on WPS (new)</p>			3			
	<p>3.2. Networking, Knowledge, and Communication Platforms strengthened among WPS organizations, CSOS, UN and IGAD and Member States</p>	<p>3.2.1. Number of knowledge sharing and communication platforms established among CSOs and other WPS organizations (new)</p> <p>3.2.2. Presence of a regional CSO outreach plan for WPS (new)</p>			20%		
	<p>3.3. IGAD region Peace Forum Strengthened and regularly convened for enhanced monitoring and reporting capacity of Member States</p>	<p>3.3.1. Number of peace forums conducted /year</p> <p>3.3.2. Number of Member states, CSOs and partners regularly participating in peace forums</p>			40%		
<p>3.4. Capacity of IGAD and Member States on resource Mobilization to implement WPS commitments in the region has been enhanced.</p>	<p>3.4.1. Amount of resources mobilized to advance WPS Commitments</p> <p>3.4.2. Number of new donor relationships established</p> <p>3.4.3. Percentage of budget allocated to WPS IGAD peace and security related (AU P1-2)</p>			20%			

ANNEX III: UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO WPS.

The Women, Peace and Security agenda is comprised of 10 UN Security Council resolutions (For details link to the following: [1325](#), [1820](#), [1888](#), [1889](#), [1960](#), [2106](#), [2122](#), [2242](#), [2467](#), and [2493](#))

Women's Leadership in Peace Making and Conflict Prevention

UNSCR (year)	Overview
1325 (2000)	Affirms the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, and post-conflict peace building and governance.
1889 (2009)	Stresses the need to strengthen implementation and establishes indicators for the monitoring of resolution 1325; calls for the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Security Council on women's participation and inclusion in peace building.
2122 (2013)	Addresses persistent gaps in implementing the WPS agenda; positions gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to international peace and security; recognizes the differential impact of all violations in conflict on women and girls, and calls for consistent application of WPS across the Security Council's work.
2242 (2015)	Establishes the Informal Experts Group (IEG); addresses persistent obstacles to implementation including financing and institutional reforms; focuses on greater integration of the agendas on WPS and counterterrorism and countering violent extremism; calls for improved Security Council working methods on WPS.
2493 (2019)	Calls for full implementation of all previous resolutions on Women, Peace and Security; requests the UN to develop context-specific approaches for women's participation in all UN-supported peace processes; and urges Member States to ensure and provide timely support for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, including in the mechanisms set up to implement and monitor peace agreements.

Prevention of and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence

UNSCR (year)	Overview
1820 (2008)	Recognizes sexual violence as a tactic of war and a matter of international peace and security that necessitates a security response.
1888 (2009)	Strengthens efforts to end sexual violence in conflict by establishing a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and team of experts on rule of law and sexual violence in conflict, deploying expertise and improving coordination among stakeholders involved in addressing conflict-related sexual violence
1960 (2010)	Establishes a monitoring and reporting mechanism on sexual violence in conflict.
2106 (2013)	Focuses on accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict, stresses women's political and economic empowerment.
2467 (2019)	Positions conflict-related sexual violence as firmly rooted in the broader women, peace and security agenda; stresses justice and accountability efforts; calls for support and protection to women's civil society organizations; and calls for attention to the issues of children born of rape.

ANNEX IV: IGAD MEMBER STATE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS IN FULFILLMENT OF UNSCR 1325

The following provides a summary of the respective NAPs presented in alignment with the four main pillars of the UNSCR 1325: Participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery. A link to the complete NAP is provided except for Somalia, which has not officially launched its NAP yet.

Djibouti (2017-2020)



1. **Participation:** Increase women's effective participation in all matters related to peace and security
2. **Prevention:** Prevent all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including abuse and exploitation
3. **Protection:** Increase women's and girl's agency through prevention of violence, addressing impunity, providing access to justice and ensuring related support services.

<http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/djibouti/>

Ethiopia – Initial NAP under development



Eritrea – No NAP



Kenya (2020-2024) – Version II



1. **Participation:** To increase the inclusion and effective engagement of women at all decision-making levels in peace, security, and disaster management.
2. **Prevention:** To enhance the prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls and vulnerable groups through gender sensitive institutional, structural, and social transformations.
3. **Protection:** To protect women, girls and other vulnerable groups including migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons in all forms of conflict and violence including access to justice and redress.
4. **Relief and Recovery:** To ensure women and girls have capacity to effectively engage in all relief and recovery, and have access to services in a humanitarian setting including periods of disaster and crisis.

<https://gender.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/KNAP-II-digital-30-Apr-2.pdf>

Somalia (2022-2025) – To be launched tentatively June 2022



1. **Participation:** Increase women's participation in political and peace processes, and seek gender parity (50/50) in all governance.
2. **Prevention:** Legal frameworks to uphold women's rights, end violence against women and girls, and create access to justice; and increase women's engagement in the prevention of and countering violent extremism.
3. **Protection:** Eliminate sexual and gender-based violence in all forms.
4. **Relief and Recovery:** Integrate gender into climate change and resilience programming; increase access to and ownership of assets and resources for women's economic empowerment; integrate gender into and increase women's engagement in reconciliation and peace processes as the centre of transitional justice.

South Sudan (2015-2020) – Second iteration under consultation



1. **Participation:** Increase women's participation as leaders in the state-building and reconstruction processes including Security Sector Reform (SSR).
2. **Prevention:** Prevent all forms of sexual and gender-based violence; and SSR includes a focus on prevention.
3. **Protection:** Legal frameworks are developed and implemented protecting the rights of women and girls; SSR staff are trained in women's rights; health and other essential services are accessible for women and girls
4. **Relief and Recovery:** Integrate gender into DDR, reconstruction, development assistance; laws and policies promote women's equal access to and opportunities for economic employment.

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/assets/documents/2019/NAP/South-Sudan-NAP-2015-2020.pdf>

Sudan (2020-2022)



1. **Participation:** Ensure effective participation of women in political, legislative, peace building and SDG processes, and increase their presence in decision-making positions within the state.
2. **Prevention:** Develop gender sensitive policies, laws and legislation that implement Resolution 1325, ensuring accountability for women's rights, and foster social responsibility to combat violence against women.
3. **Protection:** Enforce laws that protect women and girls, ensure they can access services especially survivors of violence including justice, reproductive health and rehabilitation supports
4. **Relief and Recovery:** Involving women in the design and implementation of DDR, relief and reconstruction programmes.

<http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/sudan-nap/>

Uganda (2021-2025) -Version III



1. **Participation:** Promote the meaningful participation of women in leadership and governance at all levels.
2. **Prevention:** Prevent all forms of violence and promote peace within and across families, communities, and the nation.
3. **Protection:** Strengthen the institutions and coordination mechanisms to implement the WPS agenda.
4. **Relief and Recovery:** Strengthen the capacities and build resilience of women to prevent and mitigate natural and human made disasters, and women's sustainable livelihoods.

<http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Uganda-2021-2025.pdf>

ANNEX V: THE FOUR PILLARS OF UNSCR1325

UNSCR 1325 is organized into four mandates, which is related to one of the four basic pillars: Participation, Protection, Prevention, and Relief and Recovery:¹²

1. **Participation:** Calls for increased participation of women at all levels of decision-making; in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict; in peace processes and post-conflict transitions, as soldiers, police, and civilian leaders; and as Special Envoys and Representatives.
Read more about [the importance of women's participation in peace building](#)
2. **Protection:** Calls specifically for the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, including in emergency and humanitarian situations through to post- conflict transitions.
Read more about [protections against sexual and gender-based violence](#)
3. **Prevention:** Calls for strengthening strategies in the prevention of violence against women, including by prosecuting those responsible for violations; advancing women's rights; and supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.
Read more about [gendered approaches to reducing fragility](#); [read more about preventing sexual exploitation and abuse](#)
4. **Relief and recovery:** Calls for integration of gender into all aspects of relief and recovery measures to address crises through a gendered lens.
Read more about [addressing sexual exploitation and abuse by international interveners](#)

¹² https://www.usip.org/gender_peacebuilding/about_UNSCR_1325#:~:text=What%20are%20the%20four%20pillars,Prevention%2C%20and%20Relief%20and%20Recovery.

ANNEX VI: REGIONAL THEMATIC PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW RAP

Seven thematic issues are prioritized in the new RAP. The following provides a brief description and potential gender entry action points for implementing the RAP:

THEMATIC AREA ONE: Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism [CEWARN] is an IGAD peace and security initiative with a mandate to collect data, conduct analysis and communicate information.

Action points:

- Strengthen IGAD and field monitor capacities to support the production and use of gender data collection and analysis; Include women and civil society networks in consultations and data collection; integrate gender into responses and other outcome processes.

THEMATIC AREA TWO: Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is captured as an area of focus in the IGAD gender strategy, and the peace and security strategy.

Action points:

- Ensure SGBV is considered in the broad range of IGAD's interventions including prevention and response; IGAD can coordinate with Member States, UN agencies and civil society actors to facilitate SGBV regional initiatives under development.
- IGAD can support data collection, research, and analysis on the nature of SGBV in cross-border conflicts and identify entry points to support prevention, mitigation and responses to complement national efforts.

THEMATIC AREA THREE: IGAD's Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE). Coordinate collective and proactive regional engagement to prevent and counter the security threat posed by radical ideologies and violent groups.

Actions points:

- Include women and young women in the design and response of CVE efforts.
- Analyse the gender dynamics in VE and identify ways to prevent women and young women's involvement.
- Understand the different roles women and young women can play in CVE efforts especially at the community level including in community-based policing and support services.

THEMATIC AREA FOUR: IGAD's Security Sector Programme. Includes facilitating regional cooperation, coordination, and capacity building on illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and to advance the AU Master Roadmap for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030.

Action points:

- Integrate gender into the design and implementation of policies and programmes; and
- Identify and make explicit the linkages in cross cutting agendas especially between SALW, the WPS Agenda and SGBV.

THEMATIC AREA FIVE: Disaster Risk Management. IGAD's Disaster Risk Management strategy focuses on strengthening disaster preparedness, mitigation, and resilience in the IGAD region.

Action points:

- Collaborate with relevant UN agencies to integrate gender into the Sendai Framework for DRR.
- Ensure the DRM strategy and accompanying actions include gender considerations.
- Understand the differentiated impacts of climate change and disasters on women and men.

THEMATIC AREA SIX: Migration and displacement. The IGAD Migration programme focuses on promoting durable solutions for refugees and forced displacement in the region, as well as facilitating safe, orderly, and regular migration.

Action points:

- Ensure the active participation of women and young women in refugee/displaced community groups, especially in decision-making processes affecting the local community.
- Ensure displaced women and young women have equal access to support, assets and services related to health, education, livelihood, etc.

THEMATIC AREA SEVEN: Women in peace diplomacy. IGAD's Mediation Support Unit undertakes mediation efforts to provide support to such interventions, including preventive diplomacy and mediation.

Action points:

- Seek to expand women's participation in peace and post-conflict processes across the region, including in IGAD's roster, special envoys, commissions, etc.
- **Gender action points:** 1. Ensure women and young women participation in refugee/displaced community groups especially where decisions are made on behalf of the local community; 2. Ensure displaced women and young women have equal access to support, assets and services related to health, education, livelihood, etc.
- **Women in peace diplomacy:** IGAD's Mediation Support Unit undertakes mediation efforts to provide support to such interventions including, preventive diplomacy and mediation.¹³
- **Gender action points:** 1. Seek to expand women's participation in peace and post conflict processes across the region including in IGAD's roster, special envoys, commissions, etc.

13 <https://mediation.igad.int/index.php>

ANNEX VII: IGAD WPS RELATED FRAMEWORKS AND STRATEGIES AND RECS STRATEGIES FOR WPS

The following provides a summary of the main IGAD gender related frameworks and strategies that are relevant to the WPS Agenda in its region.

Frameworks and Strategies	Relevance to WPS Agenda
Gender Policy Framework and Strategy	<p>The goal of the IGAD Gender Strategy (2022-2025) is to support implementation of commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment in Member States, and at regional and international levels. The specific objectives are to: Promote gender-responsive policies, legislations, administrative systems, processes and decision making at Member States, regional and international levels; Strengthen coordination and coherence among development actors for the effective implementation of national, regional and international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment in the region; and Improve gender mainstreaming practice in IGAD's sectoral focus areas and priorities/programmes at regional and Member State levels.</p> <p>The Strategy is at a draft Stage</p>
Drought, Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative Strategy	<p>The goal of the IDDRSI strategy is to contribute to enhancing resilience to the environmental impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources. The strategy focuses on eight priority intervention areas (PIA) including those relevant to WPS, inter alia, disaster risk reduction (PIA 4); conflict prevention, resolution, and peace building (PIA 6); as well as human capital, gender and social development.</p> <p>https://resilience.igad.int/</p>
IGAD Peace and Security Strategy 2021-2025	<p>To enhance peace, security, and stability in the IGAD region, the Strategy outlines the five key outcome areas, which need to be achieved. In two of those outcome areas, the WPS Agenda is referenced with respect to the need for gender mainstreaming across the Strategy, its inclusion in related policy and programming, the promotion and protection of women's rights, monitoring gender equality commitments, and enhancing partnerships with AU and UN to this end.</p>
Regional Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	<p>The Strategy (2018) recognizing the gender dynamics of violent extremism, IGAD through its relevant agencies, will create a gender forum to engage women leaders, unions and civil society organizations working with girls and women in implementing programmes to prevent and counter radicalization at the community level. It will convene workshops to provide leadership training, mediation, and conflict resolution skills, strengthening existing women's networks and organizations to engage in activities to reduce the threat of radicalization to violence.</p> <p>https://cve.igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-IGAD-Regional-Strategy-for-Preventing-and-Countering-Violent-Extremism.pdf</p>
Regional Action Plan on WPS	<p>The Regional Action Plan (2011-2015) focuses on a series of strategic actions that MSs and IGAD can implement in support of realizing UNSCR 1325 and 1820, which are rooted in the four pillars of Resolution 1325: participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery.</p> <p>http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Regional%20Action%20Plan%20IGAD.pdf</p>

Other relevant Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

The two following RECs are relevant to IGAD in that they have shared Member States. These RECs also developed Regional Action Plans on WPS:

East African Community (EAC) Regional Framework for Implementation of UNSCR 1325

The EAC 1325 Frameworks focuses on three strategies to realize the four pillars of UNSCR 1325: Promote equal participation of women and men in all peace initiatives at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level; integrate gender perspectives in the resolution of armed conflicts or other conflicts, and foreign occupation; and carry out research and identify innovative mechanisms for containing violence and for conflict resolution. The regional plan was developed to assist EAC Partners States in accelerating the implementation of existing International, Regional and National commitments on WPS. Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan are members of EAC in addition to IGAD.

<http://fawe.org/girlsadvocacy/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/EAC-Regional-Framework-on-UNSCR-1325.pdf>

International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

The Great Lakes Regional Action Plan on WPS (2019-2024) focuses on 36 priority actions that are aligned with the four pillars of UNSCR 1325. The main outcomes include creating a special fund to finance the WPS Agenda in the region, increase women's participation, including young women, in all peace and security matters; ensure institutions are gender responsive and provide access to services and justice for survivors of violence, and advancement of the research agenda on WPS.

<https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/RAP-2018-2023-IGGLR.pdf>

ANNEX VIII: AFRICAN UNION WPS RELATED POLICIES

The following provides a summary and link to the main AU policies that are relevant to the WPS Agenda in Africa.

Title	Relevance to WPS Agenda
<p>Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)</p>	<p>The adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) (1998) and the additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, commonly known as the Maputo Protocol, the AU acknowledges the imperative of protecting the rights of women and girls, through raising public awareness, supporting the passage of progressive laws, inclusive development and supporting women's roles in peace processes.</p> <p>https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37077-treaty-charter_on_rights_of_women_in_africa.pdf</p>
<p>Solemn Declaration of Gender Equality in Africa (2004)</p>	<p>The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) commits the Heads of State and governments of AU MSs to ensuring the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace processes, including conflict prevention, resolution and management, and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa. In addition, the SDGEA calls for the application of the AU gender parity principle to all organs of the AU, RECs and MSs</p> <p>https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38956-doc-assembly_au_decl_12_iii_e.pdf</p>
<p>Framework for Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (2006)</p>	<p>Recognizing that the WPS Agenda not only relates to situations of armed conflict, but also includes post-conflict peace building, the AU Framework for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) emphasizes the need to ensure that women are involved in the design and implementation of PCRD programmes.</p> <p>https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/39185-doc-141._african_union_policy_on_post-conflict_reconstruction_and_development.pdf</p>
<p>Gender Policy (2008)</p>	<p>The AU Gender Policy provides guidelines on the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, and compels AU institutions, organs, RECs and MSs to integrate the gender perspective into all policies, programmes and activities, including promoting the effective participation of women in peacekeeping and security and in efforts aimed at reconciliation and PCRD.</p> <p>https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/Gender/African_Union_Gender_Policy_2009.pdf</p>
<p>Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (2009)</p>	<p>The Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa acknowledges that women are more affected by displacement and calls for measures to protect women who are internally displaced.</p> <p>https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36846-treaty-kampala_convention.pdf</p>

Title	Relevance to WPS Agenda
Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform (2011)	<p>The Policy Framework for SSR underlines the need to be particularly aware of women's and men's security differentiated needs during security sector reform (SSR) processes.</p> <p>https://issat.dcaf.ch/download/60132/986021/AU_SSR_policy_framework_en.pdf</p>
Agenda 2063 (2015)	<p>The AU Agenda 2063 positions gender equality at the centre of Africa's development and commits to end all forms of oppression and gender-based discrimination.</p> <p>https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf</p>
Continental Results Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of the WPS Agenda (2018-2028)	<p>The AUC was the first intergovernmental body to appoint a Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security. One key initiative of that office was the development of a Continental Results Framework (CRF) for Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of the WPS Agenda in Africa which provides a series of indicators that can be shared with MSs.</p> <p>https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/continental_results_framework_on_wps_agenda_in_africa.pdf</p>



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