REPORT OF WILPF CAMEROON-GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my real pleasure to present WILPF Cameroon’s annual report, at the end of its first year of existence.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is one of the oldest non-governmental organizations advocating for peace in the world. In 1915, 1,200 women from a diversity of cultures and languages came together in The Hague during the First World War, to study, make known and eliminate the causes of war.

They issued resolutions, sent out delegations to most countries engaged in the First World War and created the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF for short, through which women could work for peace and freedom by claiming women’s rights and responsibility to participate in decision-making in all aspects of peace and security.
They had to overcome many travel difficulties and the opposition of belligerent governments, including that of Britain, which prohibited its delegates from attending. The great merit of the Congress was to bring together representatives of enemy countries and pave the way for the organization of the world after the war, through a program that foresaw the League of Nations.

They gave themselves the mission to end and prevent war, to ensure that women are represented at all levels in peacebuilding processes, defend the human rights of women and promote social, economic and political justice.

As far as WILPF CAMEROON is concerned, its story started in 2012 in Istanbul-Turkey during the AWID forum where the current president, Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo, got in touch with WILPF by visiting their stand and attending some of their sessions during that important gathering. She was greatly impressed by the work WILPF was doing all over the world on peace building and most especially by the data provided on militarism, peacekeeping Operations, arm expenses by countries which was disproportional to efforts on human rights in general and women’s rights in particular, just to name a few. She got to clearly make the link between women’s rights and arms proliferation and was astonished to see how countries secured huge budgets on getting arms at the detriment of other sectors including women’s human rights. She felt compelled to ensure Cameroonian women get involved in this global quest for social Justice and that is the reason why she decided to apply for membership into WILPF and had to wait for two years to see her membership approved.

Thus in January 2014, Cameroon officially had a WILPF Group and members were set to work. Since then, the Group has conducted several activities that we have the pleasure to present in this report.

Cameroon has long been considered as an example of a peaceful country but now, the country is surrounded by several war torn countries and bears the stamp of a "danger zone" due to Escalating violence at Sub-regional and national levels caused by Boko Haram terrorist group and Seleka rebels from CAR.

Faced with the many external challenges threatening social stability of Cameroon, civil society, on the initiative of WILPF Cameroon, with the support of development partners including UN Women and under the patronage of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, undertook an initiative to launch the process of drafting and adopting a National Action Plan (NAP) for SCR 1325. Adopted unanimously in October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 is the first resolution underlining the importance of full participation of women in...
equality conditions, in prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in the building and maintenance of peace. It is the culmination of over 20 years of women's struggles, advocacy and sustained lobbying; and it is a political framework that requires the necessity to consider the specific needs of women and the gender dimension in all phases of the peace process.

Regarding this, several information and awareness raising workshops on 1325 were held and more than 400 strategic actors trained for wider dissemination. I express my sincere gratitude to UN Women Cameroon and partner organizations working on peace issues such as Women's Peace Initiatives, Justice and Peace Commission, CIPAD, Youth for Peace, FEPELM and HEPROGES, to name just a few. I hope that the popularization of SCR resolution 1325 be accelerated in 2015 and that all stakeholders support the process of developing a NAP for Cameroon and advocate for its effective implementation, as it is a serious alternative that will enable women to become involved in conflict prevention and management of crises.

The first steps of WILPF Cameroon have not been made without difficulties, the main one being the lack of permanent staff to ensure the smooth implementation and daily monitoring of activities. The other difficulties include lack of financial resources and ICT skills for greater impact.

In 2015, WILPF organizes from April 22nd to 29th important events marking its 100th anniversary on the theme "Women's Power to Stop War". This centenary will bring together all WILPF sections and will consist of two major events, including the Congress and the Conference which will bring out a new agenda for peace for the 21st century. WILPF Cameroon will participate in this event to share experiences and learn from others in order to provide more adequate responses to social crises in Cameroon and in the sub region.

Thank you in advance for the support that you will give to WILPF Cameroon in order to participate in this historic event. I know I can count on you.

Finally, on behalf of all members of WILPF Cameroon and on my own behalf, I would like to address our deepest appreciation and gratitude to WILPF International, WILPF Peace Women program, WILPF Sweden, WILPF DRC, and WILPF Nigeria for their financial, technical and moral support. I also thank the media, NGOs, UN Women Cameroon, MINPROFF and all WILPF Cameroon members. I extend to all my best wishes for the New Year and long live peace in Cameroon.

INSTALLATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WILPF CAMEROON GROUP SO FAR
Since its installation on January, 31st 2014, WILPF Cameroon-Group has conducted several activities.
• **JANUARY 2014**:  
The year began with the installation of WILPF Cameroon Group by WILPF DRC on 31 January 2014 with the financial support of WILPF Sweden. The ceremony was held at the conference room of the sub divisional delegation Douala 1 of the Ministry of Women's empowerment and the Family. The delegation from the DRC for the occasion consisted of the Chairlady (Mrs. Annie Matundu), the Secretary General (Lisette Mavungu) and the Rapporteur (Sandra Kanyeba Kambala). The new group installed benefited from the presentation of the history of WILPF presented by Annie Matundu.  
WILPF Cameroun group executive is made of 7 members and total membership is 13.

• **February 2014**:  
- The 2nd activity of the year was the training workshop of twenty CSO’s leaders on UNSCR 1325 during which participants were informed about the content of the said resolution. This workshop was held on **February 1, 2014** and was facilitated by Ms. Annie Matundu, Chairlady of WILPF DRC.
-Then, on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Feminine Genital Mutilation on the **6th February 2014**, the Chairlady of WILPF- Cameroon Group was invited as a panelist at an awareness raising conference. It was held in the conference hall of the Littoral Region. The theme for the 7th Edition,  *"Synergy actions of governments, the international community and civil society to accelerate the achievement of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation"* concerned all social actors and called on the need for multisectoral action to eradicate this phenomenon which is a violation of women's human rights.

Throughout her presentation, the President of WILPF Cameroon -Group emphasized on two things: One, FGM constitutes a serious threat to peace; and secondly, the implementation of UNSCR 1325 as an important tool to fight against FGM.

**February 12**, WILPF Cameroon-Group held its first meeting. The discussions focused on the development of an action plan for 2014 and the preparations for the celebration of the International Women’s Day 2014. The action plan adopted is focused on 3 key areas namely: Popularizing WILPF and 1325 UNSCR in Cameroon, celebrating WILPF 99th anniversary and launching the activities of the centenary, and commemorating days devoted to women's rights in particular and human rights in general.

**On February 15**, the President of WILPF Cameroon -Group was invited by the Panafrican TV **Afrique Media** to talk about the theme ‘’*African woman and her tradition and culture’’* and also to explain what WILPF is all about. During the program, she presented the African woman as one who represents more than 50% of the 1.075 billion (2011) Africa’s population and is characterized by her customs, traditions, beliefs that make her to be ‘’*the mother of’’, ‘’*the wife of’’* and not having a proper identity. Despite some significant progress, African women are still facing brutal forms of violence and deprivation of their rights. **The African woman rarely has a proper identity**
because of the legacy of patriarchal societies; she is the heroine who is overwhelmed and not celebrated because her success is drowned out by the dominant male ego. Despite these huge discriminations against them, African women represent approximately 80% of the continent's economy and as noted by Catherine Ashton, "We know that everywhere in the world where women are involved, success follows. It is therefore in everyone's interest to include women in all aspects of society."

March 2014:
The month of March was particularly rich in activities and events due to the commemoration of the International Women's Day. WILPF Cameroon Group organized several types of activities including educative talks, awareness raising conferences, media campaigns and conferences around the genesis of the International Women’s Day, the MDGs and UNSCR 1325. Activities began on March 5 with a conference in the banquet hall of the Littoral region organized in collaboration with the regional delegation of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the
Family (MINPROFF). This conference was organized around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which most of them are still to be achieved in Cameroon.

-Then, on March 6th members went to Tombel in the South-west region where they interacted with the students of two schools, the bilingual high school and the Regina Coeli College. The talks with the students was essentially focused on the genesis and importance of International Women’s day celebration, the struggles of women for rights, the implementation of MDGs, UNSCR 1325 and the need for greater involvement of women and youth in peace building processes.

-On March 7, WILPF Cameroon Group went to Bonabéri, a suburb of the Douala city, where members met with rural women associations on the same themes. The majority of these women felt that the celebration of IWD is not, as some people claims, a simple "Women's Day" or a carnival opening the door to all kinds of abuses on women, but a day for increased awareness raising and advocacy, which states that women are human beings and full citizens, and in which they take stock of actions and consider new opportunities for improving their conditions. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss and propose the types of actions that can be taken to effectively commemorate this important day. The recommendations were among others the need to work in synergy, share experiences for mutual development.
The International Women’s Day culminated by a number activities on the **D-Day (March 8th)**, a day during which members of the Cameroon group first attended the official parade marking the end of a week full of activities and then a round table discussion organized by the NGO ‘‘**Un Monde Avenir’’** on the topic "**Self exclusion of women in employment.**"

Following the parade, two members were invited to two television channels to reach out to a larger audience with the messages shared throughout the whole week.
-On Wednesday, March 19, WILPF Cameroon-Group held its second monthly meeting. The main items on the agenda were: Update on annual work plan, preparations for the celebration of the 99th of anniversary WILPF scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2014, the preparations of the WILPF Africa regional meeting scheduled from 1st to 5th April in Cape Town. On the occasion of this anniversary, WILPF Cameroon-Group plans are to organize a conference to popularize WILPF, share information on1325 with the population and proceed with the official launch of the preparations for the centenary.

- Saturday, March 23, WILPF Cameroon-Group took part in a conference on "Early and forced marriages," which are a flagrant violation of human rights and a threat to social peace. The discussions focused on the analysis of their magnitude in Cameroon, their impact on the health of women and especially on measures to eradicate this problem taking into account that FGM is punishable by law through Article 350 of the Penal Code. Myriam Megnijio, WILPF Cameroon Group Rapporteur attended the said conference.

- On March 25, a delegation of Cameroon WILPF-Group made of the President (Sylvie NDONGMO), the Secretary General of WILPF Cameroon-Group (Mariane EBANDA Epse NONBO) and the Focal Point representative of Women Peace Initiatives for the Centre South and East Regions (Beatrice ANO) visited Mrs. MIAN Djangone Rachelle Anne Marie UN WOMEN representative in Cameroon. During the meeting, the discussions focussed around security issues in Cameroon and the role women should play in the process of peace building. Key issues related to peace and security in Cameroon were listed as follows:

  The growing border insecurity due to armed conflicts in neighboring countries;
  - The constant threat of Boko Haram in the regions of the Far North;
  - The threat of Seleka rebels from Central Africa Republic in eastern Cameroon with the growing number of Central African refugees in the regions of the East and Adamaoua (more than 150,000
Central African refugees so far).
These concerns raised the problem of insecurity and social cohesion and led us to ask ourselves the question how can political dialogue be conducted? How do we ensure gender is integrated in the humanitarian response to the crisis?
Ms. MIAN recommended that we propose a plan for the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 directed at high-risk areas such as the East, Adamaoua, North and Far North regions of Cameroon.
We also discussed about involving gender mainstreaming and the civilian component in peace support operations.
Some solutions proposals identified were awareness raising and information talks as well as workshops for traditional, community, religious and administrative leaders and for the communities in conflict management, mediation and active non-violence.
The meeting ended on these recommendations and WILPF Cameroon promised to submit as soon as possible to UN Women a draft proposal based on the concerns raised.

* April 2014 :

**From •1st to 5th April: Participation at a regional conference in Cape Town on the theme:**

“Women’s power to stop war”

WILPF-CAMEROON, represented by Ms Sylvie NDONGMO and Mariane NONBO was privileged to take part in the African regional conference that was held in Cape Town, in South Africa last April. The conference, organized by WILPF – SWEDEN, in collaboration with the international office was attended by the NIGERIA and sections DRC, and the GHANA and CAMEROON groups. The objective of the meeting was to create a synergy between Africa WILPF sections present in the continent. It provided the much needed opportunity for different sections representing WILPF to meet, know one another better, share experiences so as to develop a common strategy to face their respective huddles. The status of UNSCR 1325 in each country was also examined. It was observed that Cameroon was one of the 146 countries in the world that has not yet adopted a National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325. WILPF CAMEROON’s focus was therefore to be tuned on actions geared toward lobbying, advocacy to prompt the government to adopt a National Action Plan. Other activities included the mastery by WILPF Cameroon members of SCR 1325, identification of the different actors, carrying out sensitization activities on 1325, working in synergy with the government and CSOs among others.
April 9th: Monthly Meeting

The main agenda for this meeting was a brief report of the conference in Cape, Town; the planning of the follow up meeting, and preparation for the celebration of WILPF’s 99th anniversary. We drew a definite program for the celebration of this day and printed out invitations to distribute.

April 28th: Organization WILPF’s 99th anniversary and launching of preparations for the centenary

This date was marked by the celebration of WILPF’s 99th anniversary and launching of preparations for the centenary to be celebrated in April 28, 2015 in The Hague. WILPF CAMEROON organized several activities culminating in a conference for this purpose. This was a good opportunity to introduce WILPF, circumstances surrounding its creation, its mission, objectives, events that marked its history; its impact in resolving conflicts, WILPF CAMEROON’s recent birth under the sponsorship of WILPF Sweden and technical support from WILPF DRC. It was also an opportunity to inform participants about the existence of SCR 1325 starting thereby its popularization.

After the launching of the celebration activities coordinated by the President of WILPF CAMEROON, the next activity was to encourage participants to complete the prepared wall banner with Peace Words and Peace acts to make them aware and be involved in the struggle for the preservation of peace.
May 2014

May 1st: WILPF Cameroon introduced an application at UNESCO to become member of the Women’s Network for a culture of peace.

09 May: 1st program of WILPF-CAMEROON at radio Dynamic Fm Douala

After the celebration of WILPF’s 99th anniversary, the radio station called Dynamic Fm, approached WILPF-CAMEROON to invite her for a program in issues relating to women. Thus, Dynamic FM and WILPF-CAMEROON formed a partnership allocating time every Thursday between 10am and 12pm to WILPF-CAMEROON to sensitize listeners on its activities and on SCR 1325. On the first program, Myriam Megnijio, rapporteur and Mrs. NDONGMO President, represented WILPF-CAMEROON.
09th May 2014: Participation at the installation ceremony of the Regional Delegate of the Ministry of Women’s empowerment and family, Littoral Region (MINPROFF)
The President of WILPF Cameroon attended the above installation ceremony and participated fully. It is worth noting that it is a big partner with WILPF in the fight for woman’s rights. The president congratulated the new Delegate, and reassured her of the total availability of the association to make the Delegate’s work easier.

14th May: Monthly meeting
Like every second Wednesday of the month, WILPF-CAMEROON held its monthly meeting at its office located in Akwa. The meeting assessed the combination of the 99th anniversary celebrations and the launching of preparations for the centenary as well as the preparation of the follow up workshop scheduled for end of May. Thus, a program was adopted, the list of participants drawn up and an organizing committee put in place.

22nd May 2014: Participation at the Culture and Peace conference
WILPF Cameroon was invited by the Association CULTURE AND PEACE led by Dr. Albert Mandjack, vice dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Douala to a conference on peace building. It is a newly created association that has as an objective education and mentoring of youth on the need for permanent peace. Their slogan is "citizens of the world ... cultivate peace."
The association aims at making a contribution in the peace building process by stressing on prevention as she observes that the world is challenged with many conflicts and Cameroon more specifically is paying the price of being in between worn torn countries. Its main focus is education,
training, advocacy and volunteerism. It is therefore as a peace organization that WILPF Cameroon took part at this conference.

**May 29, 2014:** Participation in the conference about the symbolism of ‘‘wearing a veil’’ The conference was organized on the occasion of the 3rd World day of the veil, by the "Princess Kadija Foundation", in partnership with the Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Women’s empowerment and the Family as well as with the wife of the governor of the Littoral region. The objective was to enlighten the public on the symbolism of the veil which is not a symbol of oppression or submission but a way to live a religion and thereby women wearing the veil should not be stigmatized or mistaken for terrorists. Indeed the veil exists not only with Islam, but in different religions as well and it protects chastity and earns respect. Panelists from different religions backgrounds were represented and they all called for tolerance, peace among religions for a peaceful society. After visiting some stands prepared for the occasion, the activity ended with a statement "Bring back our girl" in honor of the kidnapped Chibok girls in Nigeria by Boko Haram.

**May 31: Organization of the African Region follow up meeting**

On the 31\textsuperscript{st} on May 2014, WILPF CAMEROON held a feedback workshop of the African regional conference in the conference hall of “FEMNET CAMEROON” Douala. The overall objective of this workshop was to share lessons learned from the African Regional Conference of WILPF held from 1 to5 April 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa and begin the process of setting up a pool of experts to put in place the ground work of 1325 in Cameroon. 15 participants from civil society organizations, media and members of WILPF CAMEROON took part at the training. They noted that Cameroon is member of United Nations therefore is bound to implement 1325. Unfortunately, till now, Cameroon has no National Action Plan on that important UNSC resolution. Most CSO’s in Cameroon, political organizations and administrative Institutions are not aware of the existence of the UNSC Resolution 1325; Sensitization on 1325 done by civil society organizations and lobbying vis-à-vis the State are intended to develop strategies for successful implementation of Resolution 1325 in Cameroon; Participants came out with the idea that, to successfully implement SCR 1325 in Cameroon, more sensitization needed to be done for majority to be aware of the existence of that resolution and the use they can make out of it. The idea is to emphasize during the sensitization, advocacy and lobby activities on the fact that 1325 is also about Prevention and not only Conflict resolution. Another important thing is to make good use of UN Women and other human rights institutions and
Many obstacles hinder the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in Cameroon. The biggest obstacle being the fact that peace issues are taken for granted and not given high priority because the country consider itself a peaceful country and does not seem to understand the importance of conflict prevention.

Other obstacles include lack of political will on the part of the Government, absence of national action plan on 1325, the absence of implementing legislation on 1325, patriarchal structures, lack of funds etc…

The main obstacles WILPF Cameroon is facing to implement SCR 1325 related work are amongst others: Poor participation of women at different activities; Lack of funding; Lack of permanent staff to facilitate office work; Poor knowledge on the use of internet facilities (webinar, web 2.0); Poor working conditions (Insufficient equipment such as computers, printers, scanner etc)

Participants however noted that is it crucial to have a WILPF’s section in Cameroon firstly in order to boost the 1325 implementation drafting process in the country, secondly to ensure peace and stability with women as key actors; and thirdly to make WILPF known in the country and facilitate the creation of other WILPF sections in neighboring countries.

They indicated that is it important to have regional cooperation among WILPF sections in Africa for experience sharing, reviving the inactive African WILPF sections and creating new sections across the continent and leading to a better positioning of WILPF in Africa.

The section’s recommendations and hopes for continued regional cooperation of WILPF in Africa were one the regular holding of conferences between the Sections and the creation of an African Regional Office for an effective coordination of actions on the continent.

June 2014

June 19: Participation in the conference for publishing outcomes of the dignity in detention (DID)
WILPF-CAMEROON was invited to the conference to publish the outcomes of the project “Dignity In Detention” which was a project implemented by Avocats Sans Frontières France in partnership with ASF Cameroon and the Cameroon Bar Association with the financial support of the European Union. The project’s purpose was to promote minimum rights standards for persons detained in Cameroonian prisons. It is worth noting that, the Cameroonian judicial system benefitted from a protective framework on human rights through the entry into force in 2007, of the new penal Code and the adoption in 2009 of the law organizing legal assistance. The project coordinator presented the activities that have been planned and implemented namely, organizing training sessions with the different prison related stakeholders (police officers, Judges, Lawyers, Prison Staff, Registry), the organization of sensitization and information sessions for detainees on their rights and the providing detainees with legal assistance through consultations and free legal defense in court. Great results were achieved at the end of 3 years activities including the following:
- The respects of the procedures to comply with minimum detention standards are followed;
- 422 prison staff have strengthened their capacity to respect prisoners’ rights;
- Prisoners have improved knowledge of their rights;
- Several court cases were fully supported during the 3 years of the project; more than 574 detainees whose cases require a follow-up received free legal assistance. To date, 291 cases are settled and 160 prisoners released following proper legal procedures by lawyers involved in the project.

June 27th: Participation at SOSIP project

WILPF Cameroon was invited to the ceremony of the launch of the SOSIP project which is a synergy of CSO’s for independent public investment follow up. The objective of the project was the
improvement of the quality of public expenses through CSO’s involvement.

The synergy was created to follow up urban governance in Douala (PGUD). The launch of the project enabled other CSO’s to join the movement and WILPF Cameroon took the opportunity to become part of that important coalition.

**July 2014**

**July 9th: Monthly Meeting**

The statutory meeting of this month was an opportunity for members to adopt a code of conduct and finalize the constitution. Discussions also focused on the preparations for the celebration of the Pan African Women’s day on July 31st.

**July 31: Celebration of the Pan African day**

To celebrate this important day for the African woman, WILPF Cameroon organized an educative talk with students of the Douala University aiming at raising their awareness on HIV/AIDS, and conflict management. The objective of the workshop was to inform student on stereotypes prejudices and realities associated with HIV/ Aids as well as non-violent methods and techniques of conflict management in their environment through mediation, dialogue, non-violent communication and the definition of a consensus.

Viviane NGUIMEYA, vice president of WILPF-Cameroon facilitated the workshop reflecting with student on words and behaviors that can lead to conflict. This enabled each participant to become aware of acts that are often perpetrated by ignorance and which can be causes of conflicts and they ended up taking the commitment not to do them.
August 2014

August 13: Monthly Meeting
The monthly meeting of August focused on the preparations for the celebration of the International Day of Peace. The theme of the year was communicated to the members: "The right of peoples to peace". Information was also shared on the global campaign "Women speak out for peace", a global campaign initiated by GNWP for greater sensitization on peace issues. A work plan for the celebrations was drawn and the various responsibilities assigned to members.

August 21: WILPF Cameroon’s extraordinary meeting
Given the importance and the imminence of the celebration of the International Day of Peace, the bureau found it necessary to organize this meeting in order to hasten the preparations and ensure successful celebrations. WILPF-Cameroon’s participation to the 100th anniversary was also discussed (registration, number of participants ...).

September 2014
From 2nd to 5th September: The regional conference on the promotion of women's participation in conflict prevention mechanisms, research, consolidation and maintenance of peace in Central Africa and the Sahelian region took place in N'Djamena - Chad, from September 2 to 5, 2014. The goal of the conference was the launch of a high-level advocacy for the promotion of African women’s participation in decision-making on peace and security.
Specific objectives included improving and enhancing the knowledge of the participants on the issues and challenges of peace in Central Africa and the Sahelian region, analyze responses, systems and initiatives to combat security threats and mainly examine the role and contribution of
women in peace initiatives.
The debates made realize that security threats are growing in the region but answers to these threats are insufficient and not always adapted to different contexts. Moreover, women's involvement in the responses and initiatives to counter these threats is nearly nonexistent.

After presenting the institutional framework promoting equal participation of women in peace initiatives, Jacqueline Sylvie Ndongmo, President of WILPF Cameroon shared the experience of WILPF and stressed the need for all states in the sub region to develop National Action Plans 1325 to enforce the rights of women as victims of conflicts, but also to ensure that women are better represented in institutions, national, regional and international mechanisms for prevention, management and conflict resolution.

Participants noted that 1325 UNSCR was not known by key actors and many countries in the region do not yet have NAPs for 1325 and for those countries that have one, the implementation is still very slow.

The Conference ended up with several recommendations including:
- The need to intensify training and sensitization on existing mechanisms for the prevention, resolution and peacekeeping;
- Disseminate the Maputo Protocol and UNSCR 1325, making sure they are translated into local languages so that women from different social classes get ownership;
- Develop national action plans for UNSCR 1325 and ensure its effective implementation;
- Establish a regional coalition for peace and security in the sub region by December 2014.

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Peace, WILPF-CAMEROON joined the global campaign «Women speak out for peace" and co-organized with the Women Peace Initiatives and WANET, the "Ringing the bell of peace " activity in a public school in Bonabéri, located in the 4th district of Douala. The objective of this activity was to exchange with pupils on the importance of peace and then symbolically ring a bell to resonate the sound of peace in the country.

The activity took place in several stages:

- Educative talk with the school staff on peace building and more especially on attitudes required from a teacher to maintain a climate of peace between students and teachers, between students and their peers and between teachers and their colleagues;
- Awareness raising session on peace values in two pilot classes (Class 5 in group I and II). This was a very moving moment of the day as we shared with students. We were impressed by the way students were able to tell us what peace means to them; we gave them numerous consequences of war and they all committed to be ambassadors of peace;
- Ringing the bell of peace: This was the key part of the show. Students, teachers, and all the CSO’s representatives present all met in the school yard and around a bell. While they were declaring peace for the school, peace for Cameroon, peace for Central African Republic, Peace for Africa and Peace the world, the bell was ringing accompanied by "sounds of" joy.
21 SEPTEMBER 2014: CELEBRATION OF THE 33rd EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE IN YAOUNDE

The 33rd International Day of Peace was celebrated on September 21, 2014 by the international community on the theme "The right of peoples to peace" in order to promote peace; encourage the truce in conflict zones. In Yaoundé, Cameroon, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF Cameroon) held to participate in the building of this much sought peace in the world. Two days were devoted to this cause: Friday, September 19, dedicated to meeting ahead of this day; and Monday, September 22, the date of awareness at a school in Yaoundé. The choice of date is due to the fact that September 21, 2014 was a Sunday.

I. The preparatory meeting on actions of promotion of peace

The meeting was held in Yaoundé, Friday, September 19, 2014 at 14 pm. Participants at the outset are recalled the theme of the international day of peace, that is "the right of peoples to peace." A short discussion took place around this theme. And we will hold that many people in the world are victims of war, and then they do not even know why their countries are at war, or are victims of attacks by terrorists or rebels. These people want to live in peace, to go about their daily occupations, educate their children, have fun, etc. This is for example the case of Nigeria and Central African civilians who find themselves refugees in Cameroon in search of peace. Peace is decidedly a treasure which no human being should be denied under any circumstances. Therefore each participant was urged to work towards maintaining this peace around him, asking righteous acts, taking a conciliatory speech, putting the light where it is dark, soothing the hearts who heat, etc. The occasion was suitable to welcome the actions of all national and international institutions that continue to support the victims of wars, advocate for the cessation of conflict in the world. In particular, the efforts of WILPF women were hired because they are alongside other women to
promote nonviolence.

In the second point, there was talk of a strategy to get the United Nations message contained in this topic. Considering the fact that children are the best peacemakers, that investing on children is an investment in the future, we wanted to educate elementary students on the merits of peace. Thus the vest was thrown on the Public School of Efoulan, located in the heart of the city, including the consent of the Director had been obtained in advance. Operationally, it was agreed to make posters with various slogans in French and English, to simulate, in front of students, scenes violent and others peaceful, just to show them how peace is preferable to war. Also, it was intended to let them speak of peace, to know what they know in order to consolidate, giving them tips on how to keep calm in their home and school environments.

II. The day devoted to awareness itself

Starting at 7:30 am Monday, September 22, six educators of WILPF Cameroon in Yaoundé met at the Public School of Efoulan. More than awareness, it was a matter of teaching the culture of peace. As planned, the operations were conducted in all levels of primary, namely: the initial level, the elementary level and the average. Staging were masterfully arranged by women, ladies ANO Beatrice, EFFA UPPULTINE, TSAFACK Armelle, NGA KALLA Gertrude, assisted by gentlemen TANGWAN AMBE Frederick and DONGMO FEUGAP Guy Blaise. The teachers have been associated to bring their touch.

From one level to another, we realized that children have the concept of peace and express it naturally basing on their ages and their everyday experiences. Overall, they conceive peace as:

- Love for one's neighbor,
- Forgiveness following an offense,
- Sharing with those who are in need,
- Dialogue, understanding and solidarity,
- Reconciliation after an argument,
- The absence of war, etc.

The women then had a talk with students, just like moms talking to their children. They taught them how to preserve peace in the family. So they are advised to:
• Obey and trust parents,
• Respect adults, elders, cadets, brief each person;
• Study their lessons and do all their homework,
• Not to keep in their possession dangerous objects or imitate the acts of violence diffuse through television;

• Always ask for forgiveness when they did what is not good, and do not repeat it again.

In school, they are advised to:

• Obey and trust the teachers,
• Respect administrators, comrades and friends,
• Closely monitor progress and educators advice,
• Avoid violent games at break time, and do not enjoy the games to settle scores,
• Complain to the teacher when they are offended by their comrades,
• Immediately return home at the end of the course, do not drag on the road or confide in a stranger.

As result of this talk, the children themselves have stood the adverse consequences of the war, including: injuries, deaths, destruction of property, the closure of schools, kidnapping of children. All are aware of the presence of Boko Haram in Cameroon and do not wish they approach Yaoundé, because they are proud to live in peace, to go every day to school without fear, to walk in peace.

Finally, approximately 300 children received the team WILPF Cameroon. They proudly waved the invitation messages for peace. They were sent as messengers to their parents and high school seniors, to explain what took place in the school, in order to learn more from them. It's about a family photo that we separated, after receiving congratulations and encouragement of the Director of the school.

September 19: Participation in the CSO’s training on the use OF FACEBOOK as a tool for development. "Opening the universe as possible to people even in remote villages”.  

This training was held on September 19, 2014 at the headquarters of the "La Voix du Paysan” in Douala from 9.30 am to 2pm and was organized by the international organization called GRAD based in Geneva, Switzerland. It was facilitated by M Benoit Le Comte, in charge of the training
The aim was to train participants on how to use computers and Facebook on a personal as well as CSO’s levels. The training proper focused on theory and practice.

On the theoretical level, the facilitator indicated that Facebook is a tool for communication and development and not just for fun, but also to act and build. When used properly, it can allow professionals among others, to share, schedule, promote, sell, improve production, networking, research, fund raising, etc.

Basics of facebook: a profile (for individuals) and a facebook page (for companies and organizations).

- In practical terms: only 4 steps are required to create a Facebook profile
  The Profile is for individuals, we have friends (about 5,000 maximum) and the best option is to choose the most impactful people

- The Facebook Page is for businesses, celebrities, personalities and only 50% receive information, beyond that the company has to pay.

Other information received: how to open an account and how to professionally use the facebook account with practical examples (how to find friends, schedule events, refuse contacts, etc.).

**September 21: Thanks giving Mass and for a peaceful Cameroon**

The International Day of Peace was celebrated this year under the theme: "the right of peoples to peace." Taking advantage of the fact that this day has fallen on a Sunday, WILPF-Cameroon requested a thanks giving Mass to thank God Almighty for all the milestones achieved so far, and implore GOD’s assistance and blessings in WILPF Cameroon’s endeavors to keep Cameroon in peace.
September 30, 2014: BEIJING workshop 20

WILPF CAMEROON represented by Ms. Sylvie Ndongmo and Megnijio Myriam was invited by the national coordination of civil society in the monitoring and evaluation of the Beijing Conference and the session of the Commission on the Status of Women under the patronage of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family and the financial support of UN Women Cameroon to a workshop on the review and evaluation of the national implementation of “Beijing+ 20”. The main objective was to create a forum where women and their organizations can exchange information, experiences and memories related to the 4th World Conference of women in Beijing and contribute to the consolidation of the national pre-report of implementation of the Beijing Action Plan.

The Beijing Conference had adopted two important documents: the Declaration and program of action in 1995 and had identified 12 critical areas that require the attention of all stakeholders to accelerate the achievement of the gender equality and sustainable development. The workshop reviewed these 12 areas and contributed to the consolidation of the national pre-report of the implementation of the Beijing Action Plan.

October 2014:

October 9th – 10th 2014:

WILPF Cameroon held a two - days’ workshop at DJEUGA Palace hotel, Yaoundé - Cameroon from Thursday 9th to Friday 10th October 2014 in partnership with UN women-Cameroon, UNDP, UNHCR under the patronage of the Cameroon Ministry of Women’s
Empowerment and the Family on the theme: “Women’s participation in the prevention of conflicts and crisis management: lessons learnt from Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Cameroon”, a workshop that was preceded by the fifth edition of UN Women Cameroon’s master activity” Genre Café, on the same theme. The main objective of this workshop was to promote the role of women in the prevention and response in the current crisis and to establish their role in resolving conflicts and building peace in accordance with international, regional and national commitments and lay the groundwork for the development of a draft National Action Plan on 1325 SCR.

This workshop saw the participation of experts from in and outside Cameroon such as: Fatoumata Aliou, Director of the NGO GREFFA, who received the Michelle Obama (prize of courage in connection with the determination she and her NGO demonstrated against terrorism in northern Mali); her communication focused on the action and solidarity of Malian women against the rise of terrorism and their commitment to the peace process.

The second guest was Mrs. Annie Matundu, president of WILPF DRC who shared DRC’s experience in drafting SCR 1325.

The second day focused on the security challenges of the influx of refugees into parts of Cameroon. Experts from UNHCR, and different Ministries gave us accurate data on refugees in Cameroon. So we noted with dismay that over 200,000 Central African Republic, and 17,600 Nigerian refugees are within our walls. What is worst is that over 60% of the refugees are women and girls we were told, and so it becomes imperative for Cameroon to adopt a National Plan of Action to ensure prevention and better management of the situation considering the specific needs of the latter. The workshop ended with the commitment and determination of all participants to mobilize for the effective start of the preparation of our draft NAP. Thus the following lines of thought we identified for the future draft.

Conflict prevention, preservation of peace, social cohesion; Protection of women in crisis: the fight against GBV/s, HIV/AIDS, conflicts, internal displacement ...; Early Warning mechanisms; Economic rehabilitation of host communities and refugees.

This workshop led to the launching of the process of drafting a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 for Cameroon inspired by the experience of the D.R.C shared by the president of WILPF D.R.C Mrs ANNIE MATUNDU.

We are happy to inform you that WILPF Cameroon has been acknowledged as the pioneer organization to lead this drafting process in collaboration with the government and all other key actors.
October 27th – 31st 2014: Participation at the 14th anniversary of SCR 1325 in New York

Women peace leaders from all over the world came together at the 14th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 to advocate, strategize, and act to hold accountable the international community on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. WILPF Cameroon group was part of a delegation of women peace leaders from sections and partners in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Libya, Cameroon, Jordan, and Lebanon hosted by Peacewomen. Together, we built solidarity through sharing our experiences, engaged in advocacy and outreach, and took action to strengthen violence prevention, disarmament, and women’s full and equal participation and rights. We joined together to demand not just commitments but accomplishments for gender equality, disarmament and peace.
WILPF WORKSHOP

Members from WILPF sections joined WILPF international staff at a workshop on 27 October on “Leveraging Women’s Action for Peace,” where they shared their visions of WILPF and had a series of conversations about how we can work together to demilitarise our world and create gender equality.

WILPF workshop highlights

Leaders brought attention to how it is critical to address root causes of conflict and violence prevention for UNSCR 1325 to be meaningful and effective. The workshop was a potent demonstration of the vision, determination, creativity, and power that women peace leaders bring to the table.

Throughout the week, we tried to find a balance in advocacy, outreach and political action on one hand, with solidarity and relationship building, sharing of experience, and cultivation of shared ties on the other. In the end, I found both powerful.

Boko Haram event:


At the event, WILPF Nigeria and WILPF Cameroon brought attention to how militarisation and state violence creates a conducive environment for non state extremism and violence, and how critical it is to address the range of militarised violence and invest in gender equality, violence prevention, and peace. “It is critical to draw the link between the global arms trade and Boko Haram,” said WILPF Nigeria President Joy Onyesoh. “This is why the Arms Trade Treaty is key.” Human Rights Watch (HRW) Women's Rights Division Director Liesl Gerntholtz presented their new report on Boko Haram Violence against Women and Girls in Northeast Nigeria and discussed the abuses and corruption of security forces and the cycles of violence against women by Boko Haram in the form of forced marriages, conversions, and participation. Gerntholtz pointed out that what is happening in Nigeria and Cameroon with Boko Haram is an armed conflict, and as such is subject to international agreements including the Geneva Conventions, International Criminal Court (ICC), and other international human rights and humanitarian law.
Participants called for increased action to bring back the Nigerian school girls, strengthen women’s political participation, and prevent continued abductions and violence. Action points include:

- **Nigerian government**: Implement the ATT in coordination with civil society and further strengthen the implementation of the WPS agenda, including through the support for women led civil society efforts to localise implementation of its National Action Plan (NAP) and prosecution of perpetrators of crimes against women.

- **Cameroon government**: Stop denial, take immediate action to address the situation, and take concrete steps to implement the entire WPS agenda in all settings, including through development of a National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 with a particular emphasis on the prevention pillar.

- **International community, including African Union**:
  - Include women peacemakers in summits and dialogue on these issues to address a critical gap here so far, and place women’s human rights at the center.
  - Strengthen political and other support for holistic implementation of the WPS agenda: stop financial support for abusive military, pressure governments to investigate abuses, and assist in greater implementation of UNSCR 1325 NAPs
  - Strengthen support to ensure victims of conflict including women receive necessary treatment, resources, and other services and have access to justice through proper and prompt investigations into crimes by peacekeepers, Boko Haram, and others.

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Security Council Open Debate on Women Peace and Security:
At the Security Council Open Debate on Women Peace and Security on Tuesday, Civil Society Speaker Suaad Allami from our own NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security brought critical attention to the elephant in the room. “Conflict prevention lies at the core of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and all solutions must address the root causes of conflict and displacement,” she stated. “This includes addressing disarmament and demilitarisation.”

WILPF closed Iraq/Syria briefing:
At WILPF closed Iraq/Syria briefing participants put out a powerful call for the international community to put their weight behind a political solution. They pointed out that action is possible: the international community has mobilised around a military response to DAESH/ISIL. However, violence only creates violence. We cannot look aside while this violence continues unabated. Instead, we must use our power for active nonviolence and peace.

SWEDISH 1325 National Action Plan consultation at the Swedish Mission organized by WILPF-Sweden and co-hosted by the Mission of Sweden. Truly inspiring meeting, where sections were able to share openly with partners, the Swedish government on national and international implementation of UNSCR 1325. The WILPF’s sections present were able to bring forward different topics that can move the Swedish implementation and revision process forward.
UN Women consultation on 2015 Women, Peace and Security Global Study:
At Friday’s civil society consultation with UN Women’s lead author on the 2015 Women, Peace and Security Global Study, WILPF Sections and partners reiterated the importance of strengthening the prevention pillar of the Women, Peace and Security agenda through demilitarisation, disarmament, and ensuring women’s full and equal participation and socio economic empowerment and rights.

**October 29 to 31:** Organization of a retreat to discuss steps for NAP drafting process.

As recommended during the Yaoundé workshop and respectful of the promise to support WILPF-Cameroon in the 1325 SCR drafting process, UN Women Cameroon co organized with WILPF Cameroon a 3 days’ retreat to finalise the steps on how to get to a NAP in Cameroon. The retreat brought together 10 participants from WILPF-CAMEROON, UN Women, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Territorial administration, UNHCR and Ministry of Gender. Another point was to set up a pool of experts who would steer the ship in drafting the National Action Plan of Cameroon. Indeed, after the workshop in Yaoundé, the issue was to put together, develop, consolidate, and come up with a coherent document based on the group work carried out during the workshop in Yaoundé. The participants developed a draft based on the pillars of the resolution and established a timetable of actions to undertake up to final adoption and most importantly, they budgeted all activities for better evaluation and estimation. At the end of the retreat, an appointment was taken for the end of November for the next step.
**13 November**

**WILPF Cameroon’s participation at the presentation of the report of gapph on violence against women and girls with disabilities in the central region cameroon**

Action Group for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (GAPPH) gave a press conference Thursday, November 13, 2014 at Mensel Hotel in Yaounde, to present the report of the study on violence against women and girls in situations of handicap in the Center Region in Cameroon. WPI was represented by Guy Blaise DONGMO.

After the ceremony, including a welcome word from the President of GAPPH and the speech from the representative of the Swiss Embassy, which funded the study, followed the report of the study and exchanges.

1. **The report of the study**

The report was made in three presentations.

First, the consultant, Dr. Hilaire KAMGA, introduced the methodology used to conduct the study, a combination of quantitative and qualitative approach.

Followed the proper presentation of the results of the study were, preceded by a video showing some cases of violence against women and girls with disabilities. It appears that the target consists largely of single mothers, unemployed, uneducated, and dependent on their families. 93.4% of women and girls are victims of violence of any kind and are more exposed than men in the same situation. Generally, nothing is done in their community to stop this violence against them. The presenter, Diane NGAMO, ended her remarks with recommendations to various stakeholders to reduce violence against women and girl with disabilities in Cameroon.

The third presentation focused on the legal aspects. At this point, Mr. NJOYA MOUSSA showed that women and girls with disabilities are victims of violence because they are ignorant of their rights. Those who know their rights are afraid to fight for them and denounce the
perpetrators. In addition, there are no specific legal provisions that protect the rights of women with disabilities.

2. Exchanges

Considering the weight of the issue, the exchanges were particularly heated. Government officials indicated that many things are being done to improve the living conditions of women and girls with disabilities while civil society organizations claimed to see no concrete actions. For CSO’s, women with disabilities suffer double discrimination, first being a woman and secondly living with a disability. Finally, it was agreed that the government's actions should not be considered "good will" or charity; they must be institutional acts, because disabled people are also citizens and their rights must be respected.

November

Training workshop of leaders of organizations on promotion / protection of persons with disabilities

On 13 and 14 November at Mensel Hotel in Yaounde, the Action Group for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (GAPPH) organized a training workshop for CSO’s leaders in view of the promotion and / or protection of women and girls with a focus on women and girls with disabilities. The objective was to strengthen their capacities in the following modules: the gender perspective, violence against women, and human rights of women. Guy Blaise DONGMO represented WPI at this workshop.

Module I: Introduction to the gender approach

The training module was handled by Ms. Fidèle DJEBBA, psychologist and consultant on the issue. The training was made in two areas: understanding the concept of gender and the role of women in
society. Talking of gender is referring to what society expects from a man and woman. The gender approach seeks to promote equal rights and equitable sharing of resources and responsibilities between men and women. This is a participatory approach that should create the best conditions for effective participation of women.

On the role of women in society, it is worth noting that the woman is a human being with full rights, responsible for herself, with all skills. She is the mother who gives birth, who educates and gives affection, who ensures family welfare. As a citizen, she must participate in the development of the community.

**Module II: Violence against women**

This module was facilitated by Ms. DJEBBA and Mrs. Marie MENGUE MENA, from the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF). Causes of violence are numerous including vulnerability, poverty, stereotypes, and negative social and cultural practices, just to name a few. They are aggravated by poor education, family rejection, social marginalization; which leave physical scars, cause frustration and trauma, self-denigration, and can lead to suicide.

In the second part of the module, we talked about the possible reactions of abused women and their care. It appears that the main reactions are the silence, fear, anxiety, helplessness, withdrawal, aggression, resignation. This makes women and girls victims of violence perpetuate it; hence a necessary education for all, education to change attitudes. The support to victims of violence starts with denunciation. Structures exist to put an end to impunity and ensure the social reintegration of women.

**Module III: The Human Rights of Women**

This module, facilitated by C. BECHON, focused on the importance of human rights, the justification of human rights of women, barriers and strategies for the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities in the life of the community. It is important to know that as human beings, women have full rights but the problem lies at the level of their respect. Women are most of the time relegated to playing second roles in the community. Women with disabilities in particular are called to get into a good psychological disposition to deal with violence, make their voice heard, to get out of their normal environment, to join other women to fight for their rights.

The workshop was closed by the call to have the workshop replicated in participants’ organizations.
DECEMBER

1st December 2014: 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

MEETING ORGANIZED BY ALVF, LITTORAL ANTENA

This meeting took place in the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms headquarters, Littoral branch. It was organized by the Association for the Fight against Violence on Women (ALVF) in partnership with the Regional Branch of the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms. This came within the framework of "16 Days", under the general theme "From peace in the home to peace in the world: challenge the militancy and get it over with violence against women."

It was an educative talk on "Succession Rights" presented by Ms. Anne Marie DIBOUJE NJOKE,
ALVF Littoral Representative. The goal was to educate the participants on succession issues in Cameroonian law towards children, the surviving spouse, ascendants and collateral. WPI was represented by Ms. Nathalie FOKO.

After the various speeches, Me NJOKE presented ‘’The Law of Succession in Cameroon’’, a manual published by ALVF. The facilitator defined the law of succession as the set of rules that are manifested on the occasion of the death of an individual and which aim to regulate relations with the people who depend on it and the fate which will be reserved for his heritage.

From her presentation, the following points could be noted:

- All children have the right to succeed their father and mother, both boys and girls, and fairly. The only difference is in the nature of filiations between the parents and the children. Specifically, legitimate children, legitimised and adopted, have the same rights. However, recognized natural children receive half of what they would have if they were legitimate. Illegitimate children benefit only food in Cameroonian rights;

- The surviving spouse, man or woman is only usufructuary and can enjoy the fruits of goods that the deceased spouse disposed of, but cannot abuse it. However in the absence of children, ascendants (father, mother, grandparents) and collateral (brothers, sisters or their descendants, uncles, aunts and nieces); the widow or widower can succeed and is ranked fifth in the order of succession;

- Practical advice regarding the competent courts (Small Instance Tribunal for traditional law or High Court for modern law), the parts required for the referral of such courts.

The many questions that followed this brilliant presentation showed the interest that women have shown towards this theme, questions to which Me NJOKE brought clear and precise answers regarding Cameroonian law on the subject. From women’s various interventions, it emerged that the majority remain ignorant of their rights. The customary burdens, social and even legal and judicial do not promote the knowledge and access to rights of Cameroonian women. The intervention of the representative of WPI focused on the violation of the rights of illegitimate children who are entitled only foods in Cameroonian law. Cameroon, being part of international conventions on the rights of children, has not included this dimension in its legislation.

As recommendations, participants called for the extension of this manual, simplification of procedures, review adverse legal provisions on women; and strongly, for the implementation of the Family Code, highly awaited in Cameroon.
8th December: STUDY REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 1325 SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EASTERN REGION OF CAMEROON

WILPF-Cameroon held in Bertoua a workshop to present the results of the study of UNSCR1325 implementation in Eastern Cameroon, on December 8, 2014. The moderator was Mrs. Nathalie FOKO, WPI’s president. It is worth noting the presence of UN Women and local authorities including the divisional officer of the Lom and Djerem and the Delegate of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family.

Held at the Center of Promotion of Women and Family of Bertoua, the workshop was conducted throughout by WILPF-Cameroon / East and coordinated by Michel Ndongo Kitio with the collaboration of HEPROGES, FEPLEM and WPI, the study of Bertoua revealed several points among which:

- 71, 8% persons don’t have knowledge on 1325 because of the lack of opportunities, hence the necessity to multiply awareness and education initiatives, particularly in rural areas.
- UNSC Resolution 1325 is not known.
- Few women make decisions on their own lives.
- Many women experience violence of all kinds (including employees).
- Many men and women want to learn more about 1325.
- Many men and women want the implementation of Resolution 1325.
- Many men and women want women to be at the center of decisions concerning them.

Following these findings, specific recommendations were made to various stakeholders.
including:

- Need to strengthen the popularization of SCR 1325 at all levels;
- Need to conduct lobbying and advocacy initiatives for the adoption of a national plan of UNSCR 1325 in Cameroon.
- Encourage women to break the silence by denouncing the perpetrators of violence against them.
- Need for Cameroon to put an end to impunity by punishing perpetrators of violence, taking advantage of the multitude of existing legal instruments on the issue.
- Promote active non-violence
- Increase sensitization on small arms trade
- Strengthen the popularization of WILPF and its 100th anniversary.

**UN Women Presentation**

Jean Paul Dargal, UN Women representative, took the opportunity to make a presentation on the humanitarian response in line with the SC Resolution 1325 to the security crisis in Eastern Cameroon. UN Women Cameroon has implemented a project called "Social cohesion and economic rehabilitation of refugee women survivors of GBV and rape, victims of conflict in CAR in the Eastern Region". UN Women daily actions to protect women and girls also include support to organizations like WILPF-Cameroon in order to maintain sustainable peace.
December 8: Working session with WILPF Eastern representation

After the presentation of the study report on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the East Cameroon, the president of WILPF Cameroon had a working session with the WILPF’s focal point in the East region. The purpose of this meeting was to have an idea of the working conditions and encourage the local team. Accompanied by the representative of WILPF Centre and the president of WPI, the President visited the office of FEPLEM, also serving as WILPF office in the East. At the end of the visit, she handed to them some documentation to facilitate their work.

December 18:

Consultative Meeting Media / CSOs on joint strategies for effective implementation of 1325 Resolution in Cameroon

On December 18th 2014, WPI and WILPF Cameroon jointly held a meeting at Bonamoussadi
Spiritual Center in Douala with media men and women with the aim was to rally the media and leaders of civil society organizations in the process of sensitization and popularization of SCR 1325, to facilitate the smooth National Action Plan drafting process. The session was chaired by the president of WPI, Nathalie FOKO.

The Regional Delegate of Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family represented by Ms Agnès Edibe subdivisional Delegate of Douala 1er reiterated the interest of the Government of Cameroon to support actions for the protection of women and girls, including the implementation of 1325, as it turned out that in a situation of conflict, women pay a high price.

Mr Philippe NANGA, coordinator of the NGO UN Monde Avenir, representative of PASC in the Littoral region indicated that the best way to unite media and CSO’s is about these two major actors to communicate regularly on 1325 and the NAP process. So the media are invited to create special communication spaces for awareness raising, education of millions of listeners and viewers on this issue; and invite CSO’s members to these programs for more information.

Other recommendations included:
- Promoting spaces in the media to support the understanding of the objectives of 1325 Resolution;
- Train more journalists and CSOs on SCR 1325;
- Meet with radio and TV owners to discuss with them to enable better understand the importance of the issues of peace and security and the necessity of having a NAP on SCR 1325;
- Set up a core group of CSO’s and media to follow the process throughout and advise accordingly.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
- Installation of WILPF -CAMEROON;
• Participation in the African regional conference in Cape Town;
• Celebration of the 99th anniversary and launching of preparations for the centenary;
• Organization of the "Women Speak Out For Peace"campaign 2014;
• Celebration of the international Day of peace through its focal activity: “the bell of peace”;
• Participation and panelist at the regional conference on the promotion of women's participation in conflict prevention mechanisms, research, and consolidation of peace in Central Africa and the Sahelian region in N'Djamena-Chad;
• Organization of high-level workshop on the participation of women in conflict resolution and crisis management and launching the process of developing a National Action Plan;
• Participation in the retreat to finalize the process of drafting the Cameroon NAP.
• Participation at the 14th anniversary of SCR 1325 in New York
• Presentation during Boko Haram event at UN Headquarters in New York.
• Survey in the Eastern Region on the implementation of UNSCR1325 in Cameroon;
• Organization of a consultation meeting with Medias and SCOs leaders for more Dissemination of the UNSCR1325 in Cameroon.

OUTCOMES
• Greater visibility and recognition of the expertise of WILPF-CAMEROON in the field of women, peace and security;
• Better knowledge of WILPF’s mission by the government, CSO’s and international organizations including UN Women Cameroon, HCR, UNDP;
• Positioning of WILPF-CAMEROON in the field of women, peace and security;
• A growing interest of media and other stakeholders on issues of peace;
• Greater Dissemination of the UNSCR 1325, more than 400 key persons have been trained on that resolution. WILPF-CAMEROON recognized as a pioneer organization in launching the process of adopting a National Action Plan of 1325 in Cameroon.

SOME CHALLENGES
• Cameroon is not a country in open conflict, and so many actors remain indifferent to issues of peace and security despite threats of terrorism in some parts of the country;
• Relevant, growing and recurrent issues of women human rights defenders; who sometimes heavily pay for their partisanship;
• It is now an imperative for WILPF-Cameroon to have permanent office for more efficiency in its actions.
LIMITS

- Lack of permanent staff;
- Lack of funding to reach out to a greater number of people.

WAY FORWARD

- Collaboration with WILPF and other national and international agencies and to ensure smooth 1325 NAP drafting process.
- Becoming a WILPF section in The Hague.
- Turning into action plan the results of the study made in the Eastern region for efficient planning and advocacy;
- Participation of WILPF-CAMEROON members at 100th anniversary at The Hague in April 2015
- Collaboration with other WILPF sections for mutual support and to assist in resolving the crises faced by women in war-torn countries;
- Elaboration of a project of creation of peace clubs in schools.

IN PEACE AND SOLIDARITY