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**CENTRAL AFRICA MISSION REPORT: 18- 22 OCTOBER 2021**

**CAPACITY BUILDING OF MEMBER STATES ON THE USE OF  
THE CONTINENTAL RESULTS FRAMEWORK (CRF)  
FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WPS IN AFRICA**

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From the 18 to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2021, the office of the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security initiated a field mission to Central African Republic. The visit has two main purposes:

1. To conduct a case study on the utilization of the CRF to generate knowledge of CRF utilization and contribution into the delivery of the WPS agenda in order to better support member states to enhance their accountability on WPS Agenda.
2. To build member states reporting capacity using the CRF and sensitize them of the reporting cycle.

The OSE team commissioned on the mission was led by Dr Jean-Bosco Butera, Chief of Staff and Special Advisor of Mme Diop, the Special Envoy on WPS.

Other team members include:

-  Catherine Njeru, Gender Monitoring Specialist
-  Mylante Edoun Odjo, Communication consultant.

1. The OSE team met with senior representatives of state and non-state actors implementing the WPS agenda in CAR with the Ministry of Promotion of Women, Family and the Protection of the Child as the focal point of Entry. Other state and non-state actors met include, the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National reconciliation, UN Women, UNFPA, the UN Resident Coordinator, (See annex 1 for a comprehensive list of personnel met. Discussions focused on WPS initiatives undertaken by various agencies, use of CRF in monitoring and reporting, gaps, opportunities and CRF capacity building needs.
2. The OSE team met also with Ambassador Matias Bertino Matondo, Special Representative of the AU Commission President, Head of MISAC to officially introduce the delegation but also to facilitate liaison for a smooth meeting with different actors.



3. Our various deliberations with all stakeholders revealed that steps are being made by all stakeholders currently to implement the WPS agenda. However, the country is currently in a transition period and the government efforts currently is geared towards the National Reconciliation dialogue to bring all actors to a discussion table in order to carve the country way forward away from conflict. Findings of the delegation include:

- ✓ The government of Central African Republic is committed to the women peace and security and the gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda and is taking legal, policy and institutional reforms. The Central African Republic (CAR) adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP) in 2014 for the period 2014-2016. The NAP was developed by the Ministry of Social Affairs, National Solidarity and Gender Promotion. The country has developed and currently implementing its second NAP for the period 2019-2023.

- ✓ The Ministry of Gender is currently in the process of establishing a national coordination secretariat for the implementation of the WPS agenda. The national coordination team will be comprising of key gender personnel in various ministries. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 in particular, was fully disseminated all stakeholders making efforts to implement at all levels, with women organizations playing a pivotal role. However, there is a lack of structure for prevention and response of SGBV.



- ✓ The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National reconciliation in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender also coordinating the return home to their families of men and women in displacement settlements due to the conflict.



- ✓ The security sector is a key player of the WPS agenda in the country. The OSE team met with the ministry of defense and they have functional gender departments headed by senior officers and are backed by Gender policies, strategies, and programmes.

- ✓ The civil society organization and specifically women organizations are doing great work as per our meeting with the national AWLN chapter many activities are carried out under the support of UN Women. Albeit AWLN local chapter has also set up a Fund within the organization to support and encourage women with political ambitions.



- ✓ Regular monitoring and reporting on WPS was limited. The CRF has served as a tool that enables the ministry of gender to comprehensively collect data on WPS from actors and report to the AUC. However, actors, both in government and civil society organizations are undertaking project-based reporting to their donors.
- ✓ CRF awareness was mainly high among the staff members of the ministry of gender. This could be attributed to the fact that they have interacted with the tool in various ways: during its development and while preparing their country report. Outside the gender ministry, the CRF was hardly known. This calls for capacity building on the CRF and related concepts such as monitoring, data collection and reporting.
- ✓ To sustain WPS data management, intercalators emphasized on the need to analyze the existing data management systems to inform the integration of WPS data in the system.
- ✓ The delegate was informed that challenges in reporting using the CRF includes data collection. Often, custodians of data in different agencies and ministries are not always providing the required

data on a timely manner and in some instances such data is not available. Other challenges include inadequate resources for coordination, absence of regular monitoring systems, capacity and practice among actors.

4. On 21 and 22 October, the delegation undertook two half day training on the CRF which reached 30 participants drawn from government ministries and civil society organizations met during the field mission. The training begun with the conduct of a structured training needs assessment on WPS monitoring and reporting using the CRF. Topics covered during the session included introduction to WPS concepts, introduction to the CRF as the African tool to report on WPS in Africa and on the necessary institutional arrangements required at national level to enable regular data collection and reporting. Sessions concluded with a practical exercise on reporting using the CRF. An end of the training evaluation concluded that participants were satisfied with the training and were now able to report on the CRF indicators. However, they called for more training on data collection and reporting.
5. In conclusion, the visit by OSE to Central African Republic was successful and provided the office with the opportunity to assess the utilization of CRF, undertake a training needs assessment on CRF and undertake an introductory training on CRF. OSE was also able to better understand the Central Africa Republic context for implementing the agenda. All which is useful in designing future programmes for advocating and supporting countries in developing, implementing and monitoring the delivery of WPS agenda in Africa.
6. The dwindling donor support to women organization was reiterated and there is a need for the special envoy to continue advocating for WPS resourcing to the women organizations.
7. The non-Existence of a functional secretariat for WPS is a major gap that needs to be addressed. As a the time of the visit, the Minister of Gender was working towards establishing a functional secretariat and this needs to be followed up.