

Friday, August 26 9:30-11:30 | Hilton Hotel "Amboseli"

Peacebuilding through Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Challenges and Opportunities in Africa

Cohosted by the UK Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

1. Background

Growing recognition in international arena about the importance of women's role in peacebuilding has led to the adoption of a series of resolutions including the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security (WPS) in 2000, followed by succeeding six resolutions on WPS as well as development and adoption of national action plans (NAPs) on WPS. The uniqueness of UNSCR 1325 lies in the fact that it highlighted the role of women as an active agent of peacebuilding, rather than as mere victims of armed conflicts and violence, and affirmed the importance of women's full participation at all stages of conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding.

Despite such global concerns and recognition on WPS, actual implementation of UNSCR 1325 and NAPs remain largely a challenge for many countries. Reports on cases of sexual-and gender-based violence in and after conflicts are rampant and women's access to social, economic and political opportunities in the processes of peacebuilding is still limited. This is especially so in those African countries which have undergone protracted violence and conflicts. There is also a gap between policy statement to achieve WPS objectives and the actual interventions on the ground.

It is thus urgently needed to identify specific challenges and opportunities in promoting gender equality and women's protection and empowerment, and find measures to effectively translate UNSCR 1325 policy statements into concrete actions within the context of Africa.

2. Objectives

- Exploring challenges and opportunities of African women in peacebuilding processes in order to identify effective approaches and measures for the governments and international societies in accordance with UNSCR 1325 and the complementary resolutions.
- Listening to and engaging with experts and women leaders of Africa who can share their lived experience of survival and peacebuilding, as well as acquiring leading roles in their respective society.

3. Key Questions

- How can women's and girls' empowerment contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Africa?
- What challenges and opportunities exist for promoting women's protection and empowerment for peacebuilding in Africa?
- What roles can governments, international organizations and civil societies play to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in peacebuilding in Africa?

4. Speakers

- Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President, JICA
- Dr. Phil Evans, Head, Somalia Office, Department for International Development
- Ms. Angelique Gabriel Tening Sarr, Regional Advisor on Gender and Sexual Violence, Regional Delegation in Dakar, ICRC
- Ms. Unzia Martine, Chief Administration Officer, Maracha District, Uganda
- Ms. Patricia Veringa-Gieskes, President, National Social Commission of FEC, DR Congo
- Dr. Yumiko Tanaka, Senior Advisor on Gender and Development, JICA
- Ms. Makiko Kubota, Senior Advisor on Gender and Development, JICA