



THE WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN, YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL

THE ABIDJAN COMMITMENTS 2026

Accelerating the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security Agendas through Economic Resilience

We, the participants in the High-Level Regional Week on Women, Youth, Peace, Security and Economic Resilience in West Africa and the Sahel, commit to:

Commitment 1. Invest in Youth Employment and the Economic Empowerment of Women

Make decent employment, entrepreneurship, and access to productive resources for women and young people a priority within conflict prevention, stabilization and development strategies.

Commitment 2. Strengthen the Education-to-Employment Nexus

Promote decentralized education, apprenticeship, technical and vocational training systems that are better aligned with labour market needs and high-potential economic sectors.

Commitment 3. Develop Future-Oriented Skills

Increase women's and young people's access to digital skills, artificial intelligence, innovation, emerging technologies and the green economy, while promoting their responsible, ethical and inclusive use.

Commitment 4. Strengthen Leadership and Participation

Enhance the effective and meaningful participation of women and young people in decision-making processes, governance mechanisms, mediation efforts, conflict prevention initiatives and peacebuilding processes.



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Commitment 5. Finance the WPS and YPS Agendas

Advocate for increased resources allocated to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas and facilitate direct access to funding for local women's and youth organizations.

Commitment 6. Strengthen WPS-YPS Synergies

Promote an integrated approach to the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas at the national, regional and local levels.

Commitment 7. Support Local Organizations

Strengthen the capacities of women's and youth organizations and support their contributions to peace, social cohesion and economic resilience.

Commitment 8. Promote the Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups

Give particular attention to young women, displaced persons, conflict-affected communities, persons with disabilities and populations living in fragile contexts.

Commitment 9. Strengthen Accountability

Develop monitoring mechanisms, data collection systems and results-sharing frameworks to measure progress achieved.

Commitment 10. Build Sustainable Partnerships

Promote partnerships among governments, regional organizations, the private sector, financial institutions, women's organizations, youth organizations, and technical and financial partners.