



## Dakar Call for Action

**We**, participants in the High Level Event organized by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) in collaboration with the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS), the G5 Sahel, the Mano River Union, the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel, UN WOMEN, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and agencies of the entire United Nations system in the region,

Meeting in Dakar on 10 and 11 April 2018, on the theme "Women, Violence and Terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel: Building a Regional/International Response":

CONCERNED with the resurgence of violent extremism that threatens efforts to maintain peace, stability, security, protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law for prosperity and sustainable development in West Africa and the Sahel;

CONSIDERING that terrorism is a global, evolutionary and multifaceted criminal phenomenon that is not associated with any religion, ideology or people;

HIGHLIGHTING that the prevention of violent extremism and countering terrorism are shared responsibilities for the principles and values enshrined in international human rights instruments;

HAVING EXAMINED the West African and the Sahel context marked by millions of deaths, injuries, refugees or displaced persons resulting from violent attacks, including bombings, hijackings, sexual violence and other forms of violence against women and girls;

REAFFIRMING the importance of involving women in the analysis of the root causes of violent extremism and terrorism, as well as mechanisms for prevention and response;

RECALLING that United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and the following resolutions on women, peace and security invite all actors and stakeholders to involve women and girls in all stages of prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping;

ACKNOWLEDGING the call of the United Nations Plan of Action for the Prevention of Violent Extremism through the inclusion of women and other under-represented groups in legal frameworks and national security agencies, including mechanisms to better prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism;

STRESSING UN Security Council Resolutions 2178 (2014), 2242 (2015), 2349 (2017) and 2396 (2017), which call on UN Member States to involve women leaders and women's organizations in the development of strategies in the prevention of violent extremism and countering terrorism;

EXPRESSING our satisfaction on the development and implementation of ECOWAS Women, Peace and Security Action Plan for its Conflict Prevention Framework, which aims to facilitate the implementation of Resolutions 1325 (2000) and subsequent ones; the relevant provisions of the Revised ECOWAS

Treaty, in particular Article 63 and Articles 40 to 43 of its Additional Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance;

ACKNOWLEDGING the targeted attacks on women and girls by extremist groups in West Africa and the Sahel, including the abduction of girls by extremist groups and their increased use as bombs carriers;

RECALLING that terrorism and violent extremism and the increasing involvement of women and girls constitute an obstacle to the promotion of women's and girls' rights, causing great suffering to displaced populations in many countries of the region;

RECOGNIZING that greater involvement of women and girls in the prevention of violent extremism and terrorism is an effective strategy to enable half of the West African and Sahel population to play an important role in the threat to peace;

STRESSING that women, including rural women and their networks and associations at the national and international levels are strategic partners in the prevention of violent extremism and terrorism, including through their role as actors for peace and reconciliation, first-time educators, counselors to their husbands, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and even to all members of their families and communities;

REAFFIRMING the importance of making a substantial contribution to reach the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union Agenda 2063 as well as those on sustainable development for the promotion of gender equality and Peaceful inclusive societies:

1. CALL on the States and Governments of West Africa and the Sahel to take effective measures to systematically involve women in all initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism;
2. ENCOURAGE ECOWAS Member States to provide the necessary resources for the effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Action Plan of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework in their respective countries, as well as the United Nations' global strategy on Counter Terrorism;
3. UNDERLINE the importance of strengthening the synergy with traditional local and religious actors as well as the partnership with reliable research institutions for the review of laws and the acquisition of local solutions to global problems and taking into account the development of strategies for the prevention of extremism for countries not affected by terrorism;
4. INVITE the international community, regional organizations and all stakeholders to provide substantial support for women's initiatives to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism and to take into account international obligations to protect human rights in all relevant interventions to promote peaceful, inclusive and equal societies in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals;
5. CALL on States and Governments to ensure the protection of women who are in the forefront of the prevention of violent extremism and counter terrorism and to focus on building their capacity and the education of all actors including that of the youth;
6. URGE all stakeholders to support women's participation in the implementation of national and regional programs for the prevention of violent extremism and countering terrorism, and recall the recommendation of the Secretary-General to allocate at least 15 percent of budgets for women, peace and security;

7. REQUEST regional organizations to invite women leaders of the region to participate in statutory meetings (Heads of State / Government, Council of Ministers, etc.) of ECOWAS, G5 Sahel, Mano River Union and the Lake Chad Basin;
8. RECOMMEND the strengthening of mechanisms to better document and facilitate regular and periodic exchanges between women, their associations and networks and national and regional actors responsible for the prevention of violent extremism and countering terrorism;
9. INVITE governments to mobilize women and collaborate with them as strategic partners in programs to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism, and commit ourselves to work for the implementation of the resolutions.

Done in Dakar on 11 April 2018