

WPS BULLETIN

Message from the Editor



Dear Readers,

This month's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Bulletin comes at a moment of shifting regional and global dynamics that continue to redefine peace and security across Africa. The analyses highlight the intersection of traditional conflict drivers with emerging threats including climate shocks, digital insecurity, and geopolitical realignments highlighting the complexity of today's security landscape.

Across the continent, key developments—from diplomatic efforts in the Great Lakes region, to climate-induced displacement in East Africa, and regional dialogues on African agency point to both persistent challenges and evolving responses. At the same time, continental and regional institutions, including the African Union and COMESA, are advancing policy commitments on gender equality, justice, and accountability. However, a consistent gap remains between commitments and implementation, particularly in ensuring that women's leadership is meaningfully integrated into peace and security processes.

This edition places a strong emphasis on women's agency not only as participants, but as leaders shaping responses to crises and structural inequalities. It also highlights the need to expand the WPS agenda to address emerging domains such as digital spaces, climate security, and economic justice. As Africa navigates an increasingly fragmented global order, advancing inclusive, feminist approaches to peacebuilding remains essential to achieving sustainable peace.

In Solidarity

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Acronyms

ACCORD	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AU	African Union
AUAF	African Union Accountability Framework
AUPSC	African Union Peace and Security Council
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FDLR	Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda
IGAD	Inter Governmental Authority for Development
M23	March 23 Movement
NAPs	National Action Plans
PSC	Peace and Security Council
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
US	United States
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

Women's Leadership in Addressing Emerging Threats to Peace and Security: Artificial Intelligence and Technology-Facilitated Violence (AUPSC)

The African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), at its 1334th meeting held on 9th March 2026, convened an open session on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) under the theme "Women's Leadership in Addressing Emerging Threats to Peace and Security: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Technology-Facilitated Violence." The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the WPS agenda, while raising concern over the growing risks posed by digital technologies such as online harassment, misinformation, and gender-based violence. These increasingly undermine women's participation and leadership in peace and security processes. It called on Member States and stakeholders to strengthen legal and policy frameworks, enhance digital literacy and access, and integrate these emerging threats into national WPS action plans.

The communiqué issued reflects a significant shift in how peace and security is conceptualized on the continent. While traditional conflict drivers such as armed violence and political instability remain central, the PSC's focus on AI and digital spaces signals recognition of a rapidly evolving threat landscape. Technology is no longer neutral; it is actively shaping power, access, and exclusion. Across Africa, women peacebuilders, activists, and leaders are increasingly targeted through coordinated online abuse, surveillance, and disinformation campaigns, which silence their voices and deter participation in governance and peace processes.

We cannot look at this issue in isolation. Across Africa, conflicts are already happening and digital technologies are now part of how conflicts play out. In contexts such as eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Sahel, digital platforms are being used to spread disinformation, fuel polarization, and undermine peace processes. AI-driven tools, including deepfakes and coordinated online campaigns, are already being weaponised to target women leaders and reinforce exclusion.

At the same time, Africa is experiencing increasingly complex and

overlapping crises marked by protracted conflict, climate stress, and governance pressures. These conditions create fertile ground for the misuse of digital technologies, with online spaces becoming extensions of offline conflict. In this context, AI is not only amplifying existing inequalities but also reshaping how conflict is experienced and contested.

Therefore, the PSC's emphasis on ethical AI governance and digital inclusion is critical. However, implementation remains uneven across Member States, particularly where regulatory frameworks on cyber governance and gender-based violence are weak or outdated. Without deliberate investment in gender-responsive digital infrastructure and protections, the digital divide risks reinforcing inequalities. Integrating digital threats into National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS presents both an opportunity and a challenge requiring technical capacity, political will, and sustained financing.

While AI presents risks, it also offers opportunities for conflict prevention, including strengthening early warning systems and analysing conflict trends. However, without inclusive governance and gender-sensitive design, these tools risk reproducing existing exclusions.

As conflict dynamics expand into digital spaces, so too must feminist peacebuilding strategies. Protecting women's rights and participation now requires attention to online environments as sites of both violence and resistance. Ensuring women's leadership in shaping digital governance particularly in AI policy and cybersecurity is essential for inclusive and sustainable peace. The PSC's communiqué marks an important step, but its impact will depend on how effectively these commitments are implemented at national and local levels.



<https://papsrepository.africanunion.org/entities/publication/023c648a-cb7a-40e1-a556-41967588287b>

Women Leading Transformational Change In West Africa

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), in its report “Women Leading Transformational Change in West Africa,” highlights the critical yet often under-recognised role of women as peace actors, governance, and community resilience across the region. The report underscores that despite structural barriers including limited political representation, entrenched socio-cultural norms, and restricted access to resources, women continue to lead grassroots peace initiatives, mediate local conflicts, and sustain livelihoods in fragile contexts. It calls for stronger institutional support, policy reforms, and investment in women’s leadership to unlock transformative change in West Africa’s peace and security landscape.



The findings reflect a broader regional reality that women’s contributions to peacebuilding are most visible at the community level, yet remain insufficiently integrated into formal decision-making spaces. Across West Africa, women-led networks and civil society organisations have played pivotal roles in early warning systems, dialogue facilitation, and conflict prevention, often bridging gaps between state and community actors. However, these efforts are frequently underfunded and lack formal recognition, limiting their scalability and long-term impact.

The report reinforces the need to move beyond symbolic inclusion toward structural transformation. While progress has been made through National Action Plans (NAPs) on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325), implementation gaps persist, particularly in translating commitments into tangible outcomes for women at the local level. The report points to capacity-building, economic empowerment, and leadership development as essential entry points for strengthening women’s influence in governance and peace processes. It also emphasizes the importance of linking local women peacebuilders to regional and continental frameworks, ensuring that their knowledge informs policy responses.

It reaffirms that sustainable peace in West Africa and Africa as a whole is contingent on recognising women not as victims, but as agents of change. Advancing WPS therefore requires deliberate investment in women’s leadership across all levels that is community, national, and regional alongside accountability mechanisms to ensure that commitments are implemented. As conflict dynamics in the region become increasingly complex, centering women’s transformative leadership offers a critical pathway toward inclusive, resilient, and locally grounded peacebuilding processes.

<https://wanep.org/wanep/wps-report-women-leading-transformational-change-in-west-africa/women-and-girlsw>.

Kenya floods worsen as 2 rivers burst banks

Severe flooding across Kenya has intensified following heavy rains, with at least 88 people reported dead and more than 34,000 displaced as of late March 2026. The situation worsened after two major rivers burst their banks, flooding farms, homes, and critical infrastructure. In western Kenya, the Nyando River overflowed, submerging transport routes and disrupting movement, while emergency teams led by the Kenya Red Cross have been conducting rescue operations and relocating affected communities to temporary shelters. Authorities have warned that conditions may deteriorate further if rainfall persists.

The department highlighted the persistent barriers faced by victims and survivors when seeking justice, including stigma, secondary victimization, slow judicial processes, and a lack of adequate support services. This comes amid alarming statistics showing that between July and September 2024, 957 women were murdered in the country, according to the Human Sciences Research Council. With over one in three women experiencing physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, the call for improved access to justice underscores the need for a survivor-centred approach to combat this epidemic.

This unfolding crisis highlights the growing intersection between climate-related disasters and human security in the region. Seasonal flooding is not new in Kenya, particularly during the March–May rainy period, but the scale and intensity of recent events point to deeper structural vulnerabilities. Rapid urbanisation, settlement in flood-prone areas, weak land-use enforcement, and inadequate drainage systems have compounded the impact of extreme weather events. As climate variability increases, these systemic gaps are amplifying risks, particularly for low-income and informal communities with limited capacity to absorb shocks.

The floods expose critical gaps in disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and coordinated response mechanisms. While emergency evacuations and humanitarian interventions are ongoing, the recurring nature of such crises raises questions about long-term resilience planning and investment in climate adaptation. Infrastructure deficits, coupled with uneven implementation of environmental and urban planning policies, continue to place populations at heightened risk.

Climate-induced disasters are not gender-neutral; they disproportionately affect women and girls, who often face increased burdens of care, heightened exposure to gender-based violence in displacement settings, and reduced access to resources and decision-making spaces. In contexts like Kenya, where thousands have been displaced into temporary shelters, risks related to protection, health, and livelihoods are intensified for women, particularly those in rural and informal settlements.

Integrating a gender-responsive approach into climate security and disaster risk reduction frameworks is therefore essential. This includes ensuring women's participation in early warning systems, local resilience planning, and recovery processes, as well as addressing the structural inequalities that heighten their vulnerability. The current floods underscore the urgency of aligning climate action with WPS commitments recognising that sustainable peace and security in Africa increasingly depend on the ability of states and institutions to respond to environmental shocks in inclusive, equitable, and forward-looking ways.

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2026/03/25/kenya-floods-worsen-as-2-rivers-burst-banks-death-toll-hits-88-00842610>





African Union Convenes High Level Side Events on the Margins of CSW70 to End Violence and Exploitation against Girls

The African Union convened high-level side events from 17–19 March 2026 on the margins of the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, focusing on ending violence and exploitation against girls through strengthened justice systems and accountability mechanisms. The engagements centred on operationalising the African Union Accountability Framework (AUAF) on harmful practices, with discussions highlighting cross-border trafficking, the role of criminal networks, and the need to align formal, community, and traditional justice systems. The AU also convened a technical session on domestic financing to support implementation, emphasising the urgency of translating commitments into tangible protection for girls across Member States.

These discussions take place within a broader global context where violence against women and girls remains pervasive, even as legal and policy frameworks expand. The AU's focus on accountability and justice systems reflects a growing recognition that policy commitments alone are insufficient without enforcement, coordination, and sustained financing. In many African contexts, fragmented justice systems, particularly the disconnect between formal legal institutions and community-based mechanisms continue to limit access to justice for survivors, especially in cross-border and rural settings where state presence is weak.

The emphasis on the Accountability Framework signals a shift toward results-based governance within gender equality and protection agendas. By tracking implementation and strengthening oversight, the framework offers a mechanism to bridge the gap between continental commitments such as the Maputo Protocol and lived realities. However, its current operationalisation in a limited number of Member States points to uneven uptake and the need for broader political commitment, technical capacity, and resource mobilisation. The focus on domestic financing is particularly critical, as reliance on external funding has historically constrained sustainability and national ownership of gender justice initiatives.

Violence against women and girls especially in contexts of trafficking, exploitation, and harmful practices remains a central barrier to women's participation in peace and security processes. Weak justice systems not only perpetuate impunity but also undermine trust in institutions, limiting women's engagement in governance and conflict prevention. Strengthening justice systems, therefore, is not only a protection issue but a peacebuilding imperative. The AU's convening at CSW70 reinforces the need for integrated approaches that link gender justice, legal reform, and security governance. Advancing WPS in Africa will depend on ensuring that accountability frameworks are effectively implemented, adequately financed, and grounded in the realities of women and girls particularly those most vulnerable to violence and exclusion.

<https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20260319/au-convenes-high-level-side-events-margins-csw70-end-violence>



Africa at a Strategic Inflection Point: Agency, Alignment and Resilience in a Fragmenting World

From 13–14 March 2026, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) convened a High-Level Intra-African Dialogue in Johannesburg under the theme “Africa at a Strategic Inflection Point: Agency, Alignment and Resilience in a Fragmenting World.” The Dialogue brought together senior representatives from African institutions, the United Nations, Regional Economic Communities, civil society, academia, and the private sector to reflect on the continent’s positioning in a rapidly shifting global order. Participants highlighted a convergence of challenges including conflict and insecurity, climate stress, inequality, and geopolitical competition while affirming that Africa’s future must be shaped through coordinated, African-led responses grounded in solidarity and strategic coherence.

The Dialogue signals an important moment in continental peace and security thinking. As global fragmentation deepens and multilateral systems weaken, Africa faces increasing pressure from external actors competing over resources, influence, and strategic positioning. At the same time, internal governance challenges such as uneven development, institutional fragility, and limited coordination

continue to constrain the continent’s ability to respond effectively. The emphasis on “African agency” reflects a growing recognition that reactive and fragmented approaches are no longer sufficient in addressing complex, interconnected threats.

A key outcome of the dialogue was the call for an inclusive African platform bringing together influential voices across sectors, with deliberate attention to gender balance and youth representation. This proposal is particularly significant from a policy perspective, as it seeks to bridge gaps between state and non-state actors while fostering more coherent, long-term strategic alignment across the continent. However, the challenge will lie in translating this vision into institutional mechanisms that are both sustainable and genuinely inclusive, rather than elite-driven or consultative in name only.

While discussions on African agencies often centre on sovereignty and geopolitical positioning, they risk overlooking the structural inequalities that shape whose voices are included in decision-making processes.

The dialogue's explicit call for gender balance provides an entry point for embedding feminist perspectives into broader peace and security frameworks. Ensuring that women are not only represented but actively shaping continental strategies is essential for advancing inclusive governance and sustainable peace.

Ultimately, it underscores that Africa's resilience will depend not only on its ability to navigate external pressures, but also on its commitment to inclusive, accountable, and coordinated leadership. Advancing the WPS agenda within this context requires moving beyond rhetorical commitments to ensure that women's leadership is central to shaping Africa's peace and security architecture in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

<https://www.accord.org.za/news/high-level-intra-african-dialogue/>

COMESA Marks International Women's Day 2026, Pledges Action for Gender Equality



The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) marked International Women's Day 2026 under the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls," reaffirming its commitment to advancing gender equality as a cornerstone of regional integration and sustainable development. In a statement delivered by Secretary General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, the bloc highlighted both the contributions and persistent challenges facing women across its 21 Member States. Women, who constitute more than half of COMESA's population, continue to face structural discrimination, limited access to finance, land, and digital technologies, and widespread gender-based violence affecting approximately one in three women in the region.

COMESA's position emphasizes the centrality of gender equality to economic transformation and regional stability. Women dominate key sectors such as informal and cross-border trade accounting for up to 70% of small-scale traders yet operate in conditions marked by insecurity, harassment, and limited regulatory protection. This contradiction highlights a broader structural issue: women's economic participation is high, but their economic security and decision-making power remain constrained. Initiatives such as the Simplified Trade Regime and the Small-Scale Cross-Border Trade Initiative aim to address these gaps by improving border conditions and creating safer trading environments, signalling an effort to translate policy commitments into practical support mechanisms.

COMESA's focus on economic empowerment, digital inclusion, and institutional capacity-building reflects a multidimensional approach to gender equality. Programmes such as the 50 Million African Women Speak Platform and regional enterprise databases are designed to enhance women's access to markets, finance, and information. However, the persistence of structural

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Economic insecurity, limited access to resources, and exposure to violence directly affect women's ability to participate in peacebuilding and governance processes. In border areas especially, where trade, migration, and insecurity intersect, women face heightened risks that are often overlooked in traditional peace and security frameworks. Addressing these vulnerabilities is essential not only for gender equality but for regional stability.

COMESA's commitments therefore reinforce the need to integrate economic justice into WPS implementation. Advancing women's economic rights, ensuring safe and dignified participation in trade, and strengthening institutional accountability are critical to building inclusive peace. As the region moves forward, aligning economic integration processes with WPS priorities will be key to ensuring that women are not only participants in regional development, but central actors in shaping sustainable peace and security outcomes.

<https://www.comesa.int/comesa-marks-international-womens-day-2026-pledges-action-for-gender-equality/>

The Republic of Chad relocates Sudan refugees as army deploys near border

The Republic of Chad has begun the emergency relocation of Sudanese refugees away from its eastern border as the military prepares to deploy troops in response to escalating cross-border attacks linked to the ongoing conflict in Sudan. The move follows a deadly drone strike originating from Sudan that killed at least 17 people, including civilians attending a funeral. Authorities indicated that an initial group of approximately 2,300 refugees, more than half of them women and children, are being relocated inland from the border town of Tiné, as security conditions deteriorate.

This development reflects the increasingly regionalised nature of the Sudan conflict, which has spilled beyond national borders and intensified insecurity in neighbouring states. Since the outbreak of war in Sudan in 2023, Chad has absorbed a significant influx of refugees, with numbers nearing one million by early 2026. The recent escalation marked by cross-border attacks and military mobilisation signals a shift from a humanitarian crisis to a broader regional security threat. Border areas such as Tiné have become highly volatile, where civilian populations, armed actors, and state forces intersect in fragile and rapidly changing conditions.

The decision to relocate refugees shows the tension between security imperatives and humanitarian protection. While relocation may reduce immediate exposure to violence, it also raises concerns around access to services, continuity of assistance, and the protection of already vulnerable populations. Humanitarian systems in eastern Chad are already under strain, with limited infrastructure and resources to support large-scale displacement. At the same time, increased militarisation of border zones risks further restricting humanitarian access and complicating coordination between security and civilian actors. Women and children constitute the majority of those displaced, and face heightened risks in both transit and relocation contexts including sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, and loss of livelihoods. Displacement disrupts social networks and protection mechanisms, while overcrowded or poorly resourced camps can deepen insecurity for women and girls. Moreover, their exclusion from decision-making processes around relocation and camp management limits the effectiveness and responsiveness of humanitarian interventions. Similar gaps in women's participation are evident across the continent's ongoing peace processes, from the Doha-facilitated

talks on Sudan, IGAD-led negotiations, AU interventions, to initiatives in the Great Lakes, DRC, Angola, and Sahel region. Without intentional inclusion, gender-responsive approaches remain underrepresented, undermining both protection and peacebuilding outcomes.

There is an urgent need to integrate gender-responsive approaches into both humanitarian and security responses. Protecting displaced populations must go beyond physical relocation to include safeguarding rights, ensuring access to services, and enabling women's meaningful participation in shaping response strategies. Aligning these measures with ongoing peace efforts and broader regional dialogues will be critical to preventing further marginalisation, strengthening WPS commitments, and advancing more inclusive, sustainable peace and security outcomes across the region.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/chad-relocates-sudan-refugees-army-deploys-near-border-2026-03-23/>

Rwanda and The Democratic Republic of Congo agree on steps to 'de-escalate tensions' in Washington meeting

Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo agreed on coordinated steps to de-escalate tensions following high-level talks held in Washington on 17–18 March 2026, amid ongoing violence in eastern DRC. The meeting facilitated by the United States outlined mutual commitments, including the disengagement of Rwandan forces from certain areas, renewed efforts by the DRC to neutralise the FDLR armed group, and measures to enhance civilian protection. The talks marked the first direct engagement between the two parties since recent U.S. sanctions on Rwanda over alleged support to the M23 rebel group, which Rwanda continues to deny.

The agreement reflects ongoing efforts to stabilise a conflict that has become one of the most protracted and complex in Africa. Eastern DRC remains a site of overlapping crises involving state forces, non-state armed groups, and regional actors competing over territory and resources. Despite a U.S.-brokered peace agreement in 2025, implementation has been slow and uneven, with continued clashes and territorial shifts involving the M23 rebellion hence undermining trust between the parties. The persistence of armed violence highlights the fragility of diplomatic gains and the difficulty of translating high-level commitments into realities on the ground. The Washington meeting shows both progress and limitation in current peace efforts. While the outlined steps signal renewed political will, they remain contingent on compliance, monitoring, and sustained international engagement. The emphasis on neutralising armed groups such as the FDLR also reflects enduring security concerns that continue to shape bilateral tensions. However, a security-heavy approach risks overlooking the structural drivers of conflict, including governance deficits, resource exploitation, and local grievances.

Prolonged conflict in eastern DRC has had devastating impacts on women and girls, including widespread sexual and gender-based violence, displacement, and exclusion from decision-making processes. Yet, women's roles in peacebuilding at community level remain under-recognised in formal negotiations. The Washington talks, like many high-level diplomatic engagements, largely centre state actors, with limited visibility of women's participation or leadership. Similar patterns are evident across the region, from the Doha process on Sudan and the AU–IGAD-facilitated negotiations, to peace initiatives in Angola and broader AU-led interventions in the Great Lakes. Without deliberate inclusion, women's perspectives on protection, justice, and social cohesion are systematically marginalised.

Advancing sustainable peace in the Great Lakes region will require a more inclusive approach that integrates gender perspectives into conflict resolution efforts. This includes ensuring women's meaningful participation in peace processes, specifically within the Doha process, IGAD-facilitated Sudanese talks, the Angola peace initiatives, and AU engagements, alongside the Washington process on DRC. Addressing conflict-related sexual violence as a central security concern and supporting grassroots peace initiatives led by women will be critical. While the agreement to de-escalate tensions is a necessary step, its long-term effectiveness will depend on whether it moves beyond state-centric security arrangements to address the lived realities of those most affected, particularly women in conflict zones.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/rwanda-congo-agree-steps-de-escalate-tensions-washington-meeting-2026-03-19/>

Sudan hospital strike kills 70, warns of rising drone attacks

A drone strike on Al-Daein Teaching Hospital in East Darfur, Sudan, killed at least 70 people and injured more than 140 on 20 March 2026, according to the United Nations. The facility serving over two million people was severely damaged, with key departments including emergency and outpatient services rendered inoperable. Among the casualties were patients, relatives, and healthcare workers, including one doctor and two nurses. The attack comes amid a broader escalation in drone warfare across Sudan, with the UN warning of a sharp rise in strikes targeting civilian infrastructure.

Beyond its immediate humanitarian impact, the strike signals a dangerous evolution in the Sudan conflict: the normalization of remote, technologically mediated violence against civilian infrastructure. Drone warfare, once limited in African conflicts, is now reshaping the conduct of war in Sudan, lowering the threshold for attacks while increasing their reach and frequency. Reports indicate that over 500 civilians have already been killed in drone strikes in 2026 alone, reflecting a shift toward sustained aerial targeting in both contested and non-frontline areas.

This escalation raises critical concerns regarding international humanitarian law and accountability. Hospitals are protected spaces under international law, and their targeting whether deliberate or indiscriminate may constitute war crimes. However, the increasing use of drones complicates attribution, allowing parties to deny responsibility while continuing attacks with limited immediate consequences. This erosion of accountability mechanisms risks entrenching impunity and normalizing attacks on essential civilian infrastructure, including healthcare systems already weakened by prolonged conflict.

The destruction of Al-Daein Hospital represents more than a single incident. It is the collapse of a critical node in Sudan's already fragile health system. With no viable alternatives within a 150-kilometre radius, millions are now cut off from life-saving care, deepening mortality risks from otherwise preventable conditions. The attack therefore amplifies not only direct violence but also indirect deaths linked to the breakdown of essential services, highlighting how infrastructure targeting functions as a multiplier of human insecurity.

This affects women, especially in contexts where access to maternal, reproductive, and emergency care is already limited. In conflict settings like Darfur, the loss of such facilities heightens risks of maternal mortality, untreated injuries, and sexual and gender-based violence, while further excluding women from accessing essential services and protection mechanisms.

Moreover, the rise of drone warfare introduces new dimensions of insecurity that remain largely unaddressed within existing WPS frameworks. These technologies not only increase civilian vulnerability but also reshape how violence is experienced making it more unpredictable, less visible, and harder to regulate. Integrating these emerging forms of warfare into WPS policy and advocacy is therefore urgent.

Addressing this requires not only humanitarian response, but stronger international accountability mechanisms, regulation of emerging military technologies, and the deliberate integration of gendered impacts into peace and security responses. Without this, the trajectory of the conflict risks further eroding both civilian protection norms and the foundations of sustainable peace

<https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/un-says-sudan-hospital-strike-kills-70-warns-of-rising-drone-attacks>



Conclusion

The developments captured in this month's bulletin reinforce a central reality: peace and security in Africa are increasingly shaped by interconnected and evolving challenges that demand equally dynamic and inclusive responses. From armed conflict and regional tensions to climate crises and digital threats, these issues are not gender-neutral, they profoundly affect women's security, participation, and leadership.

While progress is evident in policy commitments and high-level engagements, the effectiveness of these efforts ultimately depends on implementation, accountability, and sustained political will. Bridging the gap between frameworks and lived realities requires centering women's experiences and expertise across all levels of decision-making, while addressing the structural inequalities that continue to limit their participation.

Advancing the WPS agenda in this context calls for a holistic approach that integrates gender justice into security governance, climate action, economic systems, and technological spaces. As the continent continues to navigate complex transitions, ensuring that women are not only included but are leading these processes remains critical to building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable peace.

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