



Office of the Special Representative
of the Secretary-General on
Sexual Violence in Conflict



African Union Commission

Framework of Cooperation

Between

**The United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the
Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict**

And

The African Union Commission

**Concerning the Prevention and Response to Conflict-related
Sexual Violence in Africa**

**Framework of Cooperation between the United Nations Office of
the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence
in Conflict and the African Union Commission concerning the
Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Africa**

1. The United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) and the African Union Commission (AUC), building on prior positive collaboration, agree to enter into a Framework of Cooperation (Framework) to collectively address conflict-related sexual violence in Africa.

2. Under this Framework, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict recognizes the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the African Union Commission as its primary interlocutor/Focal point when dealing with strategic issues related to conflict-related sexual violence in Africa at the continental level, and the African Union Commission recognizes the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict as its primary interlocutor/Focal point within the United Nations (UN) system on issues related to conflict-related sexual violence.

3. Under this Framework, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the African Union Commission agree to collaborate in a number of overarching priority areas including: combating impunity, and promoting accountability as a critical aspect of deterrence and prevention; fostering political leadership and action; enhancing information on sexual violence as a basis for action at all levels; undertaking capacity building and training to enhance response at all levels; fostering better coordination at all levels; fostering national ownership, leadership and responsibility; and emphasizing multi-sectoral services for survivors, empowering women and girls, and countering the stigma of survivors. In this regard, the parties agree to the development of a joint strategy to eradicate conflict-related sexual violence, which would include, *inter alia*:

- (a) Preventing and monitoring, with the support of the United Nations and the African Union Field Missions, conflict-related sexual violence in Africa;
- (b) Advocating with Member States of the African Union to combat impunity for conflict-related sexual violence;
- (c) Advocating with Member States of the African Union to draw attention to conflict-related sexual violence, whenever and wherever it occurs;
- (d) Advocating with Member States of the African Union to increase the visibility of efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence, including through the expression of political will, provision of



means, and taking concrete action at the highest level to eradicate this crime;

- (e) Working together to involve African leaders at the highest political levels and other African personalities as "Champions" on eradicating conflict-related sexual violence;
- (f) Supporting efforts to enhance national policies, legislation and institutions working on conflict-related sexual violence;
- (g) Advocating for the integration of conflict-related sexual violence prevention safeguards and concerns in mediation and conflict-resolution efforts in Africa, and ensuring the participation of women in such efforts;
- (h) Promoting more systematic monitoring and reporting and regular exchanges of information and analysis on conflict-related sexual violence;
- (i) Cooperating to enhance and disseminate knowledge and research on different aspects of conflict-related sexual violence as a basis for policy-making and action;
- (j) Promoting joint messaging on situations of concern involving the use of sexual violence as a tool of war;
- (k) Facilitating access of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to parties to conflict credibly suspected of committing acts of conflict-related sexual violence to seek commitments for prevention and response, as prescribed in UN Security Council resolutions 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013);
- (l) Collaborating and training to enhance the capacity of peacekeeping units deployed in operations in Africa to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence, in cooperation with relevant partners, including centres of excellence;
- (m) Enhancing capacity of the criminal justice system of conflict and post-conflict countries to respond to suspected cases of conflict-related sexual violence;
- (n) Raising awareness of the African Union Code of Conduct for African Union Peace Support Operations (PSOs) to prevent conflict-related sexual violence;
- (o) Popularizing the African Union Code of Conduct for African Union Peace Support Operations (PSOs) as a disciplinary rule to sensitize stakeholders and to prevent conflict-related sexual violence; and

2413

94

- (p) Cooperating in the establishment of specialized capacity in the African Union Commission in the form of a Focal Point to address conflict-related sexual violence.

4. To facilitate this cooperation, the African Union Commission and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict agree to develop an implementation plan annually around the above-mentioned areas to direct the implementation process.

5. In case of disputes arising from the application, implementation or interpretation of this Framework, the Parties shall settle the dispute amicably by negotiations.

6. This Framework shall enter into force on the date of its signing by the Parties.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 31st day of the Month of January in the Year of 2014.

**For the United Nations Office of the Special
Representative of the Secretary-General
on Sexual Violence in Conflict**



**H.E. Zainab Hawa Bangura
Special Representative**

**For the African Union
Commission**



**H.E. Amb. Smail Chergui
Commissioner for Peace
and Security**