

WILPF AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE – YAOUNDÉ 2019

OUTCOME STATEMENT

Yaoundé, Cameroon, May 28th 2019

Women peace activists, members of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) from 14 countries in the African region gathered in Yaoundé from May 24-27 for a regional conference on the theme **“Strengthening collaboration between sections and groups to advance peacebuilding and Women’s contribution in conflict prevention and resolution in Africa”**. The African sections of WILPF are dedicated to building a movement of peace advocates across the continent. The resonating message of this conference was that women must be supported to participate in conflict prevention.

United in Our Demands for Peace in Africa

We acknowledge the outstanding work of women for peace in Africa and have committed to build a stronger peace network across the continent within WILPF and with others. WILPF members are concerned about upcoming elections in 2019 (Cameroon, Chad) and in 2020 (Burundi, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire) and call for peaceful elections and increased women’s participation in political processes. The importance of the preservation of the independent space for civil society, particularly for women activists, was underlined across our diverse contexts.

We urge our governments to address the root causes of violence and extremism, which result in massive displacement of populations.

Solidarity for Peace in Cameroon

Participants stand in solidarity with the women of Cameroon given the current crises in the Far North, North-West and South-West and across the country. The President of WILPF Cameroon, Sylvie Ndongmo expressed that “There is an urgent need for action to mitigate the worsening security situation in Cameroon which continue to cause enormous human sufferings and for intensifying the work towards sustainable and inclusive peace”.

The Conference supports recommendations for urgent action to facilitate an inclusive dialogue process, involving all stakeholders and including women of Cameroon in line with the provisions of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Women’s Regional Efforts Required in Lake Chad Region

The group have also come together to discuss the pressing challenges in the Lake Chad Basin, concerning Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Central African Republic. WILPF’s representative from Chad stated: “We cannot be at Peace if we live in poverty”. Climate change and food insecurity continues to bear its visible impacts on women and the population.

WILPF agreed to form a new working group on Lake Chad Basin.

WILPF reminds National Governments in Africa of their commitments and obligations, included in the African Union Agenda 2063, under the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and under human rights and disarmament frameworks.

Involvement of youths in building a lasting peace

Recognizing the efforts of youths in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, we support the laudable initiatives started by Young WILPF members in their respective countries, through an intergenerational dialogue approach, as advocated by WILPF for more than a century. We encourage closer collaboration among youths from African sections and groups around a common agenda for greater effectiveness in building peace movements in Africa.

WILPF Sections and Groups represented at the African Regional Conference in Yaounde

- WILPF Burundi
- WILPF Burkina Faso
- WILPF Cameroon
- WILPF CAR
- WILPF Chad
- WILPF Cote d'Ivoire
- WILPF DRC
- WILPF Ghana
- WILPF Kenya
- WILPF Sierra Leone
- WILPF Niger
- WILPF Nigeria
- WILPF Uganda
- WILPF Zimbabwe

Background

For over 104 years, the Women's International League for peace and Freedom (WILPF) has been bringing women together to work for a world free from violence and armed conflict. National WILPF sections and groups in 47 countries across the globe work every day to educate, inform and advocate for sustainable peace-building by increasing women's meaningful participation, respect for human rights and intensifying disarmament and arms control efforts.

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