



Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control

Concept Note: GENSAC CSW Webinar

Theme: Gender-Responsive Small Arms Control as a Pathway to Peace and Equality in Africa

Tentative Date: March 20th, 2024

Time: 10:00 am ET/ 2PM GMT

Duration: 90 minutes

Location: Virtual

Background:

Women face significant violence risks in the midst of ongoing conflicts in several African nations, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Mali. This situation is further aggravated by the widespread proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in these nations. These protracted conflicts not only resulted in the loss of lives but also subjected millions of women to displacement, sexual violence, and severe human rights violations.

The Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC) is hosting a webinar on March 12, 2024, in recognition of the pressing need to address the gendered impacts of the proliferation of small arms in these conflict-affected nations titled "*Gender-Responsive Small Arms Control: A Path to Peace and Equality in Africa*". This event will convene a panel of experts in security, disarmament, and gender equality from the DRC, Cameroon, The Central African Republic, and Mali.

Objectives:

- To shed light on the extreme violence against women in conflict areas of Africa, focusing on the DRC, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Mali.
- To explore how gender-responsive small arms control can contribute to reducing violence against women - and more broadly - in conflict settings.
- To share insights and successful models from the field that can inform policies and actions to foster collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, and the community at large, towards effective strategies for small arms control that are sensitive to the needs and security of women.
- To deepen the understanding of how international legal frameworks and agreements, such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the United Nations Resolution 1325, the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) can better advance gender-responsive



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small arms control, as well as to highlight current shortcomings in terms of implementation.

- To spotlight the role of women as leaders and peacemakers in conflict resolution and small arms control, emphasizing the importance of their participation in peace processes and decision-making to ensure better overall outcomes.
- To examine the intersectionality of violence against women, considering the unique challenges faced by marginalized groups, such as refugees, internally displaced persons, and ethnic minorities, within conflict regions.

Expected Outcomes:

Increased Awareness: Participants will develop an increased awareness of the complexities surrounding violence against women in conflict areas and the critical role of small arms control in mitigating such violence.

Knowledge Sharing: The webinar will facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned from across the DRC, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Mali, offering actionable insights for stakeholders on ways civil society is leading efforts to advance gender-responsive small arms control.

Policy Recommendations: The discussions will generate concrete policy recommendations for integrating gender perspectives into national and regional small arms control efforts, aimed at protecting women in conflict-affected regions.

Talking Points and Questions the Webinar Will Address:

- How does the proliferation of small arms exacerbate violence against women in conflict areas?
- What are the specific impacts of small arms violence on women in the respective countries?
- What does gender-responsive small arms control look like in practice? How can it address the unique vulnerabilities of women in conflict zones? How can it lead to overall better peacebuilding and violence reduction results?
- What policies are needed at the national and regional levels to integrate gender perspectives into small arms control? How can these policies be effectively implemented?
- How can civil society, including women's organizations, contribute to advancing gender-responsive small arms control?



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- Can we identify any successful models or initiatives that have effectively reduced violence against women through small arms control in conflict-affected areas? What lessons can be learned from these examples?
- What are the immediate actions that stakeholders can take to protect women from firearms violence in conflict settings? Are there quick-response measures that have proven effective in safeguarding women's lives?

Speakers

Opening Keynote Address

Her Excellency Mme Irene Essambo Diatta: Minister of Social Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Panelists

Armelle Tsafack Ndongo: Vice President of WILPF Cameroon

Jacqueline Masegue: Association des Femmes pour le Control des ALPC

Fatima Maiga: President of AFIP

Moderator: Farida Nabourema (GENSAC Network Coordinator)

Run of Show

Welcome and Introductions	Farida Nabourema	10:00 am- 10:05 am
Keynote Address	Her Excellency Irene Essambo Diatta	10:05 am- 10:15 am
Overview of the gendered impact of the conflict in the Central African Republic	Jacqueline Masegue	10:15 am - 10:30 am
Overview of the gendered impact of the conflict in Cameroon	Armelle Tsafack Ndongmo	10:30 am - 10:45 am
Overview of the gendered impact of the conflict in Mali	Fatima Maiga	10:45 am - 11:00 am
Q & A Led by the Moderator	Farida Nabourema and speakers	11:00 am - 11:10 am
Q & A from from the	Farida Nabourema and	11:10 am - 11:25 am



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Audience	speakers	
Closing Remarks	Farida Nabourema	11:25 am - 11:30 am

Speakers' Bio

Irene Essambo Diata

Ms. Irène Esambo Diata is the Minister Delegate for People Living with Disabilities and Other Vulnerable Persons of the Democratic Republic of Congo. A lawyer by profession, Ms. Diata is a proven advocate in Congolese civil society, especially in the defense and management of questions on sexual violence and gender-based violence.

Jacqueline Massengue

Ms. Jacqueline Massengue is the President of the Association des Femmes pour le Contrôle des ALPC. She recently oversaw the creation of a Central African Republic's gender desk, in partnership with UN Women, UNDP and MINUSCA and financed by funds from the Governments of Japan and the United States of America.

Armelle Tsafack Ndongmo

Ms. Armelle Tskacack Ndong is the Vice President of WILPF Cameroon and the Africa regional focal point of GENSAC.

Fatima Maiga:

Ms Fatoumata Maiga Fatoumata is the Chair for the Association of Women for Peace Initiatives (AFIP).