



CONCEPT PAPER FOR A SIDE EVENT ON CSW 2018:

**EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTION 1325 AS GATEWAY TO
ACHIEVING THE UN PROGRAM OF ACTION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT
WEAPONS (PoA) IN CENTRAL AFRICA: THE CASE OF CAMEROON.**

ORGANIZED BY:

**CAMEROON YOUTHS AND STUDENTS FORUM FOR PEACE
(CAMYOSFOP)**

CONTROL ARMS,

**CENTER FOR PEACE SECURITY AND ARMED VIOLENCE PREVENTION
(CPS-AVIP)**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT AND THE FAMILY (MINPROFF)**

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTION 1325 AS GATEWAY TO ACHIEVING THE UN POA IN CENTRAL AFRICA: THE CASE OF CAMEROON.

Introduction:

The Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) a youth civil society organization created in 1999 with official legalization from the government of Cameroon on October 10, 2001 alongside Control Arms, an international movement of civil society organisations working to reduce armed violence and conflict through controls on the arms trade, and the Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention (CPS-AVIP), have been involved in mobilizing governments on the effective implementation of UN Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security adopted on October 31, 2000; and the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects (PoA) adopted in August 2001. The government of Cameroon too, has been vigorously involved in the implementation both Resolution 1325 and the PoA with the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), taking the lead in adopting and launching a National Action Plan on Resolution 1325. Cameroon therefore stand tall in the implementation of both mechanisms in the Central Africa sub-region and as such there is need to show case this best practice to the rest of world during the 2018 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). It is therefore on the above basis that CAMYOSFOP, Control Arms and CPD-AVIP in partnership with the government of Cameroon through MINPROFF are organizing a side event on: *The Effective Implementation of the UN Resolution 1325 as Gateway to Achieving PoA in Central Africa.*

Rationale:

The nexus between Resolution 1325 and the PoA is very clear and implementation must be jointly tackled for impeccable outcomes. Both instruments are an outcome of the rampant and precarious conflicts that rocked the world in the last quarter of the 20th century. In Central Africa, apart from Cameroon that survived the cycle of armed violence almost all the countries in the sub region including the DRC, Chad, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Burundi and Rwanda were all faced with civil wars and sectarian violent armed conflicts.

Though Cameroon has been considered as an island of peace in a turbulent Central Africa, with the advent of Boko Haram insurgences from the North East of Nigeria to the Extreme North of Cameroon since 2012 and the civil war in the Central Africa

Republic that led to an explosion of refugees caused by the fighting between the Anti – Balaka and the Ex-Seleka rebels led to massive human rights abuses including rapes, forced prostitutions, extra-judiciary execution etc. The Boko Haram militants on their part devised a strategy of using women and girls as shields, and as actors carrying explosives and detonating them in markets, gatherings and communities to achieve their ambitions.

The consequences of both the civil war in the Central Africa Republic and the Boko Haram insurgence have been the escape of people especially women and children from neighbouring countries of Central Africa Republic and Nigeria to seek refuge in the East and three Northern Regions of Cameroon. Out of the 252,537 refugees in the East of Cameroon over 55% are women, while in the Minawao camp of the Extreme North hosting 56,207 Nigerian refugees, in February 2017 women constituted 53.2% of the refugees.

The second grave consequence from the Boko Haram insurgents, the civil war in Central Africa, other conflicts in Cameroon and the Central African Sub Region as a whole has been the illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons that hinders the achievement of the PoA and especially goal 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of particular concern are the growing sophisticated arms and weapons used by the Boko Haram militants in recent attacks, evidenced in seizures made by security forces in northern Cameroon. The proliferation of these SALW is largely caused by the porosity of Cameroon’s borders especially with Nigeria and the Central African Republic and off course these weapons will continue to nurture seeds of conflicts in the communities concern and Cameroon as a whole.

With the numerous conflicts plaguing Cameroon, unfortunately, women have not been seen taking centre stage in negotiations and peace building processes in the current conflict dispensation in Cameroon thus testifying to the fact that less than 20% of women have been involved in peace processes by Laurel Stone in a “quantitative analysis of the participation of women in peace processes.”

Seeing the link between Resolution 1325 and the PoA the success of Resolution 1325 is highly depended on the effective implementation of the PoA. The good news is that Cameroon has join 5 other countries in Africa in adopting an Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325. The Plan was recently launched by the Minister of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF) on November 16, 2017. Equally, in January 2015 Cameroon ratified the Kinshasa convention in Central Africa for the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly. In the

meantime, Cameroon is in the process of ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The implementation of Resolution 1325 alongside the PoA and the other mechanisms on ending violence against women and girls and curbing the illicit proliferation of arms will go a long way to reducing the vulnerability of women in conflicts, getting them involved in addressing conflicts as architects of peace building and fast tracking the implementation of Resolution 1325 and PoA.

The side event to take place as part of the 2018 CSW in New York will permit Cameroon to show case its achievements in the implementation of Resolution 1325 and the PoA and also share experiences of best practices especially from DRC that has also been involved in the implementation of Resolution 1325.

General Objective:

The overall objective of the side event is to show case the advancement and aspirations of Cameroon in tackling conflicts and reducing the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons within its territory with the involvement of women in peace processes on the basis of Resolution 1325, the PoA and the ATT.

Specific Objectives:

- Show case Cameroon's efforts in the implementation of Resolution 1325 and the UNPoA;
- Share experiences with other countries especially the DRC in the implementation of Resolution 1325.
- Present the linkages and stakes between Resolution 1325, the PoA and the ATT for Central Africa.

Expected Outcomes:

- Participants are informed about Cameroon's commitments to the implementation of Resolution 1325 and PoA and its progress toward ATT ratification;
- Experiences from the side event permit Cameroon to improve on its current Action Plan on Resolution 1325.
- The linkages between Resolution 1325 and PoA also facilitates the implementation of the SDGs especially goals 5 and 16.

Profiles of Organizations Piloting the Side Event:

Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP)

CAMYOSFOP is a legally registered organization in Cameroon since 2001 *Reg. NO. 00674/RDA/J06/BAPP* With a UN Special Consultative Status since 2013; and Cameroon's Representative to the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) with its Executive Director as the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Cluster of AU ECOSOCC. He is also a member of the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group for Cameroon. Over the years, CAMYOSFOP has been working in the domain of Ending Violence against Women and Girls with the support of UN Women and MINPROFF. Some of the Projects CAMYOSFOP has been involved in include: UN Secretary General Campaign on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (Africa UNiTE); HeForShe Gender Equality Campaign and strengthening national coping mechanism against HIV and Aids amongst infected/affected women and Gender Base Violence across high prevalence regions. CAMYOSFOP also works on curbing the illicit proliferation and sale of arms at the global, regional and national levels. For details log on: www.camyosfop.org .

Control Arms:

Control Arms is an international movement of civil society organizations working to reduce armed violence and conflict through controls on the arms trade. www.controlarms.org

Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention (CPS-AVIP)

CPS-AVIP is registered nongovernmental organization in United Kingdom with a representation office in Cameroon. CPS-AVIP focuses its work in Africa, promoting Peace, Security and Preventing armed violence by supporting and Promoting government and civil society efforts for strengthening a Culture of Peace.

CPS-AVIP develop training pack on gender and arms control for training of government and non-state actors and also integrating peace education in school with a focus on human rights, gender equality, non-violence, disarmament, sustainable development and traditional peace practices as a gateway to achieving the SDGs. For details on CPS-AVIP, log on: www.cps-avip.org