



## **Joint Press Release**

# **AU, UN Women and ECCAS Solidarity Mission to the Central African Republic**

*Bangui, 23 May 2014* – A joint mission of the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) will visit Bangui from 24-26 May 2014, to highlight the situation of women and girls who have been particularly adversely affected by conflict and the resulting humanitarian suffering in the Central African Republic. .

The mission will be co-led by Ms. Bineta Diop, AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women and a senior representative of ECCAS. The AU and ECCAS delegations will receive capacity support from four renowned International NGOs: ACCORD, ACORD, CMI and Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS).

The objective of the mission is threefold: 1. To draw the attention of the international community to the situation of women and girls in the CAR within the context of the ongoing crises, highlighting the humanitarian challenges and Gender Based Violence (GBV). 2. Identify ways and means to support and empower CAR women to become agents of reconciliation, peace and development, cognizant of the well-known fact that in most conflicts women play an important but often under-valued role in conflict prevention, management and peace-building and are often sidelined in peace processes and post-conflict state institutions. 3. In the implementation of the mandate of UN Women, work with the newly established United Nations Integrated Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the entire UN System in the country, to ensure that the specific needs of women and girls are comprehensively addressed.

To achieve these objectives, the joint mission will hold a series of meetings in Bangui, to engage the CAR Transitional Authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, a broad range of civil society organizations especially women leaders and human rights organizations, and meet with the victims of the conflict, particularly displaced women and girls. Through this mission, the three organizations aim to mobilize the international community to increase its support to the Transitional Authorities and all stakeholders, in their endeavor to mainstream the participation of women in efforts to resolve the CAR crisis and build sustainable peace in the country and the region.

*End*