The AU Commission launched the first ever report on the, “Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa”, during the 3rd AU High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment on 9th July, 2016. The report addresses the gap between policy and implementation of National and Regional Action Plans (NAPs and RAPs) on UN Resolution 1325. It captures data on women’s participation and influence in peace processes in Africa.

“As the African Union Commission shifts its orientation from policy formulation to support Member States and Regional Economic Communities in the transformation of commitments into concrete, sustained implementation, the importance of utilizing monitoring and reporting tools to drive accelerated delivery should be recognized.”

H.E. Mme Bineta Diop
The Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security participated in the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) meeting, from 10th to 11th July, to reflect on how to improve on women’s economic, social and political rights in Africa. On peace and security, participants discussed:

- The need for AU Member-States to act on the principle of non-indifference
- The need for increased women’s direct participation in mediation and peacebuilding
- The need for women to work together in solidarity to transform our societies and not conform
- The need to include men in gender advocacy
- The need to form partnerships with the private sector, particularly with regards to women’s economic empowerment and recovery
- The need for sustained peacebuilding efforts towards social cohesion.

The President of Rwanda, H.E. Paul Kagame and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, were celebrated by the African Women Movement, a coalition of women’s groups across the continent, on 9th July. On behalf of the movement, H.E. Mme Bineta Diop was honoured to give this prestigious award to the august recipients, “for their contributions in advancing gender equality and women empowerment in Africa”.

Gender Champion Awards

“Men and women should live and work side by side”
H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

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Accountability for Women’s Rights in Africa

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- The need for sustained peacebuilding efforts towards social cohesion.

“Being a champion of gender is the same as being a champion for justice and human rights”
H.E. President Paul Kagame
On July 12th, Mme Diop was in Goma to engage with the women of the Great Lakes Region—from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda—in their joint efforts for lasting peace in the region. The women called on the Special Envoy to carry out solidarity missions to Burundi, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the DRC. The women condemned sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and emphasised the need for peace and justice to be complementary processes. They also called for inclusive participation and dialogue in the region.

In a brief stopover at the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Goma office, the Special Envoy encouraged the multinational military task force and intelligence services to protect women from sexual and other abuses.

“Peace is crucial, justice too”

H.E. Mme Bineta Diop
Empowering Women in Agriculture

On 16th July, H.E. Mme Diop joined AU Heads of States and Government at the High-Level Breakfast on Empowering Women in Agriculture (EWA) and Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), to call on decision makers to support schemes that will provide direct impact on poverty alleviation and women’s economic empowerment across the continent.

“97% of women that receive loans pay them back”
Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank

“There is no peace without development and no development without peace”

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#SecureWomenSustainPeace
#WomenTransform
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