



**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
INTERNATIONAL & BOARD MEETING
Geneva, Switzerland 25th-27th October 2019.**

AGENDA

Board Meeting

Proposal by Anuarite Sirewabo Muyuwa of an IAW Regional African Conference of french-speaking organizations in Kinshasa DRC in July 2020 to make known the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Dr Denis Mukwege in 2018

ENGLISH

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**ORGANIZATION OF A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEACE IN
FRANCOPHONE AFRICA**

BACKGROUND

The Great Lakes Region has been the scene of deep and repetitive crises over the past two decades. Poor governance, exclusionary policies, repeated violations of fundamental human rights and poverty are factors that have contributed to the instability of the region.

During these periods of armed conflict, violations of the human rights of women and girls have become widespread. Women have been the target of degrading and humiliating treatment. They have been victims of abuse, mistreatment, sexual and domestic violence. Most of these acts of violence remain unpunished and constitute a threat to women's lives, safety, freedom, dignity and autonomy. They severely limit their contribution to social and economic development, and therefore constitute an obstacle to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other regional and international development objectives.

Although women constitute the majority of victims, the context of armed conflict also affects men and young boys who are also targeted by armed groups that loot and rape indiscriminately.

Several strategies have been adopted at both the global and regional levels by world and regional leaders for the effective protection of the rights of women as human beings in order to combat all forms of violence against them;

Despite all the efforts made in a general and a specific way in terms of prevention and suppression of violence against women, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remains a crucial problem and a real unresolved issue for women's security in Africa, which is an obstacle to peace.

All these disasters have given rise to actions by African citizens, women and men, who are advocating for the adaption of the law to reality. These actions have played a role in preventing as well as healing the effects of violence, which for decades has affected humans in general and women in particular. These actions have been crowned by recognition of the international community as important for their contributions for peacebuilding. Here are some examples:

1960 Former tribal leader and former ANC president Albert John Luthuli receives an award for his fight against apartheid.

1978 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat receives the award for signing the Camp David agreements, which are restoring peace between Egypt and Israel. He gets the award together with the Israeli President, Menahem Begin.

1984 Bishop Desmond Tutu. The South African Archbishop is honoured for his position in favour of the struggle against apartheid.

1993 Nelson Mandela, a leading figure in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Frederik Willem de Klerk.

2001 the UN is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and with it its then Secretary General, Ghana's Kofi Annan.

2004 Wangari Maathai. A Kenyan biologist, she is the first African woman to receive this award. She receives the famous award for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace".

2011 Current Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her compatriot Leymah Gbowee. Women's rights activists.

2015 the quartet of the Tunisian national dialogue. For its success in bringing democracy to Tunisia after the Jasmine revolution, this Tunisian association was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

2018 Professor Dr. Denis MUKWEGE was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo.

The initiatives of some of these great fighters have had too little effect in their respective countries to promote and perpetuate like battle horses the actions which had led to the awards.

In the DRC, the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Professor Dr. MUKWEGE offers a great opportunity which should be grasped in order to provide the Congolese people with a weapon against the scourge of violence that plagues them. It can be a motor for lasting peace in the country,

Nevertheless this prize has not as highly valued as expected. This leads to multiple questions: is it due to the ignorance about its value? Did the award come at a bad moment?

This is the reason that the International Alliance of Women (IAF) has received reports from its member in the DRC about the distorted image and neglected value of the prize. This is caused by political manoeuvring by a regime to which Professor Dr. Mukwege was opposed, because from the beginning he was shocked about the amount of sexual violence inflicted on women and small children.

He treated and cured these victims at the Panzi hospital. Facing these cruelties this great fighter had sleepless nights, because when he was treating the badly destroyed genitalia destroyed of thousands of women and girls he got aware of all that suffering, trauma and stigmatization

This is the reason why the International Alliance of Women (IAW) is organizing a regional conference in DR Congo with Dr. Denis Mukwege awardee of the Nobel Peace Prize. This can help to restore the good image and true value of this award, which was given to Dr. Denis Mukwege for his dedicated work with women as victims and survivors of sexual violence,

This conference will bring together women from some African countries and elsewhere in Kinshasa during the year 2020; in order to promote this prize, which is important for the Congolese and all Africans.

WHY THE NOBEL PRICE TO Dr. MUKWEGE

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award 2018 Nobel Peace Prize to him as well as to Nadia Murad for the efforts to end sexual violence as a weapon of war in armed conflict and has made a significant contribution of advocacy for combating war crimes. Dr. Denis Mukwege has spent much of his adult life helping victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since the creation of Panzi Hospital in South Kivu, Bukavu, DRC in 1999 and the Panzi Foundation in 2008, Dr. Mukwege and his staff have treated thousands of patients who have been victims of these attacks. Most of the abuses were perpetrated in the context of a long civil war that claimed the lives of more than six million Congolese. Dr Denis Mukwege is the most important and unifying symbol at the national and international level of the fight against sexual violence in times of war and armed conflict. His basic principle is that "justice is everyone's business". The importance of Dr. Mukwege's tireless and dedicated efforts in this area cannot be underestimated. He has repeatedly condemned impunity for mass rape and criticized the Congolese government and other countries for not doing enough to stop the violence, sometimes even at the risk of his life.

This Nobel Prize is dedicated to:

- all the women worldwide,
- women worldwide who have been raped and sexually abused,
- all Africans in their struggles to promote peace and human dignity,
- the Congolese people who are fighting for a better life.

It is up to us Congolese to launch initiatives to support this prize so that it will be beneficial to the restoration of a lasting peace and contribute to the development of DR Congo and Africa.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

-Global:

Contributing to peacebuilding in Africa thanks to the Nobel Peace Prize of Professor Denis Mukwege

-Specific:

1. Convince Congolese and African leaders to promote the Nobel Peace Prize
2. Mobilize African populations to invest in the search for peace for a sustainable development in Africa
3. Create a Movement of Peace Watch in Africa (MAOPA)

RESULTS

1. Congolese and African leaders are engaging themselves for the implementation of the Nobel Peace Prize
2. African people are mobilized to work for peace and a sustainable development of Africa
3. A Movement of Peace Watch MAOPA is created.

METHODOLOGY

This conference on Dr. Mukwege's Nobel Peace Prize will adopt the following methodology:

- Presentation of the activities and achievements of the International Alliance of Women;
- Presentation of the achievements of the Nobel Peace Prize;
- Presentation of the endeavours for peace in selected African countries and the DR Congo
- Group work on challenges and possible solutions to overcome them
- Plenary sessions to present the results of group work, adopt the formulation of resolutions, conclusions and Recommendations,
- Development of a roadmap for the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the regional conference.

The regional conference will be coordinated by the IAW President with the support of IAW member organisations from French-speaking Africa and the technical and financial support of the Panzi Foundation based in Switzerland.

I. PARTICIPANTS

The conference will bring together 95 participants:

- technicians from the ministries in charge of gender based violence and issues related to the resolution 1325 (UN resolution for peace) in DRC,
- members of NGO's from the following countries:
Togo, Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, South Africa;
- regional actors: AU, ICGLR, the Foundation of the First Lady of the DRC, CEPGL, EAC, SADC;
- members of the IAW organisation in the DRC.

II. LANGUAGES OF THE CONFERENCE

English and French will be the working languages during the Regional Conference thanks to the services of interpreters and translators.

III. DATE AND PLACE

The Regional Conference will take place in July 2020 in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa.

IV. CO-ORGANIZING PARTNERS

The IAW Regional Conference will be organised with the support of the Mukwege Foundation Switzerland, the Foundation of the First Lady of the DRC, and the International Alliance of Women.

V. CONTACTS

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