

**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION****Forces Vives – Women**

Summary of Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Women’s Platform was launched in January 2014. The purpose of the Platform is to enable women’s organizations to actively contribute to the implementation of the PSC Framework by supporting them to strengthen their collective action, providing grants for relevant projects, and enabling women to play an active and sustained role in the overall peace process.▪ The four thematic areas of the Women’s Platform are: i) monitoring and advocacy for the PSC Framework, as well as regional and national plans of action under Security Council Resolution 1325; ii) combating violence against women and supporting women affected by violence; iii) work on women’s livelihoods and development; and iv) access to clean energy at the local level with a view to delivering concrete peace dividends at the grass-root level.▪ The Platform’s Secretariat is managed by the Global Fund for Women. Other implementing partners include: the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC), Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), and Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises (FFC).▪ The Governance of the Platform is ensured by an Advisory Board which provides strategic and policy guidance and supports the communication and participatory aspects of the Platform. The Advisory Board conducts conferences calls every four months.▪ Since its launch in 2014, the Women’s Platform has received approximately USD 700,000 from the Dutch and Irish Governments through the O/SESG Trust Fund. Contributions have also been received from the Government of Norway and Oak Foundation.▪ Through the Platform, approximately 60 direct grants totalling USD 2.5 million per year is expected to be awarded over the next three years. Thus far, thirty-five grants have been awarded to women’s organizations in the four core countries of Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda.▪ The Women’s Platform held its inaugural convening from 13-15 May 2015 in Goma, DRC.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Finalization of ongoing monitoring exercise of the Women’s Platform funded projects aimed to appreciate project results, challenges and

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Next Steps	<p>implications for sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuous monitoring of the implementation of grants in the four core countries of Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda to ensure the desired impact is being achieved. ▪ Continuous advocacy for additional resources to scale up grants for the Women's Platform 				
Messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender equality remains a core aspect of the PSC Framework and women's role remain central in all peace building efforts in the region ▪ Women's organizations and networks are effective vehicle for establishing peace and security in the Great Lakes Region and should be encouraged by member states and international partners. ▪ Financial resources should be increased to scale up the Women's Platform initiative. 				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Drafted by</td><td style="text-align: center;">Distribution</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Miranda Tabifor</td><td style="text-align: center;">SESG</td></tr> </table>	Drafted by	Distribution	Miranda Tabifor	SESG
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