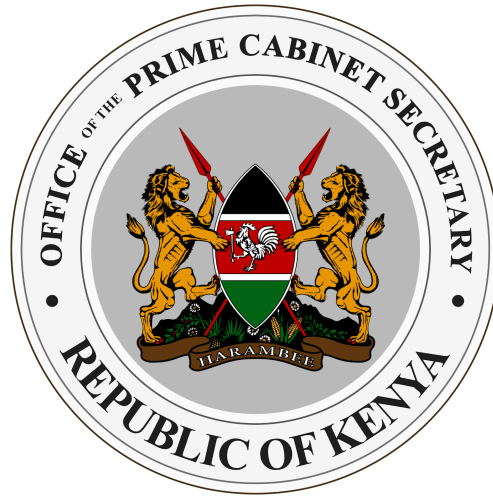




OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY
AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
& DIASPORA AFFAIRS



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, E.G.H.,
PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR
FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL
REGIONAL FORUM FOR THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 ON
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI

OCTOBER 2, 2024



Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration

Hon. Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Defence

Dr. Monica Juma, National Security Advisor to the President

Ms. Anne Wang'ombe, Principal Secretary for Gender and Affirmative Action

Principal Secretaries present

Ms. Hodan Addou, Regional Director UN Women

Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners

Esteemed Members of the Women, Peace, and Security Community

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning!

1. I am delighted to join you here for this high-level regional forum commemorating the 24th anniversary of the **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.**



- 2.** Let me, on behalf of the Government and the people of Kenya, appreciate you for choosing Nairobi as the venue of this important conference. I presume it is not just for our renowned hospitality but more so because Nairobi has been at the heart of many significant regional and global peace initiatives.
- 3.** The theme of this regional gathering reflects the momentous advances made since this landmark resolution was made in October 2020 and the journey ahead in advancing the women, peace and security agenda to foster peace and inclusivity in East and Southern Africa.
- 4.** It also raises awareness of the unprecedented humanitarian crisis that the world is grappling with due to escalating wars and conflicts in several regions, including Sudan, South Sudan, West Africa, Horn of Africa, Russia and Ukraine, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon.
- 5.** Furthermore, it reminds us that women bear the heaviest burden of these crises and also play a vital role in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction.
- 6.** Our collective success as a continent, including achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Silencing the Gun by 2030, hinges on the meaningful inclusion of women in these conflict management processes.
- 7.** We must reflect on the journey we have travelled and amplify the call-to-action for the full participation and leadership of women in fostering sustainable peace.



8. Countries worldwide have developed **National Action Plans (NAPs)** to implement UNSCR 1325, raising awareness of the unique challenges women face in conflict and post-conflict settings.

9. In Kenya and many African countries, women are included as key stakeholders in peace processes, with their voices being heard in negotiations and decision-making.

10. I assure you that Kenya fully supports this global agenda. We have already embarked on the development of Kenya's third **National Action Plan (KNAP 3)**.

This gives us an opportunity to leverage our past achievement to define a more constructive engagement of women in future peace processes.

11. The road ahead demands even greater ambition, strategy and inclusivity. We must localize efforts, strengthen accountability and establish robust mechanisms for tracking progress, measuring impact, and holding actors accountable for their actions.

12. With real time data, transparent reporting and dedicated funding, we can ensure that we are achieving tangible results.

13. As the global security landscape evolves, we must ensure that women's voices shape responses to these emerging threats, especially those related to climate security. Integrating these issues into our **National Action Plans**



ensures that we, as governments and stakeholders, prioritize them in both policy and practice.

- 14.** While we acknowledge the progress made, we must also confront the challenges that remain.
- 15.** Women continue to be disproportionately affected by conflict and are often targeted by violence and marginalization. Furthermore, women's participation in peace processes in many regions remains limited, hence, their needs and perspectives are still often overlooked in post-conflict reconstruction.
- 16.** Proliferation of small arms and light weapons compounds these challenges as it poses a serious threat to peace and security in our region.
- 17.** These easily accessible and often unregulated weapons fuel violence, exacerbate conflicts and destabilize communities. They perpetuate cycles of violence that make women and children more vulnerable to harm.
- 18.** As we address these challenges, we must work together to regulate and prevent the proliferation of small arms, ensuring safety and stability in our region.
- 19.** The growing recognition of the intersectionality between gender, peace and security offers a unique moment to deepen our commitments and ensure that the principles of UNSCR 1325 are fully realized.
- 20.** In Africa, women have a long tradition as peacebuilders. From South Sudan to Somali, to Kenya and Uganda, women



have played critical roles in mediating conflicts, advocating for peace and rebuilding communities.

- 21.** This legacy of African women in peacebuilding is a testament to the power of their resilience, courage and leadership.
- 22.** We must continue to broaden the base for the inclusion of women at all levels of peace and security efforts—not just as participants but as leaders and decision-makers.
- 23.** Let us look into the future with confidence. We must build on this legacy, to ensure that African women are not only included in peace processes but that their leadership is recognized and institutionalized.

This requires the support of all stakeholders—governments, civil society, regional organizations, international partners and local communities.

- 24.** As we move forward, let us remember that UNSCR 1325 is not just a resolution for women; it is for us all. It is a call to action for a more inclusive, just and peaceful world.
- 25.** We must renew our commitments to implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.
- 26.** This includes ensuring that women’s voices are central to peace processes, their rights are protected in conflict and that they have the resources and support they need to lead.
- 27.** To our partners, your support remains essential and critical. We need sustained support from you in drafting and implementation of **Kenya’s 3rd National Action Plan.**



This plan is not just a government priority but a key step for Kenya to advance the **Women, Peace, and Security** agenda.

- 28.** Allow me to conclude by expressing my deepest appreciation to all of you for your dedication and commitment to advancing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Your work is vital not only the women and girls of today but for future generations.
- 29.** I wish you all fruitful deliberations during this conference. I am certain that your insights and collaborations will strengthen our collective efforts towards peace and security in the region.
- 30.** Let us be inspired and continue this critical work with renewed vigor and determination. Together, let us ensure that that the promise of UNSCR 1325 is fully realized.

Thank you. Asanteni sana.