

**Full Length Research**

# **Women, Peace and Security Studies: An Examination of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Sub-Saharan Africa**

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The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) adopted in 2000, marked a significant milestone in recognizing the critical role women play in promoting peace and security. The resolution emphasizes the importance of women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction. This study examines the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Sub-Saharan Africa, a region plagued by protracted conflicts, insecurity, and gender inequality. Using a qualitative research approach, this study analyzes the progress made by Sub-Saharan African countries in implementing UNSCR 1325. The study explores the challenges and opportunities faced by women in conflict-affected areas, including their participation in peace processes, access to decision-making positions, and protection from violence. The study also examines the role of regional organizations, such as the African Union, in promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325. The findings of this study highlight the gaps between policy and practice, and the need for sustained efforts to promote women's participation in peace and security processes in Sub-Saharan Africa. The study recommends strategies for strengthening the implementation of UNSCR 1325, including capacity-building programs for women, support for women's organizations, and increased funding for initiatives promoting women's participation in peace and security.

**Keywords:** Women, Peace and Security, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Sub-Saharan Africa, Conflict Prevention, Gender Equality, African Union, Capacity Building, Rights on the Rights

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## INTRODUCTION

The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 adopted 20 years ago has been a mixed bag in Sub-Saharan Africa. This resolution emphasizes the crucial role women play in conflict prevention and resolution, and calls for their equal participation in peace building. While there have been some positive developments, progress has been underwhelming (UNSC, 2000).

UNSCR 1325 emphasizes the importance of women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction, and calls on member states to ensure women's equal representation and protection in these processes. This is because, women's exclusion from peace processes has been a persistent obstacle to sustainable peace and security.

Research has shown that women's participation in peace negotiations increases the likelihood of successful outcomes and durable peace agreements (Council on Foreign Relations, 2019). Furthermore, women's experiences and perspectives can inform more effective conflict prevention and resolution strategies (International Peace Institute, 2015).

Despite the progress made since the adoption of UNSCR 1325, its implementation remains incomplete and inconsistent. Many countries have failed to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) to implement the resolution, and those that have often lack sufficient resources and political will (Peace Women, 2020). Additionally, women continue to face significant barriers to participation in peace processes, including social, cultural, and economic obstacles (UN Women, 2015).

Regional organizations, such as the African Union, have demonstrated commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. The AU's adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) is a significant step forward. Some Sub-Saharan African countries, like Kenya, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and others have developed National Action Plans (NAPs) to implement Resolution 1325. These plans aim to increase women's participation in peace processes, protect them from violence, and promote their roles in conflict prevention.

Effective implementation of this policy requires strong political will and leadership, Increased funding for initiatives, supporting women's participation, capacity building for stakeholders, collaboration among regional and international organizations as this resolution has led to increased attention to gender-sensitive conflict-related policies and has become an organizing framework for the women, peace, and security agenda. The resolution aside inspiring the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) by various countries to implement its provisions, it has also inspired the passage of other related resolutions including **Resolution 2106 of 2013** which addresses impunity on sexual violence in armed conflict, **Resolution 2122 of 2013** which reaffirms the Council's commitment to combating sexual violence in armed conflict, **Resolution 2242 of 2015** which establishes the Security Council's Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security and **Resolution 2467 of 2019** which positions conflict-related sexual violence as firmly rooted in the broader women, peace and security agenda.

## Statement of the Problem

The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 remains a significant concern, as women continue to bear the brunt of armed conflicts and are largely excluded from peace negotiations and decision-making processes. Despite being adopted in the year 2000, the resolution's goals of promoting women's participation in peace processes and protecting them from violence remain unfulfilled. Key Challenges remains low Representation of women make up less than 10% of formal peace negotiation participants, hindering their ability to influence outcomes. Limited Protection leading to widespread sexual and gender-based violence which persists, with perpetrators often acting with impunity & Insufficient Gender Mainstreaming which has led to limited progress in integrating female personnel and gender advisors.

As at today, only 32% of UN member states had implemented National Action Plans as of 2016, indicating a significant gap in commitment. Troop-contributing and police-contributing countries often lack National Action Plans, further compromising resolution implementation; local and regional action plans are crucial for community-level operationalization, yet remain underdeveloped. To address these challenges requires the evaluating of National Action Plans' effectiveness in implementing Resolution 1325, Investigating gender mainstreaming impact on peacekeeping operations, Analyzing women's organizations' roles in promoting peace and security, By exploring these issues, research can inform strategies to enhance Resolution 1325's implementation and promote women's empowerment in peace and security efforts

## Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the effectiveness of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in promoting women's participation in peace and security efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa

### Specific Objectives Includes to:

1. Examine the effect of UNSCR 1325 implementation on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Investigate the impact of national action plans on women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa.
3. Assess the role of international organizations in supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and promoting women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between UNSCR 1325 implementation and women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa?
2. To what extent do national action plans influence women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa?
3. How do international organizations' support and cooperation affect the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa?

### Hypothesis Formulation

1. UNSCR 1325 implementation has no significant effect on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. National action plans have no significant impact on women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa.
3. International organizations' support and cooperation have no significant effect on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### Literature Review

#### Landmark Resolution on Women, Peace and Security

The Security Council adopted resolution (S/RES/1325) on women and peace and security on 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security (Trip, 2017).

Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. The resolution provides a number of important operational mandates, with implications for Member States and the entities of the United Nations system (Babbitt and Holt, 2016).

In order to ensure collaboration and coordination throughout the United Nations system in the implementation of the Security Council resolution, the Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality established the Interagency Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security which is chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. As of 2004, the Taskforce includes representatives from DAW/DESA, DDA, DPA, DPKO, DPI, ESCWA, ILO, OCHA, OHCHR, OHRM, OSAGI, SRSG/CAC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNU, WFP. Observers: IOM and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (Hague Appeal for Peace, International Alert, International Women's Tribune Centre, Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, Women's Committee on Refugee

Women and Children, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom).

In 2003, the Taskforce developed an Action Plan on the implementation of the resolution and contributed to the preparation of the Secretary-General's study. The 2003 annual report described the achievements of the Taskforce in 2002 and the 2004 annual report includes information on needs assessment checklists, briefing notes for Security Council missions and analysis of the gender content of Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council.

## **Women's Participation in Peace Processes and Gender Mainstreaming**

Women's participation in peace processes is crucial for achieving sustainable peace and security. Women and men have different needs and living conditions and circumstances, including unequal access to and control over power, resources, human rights and institutions, including the justice system (Oondo, 2019). The situations of women and men also differ according to country, region, age, ethnic or social origin, or other factors. Despite this, women are often excluded from decision-making roles in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts leading to mainstreaming as a panacea to possible women exclusion.

According to Council of Europe, 1998, mainstreaming refers to the reorganization, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy making. It simply means integrating a gender equality perspective at all stages and levels of policies, programmes and projects. The aim of gender mainstreaming is to take into account these differences when designing, implementing and evaluating policies, programmes and projects, so that they benefit both women and men and do not increase inequality but enhance gender equality. The purpose of gender mainstreaming is to solve sometimes hidden- gender inequalities. It is an approach to policy-making that takes into account both women's and men's interests and concerns.

The concept of gender mainstreaming was first introduced at the 1985 Nairobi World Conference on Women. It was established as a strategy in international gender equality policy through the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the 1995 Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, and subsequently adopted as a tool to promote gender equality at all levels (Hendricks and Obeidat, 2018). Several studies have shown that gender inequalities as such have direct costs. In many cases, public policies have been based on the needs of the dominant group in society or on the needs of those who have traditionally been the decision-makers, mostly men. The women's rights movement, an increased presence of women in decision-making, strong commitments to women's human rights at all levels, and the development of gender studies and sex-disaggregated data, have all helped unveiling the fact that public policies often did not take into account women's differing needs and situations (Babbitt and Holt, 2016).

Evidently, decisions regarding public policies and services, which do not fully take into account the needs and situations of all final users may lead to inappropriate solutions and an inadequate allocation of public funds. Gender mainstreaming is an inclusive strategy, aimed at integrating the need of all people. It is also based on the fact that women are not a "vulnerable group", as they represent more than half of the population in most societies. Gender mainstreaming is a strategy to improve the quality of public policies, programmes and projects, ensuring a more efficient allocation of resources. Better results mean increased well-being for both women and men, and the creation of a more socially just and sustainable society.

Gender equality issues need to be mainstreamed at all stages of policy making or project programming, but it is especially important to take it into account at the planning stage, when the problems, concerns and needs of the beneficiaries are identified and the ways to address them are defined. Therefore gender analysis and gender impact assessments are crucial tools for gender mainstreaming. These tools support the practical implementation of gender mainstreaming. Other factors are equally important to ensure proper gender mainstreaming, such as political will, commitment to and awareness of gender equality issues, knowledge, resources (including expertise) and availability of information. Gender mainstreaming is a responsibility of all actors and is relevant for all policy areas that deal with the needs of people and at all levels. Policy areas which at first sight do not seem relevant might contain (hidden) aspects of gender inequality.

### Notable Women leaders and Activists in Peace building Efforts

Africa	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Latin America	North America	Australia
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia)	Malala Yousafzai (Pakistan)	Jane Adams (UK)	Hanan Ashrawi (Palestine)	Rigoberta Menchú Tum (Guatemala)	Malala Yousafzai Canada	Julia Gillard
Wangari Maathai (Kenya)	Tsai Ing-wen Taiwan	Bertha von Suttner (Austria)	Shirin Ebadi (Iran)	Diana Ortiz (Guatemala)	Kimberle Crenshaw USA	Quentin Bryce
Leymah Gbowee (Liberia)	Kim Bok-dong (South Korea)	Diala Grybauskaite Lithuania	Halif Abu Ghazaleh Gaza	Dilma Rouseeff Brazil	Angela Davies USA	Eva Cox
Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria)	Corazon Acquino Philippines	Mary Robinson Ireland	Muna AbuSulayman Saudi Arabia	Michelle Bachelet Chile	Oprah Winifery USA	Nova Peris
Graca Machel (Mozambique)	Aung San Suu Kyi Myanmar	Angel Merkel Germany	Lara Alameh Lebanon	Mercedes Sosa Argentina	Ruth Bader Ginsburg USA	Elizabeth Evath

**Figure 1.**

**Source:** Authors Notable Women leaders and Activists in Peace building Efforts

### Case Studies of Conflict-affected Regions in Sub-Saharan Africa

#### **Rwanda (1994)**

Genocide and sexual violence: An estimated 800,000 people were killed, and up to 500,000 women were raped during the 100-day genocide (UNICEF, 1995).

Women's bodies as battlefields: Rape was used as a weapon of war, leading to widespread trauma and HIV/AIDS infection (Human Rights Watch, 1996).

Displacement and widowhood: Millions were displaced, and many women became heads of households, struggling to survive (UNHCR, 1995).

#### **Somalia Civil War (1991-present)**

Prolonged displacement: Women and children comprise 70% of Somalia's internally displaced persons (IDPs) (UNHCR, 2020).

Gender-based violence: Rape, forced marriage, and human trafficking are prevalent (Amnesty International, 2019).

Limited access to healthcare: Women's reproductive health needs are neglected, exacerbating maternal mortality (WHO, 2019).

#### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

Conflict-related sexual violence: Millions of women and girls have been raped, with some estimates suggesting 48 women are raped every hour (UNICEF, 2019).

Forced displacement: Women and children are disproportionately affected by displacement, with 4.5 million IDPs (UNHCR, 2020).

Economic exploitation: Women are targeted for exploitation, including forced labor and human trafficking (International Rescue Committee, 2019).

#### **Liberia (1989-2003)**

Forced recruitment: Women and girls were forcibly recruited as soldiers, porters, and sex slaves (Human Rights Watch, 2004).

Sexual violence: Widespread rape and sexual slavery occurred during the conflict (Amnesty International, 2004).

Reintegration challenges: Female ex-combatants faced stigma and difficulty reintegrating into civilian life (UNIFEM, 2005).

### ***Sierra Leone (1991-2002)***

Abduction and forced marriage: Thousands of women and girls were abducted and forced into marriage or sexual slavery (Human Rights Watch, 2003).

Amputations and mutilations: Women were targeted for amputations and mutilations as a tactic of war (Amnesty International, 2002).

Post-conflict reconstruction: Women played a crucial role in rebuilding communities, but faced ongoing challenges (UNIFEM, 2006).

### ***South Sudan (2013-present)***

Widespread sexual violence: Women and girls have been subjected to rape, gang rape, and forced marriage (UNICEF, 2020).

Displacement and vulnerability: Women and children comprise 85% of South Sudan's IDPs (UNHCR, 2020).

Limited access to healthcare: Women's reproductive health needs are neglected, exacerbating maternal mortality (WHO, 2020).

Mozambique (1977-1992)

Women's participation in the war: Many women fought alongside men in the Mozambican Liberation Front (FRELIMO) (Sheldon, 2005).

Displacement and vulnerability: Women and children were disproportionately affected by displacement and violence (UNHCR, 1992).

Landmine survivors: Women were disproportionately affected by landmines, leading to long-term health consequences (Human Rights Watch, 1994).

### ***Angola (1975-2002)***

Forced displacement: Women and children were forced to flee their homes due to conflict (UNHCR, 2002).

Sexual violence: Women were subjected to widespread rape and sexual slavery (Amnesty International, 2001).

Landmine risks: Women were at risk of landmine injuries while performing daily tasks (Human Rights Watch, 2000).

### ***Ethiopia/Eritrea (1998-2000)***

Displacement and refugee crisis: Women and children comprised the majority of refugees and IDPs (UNHCR, 2000).

Sexual violence: Women were vulnerable to rape and sexual exploitation in refugee camps (Amnesty International, 2000).

Economic hardship: Women struggled to provide for their families amidst economic instability (Oxfam, 2001).

### ***Congo-Brazzaville (1997-1999)***

Civil war and displacement: Women and children were forced to flee their homes due to conflict (UNHCR, 1999).

Sexual violence: Women were subjected to rape and sexual slavery (Human Rights Watch, 1999).

Health crisis: Women's reproductive health needs were neglected amidst conflict (WHO, 2000).

### ***Burundi (1993-2005)***

Genocide and displacement: Women and children were targeted in ethnic violence (UNICEF, 1996).

Sexual violence: Women were subjected to widespread rape and sexual slavery (Amnesty International, 2004).

Reconciliation efforts: Women played a crucial role in rebuilding communities (UNIFEM, 2006).

### ***Nigeria (Boko Haram insurgency, 2009-present)***

Abduction and forced marriage: Thousands of women and girls have been abducted and forced into marriage or sexual slavery (Human Rights Watch, 2014).

Displacement and vulnerability: Women and children comprise the majority of IDPs (UNHCR, 2020).

Economic hardship: Women struggle to provide for their families amidst economic instability (Oxfam, 2019).

### ***Central African Republic (2012-present)***

Sexual violence: Women and girls have been subjected to widespread rape and sexual slavery (UNICEF, 2020).

Displacement and vulnerability: Women and children comprise the majority of IDPs (UNHCR, 2020).

Health crisis: Women's reproductive health needs are neglected amidst conflict (WHO, 2020).

### **Statement by the President of the Security Council**

At the 4641st meeting of the Security Council, held on 31 October 2002 in connection with the 2nd anniversary of the Security Council's adoption of its resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on the item entitled "Women, Peace and Security", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council: "The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the continuing and full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and welcomes the increasing focus over the last two years on the situation of women and girls in armed conflict, and recalls the Statement by its President of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/31) and the meetings held on 25 July 2002 and 28 October 2002 as expressions of that commitment. "The Security Council welcomes the Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2002/1154) and expresses its intention to study the recommendations contained therein. The Council also welcomes the efforts of the United Nations system, Member States, civil society and other relevant actors, to promote equal participation of women in peace and security. "The Security Council remains concerned about the slow progress in the appointment of women as special representatives and envoys of the Secretary General, and urges the Secretary-General to increase the number of women serving as high-level representatives to achieve the overall goal of gender balance. The Council also urges Member States to continue to provide candidates to the Secretary-General for inclusion in a database. "The Security Council, reaffirming the importance of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction, undertakes to integrate gender perspectives into the mandates of all peacekeeping missions, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that all reports submitted to the Security Council in accordance with such mandates systematically address gender perspectives. The Council also requests the Secretary-General to provide systematic training of all staff in peacekeeping operations on gender perspectives, and to integrate gender perspectives into all standard operating procedures, manuals and other guidance materials for peacekeeping operations. "The Security Council considers that the appointment of gender advisers at sufficiently senior levels at Headquarters is necessary. The Council notes

### **2002 Study and Report of the Secretary-General**

The resolution mandated the Secretary General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution (paragraph 16).

The preparation of the study was coordinated by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms Angela King, in close collaboration with the Interagency Taskforce, who contributed material from headquarter and field perspectives, commented on several drafts and provided input to the recommendations.

The study "Women, peace and security" was published in October 2002. The study draws on the collective experience of the UN system. It analyzes the impact of armed conflict on women and girls; describes the relevant international legal framework and assesses its implementation; and reviews the gender perspectives in peace processes as well as in peace operations; humanitarian operations, reconstruction and rehabilitation, including DDR processes. The study includes recommendations for concrete action to ensure greater attention to gender perspectives in all these areas of work.

Based on the findings of the study, the Secretary-General submitted a report on women, peace and security (S/2002/1154) to the Security Council during the open debate on 28 and 29 October 2002. On 31 October 2002, the second anniversary of resolution 1325, the President of the Security Council issued a statement (S/PRST/2002/32) following the open debate.

The Presidential Statement reaffirmed the Council's commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1325. It urged the Secretary-General to increase the number of women serving as special representatives or special envoys and to ensure that all reports on peacekeeping missions to the Council systematically address gender perspectives. The Council also reaffirmed the importance of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction. In that request, it supported the appointment of gender advisers at senior levels at Headquarters.

It committed itself to integrate gender perspectives into the mandates of all peacekeeping missions and to integrate gender perspectives into the terms of reference of its visits and Missions to countries and regions in conflict. To that end,

it requested the Secretary-General to establish a database of gender specialists as well as women's groups and networks in countries and regions in conflict.

The Council encouraged the Member States and the Secretary-General to establish regular contacts with local women's groups and networks and to ensure that such are actively involved in reconstruction processes, particularly at decision-making levels.

Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and other relevant actors were encouraged to develop clear strategies and action plans with goals and timetables, on the integration of gender perspectives in humanitarian operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.

With regards to sexual exploitation, including trafficking, the Security Council called for the further development and full implementation of codes of conduct and of disciplinary procedures in the context of peacekeeping operations and humanitarian activities.

The Security Council requested a follow-up report on the implementation of resolution 1325 in 2004.

### **2004 report of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security**

The 2004 report of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace, and Security is a comprehensive document that assesses the progress and challenges in implementing Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000. The report highlights the importance of women's participation in conflict prevention, peace processes, and post-conflict reconstruction. Despite significant achievements, major gaps remain, particularly in:

- Women's Participation: Limited involvement in conflict prevention and peace processes, and underrepresentation in decision-making positions.
- Gender Perspectives: Inadequate integration into peace agreements and humanitarian responses.
- Protection from Violence: Increased sexual and gender-based violence, and inadequate protection mechanisms.
- The report provides recommendations to address these challenges, including:
- Increasing Women's Participation: Developing strategies for women's involvement in conflict prevention and peace negotiations.
- Gender Mainstreaming: Incorporating gender perspectives into peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and post-conflict reconstruction.
- Protection from Violence: Enhancing accountability for sexual and gender-based violence, and providing adequate support to survivors.

To achieve these goals, the report emphasizes the need for:

- Political Will: Concerted action and accountability from the international community.
- Resource Allocation: Regular budgetary resources for gender mainstreaming and initiatives supporting women and girls.
- Partnerships: Collaboration with women's organizations, regional actors, and local networks.

Ultimately, the report reaffirms the promise of Resolution 1325 to protect women's rights and promote their equal participation in sustainable peace.

### **Examination of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325**

The Republic of South Sudan, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of Congo have all taken steps to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

#### **Republic of South Sudan's National Action Plan (NAP)**

South Sudan adopted its first NAP in 2015, focusing on 2015-2020. The NAP aims to strengthen women's participation in peace and security efforts, creating an enabling environment for their leadership and political participation in conflict resolution. The plan has four pillars: Prevention, Participation, Protection, and Relief and Recovery. Key objectives of the NAP include: Protecting women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, increasing women's participation, in conflict prevention and resolution, Enhancing capacity, for data collection and analysis, incorporating women's needs, into national budgetary priorities

The NAP was developed through a participatory process involving government institutions, civil society organizations, women's groups, and international partners

### **Federal Republic of Nigeria's National Action Plan (NAP)**

Nigeria has taken significant steps to promote women's participation in peace and security efforts through its National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325. The country launched its revised National Action Plan in 2017, covering the period 2017-2020, which focuses on strengthening women's roles in peace-building and conflict resolution. Key Objectives of Nigeria's National Action Plan: Prevention: Enhance capacity for data collection and analysis to prevent conflicts, Participation: Increase women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution, Protection: Protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, Relief and Recovery: Incorporate women's needs into national budgetary priorities

The National Action Plan was developed by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, the national machinery for ensuring and supporting gender mainstreaming. Nigeria's efforts align with the broader Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, which includes eight related UN Security Council resolutions.

Nigeria's National Action Plan has been recognized as a crucial step towards promoting women's participation in peace and security efforts. The country's commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda is evident in its adoption of the National Gender Policy in 2006 and its ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol).

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) National Action Plan (NAP)**

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has indeed taken steps to promote women's participation in peace and security efforts through its National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Key Components of the National Action Plan are

**Prevention** which enhances capacity for data collection and analysis to prevent conflicts,

**Participation:** Increasing women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution,

**Protection:** Protecting women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence,

**Relief and Recovery:** Incorporating women's needs into national budgetary priorities. The DRC's National Action Plan was developed in line with the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, which includes eight related UN Security Council resolutions.

The African Union Commission reported on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in 23 African countries, including the DRC, in 2018. However, the effective implementation of the National Action Plan requires sustained political will, capacity building, and resource mobilization.

### **Republic of Zambia**

Zambia is yet to report on progress made in developing a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This resolution focuses on the importance of women's participation in peace and security efforts. Despite the lack of a NAP, Zambia has shown commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda through regional initiatives. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) has implemented a Regional Action Plan to promote women's participation in peace and security.

Zambia is part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which has a Protocol on Gender and Development that aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Limited progress has been made in implementing Resolution 1325 across the Great Lakes region, particularly regarding women's participation. Zambia therefore, faces challenges in promoting women's inclusion in peace and security decisions. Developing a National Action Plan would be a crucial step for Zambia to implement Resolution 1325 effectively.

### **Comoros Island**

Comoros, an island nation in East Africa, has experienced political instability, coups, and conflicts, affecting women's participation in peace and security. Comoros has not developed a National Action Plan (NAP) for implementing UNSCR 1325 due to Limited institutional capacity, Weak governance and rule of law, Low women's representation in decision-making, limited access to education and healthcare and Cultural and social barriers. However, the Comorian Government has established a Ministry for Women's Promotion and Children's Welfare and Civil society organizations, such as the Comorian Women's Association promote women's rights and empowerment.

## Republic of Somalia

Somalia faces significant obstacles in implementing Resolution 1325 due to ongoing conflict and instability in the country. Despite these challenges, there have been efforts to promote women's participation in peace and security decisions although Somalia does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) in place. Women's Organizations: Local women's organizations have been working to promote women's participation in peace and security decisions and the international community has been providing support to Somalia to promote women's participation in peacebuilding. Somalia needs to develop a NAP to guide the implementation of Resolution 1325 and strengthening Women's Organizations by supporting local women's organizations in promoting women's participation in peace and security.

## Republic of Chad

Chad's implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is limited due to the lack of a National Action Plan (NAP), which is a crucial step in promoting women's participation in peace and security. Without a NAP, Chad faces significant challenges in addressing the needs and perspectives of women in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding which includes:

**Poor Understanding of Gender Mainstreaming:** Chad's peacekeeping efforts are hindered by a lack of understanding of gender mainstreaming, leaving staff unclear on how to implement UNSCR 1325.

**Limited Women's Participation:** Women's perspectives and participation are underrepresented in peace and security decisions, hindering effective conflict resolution.

**Insufficient Resources:** Chad's implementation of UNSCR 1325 is likely constrained by limited resources, including funding and capacity building.

## Global Efforts to Support Implementation

The UN Security Council has adopted seven additional resolutions related to women's inclusion in peace and security since the passage of UNSCR 1325 in 2000. The Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 highlights good practices, gaps, challenges, emerging trends, and priorities for action.

## Theoretical Framework

### Feminist International Relations (IR)

This theory critiques traditional IR theories for neglecting gender and its role in international relations. It emphasizes the importance of gender analysis in understanding global politics, security, and conflict. The key Assumptions to this theory are that; Gender is a critical category in international relations, Gender relations shape international politics and security, Women's experiences and perspectives are essential in understanding IR. Feminist International Relations Theory offers a critical lens to examine the complex relationships between gender, power, and international relations.

### Gender and Conflict by Cynthia Enloe (1983)

The modern concept of Gender and Conflict Theory emerged much later in the 1980s with Cynthia Enloe's work on *Does Khaki Become You*. However, the pioneering credit to this theory goes to Harriet Martineau (1802 -1876) a British sociologist, philosopher and feminist even though she did not specifically propound Gender and Conflict Theory as we understand it today. According to this theory, society is defined by a struggle for dominance among social groups that compete for scarce resources. The theory examines how gender shapes conflict dynamics, experiences, and outcomes. It highlights Gendered roles and expectations in conflict (e.g., men as fighters, women as caregivers). Gender is best understood as men attempting to maintain power and privileges to the detriment of women. Accordingly, therefore, gender is one of the dimensions of social inequality as the theory is essentially the application of general (male-centered) conflict theory to understand and explain behavior with a focus on society's gendered power relations. Gender and Conflict Theory has shaped international policy, informed peacebuilding and conflict resolution practices, inspired feminist activism and advocacy and contributed to the development of feminist international relations theory.

### Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Theory by Johan Galtung (1969)

Johan Galtung's peace building and conflict resolution theory, introduced in 1969, is a comprehensive framework that has been influential in the field of peace studies. At the core of his theory is the Conflict Triangle, which consists of three elements: **Attitude**, **Behavior** and **Contradiction**. This triangle represents the complex relationships between the parties involved in a conflict. Galtung also introduced the concept of **Positive Peace** which goes beyond the absence of direct violence to address the root causes of conflict; including structural and cultural violence. He argued that peace building requires addressing these underlying issues to achieve a sustainable and equitable peace.

For purposes of strong theoretical foundations, this study would be anchored on Feminist International Relations Theory as it critically examines how gender shapes international relations, security, and conflict, which aligns perfectly with the study's focus on women's roles in peace and security. The theory therefore highlights the importance of gender analysis in understanding global politics and challenges traditional international relations approaches that neglect gender. It also emphasizes the need for gender mainstreaming in international relations, which is a key aspect of Resolution 1325.

Additionally, Gender and Conflict Theory could also be relevant, as it explores how gender influences conflict dynamics and experience that could provide valuable insights into the impact of conflict on women and girls, and how they can be empowered to participate in peacebuilding efforts while Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Theory is also important, it may be more focused on the broader aspects of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, rather than specifically addressing the gender dynamics that are central to this study.

### Methodology

A Mixed-methods approach research design combining qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods will be used together with a comparative case study design of about 3-5 Sub-Saharan African countries with varying levels of Resolution 1325 implementation. A sample size 353 respondents determined using Slovin's formula (Maragia & Kemboi, 2021), specifically designed for finite populations using purposive sampling technique targeting specific individuals and organizations will be used to ensure full representation of each of the strata under study while primary and secondary data inform of structured questionnaire will be administered to women's group, community leaders, and local authorities. Semi structured interviews will be conducted on government officials, civil society groups, women's organization and UN agencies. Focused group discussions will be organized amongst community members and local leaders.

The data analysis techniques applied in this study were the descriptive statistics such as mean, inferential statistics such as Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient (r). The Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient was employed since the assumptions of parametric Pearson correlation statistics were violated. The mean was used to analyze the responses received to the questionnaire items on the study variables. Before the analysis, a criterion mean of 2.50 was set for any item to be accepted. This implies that any item that scores 2.50 or above was accepted while those that score a mean value of less than 2.50 was rejected. The research questions and hypotheses formulated in this study were tested using Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient (r). Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient (r) is defined mathematically as;

$$r = 1 - \frac{6 \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

Where  $d_i$  = difference between the two ranks of each observation

$n$  = number of observations

The Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient (r) was used for the bivariate analysis. Here, the direction and strength of relationship between the two variables in each of the hypothesis was determined using the Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient (r). Bhandari (2021) stated that the direction of a relationship can be positive or negative. Additionally, according to Ogbeibu et al. (2022), the strength of relationship between two variables can vary. A positive relationship indicates that both variables move in the same direction, while a negative relationship implies that both variables move in opposite directions (Ogbeibu et al., 2022). Zero relationship implies that no relationship exists between the two tested variables. The strength of relationship between two variables is interpreted by Ogbeibu et al.

(2022) as follows: 0.00– 0.20 = very low extent relationship, 0.21–0.40 = low extent relationship, 0.41–0.60 = moderate extent relationship, 0.61–0.80 = high extent relationship and 0.81–1.00 = very high extent relationship.

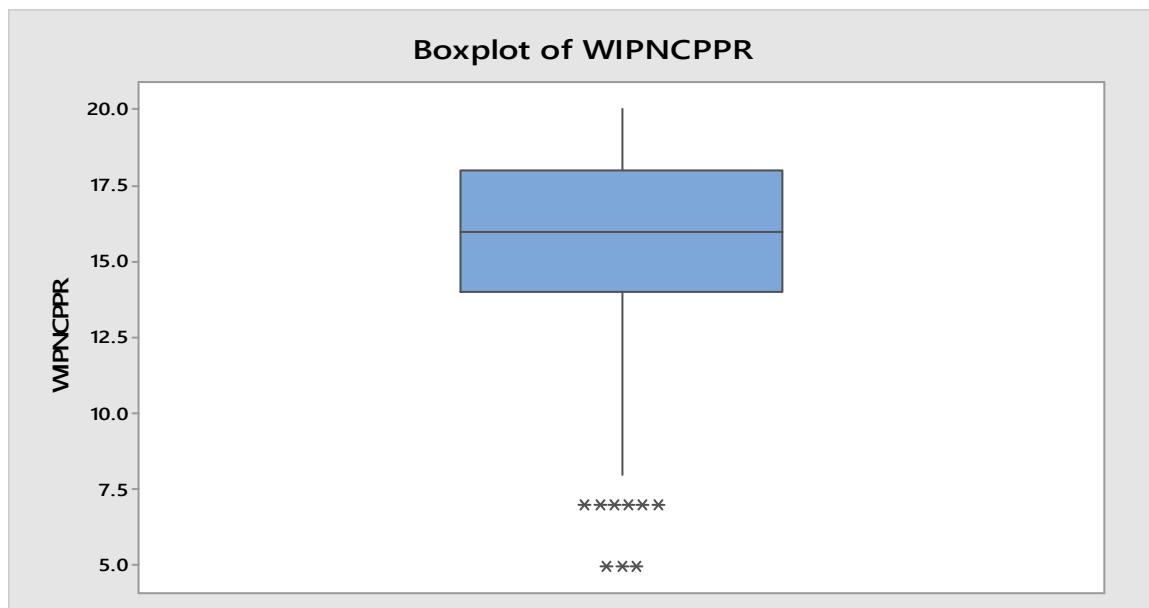
The Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient ( $r$ ) was computed using a computer software program known as IBM SPSS version 25.0, and the rejection of the null hypothesis was achieved if the calculated p-value is less than the level of significance (0.05); otherwise the null hypothesis is not rejected.

## Result

### Assumption Analysis

The three key assumptions to be satisfied are normality, no significant outliers and Linearity. Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) and Shapiro-Wilk (SW) statistics were employed to test for the normality. SW and KS statistics are the most popular techniques for normality examination (Choi *et al.*, 2020), and their results are mostly in agreement with that of Q-Q plot (Adam, Lendie and Hofmann, 2015). When the sample size ( $n$ )  $< 50$ , SW test is a more appropriate technique, but is also suitable for larger sample size whereas KS technique is employed when the  $n \geq 50$  (Ghasemi and Zahediasl, 2012). For no significant outliers, the Boxplot was used for detection of outliers. However, If **any** of these three assumptions are **violated** (i.e., not met), its nonparametric equivalent known as Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient would be employed to continue with the analysis (Shevlyakov & Oja, 2016).

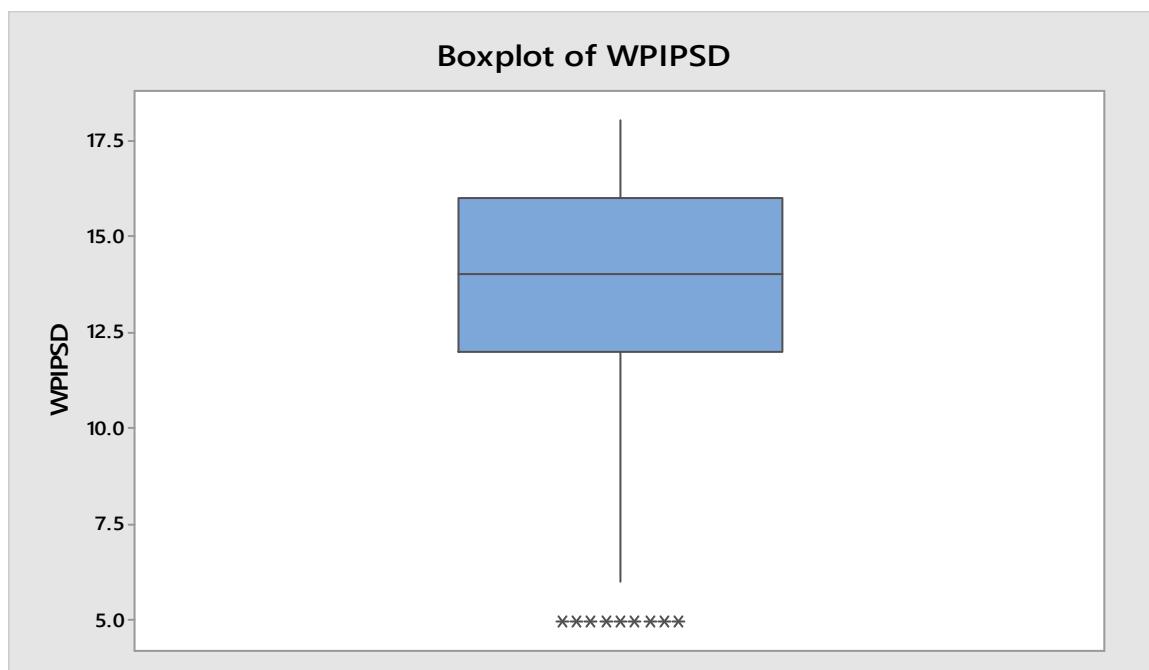
### Check for Outliers



**Figure 1: Boxplot for Outlier Detection:** Women's Involvement In Peace Negotiations, Conflict Prevention, And Post-Conflict Reconstruction (WIPNCPPR)

**Source:** Minitab software

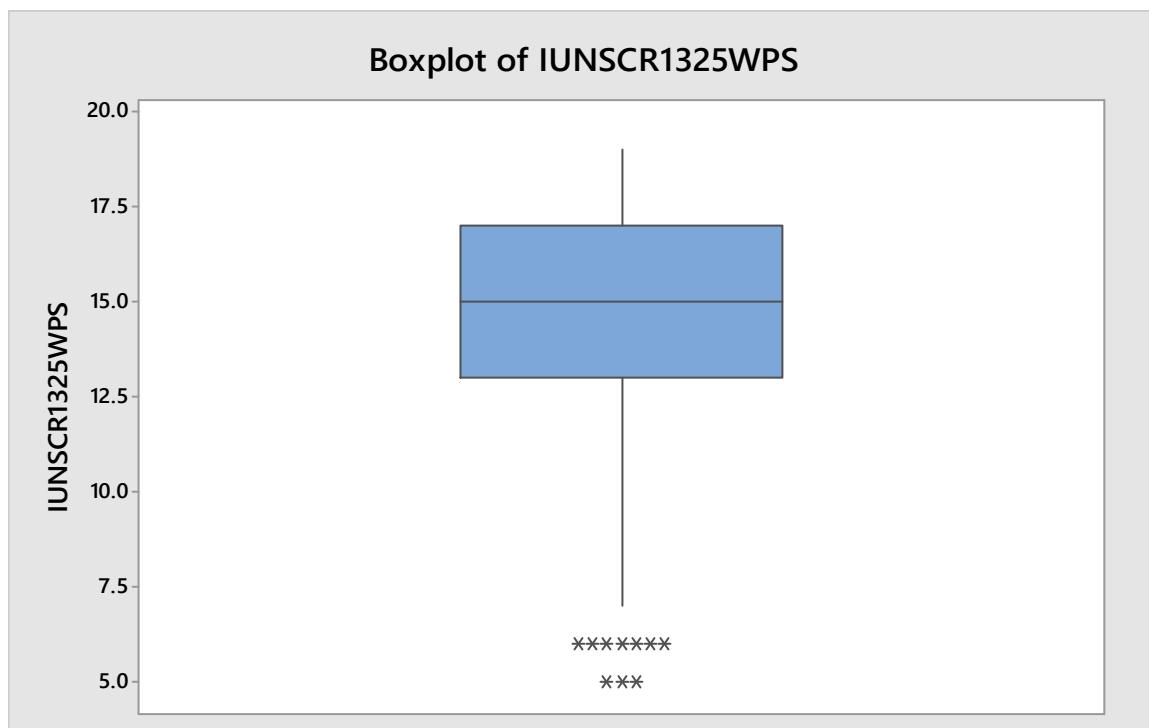
The boxplot from Figure 1 reveals nine data points that fall outside the normal range, indicating potential outliers. These data points may be errors, unusual values, or indicative of an underlying issue, warranting further investigation.



**Figure 2: Boxplot for Outlier Detection:** Women's Participation in Peace And Security Decision-Making (WPIPSD)

**Source:** Minitab software

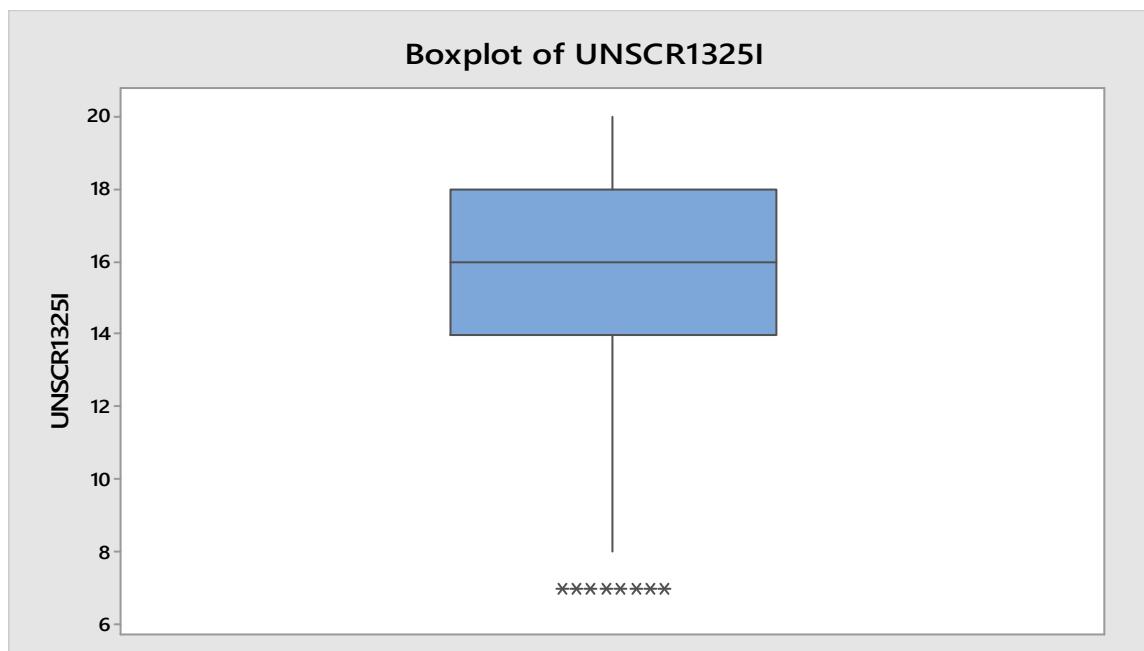
The boxplot from Figure 2 reveals nine data points that fall outside the normal range, indicating potential outliers. These data points may be errors, unusual values, or indicative of an underlying issue, warranting further investigation.



**Figure 3: Boxplot for Outlier Detection:** Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Women's Peace and Security (IUNSCR1325WPS)

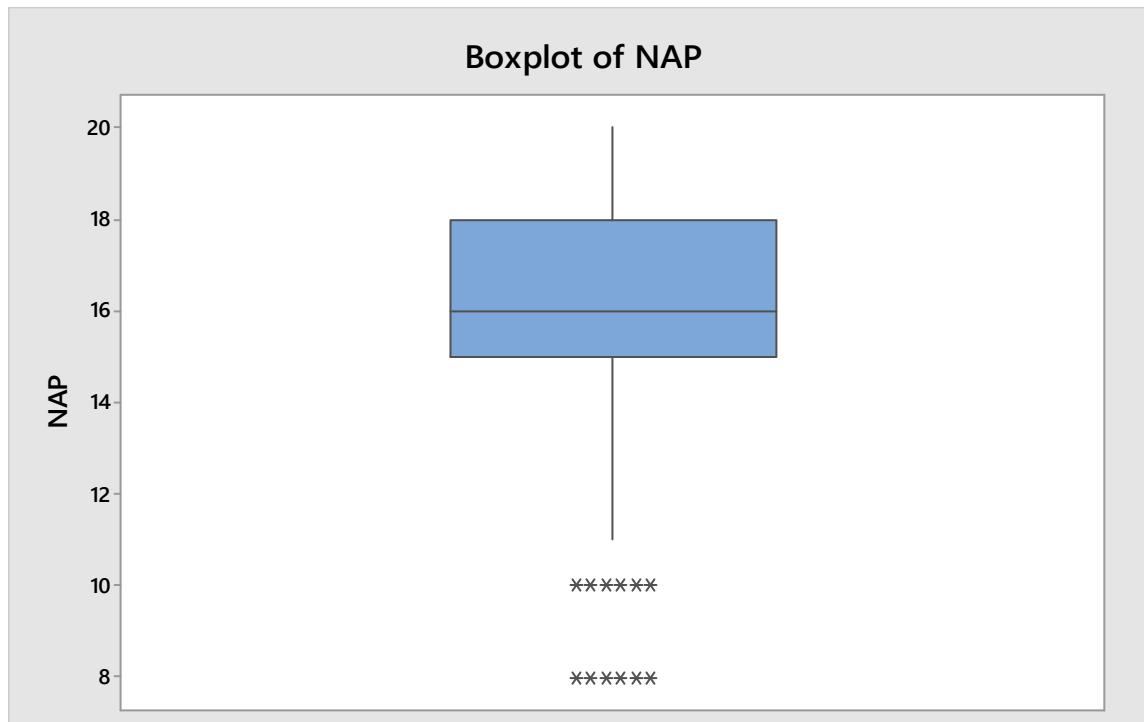
**Source:** Minitab software

The boxplot from Figure 3 reveals ten data points that fall outside the normal range, indicating potential outliers. These data points may be errors, unusual values, or indicative of an underlying issue, warranting further investigation.



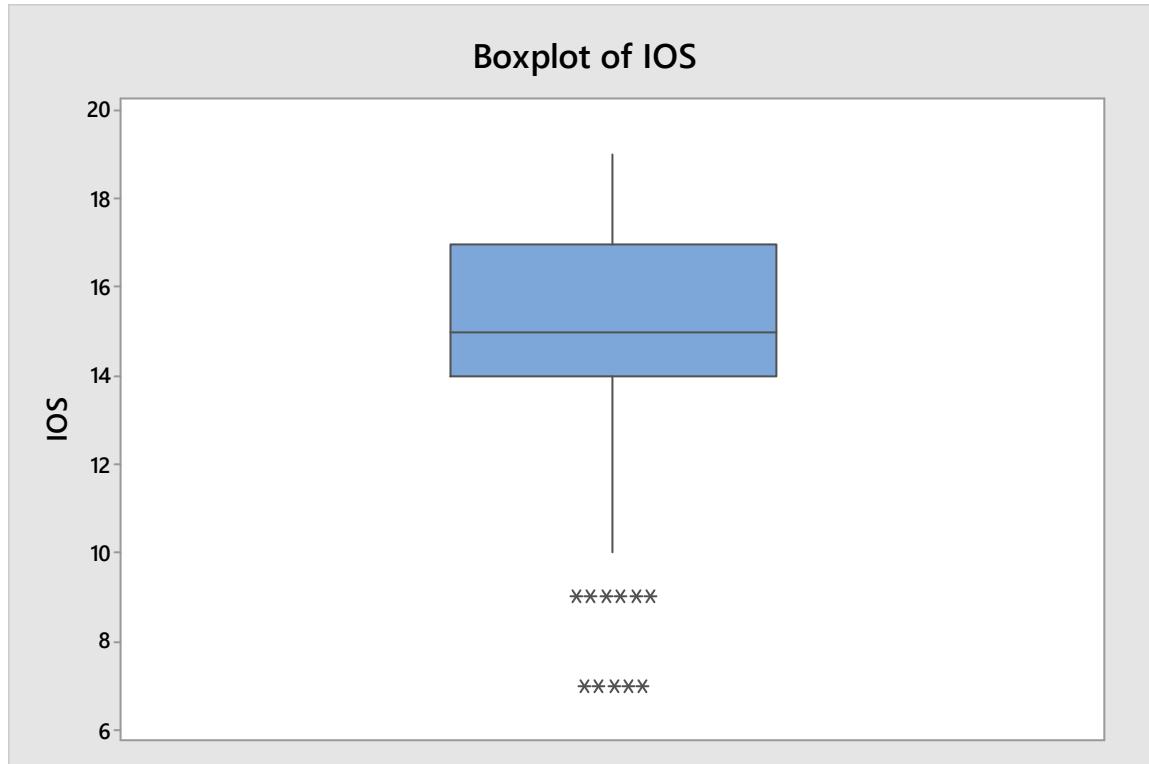
**Figure 4: Boxplot for Outlier Detection: UNSCR 1325 Implementation (UNSCR1325I)**  
**Source: Minitab software**

The boxplot from Fig. 4 reveals eight data points that fall outside the normal range, indicating potential outliers. These data points may be errors, unusual values, or indicative of an underlying issue, warranting further investigation.



**Figure 5: Boxplot for Outlier Detection: National Action Plans (NAP)**  
**Source: Minitab software**

The boxplot from Figure 5 reveals twelve data points that fall outside the normal range, indicating potential outliers. These data points may be errors, unusual values, or indicative of an underlying issue, warranting further investigation.



**Figure 6: Boxplot for Outlier Detection: International Organizations' Support (IOS)**  
**Source: Minitab software**

The boxplot from Figure 6 reveals eleven data points that fall outside the normal range, indicating potential outliers. These data points may be errors, unusual values, or indicative of an underlying issue, warranting further investigation. Since the six variables contained outliers, it became imperative to conduct a univariate normality test on each of the variables.

#### Test for Normality

**Table 1: Summary Result for Normality Test for the Response and Predictor Variables**

Variables	Kolmogorov-Smirnov			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	Df	p-value	Statistic	Df	p-value
WIPNCPPR	0.158	353	0.000	0.913	353	0.000
WIPPSD	0.159	353	0.000	0.917	353	0.00
IUNSCR1325WPS	0.167	353	0.000	0.911	353	0.000
UNSCR1325I	0.102	353	0.000	0.951	353	0.000
NAP	0.133	353	0.000	0.932	353	0.000
IOS	0.132	353	0.000	0.936	353	0.000

Judging from Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) and Shapiro-Wilk (SW) statistics in Table 1, the null hypothesis is rejected since the p-values for KS and SW for all the variables are less than 0.05. Thus, the assumption of normality is not met. Since at least one of the assumptions was not satisfied, its nonparametric equivalent known as Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient was employed (Shevlyakov & Oja, 2016).

#### Bivariate Analysis

The bivariate analysis was carried out to determine the relationship between independent and dependent variables in

each of the hypotheses. The Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient ( $r$ ) was used to test and determine the relationship between the two variables in each of the hypotheses formulated in this study. The  $r$  value was computed using the IBM SPSS version 25.0 and the results are presented below according to the research questions and hypotheses, since both of them fall under bivariate analysis.

## Research Questions and Hypotheses

### Research Question 1

What is the relationship between UNSCR 1325 implementation and women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa?

**Table 2: Summary of Analyses Concerning Research Question One**

Variables	n	$\bar{X}$	SD	$r$
WIPNCPNR	353	15.7139	2.9600	
UNSCR1325I	353	15.3654	3.2280	<b>0.735</b>
<b>High Relationship</b>				

Table 2 shows the result obtained in respect of research question one. The result reveals that the correlation coefficient is 0.735, which is high. This implies that the relationship between UNSCR 1325 implementation and women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa is to a high extent.

### Research Hypothesis 1

**H<sub>01</sub>:** UNSCR 1325 implementation has no significant effect on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Table 3: Result of Bivariate Analysis between UNSCR 1325 Implementation (UNSCR1325I) and Women's Involvement in Peace Negotiations, Conflict Prevention, and Post-Conflict Reconstruction (WIPNCPNR)**

			WIPNCPNR	UNSCR1325I
Spearman ( $r$ )	WIPNCPNR	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2 tailed)	1.000	0.735*
		N	353	353
	UNSCR1325I	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2 tailed)	0.735*	1.000
		N	0.000	.
			353	353

\*Correlation is significant at 0.05 levels (2 tailed)

Table 3 presents the result of the bivariate analysis performed between UNSCR 1325 implementation and women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction. The p-value is 0.000, which is less than the level of significance (0.05), hence, the null hypothesis which stated that UNSCR 1325 implementation has no significant effect on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa is rejected. With a correlation of 0.735, it implies that UNSCR 1325 implementation has a high and positive significant effect on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### Research Question 2

To what extent do national action plans influence women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa?

**Table 4: Summary of Analyses Concerning Research Question Two**

Variables	n	$\bar{X}$	SD	r
WPIPSD	353	13.7309	2.9035	
NAP	353	16.1813	2.4404	
<b>Very High Relationship</b>				<b>0.820</b>

Table 4 shows the result obtained in respect of research question two. The result reveals that the correlation coefficient is 0.820, which is very high. This implies that national action plans influence women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa to a very high extent.

### Research Hypothesis 2

**Ho<sub>2</sub>:** National action plans have no significant impact on women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Table 5: Result of Bivariate Analysis between National Action Plans (NAP) and Women's Participation in Peace and Security Decision-Making(WPIPSD)**

		NAP	WPIPSD
Spearman (r)	<b>NAP</b>	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2 tailed) n	1.000 0.820* 353 0.000 353
	<b>WPIPSD</b>	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2 tailed) n	1.000 - 353

\*Correlation is significant at 0.05 levels (2 tailed)

Table 5 presents the result of the bivariate analysis performed between national action plans and women's participation in peace and security decision-making. The p-value is 0.000, which is less than the level of significance (0.05), hence, the null hypothesis which stated that national action plans have no significant impact on women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa is rejected. With a correlation of 0.820, it implies that National action plans has a positive and a very high significant impact on women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### Research Question 3

How do international organizations' support and cooperation affect the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa?

**Table 6: Summary of Analyses Concerning Research Question Three**

Variables	n	$\bar{X}$	SD	r
IUNSCR1325WPS	353	14.6742	2.9884	
IOS	353	15.2040	2.4011	
<b>High Relationship</b>				<b>0.799</b>

Table 6 shows the result obtained in respect of research question three. The result reveals that the correlation coefficient is 0.799, which is high. This implies that international organizations' support and cooperation affect the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa to a high extent.

### Research Hypothesis 3

**Ho<sub>3</sub>:** International organizations' support and cooperation have no significant effect on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Table 7: Result of Bivariate Analysis between International Organizations' Support and Cooperation (IOS) and Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security (IUNSCR1325WPS)**

		IOS	IUNSCR1325WPS
Spearman (r)	IOS	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2 tailed) N	1.000 0.799* 353
	IUNSCR1325WPS	Correlation Coefficient Sig. (2 tailed) N	0.000 1.000 353

\*Correlation is significant at 0.05 levels (2 tailed)

Table 5 presents the result of the bivariate analysis performed between international organizations' support and cooperation and implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security. The p-value is 0.000, which is less than the level of significance (0.05), hence, the null hypothesis which stated that international organizations' support and cooperation have no significant effect on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa is rejected. With a correlation of 0.799, it implies that international organizations' support and cooperation have a positive and a high significant effect on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Discussion of Findings

The result of research question one and hypothesis one revealed that with a correlation of 0.735, it implies that UNSCR 1325 implementation has a high and positive significant effect on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa. The results of this study are consistent with that of True (2012) whose study found that the implementation of UNSCR 1325 led to increased participation of women in peace processes in Africa; Hudson(2012) whose result revealed that the adoption of UNSCR 1325 resulted in improved representation of women in peace negotiations and decision-making processes; Aroussi (2017), whose study demonstrated that the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Africa led to increased women's participation in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction; and Davies and True(2017) whose result found that the adoption of national action plans for UNSCR 1325 implementation resulted in improved women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Africa. However, some studies have also highlighted challenges and limitations in the implementation of UNSCR 1325, including Shepherd (2016) whose findings noted that despite the adoption of UNSCR 1325, women's participation in peace processes remains limited due to various structural and cultural barriers, and that of Olsson & Gizelis (2015) whose study found that the implementation of UNSCR 1325 has been uneven across different countries and regions, with some countries making more progress than others. Overall, the present study's finding that UNSCR 1325 implementation has a positive significant effect on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa is consistent with the broader literature on the topic. However, the study also acknowledges the challenges and limitations that remain in the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

The result of research question two and hypothesis two revealed that with a correlation of 0.820, it implies that National action plans has a positive and a very high significant impact on women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa. The results of this study are consistent with that of Pratt and Richter-Devroe (2011) whose study found that national action plans have been effective in promoting women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Africa; Tryggestad (2009), whose research demonstrated that national action plans have contributed to increased representation of women in peace negotiations and decision-making processes; and Moller and de Waal (2015) whose study highlighted the importance of national action plans in promoting women's participation in peace and security decision-making. However, some studies have also highlighted challenges and limitations in the implementation of national action plans, including Hendricks (2011) whose study found that the implementation of national action plans has been uneven across different countries and regions. Overall, the present study's finding that national action plans have a positive and very high significant impact on women's participation in peace and security decision-making in Sub-Saharan Africa is consistent with the broader literature on the topic.

The result of research question three and hypothesis three revealed that with a correlation of 0.799, it implies that international organizations' support and cooperation have a positive and a high significant effect on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa. The results of this study are consistent with that of Porter (2013) whose study found that international organizations' support and cooperation are crucial for the effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Africa; Kirby and Shepherd (2016) whose research demonstrated that

international organizations' support and cooperation have contributed significantly to the promotion of women's peace and security in Africa; and Basu (2016) whose study highlighted the importance of international organizations' support and cooperation in promoting women's participation in peace processes in Africa. However, some studies have also noted challenges and limitations in the role of international organizations in supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325, including Martens (2015) whose study found that international organizations' support and cooperation have been inadequate in addressing the complex peace and security challenges facing women in Africa. Overall, the present study's finding that international organizations' support and cooperation have a positive and high significant effect on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa is consistent with the broader literature on the topic.

## Conclusion

The study examined the impact of UNSCR 1325 implementation on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa. The results revealed that UNSCR 1325 implementation has a positive and significant effect on women's involvement in peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction in Sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, the study found that national action plans and international organizations' support and cooperation have a positive and significant impact on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and women's peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa. These findings suggest that the implementation of UNSCR 1325 has the potential to promote women's participation in peace processes and improve their overall well-being in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Governments in Sub-Saharan Africa should prioritize the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and develop national action plans to promote women's participation in peace processes.
2. International organizations should provide technical and financial support to governments in Sub-Saharan Africa to enhance the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
3. Civil society organizations should advocate for the rights of women and promote their participation in peace processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.
4. Further research should be conducted to examine the impact of UNSCR 1325 implementation on women's empowerment and gender equality in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Suggestion for Further Research

Some potential areas for further research include:

1. A comparative study examining the impact of UNSCR 1325 implementation on women's participation in peace processes in different regions of the world.
2. An in-depth analysis of the challenges and limitations faced by women in participating in peace processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.
3. A study examining the role of men in promoting women's participation in peace processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.
4. An evaluation of the effectiveness of national action plans in promoting women's participation in peace processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Expected Outcomes

1. A comprehensive understanding of UNSCR 1325 implementation challenges and opportunities.
2. Identification of effective strategies for promoting women's participation in peace and security decision-making.
3. Recommendations for improving national action plans and policy frameworks.
4. Enhanced understanding of the role of women's organizations and civil society in promoting women, peace, and security.

## Policy Implications

1. Governments in Sub-Saharan Africa should develop and implement policies that promote women's participation in peace processes.
2. International organizations should develop policies that provide technical and financial support to governments in Sub-Saharan Africa to enhance the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
3. Civil society organizations should develop policies that advocate for the rights of women and promote their participation in peace processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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