<u>Communiqué</u>

Preamble

We, WACC members and WACC project partners who met in Nairobi, Kenya from 4th-7th August 2014 at a forum on Gender and Communication in Africa at War and in Peace organized by the World Association for Christian Communication, want to state the following;

- Realizing that our continent is going through multiple armed conflicts and post conflict reconstruction processes;
- Acknowledging that women suffer disproportionally in conflict and post-conflict contexts;
- Emphasizing that women's rights, participation and role are an important issue in a peace and security processes;
- Noting that women are underrepresented and or completely excluded from formal peace and security processes;
- Realizing that many international, continental and regional instruments on women's rights do exist and provide an elaborate framework for the realization of these rights;
- Realizing there is a gap between the promises and the reality made by especially our governments;
- Disturbed that National actors, Civil society, Media, Citizens are unaware of the commitment made by their governments and so cannot claim their rights,
- Realizing the need to insure the participation of faith based communicators in the Africa review of the Beijing Platform for Action leading up Beijing + 20 processes;
- Acknowledging that women voices are marginalized on various media platforms and that this affect their participation and contribution to our countries development agenda;
- Recognizing that while social media has offered and widened the space for freedom of expression and interaction, it is increasingly becoming a major source of violence against women;
- Realizing the role of WACC in advocating for gender justice and human rights through communication;
- Appreciating the role played by community media, especially the radio in advancing and creating awareness on the issues of good governance and women empowerment;

We recommend the following:

To Communicators and Media Professionals

- Profile the role and perspectives of women before, during and after conflict and in peace and security processes.
- Promote national and regional monitoring on the implementation of laws, policies and plans around women's right issues.
- Come up with comprehensive programmes to tackle socio-cultural norms that have negative implication on gender justice.

To internet service providers

- Take responsibility to ensure that women rights are protected and safeguarded on social media.
- Block or remove content that perpetuate violence against women.

To Media Owners

- Give space and airtime in news content on issues that promote women rights and challenge gender stereotypes.
- Ensure gender sensitivity in the recruitment of women and men in the media and during promotions.
- Put in place measures that would ensure the media houses are gender responsive in how they conduct their business.

To National Governments

- Ratify and domesticate the international and AU/RECS protocols e.g: UN Resolutions 1325 and 1820.
- Create awareness on national action plans that have been developed to implement the resolutions.
- Budget and allocate resources for the implementation of the action plans.
- Put in place legal/policy framework on how to deal with violence against women on social media.

To civil society

- Work towards changing attitudes of society and socio-cultural norms and attitudes towards women and girls.
- Educate the society on the existence of the promises in international, continental and regional mechanisms and the commitment their governments have made.
- Sensitize the public, internet providers and media practitioners on how social media is perpetuating violence against women.

To Churches and Faith Based Organizations:

- Broaden teachings beyond evangelism to include issues on women's rights.
- Help communities to value and respect women and their rights.
- Advocate for the enactment and enforcement of laws that protect women's rights.
- Prepare a position paper for presentation and discussion in the Africa Review on section on Women and Media.

As representatives of media and faith based organizations, we want to commit ourselves through WACC -- an international, ecumenical, professional organization that promotes communication for all -- to implement and monitor the implementation of these recommendations.