

My speech at the conference of Mobilization to combat sexual violence against Women, in Paris: "Violence against women during conflicts is a crime against humanity " On the margins of the summit of the Elysée for Peace and security in Africa, Mrs. Valérie Trieweler , First Lady of France , organized in Paris (Musée d'Orsay ) 6<sup>th</sup> Friday, December 2013 last a mobilization meeting of the First Ladies of the continent against sexual abuse against women in conflicts. During this visit, First Lady Mrs. Dominique Ouattara has presented to her pairs of the continent, the proposals of The Côte d'Ivoire defense of women rights. Read her speech, please. The Côte d'Ivoire is pleased to participate in this mobilization meeting in the framework of the fight of violence against women in conflicts, including armed conflicts. Our country prides itself for the respect of human rights and especially for the protection of vulnerable populations, including women and children, and minorities. We have a Constitution that guarantees the rights of all citizens, both men and women, with legal provisions protecting women and girls. However, despite the existence of these laws and treaties and conventions on women's rights ratified by Côte d'Ivoire, the respect and their implementation have, in recent years, posed a problem. Statistics for the past three years resulting from the Data collected by the control platform against violence based on gender are as follows:

1) in 2010, 159 cases of rape

2) 2011: 656 cases of rape

3) 2012: 578 cases of rape

The most affected districts are believed to be those which saw some of the country's fiercest fighting between 2002 and 2011.

TO COMBAT THIS SCOURGE, OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

### **Section I - Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflicts:**

Promoting diplomacy and peace culture, through information campaigns and awareness raising; Capacity building of the security and defense forces, and raising their awareness on sexual abuse; Strengthening early warning mechanisms; And involve women and community leaders in peace process and ways out of the crisis ;

### **Point II- Supporting women victims of the violence must:**

Development of the implementation of support platforms for victim, including listening and health centers; Strengthening the post-conflict socio-economic reintegration of women and girls; Supporting all initiatives supporting the economic empowerment of women; And strengthen enrollment policies for girls, to address the problem women illiteracy .

### **Section III - The inclusion of women in the peace process**

We recommend: The strengthening of women's political leadership and making governance

systems more inclusive for women; And improve the participation of women, and the quality of their access to public services.

**Point IV- Relating to the participation and representation of women in the political processes and the international organizations:**

And more and more women must be include in conflict resolution processes;

**In conclusion** I would like to say that: Violence against women in conflicts is a weapon of war and a crime against humanity. They must be condemned with the latest energy, and no matter the circumstances. Also, we can attest, from our experience that the best approach in combating violence against women during conflicts is peace process, disarmament of armed groups and the pacification of the country. Thank you.