Guidelines for the Alignment/Harmonization of Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 with the Local Development Planning Process in Local Councils

February 2013
The Guidelines benefited immensely from the support and valuable contributions of the undermentioned Local Councils:

1. Bo City Council
2. Bo District Council
3. Bombali District Council
4. Bonthe District Council
5. Bonthe Municipal Council
6. Freetown City Council
7. Kailahun District Council
8. Kambia District Council
9. Kenema District Council
10. Kenema City Council
11. Koidu New Sembehun City Council
12. Koinadugu District Council
13. Kono District Council
14. Makeni City Council
15. Moyamba District Council
16. Port Loko District Council
17. Pujehun District Council
18. Tonkolili District Council
19. Western Area District Council
6.3. GNWP Members in Sierra Leone

- NOW (SL)
- Women’s Forum (SL)
- WPJP
- MARWOPNET

Guidelines for the Alignment/ Harmonization of Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 with the Local Development Planning Process in Local Councils

February 2013
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary provides an overview of the content of the report, highlighting key findings and recommendations. It serves as a concise introduction for readers who may not have the time or need to read the entire document in detail.

### 2.0 CONTEXT

1. **Sierra Leone National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (SiLNAP)**

2. **Local Council Development Planning Process**
   - The Local Council Development Planning Process is a mechanism for local governance in Sierra Leone, aimed at promoting inclusive development and ensuring that the voices of all community members are heard.

   - **2.1 Local Government Act 2004 (LGA 2004)**
     - Legal Framework for Local Development Planning

   - **2.2.1 Induction Workshop**
     - Steps in the Preparation of the Local Council Development Plans

   - **2.2.2 Participatory Poverty Assessment (Needs Assessment)**

### 3.0 GUIDELINES FOR THE ALIGNMENT/HARMONISATION OF SI LNAP WITH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1. **Goal of guidelines**
2. **Objectives of Guidelines**
3. **Elements and steps in integrating SiLNAP into local Development Planning Process**

### 4.0 CONCLUSION

This section summarizes the main findings and concluding remarks of the report, emphasizing the importance of aligning the National Action Plan with local development planning processes.

### 5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

A list of references and sources consulted during the research and preparation of the report.

### 6.0 ANNEXES

6.1 **Members of the Consulting Team**
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- **Catherine J. Kamara**
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- **Charles B. Vandi**
- **Chief Matthew Young Jnr**
- **Chief Sidi Braima Sowa**
- **Christian Squire**
- **Cl. Wurie Jalloh**
- **Dalton K. Charles**
- **Doris Kanneh**
- **Dr. Senesi Mansaray**
- **Edward Alpha**
- **Eric M. Sam**

6.2 **List of Participants**

Participants at the Workshop for the Alignment of the Sierra Leone National Action Plan (UNSCR 1325 SiLNAP) with the Local Council Development Planning Process at the J & E Resort, Bo, Southern Region.
I am pleased to present these Guidelines for the integration of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 into Local Councils' Development Plans. These Resolutions touch on critical issues of development: peace, security and the promotion, as well as the protection, of women. The Government of Sierra Leone has ratified the Resolutions and has developed and launched the Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SiLNAP) for their full implementation.

The Guidelines are a significant contribution to implementing UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 in Sierra Leone. They integrate key commitments relating to women's engagement in peace and security and ending sexual and gender based violence, into policy and development planning processes at the local level. They provide a comprehensive framework to guide our Local Councils in preparing their development plans. This will improve the integration of gender perspectives into local development and recognition of the role of women as peacebuilders and decision-makers.

The Guidelines have been developed as a collaborative venture. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs worked with members of the Global Network of Women Peace Builders - International Civil Action Network (GNWP-ICAN) in Sierra Leone, coordinated by the National Organisation for Women, Sierra Leone (NOW[SL]). All of the nineteen Local Councils were fully involved in the preparation and adoption of the Guidelines, together with Paramount Chiefs and traditional authorities. I trust that this involvement will ensure ownership so that the Guidelines become fully operational and integrated into development planning processes locally.

I wish to express Government’s appreciation and recognition of the strategic role played by the New York based GNWP-ICAN in spearheading the entire process. GNWP-ICAN's coordinating team was pivotal in conceptualising and setting the wheel in motion for the development of the Guidelines, and supported colleagues in Sierra Leone throughout the process.

This publication could not have come at a better time, soon after the inauguration of newly elected Mayors, Chairpersons and councillors in all nineteen local councils, with almost 80% being first-time councillors. It will not only serve as a guide for the Local Councils in their role as the principal authority for development locally, but will also be a useful document for Government and partners in working with the Local Councils and monitoring and evaluating them. The real beneficiaries will be our local communities whose development prospects will be improved as local government more effectively harnesses the contribution and interests of women and girls.

Hon. Finda Diana Konomanyi

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The full implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security on one hand and Sexual Violence on the other is always a thorny issue. However, as a country and government we have recorded some success ranging from the development of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, establishment of a National Steering Committee for its full implementation and the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act 2012 among others. The process of decentralization of the SiLNAP National Steering Committee to Local Levels Steering Committees is underway; and it is envisaged that district officials who have been trained on UNSCR 1325 & 1820 and using the guidelines would be part of the Local Steering Committees. On behalf of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA), let me acknowledge the financial assistance from the Government of Canada and Folke Bernadotte Academy of Sweden as well the technical support from the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders – International Civil Society Action Network (GNWP-ICAN).

I am particularly grateful to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development for their supervisory role of the Local Councils as well as their collaboration and commitment towards the development of these guidelines for the alignment of Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 with Local Council Development Plans. The presence of Local Council Mayors, Chairpersons, Councillors, Chief Administrators, Development Planning Officers and others is highly commended and their technical input during the review and validation of the guidelines also appreciated.

I will be remiss in my acknowledgements if I fail to recognize the work of the technical consulting team- Mr. Amara Sowa, Dr. Nana Pratt, Coordinator – NOW-SL, Ms. Princess Kawa, Mr. Oju Wilson- Legal Officer of the Decentralization Secretariat, Mr. Charles Vandi – Acting Director of Gender, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs, Ms. Jeneba Koroma – Regional Gender Desk Officer (South), Mr. Ibrahim Kamara- Regional Gender Desk Officer (North) and Ms. Mabel Kartushe for the administrative support.

Hon. Moijue Kaikai

Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs

4.0 CONCLUSION

These Guidelines on the Alignment of SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 with the Local Council Development Planning Process provide useful and practical steps to ensure that issues relating to Women, Peace and Security duly receive attention by State and non-state actors at the local level by integrating them into the Local Council Development Plans. Local Council officials, traditional authorities and grassroots women leaders contributed immensely to the formulation, review and validation of the guidelines. They expressed strong commitment to ensure that the Local Councils adopt and implement the steps in the Guidelines during the development planning process each year. It is therefore expected that the Local Councils and their development partners will uphold this commitment and work hard to ensure that the overall goal to fully and effectively implement SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 is achieved.
local government structures towards effective and efficient service delivery at the local level.

**Steps**

1. Ensure that during consultations leading to the review of the Local Government Act 2004 and the Chieftaincy Act 2009, amendments include key components of SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.

2. Ensure that bye-laws are not at variance with the principles and provisions of the SiLNAP.

**PART IV: Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation is very significant in the life of any project, programme or activity to ensure that progress is made against defined outcomes or objectives. It also allows for review and modification of the plan of action where necessary. The successful implementation of these guidelines shall guarantee that the provisions of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 are institutionalised not only at national level but at local level as well. There is need for a strong monitoring mechanism or strategy to ensure that the guidelines are effectively utilised. The responsibility for this shall largely rest with the Gender Directorate of the MSWGCA and the Decentralisation Secretariat of the MLGRD.

**Steps**

1. Ensure the inclusion of Women, Peace and Security issues as an indicator during the Comprehensive Local Government Performance Assessment System (CLoGPAS).

2. Ensure that gender responsive social accountability indicators are included in assessing the impact of SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 in Local Development Plans.

3. Ensure that Council’s Monitoring & Evaluation Officers are trained in Social Accountability including gender responsive Community Monitoring.

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLoGPAS</td>
<td>Comprehensive Local Government Performance Assessment System</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>GNWP</td>
<td>Global Network of Women Peacebuilders</td>
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<td>IMCD</td>
<td>Inter-Ministerial Committee on Decentralisation</td>
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<td>LGA 2004</td>
<td>Local Government Act 2004</td>
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<td>MDAs</td>
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<td>Medium Term Expenditure Framework</td>
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<td>NOW-SL</td>
<td>National Organisation for Women Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>PRSP</td>
<td>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper</td>
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<td>SiLNAP</td>
<td>Sierra Leone National Action Plan</td>
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<td>SGBV</td>
<td>Sexual Gender Based Violence</td>
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<td>UNSCR</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Resolution</td>
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<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality</td>
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<td>WPJP</td>
<td>Women’s Partnership for Justice and Peace</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women globally continue to suffer from discrimination and other vices like SGBV that are inimical to peace and security. The cry of the Sierra Leonean women for consistent non discriminatory policy actions including prevention of and protection from these vices have been heralded by a clarion call from Civil Society Organisations/Women’s groups including international and local NGOs.

The Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) has drafted, validated, launched and disseminated its National Action Plan (NAP) for implementing UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 that are internal normative instruments in response to women’s cries the world over. The GoSL has even enacted laws that are internal normative instruments in response to women’s concerns, all as signs of not only its commitments to international obligations, but also in response to the felt needs of a particular group of people that constitute about 52% of its country’s population. This Guide is to provide all local councils in particular with knowledge of and a practical way to implement UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 in all the nineteen (19) local councils.

This Guide was finalised after extensive engagement with all the relevant stakeholders. GoSL took the first leap by demonstrating its commitment in institutionalising the implementation of SiLNAP.

With the support of the GNWP International Coordinating Team based in New York and the Sierra Leonean Members – comprising NOW(SL), MARWOPNET, WPJP & WOMEN’S FORUM – it had organized a series of three days workshops on Local Legislation and Capacity Building on UNSCR 1325 & 1820 in Kenema, Bo, Kissy and Makeni in the period 19 June to 3 July, 2012. The workshops raised awareness among the local government authorities about the principles, provisions and benefits of the UNSCRs to society, especially women and the need to apply them through SiLNAP, at local level by integration into Local Development Plan.

also be engaged include the Inter Ministerial Committee on Decentralisation, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) and the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA).

Steps

1. Organise trainings on SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 for local actors such as administrative and technical staff of Local Councils, Council Sector Committees, Ward Committees, District Officers, Paramount Chiefs, Chiefdom Council officials and other security and justice sector actors.

2. Seek and access funds from the capacity building grants of the Decentralised Service Delivery Project and own source revenue to provide capacity building support.

3. Mobilise resources through UN Agencies (UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNCDF), bi-lateral donors, international and local NGOs towards the implementation of planned activities.

4. Ensure that the Permanent Secretary, MLGRD in preparing the Agenda includes presentation of the Guidelines to the Inter Ministerial Committee on Decentralisation.

5. Seek the support of the District Officers and enhance their capacities in order for them to become champions in the alignment of SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 with Local Development Plans and its full and effective implementation at the local levels.

6. Roll out the Guidelines to all stakeholders: Local Councils with the support of the SiLNAP Local Steering Committees shall present and distribute the Guidelines to all district officials, traditional and local leaders including community based organisations; and ensure the critical importance of its usage in guaranteeing their effective performance as local authorities and leaders.

PART III: Strategic Policy, Legal & Regulatory Frameworks

This involves developing strategic policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that will contribute to the alignment and harmonisation of SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820. Local implementation of the SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 will be given effect through providing a comprehensive legal basis, promoting and harmonising
PART I: Awareness-raising and Advocacy

Awareness-raising should form part of the entire Local Development Planning Process from Induction Workshop to Needs Assessment stage; to Resource Allocation; up to Validation and Adoption Stage.

Steps
1. Integrate presentations on SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 during induction workshops on local development planning process for Local Councils, Chiefdom Councils, and Ward Committees including MDAs at local level.

2. In the needs assessment sessions, make presentations on the linkages between prioritised needs and the national development plan (PRSPs), National Gender Mainstreaming Policy and the SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.

3. Include SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 as one of the documents to be disseminated by Local Councils in the performance tracking table of the Presidential Performance Management Contract.

4. Lobby MDAs and their development partners as well to ensure that activities relating to Women, Peace and Security as contained in SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 are allocated resources by MDAs and their development partners.

5. During validation of the Local Council Development Plan make a strong case for and ensure that activities relating to Women, Peace and Security as contained in SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 are retained.

PART II: Capacity Building and Engagement with Key Institutions and Structures

Capacity building is the development and strengthening of knowledge, skills and ability through education and trainings as well as facilitation of resources (financial and logistics support) for institutions and structures, at the local level to ensure the full and effective implementation of SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.

Other institutions and structures that play a vital role within the decentralisation programme that should

The institutionalisation of SiLNAP laid a solid foundation for the engagement of the Local Councils, Chiefdom functionaries, MDAs and two key Ministries, i.e. the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. Existing policies and legislation congruent with women, peace and security were also examined so as to cascade it down to the local level. And in a bid to be successful in implementing this Guide, the Local Council development planning process was targeted as the conduit.

The focus on the Local Council Development Plan is crucial for the successful implementation of these Guide as the development planning process is statute bound and a mandatory committee for all the 19 Local Councils countrywide. Though Local Councils have in fact started implementing some aspects of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820, this Guide will definitely serve as a barometer for a more in depth and focus implementation to address some of the emerging challenges that the women have to contend with in their various localities and in every day life.

The Guidelines give the four (4) Key elements each with proposed relevant steps to be followed in integrating the provisions of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 in terms of the SiLNAP into the Development Plan of Local Councils.

The four (4) Key elements are:

Part (I) Awareness Raising and Advocacy

Part (II) Capacity Building and Engagement with Pivotal Institutions and Structures

Part (III) Strategic Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework

Part (IV) Monitoring and Evaluation

The steps to be followed for each elements are detailed in the respective part.

The significance of this Guide is that even the women in the most remote part of Sierra Leone will
now breathe a sigh of relief, as their elected representatives have an obligation to ensure that peace and security for women are guaranteed as well as formulating bye-laws in their various localities that will be gender responsive. Central Government will now also use the Local Councils as agents for the successful implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity.

Finally, it is crucial that all actors at both the local and central levels participate fully in ensuring that Local Councils comply with this Guide when preparing their Development Plans. For monitoring groups and agencies that have been monitoring the work of Local Councils, a key indicator in monitoring and evaluating the work of these Local Councils must be compliance in implementing UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 into their Development Plans.

3.0 GUIDELINES FOR THE ALIGNMENT/ HARMONISATION OF SiLNAP WITH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

These Guidelines serve as a road map to ensure that Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 and its specific provisions are effectively integrated into Local Development Planning processes and strategies.

The goal and specific objectives of the Guidelines are as follows:

The goal and specific objectives of the Guidelines are as follows:

3.1 GOAL:

The overall goal of the Guidelines is to fully and effectively implement SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 & 1820

3.2 Objectives

Specific objectives of the Guidelines include:

a) To align SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 with local development plans, programmes, policies and legislation;

b) To strengthen the knowledge and skills of local actors such as Mayors, District Council Chairpersons, Councillors, Paramount Chiefs, Local Authorities, Development Planning Officers, Social Services Department/Gender Focal Points, Women Leaders and other stakeholders at the community level in integrating SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 into local development plans, policies, programmes and legislation; and concretely implement it at the local level;

c) To strengthen the linkage between National and Local structures in the full implementation of SiLNAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820

3.3 The elements and steps in the integration of SiLNAP into the Local Development Planning Process have been divided into four parts as follows:

I) Awareness-raising and Advocacy;

II) Capacity Building and Engagement with Key Institutions and Structures;

III) Strategic Policy, Legal and Regulatory framework; and

IV) Monitoring and Evaluation.
Upon the allocation of resources to the prioritised activities, the draft Plan is taken to a validation session where the Local Council, MDAs, ward committees, civil society and the public go through the Development Plan, scrutinise the activities that have been selected as well as resources allocated. After debate the draft Development Plan is validated and sent to Council for adoption.

**e) Adoption of Plan by the Local Council**

After validation by stakeholders, the Local Development Plan is laid before the Local Council for final discussion and endorsement. When Council endorses the Plan, it becomes binding on all to use it for development purposes within the Council locality.

**f) Dissemination of the Development Plan**

The Local Development Plan upon adoption by the Local Council can be made available to individuals, groups or organisations for a fee determined by the Council.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 unanimously adopted by UN member states on the 31st October 2000 addresses the impact of war on women and girls. The resolution urges UN Member States to ensure that there is increased representation and equal participation of women in decision-making at national, regional and international levels; and in all aspects of peace processes including conflict prevention, peacekeeping and other field based operations. It also calls for the protection of women and girls’ rights as well as their protection from sexual and gender based violence. UNSCR 1325 challenges the common notion of women and girls as victims of conflict and recognises their contribution as peacebuilders and decision makers.

UNSCR 1820 (June 2008), which recognises that conflict-related sexual violence is a matter of international peace and security, complements and strengthens the implementation of UNSCR 1325. UNSCR 1820 demands the immediate and complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against civilians. It mandates all parties to armed conflict to immediately take appropriate measures to protect women and girls and all civilians from all forms of sexual violence. Moreover, the resolution stresses the need for the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes, and urges all UN Member States to comply with their obligations for prosecuting persons responsible for such acts, to ensure that all victims of sexual violence, particularly women and girls, have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice. It emphasises the critical importance of ending impunity for such acts as part of a comprehensive approach to seeking sustainable peace, justice, truth and national reconciliation.

The United Nations Security Council has called on UN Member States to implement UNSCR 1325 by developing National Action Plans or other national level strategies. In this regard, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and Civil Society Task Force on UNSCR 1325 drafted SiLNAP which was validated and adopted on September 4th, 2009. The SiLNAP was officially launched by His Excellency the
President Ernest Bai Koroma on June 8th 2010.

The full implementation of the SiLNAP will ensure the integration of a gender perspective in especially related institutional reforms, strategic policies and plans at national and sectoral levels to prevent and respond to the continued consequences and impact of the 11-year civil war on women and girls. The vision of SiLNAP is “A Sierra Leone that reinforces and fosters its commitments for women and girls to realise the benefits of the principles and provisions of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820”.

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders – International Civil Society Action Network (GNWP-ICAN) and its members and partners in Sierra Leone replicated its 1325 Project on Capacities and Partnerships for Women and Peace and Security in the country. This Localisation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 programme has been cited in the 2012 Women, Peace and Security report of the UN Secretary General as an important strategy that promotes implementation at sub-national and regional levels and integrates women and peace and security commitments into legislation, policy-making and planning processes.

This initiative that localises UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 implementation has two components:
(i) the convening of local authorities, traditional leaders and other key local actors in localisation workshops on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820; and
(ii) the development of Guidelines for the alignment/harmonisation of Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 with the Local Development Planning Process in Local Councils.

The localisation workshops were held in the 4 main regions of Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan. They bring together ward residents (including representatives from traditional authorities, men, women, youth, people with disabilities etc) to a central location where they discuss their felt needs and development aspirations along broad and specific themes that are aligned to the National Development Agenda (the PRSP / Agenda for Change / Agenda for Prosperity). After the discussions ward residents prioritise their needs using Peer Wise Rankings. These needs are then recorded by the Council’s Technical Team and taken back to the Local Council.

c) Presentation of community priorities to devolved MDAs, Council sector committees NGOs and CSOs.

Upon completion of ward consultations and the compilation of community priorities according to ward, the priorities are presented to devolved Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), sector committees of the Local Council, NGOs Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The MDAs in consultative working sessions with their corresponding Council sector committees, NGOs/CSOs examine these priorities, determine which ones are feasible (in light of available resources) and in line with national development policies. Based on such examination, they allocate resources and prepare a sectoral budget which is later integrated into Council’s budget which is a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget.

d) Validation of Draft Development Plan with Ward Committees, CSOs and the public
vides for the preparation of a development plan “which shall guide” the development of the locality. Subsection (4) states that “a local council shall, before approving or reviewing a development plan consult residents of the locality, agencies of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations that have interest in working in the locality”.

Local governance would not only address the problems of exclusion and marginalisation but more specifically it would afford the local people the opportunity to participate directly in decision making and also ensure that service delivery is effective and efficient.

The development planning process involves a number of steps which are outlined in section (B ii) below

2.2.2 Steps in the preparation of the Local Council Development Plans

The primary responsibility for preparing the Local Council Development Plans rests with the Local Council. The Development Plan captures the development aspirations of the people within that particular local council locality, identifies the key development challenges and maps out a clear strategy for meeting the set priorities as well as identifying the source of the required resources. The process is led by the Development Planning Unit of the Local Council which is headed by the Development Planning Officer. The Development Planning Officer is supported by the Chairperson and members of the Council’s Development Planning Committee, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and the Resident Technical Facilitator. Councillors are central in this process especially during the consultative phase, as they bear the responsibility of convening the ward committees and residents during that phase. The entire process is overseen by the Chief Administrator of the Local Council and entails the following:

a) Induction workshop

The Induction workshop marks the beginning of the development planning process and is normally held between June and August of the year proceeding that when the Plan would be implemented. The workshop aims to increase understanding of the development planning processes involved in the review of the Plan. Participants at

of Sierra Leone between June 19th and July 4th 2012.

A team of Sierra Leonean consultants from the Decentralisation Secretariat (the technical wing of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development) and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs with support from GNWP drafted guidelines for the alignment of Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 with the Local Development Planning Process.

The Local Councils reviewed and validated the guidelines to ensure ownership and effective utilisation during their development planning processes.

The Guidelines development and validation component took place in the period December 19th to 21st 2012 in Bo, Southern Region.
2.0 CONTEXT

2.1 Sierra Leone National Action Plan on UNSCRs 1325 (SiLNAP)

The SiLNAP serves as a guide for effective implementation by identifying specific activities, roles and responsibilities of actors as well as creating a monitoring and evaluation framework. It is a five-year (2010-2014) implementation plan designed and developed around five pillars. The pillars are the identified overall objectives as follows:

**Pillar 1:** Contribute to the reduction of conflict including violence against women/children (SGBV)

**Pillar 2:** Protect and empower victims/vulnerable persons especially women and girls

**Pillar 3:** Contribute to increased prosecution of perpetrators as well as rehabilitation of victims

**Pillar 4:** Contribute to increased participation and representation of women

**Pillar 5:** Ensure effective coordination of the implementation process including resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation and reporting on the National Action Plan.

Each pillar contains priority outcomes and output objectives with indicators for monitoring progress towards full implementation.

The main output objectives within the SiLNAP are:

**Pillar 1:**
1. Commitment for the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 by related MDAs especially Security Sector institutions, Education, Finance, Health and Political Parties increased
2. Policies, mechanisms and procedures for prevention of conflict/violence against women instituted at community levels
3. Legal environment for the protection of women’s rights and security improved
4. Gender responsive behavior for prevention of violence against women and children and for peace consolidation strengthened.

**Pillar 2:**
1. Reporting of SGBV cases at national and community levels increased
2. Health (psychological) economic and support provided to vulnerable persons including victims and survivors
3. Government measures and benefits for women and girls in vulnerable situation increased to ensure the respect for their social and economic rights

**Pillar 3:**
1. Government advocated to fully implement the recommendations of the TRC Report on women
2. Institutional and other mechanisms in the justice sector strengthened to prevent and respond to sexual violence
3. Reporting of SGBV at national and community levels increased

**Pillar 4:**
1. Stakeholders lobbied for increased representation of women and gender parity in decision making organs at all levels including a minimum 30% quota for political representation
2. Recruitment and retention of women in law enforcement, justice and security institutions increased

**Pillar 5:**
1. Institutional mechanisms, management and monitoring capacity of the Government - Civil Society Task Force strengthened
2. Adequate funding secured from government and donors
3. Engaging nationally, regionally and internationally enhanced for improved coordination and collaboration

2.2 Local Council Development Planning Process

The Local Council Development Plan serves as a basis for any development initiative that is planned or implemented by Local Councils and development partners at the local level. Any development activity implemented by the Local Council or its development partner must first of all be contained in the current development plan otherwise funds expended on that particular activity would be deemed ineligible.

2.2.1 The Local Government Act 2004 (LGA 2004) - Legal Framework for Council Local Development Planning

The LGA 2004 stipulates that Local Councils should spearhead development in their respective localities. In tandem with this provision thereof, Local Councils have since 2004, taken the drive to implement, promote and or support development initiatives in their respective localities. For effective planning and implementation of development projects, Section 85 (1) of the LGA 2004 pro-