



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR **PEACE & FREEDOM**

Sustainable Development and the Women Peace and Security Agenda: Synergies for Action

WILPF Brief for the 15 July 2019 Friends of UNSCR 1325 Meeting

Overview

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Agenda, including stand-alone goals on gender equality (SDG5) and peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG16). The 2030 Agenda is a universal agenda for all states which requires policy coherence across the goals (SDG 17.14).

Implementing the SDGs in a coherent manner way requires creating peace that works for women and girls in conflict situations. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda is a critical tool to a coherence approach that links up SDG5 and 16, as well as other goals.

WPS Commitments address the central principle of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind for sustainable development and peace. It also addresses SDG targets around participation (SDG 16.7, SDG 5.5), protection and elimination of violence (SDG 5.2, 5.4, 16.1), prevention (i.e., non-discrimination, freedom and equality, arms flows) (SDG 5.1, 5.C, 16.10, 16.4, 16.B), as well as relief and recovery (i.e, access to justice, social protection) (SDG 16.3, 5.4), among others.

At the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, SDG16 on peaceful and inclusive societies is being reviewed for the first time. Member States have an opportunity to speak at the July ECOSOC HLPF general debate. The International Community has also been invited to make "Acceleration Actions" at the September 2019 UNGA Summit on accelerating SDG implementation for its final decade (2020-2030).

This year's discussions of the SDGs provide an important opportunity to accelerate WPS action to promote holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Highlights from Friday 12 July 2019 HLPF Discussion on SDG16 Discussion at UNHQ

"Women, Peace and Security and Youth Peace and Security Agendas are vital to strengthening the role of these groups."
– Representative of Spain

Canada, Finland, and Spain all referred to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.

"To prevent conflict and ensure justice, and address inequality and corruption, illicit financial and armed flows must be addressed by all stakeholders."
– Representative of Nigeria

Qatar and Switzerland also both referred to armed conflict and violence.

"Less than 25% of seats in parliament are used by women. That means that 75% of the total seats are held by men. This of course is reflected in the agenda."
-- Representative of Inter-Parliamentary Union

Belgium, Italy, Qatar, Norway, and OSCE all raised the issue of women's participation. Argentina, Canada, and the Netherlands referenced women's access to justice. France, Bangladesh, and Niger addressed Violence Against Women (VAW). Switzerland and OSCE raised the issue of women civil society.

"The nexus between peace, security and development is at the core of conflict prevention. We are committed to inclusiveness and reducing inequalities with strong emphasis on gender equality and empowering women and youth. We need to adapt a whole society approach, cooperate with civil society and women and increase participation of women and youth. We also must recognize the importance of transboundary and regional participation."
-- Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Belgium raised the issue of coordination, coherence and the peace nexus. Italy and Spain referred to the need for an integrated approach.



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In preparation for the SDG Summit in September 2019,¹ WILPF calls on states to commit to accelerating the WPS Agenda as part of commitments on SDGs on Peace (SDG16) and gender equality (SDG5).²

Select Recommendations from the February 2019 Vienna Expert Group Meeting on SDGs 10, 13 and 16 (Peace, Inclusion, and Climate)³ available to draw from for commitments:

- **Ensure that rule of law assistance contributes to women's equal representation and full and meaningful participation** across all stages of peace processes, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and recovery efforts as well as in all climate actions;
- **Finance the implementation of regional and national action plans and strategies on women, peace and security**, including initiatives from civil society, and reduce military spending and redistribute resources towards social spending;
- **Adopt and invest in gender-responsive and human rights-based social protection systems, and recognize that austerity policies have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls** and jeopardize efforts to achieve gender equality, reduce poverty and realize the human rights of women and girls;
- Facilitate conducive institutional arrangements and processes to **ensure gender-responsive budgeting and resource allocation at all stages, from the outset of planning processes**, including requirements for the integration of a gender perspective in national planning processes so as to achieve greater policy coherence and coordination among different ministries;
- **Institutionalize processes to conduct gender audits across public institutions** and systematically monitor resource mobilization and budget allocations for gender equality policies and programmes, including tracking financial commitments for promoting gender equality in both national budgets and international flows of ODA and other sources;
- **Provide capacity development on gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation** for personnel of all ministries and all branches of government, and develop mechanisms for the utilization of evaluation results to inform gender-responsive and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Put in place adequate safeguards around private financing** (such as public-private partnerships, privatization, blended finance), in particular **consistent, ex ante gender, human rights and environment impact assessments** of all financing mechanisms and international financial institutions, and trade agreements, including arms trade, mega-projects and infrastructure projects;
- **Strengthen internal and external coordination** between and across relevant national, regional and international actors for quality and timely research and reporting, including through a UN coordination/coherence hub to share information on training and capacity support in relation to gender statistics; and promote adherence to quality benchmarks, human rights standards and the fundamental principles of official statistics;

Highlights from 23 April 2019 High Level WPS Commitments event co-hosted by Germany, UK, and UN Women to revisit and build on in commitments:

65 Member States, UN agencies, regional bodies, and civil society organisations made commitments to WPS.

→ Afghanistan pledged to actively and meaningfully engage women in the ongoing peace and negotiation process with the Taliban

→ Ireland pledged support analysis and the development of practical guidelines to aid States Parties with the implementation of Gender Based Violence obligations in the Arms Trade Treaty.

→ Serbia pledged to ensure all state and local institutions by 2020 should include gender in their budgets.

→ 35 out of 65 commitments were on 1325 National Action Plans.

Read about 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 Commitments here: <https://www.peacewomen.org/node/103512>

¹ SDG Summit 2019 Acceleration Actions: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsummit#acceleration-actions>

² 2019 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+ also called for linking of SDG16+ work with WPS and YPS, see: <https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Rome-Civil-Society-Declaration-on-SDG16-FINAL.pdf>

³ Full report available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/EGM%20Vienna%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>