



## Committing to Women's Leadership in Peacebuilding - Bringing Women, Peace and Security and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Closer Together

Side event to the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Date: 28 October 2020 | 8:30am - 10:00am EST | 13:30 - 15:00 pm CET

*Virtual Discussion over Zoom*

*RSVP to [m.cipriani@gppac.net](mailto:m.cipriani@gppac.net) for call-in details*

### Background:

2020 is the year of reflection. In October 2020, the women, peace and security experts gather across the world to reflect on the progress made in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda since its establishment in 2000 with [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#) under the leadership of the Security Council. Resolution 1325 signified the commitment of the world leaders to engage with women peacebuilders across the peace cycle, including in peacebuilding (OP 6). This 2020 WPS milestone coincides with the 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (2020 Review) mandated by twin Resolutions on Sustaining Peace [70/262](#) and [2282](#) (2016). Throughout the year, the 2020 Review brought together Member States, United Nations actors, regional organisations and civil society, among other stakeholders, to reflect on how far the UN peacebuilding architecture has come since the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005.

As a global network of local peacebuilders equally engaged with the Security Council and actors within the UN peacebuilding architecture, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) worked to mobilise [its Gender Focal Points](#) to support both reflective processes, better connect the work of the Security Council, Peacebuilding Commission and other peacebuilding actors within the UN system and foster the commitment to a people-centered approach at all stages of conflict.

Gender transformative analysis rooted in the WPS Agenda that prioritises human security and dialogue over securitisation of peace lies at the core of our approach to sustaining peace. We worked with peacebuilders [in the Pacific](#) to understand how they utilise gender transformative analysis to advance human security into policy frameworks. Our members [in the South Caucasus](#) shared about the role women peacebuilders are playing in resolving challenges to peace in the context of “frozen conflicts.” [In the Middle East and North Africa](#), we worked to unpack the ways militarization of conflict and ongoing exclusion of women and young people prevents peace in communities. (See Annex for some concrete outcomes from the 2020 Review)

However, we recognize that the WPS Agenda is often seen as falling under the Council's purview and, therefore, needs to be better translated into the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. While valuable means exist to foster the WPS Agenda into peacebuilding spaces, with the

[Secretary-General's Action Plan on women's participation in peacebuilding](#) and the [PBC Gender Strategy](#), the lack of a coherent and complementary approach continues to challenge support for women's leadership in peacebuilding beyond countries on the agenda of the UN Security Council.

Thus, GPPAC will host a discussion to further explore the synergies between WPS and Sustaining Peace as exemplified in the work of local peacebuilders – both men and women – and promote the exchange of best practices between those working within the respective frameworks on promoting women's participation and leadership in peace work. With this discussion, we hope to bring the reflections from both reflective processes to encourage better collaboration and coherence between two frameworks for a common goal of peace for all and everywhere.

During the discussion, we hope to address the following questions:

- What are the synergies between the WPS and Sustaining Peace agendas? What are the ways in which the WPS Agenda supports women's leadership in peacebuilding?
- How do local peacebuilders build on these synergies to support peace in communities? What are some of the good practices?
- What are the normative and practical limitations of the WPS Agenda when it comes to peacebuilding? What are other frameworks peacebuilders use to support their work?
- What capacities are needed to strengthen better collaboration and coherence between the two frameworks? What can be practically done in the next five years to bring the two agendas together?

**Format:**

The event will provide an open space for Member States, the UN, and civil society to share practical experiences, including successes, key challenges, and recommendations on how to have more synergies between Women, Peace and Security and peacebuilding. It will feature a roundtable discussion among representatives of the UN and a diverse group of gender experts from the Caucasus, Cameroon, Lebanon and the Pacific followed by an interactive Q&A session. During the Q&A session, participants will have a chance to engage in discussion with the panelists and share their own recommendations. Member states are invited to give opening and closing remarks.

## **ANNEX: GPPAC's Recommendations on strengthening women's meaningful participation and gender analysis for the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review**

**Recommendation 1: Strengthening transformative gender analysis:** Peacebuilding and sustaining peace emphasises the importance of women's leadership in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and recognises the need to increase the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace. Advancing a transformative gender approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace means: 1) making an effort to understand women's experiences; 2) ensuring women's participation in decision-making; 3) integrating gender analysis in the implementation of the global agendas; 4) engaging men to transform harmful gender norms.

Strengthening transformative gender analysis should include:

- The *intentional use of a gender lens* when it comes to designing of fiscal stimulus packages and social assistance programmes, inclusive of various women's experiences, including young, pregnant, older women, women with disabilities and women in remote islands; and
- The support for *the establishment of Local Women's Mediators Networks* to enhance women's leadership, including in the response to disasters and humanitarian crises.
- Commitment to women's participation that goes beyond post-conflict peacebuilding and ad-hoc in-conflict consultations by prioritising *women's experiences and participation across the peace continuum*, from early-warning systems to post-conflict reconstruction.
- The focus on *intersectional gender analysis*, based on qualitative and quantitative analysis of experience in communities, that forms part of the methodologies for risk analyses that inform global, regional and national policy-making;
- *A standing agenda item* on women, peace and security at all processes around the peace-development-humanitarian nexus, including by ensuring women peacebuilders are part of the dialogue;
- *Inclusive local and national capacities and resources* for the operationalisation of all national and regional commitments to gender equality and women's rights.

**Recommendation 2: Supporting long-term, flexible, sustainable and accessible funding for local women peacebuilders:** The continued shortage of adequate, sustainable and accessible funding for peacebuilding continues to be a major concern, especially for local civil society, including women and youth peacebuilders. Flexible and core funding, in contrast, would allow peacebuilding organisations to build institutional capacity, respond and adapt to crisis situations in a more effective way, and focus on long-term strategies for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

**GOOD PRACTICE:** The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) was designed to increase women’s participation and leadership in conflict contexts through pooling and channeling flexible funding directly to local women’s groups and civil society organisations working in local communities directly affected by conflict, or to humanitarian agencies. Civil society is also included in the Fund’s global board and country-level steering committees, meaningfully participating in defining priorities and decision making at all levels.

Supporting funding for women peacebuilders should include:

- The prioritisation of *more flexible funding to local-level organisations*, with modalities adjusted to different capacity levels from context to context;
- Improved *mapping of local peacebuilding activities*, including those implemented by women and youth-led grassroots organisations, to avoid duplication of planned and existing efforts;
- Community-led and local expertise being included *at all stages of the funding cycle*, including from the design of priorities;
- A shift from earmarked and project-based funding towards *flexible and core funding* that allows effective and timely adjustment in the contexts of crises.

**Recommendation 3: Working towards greater operational and policy coherence:**

Existing structures, competing incentives and other factors often make coherence difficult to achieve. Advancing policy and operational coherence requires planning, staff capacity, financial resources and dedicated systems.

**GOOD PRACTICE:** The work of many civil society organisations, especially those working at the grassroots level, does not fall within a specific agenda or framework (i.e., sustaining peace, development, women, peace and security) and remains cross-cutting in practice, addressing a variety of economic, social and peacebuilding issues. This approach provides a good practice for all peacebuilding stakeholders on the operationalisation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace through coherence – a systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions.

Working towards greater operational and policy coherence should include:

- Recognition of the need for increased capacities and funding to support effective *operational and policy coherence* and measure the cost or implications of a lack of coherence;
- A robust system to track the implementation of *sustaining peace and women, peace and security* at all levels;
- Strong articulation of *the interlinkages between sustaining peace and women, peace and security agendas* and create specific guidance on how to work to strengthen these interlinkages;
- *The more concrete implementation of its PBC’s Gender Strategy*, including through holding annual substantive meetings on gender-responsive peacebuilding and ensuring that WPS resolutions are integrated into the Peacebuilding Commission’s work;

- Development and strengthening of the channels, structures and resources in place to support *cross-sector strategic engagement and collaboration* between Member State's permanent missions as they have a key role in strengthening coherence.

**Resources:**

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, GNWP, GPPAC, and IPI, "Operationalising Sustaining Peace: Learning from the Sustaining Peace Roundtable Series," July 21, 2020,

<https://gppac.net/resources/operationalising-sustaining-peace-learning-sustaining-peace-roundtable-series>

GPPAC and ICCN, "In Search of Sustaining Peace: A Case-Study of Peacebuilding in South Caucasus," February 18, 2020,

<https://gppac.net/resources/search-sustaining-peace-case-study-peacebuilding-south-caucasus>

GPPAC, "Understanding the Inclusive Peace-Development-Humanitarian Nexus: Gender, Climate, and Sustaining Peace in the Pacific, June 2020,

<https://gppac.net/resources/understanding-inclusive-peace-development-humanitarian-nexus-gender-climate-and>

United Nations, "Peacebuilding Commission Gender Strategy", September 7, 2016, [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/07092016-\\_pbc\\_gender\\_strategy\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/07092016-_pbc_gender_strategy_final_1.pdf)

United Nations, "Report of the Secretary-General on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding - 7 Point Action Plan", 2010,

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/sseven\\_point\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/sseven_point_action_plan.pdf)