



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
SECURITY COUNCIL
2022 - 2023

Ministerial-level Open Debate

Advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda through partnerships: Women's economic inclusion and participation as a key to building peace

Tuesday, 8 March, 2022



Background

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda follows a holistic approach to peace and security based on the four pillars of prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery – and the Security Council's attention towards the different pillars has varied since it first adopted UNSC resolution 1325 (2000). Accelerating efficient implementation of the agenda to ensure and strengthen the roles of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution requires focus on all four pillars and consideration of the interplay between them. The relief and recovery pillar is considered to have “transformative potential to connect both short-term and long-term goals to achieve sustainable peace and resilience,”¹ while also promoting women's participation and economic inclusion. In that vein, engaging with relevant partners from different sectors of society can be particularly valuable for advancing women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction.



Objectives

21 years after the inception of the WPS agenda, a significant gap remains in promoting women's economic inclusion and participation in conflict-affected settings, which strengthens their decision-making and leadership roles and capacities, and enables them to participate fully, equally, and meaningfully on all levels in all sectors of their societies. This meeting aims to contribute substantively to an area of the WPS agenda that is thus far under-developed. It will highlight the relevance of women's economic inclusion and participation for both the prevention of conflict and recovery from crises, and it will draw attention to how different international partners and public-private partnerships can promote progress towards peace and support women in conflict-affected areas.

The Security Council has also noted that partnerships are a critical element in its efforts to maintain international peace and security. Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) encouraged Member States to build strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society, including local women's organisations.² Moreover, in the UN Secretary-General's 2020 annual report on Women and peace and security³, he suggested that the indicators measuring progress on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325 should be updated in order to incorporate trends such as “the growing power of private corporations” in the current peace and security context.

¹ Davies, Sara E., and Jaqui True. The Oxford Handbook of Women, Peace, and Security. Oxford University Press, 2019.


² S/RES/2331 (2016); cf. OP3: 3. “Encourages Member States to: [...] Build strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society, including local women organizations[.]”

³ S/2020/946.

These findings reiterate the importance of economic stability and growth for fragile and conflict-affected states as a key method for conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.⁴ Women are critical to recovery and relief efforts, yet their inclusion remains undervalued and under-resourced due to widespread discrimination in the distribution of assets and in access to opportunities, resources, and markets. Women must not only benefit from sustainable post-conflict reconstruction, but also be at the front line, as planners, decision-makers, and implementers in all sectors of society.


This meeting will also discuss how international partners and public-private partnerships can play a positive role in conflict settings and create conditions for sustainable peace and security. By shining a light on the role of international partners and private sector entities in this conversation, it can develop diverse and unique perspectives, and most importantly, mobilize wider and tangible support for the WPS agenda.

It will also build on existing initiatives, such as the Generation Equality Forum's Compact for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA). Multi-stakeholder platforms support holistic approaches to achieving women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction.



Proposed questions to guide the discussion

- 1) How can the Council further consider women's economic inclusion and participation in its responses to conflicts and in the mandates of UN peace missions?
- 2) Which tangible actions can the different international partners – public and private – undertake to support gender-responsive, community-driven approaches in a sustainable manner for the economic inclusion and participation of women in local and regional conflict settings?
- 3) How can the UN and Member States better support the connection of the private sector to women at community levels in conflict settings to strengthen their economic empowerment?
- 4) How can the UN Security Council and initiatives like the WPS-HA Compact cooperate more systematically to ensure closer connection and coordination between the Council's work and multi-stakeholder actions and outcomes?



Briefers and format

- 1) Ms. Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women
- 2) Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- 3) Civil society representative (tbc)

This Ministerial-level Open Debate will be chaired by H.E. Mariam Almheiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

⁴ Karla Drpić, "How the Private Sector Can Advance UNSCR 1325 in the 2020s", Women in International Security (WIIS), 1325AndBeyond: Winning Essays (Washington, DC: WIIS, July 2020), pp.31-34.

Member States wishing to participate in-person should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE+. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires, a.i., requesting to participate in accordance with Rule 37 of the Council's Provisional Rules of Procedure must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE+. Inscription for said meeting will open on Thursday, 3 March 2022, at 09.30 a.m. Please note that delegations speaking in-person should not submit a written statement via e-deleGATE+, as the delivered statement will be included in the provisional verbatim record of the meeting.

The list of speakers will be determined by the order in which requests are received. Delegations are kindly requested to limit their statements to no more than four minutes. Delegations are kindly requested to limit their participation to one representative in the Chamber.

Furthermore, delegations wishing to submit written statements instead of participating in-person at the meeting may do so through the same eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE+ by uploading their statements in Microsoft Word format with a cover letter duly signed by the Permanent Representative/Chargé d'affaires, a.i., and addressed to the President of the Security Council no later than the date of the meeting, Tuesday, 8 March 2022. These statements will be published as part of an official compilation document containing the interventions submitted in connection with this open debate.

Delegates are invited to contact their Mission's access focal points to be granted access to the eSpeakers module on the e-deleGATE+ platform. For technical support related to user login and password, please contact OICT Help Desk at 212-963-3333 or by e-mail at missions-support@un.int. For other questions related to the open debate, please contact SCAD at dppa-scsb3@un.org.

The Presidency would welcome the use of joint statements, where appropriate, as a means of improving focus and interactivity during the Open Debate. In accordance with Security Council Note S/2017/507, all participants and members of the Security Council are encouraged to deliver succinct statements focusing on specific examples, commitments, achievements, challenges, identification of gaps and solution-oriented recommendations.