

Concept note WPS side-event October 2022

## Inclusive peace negotiations & the WPS agenda: Lessons learned from experiences in Afghanistan and the DRC

Date & Time: 19<sup>th</sup> October, 8.15-9.45 EDT

Venue: Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 666 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave (19<sup>th</sup> floor)

### Introduction

It has been almost 22 years since resolution UNSCR1325 was adopted. This founding resolution of *Women, Peace and Security (WPS)* has led to many follow-up resolutions, action plans and the creation of international and national mechanisms and institutions to further implement the Women, Peace & Security agenda. However, while military expenditures continue to rise, the attention for the integration of WPS into the peace and security agenda has fallen short and even declined over the last years. Especially when looking at recent peace negotiations, the participation of women has been going down.<sup>1</sup> Transforming peace negotiations from bargains between armed groups to inclusive settlements, remains a challenge.

**In this session we will zoom in on the role that UN agencies, (I)NGOs and individual member states can play in enabling inclusive peace negotiations as a key element of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.** During this session we will assess lessons learned and recommendations on what elements of peace negotiations have been challenging when it comes to the implementation of UNSCR1325.

In doing so, we will zoom in on **the role and influence of women in two cases of conflict that exist about as long as resolution 1325: Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).** A year after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, commitments previously made by the Taliban to the international community, particularly on women's rights have remained neglected. For DRC, there is a new momentum due to the current escalation of violence, the upcoming peace negotiations and the 20-year presence of the UN peacekeeping mission.

**This is a moment to re-evaluate with key women leaders and experts what the lessons and challenges were in linking the (inter)national formal peace negotiations (track 1) with the informal dialogues and community peace processes (track 2 and 3) in Afghanistan and DRC.**

### Key guiding questions:

- What were helpful and challenging elements of UN-led and/or other (inter)national interventions - both in Afghanistan and the DRC - when it comes to inclusive peace negotiations?
- What are the key lessons identified from these processes for current and future (UN-led) gender-responsive and transformative peace negotiations and deals, including in Afghanistan and the DRC?
- How to better link (inter)national peace negotiations to community peace processes, and how to come to a reappreciation of the latter?
- What kind of support do women and youth (community) leaders need to remain meaningfully engaged in the monitoring and follow up of existing agreements?

### Outcome document:

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<sup>1</sup> [Women's Participation in Peace Processes \(cfr.org\)](https://www.cfr.org/women/women-s-participation-in-peace-processes/p21877)

An outcome document will be published after the session (based on the input from the discussion and the speakers) with concrete recommendations for UN agencies, Permanent Missions and (I)NGOs involved in peace negotiations, to reflect on lessons learned and to ensure integration of the WPS agenda in peace processes. More specifically, the document will inform missions who are engaged in the mandate renewals of UNAMA and MONUSCO, with specific recommendations.

**Target audience:**

This event will be particularly interesting for UN agencies and (I)NGOs supporting national and regional peace negotiations, as well as Permanent Representatives engaged in UN-led peace and mediation processes and/or mission mandate (renewals). **We specifically invite member states aiming to support inclusive peace processes as part of their gender equality and feminist agendas: this event provides the opportunity to meaningfully engage with women leaders involved in these processes directly.**

**Speakers:**

- **Yoka Brandt** - Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations in New York
- **Claire Hutchinson** – consultant Women, Peace & Security and former Secretary General’s Special Representative Women, Peace & Security NATO
- **Habiba Sarabi** – former minister of Women’s Affairs in Afghanistan, deputy Afghanistan High Peace Council and former member of the Afghan Government negotiation team with Taliban (online)
- **Claudine Tsongo** – founder and coordinator of Dynamique des Femmes Juristes, Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Storai Tapes** – deputy director and senior program manager of Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) and former chair and board member of the Afghan Women Social Protection Organization (AWSPO)
- **Winnie Tshilobo** – advisor Gender, Integrity and Protection at Cordaid Democratic Republic of Congo

**Moderator: Anne Kwakkenbos** – gender expert Cordaid