Survey Report on a New Security Council Resolution on Women and Peace and Security

Conducted by

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)

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GNWP is a coalition of women's groups and other civil society organizations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, North America, Eastern and Western Europe and West Asia—mostly in conflict-affected countries-that are actively involved in advocacy and action for the full and effective implementation of the Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security.

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Acronyms

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
NAPs	National Action Plans
UN	United Nations
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
WHRDs	Women Human Rights Defenders
WPS	Women and Peace and Security

Executive Summary

Over the past 17 years, the Security Council has adopted United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and the seven supporting resolutions on women and peace and security (WPS). There is information that a new resolution on WPS will probably be adopted by the Security Council in October, 2017 under the presidency of France. The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) conducted a survey from July 19 to August 31 to learn about the views of civil society organizations (CSOs) on a new UNSCR on WPS and the issues it should address if it is indeed adopted. This survey report is a compilation of responses from 55 CSOs and networks in Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, United States of America, and Uganda. There were 12 respondents from Africa, 10 from Asia-Pacific, 2 from Eastern Europe, 2 from Latin America, 4 from North America and 25 from Western Europe.

The GNWP survey showed that 15% were in favor of the new resolution and 83% were of the opinion that there is no need of the resolution. The remaining 2% only provided suggestions on the issues that should be addressed by a new resolution. The respondents who favor a new resolution stressed that unless there is information about the content of the new resolution, there is no point to reject the idea at the onset. They also stated that the new resolution should be supported if it addresses the gaps in existing resolutions such as: guaranteeing a compulsory percentage for women's inclusion in all mediation and peace processes and engaging CSOs in mediation; obliging Member States to appoint a female special envoy in all peace processes; obliging Member States to protect women human rights defenders; protecting women and girls in refugee camps; ensuring investigation, arresting and prosecuting commanders whose troops commit sexual violence; ensuring reparation to victims; providing adequate funds for women's organizations especially those who operate in conflict affected settings; and strongly urging Member States to implement existing resolutions and commitments on WPS.

The majority of the respondents—45 out of a total of 55 organizations and networks, believed that another resolution on WPS is not necessary. They expressed that the priority should be on the implementation, popularization and promotion of the existing resolutions. Many CSOs emphasized the need to address persistent challenges in implementation particularly the lack of funds for the implementation of NAPs; lack of funds for civil society's work in implementing the WPS agenda; lack of political will among Member States to implement the existing resolutions; and the need for systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the proper implementation of the resolutions.

Although most CSOs are not enthusiastic about a new WPS resolution, this survey identified the most important issues that should be highlighted if a new resolution is to

be adopted. The respondents suggested the following issues for the new resolution: 1) protection of peace activists and human rights defenders; 2) women's participation in decision-making on peace and security issues; 3) funding for civil society; 4) more democratic space for civil society; 5) leadership in peacebuilding and conflict prevention; 6) sexual violence in conflict; 7) prevention of violent extremism; 8) economic empowerment for women in conflict-affected situations; and 9) intersection between WPS issues and natural and environmental disasters.

The report presents the following recommendations:

1) Member States should adopt and effectively implement NAPs.
2) Member states should demonstrate greater political will to implement existing resolutions, as well as develop proper and effective mechanisms for implementation including through NAPs, monitoring, and evaluation of implementation efforts.
3) The UN and Member States should ensure the protection of peace activists and WHRDs in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis; highlight the role of women's organizations in combating violent extremism; and support the participation of CSOs in implementing the WPS agenda by providing them with more predictable funding and creating more democratic spaces for their participation.
4) The intersection between WPS and natural/environmental disasters; and economic empowerment for women in conflict-affected situations are two new issues that should be addressed by the new WPS resolution.

The report will be shared with the Permanent Mission of France as the President of the Security Council in October 2017 and the UK as the lead on WPS in the Security Council to inform their discussion on the new resolution. It will also be shared with the members of the UN inter-agency Standing Committee on WPS to inform their interventions on this issue. The report will also serve as an advocacy tool for CSOs that are working on the WPS agenda. This report is also available at: http://gnwp.org/?post_type=publications&p=4029&preview=true.

1. Background and objectives

The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women and Peace and Security (WPS) was drafted and adopted because of organized advocacy by civil society groups from around the world. The resolution was a landmark achievement because, for the first time, the Security Council recognized that women and men are affected by war differently; and that women play an important role in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and decision making on matters of peace and security. The resolution calls on Member States to ensure women's participation in decision-making at all levels; protect women and girls' rights, especially in conflict-affected situations; recognize and address the needs of female and male security personnel and ex-combatants; and facilitate training on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women for military and civilian police personnel in peacekeeping operations. In the 17 years since the adoption of UNSCR 1325, seven supporting resolutions were passed: UNSCR 1820 (2008); UNSCR 1888 (2009); UNSCR 1889 (2009); UNSCR 1960 (2010); UNSCR 2106 (2013); UNSCR 2122 (2013); and UNSCR 2242 (2015). These strengthened the normative standards for the recognition of women as peacebuilders, decision makers and protection of women and girls' rights; the prevention of sexual violence in conflict; and addressing women and girls' specific needs during and after conflict.

Despite the comprehensive scope of these resolutions, much remains to be done in terms of implementing the WPS agenda on the ground. Sexual violence is still rampant in conflict-affected situations. Perpetrator accountability and access to justice for victims remain extremely limited. Women continue to be under represented in decision-making positions, security and peacekeeping forces, and in political and peace processes overall. Moreover, as the 2015 Global Study indicates, much of the progress toward the implementation of resolution 1325 continues to be measured in 'firsts,' rather than as standard practice. Obstacles and challenges still persist and prevent the full implementation of the WPS agenda.

There is information that the Security Council will probably adopt a new resolution on WPS in October, 2017 under the presidency of France. Prior to the availability of a draft, the GNWP conducted a survey from July 19 to August 31 to learn about the views of civil society organizations (CSOs) on a new UNSCR on WPS and the issues it should address if it is indeed adopted.

This survey report is a compilation of responses from 55 CSOs and networks globally. GNWP observed Chatham House rule i.e., specific comments are not attributed to any respondent unless they requested to be mentioned in this report.

The report will be shared with the Permanent Mission of France as the President of the Security Council in October 2017 and the UK as the lead on WPS in the Security Council to inform their discussion on the new resolution. It will also be shared with the members of the UN inter-agency Standing Committee on WPS to inform their interventions on this issue. The report will also serve as an advocacy tool for CSOs that are working on the WPS agenda

2. Survey method

The survey was conducted amongst over 100 organizational members and partners of the GNWP. It focused on the following questions: 1) Do we need another resolution on Women, Peace & Security? Please explain your answer; and 2) If another resolution will indeed be adopted, what issue/s do you want the new resolution to highlight? Please check and explain your answers. The survey was disseminated in English, French and Spanish.

55 organizations and networks took part in the survey. The countries represented in the survey are: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, United States of America, and Uganda. There were 12 respondents from Africa, 10 from Asia and the Pacific, 2 from East Europe, 2 from Latin America, 4 from North America and 25 from Europe. GNWP analyzed the data in both a qualitative and quantitative manner.

3. Response pattern
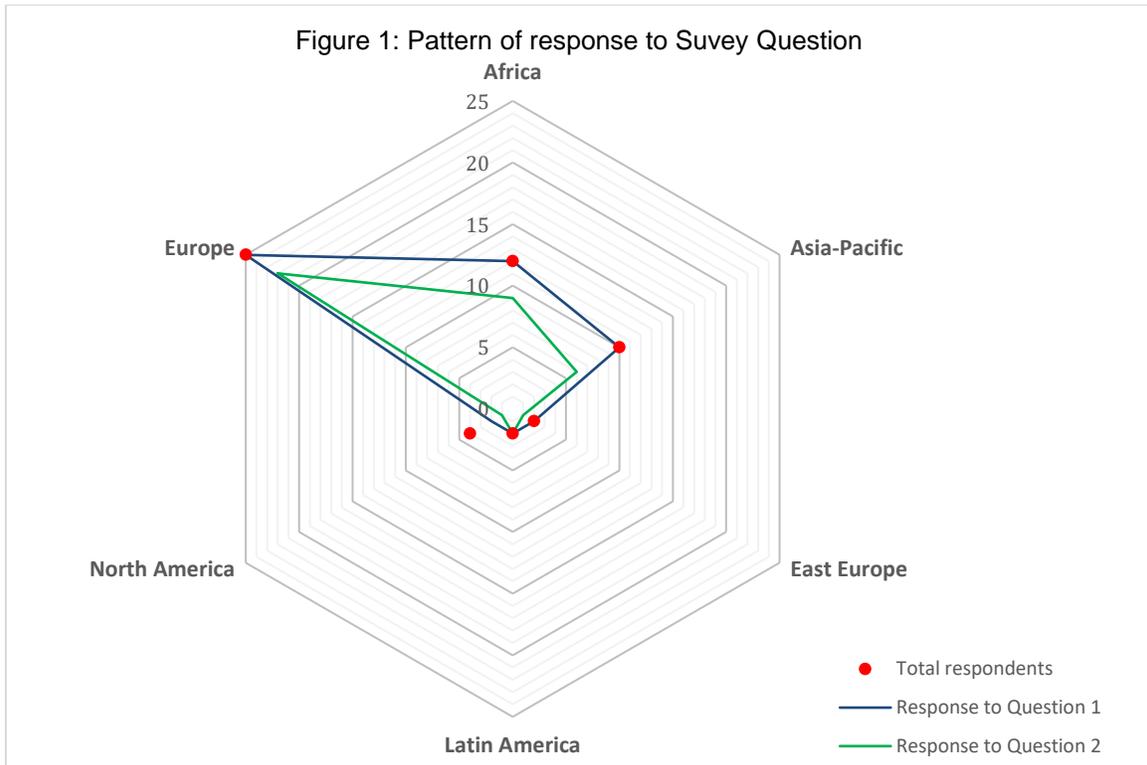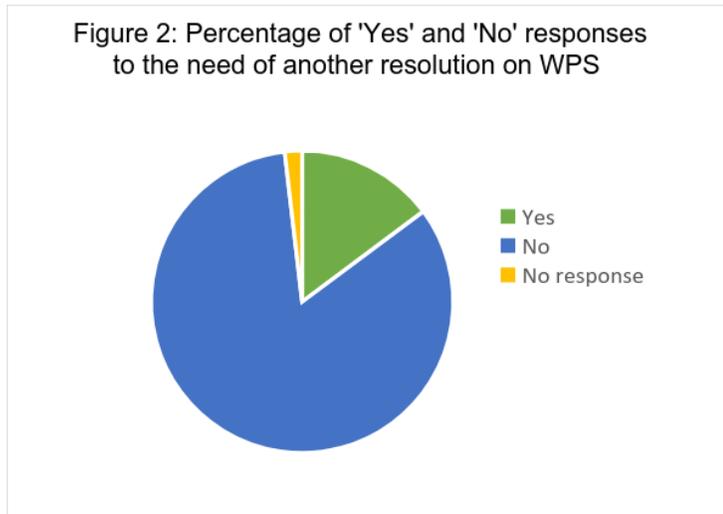

Figure 1: Pattern of response to Suvey Question

Figure 1 shows the radar diagram of the response patterns for questions 1 and 2 aggregated by continents. The red dots indicate the total number of respondents taking part in the survey. Each corner of the diagram represent a continent labeled therein. Each gridline is equal to 1 number of respondents. The blue line shows the number of responses to Question 1 and the point of intersection of the blue line at each corner of the diagram represents the number of respondents answering Question 1. Similarly, the green line shows the number of responses to Question 2.

It is evident from Figure 1 that Europe has the largest number of respondents with 25. All 25 responded to the first question and 22 responded to the second question. Africa had 12 respondents - all responded to Question 1 and 9 responded to Question 2. Out of the 10 total respondents from the Asia-Pacific region, 9 answered the first question and 6 responded to the second. North America had 4 respondents, 3 of which responded to the first question and 1 responded to the second. From Eastern Europe, 2 respondents participated in the survey. Both responded to Question 1 and one responded to Question 2. The 2 respondents from Latin America responded to both questions. Hence in total, 53 responded to the first question and only 41 responded to the second question.
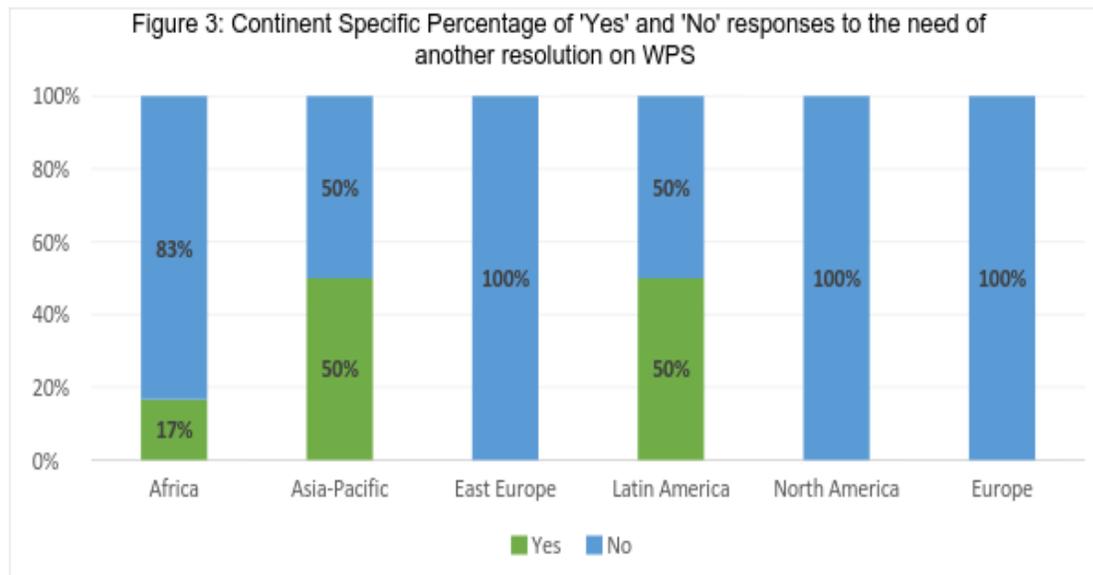
4. Survey results and findings

4.1 Need for a new resolution on women and peace and security (WPS)

Figure 2: Percentage of 'Yes' and 'No' responses to the need of another resolution on WPS

- Yes
- No
- No response

The results of this survey demonstrate that out of the total 55 respondents, the largest number responded negatively to the idea of having a new resolution on WPS. 83% were of the opinion that there is no need for a new resolution while 15% were in favor of the resolution. The remaining 2% only provided suggestions on the issues that should be addressed by a new resolution. (Figure 2)

4.1.1 Region Specific Findings

Figure 3: Continent Specific Percentage of 'Yes' and 'No' responses to the need of another resolution on WPS

	Africa	Asia-Pacific	East Europe	Latin America	North America	Europe
No	83%	50%	100%	50%	100%	100%
Yes	17%	50%		50%		

- Yes
- No

➢ **Africa:** There were 12 respondents from Africa. 83% believe a new Security Council Resolution on WPS is not necessary. 17% believe a new resolution is needed.

- ➢ **Asia and the Pacific:** There were 10 respondents. 50% believe a new Security Council Resolution on WPS is not necessary. 50% believe a new resolution is needed.
- ➢ **Latin America:** There were 2 respondents. One respondent believes a new resolution is necessary, and one does not.
- ➢ **Eastern Europe:** There were 2 respondents. Both of them believe that a new resolution is not necessary.
- ➢ **North America:** There were 4 respondents. All of them believe that a new resolution is not necessary.
- ➢ **Western Europe:** There were 25 respondents: All of them believe that a new resolution is not necessary.

4.1.2 Reasons in favor of a new resolution on WPS

The respondents who favor a new resolution stressed that unless there is information about the content of the new resolution, there is no point to reject it at the onset.

1) 7 % of the respondents stated that the new resolution should be supported if it addresses the gaps in existing resolutions, specifically including the following issues:

   i) Guarantee a compulsory percentage for women's inclusion in all mediations and peace processes and engaging CSOs in mediation, in particular women's organizations to ensure their views count, as well as oblige mediators to consult CSOs and women's organizations before or as soon as mediation and negotiation starts;

   ii) Oblige Member States to appoint a female special envoy in all peace processes;

   iii) Oblige Member States to protect women human rights defenders; protect women and girls in refugee camps; ensure investigation, arrest and prosecution of commanders whose troops commit sexual violence; and provide reparation to victims;

   iv) Oblige Member States, the UN and donors to provide adequate funds for women's organizations especially those who operate in conflict-affected settings.

2) The adoption of the new resolution should 'reinforce', 'keep the topic in force' and 'continue to strengthen' the need for Member States to implement existing resolutions and fulfill commitments on WPS.

3) Repetition of this kind of Security Council messaging is necessary in the international community and is embedded in international law.
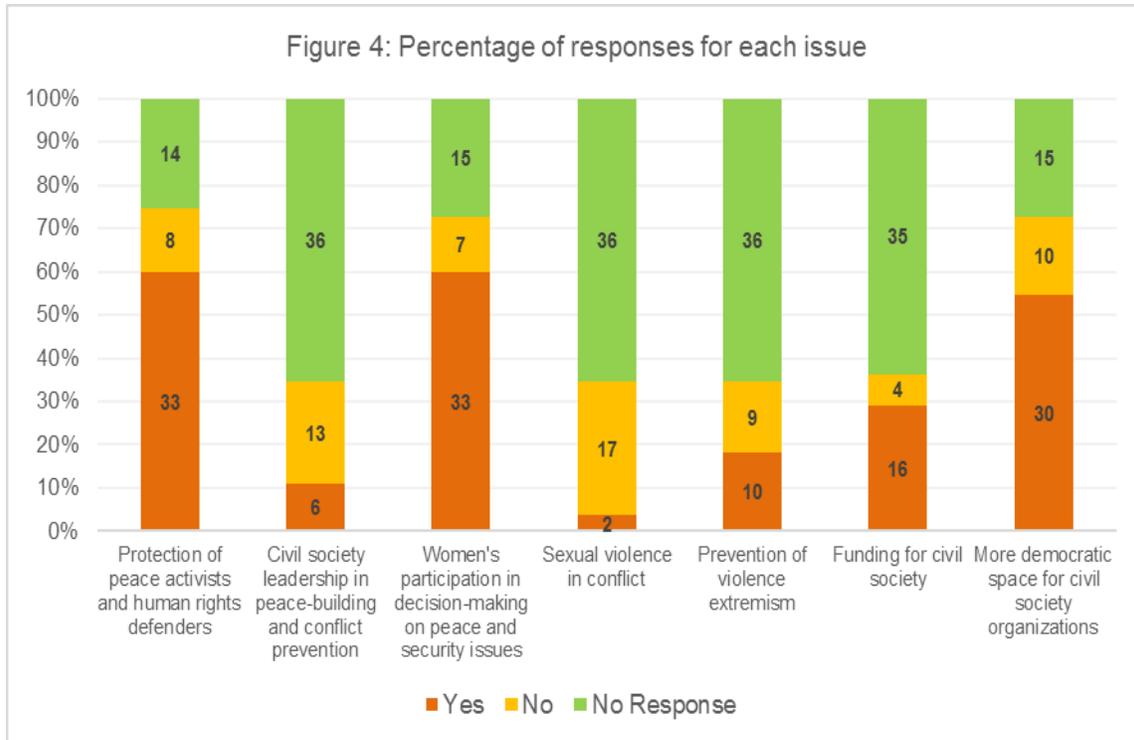
4.1.3 Reasons against a new resolution on WPS

The respondents who do not favor a new resolution cited the following reasons:

1) The existing resolutions already cover a broad range of issues on protecting and promoting the rights of women.
2) The focus should be on implementation of the existing resolutions including identification of key challenges and appropriate and innovative mechanisms to strengthen their implementation. Two of the major challenges that have not been fully addressed are the lack of political will and lack of funds for implementation particularly for civil society.
3) The critical need is to ensure that the information about UNSCR 1325 is disseminated to national government officials and stakeholders and most importantly, local populations in conflict affected areas. Hence, there should be an obligation to adopt and carry out National Action Plans (NAPs).
4) There is a need to draft NAPs with dedicated budgets and focus to ensure that the donors are willing to invest in this agenda from political, defense, diplomatic and financial perspectives.
5) There is a need for systematic monitoring and evaluation of the existing WPS resolutions.
6) Countries that do not directly experience violent conflicts should increase and enhance their support to effectively implement the WPS resolutions in conflict-affected countries.

4.2 Issues to be adopted in a new resolution on women, peace and security (WPS)

The respondents suggested the following issues as the focus of the new resolution:

1) Protection of peace activists and human rights defenders
2) Women's participation in decision-making on peace and security issues
3) Funding for civil society
4) More democratic space for civil society
5) Leadership in peacebuilding and conflict prevention
6) Sexual violence in conflict
7) Prevention of violent extremism
8) Economic empowerment for women in conflict-affected situations
9) Intersection between WPS issues and natural and environmental disasters.

Figure 4: Percentage of responses for each issue

4.2.1 Protection of peace activists and human rights defenders

33 organizations (60% of the respondents) chose protection of peace activists and human rights defenders as a priority issue in the new resolution (Figure 4). 22 of them were from Europe, 5 from Africa, 3 from Asia-pacific, 2 from Latin America and 1 from North America. The respondents provided the following explanation for choosing this as a priority issue:

1) Peace activists, particularly women HRDs who have been working in peacebuilding or holding warring parties to account have been attacked or persecuted in many countries.

2) There is a United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Protecting Women Human Rights Defenders, which should be strengthened by the new Security Council Resolution, as there is an urgent need for a strong resolution to ensure the protection of WHRDs in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis.

3) The new resolution ensuring protection of peace activists and HRDs will influence the country policy to adopt safety and security protocols for HRDs and peace activists.

4) There is shrinking democratic space worldwide that restricts freedom and civil and political rights.

4.2.2 Civil society leadership in peacebuilding and conflict prevention

Six organizations emphasized the importance of civil society leadership in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The breakdown of the respondents who proposed this issue is as follows: 2 from Africa, 2 from Asia-pacific, 1 from East Europe, and 1 from Latin America. The respondents explained:

1) Civil society leadership in peacebuilding and conflict prevention is not adequately supported by Member States.
2) The adoption of a new resolution on this issue gives recognition and acknowledgement to civil society, most notably to women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

4.2.3 Women's participation in decision-making on peace and security issues

60% of the respondents (33 organizations) chose women's participation in decision-making on peace and security issues as a priority (Figure 4). The breakdown of the respondents is as follows: 22 from Europe, 5 from Africa, 3 from Asia and the Pacific, 2 from Latin America and 1 from North America. Below is the respondents' explanation:

1) Despite many follow up resolutions to UNSCR 1325, there has been no significant increase in the number of women in decision-making on peace and security matters.
2) While women have been appointed to senior positions as a result of advocacy to implement the WPS agenda, their participation has often been merely cosmetic in nature, perpetuating women's lack of meaningful influence over peace and security decision-making processes. The "add women and stir" approach has failed to account for gendered power dynamics which fuel underlying exclusionary processes. Within patriarchal and militarized peace and security structures, initiatives intended to foster women's participation are set to fall short. A shift in prevailing notions of masculinity and femininity has not occurred. Attention to the discriminatory norms and cultures within key peace and security institutions which negatively affect both women and men remains insufficient.

4.2.4 Sexual violence in conflict

Two out of 55 respondents raised the issue of sexual violence in conflict (Figure 4). This could be explained by the fact that five of the WPS resolutions (UNSCRs 1820, 1888, 1960, 2106, 2242) are already focused on sexual violence.

4.2.5 Prevention of violent extremism

Out of 55 respondents, 10 suggested that prevention of violent extremism should be highlighted in the next resolution (Figure 4). The breakdown of the respondents is as follows: 5 from Africa, 4 from Asia and Pacific, and 1 from Latin America. Below is the respondents' explanation of this issue:

1) Considering the increase in violent extremism and its impact on women and girls, it is important to emphasize the role of women and grassroots women's organizations in combating violent extremism.
2) As the issue is very broad, this in itself can be one resolution. The resolution should focus on women taking leadership roles in preventing violent extremism.

4.2.6 Funding for civil society

16 Respondents underscored the issue of funding for civil society (Figure 4). Out of this total, 7 were from Africa, 3 from Asia and the Pacific, 1 from East Europe, 2 from Latin America, 2 from North America, and 1 from Europe. CSOs felt that their participation in the implementation of the WPS agenda is critical and to guarantee their participation, predictable funding should be made available.

4.2.7 More democratic space for civil society organizations

55% of the respondents highlighted the need for more democratic space that would allow CSOs to actively participate in the implementation of the WPS agenda. Out of those who emphasized the importance of this issue, 6 were from Africa, 2 from Asia-pacific, 1 from Latin America, and 21 from Western Europe. This could be attributed to the increasing restrictions imposed by African governments such as Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda against civil society. The respondents highlighted the need for a WPS resolution that will call on Member States to ensure democratic space for CSOs so they can continue their important role in implementing the WPS agenda.

5. Conclusion

The survey clearly shows that the majority of the respondents, 45 out of 55, believe that another resolution on WPS is not necessary. They expressed that the priority should be on the implementation, popularization and promotion of the existing resolutions. Many CSOs emphasized the need to address persistent challenges in implementation particularly the lack of funds for the implementation of NAPs, lack of funds for civil society's work in implementing the WPS agenda and lack of political will among Member States. The respondents also stressed the need for systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Although most CSOs are not enthusiastic about a new WPS resolution, this survey identified the most important issues that should be highlighted if a new resolution is to be adopted. The protection of peace activists and WHRDs; women's participation in decision-making on peace and security issues; funding and more democratic space for CSOs were issues highlighted by most of the respondents. Furthermore, the prevention of violent extremism; the intersection between WPS and natural/environmental disasters; economic empowerment for women in conflict-affected situations were other issues that should be within the scope of the new resolution on WPS.

6. Recommendations

1) The Security Council should focus on fulfilling the gap between existing resolutions and practical implementation.

2) Member States should adopt and effectively implement NAPs.

3) Member states should demonstrate greater political will to implement existing resolutions, as well as develop proper and effective mechanisms for implementation including through NAPs, monitoring, and evaluation of implementation efforts.

4) The UN and Member States should ensure the protection of peace activists and WHRDs in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis.

5) The UN and Member States should highlight the role of women's organizations in combating violent extremism; and ensure the security of women and girls who are threatened by violent extremism.

6) The UN and the international community should urge governments to support the participation of CSOs in implementing the WPS agenda by

providing them with more predictable funding and creating more democratic spaces for their participation.

7) The intersection between WPS and natural/environmental disasters; and economic empowerment of women in conflict-affected situations are two new issues that should be addressed by the new WPS resolution.

For further information regarding this survey, contact Prativa Khanal prativa@gnwp.org.