



## OUTCOME DOCUMENT WPS SIDE EVENT INCLUSIVE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS & THE WPS AGENDA

It has been 22 years since resolution UNSCR1325 was adopted. This founding resolution on 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.[1] Transforming peace negotiations from bargains between armed groups to inclusive settlements, remains a challenge.

In the margins of the Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security in October 2022 our expert panel of:

- Clare 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),
- 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))

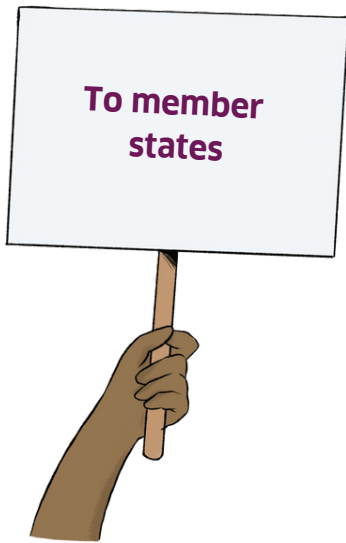
- Winnie Tshilobo (advisor Gender, Integrity and Protection at Cordaid Democratic Republic of Congo)

zoomed 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. Lessons learned and recommendations were shared on the elements of peace negotiations that have been challenging when it comes to the implementation of UNSCR1325. In doing so, we zoomed 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).

We are happy to herewith share some of the key recommendations from the different panellists towards member states, UN institutions, UN missions and international organisations.

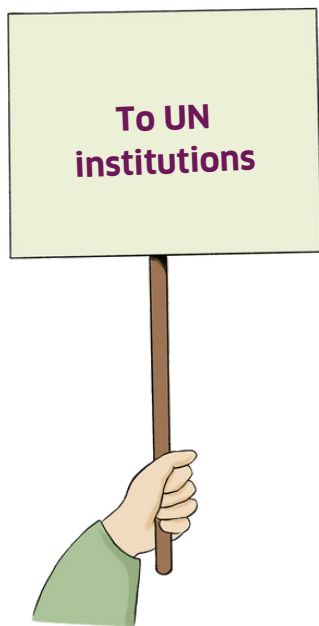
[1] <https://www.cfr.org/womens-participation-in-peace-processes/>

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



- Base your policy development and implementation on a systematic conflict and gender analyses, including sex-aggregated data. Ensure that local cultural contexts and sociocultural, geographic, and political realities are taken into account in the design of all policies.
- Consult actively and meaningfully with (diverse) civil society before any negotiation starts on the respective country. Collect the needs and perspectives of civil society before the designing of any intervention in the UNSC, to ensure inclusive and strong mandates, reports and resolutions.
- Actively monitor operations of UN agencies and ensure that all components of UN mandates are implemented effectively.
- Meaningfully engage civil society briefers, especially women-led organizations in both thematic and country briefings and mandate renewals. Facilitate briefers' logistics and support in the needed safety measures.
- Support and encourage better links between rural and local - women and youth-led - peace initiatives and national and regional processes. Amplify the voices of local women and youth and support their engagement at national and regional levels for more impact
- Prioritize funding of gender advisory capacity at UN agencies, such as UNDPGA and UNDPD, as a condition for UN-led gender-responsive and transformative peace processes.
- Study and act on the (short- and long-term) effects of war on young people.
- Hold oppressive regimes and regimes that violate (women's) human rights, accountable for violating International Humanitarian Law, CEDAW and UN Security Council Resolutions, such as UNSCR1325. Make use of all instruments available, such as the use of sanctions if violations continue, such as in the case of Taliban refusal to reopen girls' secondary schools and prohibiting women and girls to fully and meaningfully participate in the country's affairs including in politics, decision-making, and public life.
- Ensure that all humanitarian aid is gender responsive and accessible for marginalized groups, such as women and girls in gender unequal contexts.
- Provide a safety net for and fund (Women) Human Rights Defenders. This should include the provision of safety trainings, context analyses, negotiation skills and security management.
- Give hope to the women in- and outside Afghanistan: support women-led organizations, women human rights defenders and groups in-country and in exile/across the region to (re)build networks, amplify and strengthen a collective voice for justice, good governance, the rule of law, peace and security. Encourage and support cross-border exchanges on resilience, public opinion mobilization, and regional advocacy strategies.
- Support Afghan women's socio-economic independence via projects that under Taliban rule have been allowed before, such as mushroom farming projects.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

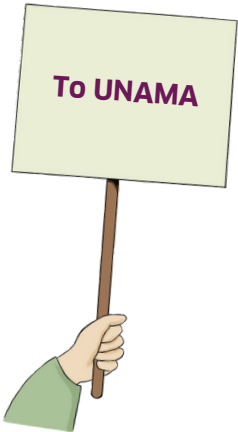


- Allocate resources to ensure sustainable and sufficient gender advisory capacity within the different institutions at local, regional, national and international level.
- Base your policy development and implementation on a systematic conflict and gender analyses, including sex-aggregated data. Ensure that local cultural contexts and sociocultural, geographic, and political realities are taken into account in the design of all policies.
- Support and encourage better links between rural and local - women and youth-led - peace initiatives and national and regional processes. Amplify the voices of local women and youth and support their engagement at national and regional levels for more impact.
- Allocate (needs-based) resources to ensure that everyone, including local (young) women and girls (groups and organizations), can participate meaningfully in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of peace, security and humanitarian processes at all levels. Specific attention should be given to minorities, people with disabilities, IDPs and refugees so they can take part without any barriers.
- Provide a safety net for and support of (Women) Human Rights Defenders - this should include the provision of safety trainings, context analyses, negotiation skills and security management.
- Specifically, to financial institutions such as the World Bank: return to Afghanistan to better monitor the situation.
- Ensure a gender balance in UN delegations, practice what you preach!



- Support and encourage better links between rural and local - women and youth-led - peace initiatives and national and regional processes. Amplify the voices of local women and youth to ensure everyone is included and support their engagement at national and regional levels for more impact.
- Ensure proactive and gender responsive communication strategies to inform local communities about the role of UN missions.
- Perform systematic context analyses before the implementation of peace programs. Ensure that local cultural contexts and sociocultural, geographic, and political realities are taken into account in the design of peace processes, keeping a gender lens. Recognize the diversity within countries.
- Actively engage with communities to identify their needs for meaningful participation in decision-making processes.
- Ensure a gender-sensitive exit strategy at the end of missions, such as MONUSCO. Make links with ongoing peace processes and facilitate the meaningful participation of women and youth to ensure an exit strategy that is based on the needs of all parts of society.
- Develop comprehensive gender analyses, including sex-aggregated data, of missions from inception to drawdown to capture lessons and good practices. Questions that should be asked include: what has been the impact of a mission ending on women's and girls' security and their inclusion in the peace process? Ensure the exit strategy is informed by a strong gender analysis and by consultations with local (women's) groups.
- Ensure a gender balance in UN missions: practice what you preach!
- Engage more with oppressive regimes to pursue agreements on gender equality and women's rights.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



- Improve coordination between UN agencies and UNAMA's mission mandates. For example, the Human Rights Commission in Afghanistan mandate is expanded to perform research/report on women's rights violations. This should be better coordinated with UN Women and UNAMA.
- Re-establish UNAMA's strategic gender unit and appoint female staff at senior level.
- Localise UNAMA programmes and move to districts and villages so that more Afghans get involved in peace-related debates and negotiations.



- Support women-led organizations and groups in and from Afghanistan across the region to (re)build networks, amplify and strengthen a collective voice for justice, good governance, the rule of law, peace and security. Support cross-border exchanges on resilience, public opinion mobilization, and regional advocacy strategies. Facilitate and support women (both inside and outside of the country) to work on a joint strategy for inclusive peace.
- Continue working in countries with oppressive regimes, such as Afghanistan, and find creative ways to engage with the de facto government.
- Ensure activities also take place at the local and rural level, and not just in the capitals, to facilitate local peacebuilding.
- Allocate long term budget for local and women-led organisations and recognise and support existing rural and local initiatives.
- Continue advocacy towards oppressive regimes to urge them to improve access to education, decision-making processes and health care for women and girls.
- Base your policies and activities on a conflict and gender analyses, including sex-aggregated data, and a good understanding of local contexts.
- Return to Afghanistan to be able to better monitor the situation.

---

**Contact: Anne Kwakkenbos at Cordaid ([anne.kwakkenbos@cordaid.org](mailto:anne.kwakkenbos@cordaid.org)) or Anne-Floor Dekker at WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform ([a.dekker@wo-men.nl](mailto:a.dekker@wo-men.nl)) for more information about the event.**