

## CONCEPT NOTE

***Deepening WPS Commitments for Action:  
Innovating and adapting to deliver on peace and security***  
**Ministerial-Level Side Event of the WPS Focal Points Network  
80<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

September 24, 2025 | 11am to 1pm EDT | United Nations Headquarters, New York  
Interpretation available in English, French, Spanish.

Register: <https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/80th-unga-ministerial-level-side-event/>

### Introduction

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Focal Points Network<sup>1</sup> will hold its annual Ministerial-Level Side Event in New York on the margins of the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80) under the theme, *Deepening WPS Commitments for Action: Innovating and adapting to deliver on peace and security*. The event will be hosted by Japan and Norway, who serve as the Network's 2025 Co-Chairs, in partnership with UN Women, as the Network Secretariat.

2025 is a notable commemorative year for multilateralism, peace and security, and women's human rights, marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The event will **reaffirm the critical importance of centralizing WPS principles to address ongoing peace and security challenges**. As the nature of conflicts and crisis continues to evolve, Network members will share the actions they plan to take to deepen their commitments to the WPS agenda with more inclusive and transformative approaches.

### Context

The UN Charter outlines the United Nations' primary mission to maintain international peace and security and affirms the **"equal rights of men and women"** as a core principle. In 2000, spurred by the actions of women peacebuilders fostering peace in crisis zones, the UN Security Council adopted its first-ever resolution on women, peace and security. Resolution 1325 affirms that **women's leadership and participation is a pre-requisite for long-term peace**. Twenty-five years on, there are ten Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security to guide implementation of the WPS agenda. Since 2000, 114 governments have adopted WPS national action plans, and in the 2024 Pact for the Future, governments pledged to take action to accelerate implementation of WPS commitments.

The principles of the WPS agenda, which call for **women's full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation in conflict prevention, resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, and humanitarian response** are yet to be systematically applied to address conflicts and crises. Despite evidence that peace agreements that include women last longer, none of the peace agreements reached in 2023 included a women's group or representative as a signatory.<sup>2</sup> Against this backdrop, the 2025 Global Peace Index notes that the world has become less peaceful over the past 17 years.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org](http://www.wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org)

<sup>2</sup> 2024 Report of the UN Secretary-General on women, peace and security: <https://docs.un.org/en/s/2024/671>

## Objective

In 2025, the WPS Focal Points Network, the largest of its kind with 96 UN member states and 10 regional organizations, expressed deep concern in two communiqués<sup>3</sup> about the global proliferation of conflicts, conflict-related sexual violence, rising military expenditures, environmental disasters, and protracted crises that devastate women and communities. In response, **Network members reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to work with all relevant partners to sustain and advance the women, peace and security agenda in their countries and institutions.**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Resolution 1325, the message is clear that **the world needs more women, peace and security, rather than less.**

Financing for women-led peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts, is shrinking at a time when it is most needed, yet it remains critical to fulfilling the commitments of the WPS agenda. Strengthening intergenerational collaboration and co-leadership is essential to advancing peace and security efforts that reflect the distinct contributions and experiences of young people. Fully incorporating WPS principles across all peace and security efforts, while fostering intersectoral and cross-thematic partnerships, will help position the WPS agenda for greater progress in the decade ahead.

The event will shore up **increased political will and commitments to women, peace and security.** It will build on discussions from the Seventh Capital-Level Meeting held in Tokyo in February 2025 and the Thematic Meeting held in Oslo in May 2025, which addressed, inter alia, implementation of national and regional action plans, women's participation in peace processes, emerging areas such as disaster risk response, and intergenerational leadership.

## Format

The event will be in-person only and will be livestreamed. There will be three-minute ministerial interventions from Network members, as time allows. Pre-registration is required.

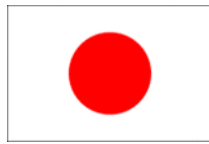
## Guiding Question:

- What key actions does your government or institution plan to take to deepen its commitments to the WPS agenda? Speakers are requested to tailor their interventions to respond to the recommendations outlined in the Tokyo and Oslo meeting communiqués.

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<sup>3</sup> Tokyo Meeting Communiqué: <https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Joint-Communique-7th-Capital-Level-Meeting-of-WPS-FPN-Tokyo.pdf>

Oslo Meeting Communiqué: [https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Joint-Communique\\_WPS-FPN-Oslo-Thematic-Meeting.pdf](https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Joint-Communique_WPS-FPN-Oslo-Thematic-Meeting.pdf)



### **Indicative Agenda**

10:55am	Group Photo for ministerial delegates
11:00am	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Representative of Japan</li><li>- Representative of Norway</li><li>- Representative of UN Women</li></ul>
11:20am	Intervention by a woman peacebuilder
11:25am	Interventions by Network Members
12:55pm	Closing Remarks by Japan and Norway WPS Focal Points