



STATEMENT

From Co-Conveners and Delegates to “Precarious Progress: U.N. Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security,” a Cross-Sector Conference on Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889.

Agreeing that there must be a more integrated and inclusive approach to manifesting concrete, measurable and positive action to empower and protect women in conflict situations, as well as to advance preventive approaches and accountability platforms, representatives from within U.N. agencies, INGOs, local organizations, institutions and governments convened to bring their experience, good practices and challenges forward to propose more comprehensive approaches to fulfill the U.N. Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security.

More than 175 women with extensive peace and security experience from over 47 countries – including U.N. officials, peace mediators, police and security officers, female peacekeepers, government officials, directors of national and international organizations, judges and attorneys, technical advisors, scholars and policy experts – were in attendance. The convening was an extraordinary indication of the depth of gender expertise available to advance global security in the midst of the current increasing acts of terrorism, on-going government instability and changing perceptions of security.

On the basis of the forthright input gathered during this conference on progress achieved and systematic gaps to be addressed, and in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325, conveners call on all relevant actors to heed the following actionable recommendations, recognizing that unless and until these points are taken into account and expanded upon, any investment in peace and security will be both inefficient and insufficient.

Essential Next Steps

- Robust support for the **establishment of a peace and security unit** within a strong, well-funded U.N. Women.
- Guarantee of **more effective prosecutions and accountability for gender-based violence** domestically and through regional bodies and the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Assurance of U.N. appointment of a **woman as chief mediator to peace talks** within the next 18 months.

The groundwork for the above-stated essential next steps has been laid. Thanks to the committed work of individuals, organizations and institutions, model frameworks, approaches and tools exist. However, these good practices need promotion and reinforcement. Advocates both inside and outside of the United Nations must take visible action for results.

Advancing Model Approaches and Frameworks

- Re-commit to **women's greater participation in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding** activities.
 - o *Good practice:* The all-female Indian Formed Police Unit (FPU) peacekeeping unit in Liberia displayed unique and essential competencies, including exemplary communication skills and accountable policing, which provide strong empirical evidence for the importance of women's presence within the civilian, military and police components of U.N. peacekeeping missions.
- Endorse **the Secretary-General's proposed indicators on SCR 1325**, a guarantee of financial and technical resources necessary for their full implementation and the establishment of linkages with existing mechanisms, such as human rights machinery and early warning systems, to ensure information yielded by these indicators is acted upon.
 - o *Good practice:* We endorse the approach outlined by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in its "Comprehensive and Transparent System of Implementation for the United Nations' Obligations on Women, Peace and Security."
- Create criteria to ensure **gender competence and expertise in decision-making bodies on security issues**.
 - o *Good practice:* The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice provides an exemplary mechanism that reviews the election of judges, the chief prosecutor and deputy prosecutors to the ICC, to assess their gender competence and thereby advance gender-inclusive justice.
- Strengthen **cross-sector and cross-agency collaboration**, recognizing the inter-linkages and complementary nature between protection, participation and prevention frameworks.

- *Good practice:* The International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect advocates for the inclusion of gender-based violence in existing frameworks to prevent and halt genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
- Provide robust **funding for ground-level civil society actors**, acknowledging the essential roles of community-based, gender-focused initiatives.
 - *Good practice:* Acknowledging the challenge of mobilizing financing for women’s rights work, the Open Society Foundation supported several funds around the world in an effort to increase resources for programs benefiting women and girls.
- Assure a **gender dimension in reparations**, including addressing the social relations and sources of violence in a gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive manner.
 - *Good practice:* The Trust Fund for Victims (TRV) implements ICC-ordered reparations utilizing a holistic approach, which addresses individual and collective needs and recognizes that victim involvement constitutes a valuable component of reparatory packages.
- Recognize the need to **control the tools of violence**, specifically small arms and light weapons, in order to guarantee peace and security.
 - *Good practice:* Recognizing that circulation, proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons sustain conflict and prohibit peace, the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) addresses the multi-dimensional issues of arms control, including its gender implications.
- Systematically **challenge behaviors and cultural norms that oppress women and violate international law**.
 - *Good practice:* Women in Muslim majority societies are bridging interpretations and implementations of laws and customs said to derive from Islam with SCR 1325, thereby opening new opportunities for women, specifically in the security sector.
- Establish **mechanisms for engaging men**, in particular articulating how SCR 1325 speaks to men and men’s concerns.
 - *Good practice:* Organizations in Kenya and Uganda model a “grooming of gender champions” approach, ensuring accountability to gender policies and strategies by nurturing strong partnerships with men in leadership positions.

On behalf of collaborating organizations and delegates, we, as co-conveners, affirm and demand that all relevant actors charged with turning SCR 1325 and sister resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1889 into policies take account of these essential next steps, and existing good practices, in their deliberations, planning and promotion of a new decade and vision for engendered peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

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