

Sustainable Development and the Women Peace and Security Agenda: Synergies for Action

Friends of UNSCR 1325 Meeting
Monday 15 July 2019, 8:30-9:45AM
Mission of Canada to the United Nations
466 Lexington Ave 20th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Since October 2000, the Security Council has adopted nine Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, which commit to strengthening women's participation, protection, and rights in conflict prevention through post-conflict reconstruction processes (UNSCR 1325 (2000); 1820 (2009); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2010); 1960 (2011); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015) and 2467 (2019)).¹ In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly also adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Agenda, including stand-alone goals on gender equality (SDG5) and peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG16).

The 2030 Agenda is a universal agenda for all states which requires policy coherence across the goals (SDG 17.14). SDG 16 targets include ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory decision making (SDG 16.7), reducing all forms of violence everywhere (SDG 16.1), ensuring non-discriminatory laws and policies (SDG16.B), protecting fundamental freedoms (SDG 16.10), ensuring equal access to justice (SDG 16.3), and addressing illicit financial and arms flows (SDG 16.4), among others. SDG 5 also includes targets on participation (SDG 5.5), eliminating violence against women (SDG 5.2), non-discrimination (SDG 5.1), gender equality (SDG 5.C), and social protection (SDG 5.4).

Implementing the SDGs in a coherent manner way requires creating peace that works for women and girls in conflict situations. As the 2015 UN Global Study on Women, Peace and Security recognised, the best indicator of peacefulness is not wealth, democracy, or ethno-religious identity, but instead how its women are treated.² However, according to the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report, failure to deal with deep rooted inequalities in a coherent way is emerging as central obstacle to realising the SDGs. Although inequalities may have narrowed on health and education, economic and political inequalities are deteriorating.³ Only three out of 11 (27 per cent) of peace agreements signed in 2017 contained gender sensitive provisions.⁴ According to a 2018 UNODC Report, intimate partner violence resulting in women's deaths is

¹ 2015 also marked the [Global Study on Women, Peace and Security](#) and UN Secretary-General reports on Peacebuilding ([AGE Report](#)), Peace Operations ([HIPPO](#)), which all recommended an integrated approach for conflict prevention.

² Weldon et al. in: UN Women. 2015. "Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325." [https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20(1).pdf)

³ Gita Sen (2019). "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Feminist Mobilization for the SDGs". Global Policy, 10(1): 28-38. Available: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1758-5899.12593>; see also: UN Women (2018). Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Available: www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2018/sdg-report-gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018-en.pdf?la=en&vs=4332

⁴ UN Security Council (2018). Report of the Secretary-General on women peace and security (S/2018/900), para. 42.

on the rise. In 2017 just eight men held the same wealth as the bottom half of humanity,⁵ with the top 1% of the world's population capturing twice as much global income growth as the bottom 50% of humanity since 1980.⁶ Women and girls' participation, rights, livelihoods and access to justice remain at the front lines of failures to build sustainable development and peace.

This year (2019) marks the first time that SDG16 on peaceful and inclusive societies will be reviewed at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). For the first time, the HLPF will include a UN General Assembly high level ministerial segment in September as well as the annual ECOSOC segment in July. Member states have been invited to make "Acceleration Actions"⁷ at the UNGA Summit on accelerating SDG implementation for its final decade (2020-2030).

Given the focus this year on SDG16 and the Ministerial Summit, this year's discussions of the SDGs provide an important opportunity to strengthen synergies with the SDGs and the WPS Agenda. Mobilising leadership to strengthen coordination to address systemic obstacles to women's participation, protection, and rights, including so-called "spill-over effects" such as arms proliferation and illicit financial flows, is essential for sustainable development and peace.

This Group of Friends of 1325 meeting will provide a space for member states to discuss how to strengthen synergies between the Women Peace and Security Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, and explore how to leverage this important year to accelerate WPS commitments that make a difference for women in conflict situations.

Speakers

- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Women, Peace and Security Programme Director, Abigail Ruane
- Equidad de Género Director of Gender Policies and Budgets, Emilia Reyes
- WILPF Cameroon President, Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo
- WILPF United Kingdom International Adviser, Taniel Yusef
- UN Women Policy Adviser, Sylvia Hordosch

Format

This will be a closed 1325 Friends meeting for member states, United Nations representatives, and civil society at the Canadian Mission to the United Nations in New York, hosted by the Group of Friends of 1325. The mission of Canada will open the discussion by welcoming participants and introducing panellists, and then will facilitate the discussion. WILPF will provide an overview of linkages between the SDGs and WPS Agenda. The representative from Equidad de Género will then share information about what is happening on the SDGs at this year's HLPF. Women peace activists from Cameroon and the UK will then share what women are doing and what is needed at the local level on gender equality and peace. UN Women will then share information about opportunities to strengthen WPS and the SDGs based on the 2019 Vienna Expert Group Meeting on peace, inclusion, and climate.

⁵ Oxfam (2017). "An Economy for the 99%". Available: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/economy-99>

⁶ IISD (2018). "Experts Discuss Inequality in Preparation for 2019 Report": Available: www.sdg.iisd.org/news/experts-discuss-inequality-in-preparation-for-2019-report/

⁷ UN (2019). "Register a voluntary SDG Acceleration Action for the SDG Summit": Available: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/register/?source=90>