

## Gender and Peace Analysis: 20-24 July 2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Agenda

The penultimate round of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Outcome Document for the Post-2015 Agenda took place 20-24 July, 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York. There was worryingly little gender equality discussion during this round of negotiations, it seems gender equality language has actually decreased after two rounds of negotiations (see the [Peace Women website for analysis of the June IGN](#)) among the majority of member states, though the issue is still pushed by civil society. Peace Women has been closely following the Intergovernmental Negotiations to monitor developments in both gender equality and Women, Peace and Security issues.

### *Peace and Security*

There was significantly less discussion of peace and security issues than there had been in June, most suggestions dealt with changes in language. South Africa, on behalf of the [G77+China](#) proposed replacing the phrase “post-conflict” with “countries emerging from conflict” in Para. 30. Additionally [Colombia](#) suggested adding language in any paragraph referring to conflict situations to also address “post-conflict situations.”

Several states reinforced the suggestion from the June negotiations that the nexus between peace and development be clarified in the Document. Timor Leste suggested that peace be included in the Preamble, while the [European Union](#), [Finland](#), Chile and Armenia wanted the Document to clearly address the interlinkages between peace and development. [Brazil](#) however, suggested that ‘peace’ was never meant to be an overarching goal of sustainable development and should not be included in the ‘5Ps’ on the same level as ‘people, planet and prosperity.’

### *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment*

The major mention of gender equality and women’s empowerment during the negotiations was a [statement given by Costa Rica on behalf of 39 member states](#). Disappointingly the statement presented a watered-down version of suggestions made by the [Women’s Major Group](#) and other civil society organizations pushing for gender equality and women’s empowerment. In particular the statement provided no specific additions or changes to the Outcome Document beyond the addition of references to CEDAW and other international commitments. States agree that gender must be a ‘cross-cutting’ issue, however at this late stage in the negotiations, states need to move beyond this vague rhetoric and provide concrete suggestions to the co-facilitators.

The statement also did not address the failures of the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) which will have a deleterious effect on gender equality and women’s empowerment. In particular, the statement did not criticize the AAAA for failing to address the systematic imbalances in the global financial system or for failing to advance solutions to the debt crisis that has detrimental effects on the human rights of women and girls worldwide (for a more detailed gender critique of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, see the [press release from the Women’s Major Group](#).)

Apart from the joint statement made by Costa Rica, several member states commented on gender equality in their individual capacities, primarily regarding the Declaration portion of the Outcome Document. A number of states merely reiterated their support for gender equality language in the Document (Brazil, [Australia](#)) while others expressed the need to strengthen such language (Israel, [United Kingdom](#).) There was support from several member

states for reinserting gender equality into the Preamble of the Outcome Document (Spain, [Finland](#).)

It is crucial to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals that the Post-2015 Agenda not only ensure gender equality through the implementation of the Agenda, but that it also dismantles existing inequalities and structural barriers to women's enjoyment of development. Denmark reinforced this necessity to remove all legal, social and economic barriers to gender equality. This call was reiterated by [Benin \(on behalf of the LDCs\)](#), Sweden and Finland. Australia, [Malta](#) and the United States also suggested including language on gender discrimination be added to Para. 19 of the Declaration.

There was quite a bit of disagreement among member states regarding the insertion of language on sexual/reproductive health and rights in Para. 19 of the Declaration. [Denmark](#), Sweden, [Peru](#), [Brazil](#), [Finland](#) and [Belgium](#) were all supportive of such an addition. However [Malta](#) and France both expressed reservations, stating that the issue should be addressed in an 'appropriate manner' that 'respects the sensitivities of countries.'

### *Means of Implementation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda*

One of the primary issues of this round of Intergovernmental Negotiations was how the Addis Ababa Action Agenda would be incorporated into the Post-2015 Agenda. There was a general split among states, with many wanting the AAAA to replace the Means of Implementation section of the Outcome Document entirely while other states felt it the AAAA should be merely complimentary and its impact reduced. There was also disagreement regarding the annexing of the AAAA to the Outcome Document with the [United States](#) and Canada pushing for an annex. Given the failures of the AAAA to properly address gender equality and women's empowerment issues, it would be more effective from a gender perspective to minimize references to the AAAA and craft an MOI section that is more progressive towards gender issues.

### *Statement by Women's Major Group*

Nalini Singh from the Asian-Pacific Research and Resource Center for Women gave a statement on behalf of the Women's Major Group to member states and the co-facilitators. Her statement called for a strengthening of reference to women's human rights throughout the Document as well as a gender-based framework for addressing CBDR (Common but Differentiated Responsibility.) The statement also expressed disappointment with the outcome of the Financing for Development conference which failed to commit to reforms to redress the inequalities in the global financial system that negatively impact gender equality and the human rights of women and girls.

WILPF Peacewomen welcomes the support for gender and peace language at the Intergovernmental Negotiations and the support from member states for gender issues. However more needs to be done to address the intersectionality of peace, gender and development in the final draft of the Outcome Document. Peacewomen continues to affirm a conflict prevention approach to development that strengthens gender equality and peace. It is critical to build on existing commitments including commitments to protect the human rights of women and girls. The Document must address systemic issues including inequalities in and between states, as such the language on CBDR must be strengthened rather than reduced. It must ensure the role of state in upholding human rights of women and all people. Most importantly the Post-2015 Agenda must provide a pathway for transforming commitments into

actions so that these goals do not remain only words on a page but affect real change on the ground for all people.