

Gender and Peace Analysis: 22-25 June 2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Agenda

Overview

The Intergovernmental Negotiations on the [Zero Draft Outcome Document](#) took place at UN Headquarters from 22-25 of June. The Outcome Document consists of four segments; the Declaration, Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, Means of Implementation and Follow-up and Review; and sets out the framework for the [UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) in September. The negotiations, which were divided into four sections covering each segment of the Outcome Document, were led by Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, and David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland, Co-facilitators for intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

The importance of gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment was a recurring theme during the negotiations, with many Member States agreeing that that language on gender must be strengthened throughout the document. Despite the consensus there were little to no suggestions of specific ways to improve gender equality as a cross-cutting issue. Additionally numerous opportunities to bolster particular gender issues were ignored. There was very little mention of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the negotiations although many states discussed conflict resolution and peaceful, stable environments as a critical prerequisite for sustainable development.

Analysis: Women, Peace and Security in the Intergovernmental Negotiations

The Declaration

The Declaration portion of the Draft Outcome Document describes the vision of the Post-2015 process as “a world in which every women and girl enjoys full gender equality and all barriers to their empowerment in our societies have been removed.” A few states ([Thailand](#), the Philippines) applauded the language on gender equality and women's empowerment but many more (Korea, the United Kingdom, [Iceland](#), Sweden, Uruguay, France, Australia and Palau) agreed the language needs to be strengthened. The statement of the European Union expressed concern that the Document must fulfill obligations in the Beijing Platform for Action and reflect CEDAW commitments. The United Kingdom emphasized the need for Sustainable Development to ensure women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Panama and Australia mentioned violence against women and girls as a barrier to realization of the goals while Iceland and Sweden pressed for language ensuring women's full participation and leadership in government. The statement given by France closely reflected the suggestions made by the [Women's Major Group](#), that gender equality and women's empowerment needs to be recognized as a “cross-cutting” issue.

While the nexus of Women, Peace and Security was not mentioned by any member state, peace and conflict resolution was discussed more broadly. [Rwanda](#), on behalf of the African States, and Iraq, on behalf of the Arab States, both addressed the connection between peace and development and the need to have peace/security/stability addressed more strongly in the Document. Colombia specifically suggested that para. 28 on the prerequisite of peaceful societies does not adequately reflect the relationship between development and peace. Brazil proposed adding in language that “sustainable development and peace are mutually reinforcing.” Only one state – Costa Rica – endorsed the link between disarmament and development, and suggested that relevant language be inserted into the document.

Goals and Targets, Means of Implementation, and Follow-up and Review

The negotiations surrounding the SDG goals and targets did not include any mention of Goal 5 (“achieve gender equality and empower women and girls) nor Goal 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”). An agreement was reached that indicators for the targets would be decided in 2016 by the [Inter-Agency Expert Group](#). It remains to be seen whether the IAEG will produce sufficient indicators, particularly to measure gender equality. There was also little to no mention of gender in the follow-up and review discussion with the exception of data gathering suggestions. Many states stressed the importance of disaggregated data and inclusion of all groups, including and especially women and girls.

The Means of Implementation section of the Outcome Document will be determined by the outcome of the [Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#) in Addis Ababa.

Meeting with Major Groups and Stakeholders

There was far more discussion of gender and peace issues in the June 24 meeting with Major Groups and stakeholders. Bibhash Chakraborty from Safer World and Peacebuilding agreed that the emphasis on peace in the declaration is welcome. However he suggested that para. 15 needs to include ‘peace’ along with justice and equality. He also suggested that para. 25 needs to include some mention on the control of illicit arms flows. Protection of children and women and girls from GBV during armed conflict including child soldiering should be priorities. Mr. Chakraborty also addressed financing for development, saying language on financing should ensure the framework promotes peace. Additionally the Means of Implementation should highlight the need to deliver development finance that avoids unintended negative impacts on peace. The spokesperson for NGO Christian Aid reiterated the need to end gender based violence and emphasized that girls, women, children and youth should be at the core of the agenda with other vulnerable groups. In this vein, the closed list of groups in para. 17 is counter-productive.

Sachini Perera from ARROW, a member of the Women’s Major Group, suggested that the declaration should include, not just gender equality and women’s empowerment, but non-discrimination and women’s human rights as well as sexual health and reproductive rights. Specifically para. 18 should include sexual health, reproductive rights and comprehensive sex education. The lists in para. 17 and 39 of vulnerable groups and those for which disaggregated data is included need to be opened. The statement of the YWCA agreed with the need for inclusion of sexual health and reproductive rights and added a call for references to the Beijing

Platform for Action in para. 10. The [Women's Major Group issued a statement](#) on behalf of numerous feminist NGOs that reiterated the need for gender equality and women's empowerment to be a cross-cutting issue throughout the agenda as well as the need to reaffirm standing human rights obligations.

WILPF Peacewomen welcomes the increase in 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 next draft of the Outcome Document. Peacewomen continues to affirm a conflict prevention approach to development that strengthens gender equality and peace.