



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

First Annual High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development

11-20 July, 2016

Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York



A view of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. [\(Twitter / Joan M. Lanfranco\)](#)

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List of Abbreviations

Agenda 2030	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, or Sustainable Development Goals
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
HLPF	High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development
IPI	International Peace Institute
LDC	Least Developed Country
LLDC	Landlocked Developing Country
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOI	Means of Implementation
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WILPF	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
WMG	Women's Major Group



Overview

On 11-20 July 2016, the UN Division for Sustainable Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) facilitated the first annual [High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF). The forum is the the annual accountability mechanism for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, or Agenda 2030), and aims to evaluate progress toward successful implementation. This year prioritised the theme “Ensuring No One Is Left Behind.” The HLPF serves as a participatory forum gathering Member States, United Nations entities, and major civil society stakeholders to monitor progress and share best practices on Agenda 2030.

The 2016 HLPF served as the first event to analyse progress, review challenges, and share good practices in the implementation of the Agenda 2030, which was adopted in 2015 following the expiration of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The two-week HLPF included several key plenary sessions to address these goals, including a session entitled “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Creating Peaceful and More Inclusive Societies and Empowering Women and Girls” and a session entitled “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Challenges of Countries in Special Situations.” It also included submission of National Voluntary Reviews from 22 Member States.



A view of the Trusteeship Council during the HLPF. ([IISD/ ENB/ Kiara Worth](#))

As part of our work to strengthen conflict prevention and promote accountability on gender equality and peace, the WILPF/ PeaceWomen Programme monitored the forum for gender and conflict issues, focusing specifically on SDG 5 (empowering women and girls) and SDG 16 (stable and peaceful societies). We also leveraged this space to build momentum on strengthening accountability and financing of gender equality and peace through a [two-day workshop and follow-up side side event](#) on Women, Peace and Security Financing.

While the HLPF shared good practices and key gaps in implementation, it lacked a strong and consistent gender or militarism perspective and had significant gaps in terms of inclusiveness of processes. WILPF’s coalition, the Women’s Major Group, in a [recent report on the HLPF](#), “express[ed] grave concern... that the annual review process to hold governments accountable to their commitments to the 2030 Agenda failed to address key obstacles.” The WMG noted that civil society was only seriously consulted from early stages in two of the 22 National Voluntary Reviews, and added that the time allocated for civil society comments during the two-day National Voluntary Review sessions proved restrictive. Without the opportunity for meaningful exchange between civil society and Member States, accountability and transparency on Agenda 2030 will

suffer. The WMG also expressed “disappointment with the very weak Ministerial Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the meeting,” noting that it failed to move past empty or redundant rhetoric to actionable policy commitments.

So where do we stand after Year One? Unfortunately, we are off to a rocky start in implementing Agenda 2030 on issues of gender equality and stable and peaceful societies. WILPF reminds states that there can be no development without disarmament and women’s full and equal participation and rights. Leaving no one behind also requires substantively inclusive processes. It is critical moving forward that Member States and the United Nations include civil society in more than mere [“tokenistic consultation,”](#) as called for by Ms. Nurgul Djanaeva of Kyrgyz Forum of Women NGOs. Looking ahead, the path is clear: sustainable development requires more democratic inclusion and strengthened support for civil society, as well as political will, financing, and action that ensures that Goals 5 and 16 are not neglected. This report outlines key messages and gaps in the 2016 HLPF on gender and peace issues, with the intent of strengthening accountability on peace and human rights for women moving forward.

Ministerial Declaration

The 2016 HLPF resulted in a Ministerial Declaration, which aims to summarise best practices and set short term goals for development. The Ministerial Declaration affirms that “sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security, and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development” (para 7). It recognises that that human rights and peace are key to leaving no one behind, and that inequality and illicit arms flows give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice (paras 7, 8). It also calls for action to “redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including by ensuring that women have a role in peacebuilding and statebuilding” (para 7), and recognises the importance of building on existing mechanisms, including the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the New Deal for Fragile and Conflict Affected States (para 20).

The Declaration also recognises gender as a cross-cutting contributor to progress in each goal, and commits to striving toward “ a just, equitable, tolerant, open, creative and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met,” including by engaging men and boys to eliminate violence against women and girls and mainstreaming gender perspectives in implementation of the 2030 Agenda (paras 8, 10). In addition, it affirms that “...we will work for a significant increase in investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at the global, regional and national levels” (para 10).

Despite recognition of the importance of gender equality and peace, the Ministerial Declaration does not substantially integrate a gender or militarism analysis. As a result, key issues required for structural transformation, including means of implementation that build on women’s human rights commitments, regulating corporate power, reducing military spending, and encouraging gender equitable development consistent with Beijing, remained outstanding. As our coalition [statement](#) by the Women’s Major Group noted, “how can developing countries mobilise resources for sustainable development, when MOI (Means of Implementation) is MIA (Missing in Action)?”



Voluntary National Reviews

As part of the 2016 HLPF, 22 Member States engaged in National Voluntary Reviews of the SDGs, with the goal of monitoring progress on attaining Agenda 2030 after Year One, and sharing good practices in implementation. Voluntary reviews were submitted by: China, Colombia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, and Venezuela.

WILPF monitored each review in order to analyse commitments to SDG 5 (empowering women and girls) and SDG 16 (stable and peaceful societies). Of the submitting states, 16 of the 22 (approximately 72%) countries specifically mentioned SDG 5, while 14 of 22 countries (approximately 59%) mentioned SDG 16 directly. Twelve countries (54%) mentioned both SDG 5 and SDG 16, including: Egypt, France, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, and Switzerland. Four countries (18%) mentioned neither the peace or gender equality goal, including: China, Colombia, Morocco, and Togo. Given Colombia's recent success in including women at the peace table, the gap for Colombia was surprising.



Ms Ségolène Royal, Minister of the Environment and Marine Affairs of France, delivers the National Voluntary Review. [\(IISD/ ENB/ Karina Worth\)](#)



Ms Kathy Calvin, President of UN Women, moderates National Voluntary Reviews. [\(IISD/ ENB/ Karina Worth\)](#)

While over 50% of the countries mentioned both SDG 5 and SDG 16, analysis differs between countries. For example, on Goal 5, Estonia analysed Estonian relevant national policies, identified gaps and actions to improve inclusion for women and girls, and named specific groups from civil society to begin the engagement process. Uganda integrated SDG 5 into its national development policy, which includes reducing the "rate of marginalisation" by 4% by 2020. On Goal 16, Norway addressed the nexus between peace and poverty, as well as conflict prevention, reconciliation efforts, and transparency and accountability. France also addressed the rule of law, combating violence and ensuring effective justice, combatting illegal flows and organised crime, and combating human trafficking in order to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. France noted the success of national programs such as "21st Century Justice,"

an ongoing reform that will create a central information and reception service for litigants, and the continued strength of France's High Authority for Transparency in Public Life, as peaceful two mechanisms by which to strengthen government accountability, the rule of law, and public safety against terror threats.

However, process of developing National Voluntary Reviews generally had substantial gaps around meaningful civil society participation. WILPF's coalition, the Women's Major Group, published a [report](#) that found most civil society organisations were consulted on the status of voluntary reviews at the last minute, or after advanced drafts had already progressed at the state level. Only 7 of 21 countries submitting reports in a timely fashion engaged civil society. WILPF stands in solidarity with the Women's Major Group and affirms the early and sustained participation of civil society as imperative for advancing sustainable development and inclusive peace, as well as strengthening accountability and implementation.

Moving forward, states must make strengthen work on civil society inclusion, including through support for the major group framework and through regular and substantive consultation with women-led civil society to ensure that no one – particularly women, girls, and members of the LGBTQI community – are left behind.

Analyses of Plenary Sessions of the 2016 HLPF



Delegates participate in the session “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Creating Peaceful and More Inclusive Societies and Empowering Women and Girls.” [\(CSO Partnership/ Twitter\)](#)

Plenary Session 1: “Where Do We Stand at Year One?” and “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Envisioning an Inclusive World in 2030”

- Devapriya Bhattacharya, Centre for Policy Dialogue
- Christiana Figueres, former Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Jose Maria Viera of Human Rights and Development Policy Advisor at World Blind Union
- Joy Aguilar, Major Group for Children and Youth
- Macharia Kamau, Kenya
- Orina Lópe Uribe, Women’s Major Group
- Mr. Ibrahim Ismail Abdallah, President of the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities
- Mr. Alvaro Esteban Pop Ac, Chair of the 15th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues– UNPFII
- H.E. Mr. Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations and Chair of the 54th session of the Commission for Social Development
- Ms. Onalenna Selolwane, Executive Committee Member of the Mosadi Khumo Socio Economic Empowerment Forum for Women and member of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)
- Anna Balance, European Union
- Uchita de Zoysa, Sri Lanka

On 11 July, two sessions were held, entitled “Where Do We Stand at Year One?” and “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Envisioning an Inclusive World in 2030.” These sessions focused on countries with distinct challenges in achieving Agenda 2030.

The opening discussion of the session, “Where Do We Stand at Year One?” centred on creating a sustainable pathway that would leave no one behind by first identifying areas of significant concern. Notable statistics included 300,000 women died during childbirth, women’s participation in 2016 reaches 23% and more than 1 in 4 women aged between 14-20 reported being married before their 18th birthday in 2015. It further highlighted the challenges faced with implementation. This session underscored that despite advancement, gender equality remains a persistent global challenge.

With a focus on data collection, Mr Devapriya Bhattacharya, of the Centre for Policy Dialogue discussed critical issues on financing resources, climate concerns, global security, and grassroots progress to sustain growth. Devapriya also noted that there is measurement issue in data collection that, should be addressed going forward.

Christiana Figueres, former Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, emphasised the vulnerability and marginalisation of women and children everywhere. She also discussed the importance of measurement, including global, national and subnational baselines. She further noted that sustained political attention to global issues is tantamount, and that the HLPF and annual Ministerial Declaration are key to maintaining this attention.

Mr. Jose Maria Viera, Human Rights and Development Policy Advisor at World Blind Union, called on states to develop and implement measures to guarantee participation. He cited that the international community needed to go beyond diagnosing realities.



The session “Envisioning an Inclusive World in 2030” focused on participation. Alvaro Esteban, Chair of the 15th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, suggested that an inclusive world is one in which women are involved in endeavours to change current circumstances. Building on this, the Women’s Major Group discussed systemic drivers of inequality that leave entire populations behind, and stated that these limit the participation of women. Actions must be taken to counter these negative practices. Anna Balance of the European Union further stated that participation for women is a matter of social justice, with Onalenna Selolwane highlighting the persistent exclusion of women in policymaking.

Plenary Session 2: “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Creating Peaceful and More Inclusive Societies and Empowering Women and Girls”

12 July, 2016, Trusteeship Chamber of the United Nations, 12-1 PM

Panelists

- H.E. Mr Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN and Vice President of ECOSOC
- Ms Irene Khan, Director-General of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
- Ms Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women
- Ms Beatrice Ayuru, Founder of Lira Integrated School in Uganda
- Mr Robert J. Berg, Chair of the Alliance for Peacebuilding and Trustee at the World Academy of Arts and Science
- Ms Anca-Ruxandra Gliga, Advocate at the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and UN Major Group for Children and Youth
- Ms Gaia Gozzo, Head of Governance at CARE International

On 12 July, a session was held entitled “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Creating Peaceful and More Inclusive Societies and Empowering Women and Girls.” This session highlighted the need to systematically mainstream gender analyses addressing women and girls in each aspect of the SDGs. The session focused on the role of women and girls in international and community development, peacebuilding, political participation, and holding governments accountable. Key tools mentioned to achieve this include the collection of gender-disaggregated data (including the use of data aggregated by women, along with government data), universal education for women and girls, strengthening the rule of law and eliminating judicial impunity, and increasing funding allocations to women’s programs.



Ms Lakshmi Puri, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, emphasises the need for gender mainstreaming. ([IISD/ ENB/ Kiara Worth](#))

One key highlight was from the delegate from Sweden, who spoke from the floor during the question and answer session of the panel to suggest for a “feminist foreign policy with a

systematic gender perspective.” Sweden further affirmed that, “peaceful societies [are] about addressing root causes of conflict.”

Another key highlight was attention to the importance of women’s substantive participation. Speaking from the floor, the League of Arab States affirmed that “women should have full participation in conflict resolution... namely in participation and prevention.” Iraq, also speaking from the floor during the question and answer session of the panel, noted that the repercussions of terrorism particularly impact women, referencing the recent sale and immolation of Yazidi sexual slaves. South Africa additionally spoke from the floor to highlight the issue of unpaid and domestic



Ms Anca Ruxandra Gliga notes the importance of working with women in peacebuilding efforts. ([IISD/ ENB/ Karina Worth](#))

work, and the need to ensure that women are represented in politics as well as recognised in the labor force. Despite the gender-awareness of some statements, others were particularly gender-blind. For example, Benin’s statement normalised the practice of women taking on responsibility for education and domestic tasks in the home before children attend school during its comments during the question and answer session. Breaking down both social and legal

obstacles to women’s full and meaningful political both within and outside of the home is critical to gender justice and long-term peace.

According to Ms Anca Ruxandra Gliga of Young Peacebuilders, “we need to start talking less about women... and more with them.” The Women’s Major Group, of which WILPF is a part, noted that “women and girls throughout the world ...have been systematically victims of violence and have been excluded from decision making in situations of violence.” It called for the inclusion of women “in all of their diversity” for peace.

Plenary Session 3: “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Challenges of Countries in Special Situations”

18 July, 2016, Trusteeship Chamber of the United Nations

Panelists

- Ms Tawakkol Abdel-Salam Karman, Journalist, politician, and human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 2011 from Yemen
- Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- H.E. Mr. Alvaro Garcia, Member of the Presidential cabinet and Director of the Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency, Uruguay
- Ms Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)

- Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- H.E. Mr. Ricardo Cardona, Minister of Social Development of Honduras
- H.E. Ms. Karina Gould, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development of Canada
- Ms Shamshad Akhtar, Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP



Ms Tawakkol Abdel-Salam Karman gives a stirring keynote address. (IISD/ ENB/ Karina Worth)

promotion, and sustainable development for countries in special situations. However, the session did not primarily focus on conflict countries, nor issues of demilitarisation for sustainable development and peace.

Ms Tawakkol Abdel-Salam Karman, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, called for Member States to combat corruption, finance responsible global development projects, adopt actionable plans for the SDGs, and comply with environmental protection statutes. Ms Karman underscored the importance of nurturing democratic institutions and of combatting military coups and militias, which “restrict the right to development, prosperity, and good living.”

Ms Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), brought attention to how addressing inequality in countries in special situations critically requires addressing the nexus of political participation, social agency, and voice for women and girls. She noted that “we must strive harder... especially in crisis and conflict settings” in order to leave no individual behind. She noted that access to schooling, restriction of forced marriages, and full equal rights in society for girls is crucial to attaining sustainable development in countries in special situations. She additionally called for the UN to make protection of those at risk a main priority, especially in crisis and conflict settings.

On 18 July, a plenary session was held entitled “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Challenges of Countries in Special Situations.” This session built upon the theme of “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind” by focusing on countries with distinct challenges in achieving the SDGs. This plenary session focused primarily on the changing economic and environmental plights of those furthest behind, including small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and least developed countries (LDCs), as well as states in conflict. Panelists additionally recognised the importance of women in conflict mitigation, peace



Ms Karina Gould underscores the need for a gender perspective in considering countries in special situations. (IISD/ ENB/ Kiara Worth)



Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, reminded the international community that women must be economically and personally secure before they are able to achieve full, equitable development. This includes full access to healthcare and reproductive health for women, as well as microfinance and small business loans for women entrepreneurs.

According to Ms Karina Gould, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development of Canada, "...women and girls can be transformative agents for change if they are able to succeed." Ms. Gould called for the promotion of gender equality as an active, rather than a passive, policy decision by states and the larger global community. Finally, she emphasised that in conflict situations, "...women have a role to play as agents of peace and they can help prevent conflict when they are heard."

Mr Garcia, Member of the Presidential cabinet and Director of the Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency of Uruguay, affirmed that member states are bound to reassess budgets and political agendas in order to analyse where reallocations may allow for increased financing in specific development areas. WILPF reminds Member States that this must be done in a way that upholds obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights for women, both progressively and by using maximum available resources to reduce military spending and redirect funds to gender equitable social development as affirmed in the (1995) Beijing Platform for Action.

Side Events to the 2016 HLPF

WILPF/PeaceWomen Side Event: "Ensuring No One is Left Behind: Strengthening Accountability and Financing for Gender Equality and Stable and Peaceful Societies"
11 July, 2016, Baha'i International Community Center, 1:15-2:30 PM

Panelists

- Ms Daisy Tourne, Parliamentarian of Uruguay
- Dr Abigail Ruane, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, PeaceWomen
- Ms Emilia Reyes, Equidad Genero
- Ms Mavic Cabrera Balleza, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
- Ms Nahla Valji, UN Women
- Ms Isabelle Geuskens, Women Peacemakers Program

On 11 July, 2016, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), PeaceWomen and sponsors hosted a [Side Event to the High Level Political Forum](#) entitled "Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Financing Gender Equality and Stable and Peaceful Societies for Effective Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda." The side event served as a follow up to the two day Women, Peace, and Security Workshop convened 7-8 July 2016. It brought together experts from the security and development sectors to map financial flows, analyse the opportunity cost of militarisation, and identify opportunities for moving the money from economies of war and violence to economies of peace and gender justice.

Ms Nahla Valji, Deputy Peace and Security Chief of UN Women, introduced the event by reminding participants that the problem is not a lack of money for gender equality and peace, but a lack of effective priorities for action. The international community spends "trillions on war and pennies on peace and conflict prevention." She pointed out strengthening financing for conflict



prevention and peace based on gender equality was one of the main messages that came out of the [2015 Global Study](#) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Ms Isabelle Geuskens, Executive Director of the Women Peacemakers Programme, shared how militarism as a way of thought constrains financial flows for gender equality and peace, with particular implications for women human rights defenders and peace activists. She shared research on how financial regulations aimed at counter-terrorism can result in shrinking space for women's organisations due to increased obstacles to operations, and increasing safety and sustainability risks for their important work.

Ms Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, International Coordinator of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, shared innovative work on financing UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans. According to Cabrera-Balleza, National Action Plans remain "the most concrete expressions of government commitments to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda." However, of the 60-odd NAPs in existence today, only 12 have dedicated budgets. Ms Cabrera-Balleza called for states to finance their NAPs, including by integrating NAP commitments into Local Development Plans to build community engagement and buy-in for strengthened accountability in otherwise often gender-blind and peace-blind contexts.



Uruguay Parliamentarian Daisy Tourne offers insights into government transparency and accountability. (WILPF/ PeaceWomen/ Grace Jennings-Edquist)

Ms Emilia Reyes, Gender Policies and Budgets Coordinator of Equidad de Género, shared how gender budgeting can be used to strengthen prevention efforts through investing in policies for women's human rights and peace. According to Reyes, the issue is "not about money or putting a percentage from one place to the other, but about well-spent money that is more effective." She argued powerfully that member states do not need to find new money, but instead need to shift their planning methodologies to address the different experiences of the populations they target through a gender aware lens.

While gender budgeting has historically been applied within socioeconomic contexts, the defense and military sector has not been a priority for this tool. This is, in part, due to gendered assumptions about what count as "women's issues." However, it is also due to the secrecy and lack of transparency that can surround military budgets due to claims of "national security," which increase opportunities for corruption and misuse of resources.

Uruguayan Parliamentarian Ms Daisy Tourne shared innovative initiatives in the Uruguay context by parliamentarians that addresses the (1995) [Beijing Declaration](#) call for innovative financing including by reducing military spending and redirecting to gender equitable social development. She shared how after the dictatorship in Uruguay, parliamentarians were able to introduce laws

that promote transparency, anti-corruption, and democratic participation around military budgets, and to empower civilians to become involved in political decisions and programmatic work. This is a good practice that other member states may learn from.

Dr Abigail Ruane, Director of WILPFs Women, Peace and Security programme, wrapped up the session by calling for strengthened collaboration to #MoveTheMoney from a political economy of war to a political economy of peace and gender justice. She reminded states that now, more than ever, it is clear the international community must move the money from economies of war to economies of peace. She called on member states to: 1) finance the gender equality and peace goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); 2) finance National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325; 3) strengthen Gender Budgeting; 4) strengthen accountability on defense and military budgeting; and 5) strengthen funding of the feminist movement, including by CSO inclusive funds like the Global Acceleration Instrument.

SDG16 Data Initiative: "Measuring Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: Launch of the SDG16 Data Initiative"

14 July, 2016, Conference Room D, UN Conference Building, 6:15-7:30 PM

Panelists

- Ms Lisa Bersales, Head of Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) and co-chair of the IAEG-SDGs
- Mr Paul Gulleik Larsen, Project Leader SDGs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Nathaniel Heller, Managing Director, Results for Development Institute (R4D) (United States)



Infographic from the SDG16 Data Initiative. ([Global Peace Index/ Twitter](#))

On 14 July, 2016, the SDG16 Data Initiative, which is a consortium of 14 organizations, launched the [SDG16 Data Initiative](#), which brings together existing statistical indicators for measuring SDG 16. The aim of this SDG 16 platform is to showcase the best global available data for measuring a peaceful, just and inclusive society.

As part of WILPF's successful advocacy to include target 16.4 on illicit arms flows, which is a critical issue for addressing sexual and gender based violence, it is important to note that data on arms transfers is a critical gap. According to the platform, indicator 16.4.3 ("Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer Scores") is available only inconsistently worldwide; while indicator 16.4.2 ("Proportion of

seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traded in accordance with international standards and legal instruments") has zero data available.

Although women and gender were not discussed in this event, panelists welcomed feedback on any gaps in their data collection. Gender-disaggregated data was one aspect mentioned to provide a better overall picture in how successful societies are at being peaceful, just and inclusive. Another recommendation highlighted was the addition of civil society data, which could be more inclusive than national data in states that repress human rights, therefore, not collecting accurate statistics.

In order to ensure more effective monitoring and accountability, there needs to be more data gathering on gender for peace. The SDG16 Data Initiative is a useful example of how national statistics need to be developed in a gender-inclusive manner and provides one useful resource in advocacy to further gender equality and women's empowerment by building the evidence base for action.

International Peace Institute: "Ensuring No One is Left Behind: A High Level Dialogue on Migration and Refugees"

20 July, 2016, International Peace Institute, 1-2:45 PM

Panelists

- H.E. Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of Finland
- H.E. Mr Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco and upcoming Co-Chair of the Global Migration Group
- H.E. Mr Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations
- Ms Karen AbuZayd, Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants
- Ms Christine Matthews, Deputy Director, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - New York Office
- Mr Peter Sutherland, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration
- Dr Adam Lupel, Vice-President, International Peace Institute

On 20 July, 2016, the International Peace Institute (IPI) along with the Quaker Institute organized the Side Event to the 2016 HLPF "Ensuring No One is Left Behind: A High Level Dialogue on Migration and Refugees." The high level session set out to link the SDGs and Agenda 2030 and the upcoming 19 September, 2016 High Level Dialogue on Migrants and Refugees. However, this event largely lacked a gender perspective or consideration of the situations and experiences of refugee and migrant women.

H.E. Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of Finland, initiated the discussion, underscoring the necessity of ensuring that migrant and refugee policy reaches those furthest behind and most vulnerable. Setting the stage for discussion, Mr Peter Sutherland, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, noted that 65 million individuals to date have been forced to flee their homes. He called for action on the Global Compact for Migration to prioritise the mobility of migrants, their inclusion in destination countries, ending immigration detention, ensuring common standards of migration management, and combating human trafficking. He spoke strongly against increasing xenophobia, harmful nationalism, and fear in global political discourse and called for differentiated action to address mixed migration flows.

H.E. Mr Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco and upcoming Co-Chair of the Global Migration Group, then spoke about the need for North-South cooperation in migration issues, and called for action to move from rhetoric to action, recognising migration can be a vector of co-prosperity and co-development between sending and receiving states. H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho affirmed that international cooperation and a migrant first mentality are crucial components of any rights respecting Global Compact and brought attention to the need to address remittances. Ms Karen AbuZayd emphasised the need to further discuss issues of voluntary readmission and return, the positive contributions of migration, and the importance of considering family reunification in migration policy. Finally, Ms. Christine Matthews concluded by affirming the nexus between humanitarian issues and development, and recognising opportunities

to work together to integrate refugees and migrants into host communities. She also stressed the economic benefits of migration for individuals and destination countries.

Though the side event highlighted the opportunities and challenges faced by migrants and refugees and policies that may strengthen the Global Compact, the lack of a gender perspective across the panel was a critical gap. Women and girls experience migration flows and refugee crises distinctly from other vulnerable groups, including due to the prevalence of gender based violence in refugee camps, differential access to reproductive and maternal health care, human trafficking, and the burdens of unpaid and care work in the refugee camp context, as well gendered issues around families, detention, and remittances. It is critical for further discussions to address these key gaps, including in the upcoming 19 September High Level Dialogue, so that action on migrant and refugee step up on leaving no one behind.

Moving Forward

Overall, the first High Level Political Forum made some steps forward but has substantial gaps which need to be addressed to ensure accountability on the 2030 Agenda and truly leave no one behind. Key challenges include ensuring substantive participation by women-led civil society including through the major group and other stakeholders mechanism, ensuring Goal 5 and 16 are effectively implemented through a women's human rights lens, and ensuring that the voluntary and HLPF review process do not become "check-the-box" exercises that affirm fairy tale rather than actual compliance. Moving peace and women's participation and rights from the margins to the mainstream is critical to effective action.



The Women's Major Group sports orange scarves to highlight the need for civil society participation. [\(IISD/ENB/ Karina Worth\)](#)

As our coalition the Women's Major Group [affirmed](#), "Decisions around financing, revenue and trade are not only decisions about revenue and growth. They are also decisions about the value of our shared commons, about wealth distribution and about the obligation to ensure economic policies advance human rights."

Addressing how current institutions contribute to political economies of gender equality and peace or militarism and war, and taking action to move the money for transformative change is critical to leaving no one behind and ensuring sustainable development, conflict prevention, and peace moving forward.

