

Co-Chairs' Summary

High-Level Intergenerational Dialogue to Mark the 20th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325: Lessons for Leadership on Women, Peace and Security – Past, Present and Future Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network

Co-hosted by Uruguay and Canada
Online webinar via Zoom
15 July 2020
9:30-11:00 AM (EDT/GMT -3)

Introduction

2020 has been a remarkable year, with all Member States facing unprecedented peace and security challenges, particularly with the advent of the COVID 19 pandemic. 20 years after the launch of the WPS Agenda through the landmark UNSC resolution 1325, these challenges also present important opportunities for Member States to more effectively and concretely integrate the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda into their national security strategies, and specifically in their COVID 19 response and recovery efforts.

Public health guidelines prevented the WPS Focal Points Network (Network) from meeting in person in 2020 in Ottawa, Canada. Canada and Uruguay, as Co-Chairs of the Network, are instead hosting a series of online meetings in 2020. This series launched on May 13, 2020 with a special session of the Network on COVID 19, to allow the WPS Focal Points to hear from women peacebuilders on the frontlines of the pandemic. [The summary document from this meeting was shared with the WPS Focal Points, and can be accessed again [here](#)].

This summary provides highlights from the high level Network event on July 15, 2020, hosted by Co-Chairs Canada and Uruguay. The intergenerational dialogue provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress and chart a path for the future of the WPS Agenda on its 20th anniversary. Canada's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security, Jacqueline O'Neill moderated and the Foreign Ministers for Canada and Uruguay opened the event. Young women activists from Syria, Colombia and Canada were then invited to join the Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia (an original architect of UNSCR 1325) for a dialogue on the origins, evolution and future of the WPS agenda. Their discussion explored practical ways WPS Focal Points can demonstrate leadership and take concrete action to move the WPS agenda forward in 2020 and beyond.

The Zoom webinar platform for this event was technically supported by the UN Women Focal Points Network Secretariat. Simultaneous interpretation was provided to the participants in English, French and Spanish. American sign language (ASL) interpretation was also provided onscreen during the proceedings.

Featured Speakers:

- **François-Philippe Champagne**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada
- **Francisco Bustillo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay
- **Maria-Noel Vaeza**, Regional Director of Programs, Latin America, UN Women

- **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah:** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Namibia
- **Ledys Sanjuan:** Communications and advocacy manager, FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund
- **Nujeen Mustafa:** Disability and refugee rights activist and author
- **Autumn Peltier:** Indigenous activist, Canada

Opening Session

WPS Ambassador for Canada **Jacqueline O'Neill** welcomed the Focal Points and distinguished guests. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister **François-Philippe Champagne** provided opening remarks highlighting the remarkable role the WPS Focal Points Network plays as a global force for making real change possible. A future that is more sustainable, greener, more resilient, and the idea of building back better, must be grounded in our understanding of security and what the WPS agenda calls on us to do. We see women and girls are on the frontlines the COVID 19 pandemic, and that this has a disproportionate impact on their security.

Minister Champagne expressed Canada's gratitude to its great partner and Network co-chair Uruguay, and said he is looking forward to working closely with Uruguay's new Foreign Minister Bustillo. He welcomed the young activists and recognized Namibian Deputy Prime Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah inspiring role as someone who was there when UNSCR 1325 was created. The WPS agenda promotes local solutions and local leadership, and the Minister stressed that these are very important in our response to the pandemic. To this end, Minister Champagne announced Canada's commitment of 8.3 million in additional funding for women peacebuilders at the grassroots level. One solution does not fit all in this complex world, and we must recognize that women in all their diversity continue to face barriers to true peace and security.

When Canada became a co chair of this Network we knew 2020 would be a milestone year: the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, 25th of the Beijing conference, and 75th of the UN Charter. 2020 also brought a number of surprises and challenges. The COVID 19 pandemic is now affecting all aspects of our lives, and we are also having a global conversation on the impacts of systemic racism. We look forward to hearing and learning from the youth panelists to inspire us, not as leaders of tomorrow but as leaders of today. In these challenging times we welcome your views on the way forward and an intergenerational discussion on the WPS agenda offers an extraordinary opportunity to bring about positive change.

Francisco Bustillo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, delivered opening remarks to Network as well. He extended his deepest thanks to those who participated in creating UNSC resolution 1325, and who over the past 20 years have worked hard to broaden and further this agenda, and who each day strive to resolve conflicts, making peace sustainable and building peaceful, tolerant and inclusive societies.

Minister Bustillo said was an honour to co-chair the Network with Canada in 2020, not only because of the anniversary we are commemorating, but also because of the special circumstances we are living in, framed by the effects of COVID-19, and the newly-awakened consciousness of many people around the world to end discrimination, racism, gender violence and inequality, intolerance and social exclusion.

The Uruguayan government's commitment to the Women, Peace and Security agenda has much to do with its multilateral spirit, but it also has deep regional and national roots. The WPS Focal Points Network has helped Uruguay to develop its own National Action Plan, through learning from other members' experiences. This bolstered Uruguay's confidence in the tangible contributions it can make internationally, such as deploying more women in United Nations peacekeeping operations under the

framework of the Elsie Initiative. As well, the December 2019 meeting hosted by Uruguay and Canada in Montevideo: *Opportunities for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Americas*, should be a turning point in how the Americas, with all their diversity and unique traits, relate to this agenda, and could help to create a regional vision.

Minister Bustillo said we need to open our minds to the importance of the WPS agenda not only in situations of conflict or post-conflict, but also in the building and sustainability of peaceful, tolerant and inclusive societies. This is fundamental for the Americas region where gender violence and inequality is a common denominator. We must pay attention to how the WPS agenda intersects with and complements others, such as the *Sustainable Development Goals* and the *Belém do Pará Convention*, in order to address the structural causes of gender inequality and its relationship to gender-based violence.

The Minister concluded that while the road ahead of us is an uphill climb, if governments work together in close cooperation, and align their efforts with civil society, we will continue to make progress. Seeing this ongoing commitment to the future of the WPS agenda supported by a new generation of devoted leaders joining this intergenerational dialogue we can envision the next twenty years with enthusiasm and confidence.

Maria-Noel Vaeza then addressed the audience on behalf of UN Women. She noted that UNSC Resolution 1325 was a landmark for many reasons, including that it was the first time we heard “gender” used in the context of the UN Security Council. Now UN Women is pushing for the UNSC to hear the “youth” and is excited to celebrate and work with youth leaders who are the future. Many who work on WPS issues are about to retire, so it is important to bring in the new generations. Intergenerational and intersectional forums and dialogue are essential for achieving peace and security. Encouraging diversity in these dialogues is the way to build acceptance and tolerance. As well, WPS national action plans should be central to peacebuilding. They can promote national and local strategies for peacebuilding, and reinforce our commitment to peacebuilders, including by recognizing their efforts at the national and local levels.

Intergenerational Discussion on the Anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325

Ambassador Jacqueline O’Neill thanked UN Women and Uruguay’s and Canada’s Foreign Ministers for their strong remarks in support of the WPS agenda. To the Foreign Ministers she said: “We have talked for so long in this area about the lack of political will and commitment, and ‘*showing up*’ of senior leaders again and again. ...it really means so much to have you both here”.

Ambassador O’Neill then welcomed the panelists and asked them for a one-word answer to this question: “imagine ten years from today... Do you think that women in all of their diversity will have more, the same or less access and ability to exercise their rights?” Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Autumn Peltier both replied: “more”. Nujeen Mustafa and Ledys Sanjuan replied: “about the same”.

Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Nandi-Ndaitwah was the first panelist, and Ambassador O’Neill noted many call her the “Grandmother of UNSC Resolution 1325”. Not only did she play a role in the UNSC adoption of Resolution 1325 under Namibia’s Presidency 20 years ago, but she was also in Beijing 25 years ago, where she was the Rapporteur General of the 4th world conference on women, “where the seeds for the WPS agenda were planted.” Ambassador O’Neill asked the Deputy Prime Minister, “What would our audience and other panelists be surprised to learn about the journey to get the UNSC to pass Resolution 1325, 20 years ago?”

DPM Nandi-Ndaitwah recalled that in Namibia's campaign for the UN Security Council in 1999, they were determined that if elected, Namibia would have a very lasting and positive contribution for peace. At that time, Namibia had only been independent 9 years, and the UNSC had played a role in their independence. During Namibia's struggle for independence, there was no area where women were not taking part. The negotiating team included the DPM and other key women leaders at the time because Namibia realized the important role women can play if they can be seen as role players and not only as victims.

When Namibia raised the WPS agenda in the UNSC, the reaction was very negative. The response was that women and peace is not to be discussed in the UNSC, it is an issue for ECOSOC. But UN agencies, civil society, came together to motivate the UNSC to consider the important role women can play in prevention, peacebuilding, and in the maintenance of peace. On October 31, 2000, Resolution 1325 on women and peace was adopted by the Security Council. This was the first time the world's attention was drawn to the fact that women can add value to the prevention of war and the building of peace, instead of only being seen as victims of violence during conflict. The DPM noted that while we have not made as much progress as we wanted and we still have a long way to go, the fact of the matter is we are not where we were 20 years ago. We have moved forward, and that was why she said there will be progress in 10 years.

DPM Nandi-Ndaitwah thanked her good friends, the Foreign Ministers of Canada and Uruguay, noting "the statements you made today is an assurance that our male compatriots have joined us." She observed that in the past, even if a male leader was a co-chair, he have might have delegated that responsibility to a female colleague: "the fact that you take this responsibility to be here yourselves and make those pronouncements, gives us hope that we are moving in the right direction."

The Deputy Prime Minister also noted that many countries have now adopted a national plan for action on women and peace, and especially pleased to hear that Uruguay's new action plan will work to ensure that resources are available for its implementation. To mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, Namibia will launch their Women Peace Centre and she invited everyone, particularly the WPS Focal Points and the Co-Chairs, to participate.

While being the initiator of UNSCR 1325 is important for Namibia, the DPM said those who come on board are equally and even more important. If you initiate something, but no one is buying in, it has no meaning. She called on the audience to look at the women, peace agenda as our own agenda in our own countries, in multilateral organizations and at the bilateral level. Namibia will continue to play a part, as part of this global village of ours. In closing, DPM Nandi-Ndaitwah shared that she was impressed the Network co-chairs organized this event during this difficult time to celebrate 20 years of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Ambassador O'Neill remarked that some people ask if the WPS agenda is mainly a Western feminist idea, and she is proud to tell them that Namibia was President of the UNSC when Resolution 1325 was passed, and that Bangladesh was also a leader in the early stages of the WPS agenda. She then welcomed the second panelist, **Ledys Sanjuan**, who works as a digital feminist activist in Colombia and at the global fund for feminists (FRIDA) to ensure women and girls and trans youth can influence decisions about peace and security. The Ambassador asked Ledys to share the biggest issues she is focused on, and whether she found the WPS agenda (including the resolutions and National Action Plans) useful tools in her work.

Ms. Sanjuan said there is no doubt that for every young feminist in the global south UNSC Resolution 1325 has set an invaluable precedent for opening conversations around the inclusion of girls and young women, in all aspects of building security. It is thanks to this resolution and the amazing work that other women and feminists have done before us that we can claim a platform, and at the negotiation table to say – we need a space to talk.

She explained that the analysis of gender mainstreaming has allowed young women to have space to say, “We need you to listen to what our needs are and where specific realities exist in this context”. However, the reality of young girls and women as well as trans youth is very different, and there remain many challenges with the inclusion of these voices within policymaking on peace and security. Even after the UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820 pointed to the problem of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in armed conflict, with specific recommendations to ensure this was addressed, young women’s, girls’ and trans youth bodies remain the bounty of war. Indigenous young women in rural areas are very vulnerable. Their communities are the first to have a heavy state presence, – be it the police or the military – before, and much quicker, than any investment in education and cultural and social measures, or anything that invests in the future and tells you, “hey, you are important and you matter”. More specifically, although LGBT people experience SGBV, displacement, and destitution, on the basis of their sexuality and gender expression they are barely recognized. Overall LGBT youth remain an important voice in peacemaking but remain virtually absent from the processes and are tragic victims of war around the world.

Young feminists are acting out and speaking up against war and engaging in peacekeeping. Their peacekeeping is not seen as such, but rather as a form of activism, and is not recognized in traditional peacekeeping operation definitions. For example, FRIDA supports a group in Colombia that works with young women who have been demobilized from conflict. This is a way to join the realities of FARC women, women who experience violence, trans women and youth and young women in Bogota who experience urban violence. This type of activism is not seen as peacekeeping, despite it being a valuable way to join the similar realities of violence in the city and violence in other spaces. This is a way to value the diversity and join these causes together.

Ms. Sanjuan observed there is an extreme lack of opportunity, particularly for young women who are black, indigenous, rural women, and those in extreme poverty, to access the educational, social and cultural aspects that are key to achieving peace. This is a key message that women have been saying for a long time, and important to young feminists. Looking to the future we are seeing that the system does not provide us with the opportunities that we need. So we are building them ourselves and alternatives that respond to our needs.

Turning to **Nujeen Mustafa**, Ambassador O’Neill asked her to share her journey as a refugee from Syria to becoming an author and activist for people living as refugees and people with disabilities. Ms. Mustafa said her motivation came from seeing that no one was doing this work, no one was speaking up on behalf of women, refugee women, and women with disabilities. During her journey, which was often not safe, she had problems accessing the most basic services, like the washroom. She realized how much of an after-thought people with disabilities are when designing and implementing emergency plans. Ms. Mustafa experienced a lifetime of being underestimated and seen as someone who was never going to go anywhere in her life, someone whose every achievement is a huge surprise for everyone around her. It was a shock in her own community when they realized she spoke English and had learned and educated

herself at home. She said her thirst to prove herself was her motivating factor and the desire to stand up for people like her and to tell them that they matter, and they are seen.

Ambassador O'Neill then introduced Autumn Peltier, a Canadian indigenous clean water advocate who is Anishinaabe-kwe and a member of the Wiikwemkoong First Nation. Ms. Peltier is a water protector and has been called a "water warrior". In 2018, at the age of thirteen, she addressed world leaders at the UN General Assembly on the issue of water protection. Ambassador O'Neill asked Ms. Peltier to share her views on women's leadership and in particular her experience of women's traditional leadership.

Ms. Peltier said women are a really big part of her culture and beliefs. As soon as females, are born, they are automatically given the responsibility to care for the land and for the water. Women are water carriers, because we carry life in water for nine months. When we are in the womb as babies, the first teaching we learn is how to love our mother and how to love the water. That is why women are so connected to water in her culture and she is a water advocate. When you see people advocating for Indigenous rights, you see a lot of women. This is because women are so connected to the land and the water. Ms. Peltier was raised to learn traditional ways and teachings, and she uses her platform to represent and speak up for other young girls and women, or to try to teach people that don't know or aren't connected with their culture.

Ambassador O'Neill asked how her work on water, and climate change, and the environment, is important in maintaining peace, and maintaining a broad sense of peace within her community? Ms. Peltier explained that in her culture we are all connected because we all come from water. We are all the same, no different from anyone else. That is where peace comes in: there is no judgement.

Posing the next question **to all of three youth panelists**, Ambassador O'Neill observed that we often hear that young people are important "leaders of tomorrow", when they are the leaders of today. She asked what the members of the WPS Focal Point Network (representatives of governments around the world, and multilateral organizations) need to know or understand, *and to do*, to get young people, and young women in particular, meaningfully involved in decision making.

Autumn Peltier said we really *have* to listen to what young women have to say. Youth shouldn't have to be standing up and trying to talk to older people, adults, people in bigger positions, "We shouldn't have to be raising our voices". You know that there is a problem when youth have to stand up and speak for our future and for these issues. We have to include youth in decision-making, and a youth council is the best way to include youth.

Ledys Sanjuan responded that FRIDA believes young people are the experts of their own realities. In grant-making, decision-making is given to the young feminists/young feminist activists who apply. FRIDA works with young feminist activists who have long-standing history and relationships within their communities. This is really important when identifying what groups to support.

What does young feminist peacekeeping look like? Ms. Sanjuan explained it might not be the same type of efforts that were funded in the past. It might look like what Autumn was talking about – culture change, the relearning of our traditions, defence of our lands. All of these efforts are peacekeeping efforts, particularly in countries like Colombia, where land has been such a detonator of war, and where women, particularly young women, have little access to land.

Ms. Sanjuan added that it is important to recognize ageism. People look at youth and seem shocked if you speak English or have opinions that are cared about. It is important to give young people space, especially young girls, who are doing incredible activism. We should try to understand what they think about the political landscape and take it seriously instead of providing solutions for them. Another aspect is providing flexible funding. The ways that a lot of young people are organizing now are not in the traditional structures. Young people are usually reticent to register our organizing, like having boards. The urgency of our needs and the multiplicity of the ways that our activism works doesn't fit into deliverables and measurable impact outcomes that are being imposed on us by the international community and mainstream philanthropy.

Nujeen Mustafa proposed that efforts should go, in addition to increased involvement in decision-making process, to changing social perceptions of disability and of women with disabilities. We should make our schools more diverse, encourage interaction between disabled and non-disabled children in schools. That way they would be able to see the person beyond the disability, the wheelchair, or whatever the obstacle may be. In mainstream media, we do not see many disabled actresses. Young girls should be able to look up to a disabled woman and say, "I want to be like her." That is an essential part of women, peace and security. Being a part of a minority should never be a disadvantage for anyone, especially people who do not look "normal" and may have different needs than usual.

Ambassador O'Neill thanked all three panelists for these suggestions. She said young activists have told her it can be uncomfortable when older people quiz them, looking for structure: "Who is your president? Where is your charter? When is your next meeting? What are the action items? What is your name? Is it registered anywhere? Do you have a tax number?" She notes that it's interesting to know not just how to bring young women into decision-making structures, but also learn how *we* can come to *you* and discover how *we* need to adapt.

As an opportunity to hear from the audience, Ambassador O'Neill welcomed **Ambassador Rabab Fatima**, Permanent Representative to the UN for Bangladesh to take the floor. As a young diplomat for Bangladesh, Ambassador Fatima was deeply engaged in outreach and negotiations to advance UNSC Resolution 1325. Today she has become very hopeful that the WPS agenda will be achieved. The WPS agenda is central to Bangladesh's commitment to and participation in UN peacekeeping operations. She noted that the core focus of UNSCR 1325 is women's participation at all levels of the peace process, but we have yet to achieve that level of participation. Ambassador Fatima asked to hear more from the panelists on *how we can achieve the goal of women's participation in all aspects of peace processes?*

Ambassador Victoria Sulimani, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN for Sierra Leone, was also welcomed to take the floor. Sierra Leone takes an "all hands on deck" approach to strengthening local leadership, and is among three countries worldwide that have developed localization guidelines for their NAPs (the other two countries are Nepal and DR Congo). Their second-generation National Action Plan (NAP) recognizes that money is the main driver of any process, and gender-responsive budgeting principles will help to ensure a realistic budget for implementation. It is not the Ministry of Gender alone leading implementation. To build back better, we have to include everybody: all ministries, agencies and departments will be involved. The Ministry of Development and Economy, has a medium-term national development plan that mainstreams gender, young people, and persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities. Ambassador Sulimani stated that her country is not going to be in the same place

in 10 years. Sierra Leone will continue to actively participate in the Focal Points Network because this is where we share best practices. Nobody has monopoly over knowledge.

The panelists were then asked another **question from the audience**: *“In the field of disarmament, we are often asked “what is the value of women?” but the same is not asked of men. How do we shift the conversation to include women in all of their diversity to ensure we are including them in the conversation for who they are and not for how they have proven their value?”*

DPM Nandi-Ndaitwah responded that when we talk about disarmament, we are talking about maintaining peace – international peace – and women play an important role. Women must be a part of the negotiations on disarmament. If you are missing that critical link of disarmament to international peace, you are not going to achieve what you want to achieve. Women should be involved in all the processes talking about peace. Young people also have more innovative ideas about disarmament. They definitely need to be brought to the table so that they can make a meaningful contribution.

DPM Nandi-Ndaitwah responded to Ambassador Fatima’s question on how to ensure women are included in all peace processes. She said we need a critical mass of political will and willingness to take some risk. For example, Namibia took a risk sending a 100% contingent of female peacekeepers to Darfur. As a result the women in Darfur felt that they were more secure with UN Peacekeepers who are women. But many were concerned with the risk in sending women to Darfur. By supporting leadership development to bring out the potential of young women and girls, they are empowered to make decisions for their career, and this can include peacekeeping.

Minister Champagne remarked that is important for us to move from the “why” to the “how.” He said it is amazing that in 2020 we are still discussing these questions: “why do we need women, “why do we need young people,” “why do we need diversity in our decision-making.” He noted that diversity is one of the best ways have better outcomes. The Minister observed that Nujeen, Autumn, and Ledys show how one person can make all the difference; can inspire and can motivate. As an example of “how” the WPS agenda is making a difference, when visiting the UN Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the Minister shared that the commander told him the women’s peacekeeping contingent is not be the biggest, but it is the one making the biggest difference in the mission. Minister Champagne also commented that, in Canada, all Federal Government cabinet decision-making uses gender-based analysis, including in tax policy. The more we can create actual structural, systemic change, the more permanent those changes will be.

Ambassador O’Neill closed the programme by asking for a final comment from each of the young women panelists. **Nujeen Mustafa** expressed her hope that one day the world will realize that nothing, no problem, can be solved without women’s participation. Equality, gender equality, diversity, or inclusion, are not favours that we ask of anybody: they are human rights. **Autumn Peltier** stressed that water and sanitation should be prioritized in countries and communities that need it the most. This is not only a First Nations or a Canadian issue: there is a global water crisis. **Ledys Sanjuan**, referring to the Black Lives Matter movement, expressed her concern that the police and armed forces are over-funded compared to under-investment in increasing economic opportunities. Ms. Sanujan also commented that collective responses based on grassroots collective movements are really changing the world. Even if people don’t want to recognize how young feminists are changing the world, and even if these are the most under-funded movements, these are the movements that are creating incredible alternatives. They will continue doing that with whatever resources we have, but she asked for meaningful support from the international community for the peacekeeping efforts of young feminists.

Carolina Ache, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, in the closing of this dialogue, highlighted the important role of this Network of Focal Points, which constitutes an authoritative space to promote the participation of women in the implementation of this agenda. She stressed that it's time to make peace and to move from rhetoric to action which will require the creativity, enthusiasm and innovative energy of women in order to build the foundations of the safe, peaceful and supportive world that we need.

Ambassador O'Neill thanked all the panelists and in closing, asked all participants to think about the question she asked at the beginning. In ten years will women, in all their diversity, have more, less, or the same access to their rights? If *more*, what conditions does that depend on and how are we making sure those conditions are in place? If *less or the same*, what do we change? Let us ask ourselves who needs to be alongside us to get there, or in many cases out in front of us. Who do we need to be supporting as we are looking at these next ten years?

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Background

The Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network (Network) launched in September 2016 as a unique forum for national and regional representatives (Focal Points) to share best practices and lessons learned on the WPS agenda. There are 87 members of the Network from UN member states and regional organizations. The Focal Points are responsible for WPS implementation within their respective governments and regional organizations. The UN and civil society also play an active role in the Network. Canada and Uruguay are Co-Chairs of the WPS Focal Points Network for 2020 – the 20th anniversary of landmark UNSC Resolution 1325, the first of 10 UNSC resolutions that form the WPS agenda. With the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual capital-based Network meeting scheduled to take place in Ottawa in May 2020 was transformed into a series of online engagements over the spring, summer and autumn 2020. The first meeting took place in May and focused on WPS implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional online meetings of the Focal Points in 2020 will focus on two main themes for this year's Network discussions: supporting and protecting women peacebuilders, and the power of impact-driven national action plans.



This friendship symbol celebrates the partnership of Canada and Uruguay as Co-Chairs of the WPS Focal Points Network in 2020 and represents the spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Designed by Uruguayan graphic designer, Gabriel Benderski, the symbol is also inspired by the indigenous Bunchberry flowering plant found in all regions of Canada and the combined color palette of the Canadian and Uruguayan national flags.