

## Concept Note

# **Beyond 2020: Taking Leadership and Action to Realize the Women, Peace and Security Agenda**

WPS Focal Points Network High-Level Side Event  
16 September 2021  
08:30-11:00 EDT/New York

[Zoom Webinar](#) format

Simultaneous Interpretation in English, French, Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL)

### **Introduction**

As Co-Chairs of the [WPS Focal Points Network](#) 2020-21, Canada and Uruguay are pleased to invite the Focal Points to meet virtually on the margins of the 76th UN General Assembly, to encourage both our individual and collective leadership and action on WPS now, and moving forward. Drawing from the series of virtual events co-hosted by Uruguay and Canada in 2020 through 2021, this side event will invite Network members to share their reflections on the lessons learned and best practices developed as a Network over the last two years. In particular, Network Members are encouraged to engage in an online interactive format to highlight their own leadership and action on WPS over 2020-21, with a focus on the sub-themes of developing and implementing impact-driven national action plans and supporting and protecting women peacebuilders.

### **Background**

More than twenty years ago, the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). This landmark resolution is one of the main deliverables emanating from the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a visionary and comprehensive framework for gender equality, women's empowerment and the promotion and protection of the rights of women. UNSCR 1325 represents the international community's recognition of the importance of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Resolution 1325 (2000) paved the way for nine additional UNSC resolutions, establishing the important normative framework that is the WPS agenda.

Since 2000, an increasing number of Member States and territories have translated the international commitments set out in the WPS agenda into both their national contexts and international efforts through the adoption of National Action Plans (NAPs). As of July 31, 98 UN Member States and territories had adopted national action plans. Regional organizations have adopted similar Regional Action Plans (RAPs) and frameworks. The WPS Focal Points Network was launched in 2016 to strengthen the effective implementation of the WPS agenda and to improve coordination of these national and international efforts. As of September 2021, the Network now includes 82 member States and 7 regional organizations and plays an essential role by bringing together national and regional focal points responsible for the WPS agenda implementation, including through WPS NAPs, RAPs and strategies.

### **Objective**

The WPS agenda provides a strong foundation to support women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in all peace and security efforts. However, more than 20 years after UNSCR 1325, ongoing and escalating crises have brought into sharp focus that the full realization of the WPS agenda remains a challenge, due to persistent factors that include structural barriers, lack of political will, and enduring gender

stereotypes that seek to restrict women’s roles and contributions in both private and public life. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified these challenges and has seriously impacted women’s rights. Beyond 2020, renewed and strengthened efforts of Member States are essential to ensure their obligations and commitments under the WPS agenda are implemented. This meeting will provide an opportunity for ministers, senior officials and heads of regional organizations to highlight their leadership and action on implementing the WPS agenda, including by developing and implementing national action plans and supporting and protecting women peacebuilders, and for Focal Points to reflect on the lessons learned and best practices developed during these last two years.

## Programme

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>
08:30 – 08:35	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Welcome and introduction by the moderator</p> <p><b>Pravina Makan-Lakha</b>, Advisor, Women, Peace and Security, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)</p>
08:35 – 08:40	<p><b>Opening Segment</b></p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pramila Patten</b>, Executive Director a.i. of UN Women and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</li> </ul>
08:40 – 09:05	<p><b>Ministerial and Senior Level Remarks from Troika Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carolina Ache Battle, Vice Minister of Foreign Relations, Uruguay</li> <li>Jacqueline O'Neill, WPS Ambassador, Canada</li> <li>Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations</li> <li>Livia Leu, State Secretary Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland</li> <li>Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations</li> </ul> <p><b>Group photo</b></p> <p><b>Official handover from Canada &amp; Uruguay to Switzerland &amp; South Africa</b></p>
09:05 – 10:45	<p><b>Interventions by Network Members and Civil Society Representatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>African Union</b> Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security</li> <li><b>Bulgaria</b> Ulyana Bogdanska, General Director on Global Affairs, Bulgaria</li> <li><b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b> Rebecca Annie Kenda Bakajika, Head of Legal Department, National Coordinator for the Implementation of 1325 on Women Peace and Security, Democratic Republic of the Congo</li> <li><b>Germany</b> Helga Barth, Director on Human Rights, International Development and Global Health</li> <li><b>Civil Society Representative</b>, Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, Founder and CEO of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ireland</b> Áine Hearn, Director, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>• <b>Luxembourg</b> Anne Goedert, Luxembourg's Ambassador-at-large for Human Rights</li> <li>• <b>Malta</b> Cecilia Attard-Pirotta, Malta's Ambassador for Women, Peace &amp; Security</li> <li>• <b>Netherlands</b> Pascale Grotenhuis, Director Social Development &amp; Ambassador for Women's Rights &amp; Gender Equality</li> <li>• <b>Norway</b> André Mundal, Ambassador and Special Representative, Women, Peace and Security, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>• <b>OSCE</b> Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary General</li> <li>• <b>Sierra Leone</b> Charles Vandi, Director of Gender, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs</li> <li>• <b>Civil Society Representative</b> Saumya Uma, Membre du conseil d'administration du Réseau régional des femmes et professeur de droit à la faculté de droit internationale de Jindal, Inde</li> <li>• <b>UAE</b> Ahood Abdulla Al Zaabi, Director of the United Nations Department at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>• <b>UK</b> Alice Burt, Deputy Director, Office for Conflict, Stabilisation and Mediation, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office</li> <li>• <b>Civil Society Representative</b> Gayatri Patel, Vice President, Women's Refugee Commission</li> </ul>
10:45-11:00	<p><b>Closing Reflections</b></p> <p><b>Focal Points of Current and Future Co-Chairs of the WPS Focal Points Network</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gwyn Kutz</b>, Director General for the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program, Global Affairs Canada</li> <li>• <b>Noelia Martínez Franchi</b>, Former Director of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay</li> <li>• <b>Madiapetsana Charlotte Lobe</b> - Acting Chief Operations Officer, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) South Africa</li> <li>• <b>Talia Wohl</b>, Senior Advisor, Women, Peace and Security, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, State Secretariat, Peace and Human Rights Division, Switzerland</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Pravina Makan-Lakha</b>, Advisor, Women, Peace and Security, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)</p>