

Concept Note



Partnering for Change: Translating the Women, Peace and Security Agenda into Action

WPS Focal Points Network High-Level Side Event
22 September 2022
10:15 – 12:15 EDT/New York

Zoom Webinar format: [Register](#)
Simultaneous Interpretation in English, French, Spanish and ASL

Introduction

As 2022 Co-Chairs of the WPS Focal Points Network, South Africa and Switzerland, in partnership with troika members, Canada and Uruguay, and UN Women as Secretariat, are pleased to invite the Focal Points to meet virtually on the margins of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Drawing from the discussions at the Fourth Capital-Level Meeting of the Network, which was held in Geneva on 18-19 May 2022, this annual side event will invite Network members at ministerial and senior level to share their reflections and practice on the themes and outcomes of the Geneva meeting, as well as their experiences in developing transformative strategies for the implementation of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda.

Background

The theme of the 2022 Swiss-South African co-chairship of the WPS Focal Points Network, “*Partnering for Change – Translating the Women, Peace and Security Agenda into Action*,” embodies the idea of cooperation between states, regional and international organizations and civil society as a source for innovative and transformative strategies to advance the implementation of the WPS agenda.

Building on the outcomes of the discussions in 2020 and 2021 under the leadership of Canada and Uruguay, and previous meetings of the Network under the respective chairships of Spain, Germany and Namibia, the capital-level meeting in Geneva focused on two interrelated pillars of the WPS agenda: participation and protection. As women and girls around the world continue to experience the erosion of their human rights, the meeting highlighted the negative impact this has on women’s livelihoods and the implementation of global WPS commitments including the participation of women in all phases of peace processes and at all levels of decision-making, which is closely interlinked with the protection of women’s rights.

Objective

The United Nations Security Council has created a sophisticated normative framework over twenty-two years around the WPS agenda. Yet, challenges remain in translating global WPS commitments into action, not only in countries experiencing conflict, but in all countries, where conflicts are preventable. There is a need to address the widening gap between the policy framework and its impactful implementation on the ground.

Based on the deliberations in Geneva, the WPS Focal Points Network issued a [joint communiqué](#) including innovative and actionable recommendations in three thematic areas: 1) *women's participation in peace processes*; 2) *protection of women's rights and recognizing women's agency* and 3) *WPS action plans and responding to conflict and crisis situations*. This side event will provide an opportunity for ministers, senior officials and heads of regional organizations to highlight their engagement and efforts on the themes discussed at the Fourth Capital-Level Meeting and in particular to outline one key action that they will take forward from these discussions.

Programme

Time	Session
10:15 – 10:20	Welcome Remarks by moderator, Pravina Mekan-Lakha, Advisor on Women, Peace and Security at ACCORD
10:20 – 10:25	<p>Opening Segment</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sima Sami Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, UN Women
10:25 – 11:00	<p>Ministerial and Senior Level Remarks from Troika Members (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candith Mashego-Dlamini Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa Livia Leu, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland Jacqueline O'Neill, Ambassador for Women, Peace, and Security, Canada Gabriela González, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Uruguay <p><i>Order will respect hierarchal level</i></p> <p>Group photo</p>
11:00 – 12:05	<p>Interventions by Network Members and Civil Society Representatives (Timing of interventions will be strictly limited to 3 minutes)</p> <p>Germany Ms. Helga Barth, Director on Human Rights, International Development and Global Health</p> <p>Italy Ms. Valeria Biagiotti, Minister Plenipotentiary, Coordinator for UN Reform and WPS, Directorate General for Political Affairs and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation</p> <p>Netherlands Ms. Karen Burbach, Head of the Taskforce Women Rights and Gender Equality at the Dutch MFA.</p> <p>OSCE Dr. Lara Scarpitta, Senior Gender Adviser of OSCE</p> <p>Ms. Fawzia Koofi, First Woman Deputy Speaker of Afghan Parliament</p> <p>Republic of Korea Ms. Hwang Hyuni, Director of Human Rights and Social Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK</p>

	<p>Ms. Dieketseng Diale, Founder and Executive Officer of The Lady of Peace Community Foundation (LOPECO)</p> <p>Bulgaria Dr. Velislava Petrova, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>EU Ms. Stella Ronner-Grubačić EU Ambassador for Gender and Diversity</p> <p>Mexico Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta, Deputy Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico</p> <p>Spain Secretary of State of Foreign and Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Ms. Angeles Moreno Bau</p> <p>Sweden Ms. Sofia Calltorp, Ambassador for Gender Equality and Coordinator of the Feminist Foreign Policy</p> <p>Ireland Áine Hearn, Director of Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade</p> <p>UK Sonia Farrey, Deputy Director, Gender, Children in Conflict, Office for Conflict, Stabilisation and Mediation, FCDO</p> <p>NATO Ms Irene Fellin, NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for WPS</p>
12:05 – 12:15	<p>Closing Reflections</p> <p>Paivi Kannisto, Chief, Peace Security, Humanitarian and Resilience, UN Women</p> <p>Closing by moderator, Pravina Makan-Lakha, Advisor on Women, Peace and Security at ACCORD</p>



This symbol combines the national flowers of both South Africa and Switzerland. The South-African Protea and the Swiss Edelweiss symbolize strength and diversity - values that inspire the co-chairship. The orange circle at their center, reminiscent of the WPS Focal Points Network logo, reflects continuity and unity in purpose. The color combination is further inspired by the flags of both South Africa and Switzerland.