



Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network

**Thematic Meeting on Inclusive Peacemaking
and Peacebuilding:**

Rethinking our strategies and approaches
Oslo, Norway | 13-14 May 2025



08:00 – 09:00 Doors open and registration of participants

09:00 – 09:10 Group photo

09:10 – 09:15 Welcome

Mistress of ceremonies: *Tine Mørch Smith, Director General, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway*

09:15-09:25 Opening speech

Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, *State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway*

09:25-10:00 Opening remarks

Katsuhiko TAKAHASHI, *Ambassador for International Economic Affairs and Arctic Affairs, Women, Peace and Security, Japan*

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOAU*

Sarah Hendriks, *Director for Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division, UN Women*

10:00-10:45 Plenary 1: Impact of a Changing Geopolitical Environment on Women's Roles in Conflict Contexts

This plenary session will discuss the impact of the current challenging and changing geopolitical environment on women's full, equal and meaningful participation in formal peace processes, and in local conflict resolution and mitigation efforts. With the increase of militarization and radicalization in today's conflicts, how can locally rooted women peace-building organizations engage more effectively with various conflict actors to mitigate violence in contexts of fragility and violent extremism? Speakers will highlight the impact of ongoing conflicts and crises on women's leadership and participation, as well as issues of access to justice and accountability for human rights violations, including conflict-related sexual violence.

Moderator: Christian Ruge, Special Adviser, Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF)

Sanam Anderlini, *Founder, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)*

Lara Scarpitta, *Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)*

Sorita Koung, *Secretary of State of the Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia, Chair of the ASEAN Advisory Group on WPS*

Anny Modi, *Executive Director, Afia mama asbl, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)*

Antonia Mulvey, *Founder and Executive Director of Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)*

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00 Plenary 2: Adapting and Enhancing Strategies for the Current Environment

This plenary session will provide forward-thinking reflections on tackling the backsliding trend into even broader exclusion of women in peace processes against the backdrop of the current geopolitical context, as well as the dwindling number of formal peace processes. How can we ensure that our strategies for women's full, equal and meaningful participation in mediation/negotiation and approaches are a core part of peace processes and are sufficiently adaptive to keep the WPS agenda relevant for the next 25 years?

Moderator: Talia Wohl, Senior Adviser on Women, Peace and Security, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

Kristina Lie Revheim, *Special Representative to the Philippines, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway*

Akok Manyuat Madut, *Ambassador, Head, Mediation and Dialogue Division, African Union Commission*

Victoria Sandino Simanca Herrera, *former FARC Commander, negotiator at the 2016 Colombia peace talks*

Thania Paffenholz, *Founder, Inclusive Peace*

12:00-12:45 Lunch

12:45-13:15 Plenary 3: Tools, Instruments and Entry Points for Policy Implementation

As the international mediation landscape continuously evolves, it is increasingly rare for any single actor to lead a peace process by itself. In addition, as the practice of the peaceful settlement of disputes has come under increasing strain, there are fewer comprehensive peace agreements. In 2024, within this context and in line with the Pact for the Future, the Secretary-General's "Common Pledge on Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes" was launched while UN Women also launched the Women in Peace Processes Monitor to better track global data within the expanding mediation landscape. UN Women, DPPA, IGAD, and a woman peacebuilder will share their experiences and discuss their emerging strategies for increasing women's participation in peace processes.

Moderator: Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOAU

Paivi Kannisto, Chief of Peace, Security and Resilience, UN Women

Abigail Ruane, Political Affairs Officer, Gender, Peace and Security (GPS) Unit, Policy and Mediation Division (PMD), UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

Amina Farah, Manager, Gender Department, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

Mama Koite Doumbia, Presidente, Plateforme des Femmes Leaders du Mali

13:15-14:15 Breakout Sessions 1: Tools, Instruments and Entry Points for Policy Implementation

This session invites participants to discuss how to better leverage existing tools and instruments to increase women's participation in peace processes.

Breakout Group 1:

Lead facilitator: Lister Chapeta, Policy Specialist, UN Women

Facilitator: Onyinye Onwuka, Acting Director, Early Warning Directorate, Office of the VP, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission

Breakout Group 2:

Lead facilitator: Abigail Ruane, Political Affairs Officer, Gender, Peace and Security (GPS) Unit, Policy and Mediation Division (PMD), UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

Facilitator: Lucy Bolton, Head, Gender and Inclusion in Peace Processes, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom

Breakout Group 3:

Lead facilitator: Torunn Tryggestad, Deputy Director, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), and Director, PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security

Facilitator: Amina Farah, Manager, Gender Department, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

14:15-14:45 Break

Breakout sessions will be conducted under the Chatham House Rule to foster open exchange. While participants may refer to the ideas and insights shared, the content of the discussion may not be attributed to any individual.

14:45-16:15 Breakout Sessions 2: Effective Policies and Practices

Women's meaningful participation in peace processes and peacebuilding faces several challenges, despite international efforts and policies aimed at promoting inclusivity. Women often struggle to gain access to formal peace negotiations, which are typically dominated by male combatants and political leaders, which limits their ability to influence and contribute to negotiation outcomes and implementation, as well as broader peacebuilding efforts. This session focuses on identifying what the Focal Points can do to ensure inclusion of women, and women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes and peacebuilding efforts through more effective policies and practices. What do Focal Points need to **rethink** and **adapt**, and how should we **move forward** to address barriers to inclusion, protect women peacebuilders and human rights defenders, and to address the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in multifaceted conflicts?

Breakout Group 1 Discussants:

Huda Abdo, Director of the Policy and Observatory Unit, National Commission for Women, Jordan

Nargis Azizova, Regional WPS Policy Advisor for Europe and Central Asia, UN Women

Assal Mahmoud, Team Lead on Women, Peace and Security, Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

Lead facilitator: Peter Weiderud, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Facilitator: Ruth Bolline Aluoch, Deputy Chief, Gender Unit (Political & Gender Affairs), UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO)

Breakout Group 2 Discussants:

Arlene Tickner, Ambassador-at-large for Feminist Foreign Policy, Colombia

Loredana Teodorescu, Head, Mediterranean Women Mediators Network

Abeer Almethen, Diplomatic Attaché, Human Rights Department, Kuwait

Lead facilitator: Chris Coulter, Executive Director, Berghof Foundation

Facilitator: Deborah Schibler, PeaceWomen Across the Globe

Breakout Group 3 Discussants:

Khadije Nasser, WPS Special Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Zuhra Bahman, Country Director, Search for Common Ground, Afghanistan

Lead facilitator: Pravina Makan-Lakha, Advisor: Women, Peace and Security, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

Facilitator: Laura Hendry, Senior Specialist, Mediation, Finland

16:15-17:00 Plenary 4: Reporting Back and Closing Day 1

Moderator: Harriette Williams Bright, Secretariat Coordinator, Focal Points Network, UN Women

Report back from facilitators of Breakout Sessions 1: Tools, instruments and entry points for policy implementation

Report back from facilitators of Breakout Sessions 2: Effective policies and practices

Closing by Signe Gilen, Special Envoy for WPS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

18:00-20:00 Reception in the Oslo Opera House

Welcome speech: Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Remarks:

Katsuhiko TAKAHASHI, Ambassador for International Economic Affairs and Arctic Affairs, Women, Peace and Security, Japan

Sarah Hendriks, Director for Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division, UN Women

09:00-09:05 Welcome

Mistress of ceremonies: Meena Syed, Director, Section for UN Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

09:05-09:15 Plenary 5: A Message from Norwegian Supported Civil Society Organisations

The Norwegian 1325 Network concluded a two-day WPS anniversary conference on May 6th together with their local partners and the Norwegian research community. The 1325 Network will share their recommendations from this meeting with the Focal Points Network members.

SPEAKER:

Katia Urteaga Villanueva, Senior Advisor, Gender and SGBV, Norwegian People's Aid on behalf of the Norwegian Forum 1325 network

09:15-09:30 Break

09:30-10:15 Plenary 6: Intergenerational approaches to peacebuilding and humanitarian response

Despite more than two decades of global commitments under the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and at least a decade of commitments on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), women, as well as young people – especially young women – remain significantly underrepresented in decision making spaces related to peace and security, including peace and political processes. This persistent gap reflects a fragmented and generationally siloed approach to peacebuilding and peacemaking. To move beyond symbolic inclusion, this session invites participants to explore how an intergenerational co-leadership approach can be integrated into decision-making, including peacemaking and mediation processes. Through shared experiences, reflections, and dialogue, participants will identify structural barriers and co-develop actionable strategies to institutionalize intergenerational participation – transforming it from aspiration into standard practice.

Moderator: Hajer Sharif, Co-founder, Together We Build It

Ilwad Elman, Chief Operating Officer,
Elman Peace Centre

Luca Fratini, Coordinator of WPS Agenda, YPS Agenda
and Mediation Policies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation, Italy

Jakob Øvensen Aanderaa, President of the Norwegian
Children and Youth Council

Chandra Roy, Indigenous lawyer and former UN advisor
on Indigenous Peoples' Rights

10:15-11:15 Breakout Sessions 3: Intergenerational Approaches to Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Response

These breakout sessions will explore experiences with intergenerational co-leadership, and discuss concrete, actionable recommendations on the importance of intergenerational dialogue and co-leadership.

Breakout Group 1:

Lead facilitator: Ilwad Elman, Chief Operating Officer,
Elman Peace Centre

Facilitator: Mavic Cabrera Balleza,
CEO, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Breakout Group 2:

Lead facilitator: Hajer Sharief, Co-founder,
Together We Build It

Facilitator: Ana Alonso, Ambassador, Feminist Foreign
Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain

Breakout Group 3:

Lead facilitator: Penohole Brock, Foreign Relations
Officer, Ministry of International Relations and Trade,
Namibia

Facilitator: Candice Dandurand, Chief of Staff to Canada's
Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

11:15-11:45 Break

11:45-12:45 Plenary 7: Working on the Frontlines: Understanding the Roles of Local Organizations and Networks Across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Humanitarian crises largely occur in states and communities affected by armed conflicts. This underscores the need for political solutions and conflict resolution at national and local levels. Failure to protect civilians causes suffering and abuse, undermining relations in and between communities, and between actors at all levels, thus making peaceful solutions all the harder to achieve. Conversely, compliance with international humanitarian law reduces civilian suffering, prevents war crimes, and can thus facilitate peace efforts. While recognizing that humanitarian action and humanitarian diplomacy can be politicized and instrumentalized for political purposes, local mediation and peacebuilding initiatives should be well recognized and integrated into national-level peacebuilding mechanisms to achieve sustainable peace.

Moderator: Cathrine Andersen, Section for Humanitarian Policy,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Eva Svoboda, Director of Law and Policy, International
Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Jolene Quinn, First Secretary/Deputy Director of the Peace
and Stability Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ireland

Gry Ballestad, Director, Development and Humanitarian
Cooperation, Norwegian People's Aid

Hitomi TAKEMURA, Professor, Graduate School of Law,
Hitotsubashi University, Japan

12:45-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Plenary 8: Reporting Back and Closing of Official Program

Moderator/speaker: Harriette Williams Bright, Secretariat Coordinator,
Focal Points Network, UN Women

SPEAKERS:

Report back from facilitators from Breakout Sessions 3: Intergenerational approaches to peacebuilding and humanitarian response

Presentation of the draft joint communiqué

Closing remarks:

Sarah Hendriks, Director for Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental
Division, UN Women

Katsuhiko TAKAHASHI, Ambassador for International Economic Affairs and
Arctic Affairs, Women, Peace and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Signe Gilen, WPS Special Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

