

## Concept Note

### *Empowering Women across the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus*

#### Side event on the margins of the Sixty-second session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 62)

**When: 11.30 am – 12.45 pm on 20 March 2018**

**Where: UN Secretariat, CR 11**

#### **Introduction:**

Gender equality in humanitarian action, recovery, reconstruction and development is underfunded and under-prioritised. While women and girls are disproportionately affected by crises, only 1.7% of humanitarian programming targets gender equality and women's empowerment, and only 1.6 % of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in 2016 went to address sexual and gender-based violence. Similarly, a mere 2% of all aid to peace and security in fragile states and economies targeted gender equality as a principal objective. Advancing SDG5 in crisis contexts should be a priority and a key strategy for building back better, sustaining peace and achieving security for all. There are ample experiences. Whether in crisis zones, in refugee camps, or as returnees, women play active roles sustaining their families and rebuilding their communities. They also face unique challenges and risks in crisis settings. Displaced women who are unmarried or separated from their husbands, for example, are often unable to register their newborn children in the countries in which they have sought refuge. This denies them access to basic resources including health care, education and employment.

Protecting women's rights and harnessing their knowledge and leadership is vital for the achievement of lasting peace and sustainable development. To realize this, there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity and collective action amongst all actors – and in particular UN agencies at the country level – to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed across all humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, development and peacebuilding efforts; that women are equality engaged as leaders of these efforts; and that sufficient resources are put towards meeting their need and developing their capacities. Towards this end, UNDP, UN Women, and UNHCR will launch 'Step it up - Investing in Gender Equality across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus,' a Joint Initiative to strengthen the capacities of the UN Resident Coordinator system to advance gender equality in crises contexts.

#### **Objective:**

The high-level side-event will

- Raise awareness of the important leadership roles women are playing in humanitarian and crisis contexts and how investing in gender equality and women's empowerment leads to better peacebuilding, recovery and development outcomes.
- Push for strong and consistent leadership by Member States, the UN and international organisations in addressing gender equality and women's empowerment across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- Discuss new approaches -including the Joint UNW/UNDP/UNHCR 'Step it up – Investing in Gender Equality across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus' to ensure transformative change for

gender equality and women's empowerment in recovery from crisis in order to improve the lives of women and girls and enhance gender equality.

**Format:**

Davos style format with a moderator posing questions to the speakers and opening the floor for discussion.

**Panel members:**

- Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UN Women
- Dr. Natalia Kanem, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UNFPA
- Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA
- Mr. Mar Dieye, Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau of Programme and Policy Support, UNDP
- Ms. Sheba Crocker, Senior Vice President of Humanitarian Action and Policy, CARE International
- Sweden (Ministry of Social Development – TBC)
- Ms. Aviah Scoviah Miria, Programme Manager of 'Steward Women' South Sudan.

**Moderator:** Ms. Femi Oke

**Key partners:** The event will be co-organised by UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, OCHA, and Care International with the Government of Sweden.