



Peaceful and inclusive societies

Wednesday, 19 March 2025, 4.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Concept note

Overview

The urgency of re-committing to creating peaceful and inclusive societies is clear. Evidence has shown that women's participation in peace processes increases their durability and sustainability and that women make a significant contribution to economic recovery, conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

Despite notable advancements, achieving peaceful, just, and inclusive societies as envisioned in Sustainable Development Goal 16 remains a significant challenge, particularly for women and girls. Discriminatory practices, underrepresentation in leadership, and exposure to violence, undermine efforts to build sustainable peace and equality. To achieve truly inclusive societies and fulfil the commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential to integrate gender perspectives into policies, eliminate violence against women in public life, and empower women and girls as agents of change in their communities.

The objective of the interactive dialogue is to showcase good practices and explore how the realization of the women, peace and security agenda contributes to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, and how the agenda in the current global context is an essential lever for accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the realization of the SDGs. It aims to re-energize commitments and promote collaboration and partnerships for action. The dialogue also aims to identify actionable strategies for building societies where women and girls are empowered by addressing matters related to preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in situations of conflict, the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction as well as ensuring inclusive institutions.

This dialogue will bring together stakeholders including government officials, women leaders, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, and United Nations experts, to discuss immediate actions to foster gender-responsive and inclusive peace-making, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Format and participation

The interactive dialogue will be chaired by H.E. Ms. Maritza Chan Valverde (Costa Rica), Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. A moderator will support the Chair.

The interactive dialogue will start with presentations by a small number of panelists to share experiences and advances at national, regional and global levels and to identify priorities for accelerating action. Good practices in fostering partnerships and increase collaboration between different stakeholders will also be

discussed. The floor will then be open for comments and questions from Member States and other stakeholders in an interactive dialogue. Panelists would respond to any questions posed and make short concluding comments, time permitting.

Member States will participate in the dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will be kept. UN-Women will facilitate an online application process for representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. The list of NGOs proposed for participation in the event will be distributed to Member States through respective Bureau members.

Leading questions

Participating stakeholders in the interactive dialogue are invited to address the following questions:

1. In the current global peace and security landscape, what issues and actions must be prioritized by the international community to promote peaceful and inclusive societies ahead of 2030? How can the power of strong commitments to the women, peace and security agenda be used to impact change? What role can the champions of the agenda play? How can the international community reinvigorate respect for international law and standing up for women's rights in all contexts?
2. What are examples of good practice in implementing the women, peace and security agenda? How can these be scaled up? What are key challenges and how can those be addressed?
3. What mechanisms and partnerships could be leveraged to drive joined-up action ahead of 2030? How can financing of the women, peace and security agenda, particularly for women's organizations in the frontline, be increased to promote peaceful and inclusive societies?

Outcome

The outcome of the discussion will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.



Interactive dialogue

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Wednesday, 19 March 2025, 3.00 - 4.30 pm

Speaker bios

Awa Dabo

Awa Dabo is a human rights lawyer with extensive experience in crisis recovery, peace building, transitional justice, humanitarian affairs, and development. Awa has held several positions within the United Nations, including currently as Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) at the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. Awa was previously Chief of Country Oversight and Support for the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, Senior Advisor and Head of the Crisis and Fragility Policy and Engagement team for the Crisis Bureau of UNDP, Country Director for UNDP in Tanzania, and Regional Programme Manager and Team Leader with UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

H.E. Darja Bavdaž Kuret

Ambassador Bavdaž Kuret is the Special Envoy and Ambassador at Large for Women, Peace and Security and Empowerment of Women in International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia. She is a Slovenian diplomat, social scientist and women's rights advocate. She was posted as Permanent Representative in UN and Ambassador to Russian Federation, India, Hungary, Sweden and Israel. Ambassador Bavdaž Kuret served as a Special Advisor for Gender Equality to the President of the 76th Session of UN General Assembly Abdullah Shahid.

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda is Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, United Nations System Coordination and Programme Results. She is the Founder and Executive Director for Rozaria Memorial Trust based in Zimbabwe. Prior to that, she served as the General Secretary of the World Young Women's Christian Association and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Regional Programming Director in the East and Horn of Africa. She has also served in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as a Human Rights Officer in Liberia and National Child Rights Adviser in Zimbabwe.

Pascale Solages

Lucia D. Pascale Solages is a prominent figure in feminist activism and grassroots organizing, renowned for her dedication to advancing the rights of Haitian women and girls through her leadership of NÈGÈS MAWON, one of Haiti's foremost feminist organizations. With over a decade of commitment, Pascale has been a driving force in advocating for reproductive justice, ending violence against women, and promoting active participation in public life.

Mavic Cabrera Balleza

Maria Victoria "Mavic" Cabrera Balleza is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP). Her leadership and collaboration with civil society, governments, and the UN resulted in the establishment of two important global mechanisms: the UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. She was a founding Board member of the WPHF and founding co-chair of the Board of the Women Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action.

Khouloud Baghouri

Khouloud Baghouri was appointed by the African Union Commission in 2021 to serve as the Youth Ambassador for Peace and represent North Africa in mainstreaming the role of youth in peace and security. She is working on the nexus between climate change, and peace and security. Khouloud has a background in conflict resolution and WPS. She works closely with the diplomatic missions in Africa as part of her mandate in promoting inclusive participation in the multilateral sphere. Khouloud is actively engaged in multilateral affairs, and as part of her work with the African Women Leaders Network she also supports the Office of the AUC Chairperson's Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security.