Bridging the gap between global policy and local action on Women, Peace and Security

GNWP Annual Report 2016
1. Highlights

2016 was yet another dynamic year for GNWP as it strengthened its position as a global civil society leader in policy advocacy and implementation of the women and peace and security (WPS) agenda. By linking the global policy discussions to the local, national and regional decision-making structures and informing the global policy space of the realities on the ground, GNWP influenced the policy deliberations in the Security Council, in different UN entities, in the CEDAW Committee, among individual Member States, civil society groups, as well as the academia and the media. Below are some of the highlights of GNWP’s work in 2016:

**Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820**

GNWP expanded its Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program in Kenya in 2016. It facilitated Localization workshops in Kenya from June 3 –10; and from December 13 - 17. The workshops were timely because Kenya adopted its National Action Plan on the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the supporting resolutions on WPS on March 8, 2016. Local authorities and civil society from Uasin Gishu, Bungoma and West Pokot counties worked together to develop Advocacy Plans for the integration of the Kenya NAP in County Integrated Development Plans.

Localization workshops were also scheduled in South Sudan in particular to support the country’s adoption of its first NAP 1325 on May 11, 2016. However, these had to be postponed because of the renewed violence between the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM/IO) in July 2016. Instead, GNWP facilitated the National Peace Dialogue on South Sudan in October 2016 as a response to the escalating violence. *(Please see case study on South Sudan on page 5.)*

**Girl Ambassadors for Peace**

In 2016, GNWP continued its implementation of the Girl Ambassadors for Peace (GA4P) program in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan in partnership with its members and partners Synergie des Associations Feminines du Congo, Synergie des Femmes Pour Les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles, and Generation in Action-South Sudan. The GA4P are young literate women and girls in conflict affected areas who undergo a training series on how to conduct literacy education, leadership, and the principles of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 1820. The GA4P members then travel to rural communities where they teach illiterate girls and women to read and write, along with basic numeracy. The young women also raise awareness about the importance of women’s rights and participation in decision-making and in peacebuilding by using popular theater and community dialogues. In 2016, GA4P in DRC and South Sudan produced radio programs on issues such as women’s access to education, women’s economic empowerment and prevention [Image of girls]
of sexual violence. Some of the radio productions are available on this link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOJeLJPRTsqH6tkrkUPAM4Gf-sCr3Ubr

**Cora Weiss Fellowship for Young Women Peacebuilders**

In June 2016, GNWP welcomed Patience Ikpeh from Lagos, Nigeria as the first recipient of the Cora Weiss Fellow for Young Women Peacebuilders. Through this fellowship, Ikpeh had the opportunity to work with GNWP on its global and regional advocacy work in the UN and other intergovernmental institutions to promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its supporting resolutions, as well as related laws and policies on women’s empowerment, and gender equality. In addition, Ikpeh participated in GNWP’s Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 training in Kenya as well as the National Peace Dialogue in South Sudan.

When Ikpeh finishes her fellowship with GNWP, she will return to Nigeria to bring her enhanced skills and expertise back to her home organization. She plans to replicate the Localization of Resolution 1325 in local communities in Nigeria as well as organize the Girl Ambassadors for Peace – Nigeria to work with young women on community-based peacebuilding strategies and prevention of violent extremism.

The Cora Weiss Fellowship was established to honor Cora Weiss, a long time peace and social justice leader and activist through the development and training of young women peacebuilders. The blog on the Cora Weiss Fellowship is available here: http://gnwp.org/gnwp-welcomes-first-cora-weiss-fellow/

**Financing for the implementation of the WPS resolutions**

GNWP, Cordaid, UN Women, other UN entities and Member States officially launched the Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI) on WPS and Humanitarian Action in February 2016. The GAI is the first pooled funding mechanism that provides civil society groups working in conflict-affected environments direct access to funding; and a seat at

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the decision-making table on how the funds are allocated and managed.

GNWP conducted a Costing and Budgeting workshop in Jordan in July 2016, to support the National Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in costing and budgeting their NAP and ensure sufficient funds are allocated for its implementation. The workshop used a customized version of the Costing and Budgeting Module developed by GNWP and Cordaid in Georgia in November 2015. Based on its expertise and lessons learned from the Jordan workshop, GWNP also began work on Costing and Budgeting Manual (to be completed in 2017) and an instructional video on NAP costing and budgeting.

**60th Session on the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) and 16th anniversary of UNSCR 1325**

GNWP organized several interesting and thought-provoking panel discussions and meetings during the CSW and the October anniversary of UNSCR 1325 including on the latest developments on the Colombian peace process and the efforts to pressure the Government of South Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-in-Opposition.

**AWID International Forum Strategic Session on the GAI**

In partnership with Cordaid and UN Women, GNWP organized the session *Is an alternative model fund for women’s rights possible? Examining possibilities for a civil-society-UN-government partnership funding mechanism* at the AWID International Forum in Bahia, Brazil in September 2016.

The session generated an analysis of the socio-political context including trends and challenges in funding, fund allocation and fund management for women’s rights work. It also examined the priorities for funding on women and peace and security issues from the perspectives of civil society, governments, the UN and the donor community and identified the commonalities and differences that reinforces the status quo—for example, the prevention of conflict is not a priority for many donors and the “projectization” of women and peace and security initiatives. The session also served as an awareness-raising session on the GAI as a potential “model fund” that could positively influence existing funds to be more accessible to grassroots women’s organizations.

**Arria Formula on the Synergy between CEDAW and the WPS resolutions**

In collaboration with Switzerland and the CEDAW Committee, GNWP successfully lobbied the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN to sponsor an Arria Formula meeting on the *Synergy between CEDAW and the WPS resolutions* on December 5, 2016. This is the first time that the Security Council engaged with a treaty body and examined the use of CEDAW General Recommendation (GR) on Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post Conflict Resolution as complementary monitoring and accountability mechanism to UNSCR 1325 and the supporting resolutions. 14 Security Council members, 7 Member States and the European Union spoke at the Arria Formula meeting. All Member States except the Russian Federation supported the use of CEDAW GR 30 by both governments and civil society in reporting on the implementation of the WPS resolutions.
GNWP circulated the case studies on civil society’s use of GR 30 in Azerbaijan, Colombia, India, and Iraq during the Arria Formula meeting on the Synergies between Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and CEDAW.

Advocacy at the AU Pre-Summit on Gender

GNWP and its members and partners from Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda participated in the African Union (AU) Gender Pre-summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) workshop from January 19-22, 2016. In addition, GNWP had bilateral meetings with the Office of the AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security; the Director for Women, Gender and Development of the African Union Commission; the Senior Gender Advisor of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); the UN Women Country Director for South Sudan; and the Director for Gender at the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs of Kenya. In these meetings, GNWP consistently advocated for the implementation or the implementation of the Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCISS).

2. Summary

This report covers the projects and programs that Global Network of Women Peacebuilders undertook in 2016.

GNWP’s overarching mission is to bridge the gap between global policy and local action on Women, Peace and Security. It does so through enhancing local women’s capacities to lobby regional and global policy and decision makers to solicit greater accountability towards better implementation of laws and policies on women’s leadership, women’s rights, women’s empowerment, gender equality, peace and security, including the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and supporting resolutions on women and peace and security (WPS).

As in previous years, GNWP’s work was focused on two key pillars: Capacity Building and Policy change. The specific objectives GNWP strived to achieve in 2016 were to:

Capacity building:

1. Enhance the capacity of women’s organizations/CSOs to use regional and global policy making spaces and lobby for the implementation of legal mechanisms such as the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS); the CEDAW General Recommendation (GR) 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations; the Sustainable Development Goals; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa to protect their rights and ensure their leadership and participation in decision-making, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and reconstruction.

Policy change:

2. Create channels for regional and global lobbying and advocacy for women’s organizations/CSOs such as during the UN Commission on the Status of Women
sessions and anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in New York; CEDAW sessions in Geneva; African Union Summit and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) meetings in Addis Ababa; and the 2016 AWID International Forum in Brazil.

3. Support national and local lobbying advocacy by disseminating timely information on regional and global policy developments; and identifying opportunities that mutually reinforce the different levels of lobbying positions.

4. Contribute to improved and predictable financing for the implementation of the WPS resolutions through the Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (GAI) and facilitating national workshops on NAP Costing and Budgeting.

3. Context

GNWP’s work in 2016 was anchored on past achievements and the lessons that GNWP learned in its many years of lobbying and advocacy for effective policy development and implementation on women’s leadership, women’s rights, empowerment and peace and security. It is also informed by the changes in the socio-political contexts in individual countries where GNWP works as well as by regional and global developments. The global developments in WPS policies in 2016 were influenced by the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the 2015 Global Study on UNSCR 1325, the 2015 Global Study on UNSCR 1325, the UN High Level Peace Operations Review and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review and the adoption of UNSCR 2242 and 2250.

Case Study: South Sudan

The signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic South Sudan (ARCISS) in August 2015 between South Sudanese Government and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) brought hope to a lot of South Sudanese who have been suffering from the violence since the first major outbreak of violence in December 2013. However, numerous violations including human rights crimes and sexual and gender-based violence have since been committed by both parties.

On July 8, 2016 another outburst of violence between the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) government forces and the SPLM/IO forces took place during a Presidential meeting in Juba. The violence has since escalated and has caused deaths and displacement among South Sudanese population especially women and children. To date, the UN High Commission on Refugees reported that 1.9 million have fled their homes to seek refuge mostly in neighboring countries such as Kenya and Uganda. The U.N. last year reported a 60 percent increase in sexual and gender-based violence in South Sudan, with 70 percent of women in U.N. camps in the capital, Juba, having been raped since the start of the civil war in December

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Other unfortunate developments such as increased recruitment and use of child soldiers and restrictions of freedom of expression also continue to take place. The armed conflict in South Sudan has also been aggravated by ethnic violence and widespread famine.

The UN Security Council on August 12, 2016 adopted UNSCR 2304 extending the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan and authorizing an Expanded Peacekeeping Force to Bolster Civilian Protection Efforts. The UN Security Council decided to increase the force levels of UNMISS up to a ceiling of 17,000 troops, including 4,000 for the Regional Protection Force. The Resolution 2304 also encourages “countries in the region, the African Union Peace and Security Council, and IGAD to continue firmly engaging with South Sudanese leaders to address the current political crisis.” However, the South Sudanese Government rejected the entry of the Regional Protection Force claiming that the country has attained “stability.”

Civil society efforts to build peace

Amidst the lack of effective response from the South Sudanese governments, the UN and regional actors, civil society have sustained their peacebuilding efforts particularly those that empower and amplify the voices of local communities and promote national dialogues. This was highlighted by participants at the Peace Dialogue on South Sudan organized by GNWP, EVE and the Consortium of Organizations for Women of South Sudan (CFW) in October 2016 in Nairobi. Peace and human rights activists from civil society, academia, faith-based organizations along with representatives from the government, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) and foreign

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embassies took part in the Peace Dialogue to identify immediate and practical actions to achieve peace and stability in South Sudan. Some of their recommendations were: translate the peace agreement into local languages, organize community discussions on the peace agreement and facilitate community mediation especially in areas where ethnic divide is strong.

**Case Study: Colombia**

2016 was a milestone year for Colombia because of the signing of the peace accord between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) on September 26. The peace accord ended one of the world’s longest-running armed conflicts that killed at least 220,000 people, displaced more than 6 million, and left some 8 million registered victims. Under the peace accord, about 10,000 guerillas will demobilize, transition to civilian life, and be allowed to enter electoral politics. The agreement will also require reintegrating former combatants into society, compensating victims and returning their lands, and reducing the socio-economic disparities and political exclusion.

The peace agreement did not come without hurdles. After the signing on September 26, it was subjected to a plebiscite on October 2 where the “No” vote prevailed by a narrow margin. Finally, Colombia’s Congress approved a revised peace accord on November 30, 2016 despite a walk out by congressional representatives from the opposition.

Women’s organizations played a key role in the peace negotiations between the government and the FARC. They came together in a 2013 National Summit and presented three key demands: that the government and FARC negotiators stay at the table until an agreement is reached; that women be included at the peace table and at every stage of the process; and that women’s interests, and experiences of conflict be considered during the peace negotiations.

Because of the lobbying of women from across the country and with international support from civil society around the world including GNWP and Cordaid, the government appointed two women as members of the principal negotiating team. As a result, a Sub-Commission on Gender composed of representatives of the Government and the FARC was formed. The Sub-Commission brought women’s voices into the peace process which further ensured that women’s participation and empowerment are key to main aspects of the negotiation such as rural development, political participation and eradication of illicit drugs. The Gender sub-Commission also addressed the rights of women victims of the conflict to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition, as well as their rights in provisions for the end of

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5 Between 2012 -2014, GNWP and Cordaid co-sponsored several panel discussions at the UN that demanded women’s participation and shone the spotlight on the Colombian peace process.
the conflict. Women’s groups now play a key role in the implementation of the peace accord.

The Colombian government is currently pursuing peace talks with the National Liberation Army (ELN), and faces groups of demobilized paramilitary fighters reorganizing into criminal gangs.\(^6\)

**General social, political and cultural country contexts**

The power relations and social, political and cultural contexts in the countries where GNWP implemented its programs and projects in 2016 remained more or less the same. The political parties in power continue to control the governance and decision-making structures. Political instability increased because heads of states such as in Burundi and the DRC perpetuate themselves into power beyond their terms of office as mandated by the constitution. In all of the developing countries GNWP worked in in 2016 women continued to face institutional and socio-cultural barriers to the enjoyment of their rights. Lack of access to education, employment opportunities, financial and technical support to pursue economic opportunities Gender equality is still more of an aspiration than a reality.

**New and continued partnerships**

In 2016, GNWP carried out a number activities in partnership with its members and partners in Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Burundi, Colombia, DRC, Jordan, Kenya, Netherlands, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Switzerland Uganda and Uruguay as well as with its global partners including Cordaid, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, various Member States and international CSOs. New partnerships were forged with civil society organizations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine through the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program that is supported by the Austrian Development Agency.

**4. Activities and Outcomes**

In 2016, GNWP carried out a number of global lobbying and advocacy initiatives on women’s leadership, women’s rights, empowerment and peace and security in partnership with its members and partners. Some of the countries represented in GNWP’s collaborative initiatives were Austria, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Kenya, India, Iraq, the Netherlands, South Sudan, Switzerland, and Uruguay.

Below are the activities undertaken across GNWP’s two main programmatic areas: Capacity Building and Policy Change. They provide evidence of achievements for each of the objectives.

**Capacity Building**

**Activities:**

*Communication Skills, Message Development and Presentation Workshops & Training on Strategic Lobbying and Advocacy*

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GNWP organized a **Speakers’ Workshop** on **October 22, 2016** to help civil society to package and deliver their messages to policy makers and the media. The Speakers’ Workshop included sessions on verbal communication cultures, principles and methods of effective verbal communication and public speaking. It also featured an interactive discussion on the physical act of speaking particularly on the use of the body, breath and voice, and speech; as well as mock presentations. The Speakers’ Workshop was attended by GNWP staff and members such as the Consortium of Organizations for Women of South Sudan, Eve Organization for Women Development - South Sudan and PeaceNet_Kenya. The workshop served as a preparation for the presentations that staff and GNWP members were going to make for the 16th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 including the presentation of Rita Lopidia, the Executive Director of Eve Organization during the Security Council Open Debate on October 25, 2016.

The participants at the Speakers’ Workshop stated during the assessment of this activity that they felt more confident to speak with policy makers and deliver their important messages on behalf of the local communities and organizations they represent. There were 15 women participants at the Speakers’ Workshop.

**Production of Toolkit on Strategic Lobbying and Advocacy**

GNWP developed a civil society toolkit on global lobbying and advocacy on the WPS agenda. The toolkit contains updated information and analysis of the mandate of key global policy-making structures such as the Security Council and the Commission on the Status of Women. It identifies advocacy opportunities for civil society as well as specific strategies and practical tips for effective lobbying and networking.

The toolkit has been circulated to civil society organizations to generate feedback on its usefulness and efficacy as a lobbying and advocacy resource material. The feedback will be compiled and relevant inputs will be integrated into the final version which will be published in 2017 and made available online in an easy to use format. It will also be translated into Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

It must be noted that GNWP also planned to organize an advocacy training using the toolkit as the main reference material. However this did not materialize since most civil society participants to the 16th anniversary events in New York arrived only the day before the Security Council Open Debate on October 25, 2016. Due to the number of meetings, panel discussions and meetings during the week of Open Debate, it was not possible to organize an advocacy training at that time.

To respond to this situation, GNWP organized preparatory meetings and rehearsals with its civil society partners, hours before the actual panel discussions and meetings.

**Policy Change**

In 2016, GNWP led various initiatives to effect policy change at the regional and global levels. They include advocacy during the African Union (AU) Gender Pre-Summit and bilateral meetings with different departments of the AU as well as participation in the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) network. In New York, GNWP organized various panel discussions...
and bilateral meetings at the UN and in government mission offices in partnership with individual Member States and groups of Member States such as the troika on South Sudan—i.e., Norway, United Kingdom and the United States. GNWP also wrote and circulated open letters on the outbreak of violence in DRC and in South Sudan.

Representatives of UN Member States, the Security Council, CSOs, academic institutions and UN entities attended the events organized by GNWP.

**Activities:**

**60th session of the CSW**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is one of the key policy advocacy spaces that GNWP utilize to solicit accountability on the implementation of the WPS resolutions as well as other instruments on women’s leadership, women’s rights and empowerment. GNWP organized the following panel discussions and meetings in conjunction with the 60th session of the CSW in New York in 2016:

**Breakout session on Peace and Security and Migration; March 13, 2016**

GNWP facilitated a panel discussion also referred to as breakout session on peace and security and migration during the CSW NGO Consultation Day on March 13, 2016. The panelists from the Non-violence Peace Force and World Federation of Ukrainian Women spoke about their initiatives in supporting people who are fleeing the violence in South Sudan and in Ukraine particularly the eastern part of the country. GNWP also presented its work on Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

**Role of media in the attainment of Goal 16 and the SDGs; March 15, 2016**

In partnership with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN and Peace is Loud, GNWP organized this panel discussion that focused on the central role of the media in awareness and knowledge raising on Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peaceful and Inclusive societies and access to justice for all. The panelists discussed how the power of media can be fully utilized in order to achieve this goal. They also elaborated on the consequences of disinformation through the media including on how it can lead to or aggravate violent conflicts.

**Repression Against Civil Society: An obstacle to the achievements of the SDGs; March 15, 2016**

GNWP and Cordaid led the discussion on increasing repression against civil society in various countries as a result of their work in promoting peace, justice and human rights. Speakers from Afghanistan, Burundi and Kenya discussed how operations of CSOs and the personal security of activists is threatened by governments. In Burundi, civil society activists who opposed the unconstitutional extension of the term of the president were arrested, detained or murdered. The operations of a number of Burundian CSOs were suspended and their bank accounts frozen. Many of them have fled the country for fear of their personal security and that of their families. In
Kenya, CSOs are concerned how the amendment of the NGO Law would regulate their funding sources in ways that would curtail their operations. The panelist from Afghanistan spoke about how civil society constantly face security risks because of the ongoing conflict and the government’s lack of political will to protect its citizens.

**Complementarities between the Women Peace and Security and the Youth Peace and Security agendas: Strengthening the participation of girls and young women through UNSCR 2250; March 17, 2016**

GNWP collaborated with UNOY, Cordaid, UN Women, the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNDP and the Working group on Youth, Peace & Security to raise awareness of UNSCR 2250 and how the WPS resolutions mutually reinforce each other. Betty Ogwaro, a Member of Parliament from South Sudan spoke about the Girl Ambassadors for Peace, a program of GNWP in DRC and South Sudan that improves women and girls’ literacy and leadership and peacebuilding skills.

**Youth on Sustainable Peacebuilding; March 17, 2016**

In collaboration with the Plan International Global Youth Advisory Panel, Taking IT Global and the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, GNWP sponsored this event where youth leaders discussed their work in organizing and mobilizing young people to work on various peacebuilding projects. Katrina Leclerc, GNWP’s coordinator for the Girl Ambassadors for Peace program spoke about the outreach and impact in DRC and South Sudan. She described the literacy, leadership, and peacebuilding components of the program and how young women and girls are beginning to express themselves and participate in decision-making in their families and communities.

**Closed meeting (policy briefing) on Afghanistan’s NAP 1325 and the Peace Talks; March 17, 2016**

GNWP, Cordaid and the Afghan Women’s Network in partnership and the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN organized a Closed meeting (policy briefing) on Afghanistan’s NAP 1325 and the Peace Talks. The meeting discussed the status of implementation of the Afghan NAP 1325; and the challenges in implementation. The meeting also produced recommendations for practical actions in support of Afghan women civil society’s participation in the anticipated peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Some of the challenges to NAP implementation are the following: there is no earmarked budget for implementation; channeling money for the NAP through UN Women creates a bottleneck; and the Steering Committee members do not have a well-defined role. The recommendations include: channel the funds for NAP implementation directly; provide technical assistance to the NAP Steering Committee and the technical working group; and ensure effective civil society monitoring of NAP implementation.

As to Afghan women’s participation in the peace talks, some of the recommendations were to ensure a more substantive role for women during the peace talks that is beyond gender issues; and enhance women’s capabilities in religious education to debunk the extreme ideology of
Islam presented by the Taliban; and explore the possibility of forming a "Friends of Afghan Women" around the peace process.

16th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 Panel Discussions

Like the annual CSW sessions, the anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 every October is an important global advocacy opportunity for GNWP. GNWP organizes panel discussions and bilateral meetings between local, national and regional CSOs and policy makers from governments and the UN during anniversaries of UNSCR 1325. Below are the activities that GNWP led during the 16th anniversary of UNSCR 1325:

One year too long: South Sudanese women use UNSCR 1325 to push for implementation; October 21, 2016

In response to the deteriorating situation in South Sudan, GNWP, Eve Organization for Women Development, the Consortium of Organizations for Women of South Sudan and the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN co-sponsored a high level panel discussion on South Sudan. The panelists reported back on the Peace Dialogue held in Nairobi, Kenya on October 3-4, 2016. During the Peace Dialogue, representatives of government, civil society, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission on the ARCISS, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) which facilitated the peace negotiations in South Sudan, foreign embassies and UN Women came together to formulate practical actions to respond to the deteriorating situation. The panel also discussed how South Sudan’s NAP on UNSCR 1325 can be implemented and be used as an effective instrument towards the implementation of the peace agreement.

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GNWP in partnership with its members and partners in South Sudan and globally has been actively supporting the peace process and the national action planning process on UNSCR 1325 in South Sudan since 2012. The panel discussion served as a medium to continue supporting the peace process and also to provide South Sudanese women activists with a space to share their experiences in peacebuilding and present recommendations to the international community.

**GNWP member as speaker at the Security Council Open Debate; October 25, 2016**

GNWP nominated Rita Lopidia, Executive Director of Eve Organization for Women Development of South Sudan as the civil society speaker to the Security Council Open Debate on WPS. Lopidia became the lone civil society speaker for the 2016 Security Council Open Debate on WPS. She conveyed the outcomes of the Peace Dialogue that GNWP, Eve Organization and the Consortium of Organizations for Women of South Sudan, Eve Organization for Women Development - South Sudan organized in October 3-4, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. Some of the key messages in Lopidia’s presentation were the need to implement the peace agreement and impose a total arms embargo.

**Monitoring the Progress: The Launch of the UNSCR 1325 Scorecard; October 24, 2016**

GNWP, Cordaid, WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform and the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN, co-sponsored this panel discussion on measuring the progress of UNSCR 1325. This event launched the UNSCR 1325 Scorecard, a monitoring tool developed by GNWP. The Scorecard consists of 10 indicators that serves as a guidepost in assessing progress along the three key pillars of participation, prevention and protection. The Scorecard allows CSOs to utilize indicators to grade Member States on a spectrum of “significant deterioration” to “significant progress” while providing visual representation of the implementation of UNSCR 1325, its accomplishments, gaps and challenges.

The UNSCR 1325 Scorecard responds to the recommendation from the 2015 Security Council High Level Review and the 2015 Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 to create a regular and systematic monitoring mechanism.

**In the aftermath of the plebiscite, Colombian women continue the quest for peace; October 28, 2016**

GNWP, the NGO Working Group on WPS, Red Nacional de Mujeres, the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN and UN Women co-sponsored the panel discussion “In the aftermath of the plebiscite, Colombian women continue the quest for peace” offered a unique opportunity for women peace activists and negotiators from Colombia to share their experiences and lessons learned from the peace processes as well as their recommendations on how the Security Council, Member States and the UN can support ongoing future efforts to secure lasting peace in Colombia. This side event was also important because it highlighted the perspective of civil society activists who have advocated for a swift and peaceful resolution to the conflict.
The panellists shared their insights on the implications of the “No” vote to the peace agreement and the ways to move forward and build on the achievements of the peace process. 33 persons (29 women, 4 men) attended the panel discussion.

**Arria Formula on CEDAW and the WPS Resolutions**

In partnership with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland and Uruguay GNWP coordinated the historic Arria Formula meeting on the Synergies between Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and CEDAW. Held on December 5, 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York, this is the first time that the UN Security Council interacted with a treaty body.

The objectives of the Arria formula meeting were:

- To exchange views concerning the synergies between the Security Council Resolution on WPS and CEDAW and how a congruently implementation could strengthen and reinforce each instruments' efficacy;
- To enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council Framework on 1325 by reporting to CEDAW on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the supporting women, peace and security resolutions; and
- To generate support for a more integrative approach to the implementation of international laws and policies across the UN system.

The Arria Formula was chaired by Ambassador Elbio Rosselli, of the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN, and the speakers included Ms. Pramila Patten, CEDAW expert from the CEDAW Working Group on General Recommendation 30 on Women in Conflict Prevention, conflict and Post-conflict Situations (GR 30), Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, GNWP’s International Coordinator and Mr. Yanick Glemarec, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. The Arria Formula meeting provided a critical starting point to strengthen the linkages between the Security Council and the CEDAW Committee. The Arria Formula generated three proposals that would enable the Security Council members to work collaboratively with the CEDAW Committee to reinforce women’s rights in countries on its agenda:

- The Security Council members should fully leverage information from the CEDAW Committee to inform their decision-making;
- The Security Council members should include information on women, peace and security in their reports to the CEDAW Committee; and
- The Security Council should continue to invite briefings from the United Nations’ human rights experts.

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7 Named after Ambassador Diego Arria of Venezuela who initiated the practice in 1992, an Arria Formula meeting is a meeting with relatively flexible procedural framework during which Security Council members are able to exchange views and engage in direct dialogue with government representatives and “international organizations — often at the latter’s request — as well as non-State parties, on matters with which they are concerned and which fall within the purview of responsibility of the Security Council.” See United Nations Security Council, “Working Methods Handbook, Background Note on the ‘Arria-Formula’ Meetings of the Security Council Members,” retrieved on June 17, 2017 from http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/methods/bgarriaformula.shtml
The full report on the Arria Formula meeting on CEDAW and the WPS resolutions and the presentations are available here: http://gnwp.org/recommendations-from-the-arria-formula-meeting-on-the-synergies-between-cedaw-gr-30-and-unscr-1325-and-related-wps-resolutions/

**Case studies on the use of GR 30 by civil society**

As part of its efforts to develop practical tools to guide civil society on how to use GR 30 and the WPS resolutions complementarily, GNWP produced case studies on the use of GR 30 by civil society since its adoption in four countries: Azerbaijan, Colombia, India and Iraq.

These case studies provide:
- country-specific information on the last periodic report to the CEDAW Committee;
- concrete examples of the use of GR 30 by civil society and its impact on pushing forward the WPS agenda at local, national, regional and global levels;
- challenges encountered by civil society in their use of GR 30; and
- recommendations to national governments, the CEDAW Committee, civil society, and the international community regarding the use of GR 30 as a complementary mechanism to UNSCR 1325.

The full case studies are available at: http://gnwp.org/program/advocacy-around-cedaw-general-recommendation-30/

**Bilateral meetings with policy makers**

In addition to organizing panel discussions and public meetings as well as producing and disseminating open letters and statements, GNWP organizes bilateral meetings with policy makers who have mandates on specific countries, regions or thematic issues. Below is the summary of the bilateral meetings that GNWP facilitated in 2016:

**South Sudanese civil society meeting with the Norway, UK and US Troika; October 26, 2016**

GNWP arranged a meeting between South Sudanese civil society and the Troika on South (Norway, UK and US) to discuss in greater detail the outcomes of the Peace Dialogue on South Sudan and what the international community can do to create greater pressure on the Government of South Sudan and the SPLM-IO to honor their commitments under the peace agreement.

**Meetings with incoming Security Council members and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on the use of CEDAW**

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8 The open letters to President Kabila and the Secretary-General on the outbreak of violence in the DRC are available at http://gnwp.org/open-letters/

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GNWP and Ms. Pramila Patten met with the team of experts and senior staff of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to outline the collaboration between the Office of the SRSG SVC and the CEDAW Task Force on GR 30 particularly on the sharing of information on countries where there is a high incidence of conflict-related sexual violence.

The meeting with the Permanent Missions of Italy and the Netherlands to the UN focused on how systematic interaction between the Security Council and the CEDAW Committee can contribute to better understanding of how gender inequality and discrimination against women drive the conflict in specific country contexts. It was agreed by Italy and the Netherlands to bring the outcomes of the Arria Formula into their agenda when they each take turns in the Security Council. The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador Lise Gregoire, stated that it is important to find venues and outlets of collaboration between the Security Council and the CEDAW Committee and that CEDAW should be used as a source and outlet of information.

**Launch and roll out of the GAI**

GNWP, Cordaid, UN Women and the Permanent Missions of Australia, Ireland, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom officially launched the GAI was Along with Cordaid, GNWP is a founding member of the Global Funding Board of the GAI. Together, GNWP and Cordaid facilitated the nomination of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the Asia-Pacific Women’s Alliance on Peace and Security (APWAPS) as the additional civil society members of the GAI Funding Board. So far GAI funds for Burundi have been rolled out. The GAI has 23 priority countries.

Canada and Lithuania joined the list of government donors to the GAI which had about USD 8 million funds by the end of 2016. A minimum of 50 per cent of all GAI funds will be allocated to civil society organizations. The GAI will also serve as a knowledge management platform and hub for resources on women, peace and security.

**AWID International Forum Strategic Session on the GAI**

GNWP, Cordaid and UN Women organized the session *Is an alternative model fund for women’s rights possible? Examining possibilities for a civil-society-UN-government partnership funding mechanism* at the AWID International Forum in Bahia, Brazil in September 2016.

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9 The priority countries of the GAI are: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria (through other countries where there is a big Syrian refugee population), Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Yemen. Here is a link for more information on the GAI: file:///Users/victoriaballeza/Downloads/2%20pager%20on%20GAI%20June%202016.pdf
The session generated an analysis of the socio-political context including trends and challenges in funding, fund allocation and fund management for women’s rights work. It also examined the priorities for funding on women and peace and security issues from the perspectives of civil society, governments, the UN and the donor community and identified the commonalities and differences that reinforces the status quo—for example, the prevention of conflict is not a priority for many donors and the projectization of women and peace and security initiatives. The session also served as an awareness-raising session on the GAI as a potential “model fund” that could positively influence existing funds to be more accessible to grassroots women’s organizations.

Analysis of the Outcomes

GNWP has achieved its intended outcome to enhance the capacity of women’s organizations/CSOs to use regional and global policy making spaces by honing their skills to make presentations and lobby for the implementation of legal mechanisms that protect their rights and ensure their leadership and participation in decision-making, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and reconstruction. Through the organizing of panel discussions, bilateral meetings and Arria Formula meeting, GNWP created effective channels for regional and global lobbying and advocacy for women’s organizations/CSOs.

Through its mailing lists, blog posts, website and use of social media, GNWP disseminated critical information on regional and global policy developments on the women’s rights, gender equality and peace and security issues in a timely fashion. Given its strategic location geographically and politically, GNWP was able to systematically identify lobbying opportunities for civil society. Rita Lopidia’s selection as civil society speaker at the Security Council Open Debate, the policy briefing (closed meeting) on Afghanistan and the South Sudanese civil society meeting with the Norway, UK and US Troika.

GNWP is also proud to report that it has achieved many of its short and medium term objectives on policy change. For example the establishment of the GAI is a step in the right direction in terms funding for the implementation of the WPS agenda. However, the size of the GAI fund is still relatively small, and therefore cannot yet be considered predictable financing. In order to make the GAI attractive to more donors, a lot more work needs to be done to simplify and the process of application so that more grassroots CSOs who are doing important peacebuilding work can be supported.

GNWP also made significant progress in influencing regional and global policy in 2016. At the regional level, the AU Gender Director’s office invited GNWP to make a presentation of its Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program to the next AU High Level Summit. The Director of UN Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) invited GNWP to co-publish a policy brief on the Localization program. These two invitations would have been great opportunities to reach out to more African Member States and encourage them to adopt the Localization strategy to enhance the implementation of the WPS resolutions in their respective countries. However, GNWP is yet to accept these invitations because of lack of financial resources.

GNWP successfully nominated Rita Lopidia, Executive Director of Eve Organization for Women Development of South Sudan as the civil society speaker to the Security Council Open Debate on WPS. Lopidia became the lone civil society speaker for the 2016 Security Council Open
Debate on WPS. She conveyed the outcomes of the Peace Dialogue that GNWP, Eve Organization and the Consortium of Organizations for Women of South Sudan, Eve Organization for Women Development - South Sudan organized in October 3-4, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. Some of the key messages in Lopidia's presentation were the need to implement the peace agreement and impose a total arms embargo.

5. Organization

GNWP continued to face financial constraints in 2016. The staff was stretched to its capacity. The organization mitigated the situation with the hiring of Cora Weiss Fellow on Peacebuilding and hiring of more interns. GNWP is working to improve its fundraising strategy not only to be able to hire more staff persons on a full time and more permanent basis but also sustain program implementation.

GNWP began its discussions with the International Civil society Action Network (ICAN) to plan the separation of the two organizations following the incorporation of GNWP as a non-profit corporation in the state of New York and its submission of its application as a tax exempt corporation.

6. Forecast

GNWP will continue to build on its accomplishments and lessons learned in 2016 to develop its strategic plan for the next three years. Part of GNWP’s strategic plan is to become a fully independent non-profit organization with its own federal tax exempt status, governance structure and financial system.

Global and regional advocacy including during the CSW, anniversary of UNSCR 1325; the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820, the Synergy between CEDAW and the WPS resolutions and the Girl Ambassadors for Peace will remain as GNWP’s regular programs.

GNWP’s Localization program will expand to new countries such as Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Following the successful Arria Formula meeting on the Synergy between CEDAW and the WPS resolutions, GNWP hopes to facilitate training on the use of CEDAW GR 30 as a complementary reporting and accountability mechanism to the WPS resolutions to civil society and States Parties. GNWP will also continue to provide technical support to civil society and governments who are working together to develop their national action plans on UNSCR 1325. It will provide support in the drafting process as well as in costing and budgeting of national action plans.

GNWP will also remain active as a member of the GAI Global Funding Board to ensure that the GAI stays true to GNWP and Cordaid’s vision of a fund that meets the need of women CSOs that implement peacebuilding initiatives in communities directly affected by violent conflicts.