Amplifying women’s voices towards sustainable and inclusive peace

Global Network of Women Peacemakers

2017 Annual Report
Amplifying women's voices towards sustainable and inclusive peace
The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) is a coalition of women’s groups and other civil society organizations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East and Arab World, mostly from conflict-affected countries. GNWP has a proven track record in advocating for women’s leadership to be at the core of all efforts in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and sustaining peace. It has demonstrated impact in bringing local voices to influence global policies on women’s rights, peace and security, and translating global policies into practical actions that improve the lives of women and men in local communities.

GNWP is managed by an International Coordinating Team, based in New York, where it is registered as a charity.

Our vision is a world in which women and girls’ rights are promoted and protected, and they are recognized as peacebuilders and decision-makers.

Our mission is to empower women, and amplify their voices to build sustainable and inclusive peace.

We work to fulfil this mission through the following strategies:

- Full cycle implementation of the WPS resolutions
- Amplifying voices of local women and civil society in global policy forums to influence global norms and standards
- Empowering young women to become leaders and agents of peace
- Ensuring adequate and predictable funding on the implementation of WPS resolutions

Learn more about us at: www.gnwp.org
In 2017, we saw several attempts to institutionalize far-right and misogynist agenda in different parts of the world. Women human rights defenders and peace activists were threatened, arrested, jailed and in some instances murdered for defending human rights and promoting peace. Some governments imposed stringent legal restrictions that prevented civil society actors to form associations and receive funding, thus making it nearly impossible for them to operate. In light of all these, the response of women activists and the men who support women’s rights and gender equality is increased organizing and mobilization for resistance. The unprecedented rise of the #MeToo movement is very much a part of this resistance.

In the global policy arena, we welcomed the increased commitment to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. The growing involvement of young people in peacebuilding and preventing violent extremism is an inspiring development. Our program Girl Ambassadors for Peace is an example of an initiative where young people are asserting their right to be meaningfully involved in peacebuilding. We were also joined by our second Cora Weiss Peacebuilding Fellow, Prativa Khanal from Nepal who one day hopes to start an organization that provides legal assistance to victims of sexual and gender-based violence in her home country.

In 2017, GNWP continued to strengthen its position as a global civil society leader in policy advocacy and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. We expanded our Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, where the impact of protracted conflicts lingers. By using our “local-global, global-local” approach to bring global policy discussions to the local, national and regional decision-making structures and to inform 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 Member States, civil society groups, as well as the academia and the media.

This year, we devoted more energies in documenting our work in advancing the WPS agenda by publishing case studies on the synergy between the WPS resolutions and the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the “No Money, No NAP: Manual for Costing and Budgeting National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325.”

On behalf of GNWP’s Board of Directors and International Coordinating Team, I thank everyone who supported our work this year and in all the preceding years. Thank you for being part of our journey as we amplify women’s voices towards sustainable and inclusive peace.

Mavic Cabrera-Balleza
Chief Executive Officer
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
The Global Context in 2017

The year 2017 has been marked by change and important developments both in the global policy spaces, and on the ground in conflict-affected countries.

In 2017, ten countries adopted National Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325: Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Montenegro, Palestine and Solomon Islands.¹

Important new appointments were made at the United Nations. António Guterres took post as the ninth Secretary-General in January 2017. During his first formal briefing to the Security Council, he highlighted the importance of focusing on prevention of conflicts, emphasising: “We spend far more time and resources responding to crises rather than preventing them. People are paying too high a price […] We need a whole new approach.”² In April 2017, Pramila Patten of Mauritius was appointed as the Secretary-General Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, replacing Zainab Hawa Bangura of Sierra Leone.

At the same time, GNWP and its partners continued to face and address a range of persistent challenges, including gender inequality, sexual violence, and the losing of democratic spaces for civil society.

A world of inequalities

The unequal power relations and social, political and cultural contexts in countries where GNWP implemented its programs and projects in 2017 remained a challenge.

Despite the overall improvement of the global economy, stark inequalities persisted, and were exacerbated by conflict and natural disasters; as a result, 83 million people required emergency food assistance in 2017.³ The political parties in power continue to control the governance and decision-making structures. While Robert Mugabe was ousted in a military coup in Zimbabwe, other heads of states across the world continued to perpetuate themselves into power beyond their terms of office as mandated by the constitution, fuelling political tension and crises, for example in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Venezuela.

In all of the developing countries where GNWP worked in 2017, 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.

An insecure world

GNWP’s work continued to be set in areas affected by conflict and instability. Despite the fact that overall the world “slightly improved” in peace, the year witnessed major security

¹ Source: PeaceWomen and GNWP members.
crises, such as the continued fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria; the Rohingya crisis, with hundreds of thousands fleeing from persecution in Myanmar to neighbouring countries, such as Bangladesh; and further security deterioration in 68 countries, including Burundi, DRC, South Sudan and Yemen, where GNWP runs or plans programs.⁴

The continued violence and insecurity across the world underscores the urgent need for implementing and supporting peacebuilding efforts and women’s leadership in them. Yet, even in countries where peace agreements have been signed – such as Colombia or the Philippines – their implementation remained slow and challenging, and high levels of violence and insecurity persisted.⁵

Civil society, including GNWP members, also faced challenges in their work, including the closing of democratic spaces and security threats. Several studies have shown that civil society organizations, especially those working on human rights, faced abuse, threats and intimidation.⁶

The closing democratic space affects GNWP and its members. For example, in Azerbaijan, where political repression against the Azeri civil society continued in 2017, the once vibrant civil society sector is facing challenges. The strict domestic legislation, which restricts the registration process with government agencies as the only possible funding channel, has made it impossible for some organizations – including GNWP members – to operate.

**Speaking out against sexual violence and abuse**

The rise of the #MeToo movement, which spread around the world, was an important moment in 2017. It made it easy, fast and safe for women to share their experiences of sexual harassment and assault, and built a sense of solidarity and outrage. The online movement was also accompanied by the coming forward of women and men calling out sexual abuse by powerful personalities, demanding accountability for sexual assault across industries from Hollywood, to politics, to the UN and humanitarian organizations. At the UN, discussions around how to ensure accountability and effective prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse continued, and the Secretary-General convened a High-Level Meeting on combating sexual exploitation and abuse on September 18, 2017.

Yet, despite its power and reach, #MeToo remained a primarily urban phenomenon, due to its reliance on social media and access to the internet. As GNWP’s CEO, Mavic Cabrera Balleza noted in her Op-Ed on “#MeToo & Security Council Resolution 1325” written for the Inter Press Service News Agency, in many conflict-affected rural areas where GNWP works, “social media is not part of people’s daily lives. It is through person-to-person discussions and dialogues that they tackle their problems, manage their community affairs, and get things done.”⁷ This is a challenge, but also an opportunity for “a localized replication of #MeToo in grassroots communities which I imagine to be similar to village or neighborhood dialogues, [and which would] factor in social and cultural identifiers such as caste, class, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and educational background.”

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⁴ Institute for Economics and Peace, “Global Peace Index 2017”.
⁵ The Economist, “Deadline Pressure for Colombia’s Peace Agreement”, 18 March 2017
⁸ Ibidem.
In 2017, GNWP produced and circulated blog posts on its projects to over 2,500 recipients including representatives from governments, civil society, UN, AU, EU, NATO, media and academic institutions.

GNWP also maintains active presence on social media. As of March 2018, GNWP has 3,665 Twitter followers (24.6% increase from December 2016), and the Facebook page averages 300 visitors per month. Twitter had its most successful outreach during the 17th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in October 2017, with more than over 78,000 impressions, 1,445 profile visits and 65 new followers.

At the national and local levels, GNWP works with its partners implement media campaigns to promote its projects and their key messages on WPS. For example, the NAP and Localization workshops in Armenia and Georgia were featured in news segments on national radio and television, helping to raise awareness of the WPS agenda.

In 2017, GNWP held in-country NAP and Localization of 1325 workshops, media and 1325 training, leadership, peacebuilding and economic empowerment trainings for young women in four countries (Armenia, Georgia, Indonesia and Ukraine), reaching almost 300 stakeholders and building their knowledge, awareness and skills on WPS issues.

GNWP led various initiatives to effect policy change at the global level. In New York, GNWP organized various panel discussions and bilateral meetings at the UN during the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the 17th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. During the 61st CSW, GNWP co-organized 5 panel discussions, convening a total of 171 attendees, 85% of whom were women. During the 17th anniversary of UNSCR, GNWP held 3 panel discussions and meetings convening 108 attendees (81% women).
GNWP Highlights in 2017

Institutional Strengthening

2017 was a milestone year for GNWP as an organization as it became a fully independent non-profit organization. GNWP was granted non-profit tax exempt status by the US Internal Revenue Service (501 c 3 status in the Internal Revenue Code) in January 2017. In November 2017, it was also registered in the Charities Bureau, Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York. GNWP’s federal tax exempt status and its registration as a charity status builds on its incorporation as a non-profit organization under New York State in June 2015. From 2009 to 2016, GNWP’s operated autonomously under the fiscal sponsorship of the International Civil society Action Network (ICAN).

Full cycle implementation of the WPS resolutions

Between September and December 2017, GNWP conducted workshops on National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (NAP) development and implementation for government authorities and civil society in Armenia and Georgia. Separate workshops on Media and 1325 were also conducted in Armenia and Ukraine. In December 2017, GNWP organized Localization workshops convening local authorities, women, youth, internally displaced people and other key stakeholders in Georgia and Armenia to discuss local strategies to implement the NAPs. Module matrices of the NAP, Localization and Media and 1325 workshops can be accessed here: http://gnwp.org/training_material_type/modules/.

Amplifying voices of local women and civil society in global policy forums

As part of its global-local, local-global strategy, during the UNSCR 1325 Anniversary in October 2017, GNWP travelled representatives from the Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to New York, providing them with opportunities to speak directly to policy-makers, through panel discussions and bilateral meetings. GNWP also conducted a survey on the need for a new Security Council Resolution on WPS among civil society in 23 countries. During International Youth Day in August 2017, two Girl Ambassadors from DRC delivered a video testimony in the United Nations Headquarters to highlight the role of young people in peacebuilding.
In June 2017, GNWP held a NAP Costing and Budgeting workshop in Nepal. Representatives of civil society, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, National Planning Commission, Women’s Commission, Nepal Police, Nepal Army and the Armed Police Force increased their knowledge and capacity to properly cost the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and develop gender-responsive budget for the second phase of the NAP. In October 2017, GNWP also launched a manual on NAP Costing and Budgeting, based on GNWP’s experiences in costing and budgeting NAPs in Georgia, Jordan and Nepal.

Ensuring adequate and predictable funding on the implementation of WPS resolutions

In November 2017, GNWP conducted its Girl Ambassadors for Peace training in Poso, Central Sulawesi and Lamongan, East Java, Indonesia. Responding to the need identified by the local community, GNWP also added an economic empowerment component to the training.

In DRC, the capacity-building highlight for 2017 was on media literacy and technology. The Girl Ambassadors designed and led awareness-raising campaigns, hosted radio shows, and participated in a leadership workshop focusing on the importance of women’s leadership, female role models, and the various types of leadership. GNWP also developed the module for the economic empowerment component of the programme, set to be implemented in 2018.

Empowering young women to become leaders and agents of peace
Bénédicte Bulangalire Bénepeir is 26 years old and an active member of the Girl Ambassadors for Peace (GA4P) in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Bénédicte was among the first group of GA4P in that region. The Girl Ambassadors for Peace is a GNWP program that is implemented in Bangladesh, DRC, Indonesia and South Sudan. In the DRC, the program is implemented with support from Channel Foundation and the United Methodist Women. Its four components are: leadership, literacy, peacebuilding, and economic empowerment. Through the training the young women develop their leadership skills, and learn media and theatre production to raise awareness about the importance of peace in their communities. They travel to remote communities, to teach literacy skills, and promote peacebuilding.

In South Kivu, the capacity-building focus for 2017 was on the use of mainstream media and social media for leadership and peacebuilding. Bénédicte was among the Girl Ambassadors leading a media awareness-raising campaign in the DRC. Bénédicte and seven other Girl Ambassadors gathered every month in Bukavu to host radio shows with Radio Star FM 99.2 MHz and raise awareness of various difficulties young women and girls face in the DRC, such as dowry, lack of women’s economic rights and opportunities, child, early and forced marriage, and sexual exploitation. The last three radio shows of the campaign were recorded on February 9th, February 23rd, and March 16th, 2017.

Over the summer, Bénédicte, and eight other Girl Ambassadors in South Kivu, DRC spoke to students at the University of Winnipeg Global College in Canada about the Girls’ work in their regions and the current situation for young women in the DRC. This is part of the overall goal to create a global solidarity movement amongst young peacebuilders.

Bénédicte and other Girl Ambassadors for Peace in North Kivu and South Kivu are coordinating the implementation of the project on the ground in collaboration with GNWP and the local organizations Synergie des associations féminines du Congo (SAFECO) and Synergie des femmes pour les victimes des violences sexuelles (SFVS). In mid-2017, GNWP started the economic empowerment and economic justice program with GA4P in North Kivu.

Bénédicte hopes to use the leadership skills developed through GNWP trainings to pursue a career in the medical field. This year, she got some great news – she received a scholarship from the Ring Project and was accepted at a medical school!
Featured Profile
Lillis from Lamongan, Indonesia

Lillis, an 18-year-old girl from the Lamongan province, Indonesia, is one of GNWP’s Girl Ambassadors for Peace – a network of young women and adolescent girls promoting young women’s leadership, preventing violent extremism and promoting sustainable peace in local communities.

Lillis goes to an Islamic boarding school in Lamongan, the hometown of the two bombers convicted for their role in the 2002 Bali bombings. The province is locally known as the ‘breeding ground of terrorists,’ given the common knowledge that the Islamic schools in the region are often used for recruitment by extremist organizations. Girls are targeted and recruited to marry jihadis, fighters recruited in Indonesia to support violent extremist groups or carry out terrorist attacks abroad. Lillis and other members of the GA4P with support from local authorities and other civil society groups in Indonesia are determined to promote peace in their communities.

During the Focus Group Discussions conducted prior to the Girl Ambassadors for Peace training, young women from the region highlighted the importance of economic concerns as a major reason or a “pull factor” attracting young people to violent extremism, more important than religion or ideology. As a response to their insight, GNWP included Economic Empowerment as a key component of the Girl Ambassadors for Peace training.

In November 2017, Lillis and her friends participated in a training covering 1) leadership, 2) peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism, 3) employment, entrepreneurship and job skills, 4) communication skills: media, social media and theatre. The training was organized by GNWP and its local partners: Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) - Indonesia, University of Indonesia, Muslimat NU and Celebes Institute, with support from Nama Women Advancement Establishment.

Following the training, Lillis and the other GA4P developed plans for economic empowerment in their respective villages.

“People have become blind, deaf, and mute because of social media. They only speak in social media; their only source of news is social media and they don’t realize that not everything in social media is true. Our role as GA4P is to disseminate truthful information, promote peace on social media, and use social media to reach out to other young people so that we take action to build peace and prevent violent extremism.”

Lillis Badriyah,
Girl Ambassador for Peace – Lamongan, Indonesia
Featured Profile
Prativa from Nepal

“Coming from a developing and post-conflict country like Nepal, the fellowship has strengthened my understanding on women, peace and security and youth, peace and security. The opportunity to work at local, national and international levels while implementing UNSCR 1325 and supporting resolutions on WPS has broadened my horizon. I am motivated, more than before, to contribute to promoting the rights of rural and marginalized women and girls specially those affected by the 10-years long conflict in my country, Nepal.”

Prativa Khanal, Cora Weiss Peacebuilding Fellow, 2017/2018

Prativa Khanal, a human rights lawyer from Nepal, was the second recipient of the Cora Weiss Fellowship for Young Women Peacebuilders. Prativa joined GNWP on July 17, 2017 and has been a key member of the team since. She was actively involved in implementing the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in Georgia, and the Girl Ambassadors for Peace program in Indonesia, where she facilitated sessions on the legal framework on WPS.

Prativa represented GNWP in various meetings of the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, WPS Focal Point Network, Group of Friends on WPS, and Spotlight Initiative, and was actively involved in the events around the 17th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325. She also led the survey on the proposed adoption of a new WPS resolution during the 17th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325. 55 civil society organizations in 23 countries participated in the survey. Prativa also coordinated the Youth Dance for Peace event in Nepal to commemorate the second anniversary of UNSCR 2250 on youth and peace and security.

The Cora Weiss Fellowship supports the development of young women peacebuilders to ensure that more young people share Cora Weiss’ vision for sustainable peace and gender equality as strong and integral parts of our global culture. The Cora Weiss Fellowship was established to honour Cora Weiss, a long time peace and social justice leader and activist, and one of the civil society drafters of the ground-breaking UNSCR 1325.
Featured Event

Media & 1325 Workshop in Ukraine

Antonina Tarasowa,
Journalist, participant at the GNWP media workshop
in Ukraine

“In the Ukrainian society needs to be aware of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security. I have been working as a journalist for 15 years but this is the first time I have heard of this resolution. It is now my responsibility and those who attended the Media and 1325 workshop to inform our audiences about the importance of this resolution.”

In 2017, GNWP expanded its Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 project to Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Localization is a people-based, bottom-up strategy which convenes local authorities, women, youth, and all other key local actors — to develop effective strategies for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in local communities.

One of the main challenges to effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the overall WPS agenda is the low level of awareness by the media who could play an important role of information multipliers and reach out to the general public. This is the reason why the dominant portrayal of women during conflict is still one representing them as victims. The transformative element of Resolution 1325, which highlights women as peacebuilders and decision-makers, is not reflected in media coverage. This observation prompted GNWP to integrate media in its efforts to implement the WPS resolutions. In 2017, National Media and 1325 workshops were carried out in Armenia and Ukraine.

The National Media and 1325 workshops convened print, radio and television journalists as well as online media practitioners from across Armenia and Ukraine. Representatives from government and civil society also participated in the workshops, where they spoke about how important it is to implement UNSCR 1325 and the supporting resolutions in their countries, especially in local communities. In Armenia and Ukraine, the National Media workshops paved the way for the NAP and Localization workshops.

The National Media workshops have also led to the creation of UNSCR 1325 Media Award in Ukraine. GNWP hopes to replicate the media awards in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova and hold an international media and 1325 competition in 2018.

Overall, the media workshops have proven hugely successful in generating support, mobilization and momentum for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. They are a key component complementing the NAP development and implementation, and the Localization of UNSCR 1325.
**Featured Event**

**Youth Dance for Peace**

To commemorate the second anniversary of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, GNWP and its partners in various countries, organized Youth Dance for Peace (YD4P) on December 9, 2017. Saathi Nepal, Apurva Nepal, and Senator Marilou McPhedran of Canada led events in their respective countries.

In Canada, about a hundred participants gathered to celebrate the power of young people through a traditional Indigenous-led round dance in the heart of the Indigenous community in Winnipeg. The event was co-hosted by six federal members of the Canadian Parliament. It was accompanied by a Pow Wow demonstration led by the youth of the community and a teaching on the impact of Canadian Indian Residential Schools on the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

In Nepal, celebrations featured traditional music, performance of a youth-led band with folk dance and poems, and special remarks from prominent personalities on youth and peacebuilding. The event gathered around one hundred and fifty participants, including young women and girls. Additionally, Girl Ambassadors for Peace in DRC and Indonesia organized social media campaigns to disseminate positive messages on role of youth in decision-making and peacebuilding.

The Youth Dance for Peace is a collective creative advocacy platform to mobilize young people in a concerted action to uphold values of unity and peace through music and dance. It has proven to be an important tool in changing the narrative and allowing youth to express their views and speak out about their role as leaders and peacebuilders. It also helped strengthen networks among various youth groups working for peace.

“This is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate the vibrant community spirit in Winnipeg. We will be paying tribute to our Indigenous sisters and brothers, through a round dance, and celebrating the power of young people - because young people are crucial agents of change and reconciliation.”

Hon. Marilou McPhedran,
Independent Senator for Manitoba, Canada
Predictable and adequate funding is a necessary condition for effective implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on Women and Peace and Security (WPS). Yet, seventeen years after the Resolution was adopted, in October 2017, only 16 out of the 68 National Action Plans (NAPs) had dedicated funding for implementation.

One of the reasons behind this is the lack of funding for the implementation of the WPS agenda. However, another reason is the lack of capacity to examine and identify domestic sources of funding and systematically allocate that to NAP implementation. Cognizant of this gap, the GNWP developed the Manual on Costing and Budgeting National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325.

No Money, No NAP: Manual for Costing and Budgeting National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 provides answers to the crucial question of how to integrate funding in national budgets, and practical, step-by-step guidance on costing and budgeting NAPs on UNSCR 1325 that can be tailored to specific national contexts. It explains how costing and budgeting NAPs facilitate the efficient mobilization and allocation of financial resources. It also presents strategies on how gender-responsive budgeting can be used to guarantee funding for NAP implementation. It analyzes how costing and budgeting of NAPs allows the money to be moved on two levels: nationally, by eliciting more concrete budgetary commitments from the governments and improving accountability; and, internationally, by making it easier for governments and civil society to advocate for more funding and for donors to commit funds.

To complement the manual, GNWP has also developed a training video. The content of the manual and the video are derived from the training modules that GNWP developed for the NAP Costing and Budgeting Workshops we facilitated in Georgia (in partnership with Cordaid), Jordan and Nepal from 2015 to 2017. UN Women funded the 2015 workshops in Georgia, and the global stream of the WPHF’s knowledge-management component supported the workshops in Jordan and Nepal in 2016 and 2017.
GNWP has been working on strengthening the links between WPS and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) since 2010. GNWP’s advocacy has been instrumental in the development and adoption of the CEDAW General Recommendation (GR) 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. GR 30 is an important instrument, affirming the linkages between WPS and CEDAW, and instructing all states to report on concrete measures to ensure women’s human rights are protected before, during and after conflict.

GNWP continues to lobby, raise awareness, and build capacity to use CEDAW, particularly GR 30 as a complementary accountability mechanism to the WPS resolutions.

In 2016, GNWP, in collaboration with Switzerland and the CEDAW Committee, successfully lobbied for an Arria Formula meeting on the Synergy between CEDAW and the WPS resolutions. 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, as well as non-State parties. This Arria Formula meeting sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Uruguay was the first time that the Security Council engaged with a treaty body.
In 2017, GNWP in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN co-organized the meeting of the Group of Friends of WPS on the Joint Implementation of the WPS resolutions and CEDAW, to raise awareness and promote the joint implementation of the WPS resolutions and CEDAW; advocate for the use of CEDAW General Recommendation 30 as a complementary accountability and monitoring mechanism to the WPS resolutions; and, to foster commitment from the members of the Group of Friends of WPS to report on their national implementation of the WPS resolutions as part of their CEDAW report.

In 2017, GNWP also developed the methodology and planned for capacity-building workshops for women’s organizations and authorities in conflict-affected countries, to ensure the implementation of the WPS resolutions as part of their CEDAW report; and know how to effectively use CEDAW reporting as an advocacy tool for better WPS implementation. The trainings, are part of a broader collaboration between GNWP and Switzerland’s Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Directorate for International Law, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, aimed at raising awareness and encouraging States parties to report on the legal framework, policies and programs they have implemented to guarantee the human rights of women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. By highlighting the parallels and complementarity between the two important legal instruments – CEDAW and the Women, Peace and Security resolutions, this work promotes coherence in reporting and respect for international law. GNWP has planned training in Nepal, Palestine and Yemen.
Thank you!

In 2017, GNWP’s work was supported by the following main donors:
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