

CIVIL SOCIETY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMPACT ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

JULY 2020



**GENERATION
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WOMEN'S
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BEIJING +25



This document was prepared by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) based on the inputs of the members of the civil society-led Action Coalition on WPS and YPS. It presents a set of recommendations on the points raised in the concept note of the Compact on Women and Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action in the Generation Equality Forum. The recommendations were generated from the Zoom meeting of the civil society-led Action Coalition on WPS and YPS on June 10, 2020, and a series of phone, Zoom, WhatsApp, and email consultations between June 19 –30, 2020. Local, national, regional and global CSOs from Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sweden, Uganda, Ukraine, UK, and the USA participated in these consultations. Representatives of the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy Youth, UN Department of Peace Operations, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women also participated at the Zoom meeting on June 10, 2020.

Many of the recommendations echo those presented by civil society and local women peacebuilders in the Vienna Declaration 2020, the outcome document of the Global Women's Forum on Women Peacebuilders & Humanitarian Actors, organized by the Austrian Development Cooperation, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund in Vienna on February 19-20, 2020; the 2018-2019 Global Study of Civil Society And Local Women's Perception of Sustaining Peace conducted by GNWP with support from UN Women; and the report from the Local consultations with women from civil society on WPS and Sustaining Peace in Colombia, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Uganda prepared by GNWP with support from Ireland and UN Women as a contribution to the Peacebuilding Architecture Review in 2020."



INTRODUCTION

Established in December 2019, the civil society-led Beijing+25 Women, Peace, and Security – Youth, Peace, and Security (Beijing+25 WPS-YPS) Coalition represents over 100 grassroots women and youth peacebuilders, national, regional, and global women’s rights and feminist organizations, and civil society networks from around the world who are working towards the full and effective implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas. The Beijing+25 WPS-YPS Coalition is committed to ensuring the integration of the WPS and YPS Agendas in the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) and all related Beijing+25 processes and outcome documents.

Concerned about the lack of representation of grassroots women and youth peacebuilders, the marginalization of the WPS and YPS agendas, and their exclusion in the official GEF Action Coalitions, the civil society -led Beijing+25 WPS-YPS Coalition disseminated an open letter calling for the intentional integration of the WPS and YPS agendas in the GEF. Furthermore, it produced an advocacy paper, which reflects key civil society messages on the WPS and YPS agendas, including their intersections with the other thematic areas of the GEF and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The UN High Level Advisory Group to the 2015 Global Study on UNSCR 1325 sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General and the members of the GEF Core Group urging for an official Action Coalition on WPS and YPS in the GEF.

In addition, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) on behalf of the civil society Coalition, met with the members of the GEF Core Group—France, Mexico, UN Women and the civil society representatives to the Core Group; various Member States, and the UN Secretary-General’s Senior Adviser on Policy Ms. Ana Maria Menéndez to present their recommendations on the intentional integration of the WPS and YPS agendas in the GEF.



COMPACT ON WPS AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION:

A RESULT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY

As a result of the well-coordinated and strategic civil-society advocacy, the GEF Core Group approved the Compact for Women, Peace, and Security and Humanitarian Action and officially announced its development on July 01, 2020.

To ensure that the Compact for WPS and Humanitarian Action remains true to its principles of accelerating implementation, strengthening accountability, and mobilizing funding for the WPS Agenda and humanitarian action frameworks, [the Beijing+25 WPS-YPS Coalition presents the following recommendations to the GEF Core Group:](#)

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), the most comprehensive global agenda for women's rights and empowerment, serves as one of the founding documents on the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and the supporting resolutions on Women and Peace and Security (WPS). Its critical area of concern on Women and Armed Conflict calls for an increase in the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels, and in the protection of women living in situations of armed conflict, among other objectives. The BPfA also underscores the gendered impact and experiences in humanitarian emergencies, and therefore the need for more holistic support for crisis-affected women, young women, adolescent girls, and gender non-conforming individuals. The multiple forms of marginalization women, young women, adolescent girls, and LGBTQIA+ persons experience, and the resulting disproportionate impact of violence, armed conflict, and humanitarian emergencies are overlapping concerns in the BPfA, WPS and Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) resolutions, amongst other WPS-humanitarian action frameworks. This highlights the inextricable links between gender equality, WPS, YPS, and Humanitarian Action.

The [2015 Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325](#) emphasized that "much of the progress toward the implementation of resolution 1325 continues to be measured in 'firsts', rather than as standard practice." Five years since the Global Study, its recommendations continue to be urgent and relevant, and are in line with what the Compact for Women, Peace, and Security and Humanitarian Action (HA) aims to achieve. Recognizing that 2020 is a year of multiple milestones and anniversaries, this document builds on, and seeks to reinforce as well as complement other key advocacy messages of civil society.



1. ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS AND EXISTING NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS ON WPS AND HA

The Compact should strengthen coordination, remove silos, and guarantee synergies across existing mechanisms and frameworks for implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas and humanitarian action including UNSCR 1325 and all supporting WPS resolutions, UNSCR 2250 and 2419 on YPS, the UN Secretary General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding, the Grand Bargain on Humanitarian Financing, the World Humanitarian Summit's Agenda for Humanity, the Peace Promise, the Charter for Change, and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. This may be achieved by regularly convening key representatives of the existing mechanisms such as, but not limited to, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Security Council Informal Expert Group on WPS, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on WPS, the WPS Focal Point Network, Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Reference Group on Humanitarian Assistance, the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group, the CEDAW Committee, the Global Compact on Refugees, UN Country Teams, the Global Coalition on YPS, the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations, the Global Survivors Fund, the GBV Area of Responsibility, and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. The Compact should map all existing mechanisms and frameworks for implementation and identify strategies for improved collaboration and coordination at global, regional, national, and local levels between intergovernmental organizations, UN entities, governments (particularly inter-ministerial or inter-agency coordination), women's civil society, youth peacebuilding organizations, and humanitarian actors on the acceleration of the implementation of WPS, YPS, and humanitarian action frameworks.

The Compact should create a platform to meaningfully and regularly consult with diverse global, regional, national and local women, young women, and LGBTQIA+ peacebuilders, human rights defenders, and humanitarian actors to ensure that their diverse views are reflected in the priorities for accelerating implementation.

The Compact should lead advocacy with Member States to institutionalize Localization as an implementation strategy within national and regional WPS frameworks (such as National and Regional Action Plans).

The Compact should recognize that many women, young women, adolescent girls, and gender non-conforming persons in conflict affected communities and humanitarian emergencies do not have access to global advocacy spaces. Therefore, the Compact should ensure that community awareness, ownership, and accountability to the WPS, YPS, and HA frameworks is facilitated. Moreover, the Compact should engage with women in religious institutions, business, and technology who are influential in their communities and yet not commonly reached by awareness-raising efforts on WPS, YPS, and Humanitarian Action.

The Compact should encourage Member States to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) and Local Action Plans (LAPs) on WPS, which are costed and budgeted, with monitoring and evaluation processes. The Compact should provide technical support to Member States to align National and Regional Action Plans with existing global normative frameworks such as the UN Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), all WPS and YPS UNSC Resolutions, the Grand Bargain on Humanitarian Financing, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sustaining Peace resolutions. UN Country Teams led by Resident Coordinators, in close coordination with civil society organizations, should play an instrumental role in providing technical support and facilitating funding for the development, implementation, and monitoring of NAPs and LAPs.

The Compact should leverage the political influence and reach of its multi-stakeholder governance structure to increase the visibility of the WPS and HA agendas, specifically of local-level initiatives and efforts, beyond the Security Council. Local-level efforts and innovations should be highlighted in global and regional institutions and bodies such as the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, and the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as with international financial institutions such as the World Bank as well as the private sector.



The Compact should strengthen the nexus between WPS and HA by advocating for a strong WPS perspective in humanitarian action. This entails:

- ensuring the meaningful participation of women and youth peacebuilders in the decision-making and leadership of humanitarian interventions, including COVID-19 response programs, at the international and regional levels such as the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway coordinated by the Pacific Islands Forum;
- ensuring the meaningful participation of women and youth affected by conflict and crisis, including women refugees, internally displaced women, and women in host communities, in developing and implementing Regional Action Plans, National Action Plans, and Local Action Plans on WPS, as well as in developing policies and programs for the long-term socio-economic recovery from COVID-19 amongst other health emergencies and natural disasters; and
- ensuring resilience, prevention, and human rights are at the forefront of the work of the Compact on WPS and Humanitarian Action.

The Compact should advocate for gender-responsive humanitarian action that goes beyond the provision of immediate services in order to address and transform structural sexual and gender-based violence, and all of forms of discrimination against women, young women, adolescent girls, and LGBTQIA+ persons.

The Compact should call for women and youth participation in decision-making and leadership in relief and recovery measures as well as gender-responsive conflict prevention and human security approaches to address the environmental drivers of conflict.

The Compact should develop an implementation strategy for strengthening the nexus between WPS-HA particularly at the global and regional levels, building on existing commitments, with clear and actionable provisions which are time-bound and fully resourced.

2. STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS FOR EXISTING NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS ON WPS AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Compact should use the momentum of the Generation Equality Forum and the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 to strengthen accountability mechanisms by:

- strongly advocating for mandatory reporting by Member States on existing normative frameworks on WPS, YPS, and HA at global and regional levels through formalized, regular, monitoring mechanisms within the anniversaries of women's rights mechanisms and intergovernmental processes, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the High Level Political Forum, UN General Assembly, WPS and YPS resolutions' anniversaries, and UN Human Rights Council Sessions; and
- strongly calling for an end to impunity for crimes against women and girls in conflict by demanding the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence and the transformation of regressive legal and judicial institutions and transitional justice processes.

The Compact should support the UN Women-led effort to streamline the existing indicators on the implementation of WPS and HA commitments. The Compact members should use their reach and networks to validate the consolidated indicators with civil society and local women peacebuilders, and disseminate the indicators for widespread use by Member States to regularly report on their progress in WPS implementation, and to base the monitoring mechanisms for their own National Action Plans on WPS on these.



The Compact members should regularly report on the consolidated set of indicators. The reporting could be done at the national level (such as reports to the parliament), at the regional level (through the regional meetings and organizations of heads of state (such as the Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting, African Union, European Union), and at the international level. These reports should ensure that the perspectives and work of local authorities, leaders, and civil society are reflected in national, regional, and international monitoring and reporting. The monitoring reports should be disseminated to the general public.

The Compact members should recognize and invest in women's civil society-led monitoring of the progress on WPS implementation, including through:

- mobilizing funds to support civil society monitoring;
- ensuring 30 percent representation of women-and-youth-led peacebuilding and humanitarian networks in monitoring and accountability mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels; and
- establishing clear reporting channels for local and national civil society organizations to submit information to regional monitoring mechanisms (such as the African Union's Continental Results Framework on WPS).

The Compact members should call for and support the creation of formalized mechanisms to monitor and report on the implementation of peace agreements, particularly the gender provisions, such as the provisions on quotas for the formal participation of women in political decision-making. It should guarantee women and youth peacebuilders meaningful participation in such mechanisms. Furthermore, the Compact should conduct consultations with Member States that are in the process of implementing peace agreements and civil society in those countries in order to map different modalities for effective, inclusive and gender-responsive monitoring.

The Compact should call on Member States and regional inter-governmental organizations (RIGOs) to include reporting on the implementation of WPS resolutions and the integration of gender and participation of women-led CSOs in humanitarian action in their reports to CEDAW. The information in the CEDAW reports should follow the consolidated set of indicators (see previous recommendation above). It should reflect the status of the implementation of WPS resolutions, including at the local level, and not only the adoption of the National Action Plans on WPS.

The Compact should call for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of gender provisions in humanitarian frameworks.

3. MOBILIZING FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS AND EXISTING NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS ON WPS AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Compact should allocate and mobilize funding to ensure that a broad spectrum of civil society actors are able to meaningfully participate in key activities of the Compact and the GEF. In addition to travel funds, the following forms of support are necessary: conference spaces, improved access to internet and other communication technologies, visas, childcare, and personal assistants (for women with disabilities), translation and sign interpretation. The Compact should commit to financially supporting women-led civil society that are not traditionally included within international women's rights advocacy including local women and youth peacebuilders from conflict- and crisis-affected communities, LGBTQIA+ , and human rights defenders.

The Compact should ensure that there is transparency on funding raised for its work including specific funds for women and youth-led civil society's participation in the Compact. It should call for the same transparency from the GEF Core Group and the GEF Secretariat. A minimum of 30 percent of all funding for the Compact initiatives should go directly to women and young women-led civil society, particularly those working at the local level.



The Compact should serve as a connector between existing funding streams for WPS and HA, by engaging and regularly convening a wider array of financial stakeholders in its operations, such as regional development banks, philanthropic organizations and women's funds, and the private sector, including women-led social enterprises, and international financial institutions. At the same time, it is important to investigate the opportunities and challenges of engaging with the private sector and non-traditional donors.

The Compact should organize donor conferences wherein civil society, UN, Member States, and the private sector will work together to formulate concrete, coherent, and sustainable strategies to guarantee accessible, flexible, demand-driven and long-term funding to women's rights and youth organizations of different sizes and capacities.

The Compact should facilitate discussions between civil society and relevant UN funding mechanisms, such as the Peacebuilding Fund's Gender and Youth Peace Initiative (GYPI), in order to make them more accessible to a broad range of civil society actors working on WPS and HA, and in particular, women and young women-led CSOs.

The Compact should strongly advocate for increasing gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive needs analysis in humanitarian and peacebuilding financing, with a focus on inclusive and sustainable peace and development. Cognizant of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Compact should strongly advocate for a gender-responsive, conflict-and crisis-sensitive analysis to be applied as a basis for all COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives.

Donor Member States and other donors that are members of the Compact should set the example by providing flexible, predictable, transformative, and accessible long-term funding on the nexus of WPS and HA for women- and youth-led peacebuilding organizations, women and LGBTQIA+ human rights defenders, and first responders from all world regions. Funding opportunities should be program-based rather than project-based, and should include core funding to support institutional strengthening. Funding application and reporting procedures should be simplified.

The Compact should work with the Peacebuilding Fund, the International Financial Institutions and other donors or potential donors on WPS and HA to create and track indicators on:

- the percentage of WPS funding that goes directly to women-and-youth-led peacebuilding organizations;
- the percentage of humanitarian action funding that goes directly to women-and-youth-led humanitarian organizations and first responders; and
- the UN's 15 percent gender-funding target for peacebuilding initiatives.

The Compact should support civil society campaigns or initiatives to reduce military spending to channel such funds to the implementation of the WPS and YPS agenda and humanitarian action guided by a human security framework.

The Compact should advocate for the documentation of the impact of gender-sensitive conflict prevention and use this data to encourage increased donor support for conflict prevention and early warning systems.

4. MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL WOMEN AND YOUTH PEACEBUILDERS IN COMPACT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Compact should ensure geographic, inter-generational, and intersectional inclusion of local peacebuilders and crisis-affected women, young women, adolescent girls, and gender non-conforming persons in its governance structure. (Please see recommendation on 30 percent representation of women-led CSOs in the Compact governance structure.)

Civil society participation in the design and implementation of the Compact should be adequately resourced and logistically supported. The Compact should prepare a mitigation strategy for international travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic that could inhibit grassroots women and youth-led civil society participation in the Generation Equality Forum in 2021.



The Compact should enhance the capacities of women-led local and regional networks, alliances, and coalitions, and youth organizations to meaningfully participate in its governance structure, design, and implementation. It should fund capacity-building about the GEF and the Compact including through a series of small in-person and online workshops. Materials should be available in local languages through targeted outreach programs. Local knowledge and awareness raising on WPS and HA should be conducted in consultation with local stakeholders.

The Compact should find ways to adequately address the digital divide and take into account the inaccessibility of internet and technology to guarantee broad-based participation, especially of grassroots civil society organizations and crisis-affected peacebuilders.

5. STRONGER INTEGRATION OF YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY INTO COMPACT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Compact should call on Member States, the UN and regional organizations to prioritize young women and adolescent girls' leadership in peace and security processes and accelerate implementation of the YPS Agenda. While there is emphasis on young women peacebuilders' leadership in the governance structure of the Compact, the integration of the YPS agenda throughout the Compact should be further strengthened.

The Compact's focus on accelerating implementation, mobilizing financing, and strengthening accountability for existing policies should include the UNSC Resolutions 2250 and 2419 on YPS. The Compact should ensure that the diversity of young women, adolescent girls, and all gender non-conforming youth's experiences in conflict are reflected in efforts to monitor the progress on defined commitments. The Compact should highlight the achievement and leadership of local young women-led CSOs in implementing the YPS, WPS, and humanitarian action frameworks.

The Compact should ensure that funding is distributed equitably to peacebuilding and humanitarian initiatives by young women-led civil society groups who also advocate for women's rights and gender equality.

The Compact should facilitate regional consultations among young women-led organizations working on peacebuilding and humanitarian action. These consultations will raise awareness of YPS and the linkage between YPS, WPS, and HA frameworks and the BPFAs. The consultations will also enable data collection on the implementation of the YPS agenda and how it can advance the leadership of young women in peacebuilding and humanitarian action.

The Compact should enhance and create networking spaces for young women-led organizations from conflict affected countries in the GEF process. Young women-led organizations from conflict affected countries do not have access to skills, opportunities and spaces to connect with governments, UN, RIGOs, and CSOs.

6. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Board of the Compact should have at least 30 percent representation from women and young women-led civil society that represent local, national, regional, and global organizations dedicated to the implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas, the full integration of gender in humanitarian action, and are active in the Beijing+25/GEF processes.

The Board of the Compact should ensure equal leadership of WPS and humanitarian actors.

The Board of the Compact should ensure coordination with the leadership of the GEF Action Coalitions. A conflict- and crisis-lens should be integrated into all outcomes of the GEF. This includes a five-year action plan with concrete, specific, and measurable objectives to mainstream WPS, YPS, HA frameworks into the agenda of the GEF Action Coalitions. The Compact should advocate for the meaningful participation and representation of local women and youth peacebuilders in the leadership of all GEF Action Coalitions.

The Compact should conduct a thorough vetting of its members, in order to ensure that all members (Member States, civil society, and private sector) do not intentionally fuel conflict or inhibit the implementation of WPS, YPS, and HA frameworks.



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For more information on the civil society recommendations to the Compact on WPS and HA, and the civil society-led Coalition on WPS-YPS, please contact Mavic Cabrera-Balleza (mavic@gnwp.org) or Mallika Iyer (mallika@gnwp.org).