

The Adoption of the United Nations Resolution on Financing for Peacebuilding Strengthens the Power of Women Peacebuilders

UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) officially recognizes that women are critical to preventing violence and building peace. However, the lack of adequate and sustainable feminist funding poses serious barriers to their peacebuilding work. Women peacebuilders require flexible funding that addresses their unique priorities and is designed to support – rather than complicate – their work. Many existing funding mechanisms have long and difficult processes that interrupt the meaningful work of local women peacebuilders and prevent resources from reaching their intended purposes. However, despite existing challenges, states, donors, civil society, and the private sector are working to ensure the availability of funds and meaningful support to women peacebuilders.

“When women peacebuilders receive funding, they tend to be pushed towards humanitarian or development work... It feeds into their isolation from being included into decision-making in peacebuilding.” Aicha Madi, Project Officer – Peace Track Initiative (PTI), Yemen

The Adoption of the Financing for Peacebuilding Resolution

The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution [A/RES/76/305](#) on Financing for Peacebuilding in September 2022. It encourages Member States to consider innovative solutions for “adequate, predictable and sustainable” financing of peacebuilding efforts. More importantly, it urges efforts to fund initiatives that integrate women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in the planning, implementation, and reporting of peacebuilding programming. It also encourages other UN and non-UN funding mechanisms to increase their percentage of peacebuilding funding dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (A/RES/76/305, OP 6). The “Feminist Solutions for More Impactful Financing for Peacebuilding”¹ paper outlines many of the recommendations presented in the Resolution.

The Expert Meeting on Feminist Financing for Peacebuilding

On October 27, 2022, the Feminist Financing Group brought together representatives of Member States, the UN, and civil society for the first time since the adoption of the Financing Resolution to discuss concrete actions for more meaningful inclusion of women in decision-making around developing and implementing funding priorities. The discussion highlighted the significance of multi-year and flexible funding mechanisms. It also emphasized the important role of international financial institutions (IFIs) and the private sector in building and sustaining peace and called for enhanced strategic partnerships between the UN and IFIs.

Recommendations for Strengthening Feminist Financing

- Include women in defining funding practices
- Initiate women-led conversations on financing for peacebuilding
- Demand the inclusion of women-led organizations as a prerequisite for funding
- Simplify reporting and proposal requirements
- Collaborate with and engage existing initiatives, including the Feminist Foreign Policy+ group
- Spotlight women and youth to determine funding priorities
- Establish a donor coordination group to lead policy change
- Engage embassies for financing peacebuilding work
- Strengthen collaboration between IFIs and the UN

Examples of Meaningful Inclusion

- Kenya: Foster strategic partnerships with governments

As a result of advocacy by the WPS community, the Government of Kenya allocated resources to fund their National Action Plan (NAP) on Resolution 1325 and tasked county governments to support the advocacy efforts of the NAP and WPS Agenda at the local level.

- Myanmar: Collaborate with embassies for direct funding

Given that very often accessing funds from multilateral organizations can be challenging, women peacebuilders in Myanmar successfully advocated to receive direct funding from Norway and Sweden’s embassies.

- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Ensure flexible funding in conflict-affected areas

Unlocking and securing funds is even more challenging in conflict-affected areas due to ongoing crises, violence, and poor governance. In these environments, women are the most vulnerable. Peacebuilders from the DRC emphasized that flexible funding to women-led organizations in times of crisis allows them to address issues both at local and national levels.

¹ The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Kvinna till Kvinna, MADRE, and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Fund Us Like You Want Us To Win: Feminist Solutions for more Impactful Financing for Peacebuilding Background Paper (2021) can be accessed at: <https://icanpeacework.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Fund-us-like-you-want-us-to-win.pdf>

Existing Funders Best Practices

Include women in decision-making structures

- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and International Civil Society Action Network's (ICAN) Innovative Peace Fund (IPF) request the support of its network members to define their funding mechanisms.
- Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) conducts trainings on gender-responsive costing and budgeting of NAPs on WPS to ensure the participation of women in decision-making on NAPs and budget priorities.
- Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) has women-led peacebuilding organizations as representatives of its Fund and steering committees with an equal voice to its funding systems, governance, and mandate. It is an example of feminist leadership and management.

Offer long-term and flexible funding modalities

- With the option of various funding modalities, ICAN's IPF and Kvinna till Kvinna allow grassroots women to define their own priorities and develop interventions in their communities based on their unique knowledge and needs.

Remove strict program and bureaucratic financial reporting practices

- Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and ICAN's IPF provide easy program and financial reporting options to their partners.

Invest in institutional and technical capacities of women peacebuilders

- Besides providing financial support, GAC and ICAN also develop the capacities of their partners through trainings, practical tools, and guidance on various thematic areas in their peacebuilding efforts.
- GNWP pioneered the Localization of 1325 strategy to ensure local ownership and context-specific implementation of the WPS Agenda, which includes building the capacity of women's rights organizations and women peacebuilders.

Provide emergency funding options

- GPPAC and ICAN respond to imminent crises in Ukraine and Afghanistan by providing emergency funding that quickly channels resources to local women peacebuilders.
- GNWP allows funds to support women during humanitarian emergencies, including for supplies, security, and protection.

Next Steps

The unanimous adoption of the Resolution marks a major milestone in pushing us towards systemic change and provides leverage to capitalize on Member States' commitments to accelerate efforts to integrate women's equal participation in peacebuilding at all levels. Stakeholders, including donors, IFIs, and the private sector, should focus on how to enhance more inclusive, sustainable, and timely funding for women peacebuilders. To move forward, concrete action is needed to ensure that women peacebuilders are meaningfully included in decision-making around financing priorities, which will increase the efficacy of donor funding and strengthen the impact of peacebuilding programming.

To Donors: What is one practice or policy you will change to improve your funding scheme?

To Civil Society: What is one recommendation of good practice that can be shared or adopted by donors or applied in other contexts?

"It's critical to support the organization itself, the individuals that make it up, and the larger networks, because this is what supports the broader peacebuilding system and the women. It's also essential to have flexible funds for women-led organizations to do thematic work and address broader structural issues – rather than having to focus on specific project outputs." Rajaa Altalli, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Center for Civil Society and Democracy, Syria.