

Inputs for the Zero-Draft of the Pact for the Future

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Chapeau

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) is a coalition of over 100 women's and peace organizations from conflict and crisis-affected areas worldwide, including diaspora communities. Our members are women, young women and gender equality allies who work to promote and maintain peace in their communities. We work alongside them to amplify their voices and promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in formal and informal peace processes and decision-making, while supporting their work to prevent wars and violence, respond to crises, and build just, inclusive and sustainable peace.

In response to the call for collective action, GNWP is keen to provide its series of inputs for the preparation of the zero-draft of the Pact for the Future. GNWP's contributions highlight the important links between gender equality, sustainable development, international peace and security, technological innovation, youth participation and global governance. We advocate for a Pact that is not only sustainable but also just and inclusive. This chapeau serves as a call to action, urging stakeholders to integrate gender-responsive perspectives and recommendations in the zero-draft. In doing so, we pave the way for a future where women and youth are recognized as central to peacebuilding and women, in all their diversity, are respected and uplifted as leaders and decision-makers, and their rights are promoted, protected and fulfilled.

Chapter I. Sustainable Development and Financing for Development

GNWP recognizes and prioritizes the importance of sustainable development. To ensure the meaningful contribution of women to inclusive and sustainable peace, as well as gender-responsive humanitarian and development action, GNWP invests in the capacity-building and organizational strengthening of diverse women and young women in local communities affected by violent conflicts and humanitarian crises. The following recommendations aim not only to enhance the effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) resolutions but also to align with the objectives outlined in the Pact for the Future:

1. Acknowledge the existing gaps in the intersections of gender and conflict, particularly in relation to the role of women and youth in peace processes and peacebuilding.
2. Prioritize the inclusion of gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive provisions in all policies and programming under existing commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Engage fully with grassroots and local civil society organizations working on WPS implementation to proactively consider the linkages with the WPS resolutions in the

monitoring and evaluation of Member States' Sustainable Development Goals implementation strategies.¹

4. Allocate funding targeted toward synergistic efforts and programs at the intersection of the 2030 Agenda, WPS and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) resolutions.
5. Address the gender bias in financial mechanisms, foster relationships of trust between donors and women peacebuilders, and dedicate resources to explore mechanisms that better support diverse women peacebuilders – ensuring that peacebuilding financing is feminist.²
6. Streamline and enhance funding processes by adopting a more flexible approach to criteria and requirements, improving accessibility for women peacebuilders seeking financial support.
7. Strengthen local women peacebuilders' capacity through grant management training, provide direct funding to women-led organizations and involve local women and grassroots organizations in the co-design of programming and funding mechanisms.
8. Ensure the designation of peacebuilding allocations across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus by incorporating conflict-sensitive analysis into peacebuilding resources.
9. Increase funding for gender equality programming in humanitarian action and investment in pooled funding mechanisms to support localized, sustainable and women-led peacebuilding, development initiatives and crisis responses.

Chapter II. International Peace and Security

Through our implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas and Sustaining Peace resolutions, GNWP embraces a full-cycle approach that includes policy advocacy, policy development, Localization of WPS and YPS resolutions strategy, collaboration with journalists and media practitioners, and monitoring and evaluation.³ GNWP's programs address the underlying factors that lead to conflict. Recognizing the evolving and increasing nature of conflicts, GNWP sets forth the following recommendations for the Pact of the Future to address the full implementation of peace and security resolutions sufficiently:

1. Prioritize the needs and respect the rights of conflict-related sexual violence and slavery survivors throughout global responses, ending impunity for sexual violence and building sustainable and inclusive peace.
2. Emphasize specific policies, provisions and programming – especially in National Action Plans (NAPs) or other national-level laws – that address conflict-related sexual violence and survivor-centered responses.
3. Monitor Member States' implementation of WPS resolutions as a crucial step in addressing the continued incidence of sexual violence committed against women during armed conflict.

¹ See GNWP's policy brief entitled "Peace in Sustainable Development: Aligning the 2030 Agenda with Women, Peace and Security" available at: <https://gnwp.org/wps-in-sustainable-development/>

² See the background paper prepared by GNWP, in partnership with the 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) entitled "Fund Us Like You Want Us To Win" available at: <https://gnwp.org/fund-us-like-you-want-us-to-win/>

³ Additional details about GNWP's Full Cycle Implementation approach and programs are available at: <https://gnwp.org/what-we-do/global-policy-local-action/>

4. Recognize corruption as a root cause of insecurity for women and their exclusion from peacebuilding and decision-making by embedding corruption-related analysis into implementation policies of the WPS agenda.⁴
5. Ensure that there is a broad understanding of corruption and its effects on women during peacebuilding processes, including sexual exploitation and abuse as forms of corruption.

Chapter III. Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation

Cybersecurity plays a key role in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future. GNWP emphasizes cybersecurity in its work by conducting research and training to protect human rights and combat cyber threats against diverse women peacebuilders, documenting their use of information and communication technologies for peacebuilding and activism,⁵ as well as advocating for the inclusion of gender perspectives in national cybersecurity strategies.⁶ These recommendations underscore the synergy between cybersecurity and gender-based violence and their important addition to the Pact for the Future:

1. Embed cybersecurity, women's human rights and WPS in the language of UN mission mandate reviews and renewals through the production and dissemination of concrete language proposals.
2. Raise the profile of gender issues by including a pledge to mainstream gender in national cybersecurity policies and initiatives.
3. Support and promote coalition-building among organizations active in the fields of WPS, technology and cybersecurity to improve collaboration and advocacy on human-centric and gender-sensitive approaches to cybersecurity.
4. Develop a multi-stakeholder accountability mechanism to improve oversight and accountability, convene stakeholders to revise national legal and regulatory frameworks on cybersecurity and oversee their full implementation.
5. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns on gendered cyber threats, provide recommendations on cybersecurity hygiene strategies for women and other vulnerable groups and equip them with information on digital rights and channels for reporting cyber incidents and contacting legal remedy mechanisms.
6. Draw from the grassroots expertise of women and women's rights organizations and consider their role as active contributors to the assessment of cyber threats as well as the design and implementation of cybersecurity capacity-building and programming.
7. Encourage women's organizations, journalists, women activists and civil society to continue their advocacy on the issue of women's rights online and introducing stronger restrictions and content control to prevent hate speech, violence and harassment against women online.

⁴ See GNWP's policy brief entitled "Examining the intersections of Corruption, Human Rights, and Women and Peace and Security" available at: <https://gnwp.org/corruption/>

⁵ See GNWP's policy brief entitled "Women, Peace, and Security and Human Rights in the Digital Age: Opportunities and risks to advance women's meaningful participation and protect their rights" available at: <https://gnwp.org/digitalization-research-report/>

⁶ See GNWP's research report entitled "Gendering Cybersecurity through Women, Peace and Security: Gender and Human Rights in National-level Approaches to Cybersecurity" available at: <https://gnwp.org/gender-cybersecurity-through-women-peace-security/>

Chapter IV. Youth and Future Generations

At GNWP, we stand steadfast in elevating and promoting diverse young women as leaders, influencers and peacebuilders. GNWP's Young Women+ Leaders for Peace (YWL) program trains young women to become leaders, policy influencers and agents of peace in their local communities.⁷ By hosting a variety of advocacy initiatives, such as training of trainers on peacebuilding, we support young women to design and implement their own advocacy campaigns and convene peace dialogues in their communities. Recognizing the important and unique perspectives of youth peacebuilders, GNWP urges for the inclusion of the following recommendations:

1. Conduct regional progress studies on the implementation of the YPS agenda to understand the extent to which it has been effectively put into practice, allowing for collaboration with youth peacebuilders as well as ensuring the 2030 Agenda responds to the particular needs of young people.
2. Acknowledge that young women face challenges as young adults to conform to expectations regarding gender roles and sexual preferences, limiting their participation and undermining their potential contribution to conflict prevention. As such, they must be identified as a distinct demography that is separate from girls.
3. Ensure that all stakeholders integrate an intersectional perspective when considering gender norms, identities and age, and how it affects young women's participation in peacebuilding and humanitarian action.
4. Meaningfully include youth, particularly young women, in peacebuilding efforts by incorporating their expertise and visions for peace in the development of local, national, regional and international policy- and decision-making processes, allowing for equal partnership between youth and multiple stakeholders.⁸
5. Coordinate with and invest in local youth leaders, youth-led organizations and non-formal networks as key actors in humanitarian response,⁹ by providing accessible, direct, sustainable, reliable and flexible funding.
6. Expand and ensure young women's access to gender-sensitive and age-appropriate education that incorporates modules on peace, gender equality and women's rights.
7. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms on YPS and humanitarian action, monitoring and documenting human rights abuses that pertain to young people.

Chapter V. Transforming Global Governance

The pursuit of an inclusive and sustainable future is at the heart of GNWP's advocacy and initiatives. Through its Localization of WPS and YPS resolutions strategy,¹⁰ a flagship component

⁷ Additional details about GNWP's YWL program and networks are available at: <https://gnwp.org/what-we-do/young-women-leaders-for-peace-program/>

⁸ See GNWP's research report entitled "Research Report: Perspectives on Youth Engagement in Operationalizing Peace and Security at a National Level" available at: <https://gnwp.org/research-report-perspectives-on-youth-engagement-in-operationalizing-peace-and-security-at-a-national-level/>

⁹ See GNWP's research report entitled "Bridging or Breaking the Silos: Young Women's Leadership in Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Action" available at: <https://gnwp.org/young-women-in-peacebuilding-and-humanitarian-action/>

¹⁰ GNWP has implemented Localization of WPS in over 30 countries including Armenia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Georgia, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea,

of GNWP's full-cycle implementation of the WPS, YPS and Sustaining Peace resolutions, we convene diverse local actors to collaborate in the implementation of WPS and YPS policies in their communities to ensure that stakeholders translate these policies into concrete actions that benefit women, youth and the entire community. The following recommendations are rooted in our commitment to advancing gender equality, social justice and peacebuilding efforts around the world:

1. Improve coordination and collaboration between peace, development and humanitarian actors through platforms such as the Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA)¹¹ to transform policy-making and programming to better respond to the needs of conflict and crisis-affected women, young women, adolescent girls, LGBTQI+ persons, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities and other vulnerable groups.
2. Recognize crisis- and conflict-affected local women and young women, and local women's civil society organizations as partners and essential stakeholders by increasing their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making on peace, development and humanitarian action at local, national, regional and global levels.
3. Include and promote grassroots women, youth peacebuilders and women-led civil society organizations in the highest level of UN leadership and in decision-making – locally, nationally and globally.
4. Create, sustain and strengthen institutionalized but flexible platforms for women's civil society and local women to meaningfully participate in formal and informal peace negotiations and monitor the implementation of peace agreements.
5. Monitor and hold governments accountable for the inclusive implementation of peace agreements as well as laws and policies related to gender equality and peace and security, including the WPS Resolutions and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)¹² and Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 and Goal 16.
6. Guarantee that women, especially youth, women of all abilities, indigenous women, refugees, internally displaced and other marginalized groups, are fully included at all stages of the implementation of peace agreements, as well as in all building and sustaining peace and conflict prevention initiatives, making sure that gender-sensitive provisions and language proposed by women are included in the final peace agreement and not removed in the course of negotiations.

the Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine and Yemen. The Localization strategy has also been cited multiple times by the UN Secretary-General in his reports on WPS to the Security Council as a key strategy in effective implementation. Additional details about GNWP's flagship Localization of WPS resolutions strategy are available at: <https://gnwp.org/what-we-do/global-policy-local-action/implementation-through-localization/>

¹¹ Additional details about the WPS-HA Compact are available at: <https://wpshacomcompact.org/>

¹² See GNWP's training manual entitled "Better together: How to effectively strengthen the synergies between Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security resolutions and CEDAW?" available at: <https://gnwp.org/cedaw-manual/>