



SecurityWomen

<https://www.securitywomen.org/>

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### **Chapeau**

The Summit of the Future provides a unique opportunity to address and improve our ability to respond to the critical challenges facing the international community both now, and in the future. At SecurityWomen, we stress that it is of vital importance that the Pact of the Future addresses, upholds, and renews, commitments which ensure women's 'full and effective participation and access to equal opportunities' within the field of peace and security, both nationally and internationally.

The three pillars of the United Nations – peace and security, human rights, and development – are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Thus, while increasing women's participation is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security, it is also crucial for the effective realisation of human rights, and the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Any goals held by the international community - be that the eradication of poverty, the prevention of environmental degradation or the upholding of human rights - need to encompass progress towards a more peaceful world in which gender equality is an essential component.

In the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, states outlined their commitment to place women and girls at the centre, recognising that without equality we are deprived of a just and better world.

Similarly, in the Political Declaration following the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, states recognised that the achievement of full human potential and sustainable development will not be possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied full human rights and opportunities.

**We recommend that the Pact for the Future must extend these commitments to increase the participation of women in peace and security.**

### **Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development**

At SecurityWomen we recognise the profound importance of accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for future generations.

We would like to draw attention to SDG 5 focused on achieving gender equality, and SDG 16 focused on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and to highlight the ways in which increasing women's participation in peace and security can help to accelerate the achievement of these goals.

According to the [SDG 2023 Report](#), the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030, with only 15.4% of indicators currently on track. The estimation that it will take 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership underscores the urgent need for action. Similarly, ongoing and new conflicts are derailing progress on the achievement

of SDG 16, with structural injustices, inequalities and emerging human rights challenges, also hindering progress.

Women's underrepresentation in the security sector is a critical issue. Achieving gender parity in this sector can help erode gender stereotypes, inequalities, and patriarchal cultures, fostering greater levels of gender equality and empowering women. Moreover, increasing women's participation has positive ripple effects, reducing the resort to violence and enhancing the effectiveness of peace and security operations globally.

As such, increasing women's participation in peace and security is essential, and must be prioritised to accelerate the achievement of these goals, and thus to achieve real, long term, sustainable development.

#### **Recommendations for Member States:**

- **Ensure the equal representation and participation of women in key decision-making positions in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace-building processes by 2030**
- **Allocate a fixed proportion of the defence budget to supporting gender responsive security sector reform and report on women's status and proportion in these institutions so as to enable global data collection on this [matter](#)**
- **Assess barriers to women's representation and put in place gender-responsive policies, recruitment strategies, career development initiatives and temporary special measures**

## **Chapter II. International peace and security**

At a time when international peace and security is increasingly threatened, the international community must come together to ensure that future generations inherit a more secure and safe world. A central element of that, is to increase the participation of women in peace and security sector institutions.

At a time when international peace and security is increasingly threatened, the international community must unite to ensure a more secure and safe world for future generations. A central element to achieving this is to enhance the participation of women in peace and security sector institutions. The Secretary-General, in the [New Agenda for Peace Policy Brief](#), emphasized the need to transform gendered dynamics in peace and security by calling for concrete measures to secure women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in decision making. He highlighted that the transformative potential of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda hangs in the balance due to drawbacks on women's rights and lack of political will.

SecurityWomen calls for the full and effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, as outlined in Security Council Resolution [1325](#) and subsequent resolutions.

In particular, by increasing women's representation in military roles at all ranks, it is hoped that the masculine associations of militarism which prioritise the use of force and the classification of women as victims, will begin to be eroded. Diversifying voices in defence discussions at the highest levels is crucial for conflict reduction and mitigating extreme violence.

Women's participation in peacekeeping and peace talks is linked to increased stability and longer-lasting peace, yet women remain regularly excluded from peace processes and face entrenched barriers [to participation](#). Commitments by the international community to recruit more women into military, police and peacekeeping forces will contribute significantly to creating a more peaceful world.

As the Women, Peace and Security Agenda nears its 25th Anniversary, it is more important now, than ever, to implement the Security Council Resolutions and increase the participation of women in the security sector. Without long-lasting peace and inclusive security sector forces, sustainable development cannot occur.

**Member States must:**

- 1. Prepare, finance, and implement, National Actions Plans focused on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, with a focus on efforts to increase the participation of women in security sector forces and at all levels of decision-making to 50%.**
- 2. Ensure the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and all following resolutions within the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including UNSCR 2538.**
- 3. Fully engage with the United Nation's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy and abide by commitments to increase the participation of women in international peacekeeping.**
- 4. Take action to increase the recruitment of women into national security forces, eliminating any barriers that prevent their meaningful participation.**

**Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

SecurityWomen acknowledges the unprecedented opportunities that advances in science, technology and innovation bring for accelerating the realisation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In addition, we recognise that enhancing the use of enabling technology can promote the empowerment of women and is an important element of Sustainable Development Goal 5.

With the development of a Global Digital Compact, expected to 'outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all', it is crucial to ensure that women and girls have access to education, training and job opportunities within this field.

In addition, advances in technology have led to an increase in cyber-attacks and the proliferation of online gender-based violence, which can have significant consequences for women in both the public and private sphere. The voices of women cannot be ignored in confronting these challenges, and states must adapt to eliminate the negative impacts of technological progress for women.

**Member States must:**

- Commit to coordinating actions, subsidies and incentives for digital, technical and vocational training and public access facilities for women and girls**
- End the gender digital divide by ensuring that online spaces are non-discriminatory and safe for women and by expanding women's participation in the technology sector, digital policymaking and cyber security**

- **Adopt a zero tolerance approach for online gender-based violence**
- **Ensure that police forces have gender representative units capable of responding to online gender-based violence effectively and with respect for the victims**

## **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

As highlighted in the [UN75 Declaration](#), the youth of today will bear the consequences of our action and inaction. SecurityWomen endorses the work the UN has done for the last 10 years to establish a UN Special Envoy for Future Generations, as proposed in the UN SG's [Our Common Agenda Report](#) in 2021 and included in the [UN SG's Policy Brief](#) issued March 2023.

Addressing gender inequality today is essential to prevent one half of society from wielding power to the exclusion of the other, and detriment of all, in future generations. Equal representation and participation are key to ensuring that the institutions on which future generations will depend are best positioned to meet emerging challenges.

SecurityWomen would like to draw attention to ongoing gender inequality within national security institutions and the detrimental consequences this currently has for youth, and will have for future generations if it is not effectively tackled.

Firstly, as highlighted above, women's participation in security sector institutions has the potential to lead to less war and more peace. If we do not act on this, we are denying future generations the best chance of international stability.

In addition, in recent years, public trust in security sector institutions has been dissipating, with a rise in protests and civil disobedience around the world. These protests have in part been caused by misogynistic, racist and homophobic cultures which have become ingrained within these institutions. By taking steps to tackle these cultures, and to make the sector more open to women, trust can begin to be rebuilt leading to higher social cohesion and a greater sense of security for youth.

### **Member States should:**

- i) Take concrete steps, including the use of specialised measures and gender quotas, to reach gender parity (50% participation of women) in national security sector forces**
- ii) Act to rebuild trust between youth and security sector forces by targeting the presence of misogynistic, racist and homophobic practices and cultures within their security institutions**
- iii) Remove barriers, both in the application process and in operations, that currently prevent women from participating in security sector institutions**

## **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

SecurityWomen welcomes the chapter in the Pact of the Future on Transforming Global Governance, emphasising the need to dismantle patriarchal power structures that exclude or minimise women at all levels of global governance.

In the Secretary General's Policy Brief entitled: UN 2.0, it is recognised that a crucial aspect of UN reform is the fostering of a forward-thinking culture which prioritises gender equality.

In the New Agenda for Peace Policy Brief, it is highlighted that the only way to achieve gender equality is to dismantle the patriarchy and oppressive power structures which have stood in the way of the ability of women to participate in leadership and decision-making positions.

If steps are not taken to dismantle patriarchal power structures and transform the culture within UN entities and member states, gender equality in the highest positions of power will not be reached for [130 years](#). It is essential that putting women at the centre of the transformation of global governance occurs immediately, stretching to all international and national institutions. Without inclusive transformation, global governance systems will not be equipped to effectively rise to the challenges of both the present and future.

**As such we recommend:**

- i) Renewed commitment by UN entities to reach gender parity by 2028**
- ii) Governments, the United Nations and all segments of society must take concrete action to challenge and transform gender norms, value systems and institutional structures that perpetuate exclusion or the status quo**
- iii) States should take steps to reach gender parity in national institutions, including the introduction of special measures such as gender quotas**
- iv) UN entities and Members States should listen to, respect, uphold and act upon the perspectives of women impacted by compounding forms of discrimination, marginalisation, and violence**
- v) Reform of the Peacebuilding Commission must strengthen the Peacebuilding Commission's [Gender Strategy](#), reaffirming the need for the integration of a gender perspective in all its work, and emphasising the need for concrete steps to increase the participation of women in peacebuilding.**