



Reinforcing Women, Peace and Security in ECA region – how COMPACT on WPS-Humanitarian Action can translate commitments into results

Regional Roundtable, 1 September 2022

Summary of discussions

Event [webpage](#)

[Link](#) to the recording details (Passcode: **uy5E8P*m**)

The overall purpose of the round table discussion was to exchange on how to channel their commitments and resources to address WPS-HA gaps in the region. The platform provided a space for partners who have signed the Compact to share their experiences, showcase results achieved and ‘what works’ now after one year into the Compact. Joined by also other partners. The consultation was conveyed by the UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, and it brought together representatives of member states, Civil Society, youth networks, think-thanks, academia, International and regional organizations for an open and inclusive dialogue to explore new and joint commitments to promote women’s participation in peace and security initiatives and humanitarian programming in the region.

The first session was devoted to reflecting on the key three achievements in implementing commitments of the WPS-HA Compact in 2021 and discussing what works and what does not work in terms of translating commitments into actions and sustaining the results. **The second session** was devoted to discussing gaps and solutions for inclusion and Leadership for efficient implementation of WPS-HA Compact actions, followed by a moderated discussion on the priority actions to accelerate the implementation of WPS-HA commitments in the region, addressing both long-standing and emerging challenges and what could be done together through LNOB and intergenerational approaches.

War, political instability, protests, conflicts, and demonstrations in this region (ECA) have produced new challenges and risks. The continuing war in Ukraine has repercussions around the world, and as in all conflicts, women and girls are disproportionately affected. As we think to help the Ukrainians, who have suffered so much and will likely continue to do so for years, we must also consider all the women and children affected by earlier wars and conflicts in this region. Including Afghan, Syrian, and Iraqi women and girls who have sought refuge in this region.

Overview of the WPS-Humanitarian Action Compact – how it is expected to strengthen accountability for WPS-HA

- [Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact](#) (WPS-HA Compact) is aimed to bring generations together as an inclusive platform for action with specific pledges. It combines voluntary monitoring and finance to ensure that women, peace and security, and humanitarian action are more visible.
- WPS-HA Compact established to examine the achievements in terms of the commitments on advancing women's rights and promoting their participation in peace, security and humanitarian action and gaps.
- Realizing the lack of implementation on WPS-HA, the Compact focuses on implementation and works toward the nexus of peace, humanitarian, and development in line with the generation quality initiative.
- The Compact welcomes partners around the world to [join the Compact](#) and promote accountability on implementing the WPS-HA agenda (*For more information about the Compact please visit the [Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact](#)*).
- The ECA region has fifty signatories to the Compact. The civil society has been the driving force behind women's rights, peace and security initiatives, and humanitarian efforts in this region. To ensure that peace and security work for everyone, everywhere, we must consider how it might be operationalized in the region, taking into account our various experiences.

Voices of the signatories on WPS-HA Compact:

- Key three achievements in implementing commitments of the WPS-HA Compact in 2021
- What works and what doesn't work in terms of translating commitments into actions and sustaining the results

Government of Finland, Compact's catalytic member:

- The focus of Finnish Government's commitments lies on Women's full participation in peace processes, women's leadership and participation across peace and security sector and protection of human rights, which are in line with Finnish National Action Plan on WPS. The Government is working on integrating the Compact and their commitments in the 4th National Action Plan 1325.
- Finland is investing over four million Euros on actions related to financing WPS-HA agenda through providing support to improving women's role in peace process and capacity building.
- Key lesson learned while implementing their commitments to the Compact: A promising and long-standing partnership to be maintained with key stakeholders. For example, under supporting women's participation in peace processes, Finland has supported the women's advisory board in Syria, through UN women funded projects to build their capacity and strengthen their networking and mediation skills. Hence, the Advisory Board succeeded in bringing together women from a variety of backgrounds respecting the diversity and promoting the sustainability of their efforts.
- Constraints: The issue of anti-feminist or gender equality, which is well organized and is working behind the scenes. Finland emphasized the necessity of engaging men and boys in generation equality as a factor to consider in military, civilian, and crisis management.

- Engaging men and boys in Generation Equality is important to consider in military, civilian, and crises crisis management.

Our Generation for Inclusive Peace (OGIP), Compact's catalytic member

- There is a strong opportunity that young people and youth-led organizations get via implementation stage of the Compact through contextualizing the compact for the peace-building work in their communities, countries and globally.
- The Compact, also, creates an opportunity for the other actors to engage with young people and emerging third-sector groups, using an intersectional, intergenerational¹, and multi stakeholder approach to implement their commitments to the compact.
- OGIP commitments: The organizations' focus areas are women's meaningful participation and leadership, across peace, security, and humanitarian sectors with a specific focus on young women. Thus, OGIP implements actions to build feminist movements, that strengthen women's leadership and smaller civil society organizations.
- The organization works to build connection among peace-building movement through the development of the OGIP Advocates Network which brings together diverse youth.
- OGIP suggested that young be engaged to diversify who and how they fund and to fundamentally question the mechanisms of peace and security Humanitarian processes. (Please reach out to [OGIP](#) or visit [OGIP Advocates Network](#) and [OGIP Twitter](#) - [@ourgenpeace](#) for further information).

University of Stirling, UK, Compact's signatory

- The University marked the involvement of academic institutions as distinct from other types of actors and stakeholders as one of the accomplishments of the compact.
- **Commitments:** The University is committed to develop new knowledge, utilize the existing knowledge, and co-create knowledge through collaborating with partners and those who are marginalized from the knowledge creation and participation in the global policy and narrative agendas, applying different methods, such as research to inform teaching and developments of curriculum, students' research, and research to inform policy processes with the national government and working with other international institutions, including UN agencies.
- University of Stirling tends to combine events that facilitate interactions between different types of stakeholders, including policy practitioners, decision-makers, civil society, and other types of research institutions such as think tanks, and other higher education institutions. Therefore, the University aims to develop a lab on WPS, prioritizing Compact and implementing commitments toward WPS-HA agenda and support the national and international policy development.
- **Constraints:** the nature of academia, which is not following similar programming timetable as other stakeholder. The other issue is related to funding, as research is one of the dimensions of University's work and focusing on this thematic area requires resources and sustainable

¹ OGIP Policy Paper with recommendations on intersectionality and intergenerational approaches: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/assets/documents/An-inclusive-and-sustainable-approach-to-relief-and-recovery-policy-brief-05.pdf>

funding. In addition, considering world's situation there are many pushbacks beside the progressive agendas, thus, the University tries to advocate for the legitimacy of some of the feminist work that are needed to maintain the intergenerational dimension of the work by training the next generation, including those who will deliver on WPS-HA agenda.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Compact's catalytic member

- OSCE is committed in promoting women's participation in leadership and conflict resolution as core part of organization's work on peace and security and the core of their commitments.
- The organization is committed to deliver on specific actions, in collaboration with the ODIHR, including woman's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes and women's leadership across peace, security, and humanitarian sectors.
- **Key achievements:**
 - The establishment of the networking platform for women leaders, peace builders, and mediators, which aims to deliver on the WPS-HA Compact and brings women including young women mediators, peace builders and leaders networking opportunities, strengthens their influence, and promotes exchange of experience.
 - The scholarship for peace and Security training program, which is a joint initiative with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).
 - OSCE along with UN Women provided targeted capacity building support for women negotiators from the Republic of Moldova.
 - During the last year the organization promoted the development and implementation of the NAP 1325 in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and has continued supporting the women peace builders, human rights defenders, and humanitarian workers in Ukraine through creating the opportunity to raise their voices.
- **Lessons learned:** Available and flexible funding mechanisms help the organization to respond better to crises.
- **Constraints:** Creating more administrative reporting burden, especially for small organizations.
- **Recommendations:** It is important to build the capacity of peacebuilders and offer them platforms for networking, considering an intersectional approach. Also, to address long-term barriers to women's participation in economic environments, recognizing their role in the management of natural resources and climate change.

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

- The ODIHR assists the security sector of participating states in integrating gender and human rights into policies and practices.
- **Commitments:** Focused on empowerment of women and increasing their representation in the security sector institutions and decision making.
- **Achievements:**
 - ODIHR has built the capacity of law enforcement agencies through conducting trainings to raise awareness on mainstreaming gender in institutional policies.
 - Conducted a comparative study conducted on policewomen in the OSCE region, through engaging with Policewomen Association.
 - ODIHR supports the inclusion of gender perspective to increase women representation and strengthen respect for human rights of armed forces and law enforcement personnel, primarily, women.

- The institution had two initiatives in March 2021: Firstly, launching [The Human Rights of Armed Forces Personal Compendium: Women in Armed Force](#), complemented by a fact sheet. Secondly, the continuation of the promotion of [the Gender and Security Toolkit](#), developed in collaboration with the UN Women.
- **Recommendations:** To utilize the full possibility of the existing tools to develop knowledge and new initiatives. Also, focusing on areas that have not been developed as others and promote a sustaining approach.

Inclusion and Leadership - gaps and solutions for efficient implementation of WPS-HA Compact actions:

- Avenues and priorities for strengthened women's leadership to mobilize for joint actions and sustained results
- Strengthening peace-building and humanitarian work through increased engagement with young leaders
- Enhancing partners' collaboration and engagement with non-state act

Regional Women's Lobby in South-East Europe, Compact's signatory

- The Compact is a force to reshape better future and peace, focusing on woman leadership.
- Global leadership is dominated by men and promoting women's leadership in peace represents a new vision for a better world.
- Even when crises occur, women are the responders but not in decision makers, therefore, women and key actors need to think about ensuring women's access to power and promoting power sharing and rotational leadership.
- Recommendation: Empower women's leadership through establishing quota system for decision-making in governance, peace processes, delegation, conflicting parties, mediators, etc. The world needs to consider transformational leadership because of the diverse nature of women and men's approach toward leading the world and managing the crises.

Institute for Peace and Development/Kyrgyzstan

- IPD with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office, established a successful module to organize extra-curricular activities in schools in Kyrgyzstan, through establishing peace clubs aiming to build peace and social cohesion. Currently, there are thirty two peace clubs with more than four hundred students and fifty teachers, out of which seventy five percent (of students and teachers) are female leaders, promoting tolerance, consciousness, and respect for others, regardless of any different differences between students, including based on religion, ethnic and social origins.
- The organization aims to increase the number of peace clubs in rural and remote areas of Kyrgyzstan (*For more information about IPD, please visit organization's pages on Social Media, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)*).
- **Achievement:** Platform for youth in Dopomoga, created by CSOs and other actors in Moldova, is a space to mobilize resources to cover basic gender needs of refugees and prevent GBV.

- **Recommendation:** Mobilizing resource, developing a network of women peacebuilders, promoting partnership with women's NGOs from Ukraine, Georgia, etc. and empowering women refugees and local communities to respond to humanitarian crises. Include women refugee and marginalized groups in development initiative as they are agents of development not victims of crises.

Issues discussed:

- **Pre-existing commitments to address anti-gender movements:**
 - Government of Finland's strategy is to address the issue by raising internal awareness and asking the Embassies to identify any anti-gender movements to bring the issue to the notion of the United Nations, EU, and other international forums.
 - WPS-HA Compact has set actions for implementation under women's leadership to address the issue related to harmful gender norms, lack of political will, different forms of discrimination and anti-gender movements.
 - Organizing Partner of Women's Major Group for Europe and Central Asia, also, possess measures to address anti-gender activities (*Interested partners are welcomed to reach out [Ms. Valentina Bodrug-Lungu](#) for further information*).
- **Transferring knowledge from older generation to younger generation:**
 - OGIP discusses intergenerational knowledge transfer, in both individual and organizational capacities at three-levels. Firstly, to create space for dialogue and integrate it at all aspects of programmatic and policy initiatives. Secondly, to address the dynamics of power within the knowledge transfer. Thirdly, to identify and address the structural barriers for participation to knowledge transfer for youth and women.
 - ODIHR highlights the importance of knowledge sharing and stresses on being involved regularly beside the learning about the tools and substantive knowledge to participate in peace and security efforts.

Links to resources:

The Compact WPS-HA:

- Website: <https://wpshacompact.org/> (in all UN languages)
- List of the current signatories: <https://wpshacompact.org/current-compact-signatories/>
- Signatory's application form: <https://wpshacompact.org/signatory-form/>

Partners' resources:

- OSCE WPS: <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/107451>
- OSCE [Inclusion of Women and Effective Peace Processes: A Toolkit](#) (in English and Russian)
- OGIP Advocates Network: <https://ourgenpeace.com/advocates-network/>
- OGIP Guidance on Meaningful Youth Engagement: PDF Attached
- OGIP Policy Paper with recommendations on intersectionality and intergenerational approaches: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/assets/documents/An-inclusive-and-sustainable-approach-to-relief-and-recovery-policy-brief-05.pdf>
- OGIP Twitter: @ourgenpeace
- OGIP email: OGIPcontact@gmail.com
- [Finland's NAP 1325](#)
- Institute for Peace and Development [Facebook](#)
- Institute for Peace and Development [Instagram](#)

AGENDA

14:00 – 14:10 Welcoming and opening remarks

Ms. Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia

14:10 – 14:30 Overview of the WPS-Humanitarian Action Compact by UN Women – how it is expected to strengthen accountability for WPS-HA

Keynote by Ms. Harriette Williams Bright, UN Women Policy Specialist/Peace and Security

Q&A

14:30 – 15:05 Voices of the signatories on WPS-HA Compact – panel discussion:

- *Key three achievements in implementing commitments of the WPS-HA Compact in 2021*
- *What works and what doesn't work in terms of translating commitments into actions and sustaining the results*

HE Katri Viinikka – Ambassador for Gender Equality, Government of Finland

Ms. Florence Waller Car – Co-founder, Our Generation for Inclusive Peace (OGIP)

Ms. Toni Haastrup – Professor of International Relations, University of Stirling, UK

Ms. Mariana Groba Gromes – Advisor on Gender Equality, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Mr. Francesco Marrella – Policy and Fundraising Advisor, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Q&A. Short reflections from the floor.

Ms. Harriette Williams & Mr. David Coffey, UN Women

15:05 – 15:55 Inclusion and Leadership - gaps and solutions for efficient implementation of WPS-HA Compact actions

Moderator - *Ms. Ekaterine Gamakharia, is a head of representative office for Women Fund Sukhumi in Tbilisi, Georgia*

Plenary discussions:

- **Avenues and priorities for strengthened women's leadership to mobilize for joint actions and sustained results**

Ms. Edita Tahiri, Chair of Regional Women's Lobby in South-East Europe

- **Strengthening peace-building and humanitarian work through increased engagement with young leaders**

Mr. Ulugbek Nurumbetov, Director of Institute for Peace and Development/Kyrgyzstan

- **Enhancing partners' collaboration and engagement with non-state actors**

Ms. Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, President of Gender-Centru/Moldova & Organizing Partner of Women's Major Group for Europe and Central Asia

Reflections from the floor.

Moderated discussion:

- ***What are the priority actions to accelerate the implementation of WPS-HA commitments in the region, addressing both long-standing and emerging challenges?***
- ***What could be done together through LNOB and intergenerational approaches?***

15:55 – 16:00 Wrap-up and key take aways