



Women, Peace and Security Conference, 16 October 2023, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Outcome document

Preamble: We, the participants of the “Women, Peace and Security” conference, held on 16 October 2023, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, as part of the Central Asia Women Leaders’ Caucus,

Expressing serious concern about the ongoing conflicts and wars, the imposition of radical fundamentalist values, the violation of women’s rights and the deeply rooted misogyny in the world,

Considering unacceptable the further escalation of militarism, violent extremism and terrorism, as well as the increase in criminalization and violence in society and family, which entails fatal consequences for human security,

Sharing serious concern about the continued exclusion of women from decision-making that has a direct impact on quality of life and security, and the lack of effective measures taken to ensure the effective participation of women in official peace processes,

Consider unacceptable the low representation of women in peacekeeping missions and dialogues for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, especially at the decision-making level,

and

Commit to the following key obligations:

I. Accelerate the implementation of international Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments, taking into account regional and global challenges, threats and the need to include human security and WPS issues into national development agendas.

Namely:

- Promote **a positive concept of peace** based on the principles of gender equality, human rights, solidarity, and human security.
- **Integrate the WPS provisions and commitments into national development strategies and medium-term development programs**, as well as into systems for monitoring and evaluating progress. Promote the implementation of the WPS Agenda through National Action Plans on WPS/UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (NAP 1325), as well as strategic policy documents.
- **Ensure an inclusive and transparent process of preparing the NAPs 1325** in consultation with various governmental and non-governmental organizations, women’s civil society organizations (CSOs), academia and community representatives. This consultative process should help increase ownership at the national level.

- State agencies should ensure that **the rural women's concerns are directly reflected** in the NAPs, to avoid developing plans only with urban concerns and priorities in mind.
- When developing, adopting, and implementing NAP 1325, **ensure their budgeting**. Facilitate the resource mobilization for effective implementation of national programs and policies at both national and regional levels.
- In the process of developing national policies and action plans, consider the interests and needs of women human rights defenders, as well as youth and youth activists.
- Develop a **mechanism for monitoring of national programs and NAPs 1325**. Improve the collection and analysis of qualitative data to develop policies and actions that contribute to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions, considering international standards. If necessary, also develop and implement appropriate qualitative and quantitative indicators for evaluation and annual reporting on the results of their implementation.
- Promote the **localization of NAP 1325** as a mechanism for reflecting the specifics and priorities at the local level, as well as for linking with local development plans and budgets. Localization of NAPs should be complemented by raising awareness at the local level in both rural and urban areas.
- Consider the **views, positions and recommendations made by various groups of women during peaceful dialogues and processes, including youth activists**. Peace should not be understood exclusively in its "negative" and securitized meaning, i.e. in the absence of war.
- **Ensure the full application of international norms, standards and obligations** (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Beijing Platform for Action, UN Security Council Resolutions, SDGs) at regional and national levels, to protect the rights of women and children in times of peace and war.
- Promote the **training of civil servants to understand the WPS Agenda and their direct role in its implementation across sectors and industries**. Introduce the WPS topic into educational programs for civil servants at all levels, including the municipal level. Include competence/performance assessment on WPS issues and awareness of national policy in this area in the certification of civil servants.
- Promote the **expansion of women's participation in the law enforcement and judicial system** with a view to their active participation in the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of all engaged stakeholders in law enforcement related to the WPS Agenda, as well as strengthen the role of women mediators among judges, lawyers, and legal consultants.
- At the regional and sub-regional levels, opportunities should be expanded to **create networks for the exchange of information on the progress of implementation of NAP 1325**. This will allow country representatives to get acquainted with historical trajectories and identify initiatives for joint action.
- Support **research to assess the interrelations of risks of conflict, migration, and climate change, considering gender aspects and focusing on youth and human security**. Use results to develop and implement early response measures to conflict risks. Promote the dissemination of research results and improve partnerships with research structures.

II. Strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and expand space for CSOs and development partners to fully participate and contribute.

Namely:

- Improve **legal framework regulating the activities of CSOs to create an enabling environment**, remove barriers to registration and operationalization of CSO activities, as well as other discriminatory norms. Improve national legislation in the field of data protection for human rights organizations and their representatives, as well as on the general activities of CSOs.
- Contribute to the **formation of a positive image of CSOs as partners in development, the promotion of human rights and gender equality**. Pay attention to the protection of personal data of human rights defenders and human rights organizations, taking into account the risks to their personal security and the creation of a negative image of organizations. Encourage the dissemination of information about the activities and results of CSOs to the public.
- **Support the implementation of WPS through state-supported grants** (social orders) to **CSOs**.
- Develop and implement effective communication **mechanisms between CSOs and government agencies**. Reflect the role and contribution of CSOs in the implementation of the WPS Agenda in national/state reports.
- Promote **improvement of interaction of the civil and non-governmental sector** with national structures in the field of decision-making on WPS issues. Expand the areas of mutual cooperation, including ensuring the representation of CSOs from Central Asian countries in global platforms and processes on WPS issues as equal participants along with CSOs from other regions.
- Support the **creation of advisory bodies and the inclusion of WPS in the program of public councils and platforms** for the exchange of information, research results and best practices.
- Provide **spaces for dialogue and cooperation for local women in divided communities** to share information about the vulnerability of their communities and present their specific recommendations on how they can work with women "from the opposite side".
- Promote the **participation of women and women's CSOs in negotiations on transboundary water management**, use their experience and practical knowledge to reduce the risks of tension on the ground, and ensure their inclusion in processes and dialogues on the nexus of climate change, conflict and gender inequality. Consider the possibility of discussing the issues of women's participation in water diplomacy within the framework of the upcoming Women's Water Forum at a high-level international conference held by the UN and the Government of Tajikistan on a regular basis.
- Promote **valuable and meaningful participation and contribution of women in decision-making processes within regional organizations**, including through the creation of special advisory committees of women for interregional and regional structures, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and EurAsEC.
- Identify and eliminate barriers, including at the legislative and executive levels, for **women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution processes, through mechanisms of mediation, preventive and people's diplomacy**.
- Promote the **creation of favorable conditions for the active participation of women peacekeepers and human rights defenders in processes of fulfilling obligations** under the WPS Agenda.
- **Provide a platform for women and girls affected by conflicts to discuss and agree on common solutions** to consolidate regional advocacy aimed at fighting for the rights of women and girls in situations of conflict and crisis.

III. Strengthening the activity, visibility and representation of countries from the region in international processes and on international platforms for WPS/1325

Namely:

- Ensure **representative participation of responsible government agencies and CSOs in international processes and platforms**, including [the Compact on WPS and Humanitarian Action](#) (WPS-HA Compact), and [the WPS Focal Points Network](#).
- Encourage sharing of existing best practices and experiences, as well as the dissemination of knowledge.
- Promote **mutual trust and cooperation between women leaders, women's CSOs, activists and women's rights defenders** at the national, regional and global level.
- Expand **regional exchange and peer-to-peer dialogue** on the implementation of the WPS Agenda.

IV. Strengthening accountability for implementation of the WPS Agenda commitments

Namely:

- Include **assessment of progress on WPS** in the national reviews of the progress of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+30) by using SDG indicators and plan next steps and actions.
- Include issues of progress in implementing the WPS Agenda in the national reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights obligations' implementation.
- **Conduct a detailed analysis of the data collection and reporting system on WPS**, using global indicators to identify gaps and difficulties in data collection and analysis, identifying measures to address them and synchronizing them with the SDG indicators.
- **Conduct an annual Central Asian Forum** to monitor the progress in the implementation of the WPS Agenda with the involvement of all stakeholders.
- Conduct consultations at the country and regional level with all interested parties to discuss the **Roadmap for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on WPS in the Central Asian region**.
- Discuss the **status of implementation of the above recommendations and proposals** at the next meeting of the Central Asia Women Leaders' Caucus.