

# 2024 OPEN DAY FOR REGIONAL WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY DIALOGUE

5-6 SEPTEMBER 2024  
CHISINAU, MOLDOVA



## STATEMENT

### PREAMBLE

From September 5-6, 2024, we, 60 women leaders and representatives from women-led organizations across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine gathered in Chisinau, Moldova to share views, experiences and best practices related to the implementation of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) commitments.

As we approach the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on WPS next year, we as representatives of civil society have a critical opportunity to reflect on past achievements and chart a bold course for the future. We consider that this is a moment to galvanize collective efforts, ensure that actions are not merely reactive but proactive and transformative, address and remedy the root causes of the conflicts and build an enduring peace and stability for our region.

We fully support the New Agenda for Peace proposed by the UN Secretary-General and emphasize the importance of linking this agenda with the WPS agenda.

We expect that the Summit of the Future on 21-22 September this year would be followed by a strengthened commitment to advancing the WPS agenda, including improved funding and ensuring an equal role for civil society in its implementation.

### OUR APPEAL

Having discussed our views and solutions to address sub-regional challenges in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, with an emphasis on human security and gender equality,

- ▶ *We urgently propose to move beyond incremental measures and embrace a vision that drives profound and sustainable progress and contributes to the prevention of wars and armed conflicts,*
- ▶ *We consider UNSCR 1325+25 milestone not just a moment for celebration, but an opportunity to catalyze coordinated actions for transformative change, and*
- ▶ *We call for actions which are essential for advancing the WPS agenda and achieving a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable peace and security framework:*



## Transition to a People-Centered Approach to Sustain Peace

### Actions:

- Shift from traditional hard-security models to a people-centered approach that prioritizes human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment.
- Adopt a peace-positive approach that emphasizes fostering conditions for sustainable and dignified peace, rather than simply aiming for the absence of conflict.
- Ensure that all policies and programs are grounded in core human security and gender equality values.
- Address inequalities, safeguard women's rights, and create equal opportunities for marginalized groups.
- Engage in discussions and decision-making regarding the new strategic framework, including operationalization of the Pact for the Future adopted at the UN Summit of the Future.
- Contribute to shaping effective and inclusive policies that integrate WPS commitments at global levels.
- Ensure systematic gender mainstreaming and enhance cooperation, coordination, and mutual accountability in policy implementation.
- Focus on prevention and protection in crisis response, including the implementation of early warning systems, both engaging and protecting those affected by conflict.

#1325

## Full Spectrum Implementation of the WPS Agenda

### Essential Actions proposed to States and the International Community:

- Ensure the full implementation of the four WPS pillars - prevention, protection, participation, and relief and recovery—across governance and society, promoting equal leadership of women and addressing the needs of all conflict-affected individuals.
- Guarantee that adequate financial resources are allocated to National Action Plans (NAPs) from state budgets and mobilized externally to comprehensively cover all implementation costs, both direct and indirect, ensuring these plans are fully realized.
- Mandate the localization of the WPS agenda within local development policies and disaster preparedness plans to ensure genuine national ownership and effective implementation at all levels.
- Make the WPS Agenda central to the development policies and peace processes of Eastern Partnership countries, integrate the WPS agenda into the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach, especially in crisis and conflict-affected contexts, including in all phases of recovery efforts.
- Support an enabling environment and robust national policies to protect women's organizations facing significant obstacles due to backlash against women's rights and shrinking civic space. This is vital for sustaining their impact on development and human rights at regional and country levels.
- Incorporate environmental sustainability and human mobility dimensions into WPS NAPs to address the interconnected challenges of environmental degradation and climate change, which disproportionately affect women. Respond to emerging needs related to conflict consequences and climate change with timely and relevant responses from local actors.
- Prioritize the generation of data, evidence, knowledge, and sharing best practices in data management among themselves to advance the implementation of WPS commitments in the region.
- Establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to hold stakeholders accountable for their implementation and transparent reporting and evaluation.
- Ensure NAPs address cybersecurity, environmental issues, financial challenges, and youth participation as core cross-cutting concerns. These plans must clearly outline the roles of CSOs and conflict-affected women in both the implementation and monitoring processes to ensure comprehensive and effective outcomes.





## Strengthen Support Systems for Women and Youth Leaders and Peacebuilders

### Actions:

- Introduce quotas for women in negotiation delegations and mediation teams to ensure their voices and insights are integral to conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to foster more inclusive and reflective negotiation processes that address the diverse experiences of affected populations.
- Support the flexible funding for CSOs<sup>1</sup> to strengthen the institutional capacity of women's organizations during and after conflict. This will enhance their immediate response capabilities and increase financing for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Empower women to take on leadership roles and drive peace and security initiatives through comprehensive mentoring programs, intensive leadership training, and dynamic networking opportunities.
- Introduce concrete measures to eliminate prevailing gender stereotypes and harmful social norms in order to ensure inclusive, comprehensive and representative participation in decision-making in peacebuilding and security processes.
- Identify and map emerging challenges faced by CSOs, including backlashes, punitive tax policies, discriminatory legal frameworks, etc. to eliminate these practices and act to remedy the damages caused through their implementation.
- Engage with women in diaspora (refugees, displaced people, etc.) to amplify the voices of women affected by wars and conflicts.
- Make decision-making inclusive to empower CSOs by ensuring their representation in policy discussions and negotiations. This includes establishing formal mechanisms for CSOs to contribute to decision-making processes, securing their input on issues affecting their communities, and fostering partnerships that amplify their voices in governance and advocacy efforts.
- Spark public awareness of the vital contributions women and youth make to WPS policies and actions – it's time to amplify their impact.



## Support Resilience for Women, Youth and their civil society organizations

### Actions:

- Acknowledge a crucial role being played by women, including youth and peace activists, human rights defenders and women-led organizations, in peace and security dialogue and long-term peacebuilding.
- In order to recognize and honor the significant contributions of women peace activists in promoting peace, security and gender equality, introduce an award to celebrate their achievements, inspire others and elevate the visibility of CSOs' vital work in conflict resolution and peacebuilding as well as in localized implementation of the WPS Agenda.
- Support programs that provide economic support and facilitate the recovery of women for restoring their economic stability and enabling their full participation in post-conflict recovery and development.
- Protect women and CSOs from cyber threats and ensure their continued ability to operate effectively. Strengthen the cyber resilience of the CSO community, particularly women's organizations, by offering awareness-raising training, enhancing their technical capacities and providing necessary software licenses to prevent cyber-attacks.
- Promote collaboration between and within regional frameworks to address common security challenges and share best practices.
- Build alliances and strengthen collective responses to peace and security issues.
- Prioritize a targeted support for women and girls affected by gender-based discrimination and violence, conflict-related sexual violence, sexual abuse, and harassment, including through the internet.
- Provide ongoing protection and mental health support for women human rights defenders, especially frontline responders in conflict areas. Their critical work for vulnerable communities exposes them to fatigue, stress, and burnout during crises.
- Develop and apply crisis communication strategies which enable women activists and CSOs to navigate interactions with various stakeholders and actors in crisis situations more safely and effectively.
- Strengthen public trust in CSOs by addressing and overcoming misinformation about their work and creating effective networks to promote transparency, coordination and shared goals.

**We commit to continue to jointly move forward the transformative agenda for peace and security, women empowerment, women resilience, and women connectivity within the region and beyond.**

**We thank the Government and partners in Moldova for hosting the 2024 Open Day for Regional Women, Peace and Security Dialogue and confirm a readiness to follow-up on its conclusions and recommendations and assess their progress in 2025.**

<sup>1</sup> Based on the existing mechanisms such as the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) aimed to support local and grassroots women's civil society leaders and their organizations in conflict and crisis settings worldwide. The WPHF mobilizes and channels flexible and quality funding and capacity support to women peacebuilders, humanitarians and human rights defenders working at the forefront of WPS and Humanitarian Action issues across the globe. More information is here – Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund ([wphfund.org](http://wphfund.org))



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