

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION: SHAPING THE FIRST REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

Brief N3 - Validation of priority areas and implementation structures for the RAP, December 2025

The development of the first Women, Peace and Security Regional Action Plan for Central Asia was officially acknowledged in the final document adopted by the Central Asian Women's Dialogue in November 2024.¹ Since then, women civil society leaders and youth champions have continued to play an active role in shaping the priorities of the regional action plan. In 2025, a total of **251 women and youth participated** in **11 consultations**, ensuring that the RAP reflects diverse perspectives across the region.

These dialogues built on existing regional initiatives and networks, including the *Central Asian Alliance to End Violence Against Women*, *CAREC Women Economic Empowerment Platform*, *OSCE Network of Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism*, *OSCE Women in Energy Network*, and *Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan*.

The final validation consultation was held on 5 December 2025. Participants confirmed that the draft plan's four priority areas address key WPS challenges in the region and identified strategic entry points to advance implementation of the WPS agenda and UNSCR 1325. The dialogue also produced a set of recommendations to refine the structure and strengthen implementation of the RAP.

The development of the RAP is being led by the National WPS Focal Points and WPS experts from Central Asian countries, with strategic support from UN Women ECARO. The consultation process has been facilitated with women and youth civil society leaders, with the Task Force of the WPS multistakeholder platform for Central Asia and the South Caucasus also participating.

Structures and mechanisms for the RAP

Civil Society Inclusion

- Strengthen women-led CSOs: *Map local CSO partners, raise awareness of the RAP, and engage community-level CSOs in RAP implementation and oversight.*
- Establish a regional CSO platform: *Connect NGOs across all five countries for coordination and information-sharing, building on existing thematic networks (e.g. women in water diplomacy, EAW, CVE, youth advocacy).*
- Create a dedicated youth branch within the WPS multi-stakeholder platform: *Integrate a youth and community wing as equal partners in decision-making.*
- Leverage peer-to-peer implementation models: *Train CSOs and youth leaders to deliver community-level WPS education and awareness, replicating proven approaches.*
- Build capacity of implementing partners: *Deliver webinars and briefings for CSOs and local organizations to align initiatives with RAP priorities and WPS objectives.*

Funding and resources

- Mobilize small-grants funding for women-led CSOs: *Support local, community-driven WPS initiatives to ensure tangible, on-the-ground impact.*
- Strengthen resource mobilization: *Secure commitments from national governments and international donors, including dedicated budget allocations for the WPS RAP, supported by a clear resource mobilization strategy.*
- Engage the private sector: *Partner with businesses to co-fund programmes (e.g. entrepreneurship, job training, economic reintegration), promote inclusive workplace policies, and leverage in-kind and technical support.*
- Develop results-oriented programmes: *Translate RAP priorities into targeted interventions with clear objectives, measurable outcomes, and a focus on high-impact, scalable activities rather than one-off events.*

Implementation approaches

- Promote local ownership and accountability: *Engage government champions, local authorities, law enforcement, and community leaders through joint trainings and coordination mechanisms.*
- Secure high-level government buy-in: *Establish a regional advisory board to provide oversight and mobilize political and financial commitments for RAP implementation.*
- Leverage the WPS Multi-Stakeholder Platform (1325 WPS Platform for South Caucasus and Central Asia): *Use the platform as the primary coordination and exchange mechanism among civil society, youth, governments, and partners.*
- Implement a communication strategy: *Raise RAP awareness through local-language materials, accessible content, and dissemination via social media, community forums, and existing campaigns (e.g. 16 Days of Activism).*



1). *UN Women, Women Leaders Gather in Bishkek to Address Peace and Security Challenges in Central Asia and Afghanistan (2024)*. Available at: <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/stories/media-advisory/2024/10/women-leaders-gather-in-bishkek-to-address-peace-and-security-challenges-in-central-asia-and-afghanistan>

Four priority areas and further suggestions

Participation: Decision-making in security, climate change adaptation and water diplomacy

- Mainstream youth participation across all WPS priorities: *Integrate youth engagement throughout all RAP priority areas, ensuring youth perspectives inform all WPS work.*
- Ensure inclusive and accessible WPS initiatives: *Make programmes accessible to persons with disabilities, with particular focus on women and youth, through disability-friendly materials, accessible venues, and meaningful participation in decision-making.*
- Adapt services and reporting for women with disabilities: *Design WPS support services to meet specific needs, including accessible GBV reporting options (e.g. SMS, online) and disaggregated data collection to tailor interventions.*

Protection: Prevention of radicalization and reintegration

- Include rehabilitation and reintegration of women returnees: *Integrate long-term rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of women returning from conflict zones, including repatriated populations.*
- Mainstream prevention of women's radicalization: *Address root causes through education, economic empowerment, and community awareness, challenging norms and grievances that enable extremist recruitment.*
- Strengthen multi-sector collaboration on countering extremism: *Promote coordinated platforms uniting governments, civil society, and experts to counter violent extremism and build trust among stakeholders.*

Relief and Recovery: Ending Gender-Based Violence

- Expand support services for GBV survivors: *Strengthen local response systems, including crisis centres, shelters, hotlines, free legal aid, and psychosocial support, with focus on rural and underserved areas.*
- Drive social norm change to end violence: *Implement public campaigns, school-based education, and community dialogues to challenge tolerance of GBV and promote gender equality, engaging community, religious leaders, and media.*
- Ensure accountability and enforcement: *Operationalize legal reforms through training, clear protocols, and coordinated action by local authorities and law enforcement to protect women and respond effectively.*

Prevention: Economic empowerment and regional connectivity

- Address the needs of women migrants and displaced women: *Respond to specific vulnerabilities, including risks in labour markets and displacement due to conflict or climate change.*
- Combat stigma and exploitation: *Work with employers, communities, and authorities to reduce discrimination and abuse, and promote fair recruitment, safe workplaces, and protection from sexual harassment.*

GET INVOLVED: SHAPE THE RAP WPS WITH US !



WOMEN LEAD.
PEACE FOLLOWS.



E-RAP: Regional Hub for WPS Action Development for Central Asia

We invite all partners – state and interstate institutions, civil society, youth networks, academic institutions, and development actors – to contribute to the development of Central Asia's first RAP WPS. Your insights, expertise, and partnership are essential to ensure the RAP reflects regional priorities and drives meaningful, inclusive change.

Visit [Regional Hub for WPS Regional Action Plan Development](#) to learn more and stay updated.

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