

MEETING REPORT

# LOOKING BEYOND 2020: ADVANCING WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES



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**WOMEN** 

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MEETING REPORT

LOOKING BEYOND 2020:  
ADVANCING WOMEN, PEACE  
AND SECURITY IN EASTERN  
PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANIZATIONS ORGANIZED BY THE  
UN WOMEN REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA AND THE  
UN WOMEN GEORGIA COUNTRY OFFICE



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# INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ground-breaking UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (UNSCR 1325) – the first resolution to link women’s experiences of conflict to the international peace and security agenda. UNSCR 1325 has been followed by 10 additional resolutions<sup>1</sup> outlining the obligations of the United Nations and its Member States and partners for ensuring that the needs and priorities of women and girls impacted by conflict are addressed and that peace is brokered in an inclusive and sustainable way.

Between 1992 and 2019, women constituted, on average, 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators and 6 per cent of signatories in major peace processes worldwide. Further evidence shows that women’s direct and meaningful participation in peace negotiations increases the sustainability and quality of peace. Worldwide, the percentage of peace agreements with gender equality provisions has increased from 14 per cent to 22 per cent between 1995 and 2019. The UN Secretary-General’s gender parity strategy has yielded positive results.<sup>2</sup>

Against the backdrop of the global COVID-19 pandemic, persistent and complex tensions in Europe, and a rising backlash against gender equality and women’s rights, the work on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is more important than ever. Two decades after the landmark resolution, significant progress has been made to advance the WPS agenda, including an unquestionable evidence base that has emerged demonstrating that women’s participation in peace and security and humanitarian processes makes the peace process more effective. Women’s civil society groups play a critical role in the peace process. Collaboration between diverse women’s groups is crucial for including provisions that address social inequalities, especially gender inequality. The 2020 Report on WPS by the UN Secre-

tary-General shows that without radical action over the next decade to integrate women into all aspects of peace, we risk a continuous state of insecurity, heightened instability and prolonged conflicts.

The consultations with women’s civil society organizations (CSOs) across the Europe and Central Asia region provided a timely and direct account of the multidimensional character of the risks experienced by women and girls under the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside the corresponding requirement for the WPS agenda across the Eastern Partnership countries. The discussions resulted in an outcome document with main recommendations from CSOs on which to build a platform for action on gender-sensitive peacebuilding and resilience.

## Summary

On 16 December 2020, 41 women’s organizations, peacebuilders and activists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine came together in an online meeting for a series of consultations aimed at sharing views and highlighting solutions towards the WPS agenda in Eastern Partnership countries. The **“Looking Beyond 2020: Advancing Women, Peace and Security”** consultations were organized by the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the UN Women Georgia Country Office.

As a follow-up to the UN Women CSOs consultative meeting on WPS held in February 2020 in Istanbul, Turkey, this consultation meeting aimed at identifying solutions, such as models for a regional network of women peacebuilders. Such a network can enable exchanges of best practices; promote and support the full, equal, and meaningful participation of wom-

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security* (S/2020/946), para. 85. Available at <https://undocs.org/en/S/2020/946>.

<sup>2</sup> UN Women, “Facts and Figures: Women, Peace, and Security”, 2020. Available at <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>.

en in peace processes; and help forge links between the formal and informal peace processes.

The consultations brought together CSOs, women peacebuilders, women mediators and women's organizations, including young women in Eastern Partnership countries to discuss women's views and solutions at the forefront of decisions on WPS. Participants included their unique perspective from working with diverse groups of women and girls in their communities.

The consultations provided a safe space for women and youth from CSOs to discuss **solutions to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts from a feminist perspective and to build and maintain peace**, looking at the current rise of social unrest and conflicts in the region through the participation and leadership of women and youth as key actors to achieve sustainable peace locally and regionally.

**Alia El-Yassir**, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, opened the discussions by stating, "As UN Women, we were and remain very proud supporters of women's civil society organizations, and we believe that their tireless work and collaboration deserve appreciation." She also underscored the importance of recognizing the positive role that young people play in preventing and resolving conflict, countering violent extremism, and building peace. Furthermore, she underlined that these initiatives are at the heart of the WPS agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Generation Equality campaign<sup>3</sup> and are promoted worldwide by all UN agencies.

Discussions covered the global and regional barriers to women's full, equal, and meaningful participation and addressed the role and contributions of CSOs in peace and confidence-building. The meeting served as an opportunity to support the discussion on designing a **strong and diverse network of women's movements across the region** to improve dialogue platforms and mechanisms to effectively transform the protracted conflicts in the region and contribute to engendering the regional peace and security

processes.

As a result of the meeting, participants issued **concrete and actionable recommendations** to remove barriers to women's meaningful participation in peace processes at the formal and informal levels. Drawing on the experience of different contexts, participants underlined the **importance of ensuring safety for women human rights defenders and peace activists** and discussed how women's networks could be guided by feminist principles of peace to apply diversity and inclusion in all elements and levels of their work. Participants also expressed the importance of **allocating more investment in women's empowerment and gender equality principles, namely in conflict-affected settings**.

The regional experts in the field stressed the importance of including women from the conflict affected areas in the regional CSO discussions, including grass-roots women directly affected by the conflicts. CSO representatives recommended bridging the intergenerational gap and interlinking the WPS agenda and the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. To this end, experts highlighted the importance of taking concrete steps for **young people's involvement, considering that they are not tomorrow's leaders but the leaders of today**.

Finally, the CSOs agreed on the importance of **localizing and decentralizing WPS commitments and implementing the National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security (NAPs on 1325)** in each country of the Europe and Central Asia region, as well as including the voices and needs of women and girls from minority groups, IDPs, migrants, refugees and women survivors of violence in regional WPS efforts.

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### **Panel I discussion: Identifying models for a regional network of women peacebuilders**

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**Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos**, Programme Coordinator and Policy Specialist at the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, underscored **that 2020 was a year of reflection and a year of challenges but also**

<sup>3</sup> The Generation Equality Forum is a major global inflexion point for gender equality. This landmark effort will bring together governments, corporations and change makers from around the world to define and announce ambitious investments and policies. The result will be a permanent acceleration in equality, leadership and opportunity for women and girls. For more information: [worldwide.https://forum.generationequality.org](https://forum.generationequality.org)

**a year of opportunities.** She further highlighted that in order to seize the opportunities, and respond to new, emerging issues, it is necessary to think both more locally, and more globally. Accordingly, localization of WPS on the one hand, and greater connectedness and action at the regional level on the other, are necessary strategies to take the WPS agenda beyond 2020.

Panellists asserted that there is a need to make peace more appealing, develop a true understanding of its value and further promote its benefits and advantages. Various participants reiterated the importance and the need to enhance collaboration and unify different stakeholders around the common goals regarding peace and security in the region. Speakers drew attention to the specific discrimination and human rights violations faced by women human rights defenders and peace activists, with experts further underscoring the importance of ensuring their protection within and through similar platforms and networks.

Participants highlighted that women's needs are not currently prioritized and stressed that trying to help women is not an easy task; there are many challenges currently faced as women have immediate needs that must be heard and understood. "Contributing to diversity and inclusiveness, which are the strengths of the networks to hear unheard voices, includes those without platforms or agency, and valuing their expertise and experiences is crucial," said a participant from Moldova.

During the discussions, solid recommendations were made, and compelling points regarding the current challenges, especially in conflict areas, were highlighted. "It is important to remember that the inclusion of the elderly and the youth – intergenerational involvement – is of paramount importance," said a participant from Georgia.

Participants shared their experiences from Azerbaijan, stressing women's conditions and needs in conflict areas without access to information. Women-led groups in Baku started to raise awareness and in solidarity provided support to these women. Discussions drew attention to the specific discrimination and violations against the women human rights defenders and the urgent need for their protection. "Women's needs are not prioritized and trying to help women is not easy," underscored a participant

from Azerbaijan. "In some places, we see vulnerable women such as pregnant women living in devastating conditions, especially during times of war. We need more investment in women's empowerment and gender equality principles, especially in conflict-affected settings." She further added: "We started our efforts to empower women before the war and COVID-19 crisis; however, after the outbreak and the war, despite all efforts of women's organizations, we failed to empower and protect women because of the masculinized approaches and the changing dynamics of the war."

Another participant from Azerbaijan stressed: "During the war, we were unable to support and help women as much as we wanted. All we could do was to give statements or provide support with necessary items, but our voices were not heard, not cared at all." She further stated: "We couldn't stop the war, but we made great effort in helping women relocate and get physical support for protection. Despite this, the situation is still devastating; we need support, and there is an urgency to protect and empower women."

During the discussion, it was stressed that women are and have been those who pick up the broken pieces and rebuild their societies. "It is time for us to build trust for international movements in our region. A model for us now and for the future is to build transnational feminism," said a participant from Azerbaijan.

The discussions between participants were an open dialogue on enhancing women's empowerment in political participation and decision-making spaces. "One of the main mechanisms is leadership training, [including] trainings on communication and public speaking and on creating one's own image," stated a participant from Ukraine. Participants further stressed the urgency of contributing to diversity and inclusion, which are the strengths of the networks to hear unheard voices, including those without platforms or agency and valuing their expertise and lived experiences. Speakers agreed that there is still much to be done and that there is a need for investment to close the gap between the reality in the region and the goals set by WPS programmes to achieve. Accordingly, an **urgent call was made to take immediate, tangible actions to educate and empower women and girls, increase awareness, build knowledge, promote women's expertise and unique experiences, and create an agency of women at the**

### regional level, all within and under the umbrella of a regional network.

Recommendations were made for giving importance to building a group of women experts on WPS across the region. The importance of engaging young people from diverse backgrounds to support intergenerational exchange and the inclusion of different voices, perspectives and experiences was strongly underscored during the discussions.

Moreover, recommendations were made with regard to **encouraging young women to establish their NGOs and initiatives** in order to support **intergenerational cooperation**; facilitating the engagement and participation of different (young) women leaders of various ethnic, religious and other groups by reaching out beyond the usual participants to **promote diversity and inclusion**; and establishing a **transnational feminist movement/platform/network grounded in anti-militarist causes**. Moreover, the need to make sure that **women's networks are guided by feminist principles of peace and shall apply diversity and inclusion elements was stressed**. Overall, a consensus was observed regarding the need to meet the urgent demand for more investment in the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of gender equality principles, namely in conflict-affected settings, and to ensure the **representation and meaningful and equal participation of women and youth** in peace and security processes.

### Persistent barriers and key recommendations:

- Upholding peace in the region by collaborating and unifying around common goals to empower women and girls.
- Working towards making inclusive peace more appealing, developing a true understanding of its value, and further promoting its benefits and advantages.
- Ensuring the protection of women peace activists and human rights defenders.
- Engaging young people from diverse backgrounds to support intergenerational exchange and the inclusion of different voices, perspectives and lived experiences.
- Enhancing diversity and inclusiveness by enabling the networks' strengths to hear unheard voices, including those without platforms or agency, and to value their expertise and experiences.
- Encouraging young women to establish their NGOs and initiatives in order to support intergenerational cooperation and inclusive peacebuilding efforts.
- Supporting women leaders' engagement and participation, coming from different ethnic, religious and other backgrounds and various groups, by reaching out beyond the usual participants.
- Establishing a transnational feminist movement/platform/network grounded in anti-militarist causes.
- Allocating more investment in women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality principles, namely in conflict-affected settings.
- Underscoring the importance of and taking concrete steps towards building a diverse group of women experts on WPS across the region.
- Enabling conflict-affected women and their voices to have representation and ensuring equal and meaningful participation.

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### Panel II discussion: Innovative solutions to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts from a feminist perspective in the Eastern Partnership countries

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**Irene Fellin**, Head of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network Secretariat, Senior Fellow on gender, peace and security and conflict mediation expert at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and President of Women In International Security (WIIS) Italy, stressed the importance of skills development, capacity building and the benefits of mentoring in supporting women in tackling barriers related to their participation in mediation and peacebuilding activities.

**Speakers from Armenia discussed the importance of**



**the NAPs on 1325 as tools for long-lasting peace** and stressed that it is important for countries across the region to implement their NAPs fully. An Armenian speaker also highlighted that despite strong efforts, women and women's movements are still excluded from peace negotiations and decision-making processes and urged to see actions taken for change. It is important to now support those in need, as women tend to take action by organizing themselves and providing support on the ground. "Women and women's organizations have been excluded from high-level diplomatic negotiations and decision-making processes," said a participant from Armenia. She further added: "Women are underrepresented in formal conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, which is strongly interlinked with the turbulence in the South Caucasus. [...] Women suffer the impacts of conflict and war disproportionately, and no single story can summarize the unfortunate situation women experience during conflicts." She continued: "The issues faced by women range from gender-based violence associated with social stigma to the radical transformation of women's roles in their families and communities. [...] There is a need to support women, contribute to empower gender equality and build sustainable peace." Throughout the discussions, participants drew attention to women's underrepresentation in formal conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

Regarding the innovative solutions to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts from a feminist perspective in the Eastern Partnership countries, the need to uphold diversity in the networks and encourage youth involvement in the context of peace was highlighted. Furthermore, experts drew attention to the lack of information about what takes place in the conflict areas and the lack of communication between stakeholders among networks. The importance of diversity among networks was also highlighted, and experts made concrete recommendations by addressing the need to include initiate novel networks **to be more inclusive and go beyond the old ones and reach out to more women and youth in these processes.**

"We lack those skills; we need to help one another in building skills," noted a participant from Georgia. "We need to build bridges between different actors and address compelling issues about peacebuilding, such as those regarding conflict-related sexual violence."

As the panellists spoke about the importance of the

right to engage in political activism, discussions included the safety of women peacebuilders and the women activists, and examples from the region were given to draw attention to using the network to promote anti-militarism, and a platform for early warning systems. Experts also underscored the importance of inclusion, accountability, and networking. Furthermore, discussions were held on donor relationships and how to further strengthen the cooperation and partnerships. "Accountability is a crucial concept and should be taken very seriously," stated a participant from Ukraine. "There are concerns regarding the lack of accurate information about the results of the projects, especially in times of war. We call for urgent action and believe that accountability should be sought for all stakeholders."

Further recommendations were made regarding the promotion of women in official peace processes, connecting local and national networks and addressing the absence of women at the negotiating tables, while women play key roles in peacebuilding efforts at the informal level. The need to support female leadership in peace processes was highlighted by addressing the urgency for further capacity development and opportunities to gain new skills such as in negotiation and mediation techniques. Speakers emphasized that women and women's organizations were excluded from formal peacebuilding processes far too long, and accordingly, there is a need to support women's groups and networks to meaningfully participate. Additionally, the inclusion of women in post-conflict relief, recovery and reconstruction was called upon, referring to both past and current experiences that show that women and women's groups have been systemically excluded and side-lined in and from peace and security decision-making spaces.

Overall, speakers agreed that to create this innovative project and generate information, there is a need for closer collaboration beyond borders by adopting an inclusive, intersectional and intergenerational approach. A solid recommendation concerned enhancing and increasing capacity-building efforts while also recognizing the importance of voluntary mentorship between the expert women and the emerging female leaders of the field.

"The key lies at the heart of three core notions: inclusion, accountability and networking," a participant from Ukraine observed.



During the discussions, participants also referred to the need to support platforms and networks based on needs and not limit it to only geographical scope. The plenary discussions brought attention to the disproportionate impact of conflicts on women and girls, including but not limited to economic consequences and physical threats against women and girls.

**“We see that globally, conflicts have disproportional and different impacts on women and men, girls and boys and are then again different for any individual in a more vulnerable position. However, the contextual difference is something we want to learn about.”** –Iris Björg Kristjansdottir, UN Women Regional Peace, Security and Humanitarian Specialist

Women’s organizations stressed that they continue to remain excluded from the formal peace processes and emphasized the importance of building resistance against continuous **marginalization in post-conflict areas**. In this context, further collaboration among CSOs and other actors was strongly encouraged to find innovative and diverse solutions to protracted conflicts by going beyond borders, **enabling intergenerational dialogue**, and supporting **mentorship** among women and youth. Furthermore, women’s CSOs stressed that although training and capacity-building is necessary, it will not be sufficient and successful until a mentorship practice among women from diverse backgrounds, age groups, expertise and experiences is adopted and materialized.

Lastly, joint regional advocacy efforts to support women’s recognition of women’s expertise in peacebuilding and their promotion as valuable assets to achieve sustainable peace were underlined. Such efforts can only be materialized if there is adequate support and sufficient funding for peace and confidence-building initiatives in the region.

### Persistent barriers and key recommendations:

- Ensuring that women’s networks are guided by feminist principles of peace and shall apply diversity and inclusion elements.

- Creating innovative solutions to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts from a feminist perspective in the Eastern Partnership countries, which can only be enabled effectively when adequate weight is given to diversity in our networks.
- Reaching out beyond the usual groups and individuals and include other networks.
- Protecting women peacebuilders as well as women activists in their political participation.
- Promoting women to be represented in official negotiation processes not only in numbers but also in decision-making roles. Making women more active at the negotiation level, as they are already very active at the local level.
- Enabling and empowering female leaders as mediators and negotiators by addressing the lack of opportunities and skills.
- Connecting local networks with national networks within the countries and across the region.
- Ending the exclusion of women and women’s organizations from the formal peacebuilding efforts, instead working to connect different tracks of diplomacy and forge links between the formal and informal peace processes.
- Addressing the challenges faced by women who are exposed to different vulnerabilities.

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### Working group I: Identifying models for a regional network of women peacebuilders

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The discussion was moderated by **Iris Björg Kristjansdottir**, UN Women Regional Peace, Security and Humanitarian Specialist for Europe and Central Asia. In the working group, discussions focused on how women could be empowered as local policy and decision-makers, as such a process is already in place in the region but needs to be further raised and shared among CSOs. Speakers brought to light the so-called “bottom-up approach to network” driven by women and supported by international organizations like UN Women for sustainable and long-lasting peace led by societies across borders.

Discussions resulted in key recommendations including that **the women's network should be an inclusive and diverse space for constructive dialogue and cooperation on transforming protracted conflicts and achieving sustainable peace in the region**. More specifically, recommendations addressed **the need to include women from the conflict areas in the regional CSO discussions, including grass-roots women and youth directly affected by the conflicts**, while paving the way for a needs-oriented and practical network/platform to include specific perspectives and interests of women and girls. Furthermore, the importance of learning from one another and connecting societies across the region was discussed among the participants, recommending being more forthcoming in practical ways to find common ground and strengthen the work to move towards achieving sustainable peace in the region.

It was further emphasized that until this consultation, all conflict-themed discussions led by international actors – if such discussions were not specifically about women – were conducted by male dominated “think tanks”; while there was no less expertise among women. It was underscored that networks driven by women and supported by international organizations like organizations like UN Women are sustainable, where discussions result in recommendations built on the fundamental and collective voices of women across the region. Another critical element discussed was to work with a clear mandate with the purpose of having a shared set of principles among the participants and values that are acceptable for all members and drive the work for all women and youth forward in the framework of the regional network.

During the discussion, participants recommended ensuring the protection of women peace activists and human rights defenders within and through similar platforms/networks, as well as ensuring the inclusion of women from disputed areas and that they have representative, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes.

Discussions also focused on the fact that there is a need to agree on a common agenda, such as one that includes uniting against militarism, promoting women in official negotiations and decision-making roles, and ensuring the meaningful participation of

different groups of women and young people from all regions in various international meetings equally. Through this inclusive approach, an exchange of information and support for joint activities would be possible and would prevent further marginalization of certain communities with less voice and representation.

Lastly, participants underlined the importance of the agency of women and the power of coming together, as well as the centrality of having a shared **understanding, strategic vision, and mission** – and a collective voice to **build** peaceful and resilient societies in the region.

### Persistent barriers and key recommendations:

- Creating a need-based and practical network/platform to include the specific priorities and interests of women and youth and to join efforts for broader and more robust advocacy to transform the conflicts and build sustainable peace in the region.
- Strengthening training with practical experience as a complementary limb of training processes, including developing compulsory practice programmes (internship-traineeships).
- Enabling the sustainability of the networks' initiatives by ensuring financial support from donors.
- Addressing the lack of recognition of women peacebuilders and their role.
- Including women from the conflict areas in the regional CSO discussions, including grass-roots women directly affected by the conflicts.
- Using the network as a space to demote militarism and confrontation and use it as a platform for an early warning system.

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**Working group II: Innovative solutions to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts from a feminist perspective in the Eastern Partnership countries**

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The discussions were moderated by **Edita Tahiri**, Chair of the Regional Women's Lobby in South East Europe and a member of the Women Waging Peace Network, who primarily underscored the importance of **receiving financial support to realize ideas and projects for innovative solutions**. She also highlighted importance of regional cooperation as a mutually reinforcing platform which allows for sharing experiences and ideas across the borders for advancing gender equality and peacebuilding agenda.

Crucial points were made regarding collaboration and the need for recognition, inclusion, diversity and empowerment. One of the key messages was that the involvement and training of youth is of paramount importance. In addition, participants raised **their concerns about the perception of war as an appealing concept** among women and the **belittlement of the concept of peace as a last resort**, which is almost equated with giving up and losing. Therefore, participants stressed the importance of **making peace an appealing concept**. Speakers discussed the joint regional advocacy efforts to support women's expertise in peacebuilding. Their promotion as valuable assets to achieve sustainable peace was underlined, which can only be materialized if there is adequate support and funding for peace and confidence-building initiatives in the region.

Meanwhile, the panellists underlined that young women's participation in peace and security spaces and processes is at the core of any network building. Likewise, engaging youth from diverse backgrounds to support intergenerational dialogue and the inclusion of different perspectives and experiences was also crucial. In line with the discussions, the working group's recommendations targeted the importance of reaching out beyond the traditional participants and expanding network to new limits of intergenerational dialogue.

During the plenary sessions and group discussions, the importance of investing in women's empowerment and gender equality principles in conflict-affected settings was emphasized. Participants also elaborated on the need to build a pool of women experts on WPS across the region, ensuring the inclusion of women from disputed areas agreeing that their voices matter and their participation is equal and meaningful in regional processes. The discussions further resulted in recommendations that

women's **networks be guided by feminist principles of peace** and apply diversity and inclusion elements throughout their processes.

When it came to discussing innovative solutions to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts from a feminist perspective, the need for diversity in the networks alongside youth involvement in the context of peace were highlighted. Key recommendations were also made about **going beyond traditional networks and participants and including novel ones to reach out and engage more women and young people meaningfully**.

Women's organizations stressed that they remain excluded from formal peace processes and emphasized the importance of resisting women's continuous marginalization in post-conflict relief, recovery and reconstruction. Further collaboration among CSOs and other actors was strongly encouraged to find innovative solutions to protracted conflicts by cooperating internationally and regionally, enabling intergenerational dialogue and supporting mentorship among diverse groups of women and youth.

Lastly, joint regional advocacy efforts to support women's recognition as expertise in peacebuilding and their promotion as valuable assets to achieve sustainable peace were underlined. It was stressed that this can only be realized if there is adequate support and funding for peace and confidence-building initiatives in the region.

### Persistent barriers and key recommendations:

- Ensuring the inclusion of women in post-conflict relief, recovery and reconstruction processes, as well as preventing their systemic exclusion.
- Ensuring collaboration beyond the borders and supporting intergenerational dialogue and knowledge exchange.
- Increasing capacity-building efforts while complementing training under the mentorship programmes among women experts "adopting" other women and youth on a volunteer basis to transfer and exchange knowledge.

- Taking concrete steps for meaningful involvement of youth considering that young people are not tomorrow's leaders but the leaders of today.
- Taking accountability extremely seriously for the sake of transparency and efficiency (in other words, having a non-discriminatory approach towards accountability, including requiring accountability for all stakeholders)
- Addressing the limited support from donors for regional platforms, as well as the lack of cooperation of women peacebuilders and activists.

**Nargis Azizova**, Programme Specialist at the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, closed the consultations by stating:

**"We know and understand our lessons learned, and since February, we are moving towards creating such a platform and network."**



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