

# GENERATION EQUALITY COMPACT ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## CONCEPT NOTE

25 AUGUST 2020<sup>1</sup>

### Rationale for the Compact

Women's participation is vital for effective efforts towards prevention, crisis response, recovery, conflict resolution and sustainable peace. Commitments on protecting women's rights and making women's participation in peace, security and humanitarian action meaningful and sustained remain unfulfilled. As the world continues to be mired in conflict and humanitarian needs caused by violence, climate change, natural disasters and pandemics, among others, there is urgency for transformative action to ensure full implementation of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda and humanitarian action commitments.

The women, peace and security agenda is anchored in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) with strategic objectives and actions outlined under "Women and armed conflict," and with specific reference to women in crisis situations and young women. Following the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on WPS, nine additional Security Council resolutions on WPS have been adopted, as well as CEDAW General Recommendation 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations.

With regards to humanitarian action (HA), global commitments to address the specific rights and needs of crisis-affected women and girls are contained in the World Humanitarian Summit's Agenda for Humanity (2016), the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016) and the Global Compact on Refugees (2018), which outline critical commitments to realize the significant contribution and leadership of women in refugee contexts. Moreover, the Peace Promise (2016) highlights the role of peace, humanitarian and development actors in building and sustaining peace.

In addition to several WPS and HA commitments adopted by regional institutions, 84 UN Member States and territories have adopted national action plans on WPS to implement and hold themselves accountable on delivering the WPS agenda. The UN Secretary-General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding (2010), the Charter for Change (2015), the Grand Bargain on Humanitarian Financing (2016), among others, also provide a framework for accountability on the WPS-HA agenda.

A number of existing coordination mechanisms, such as the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee on WPS, the UN Security

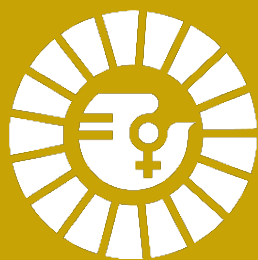
Council Informal Experts Group on WPS, the Group of Friends on WPS, the WPS Focal Points Network, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the CEDAW Committee, the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations, the Global Coalition on Youth Peace and Security, the Global Survivors Fund, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action, the Global Compact on Refugees, the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, and the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group enable collaborative action and advocacy on WPS-HA issues.

Within and beyond these frameworks, the women's peace movement, comprised of women peacebuilders, women's networks and organizations, has been a consistent driving force for advocacy and actions to address the impacts of armed conflict and insecurity in communities.

In the context of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Generation Equality Forum, as well as the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325, a WPS-HA Compact will harness the existing extensive normative framework on WPS and HA, and accompanying institutional and coordinating mechanisms, to carry out and realize commitments on WPS and humanitarian action. The Compact will create a voluntary multi-stakeholder monitoring and accountability process engaging key global, regional and national players to help narrow the gap between aspirations and concrete actions on WPS and HA, while ensuring that existing global and regional processes are harnessed for national and local engagement and action.

The Generation Equality Forum presents a defining opportunity to integrate an inter-generational approach to dismantle discriminatory barriers that prevent women's equal participation at the forefront of peace, security and humanitarian efforts, and to promote and protect women's human rights and the work of women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders, as well as ensure women's leadership in all peace and humanitarian decision-making processes. The Forum also presents a critical opportunity to strengthen the inclusion of young women peacebuilders and young women affected by crisis in peace, security and humanitarian processes and efforts, including in the context of the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda.

<sup>1</sup> This concept note is updated from 19 June 2020.

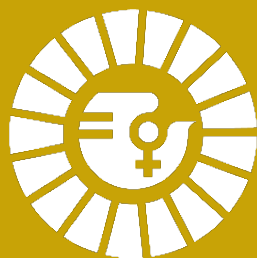


## Guiding Priorities for the Compact

- Actions grounded in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).
- Elevate commitments, coordination and partnerships for the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325.
- Strengthen coordination across existing WPS-HA mechanisms, systems, networks, partnerships and capacities.
- Focus on putting into action already existing commitments, standards and designated roles and responsibilities, and enhance multi-stakeholder coordination for the implementation of existing commitments.
- Establish a monitoring and accountability process to realize WPS-HA commitments.
- Mobilize sustainable and predictable financing for Compact initiatives with due diligence applied to funding partners.
- Provide an opportunity to strengthen linkages with other relevant agendas, including the youth, peace and security agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its promise for gender equal, inclusive and peaceful societies.
- All stakeholders, especially women peacebuilders and crisis-affected women, have full and meaningful engagement in the design and governance structure.
- Young women peacebuilders and young women affected by crisis are purposefully and intentionally engaged, reflecting the core principle of the Generation Equality Forum to have adolescent girls and young women at its heart.
- Demonstrated commitment by the Generation Equality Core Group to drive recognition, visibility, political and financial support for the Compact.

## How will the Compact differ from an Action Coalition?

- The Compact will be a dedicated outcome of the Generation Equality Forum and will be closely linked to the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325.
- It will build on the existing normative framework, identified priorities and coordination mechanisms for WPS-HA.
- It will not use the same format, i.e. 3-4 actions only per coalition, but will allow for a more comprehensive approach encompassing the entire agenda, and greater flexibility in conceptualizing the Compact to address the specifics of the multi-layered and multi-faceted processes on WPS and HA.
- The Compact will focus on financing, monitoring and accountability for existing policy, defined commitments, standards and roles and responsibilities, rather than defining new priorities or focuses.
- The Compact is intended to catalyze the realization of existing commitments into action that will directly improve the peace and security and humanitarian outcomes for conflict and crisis affected women and girls globally.
- It will act as a connector between the existing WPS-HA normative framework and coordination mechanisms, as well as relevant UN peace and security processes such as the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and the Action for Peacekeeping.
- The Compact will establish synergies with the Generation Equality Action Coalitions to integrate WPS-HA actions in the Generation Equality Forum.
- By leveraging the momentum of the Generation Equality Forum process and the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325, the Compact will drive a concerted inter-generational push at global, national and local level for the realization of WPS-HA commitments with strong youth participation.



## How will the Compact accelerate the realization of WPS-HA commitments?

- The Compact will enable expert-level contribution and access to knowledge products, research and data on WPS-HA in the Generation Equality Forum.
- The Compact will drive focus on implementation of WPS-HA beyond the UN Security Council and leverage opportunities for implementation at the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, and in regional institutions and bodies.
- The Compact will contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of WPS-HA commitments within the UN system and the larger peace and security architecture by harnessing existing partnerships and structures with UN Women, DPPA/PBSO, DPO, DCO, UNDP, OCHA and others.
- The Compact will take a broad view of the integration of gender perspectives in peace building and humanitarian action, looking beyond just protection and sexual and reproductive health and rights, but considering all the rights and needs of women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, as well as facilitating their contributions and capacities as leaders, decision-makers and implementors.
- The Compact will be a link between the different institutional mechanisms on WPS-HA at the UN and in regional bodies (EU, AU, NATO, ASEAN, LAS, OAS, OSCE, OIF, Pacific Islands Forum, the Commonwealth Secretariat etc.) and civil society mechanisms (women mediator networks etc.).
- The Compact will elevate the profile of WPS-HA accountability measures and mechanisms and provide a medium for collaborative advocacy to demand action on WPS-HA commitments.
- The Compact will provide space for strategic discussions on financing and serve as a mobilizing force to increase financial commitments for the WPS-HA agenda.
- The Compact will increase the visibility of the WPS-HA agenda and provide an opportunity for a communications drive tailored to different audiences that leverages media at global, national and local level.
- The Compact will inform and inspire WPS-HA policy and programming of international and regional organizations, national governments, civil society organizations and networks.

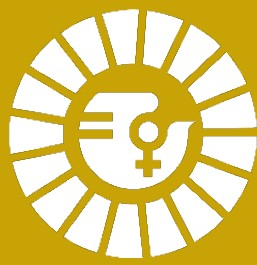
## Governance Model of the Compact

The Compact will bring together interested Member States, regional bodies, UN agencies, representatives of existing WPS-HA coordination mechanisms, civil society organizations/networks, including those of young women peacebuilders and young women working in humanitarian/crisis settings, academic/research institutions, private sector entities including philanthropies and women-led social enterprises. All partners will be expected to commit to the principles established for the Generation Equality Forum and Action Coalitions.

A multi-stakeholder Board, supported by the Compact Task Force, will define the parameters of the Compact and its implementation, including its monitoring and accountability process. Board members will play a special role in monitoring and accountability, as well as promoting the Compact widely as a key implementation tool for the WPS-HA agenda. Board members are expected to support their commitment with financing (proportionate to capacity).

**Board Members** could include:

- Member States from all regions that demonstrate sustained commitment to the advancement of the WPS-HA agenda. Attention will be given to ensure diversity and avoid duplication amongst the leaders of the Action Coalitions and Board Members of the Compact.
- The designated representatives of existing WPS-HA coordination mechanisms, as well as leaders of broader Peace & Security or HA mechanisms. The Board will encourage equal leadership of WPS and humanitarian actors in upholding its responsibilities.
- Civil society organizations/networks, representing women, young women peacebuilders and young women affected by crisis, who will have equal standing as other members. Civil society leaders should receive broad support among the WPS-HA constituency.
- Private sector entities that demonstrate commitment to gender equality combined with engagement and support for WPS and/or HA.
- Academic and research institutions with demonstrated expertise in WPS and/or HA.



## Responsibilities of Board Members

- Uphold the guiding priorities of the Compact and forge relevant partnerships for implementation.
- Conduct stakeholder consultations to inform Compact deliverables and milestones.
- Establish a voluntary monitoring and accountability process for the Compact.
- Design a system for multi-stakeholder coordination of mechanisms and processes on women, peace and security and humanitarian action.
- Lead by example by implementing Compact commitments.
- Ensure high visibility for the Compact and conduct outreach to secure signatories.
- Provide annual review on progress made in implementing the Compact.
- Support the functioning of the Compact and related initiatives through the secretariat.
- Establish synergies with the Generation Equality Action Coalitions to integrate WPS-HA actions in the Generation Equality Forum, as well as the meaningful participation and representation of women peacebuilders and crisis-affected women in all Action Coalitions.

## Criteria for Board Members

- Commitment to the guiding principles of the Generation Equality Forum and priorities of the Compact and to purposefully advance progress on WPS and HA.
- Evidence of sustained past and current commitment to WPS and/or HA and demonstrated future commitment to implementation.
- Demonstrated record of inclusivity in the design and implementation of WPS and/or humanitarian actions.
- Preparedness to engage actively in the design and implementation of the Compact monitoring and accountability process and system for multi-stakeholder coordination.
- Readiness to implement and champion Compact commitments, and to mobilize stakeholders to become Compact signatories.
- Commitment at the highest level of engagement and representation from respective entities. Leaders of countries, organizations, philanthropies or companies are expected to attend the Compact launch in Paris during the Generation Equality Forum in 2021.

## Board Structure

The Board structure will reflect geographic balance and socio-economic diversity.

- 4-6 Member States
- 2 regional/multilateral organizations
- 2 UN agencies
- 4-6 civil society organizations/networks, including organizations/networks of young women peacebuilders and young women working in humanitarian/crisis settings
- 1-2 academic/research institutions
- 1-2 private sector entities, including philanthropies and women-led social enterprises

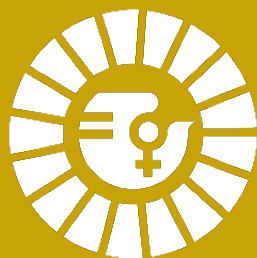
## Catalytic Members

Catalytic members will include stakeholders that are not Compact Board members but have demonstrated strong commitment and support for the goals and objectives of the Compact. Catalytic members will complement the Board, as needed, with advisory, advocacy, political and other forms of support, to ensure the successful functioning of the Compact. Catalytic members will also work with the Board to ensure that Compact processes and initiatives are inclusive of diverse groups and have broad geographic reach.

Catalytic members will represent Member States, regional bodies, UN agencies, representatives of existing WPS-HA coordination mechanisms, civil society organizations/networks, including those of young women peacebuilders and young women working in humanitarian/crisis settings, academic/research institutions, private sector entities including philanthropies and women-led social enterprises.

## Responsibilities of Catalytic Members

- Support the Board and the Compact, as needed, with advisory, advocacy, political and other forms of support.
- Leverage partnerships to ensure that Compact processes and initiatives are inclusive of diverse and marginalized groups and have broad geographic reach.
- Lead by example by implementing Compact commitments.
- Ensure high visibility for the Compact and conduct outreach to secure signatories.



## Criteria for Catalytic Members

- Commitment to the guiding principles of the Generation Equality Forum and priorities of the Compact and to purposefully advance progress on WPS and HA.
- Evidence of sustained past and current commitment to WPS and/or HA and demonstrated future commitment to implementation.
- Demonstrated record of inclusivity in the design and implementation of WPS and/or humanitarian actions.
- Commitment to provide advisory, advocacy, political and other forms of support towards the successful functioning of the Compact.
- Readiness to implement Compact commitments and to mobilize stakeholders to become Compact signatories.

**Compact Signatories** will include Member States, UN entities/agencies, regional bodies, diverse networks (Leave No One Behind) and the private sector. Signatories will identify commitments for implementation as part of the Compact monitoring and accountability process. Signatories will commit to engaging with the monitoring and accountability process of the compact, including its reporting obligations and putting into action all recommendations for progress agreed upon through the process.

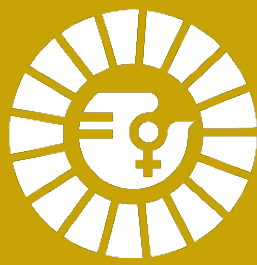
### Role of the WPS Compact Task Force

- Selection, along with the Generation Equality Core Group, of inaugural members of the Compact Board.
- Work along with the Board to ensure synergy of the Compact with the six Action Coalitions and broader Generation Equality processes.

UN Women will serve as the secretariat for the Compact.

## Considerations for Development and Operationalization of the Compact

- Best format for global, regional, national and local consultations to inform the Compact design and content.
- Most effective method to integrate humanitarian action and the peace-humanitarian-development nexus.
- Identification of the key WPS-HA commitments, standards and roles and responsibilities across the existing normative framework for inclusion in the Compact's monitoring and accountability process that will provide the greatest return through prompted field level action.
- Best design for a results-driven, achievable working process for the Compact that does not duplicate existing WPS-HA financing and monitoring and accountability processes at all levels.
- The level of integration of the youth, peace and security agenda.
- Most effective method to ensure synergy between the Action Coalitions and the Compact.
- Allocation of resources to support the governance mechanism of the Compact and implementation of Compact initiatives.
- Financial support for civil society organizations and select national and local actors to contribute to the monitoring and accountability process of the Compact.
- Link to COVID-19 response and any impact thereof on the WPS-HA agenda more broadly.



## Proposed Timeline for Action

### July 2020 to October 2020 – 20th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325:

- Expanded Task Force established for the development of the Compact, including first financial projection of the costs linked to the creation of the Compact and other aspects.
- Outreach to Member States, regional inter-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector.
- Selection of Compact Board members and Catalytic members.
- Event to announce the Compact Board members and Catalytic members during October anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325.

### October 2020 to 2021 Mexico Forum:

- Finalization of Compact design.
- Development of plan of action with stated deliverables.
- Online consultations (webinars and surveys) with Member States, civil society representatives at global, national and local level; UN entities and agencies; regional organizations; UN Women regional and national experts; coordination mechanisms.
- Digital dialogues and discussions aimed at building awareness among Compact Board and Catalytic members about specific frameworks, thematic and geographical topics, emerging issues, etc. to ensure informed decision-making and maximum engagement in areas of strategic priority for members.
- Development of monitoring and accountability process, with identified milestones.
- Development of a coordination system on WPSHA with leads of existing coordination mechanisms.

### 2021 Mexico Forum:

- First full-fledged meeting of the Compact Board and Catalytic Members.

### 2021 Mexico Forum to 2021 Paris Forum:

- Development of communications strategy to promote the WPS-HA Compact, creating visibility and highlighting its relevance and impact at global, regional, national and local levels, starting with the Paris Forum and continuing through 2025.

### 2021 Paris Forum:

- Global launch of Compact and presentation of strategic workplan.
- Donor roundtable.

### 2021 Paris Forum to 2025:

- Outreach to international, national and local actors on Compact commitments.
- Enlist Compact Signatories.
- Annual high-level meeting of Compact Signatories on the margins of the General Assembly high-level debate.
- Annual reporting on the margins of the WPS Open Debate in October (and/or at the Commission on the Status of Women).
- 2023 Financing Forum to track financing commitments, as part of the monitoring and accountability process.
- 2025 Global Commitments Forum to present progress on commitments, as part of the monitoring and accountability process.

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