

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

CONCEPT NOTE

19 JUNE 2020

Rationale for a Compact

The women, peace and security (WPS) 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 to the WPS agenda. The UN Secretary-General’s Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding (2010), the Grand Bargain on Humanitarian Financing (2016), the Charter for Change (2015), 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 Informal Experts Group on WPS, the Group of Friends on WPS, the WPS Focal Points Network, the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations, the Global Survivors Fund, the Inter-Agency

Standing Committee Gender Reference Group on humanitarian assistance, the GBV Area of Responsibility and the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group enable collaborative action and advocacy on WPS-HA issues.

Of important note is the women’s peace movement, comprised of women peacebuilders, women’s networks and organizations, which 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 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 action and realize commitments on WPS and humanitarian action. The Compact will put in place 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 humanitarian action, 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.



Guiding Principles for a Compact

- Grounded in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).
- Strengthen coordination across existing WPS-HA mechanisms, systems, networks, partnerships and capacities.
- Establish monitoring and accountability process to realize WPS-HA commitments.
- Sustainable and predictable financing for Compact initiatives with due diligence applied to funding partners.
- Elevate commitments, coordination and partnerships for the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325.
- 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.
- Demonstrated commitment by the Generation Equality Core Group to drive recognition, visibility, political and financial support for the Compact.
- 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.
- 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.

How will a Compact differ from an Action Coalition?

- A 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.
- A 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.
- 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.
- A 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, a 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 a Compact accelerate the realization of WPS-HA commitments?

A Compact will enable expert-level contribution and access to knowledge products, research and data on WPS-HA in the Generation Equality Forum.

A 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.

A 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, as well as facilitating their contributions and capacities as leaders, decision-makers and implementors.

A 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, OIF, Pacific Islands Forum, the Commonwealth Secretariat etc.) and civil society mechanisms (women mediator networks etc.).

A 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.

A Compact will provide space for strategic discussions on financing and serve as a mobilizing force to increase financial commitments for the WPS-HA agenda.

A 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.

A 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, representatives of existing WPS-HA coordination mechanisms, private sector and civil society representatives. All partners will be expected to commit to the principles established for the Generation Equality Forum and Action Coalitions.

A **small multi-stakeholder Board** (exact term to be decided) comprised of a small group of constituents will be selected to define the parameters of the Compact and its implementation, including its monitoring and accountability process. Rotating biennially, 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 could include:

- Member States from all regions that demonstrate sustained commitment to the advancement of the WPS-HA agenda. Special attention will be given to ensure diversity and avoid duplication amongst the leaders of the Action Coalitions and the Compact.
- The designated representatives of existing WPS-HA coordination mechanisms, as well as leaders of broader peace and security or humanitarian action mechanisms.
- 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. This could include organizations which are not directly working on WPS-HA but are prepared to support the integration of this agenda within their sector/area of work.

Compact Signatories/Members will include Member States, UN entities/agencies, regional bodies, diverse networks (Leave No One Behind). The private sector will also be engaged.

UN Women will serve as the secretariat of the Compact.



Considerations for Development of the Compact

- Best format for global, national and local consultations to inform Compact design and content.
- Most effective method to integrate humanitarian action and the peace-humanitarian-development nexus.
- 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.
- Criteria to guide private sector engagement.
- 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.
- 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.
- Outreach to Member States, private sector and regional inter-governmental organizations.

- Selection of Compact Board members.
- Finalization of Compact design.
- Development of plan of action with stated deliverables.
- Development of monitoring and accountability process, with identified milestones.
- Development of visibility/communications campaign on WPS-HA at global, national and local level.
- Announcement of the Compact during October anniversary.

October 2020 to 2021 Mexico Forum:

- Outreach to international, national and local actors on Compact commitments.
- Enlist signatories/members.

2021 Mexico Forum:

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

2021 Paris Forum:

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

2021 Paris Forum to 2025:

- Annual high-level meeting of Compact Members 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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