

## **UN Women input into the SG's Report on Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control May 2016**

Women's civil society organizations have played a key role as activists and lobbyists for the reduction of military expenditure and all forms of disarmament. The passage of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) was driven by women's peace activists who united around disarmament has a linchpin for more peaceful and equitable societies. In 2015, the world celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. Activists and practitioners widely urged peace and security decision-makers to return to the original intention of 1325, namely the prevention of armed conflict and meaningful disarmament.

UN Women led the secretariat for the Global Study, [\*Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace\*](#), which was presented to Member States on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Global Study contained a resounding call to accelerate disarmament and drew a strong parallel between the global arms trade and the insecurity of women and girls across the world. The Global Study also articulated the linkage between small arms violence, gender-based violence and organized crime in Latin America, as a major security issue and made recommendations on increasing Member State and private sector accountability to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The ATT contains a criterion on the gender-based violence, which was a result of strong advocacy from civil society supported by UN Women, Member States and other bilateral and multilateral actors. However, much more emphasis needs to be placed on the implementation and monitoring of the ATT, as well as other instruments like the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. Women's civil society can be powerful actors in watchdogging these agreements if given the access and support to do so.

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary culminated in the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of the eighth women, peace and security resolution. Security Council resolution. Resolution 2242 (2015) encourages women's participation in the design and implementation of efforts to prevent illicit transfer of small arms.

UN Women and partners also supported national authorities and UN counterparts to increase attention to the needs and capacities of female ex-combatants and women associated with armed forces and groups in Colombia, Mali and the Central African Republic.