



Photo by Kani Sissoko, Mali

## ISSUE BRIEF:

# CLOSING IMPLEMENTATION GAPS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN PEACEKEEPING

The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) is at the forefront of translating women, peace, and security (WPS) commitments into action within the framework of the Secretary-General's [Action for Peacekeeping Initiative \(A4P\)](#) (2018), the [A4P+ plan](#). To advance these commitments, DPO has signed up to [transformative actions](#) within the [Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact \(2021\)](#). In 2020, the Secretary-General issued a [Call to Action](#) targeted at peacekeeping partners outlining five actions to strengthen women's participation, which DPO is operationalizing through A4P+. A4P+ elevates WPS as a catalyst for progress on A4P and operational effectiveness.

Ensuring women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace and political processes is a political imperative for the Department, and vital to achieving sustainable political solutions to conflict. Integrating gender and WPS priorities across peacekeeping components is another key strategy to the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.

Analysis and data[1] from DPO WPS indicators collected in eight peacekeeping missions illustrate progress made on women's participation in peace and political processes. However, [stocktaking](#) in relation to the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council landmark resolution on WPS, 1325 (2000) in 2020 and current trends in peacekeeping contexts, particularly in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, show remaining implementation gaps. The progress made has been uneven and slow. More needs to be done to achieve the transformative visions and impacts of the WPS agenda.

At the Open Debate on WPS of the UN Security Council on 21 October 2021, under the theme “Investing in Women in Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding,” Council Members and Member States stressed that peacekeeping missions play an important role in strengthening women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace processes, including through partnerships with local women. This was reiterated in a high-level event on WPS in peacekeeping on 29 October 2021, where further support to accelerate WPS implementation was expressed. The event was cohosted by the Department of Peace Operations, the Permanent Missions of Canada, Finland, the Republic of Korea, and Kenya to the UN in New York.

Through consultations with women leaders and their grassroots networks, including by Senior UN Leadership, DPO has identified good and promising practices, as well as key enablers for transformative impact. At the high-level event, it was also stressed that by scaling up and investing in such practices, gains made on WPS can be sustained and leveraged.



Photo by Francesca Mold/UNMISS

Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix together with Guang Cong, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan engage in dialogue with women leaders in South Sudan (September 2021).

1. [Fact sheet \(June 2021\)](#), [Fact Sheet \(Oct 2019\)](#)

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## Recommendations

Building on these discussions, and the good and promising practices and priorities identified, and in line with the A4P+ plan, peacekeeping partners are encouraged to champion, take forward and integrate the following recommendations across decision-making processes and fora on peacekeeping, including at the Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial.

### Peacekeeping partners are urged to:

- **Sign up to the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact** and invest and mobilize resources for its Implementation.
  - **Call for women's meaningful participation in peace and political processes**, including in implementation mechanisms of peace agreements, and DDR and SSR processes, as a priority task in mission mandates and require reporting on progress in Secretary General Reports and briefings from mission leadership.
  - **Build partnership with coalitions of local women leaders, peacebuilders, regional organizations** and other key actors to engage in political advocacy on women's participation in peace processes, including through WPS donor committees in peacekeeping contexts.
  - **Ensure an adequate number of civilian gender experts are recruited and fully resourced** at headquarters and in missions, including at sector and sub-office level through the budgetary committee; provide additional expertise (gratis personnel, expert support, JPO, UNV) to fill gaps (e.g., at HQ, in Abyei, Mali, Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)), and **ensure uniformed gender expertise is deployed**.
  - **Provide technical expertise** (JPO, UNV, gratis personnel, ad hoc expert support) and **training on data analytics**, monitoring and evaluation to support the operationalization of DPO WPS indicators to track progress and gaps.
  - **Pledge resources** to ensure gender equality and WPS gains are not lost **during mission transitions** and the protection of women ensured, e.g., DRC.
  - **Build partnerships and pledge funding/support** to hold regular and systematic training courses on **gender-responsive conflict analysis** to peacekeeping personnel.
  - **Pledge funding for the implementation of the DPO WPS strategic communications strategy** to increase the visibility of results and remaining gaps on WPS implementation and amplify women's voices and leadership.
  - **Provide technical, financial and political support to women's direct participation** in peace agreement implementation mechanisms in South Sudan, CAR, and Mali; in any potential resumption of peace talks in Cyprus and Kosovo and support the establishment of a women mediators' network in South Lebanon.
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## Recommendations

- **Support, pledge funding for and partner with women-led monitoring mechanisms and coalitions** (e.g., South Sudan, Cyprus, Mali) for women to monitor progress and keep decision-makers accountable on gender equality, women's participation and protection, gender justice, the implementation of peace agreements, and/or influence peace talks and negotiations.
  - **Pledge funding and support to women-led early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms** in the CAR, Mali, Abyei, South Sudan, South Lebanon and DRC to ensure women inform missions' protection strategies and patrol plans and help improve situational awareness.
  - **Provide technical, financial, and political support to women's efforts to prevent, monitor and report election related violence** directed towards women during all stages of the electoral cycles in Mali, South Sudan, DRC and CAR through conflict prevention mechanisms, and support to **women's participation as voters and candidates in the elections**.
  - **Build partnerships and engage in WPS research** and documentation relevant to peacekeeping with a consortium of think tanks, academia, CSOs and peacekeeping missions.
  - **Foster cross-mission learning on WPS** by providing national, regional and international platforms (e.g. seminars, networking workshops) for local women leaders, CSOs and peacekeeping personnel.
  - **Support host-governments** in the implementation of National Action Plans on WPS, and national laws on gender equality e.g., laws on special measures (quotas) and gender-based violence, in accordance with regional and international commitments.
  - **Ensure gender equality and WPS deliverables are integrated in all the training packages**, modules, and resource materials provided to uniformed personnel deploying to missions.
  - **Pledge funding for the translation of the Gender Equality and Women, Peace and Security Resource Package** into national languages and integrate the Package as a key source and guidance document in pre-deployment trainings and make it available to all deployed personnel.
  - **Support UN's efforts to develop the first-ever global report on the status of women in the defence sectors**, including by sharing data, good practices and assisting with the organization of regional and sub-regional consultations with women leaders in the defence sector and armed forces.
  - **Enhance national leadership and commitment to strengthen women's participation in the national security institutions**, (police, military and correction services), including through temporary special measures, revision of gender-discriminative laws and policies, accountability measures and vetting mechanisms to address/prevent abuse and violence against women in the security sector and funding for gender reforms.
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