Concept Note

Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact Side Event

Sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Road to Youth-Inclusive Implementation of WPS-HA Compact Actions

A 24-Hour Generation Equality Side Event

Date and Time: March 16, 2022, 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EDT

Register Here

Background

Women of all ages are at the forefront of building peaceful, resilient, and inclusive societies for peace and gender equality. Young women have shown that they are active agents of peace, defying gender stereotypes and peace and security discourses. They are at the frontlines of efforts to build peaceful and inclusive societies, yet their work remains under-recognized, under-studied, and under-financed. They continue to be insufficiently engaged as part of effective solutions to peacebuilding challenges by a range of peace and security actors at all levels. In general, though young people - women and men between the ages of 15-29 - currently count for approximately 25 percent of the global population, they have been traditionally excluded from the realm of peace and security. The adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) has brought to the forefront the specific challenges that young people, particularly young women, face to address fundamental questions of protection, participation and inclusivity in peace and security. The youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda seeks action, particularly by the international community, to address these challenges.

The Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Compact was launched in July 2021 at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris. The Compact is an intergenerational, inclusive global movement which calls for dedicated action over five years (2022-2026) to redesign peace and security and humanitarian processes to systematically and meaningfully include women and girls – including peacebuilders, refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls – in the decisions that impact their lives. The Compact builds on years of work on women, peace and security and humanitarian action at the global, regional, national, and local level. Signatories are invited to take transformative action for gender equality through strengthened coordination on existing mechanisms.
for women peace and security and humanitarian action; improved monitoring and assessment of progress; and a focus on financing, advocacy and increased visibility. Stakeholders that can sign on to the Compact are Governments, Civil Society Organizations and Networks, UN Entities, Academic Institutions, the Private Sector, Youth Organizations and Networks and International or Regional Organizations.

As an inclusive and inter-generational platform, the Compact has a strong focus on harnessing meaningful youth engagement through its mandate and actions. The Compact has 10 actions that directly impact the work of young people across different framework areas and an additional 15 actions that relate to their work indirectly. The WPS-HA Compact will host an event on the margins of the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The event aims to strengthen and reflect the intergenerational dimensions of the Compact across its actions and signatories and to enhance accountability for meaningful youth inclusion, with a focus on the inclusion of young women and intergenerational co-leadership.

Objective

The Compact Framework features several actions that directly contribute to the work of young people from the local to the national and global level and across different issue areas. These actions are to be implemented by different signatory stakeholder groups. Within the first six months since the launch of the Compact, data demonstrates that UN agencies, academic institutions, regional organizations, member states, and civil society organizations— including youth-led organizations—have signed on to a number of the specific youth-focused actions of the Compact. Additionally, 13 youth-led organizations have become Signatories to the Compact. The Compact provides a unique opportunity for young people, particularly young women, to drive intergenerational leadership and collaboration for sustainable peace.

The event will have two key objectives:

1. Highlight the importance of youth expertise and engagement in peace and security and humanitarian action and present best practices of intergenerational collaboration.

2. Discuss and demonstrate how Compact Signatories can concretely support intergenerational leadership and actions and ensure that their own work is sensitive to the reality and needs of young women and youth.

Format

The event will be a virtual interactive workshop featuring Compact Signatories and breakout room discussions. The breakout rooms will address youth-focused actions across each of the thematic areas of the Compact:

- Financing the WPS agenda and gender equality in humanitarian programming, and women’s economic security, access to resources and other essential services (A.1.4, A.1.10, C.3.1, C.4.4)

- Women’s meaningful participation in peace processes, and protecting and promoting women’s human rights in conflict and crisis contexts (B.2.6, B.2.10, E.4.1)

- Women’s leadership and agency across peace, security and humanitarian sectors (D.1.4, D.1.8, D.3.4, D.4.3, D.4.4)
**Event Sponsors**

Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace Organization (AYAPO), African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Young Women Leaders Caucus, Finland, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Karama, Namibia, Our Generation for Inclusive Peace (OGIP), People Beyond Borders, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, and UN Women.

**AGENDA**

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Time (EDT)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opening Remarks</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Asa Regner, ASG/Deputy Executive Director of UN Women</td>
<td>8:30-8:40</td>
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<td>Moderated by Ms. Harriette Williams Bright, WPS-HA Compact Secretariat Lead and Ms. Shadi Rouhshahbaz, Young Women Leader and Programme Analyst, UN Women</td>
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<td><strong>Panel Discussion on the WPS-HA Compact and its Youth-Relevant Actions</strong></td>
<td>H.E. Emma Inamutila Theofelus Deputy Minister of Information, Communication and Technology, The Republic of Namibia</td>
<td>8:40-9:00</td>
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<td>Moderated by Ms. Harriette Williams Bright, WPS-HA Compact Secretariat Lead and Ms. Shadi Rouhshahbaz, Young Women Leader and Programme Analyst, UN Women</td>
<td>Ms. Maya Ungar, Expert and Advocate, Our Generation for Inclusive Peace</td>
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<td>Ms. Diandra Ní Bhuachalla, Youth Delegate of Ireland to the United Nations</td>
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<td>Ms. Belmar Franceschi, Civil Society of Family Planning (PLAFAM), Feminist Humanitarian Network</td>
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<td><strong>Breakout Room Transition</strong></td>
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<td>9:00-9:05</td>
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<td>Moderated by Ms. Harriette Williams Bright, WPS-HA Compact Secretariat Lead and Ms. Shadi Rouhshahbaz, Young Women Leader and Programme Analyst, UN Women</td>
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| Breakout Room 1: Resourcing for Youth Peacebuilding | Moderator: Ms. Mallika Iyer, Director for Asia and the Pacific and Europe Programs and Humanitarian Action, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders  
Discussant: H.E. Erik Lundberg, Ambassador for Inclusive Peace and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland |  
| WPS-HA Compact Thematic Area:  
- Financing the WPS agenda and gender equality in humanitarian programming  
- Women’s economic security, access to resources and other essential services |  
| 9:05-9:45 |