

Draft Concept Note

“Women at the Table: Advancing Inclusive Decision-Making in Peace and Security”

Host: Republic of Namibia

Occasion: Commemoration the 25th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, during WPS Week, October 2025

Duration: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Date: TBC

Venue: TBC

Background and Context:

In October 2000, under the Presidency of the Republic of Namibia, the United Nations Security Council adopted **Resolution 1325**, a groundbreaking international commitment to recognising and promoting the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Twenty-five years later, the international community reflects on the legacy and ongoing implementation of this landmark resolution, as well as best practices in advancing the Agenda into the next quarter century. As **Co-Chair of the Women, Peace and Security – Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Compact Board**, Namibia is convening this Side Event to reaffirm the centrality of women’s leadership in peace and security and advocate for **their full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace processes, as decision makers, mediators and peace negotiators**.

The WPS-HA Compact Board is a multistakeholder initiative that brings together Member States, UN entities, regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate implementation of the WPS Agenda. It focuses on ensuring that women and girls are meaningfully included in peace processes, humanitarian efforts, and decisions that affect their lives.

Although progress has been made in increasing women’s leadership roles in peace processes, women remain significantly underrepresented at the tables where peace is negotiated and decisions are made. This UN Side Event will spotlight innovative strategies and concrete actions to ensure women are not just included, but are afforded the opportunity to be influential in shaping peace outcomes.

Objectives

- To commemorate Namibia’s historic leadership in the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and its continued commitment to advancing the WPS agenda and implementing the Windhoek+25 Declaration.
- To advocate for the full inclusion of women in all aspects of peace processes and to strengthen their role in mediation and peace negotiations.

- To highlight impactful policies, practices, and WPS-HA Compact commitments that have supported women's leadership in peace and security.
- To foster dialogue and collaboration among Member States, the UN, and civil society aimed at accelerating implementation of WPS commitments.

Proposed Agenda (1hr 45 min)

Opening Segment – 15 minutes

- Remarks by Hon. Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Minister of International Relations and Trade, Namibia
- UN Women Executive Director or Senior UN Representative
- Representative of the WPS-HA Compact Secretariat

High-Level Panel – 45 minutes

Theme: *“Breaking Barriers: Elevating Women’s Leadership in Peace Processes and Decision-Making”*

Moderated by: TBC

Proposed Panelists:

- Hon. Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Minister of International Relations and Trade, Namibia
- Female mediator or peace negotiator from a conflict-affected region
- Government representative from a country championing women's inclusion in peace talks
- UN official or expert on mediation and political transitions

Interactive Dialogue / Audience Q&A – 15 minutes

- Open dialogue with participants, civil society leaders, Member States, and UN stakeholders

Launch of the Compact Accountability Report Commitments– 15 minutes

Closing Remarks – 15 minutes

- Summary of key takeaways and recommendations
- Closing statements from Namibia and co-hosts