UN Portal on Women in Justice and Security

DATE
Thursday
29 October 2026

TIME
10:00 – 12:00
Eastern time

VENUE
Conference Room 8
UN Headquarters, New York · English

Agenda

5 SESSIONS · 120 MINUTES

10:00 to 10:15

Opening remarks

Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding and Peace Support

10:15 to 10:30

What the first-round data shows

Women's participation and leadership; reported practices

Megan Bastick and **Simon Petitjean**, DCAF · **Germana Dalberto**, Gender Affairs Officer, PBPSO

10:30 to 11:10

Women in justice and security: a conversation PANEL

Keynote address · **Her Excellency Ms. Liberata Mulamula**, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security

Conversation · Leaders from different sectors, levels and regions on what helped them advance in the justice and security sectors, and what still holds others back. Facilitation: DCAF.

Margaret Nyambura Karanja
UN Deputy Police Adviser

Brig. Gen. Sandra Keijer
Royal Netherlands Marechaussee and Dutch National Police

Ines Zeitner
Assistant Chief Constable, German Police · Police Adviser, UN Women

Lt. Col. Glory Mkwizu
Tanzania Armed Forces · Office of Military Affairs, DPO

11:10 to 11:45

Open discussion

11:45 to 12:00

Closing: next steps and the second round

PBPSO · Followed by a group photograph

Background

WHY A PORTAL ON WOMEN IN JUSTICE AND SECURITY

Around the world, governments and partners are working to advance women's participation and leadership in justice and security institutions. These efforts are central to building institutions that earn public trust, prevent conflict and sustain peace. But turning commitments into progress requires a clearer picture of where we stand: where women are represented, what enables them to lead and where barriers remain.

The United Nations, in collaboration with DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, is developing the Portal on Women in Justice and Security to strengthen that evidence base. The Portal brings together data shared by Member States on women's representation and the institutional conditions that shape their careers, helping countries track progress, exchange good practices and inform reform. For Member States, national institutions, civil society and partners, it offers a shared resource for turning data into action: identifying barriers, shaping policy, supporting gender parity targets in contributions to United Nations peace operations and making women's leadership more visible.

The Portal responds to the Secretary-General's call for the regular use of robust data and gender analysis on women's participation in decision-making and in the justice and security sectors (S/2025/556, para. 107 (b)), and advances the Security Council's recognition that women's full, equal and meaningful participation contributes to inclusive, accountable and legitimate institutions that better protect populations and promote lasting peace (resolution 2553 (2020), para. 5).

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The Portal supports long-standing commitments to women's equal participation in public life, employment and decision-making: CEDAW on equal rights to hold public office and access employment (arts. 7 (b), 11 (1)); the CEDAW Committee on equal representation in the armed forces, police and justice institutions and parity in the judiciary (general recommendations No. 23, 30 and 40); the Beijing Platform for Action on women's equal right to serve as judges, police, prison and detention officers (para. 232 (m)); General Assembly resolution 65/228 on gender-equitable representation at decision-making levels (annex, para. 16 (k)); the Bangkok Rules on access of women prison staff to senior positions (rule 29); and Security Council resolution 2553 (2020), which encourages Member States to remove legal, institutional and regulatory barriers and increase women's representation at all levels (para. 5).

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Representation depends on the conditions under which women enter, remain in and advance within institutions. The 2024 defence report identifies insufficient support for family and childcare responsibilities, masculine institutional cultures and entrenched gender stereotypes as significant barriers to recruitment and retention (S/2025/556, para. 71). Pathways for Peace notes that, in some contexts, more women police officers and women's police stations have contributed to increased reporting of crimes against women (UN–World Bank, 2018, p. 163). The Portal therefore pairs data on participation with information on recruitment, retention, promotion and leadership, to identify the reforms needed for lasting change.

The Portal

FIVE SURVEYS SENT TO MEMBER STATES IN MARCH 2026

01 Police	02 Prisons	03 Judiciary	04 Military justice	05 Mine action

Each survey captures representation at every level including leadership, recruitment and promotion, retention, family-friendly policies, institutional reforms and practices that support advancement. A second round of data collection is open until 26 February 2027.

Objectives of the event

FOUR OUTCOMES

1

Present an overview of the information shared in the first round of data collection, including practices that support women's participation and advancement.

2

Consult Member States on the UN Portal webpage before it is finalized in April 2027.

3

Learn from women leaders' experience to explore pathways to leadership and priorities for institutional change.

4

Encourage Member States to take part in the second round of data collection, open until 26 February 2027.