



## CONCEPT NOTE

### “No Peace Without Women: A call to action

#### Realizing the Unfulfilled Promise of the Women, Peace & Security Agenda”

##### 1. Background

The seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), to be held from 9 to 19 March 2026 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, will take place under the priority theme “Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls.” This theme is closely aligned with the legal and political commitments undertaken by States within the framework of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, launched by Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), the first binding legal instrument recognizing women’s protection, participation, and rights in peace and security, and developed through its subsequent resolutions.

Furthermore, the emphasis on access to justice reinforces the duty of States to adopt normative, institutional, and programmatic frameworks that eliminate structural, discriminatory, and contextual barriers that limit the exercise of the rights of women and girls, thus consolidating access to justice as a central component of conflict prevention, accountability, and the building of sustainable peace.

Twenty-five years after the adoption of Resolution 1325, the agenda remains critically under-implemented. Yet, National Action Plans (NAPs) continue to be the main instrument for operationalizing States' commitments regarding participation, prevention, protection, and recovery.

Women in conflict zones continue to face targeted gender-based violence, including rape, forced displacement, abduction, and enslavement, used as tactical weapons of war (UN Women, 2023); impunity for perpetrators and lack of accountability mechanisms (OHCHR, 2024); severe underrepresentation, as women constitute less than 10% of peace negotiators worldwide (UN Women, 2023; Council on Foreign Relations, 2024); chronic underfunding, since less than 1% of global peacebuilding funding supports gender equality efforts (OECD DAC, 2023); and escalating threats, intimidation, and targeted attacks against women human rights defenders (UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs, 2023).

Against this backdrop, the evidence remains irrefutable: Peace agreements with women’s meaningful participation are 35% more likely to last at least 15 years (UN Women & International Peace Institute, 2015).



In this regard, Costa Rica, Finland, Montenegro, Gabon and Qatar, together with the NGO CSW Geneva, NGO CSW Vienna, NGO CSW New York, NGO CSW Africa, NGO CSW Latin America, NGO CSW Asia Pacific, NGO CSW Middle East, the G100 Women Leaders Global Wing on Government & Ministerial Advocacy, Women's Federation for World Peace International, and the International Association of First Ladies for Peace, are joining forces to advance a collective call: “No Peace Without Women”

## 2. Objective

This side event aims to:

- Reaffirm the WPS agenda as a legal obligation and strengthen its urgent implementation for pre-requisite for sustainable peacebuilding and peace-making.
- Visibilize the gap between global commitments and realities for women in conflict settings.
- Promote women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace processes.
- Showcase cross-regional good practices to accelerate implementation, including in the face of emerging challenges.
- Mobilize Member States, UN Bodies and civil society behind “No Peace Without Women” as a unified advocacy message for CSW70.

## 3. Proposed themes

The proposed themes, related to the CSW70 main theme are:

- Women's Leadership and Participation in Public Life
- Access to Justice in Crisis, Conflict, and Post-Conflict Scenarios
- Eliminating Violence Against Women in Public Life
- Access to Justice for Victims and Survivors of Violence

## 4. Speakers

The side event will feature high-level speakers who will provide their diverse and innovative approaches to implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, enabling a dynamic and cross-regional exchange of experiences. Representatives from Costa Rica, Finland, Gabon, Montenegro and Qatar will present their experiences and progress on the agenda.

Representative from civil society organization from Women’s Federation for World Peace International, launcher of the initiative “No Peace without Women” and a representative from the G100 Women Leaders Government & Ministerial Advocacy will present the global campaign to strengthen the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through “No Peace Without Women”





This exchange will be completed by the participation of a UN Women high-level official, as well as representatives from the CEDAW Committee and the Human Rights Council.

Global Networks of Civil Society Organizations represented by the NGO CSW committees from New York, Geneva, Vienna, Africa, Latin America, Asia Pacific and the Middle East, will highlight their regional successful peacebuilding initiatives.

At the closing of the event a speaker from civil society will deliver a Call to Action “No Peace without Women”.

### 5. Event details

Tentative Date: March 9, 2026

Time: 1.15 pm – 2.45 pm

Tentative Venue: Conference Room 9, United Nations Headquarters, New York

### 6. Event Format

The event will be held in person, in a high-level panel format, combining brief, focused interventions by the panelists with a moderated dialogue, highlighting key lessons learned, innovative approaches, and strategic messages related to the implementation of the WPS agenda

Interventions will be strictly timed, prioritizing clear messages and transferable contributions. The closing of the dialogue will be led by the moderator and a civil society representative, who will synthesize the key conclusions and lead to the Call to Action on Women, Peace and Security: “No Peace without Women”

### 7. Preliminary event agenda

Preliminary event agenda		
<b>1.15 – 1.30 pm</b>	<b>Introduction: Contextualization of the event and introduction of the panel (4 min each)</b>	Welcome remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ms. Carolyn Handschin-Moser, President NGO CSW Geneva, WFWPI</li> <li>● Ms. Patricia Elias, G100 Global Chair – Government &amp; Ministerial Advocacy</li> </ul>





Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE GABONAISE AUPRÈS DE L'ONU



دولة قطر  
State of Qatar

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Sima Bahous, Director, Programme, Policy and Intergovernmental Division, UN Women</li> <li>Ms. Maritza Chan, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Chair of CSW70</li> </ul>
<b>1.30 – 1:55 pm</b>	<b>High-level panel (4-5 min each) (in alphabetical order)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Yerlin Zúñiga, Executive President, National Women’s Institute, Costa Rica</li> <li>Ms. Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Social Security, Finland</li> <li>Ms. Armande Longo Moulengui, Minister of Social Affairs in charge of the protection of childhood and women, Gabon</li> <li>Mr. Fatmir Gjeka, Minister of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro</li> <li>H.E Ms. Buthaina Bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi, Minister of Social Development and Family, Qatar</li> </ul>
<b>1.55 – 2.25 pm</b>	<b>Expert Panel (4 min each) CSO’s Panel (3mns)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert: Rangita de Silva de Alwis, CEDAW Co-chair Women Peace &amp; Security, author of Addendum to GR30 on Women in Conflict Prevention, conflict &amp; Post-conflict situation (4mn)</li> <li>Expert: Nicole Ameline, Human Rights Advisory Council, author of CEDAW GR 40 (4mn)</li> <li>5 Civil society representatives (3mns each):</li> <li>NGO CSW Geneva</li> <li>NGO CSW New York</li> <li>NGO CSW Vienna</li> <li>NGO CSW Asia Pacific</li> <li>NGO CSW Latin America</li> </ul>
<b>2.25 – 2.30 pm</b> <b>20mns</b>	<b>Closing Session: Call to Action “No Peace without Women”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderator: Ms. Ambassador Maritza Chan, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Chair of CSW70</li> <li>Civil society representative reads the Call to Action on behalf of NGOs</li> </ul>

MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE  
COSTA RICA ANTE LAS  
NACIONES UNIDAS

GOBIERNO  
DE COSTA RICA



MONTENEGRO  
The Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United  
Nations



Permanent Mission of Finland  
to the United Nations



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA  
RÉPUBLIQUE GABONAISE  
AUPRÈS DE L'ONU



دولة قطر  
State of Qatar

