



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

### *Strengthening Women's Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: from Commitments to Results Ha Noi, 7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020*

#### Concept Note

##### **Background and context**

In 2020, the international community will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the establishment of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. 2020 will also mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2020 review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture.

In 2020, Viet Nam will also commence its latest term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Noting its long-standing leadership on the UN Security Council's WPS agenda, including adoption of resolution 1889 (2009) under its Presidency, the Government of Viet Nam proposes to host a high-level international conference to accelerate the role of women in building sustaining peace. The event will be supported by the UN and include a specific focus on:

- (i) Women's meaningful participation in building and sustaining peace; and,
- (ii) Conditions and the resources necessary for gender-responsive peacebuilding and women's empowerment as an integral part of peacebuilding.

Viet Nam's leadership in securing resolution 1889 (2009) highlighted the need to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of resolution 1325 (2000) and the overall WPS agenda, calling for a better response to the needs of women in post-conflict/war situations and mainstreaming gender perspectives in all decision-making processes, especially in the early stages of recovery and peacebuilding. The resolution further addresses the lack of adequate funding for gender equality in conflict-affected and peacebuilding settings and calls for the tracking of funds allocated to address women's needs during peacebuilding.

The General Assembly and Security Council's twin resolutions on sustaining peace, as well as the Secretary-General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender Responsive Peacebuilding (being reviewed in 2020) are also critical to the WPS agenda. In these resolutions, the Secretary-General commits the UN system to allocating at least 15 per cent of UN-managed funds to support peacebuilding through projects which "address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women" as their principle objective.

The 2019 Secretary-General's Report on Women, Peace and Security (S/2019/800) highlights the participation of women in planning and decision making on post-conflict reconstruction and recovery financing, management and monitoring as an ongoing priority in the lead up to the 20th anniversary of the WPS agenda in 2020.

### **Purpose of the Event**

Given the critical gaps that remain in advancing gender-responsive peacebuilding, realizing women's full and equal participation in peacebuilding, and the limited progress in the mobilization of resources for gender-responsive peacebuilding, the International Conference is organized to discuss the implementation of the WPS agenda and reflect on opportunities, gaps and challenges for women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding on the ground. The event will also identify good practices and collaborative approaches, as well as discuss policy-level action and the dedicated expertise and resources needed to accelerate women's participation in peacebuilding.

The Conference aims to advance gender-responsive peacebuilding as well as to accelerate women's meaningful participation in and financing for gender-inclusive peacebuilding. It will provide a unique opportunity for senior officials from the UN, Member States, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, women's organizations, peacebuilding practitioners and other stakeholders to reflect on the experiences of women involved in peacebuilding, as well as to identify the current gaps and make commitments to accelerate action beyond 2020.

The event will also provide an opportunity for Member States and the international community to highlight their commitment to women-led and gender-responsive peacebuilding and reconstruction – through dedicated resourcing, demonstrated political support, and socio-economic empowerment as part of peacebuilding.

### **Participation**

The event is envisaged to host 300 participants combining physical and virtual participation, including high-level United Nations officials, representatives of all Member States, representatives of Regional Organizations, NGOs, academia, women's organizations, peacebuilding practitioners and other stakeholders.

### **Key agenda items**

All parts of the agenda will aim to involve representatives from different regions of the world, a gender balance in speakers, and contribution of perspectives from Governments, international and regional institutions, academia and civil organizations, local networks and other stakeholders.

#### *Discussion highlights will include:*

1. *Assessment of the implementation of the WPS Agenda on the role of women in peacebuilding:*
  - Reflections on 20 years of UNSCR 1325 implementation (2000), approximately 10 years of implementation of indicators used for monitoring the implementation of Resolution 1325 and 11 years of implementation of Security Council resolution 1889 (2009) in light of the UN's renewed commitment to prevention and sustaining peace which recognizes the centrality of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

- Addressing challenges to gender-responsive peacebuilding, and women's inclusion in peacebuilding processes, including identification of the political and structural barriers and financial constraints to gender-inclusive peacebuilding.
- Participating Member States and entities, including Viet Nam, sharing their institutional experience of promoting accountability and supporting women's role and participation in peacebuilding.
- The presence and contribution of gender expertise in peacekeeping.

## *2. Moving forward the WPS agenda, advancing gender-responsive peacebuilding and accelerating women's participation in peacebuilding*

- Showcase and learn from the experiences and perspectives of women participating in peacebuilding and discuss ways and means to strengthen women's influence and meaningful participation in peace processes, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and state building, including linkages between the peace-humanitarian-development nexus.
- Explore the critical role and evolution of social protection, public service, and sustainable infrastructure provision in terms of their contribution to sustaining peace.
- Discuss new threat multipliers which have emerged in the peace and security sphere, such as the global health pandemic and climate crisis, and demonstrate how women's contribution to these non-traditional security solutions can improve prevention, peacebuilding and recovery efforts.
- Identification of existing and potential entry points and opportunities for the UN, IFIs, international academic and other groups to support gender-inclusive peacebuilding.
- Develop potential inputs for the review of the indicators in monitoring the implementation of Resolution 1325 and suggest measures to improve monitoring mechanisms.
- Explore ways to improve regional initiatives on WPS and strengthen coordination between UN entities and regional organizations on this agenda.

### **Expected results/take-aways**

The overall goal is to drive momentum and accelerate implementation of gender-responsive peacebuilding by identifying current obstacles preventing women's central role in peacebuilding; and formulating solutions to overcome these challenges, which include leveraging existing enablers and good practices to accelerate achieving concrete WPS results.

In terms of more concrete outcomes, the host country will produce an outcome document which will be open to co-sponsorship to be sent to the Presidents of the General Assembly, Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission.