



GENEVA CONFERENCE ON  
AFGHANISTAN

27 - 28 November 2018



## Side Meeting Concept Note

### Women, Peace Processes and UNSCR 1325

28 November 2018, 16:00 – 17:30  
Palais des Nations, Building C, Room I

#### **BACKGROUND**

Since the groundbreaking 2000 UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which calls for women's meaningful participation in all aspects of peacebuilding, there has been mounting evidence that women are powerful actors in sustaining peace in their communities and nations; that gender equality contributes to conflict prevention; and that high rate of violence against women correlates with conflict outbreak and continuation. Subsequent resolutions (1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 and 2422) recognize the disproportionate impact that conflict has on women and girls and call for the full and equal participation of women at all levels in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as for the protection of women and girls from sexual violence in conflict.

Afghanistan launched its National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 in June 2015, one of the key steps that the government of Afghanistan has taken to strengthen the role of Afghan women in peace building and security. To date, Afghanistan has released two progress reports on implementation of NAP 1325, most recently in July 2018. The implementation of the first cycle of Afghanistan's NAP 1325 will be completed by the end of 2018, and Afghanistan is willing to start the second cycle of NAP 1325 (2019-2022).

Progress reports on the implementation of Afghanistan's NAP 1325 reveal that women's presence in all sectors has increased, particularly in the economic and security sectors, the parliament and the civil service. Yet, despite these achievements, women's meaningful participation in state institutions working for peace as well as their ownership of the peace agenda remains very limited. They are still largely excluded from meaningful participation in peace talks in official as well as Track II formats. Actors representing Afghanistan in those fora are men, even as all Afghans - women, men, girls and boys, will be affected by the outcomes of these talks.

Afghanistan may be at a turning point, with a reinvigorated momentum towards peace, as the government intensifies efforts to end conflict. It is therefore crucial to build consensus among all parties that without women's increased and meaningful to peace negotiations, peacebuilding and conflict prevention is a prerequisite for sustainable peace.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The side meeting aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Building consensus among Afghan and international stakeholders on the value added that women leaders can bring to an Afghan peace process;
- Sharing good global practices of WPS Agenda, especially by women who have been part of peace processes;
- Identifying obstacles to women’s meaningful representation in peace and reconciliation processes in Afghanistan, and practical and implementable responses;
- Raising awareness among stakeholders and government representatives about the value and importance of implementing the NAP 1325. Promoting practical actions toward this end, such as monitoring & evaluation instruments as well mechanisms to integrate NAP 1325 objectives in national programming and budgeting.
- Building support for a coalition of national women leaders and local grassroots activists engaged in the WPS agenda in Afghanistan in order to build momentum toward women’s meaningful contribution to a peace process. This includes the diffusion of pertinent expertise at the provincial and local level.

#### FORMAT

The meeting will be opened by H.E. First Lady Rula Ghani and H.E. Mr. Timo Soini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland. After the Opening Remarks, a panel discussion on women’s contributions to peace, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the NAP 1325 will be followed by a moderated open floor discussion between panelists and the audience.

#### PROPOSED AGENDA

Time	Agenda	Responsible/moderator
16:00	Welcome and Introduction	Moderator Päivi Kannisto, UN Women, New York
16:03	Opening Remarks	H.E. First Lady Rula Ghani
16:08	Opening Remarks	Foreign Minister Timo Soini
<b>Panel Discussion</b>		
16:13	Women’s meaningful representation in Peace and reconciliation processes; why are women leaders needed?	National Security Council, Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, National Security Adviser – TBC
16:18	Global good practices of WPS Agenda	Ms. Marriet Schuurman, former Dutch Special Representative for 1325 at NATO - Confirmed
16:23	Importance of NAP1325; Promoting practical action	Adela Raz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs - TBC
16:28	Organizing Activists and leaders for the WPS agenda; Awareness raising and expertise on the Provincial and local level	Raz Mohammad Dalilia, Sanayee Development Organization (SDO) - TBC
16:33	Open Discussion - Q and A	All
17:20	Closing Remarks	Moderator Päivi Kannisto

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