Concept Note

Leadership from the ground up: Local women’s perspectives on Sustaining Peace

Launch of the findings of research on civil society perspectives on Sustaining Peace

October 24, 2018 UN Headquarters (Conference Room: TBC); Time: 10 AM -12 PM

Organizers:
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, UN Women, UN Peacebuilding Support Office, Permanent Missions of Canada, Japan, Korea, & Liberia to the UN (TBC)

Background and Rationale

The Sustaining Peace agenda as elaborated in the General Assembly (A/RES/70/262) and Security Council (S/RES/2282) resolutions, is a comprehensive, coordinated and coherent approach to peacebuilding and conflict prevention. It is both a goal and a process to forge a common vision of a global community that takes into account the needs of all segments of the population. The Sustaining Peace agenda highlights the importance of local leadership and national ownership to effectively sustain peace. It underscores the critical role of women’s rights organization, youth groups and other civil society actors; the private sector, and regional organizations in sustaining peace.

Recognizing that the concept of sustaining peace is intrinsic to civil society’s work on the WPS agenda, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), with support from UN Women, is coordinating a global research to bring the voices of local civil society into the discourse, policy-making and programming on Sustaining Peace. GNWP has received survey responses from nearly 1000 women from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Liberia, Mali, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sweden, Syria, United Kingdom and Ukraine. Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews, to provide more in-depth insights were also organized in 15 countries.

In addition to the survey responses, GNWP expects to obtain data from at least 100 Key Informant Interviews; and 40 Focus Group discussions. This wealth of data will provide invaluable insights into how local women’s civil society understands “Sustaining Peace”; and their thoughts on the role of Member States, the United Nations, regional organizations, donors and other development partners in its operationalization. Equally important, the research presents women CSOs’ concrete recommendations for better implementation of the Sustaining Peace agenda.

The preliminary results emerging from the early analysis of the survey responses received until July 2018 already point to the fact that for women civil society strong institutions, equality and economic development are equally important as indicators of peace as the lack of violence and overt aggression. It also indicates that while there has been some progress in terms of including women in peace processes, more work needs to be done to ensure full and meaningful inclusion; and that international programs and donor support for peacebuilding need to better integrate local populations, especially women, in the design of the interventions. Finally, the research showed that women’s roles in preventing conflict in their communities range from educating the youth; promoting and facilitating dialogue; to organizing neighborhood watch to prevent electoral violence; to supporting the victims of violence and conflict, for example through providing psychosocial support, or shelters for victims of violence.

Sustaining Peace Research Findings Launch - concept note
Objectives

1. To present the key findings of the research on civil society perceptions of Sustaining Peace, thereby amplifying their voices—especially those of local women and young women in conflict and post-conflict countries, as well as in countries that have not recently experienced conflict, and making sure they are part of the global policy discussions and implementation of the Sustaining Peace agenda; and

2. To generate support from the international community in order to realize the women civil society recommendations on the implementation of the Sustaining Peace agenda.

Format, speakers and audience

The event will take the form of a moderated conversation or Davos style/talk show format, with speakers from countries, where the global Sustaining Peace research was conducted. It will be preceded by a short presentation of the research findings by GNWP.

The target audience for this event are the key policy-makers, including representatives of the Member States, the UN, in particular the UN agencies and bodies responsible for peacebuilding and conflict prevention, as well as civil society.

Potential speakers

- **South Sudan**: Rita Lopidia, Eve Women Organization for Development or Lona Elia, Tears of Women
- **Syria**: Rajaa Altalli, Center for Civil Society and Democracy
- **Canada**: TBC
- **Mexico**: TBC
- **Philippines**: Lynrose Jane Dumandan, Young Women for Peace and Leadership
- **GNWP**: Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos

Provisional agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:05</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks, UN Women and objectives Brief introduction of the agenda, objectives, format and speakers Chair [GNWP/UN Women]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:05 – 10:15</td>
<td>Remarks by co-sponsors Permanent Representative (PR) of Liberia to the UN PR/Deputy PR (DPR) of Korea to the UN PR/DPR of Japan to the UN PR/DPR of Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10:15 – 10:55 | First round of conversation: What does it mean to “sustain peace”? Questions  
- To Agnieszka: GNWP coordinated the global civil society research on the Sustaining Peace agenda; can you share your key findings with us?  
- To Rajaa: the conflict in Syria has been going on for over five years now with devastating impact on human lives and the political and economic situation. To the women in Syria, what would sustaining peace look like?  
- To Mexico speaker: Mexico is a complex security context. From your experience as a woman activist, how does human rights work and development intersect with peace and security in Mexico? |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:55 – 11:20</td>
<td>Second round of conversation: challenges to sustaining peace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|              | - To Lynrose: You are one of the Young Women for Peace and Leadership group supported by GNWP, which promotes literacy and women’s economic empowerment, while spreading messages of peace. What does peace mean to the young generation? And what should it mean to “sustain” peace?  
|              | Note: the session should take a form of a conversation; the panellists can also address each other. |
| 11:20 – 11:50 | Third round of questions: recommendations                                           |
|              | - To Rita: The violence in South Sudan continues to affect lives, despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the continuing peace negotiations. What are the main challenges to establishing and sustaining peace in South Sudan?  
|              | - To Canada speaker: Canada is a leader in supporting peacebuilding in other countries. But would you say that internally, Canada is a peaceful country? What challenges to peace does a country like Canada face?  
|              | Note: the session should take a form of a conversation; the panellists can also address each other. |
| 11:50 – 12:00 | Closing remarks PBSO                                                               |