

AND SHE PERSISTED FOR PEACE: REDESIGN THE TABLE



A GPPAC PACIFIC WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY REPORT: COMMUNICATING AN INCLUSIVE PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN NEXUS FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

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Building Peace

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Coordinated by:



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I. Introduction:

The quest for gender equality in peace and security processes pre-dates the adoption of the ground-breaking UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) on October 31, 2000. In fact the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) adopted in September 1995 at the United Nations (UN) Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) drew on recommendations from successive women's conferences, reaffirming:

“In a world of continuing instability and violence, the implementation of cooperative approaches to peace and security is urgently needed. The equal access and full participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peace-keeping and defence and foreign affairs mechanisms, they are still underrepresented in decision-making positions. If women are to play an equal part in securing and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making”

The BPfA includes women and armed conflict as one of 12 critical areas of concern. It reaffirms the historical role of women peacebuilders and women as powerful drivers of peace movements, and unequivocally states that peace is inextricably linked to equality between men and women, and to development. The BPfA lists essential measures to advance peace and equality, including reductions in military spending and controls on the availability of armaments. It affirms women need “to be at the table” to participate in decision-making around conflict resolution and stresses that those who have fled because of conflict are entitled to fully participate in all aspects of programmes to help them recover and rebuild their lives.

The BPfA also specifically addresses the struggle of women living in colonies and non-self-governing territories by calling on member states and civil society to support and promote the implementation of the right of self-determination of all peoples by providing special programmes in leadership and in training for decision-making.

It should be noted that ahead of the UN FWCW, the adoption of the 1994 Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) by Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) formed the basis of the Pacific region's contribution at the conference. It included 13 critical areas of concern related to health, education and training, economic empowerment, agriculture and fishing, legal and human rights, shared decision-making, environment, culture and the family, mechanisms to promote the advancement of women, violence, peace and justice, poverty, and indigenous people's rights.

In 2020, the vision of the nuclear free and independent Pacific movement, disarmament and prevention of armed conflict and violence are critical priorities for the GPPAC Pacific network.

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is a member-led global network that links civil society with relevant local, national, regional and international actors and institutions to collectively contribute to a fundamental change in dealing with violence and armed conflict: to advance a shift from reaction to prevention. Founded in 2003, GPPAC network consists of fifteen regional networks of local peacebuilding organisations; each region with its own priorities, character and agenda. At the regional level, we advocate and work for strengthening regional coordination on peacebuilding in an inclusive and multi-stakeholder manner, and for the advancement of regional norms and frameworks for conflict prevention, sustaining peace and sustainable development. We do this through locally-led initiatives, based on needs and priorities identified by our regional networks.

The adoption of UNSCR1325 catalysed solidarity action in our Pacific region:

Building on the Pacific women peacebuilders participation at the UN Conference that contributed to the establishment of GPPAC, from 2007 onwards, gender focal points of the GPPAC Pacific network have collaborated and engaged in local, national, as well as regional and global processes to bringing attention to how the Women, Peace and Security agenda can be localised into peacebuilding, non violence and conflict prevention action in our region.

The network has dedicated time and resources to link UNSCR1325 and subsequent resolutions to enhance accountability to women's human rights including in the prevention of conflict and violence, addressing the root causes of all forms of gender based violence and bringing attention to the application of the WPS agenda in humanitarian action.

Subsequently the GPPAC Pacific network has contributed to the regional human security framework, the conflict prevention framework, the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and more recently we have drawn attention to the peace, development and humanitarian nexus.

Our collaborative learning and engagement, provides an opportunity to leverage our work beyond the 20th anniversary of UNSCR1325:

Peacebuilding in our region, requires a balancing of traditional and customary practice with modern governance including an accountability to the culture of human rights by engaging with indigenous leaders and church leaders as well as creating a sustainable space for peace education, peacebuilding dialogue and mediation that enables women and youth of all diversities to access all decision making spaces.

This requires a redesigning of the table or processes of engagement, that not simply rely on the invitation “to the table” but redefining processes that creates a new inclusive space that integrates faith and indigenous practice into the local, national and regional development processes and frameworks.

GPPAC Pacific has also identified that peacebuilding practice can guide our engagement on ensuring greater state accountability, in particular the defence and humanitarian sectors, to be more accountable to a feminist Peace and Security approach and the human rights treaty system.

Communicating our Learning and Recommendations:

Through GPPAC WPS small grants facility, supported by SIDA, we have undertaken a review of related literature and policy recommendations to develop a key set of forward looking recommendations for the regional and global inter-governmental processes and our national leaders and government officials to draw on Pacific women peacebuilders experiences and expertise. The activity was coordinated through the GPPAC Pacific Secretariat – Transcend Oceania.

This report is produced with a Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) in line with the GPPAC Gender Policy (2019) to influence the change of attitudes, behavior and norms that are at the very core of unequal power relations and gender inequalities.

This approach works towards integrating commitments to gender equality across the peace and security agenda which remains a challenge within UN member states. GPPAC's gender policy goes beyond simply calling for the adoption of National Action Plans which tend to generally focus on

gender mainstreaming and the promotion of gender equality within national borders. In fact our policy aims to get to the root causes of the persistence of unequal power relations and harmful gender norms including by working with men and boys to redefine power to demonstrate that gender inclusive conflict prevention contributes to the achievement of gender equality at all levels.

It will enable us to strategically build on the progress we have made to date and work with our allies and partners and **Redesign the Table** beyond the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the BPfA and the 20th anniversary of UNSCR1325.

Recommendations:

“We are setting the table and inviting you to come to the table and the officials to come to the table, so we don't just stand from the outside and try to talk, but create some space and opportunities for ourselves” – Pacific 1325 Meeting 2008, Suva



I. Participation in Peacebuilding and Prevention

Prevention: Prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations;

Participation: women participate equally with men and gender equality is promoted in peace and security decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels

- Apply UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provisions – in particular special measures to support women peacebuilders for participation in national, local, traditional/indigenous decision-making structures including in collaboration with faith community;
- Peacebuilding, Defence and Security Sector policy and governance must clearly demonstrate greater accountability to human rights treaty commitments as well as the localisation of the women, peace and security council resolutions;
- Support the establishment of a Pacific Women Mediators network to enhance women's leadership and contribution to peacebuilding and peace support efforts in our region,

including in response to disasters and humanitarian crises;

- Reaffirm women's definition of security from the community level up, particularly to prevent conflict over resources; transform spaces and processes for women's equal participation in all diversities; promote environmental security from the negative impact of extractive industries to intensifying natural disasters and the impact of climate change on food and nutrition security;
- Financing must ensure sustained resourcing for peacebuilding as well as urgent action and rapid response. Such investment must prioritise women-led peace programmes including innovative practice including women's networks & coalitions including with CSO allies (e.g. Shifting the Power Coalition and GPPAC). Resourcing should also contribute to progressing inter-linkages, nexus of peace, development and humanitarian response;
- Increase the availability of gender/women's rights expertise not military arms.

II. Protection of Women Peacebuilders and Women's Human Rights Defenders

Protection: The rights of women and girls must be protected and promoted in conflict affected situations and humanitarian crises, including natural disasters. Action must be taken at local and national level.

- Create and enforce normative and legislative frameworks, including in local governance and traditional mechanisms to grant the safety and security of women's human rights defenders, including the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly;
- All Peace and Security strategies must protect women's human rights defenders and women's organizations by:
- Ensuring the safety and protection of diverse peacebuilders/

women's human rights defenders in public and online spaces

- Enhancing S&GBV prevention by enhancing legal frameworks as well as prevention measures at all times in particular crisis situations
- Including legal rights and human rights training must be in peacebuilding practice
- Re-construction of local level governance systems to ensure a connection between a gendered approach to family priorities, community needs, local realities and national development agendas; accountable, participatory and inclusive local governance with a strong emphasis on 50:50 representation for women

III. Relief and Recovery

Relief and Recovery: All planning and implementation measures must meet the specific and diverse needs of women and girls as well as ensure women's capacities to act as agents in relief and recovery are reinforced in humanitarian crises and conflict and post-conflict situations

- The Boe Declaration Action Plan must be informed by a conflict prevention analysis approach and strategies must ensure alignment with the Pacific Resilience Framework, the Forum Conflict Prevention, Human Security and Security Sector Governance Frameworks, as well as the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2015);
- Implementation of the Boe Declaration Action Plan requires a new multi-actor consultative framework for regional peace and security that structurally includes and supports civil society representatives who can prioritize, localize and operationalize

Women, Youth and Civil Society Peacebuilding, Prevention and Participation frameworks as equal partners;

- Taking into account the role of the military in disasters, humanitarian and crisis responses, including in the distribution of relief and the organization of local security. Local, national and regional deployment plans, must be accountable to women's human rights and the WPS agenda to ensure that training for peacekeeping and humanitarian deployments are not only compliant with international humanitarian law, but also protect the rights of women and girls by making certain women are supported in organising and managing evacuation centres to ensure safe spaces for women and girls. Gender advisers from local women's human rights networks must be part of providing pre-deployment training and supporting local engagement.

IV. Accountability of State and Inter-Governmental System

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has supported the delegation of some responsibilities over peace and security to regional organisations, within the limits of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. The recent UNSC resolution 2493¹, for example, promotes the continued use of the UN's annual consultations with regional organisations to encourage the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda as it relates to their specific contexts, further advancing cooperation and sharing of best practices (OP 9b). The recent United Nations Reform on Peace and Security² encourages the support for regional organisations and the development of regional peacebuilding initiatives. This includes increased engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission with regional organisations.

- Adopt a multi-actor consultative framework that enables women peacebuilders to participate in national and regional dialogues on the peace, development and humanitarian nexus;
- Include a standing agenda item on the WPS agenda in

meetings which address peace and security. This should include resourcing and supporting meetings between representatives of national women's organizations, member states and their officials;

- Support, including with dedicated resource allocation, women's engagement and participation in preventive diplomacy and the monitoring and implementation of agreements. This should be extended to creating formal mechanisms to transfer women's demands to the negotiation table from the preparatory and implementation phases of peace processes as well as through political transitions, rather than limited to a given round of negotiations or national dialogue;
- Provide annual reports, with qualitative analysis, on women's participation and engagement in peacebuilding including their participation in dialogue, mediation, engagement in early warning and early response, as well as civilian deployment as gender advisers in election observer missions, peace support operations as well as disaster and humanitarian responses.



1 UN. (2019). Security Council Resolution 2493. Retrieved from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2493\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2493(2019))

2 UN. (2019). Peace and Security Reform. Retrieved from <https://reform.un.org/content/peace-and-security-reform>.

KEY INDICATORS OF CHANGE

Participation:

- Number of departments and institutions committing to adopting inclusive conflict prevention strategies, including narrative descriptions of alignment to WPS commitments;
- Number and description of WPS-CSOs participating in designing and implementing national infrastructures for peace;
- Number and description of women and men in leadership positions committing to strategies;
- Number of CSO representatives (women/men) trained with skills relating to strategizing, lobby and advocacy, conflict analysis, gender analysis, dialogue & mediation, peace education, media;
- Percentage of funds from overall funding allocated to support and implement WPS strategies

Protection:

- Number of reforms implemented incorporating WPS agenda;
- Number of reports received and the number of prosecution of violations;
- Percentage of funds from overall funding allocated to support and implement WPS strategies

Relief and Recovery:

- Action and how WPS is integrated into humanitarian response;
- Percentage of funds from overall funding allocated to local and national crisis response led by women

Institutional Arrangements:

- Number and description of institutional relationships established between CSOs and regional organisations as a result of greater commitment to the WPS agenda;
- The number and the way in which WPS experts/advisers from civil society were engaged in the process(es);
- Number and frequency of joint activities and interventions, e.g. early warning alerts, local stories communicated widely, conflict analyses, policy briefs and recommendations produced by local CSOs, solidarity missions and statements;
- Number of formal and informal partnership agreements;
- Percentage of funds from overall funding allocated to support and implement WPS strategies by women

UN System and Global Frameworks³

- Beijing Platform for Action - “The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 is a visionary agenda for the empowerment of women. It still remains today the most comprehensive global policy framework and blueprint for action, and is a current source of guidance and inspiration to realize gender equality and the human rights of women and girls, everywhere. This landmark text was the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, in September 1995. After two weeks of political debate, exchange of information on good practice and lessons learned, and sharing of experiences, representatives of 189 Governments agreed to commitments that were unprecedented in scope.”

- CEDAW - “The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) ” adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.”

- o CEDAW General Recommendation 30 (GR30) women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations is a landmark document giving authoritative guidance to countries that have ratified CEDAW on concrete measures to ensure women’s human rights are protected before, during and after conflict. CEDAW applies in all forms of conflict and post conflict settings and addresses crucial issues facing women in these settings, including violence and challenges in access to justice and education, employment and health. The general recommendation affirms CEDAW’s linkages with the Security Council’s women, peace and security agenda.

- o CEDAW General Recommendation 37 (GR37) makes linkages with disasters and the opportunity to further progress interlinkages, the peacebuilding, in particular conflict and crisis prevention, development and humanitarian nexus.

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. The SDGs build on decades of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

- Women, Peace and Security: The women, peace and security agenda established in UNSCR 1325 is further supported by seven additional UNSCRs—1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 and 2242—as well as by key reference points in the BPfA and CEDAW. While a strong evidence base shows that women’s participation in peace and security processes is core to their effectiveness, the contribution of women and girls to peacebuilding often goes undervalued and under-resourced. Enhancing women’s engagement for sustainable peace will

require an integrated approach that simultaneously addresses conflict prevention, peacebuilding and social cohesion, while strengthening accountability and women’s protection from all forms of human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence.

- UNSCR 1325 - “the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution (S/RES/1325) on Women and Peace and Security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security”

- Youth, Peace and Security: The UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security identifies five key pillars for action relating to youth (who are defined as persons aged 18 through 29) and peace: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration. It also urges Member States to give youth a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels and to consider setting up mechanisms that would enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes. The commitment to the full implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda was again reaffirmed in UNSCR 2419 (2018), requesting the Secretary-General to consider including in his reporting to the Security Council information on the progress made towards participation of youth in peace processes.

- UN Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism : The Plan of Action calls for a comprehensive approach encompassing systematic preventive steps, going beyond a security response, to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalize and join violent extremist groups. The Plan provides more than 70 recommendations to prevent the further spread of violent extremism, emphasising the need to promote and strengthen dialogue, conflict prevention, governance, rule of law, human rights, community engagement, youth and women’s empowerment efforts.

- Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: The HDP nexus, born out of several processes including the World Humanitarian Summit, UN Peace Architecture Review, the Sendai Framework etc., has been well cemented within the UN Development System reform and is seen as the key vehicle for leaving no one behind. Equally the OECD DAC Recommendations on the HDP nexus provides a solid foundation for strengthening the Peace components of the nexus. The DAC recommendation recognises the core commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit on a new way of working to meet humanitarian needs and reducing vulnerability and risks through the achievement of the collective outcomes. Amongst other things, the DAC recommendation suggests the need to undertake joint analysis of root causes and structural drivers of conflict, taking a people centric approach with prevention, mediation and peacebuilding being prioritised using a conflict sensitive lens.

³ Sources include the GPPAC Gender Policy & GPPAC Policy Working Group

V. A Women-Led Peace and Security Agenda Beyond 2020

“We encourage people who come together in forums or advocacy work in public and in the communities... because it is the ultimate realization of people’s human right to choose their future.” – Agnes Titus, Program Director at Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation

Gender equality and human rights are integral to achieving sustainable peace.

This requires a rethinking of national peace and security sector governance where decisions are made for the allocation of resources and national budgeting that can result in investment that tackle power imbalances, SGBV, and patriarchal structures in peacebuilding and humanitarian action. This also requires shifting the power to national and local women’s rights actors, to strengthen agency, amplify voice, building on collaborative opportunities including women-led coalitions and feminist practices and local innovation.

Committing to this approach can enable a shift from crisis reaction financing to gender responsive peacebuilding and preventative action. This will also enable women’s leadership across the peace cycle, from the immediate response and assessment as well as recovery measures. It is vital to give greater attention to addressing the peace, development and humanitarian nexus. Additionally, participation requires greater accountability to CEDAW when national action plans are being developed. This means financing and effective legal mechanisms that enable women’s inclusion in formal peace and security.

At the national and regional level, Pacific Leaders and civil society activists as well as Pacific Churches continue to highlight climate change as the single greatest threat faced by our people and countries. Loss of land, even whole islands, increased hunger, more frequent droughts and persistent damage to infrastructure have an intense potential to fuel instability and conflict. The WPS framework will increasingly need to be a climate crisis-informed one and address the impact of local and national natural disasters on the peace and security agenda. GPPAC Pacific members⁵ recognise the need to contribute to the realisation of ecological justice and prevention of further environmental degradation.

Because while we welcome the recognition of the climate change crisis within recent UN Security Council and Pacific Forum meetings, we must ensure that this is about enhancing and ensuring the human security of our most affected communities as well as not losing sight of the unresolved issues of political independence while also addressing the challenges holistically through a peace, development and humanitarian nexus approach.

To ensure progress, as we have learnt, there must also be dedicated financing specifically for the commitments to the WPS agenda and specifically for women’s activism from the local to the global level. Funding priorities must also support women’s participation in governance structures which bring

about the peace and stability in communities through inclusive and just development practice.

Dedicated resources must be allocated to national and local women’s rights actors, to strengthen agency, amplify voice, build on collaborative opportunities including women-led coalitions and feminist practices to enable a shift from funding of crisis-reaction financing to gender-responsive peacebuilding and preventative action. This can enable women’s leadership across the peace cycle, from the immediate response and assessment through to recovery measures. There must also be sustained resourcing for inclusive and innovative peacebuilding practice and leadership, including the wider civil society and social movements including traditional systems and faith communities.

A Women-led Peace and Security Agenda is a Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus approach that addresses the root causes of violence and conflict and will enable us to return to the key demands of the women’s movement while advocating for the adoption of resolution 1325: reducing military expenditures, controlling the availability of armaments, promoting non-violent forms of conflict resolution, and fostering a culture of peace. The women, peace and security agenda is about ending conflict, not about making conflict safer for women.

Prevention requires both a short-term approach which includes women’s participation and gender based violations within early warning measures, as well as longer term structural approaches to address the root causes of conflict, including inequality, and address new sources of conflict, including the impacts of climate change and natural resources.

It requires a new multi-actor consultative framework for regional peace and security that supports community representatives who can localise and operationalise women’s participation in peacebuilding and prevention including: implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty’s provision on gender-based violence; prioritizing the consultation and participation of women in the implementation, monitoring and accountability of the SDGs; adopting gender-responsive budgeting practices as a strategy to address, highlight and mitigate militarized state budgets and their destabilizing impact on international peace and security and women’s rights; including women’s participation and gender-responsive indicators in all early-warning processes, conflict prevention and early-response efforts; working in partnership with affected women and girls when designing, implementing and monitoring climate-change and natural resource-related strategies and providing financial, technical and political support, to strengthen the capacity of women’s civil society to organize and play a greater role in national and community-led violence prevention, dispute resolution and mediation initiatives, and wider preventive diplomacy work.

It is time to redesign the table.

5 Members who attended the 2019 Regional Steering Group meeting were Transcend Oceania (Secretariat since June 2019), FemLINKpacific, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation – Bougainville, Pacific Conference of Churches, Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding, Talitha Project, Vanuatu Young Women for Change, Vois Blong Mere Solomon

VI. Participation in Peacebuilding and Prevention

“We are setting the table and inviting you to come to the table and the officials to come to the table, so we don’t just stand from the outside and try to talk, but create some space and opportunities for ourselves” – Pacific 1325 Meeting 2008, Suva

Women’s participation provides the key to building and sustaining peace.

The localisation and implementation of UNSCR1325 by women peacebuilders, and our recommendations, has been a key reminder of why the participation of women at all levels is essential for the operational effectiveness, success and sustainability of peace processes and peacebuilding efforts⁶. Resources for women’s activism from the local to the global level, including improving women’s political agency to contribute to governance structures is essential for the implementation of UNSCR1325. The efforts and role of the community-based women’s movements in bringing about long-term prevention and social transformation need recognition and support so that all women and girls can claim their right to peace and security.

However the Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2015) identified that while resources have gone into formulating state centric national action plans and increasing women in parliament and the military, women’s needs at local level have largely gone unmet.

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed

Conflict (GPPAC) Pacific network – represented by diverse Pacific women and women’s organisations from Fiji, Papua New Guinea including Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Tonga, and Vanuatu have been at the helm of peacebuilding whether as mediators or as part of groups working to improve conditions in local communities, or as providers of safe havens for women and children affected by violence and demanding accountability and respect for human rights⁷.

Additionally, through the Pacific Conference of Churches, also a member of GPPAC Pacific, women continue to work with indigenous and faith leaders to confront real, growing and interconnected issues affecting indigenous communities including environmental degradation, weak political governance systems and high levels of social injustice. Despite such efforts in Pacific Island countries and territories women’s participation in formal conflict prevention and management and post-conflict recovery efforts, as well as oversight and accountability mechanisms for the peace and security sector is still not fully realized.

Women still struggle to be heard at the negotiating table in leadership roles and are not given sufficient recognition and resources to do their work. This is symptomatic of a broader problem in the region related to women’s absence from political decision-making at all levels of society and continued high levels of sexual and gender based violence.



⁶ The Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 available at <http://wps.unwomen.org/en>

⁷ Pacific Regional Action Plan: Women, Peace and Security 2012 - 2015

PEACEBUILDING IS NATION BUILDING

“Women have been sustaining the peace” Agnes Titus, Program Coordinator at Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation

For more than 30 years, Agnes, and women leaders like her—mothers of the Bougainville Women’s Movement and leaders of the Women’s Human Rights Defenders Network in whose name peace was brokered, weapons collected and political agreements adopted have been sustaining peace, providing recommendations for a sustainable approach to development, and a shift from ‘gender based violence to gender justice.’

The period 1988 – 2003 was marked by insecurity and conflict in the Pacific region. Ethnic tensions in Bougainville conflict (1988-1998) and the Solomon Islands (1998-2003) witnessed armed conflict, civil unrest, tribal fighting, and local level conflicts over development issues including natural resources. When development issues become a trigger of violence and social and political upheaval, women’s perspective is often missing from decision-making processes.

“I was part of Women for Peace. When we went to visit the warring parties from both sides” – Josephine Teakeni, Vois Blong Mere Solomon

Women bring a level of dialogue to discussions that contribute to the culture of non-violence. This was evident in Bougainville and Solomon Islands when women met and organised together, led mediation, walked into jungles, held negotiations across crocodile infested rivers, brokered peace with armed combatants and ultimately brought an end to the 10-year armed conflict and restored peace to the islands⁸.

The adoption of UNSCR1325 was informed by women like Agnes Titus, Josephine Teakeni and Helen Hakena of the Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency.

“We are committed to supporting the role of women in transitional peace processes in our region including the historical Bougainville Referendum” – Agnes Titus

The work continues. In Bougainville, Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency and The Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation have continued to utilise dialogue, mediation and peace building tools particularly peace education within communities across the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Ahead of the Referendum in November 2019, they encouraged voting through advocacy, awareness raising and education; continued to mediate community disputes; supported soldiers returning from peacekeeping operations; provided technical inputs into defence reviews and national security policy development and; have lead significant efforts across the region to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.

In the Solomon Islands, women like Josephine Teakeni are working to sustain the peace holding leaders accountable to the promises to women’s participation in decision making including national political processes and elections: **“there (is) a lot of rehabilitation work happening in different areas since the crisis, the ethnic tension. As a country we’ve been through disaster. Being in this position of knowing that when we talk about social, economic, political issues in our country (...) it’s all about the human (security) and gender lens” - Josephine Teakeni**

⁸ Pacific Regional Action Plan: Women, Peace and Security 2012 - 2015

DEFINITIONS OF PEACEBUILDING

GALTUNG, JOHAN

Peacebuilding is the process of creating self-supporting structures that “remove causes of wars and offer alternatives to war in situations where wars might occur.” Conflict resolution mechanisms “should be built into the structure and be present there as a reservoir for the system itself to draw upon, just as a healthy body has the ability to generate its own antibodies and does not need ad hoc administration of medicine.”

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTION OF ARMED CONFLICT

Peacebuilding involves addressing social and political sources of conflict as well as reconciliation.

JOAN B. KROC INSTITUTE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE, UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, STRATEGIC PEACEBUILDING PRINCIPLES:

Peacebuilding is complex and has multiple actors.
Peacebuilding requires values, goals, commitment to human rights and needs.
Peacebuilding goes beyond conflict transformation.
Peacebuilding cannot ignore structural forms of injustice and violence.
Peacebuilding is founded on an ethic of interdependence, partnership, and limiting violence.
Peacebuilding depends on relational skills.
Peacebuilding analysis is complex; underlying cultures,

histories, root causes, and immediate stressors are essential. Peacebuilding creates spaces where people interact in new ways, expanding experience and honing new means of communication.
Peacebuilding heals trauma, promotes justice and transforms relationships.
Peacebuilding requires capacity and relationship building at multiple levels.

LEDERACH, JOHN PAUL

[Peacebuilding] is understood as a comprehensive concept that encompasses, generates, and sustains the full array of processes, approaches, and stages needed to transform conflict toward more sustainable, peaceful relationships. The term thus involves a wide range of activities that both precede and follow formal peace accords. Metaphorically, peace is seen not merely as a stage in time or a condition. It is a dynamic social construct.

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

[Peacebuilding] includes activities designed to prevent conflict through addressing structural and proximate causes of violence, promoting sustainable peace, delegitimizing violence as a dispute resolution strategy, building capacity within society to peacefully manage disputes, and reducing vulnerability to triggers that may spark violence.

VII. Protection of Women Peacebuilders and Women's Human Rights Defenders

“Addressing gender-based violence... contributes to achieving personal peace. Once personal peace is there, we can find family peace, community peace, and the overall regional peace.” – Agnes Titus, Program Coordinator at Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation

The UN Secretary General's 2019 report on Women, Peace and Security, is a key reminder that despite the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in 1995 and the adoption of 10 security council resolutions dedicated to the women, peace and security agenda, there are record levels of political violence targeting women human rights defenders and peacebuilders⁹ even though the 2015 Global Study stressed that conflict prevention is at the center of the Women, Peace and Security agenda:

“Over 50 parties to conflict are credibly suspected of having committed or instigated patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations on the agenda of the Security Council and at least 1 in 5 refugee or displaced women experience sexual violence and 9 out of the 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage are in fragile contexts. In 2019 alone, nearly 132 million people need humanitarian aid and

protection, including an estimated 35 million women, young women and girls who require lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services, and interventions to prevent gender-based violence and respond to the needs of survivors. Findings by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders show that the rise of misogynistic, sexist and homophobic speech by political leaders in recent years has contributed to increased violence against women, against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex individuals, and against women human rights defenders.”

The Pacific is not immune to these issues. Unequal power relations, intolerance, lack of respect and valuing, lack of access to and control over resources characterise the position of women relative to men. This fuels the pervasive nature of violence and the exclusion, marginalisation and invisibility of women at all levels of decision making, which is detrimental to the human security of the entire Pacific region.

Peace and security is indeed a tangible reality for women in our region. However, women are not just passive victims of violence and inequality; women of the Pacific region have been making significant contributions to human security within families, communities and nations¹⁰.

⁹ S/2019/800 Women peace and security Report of the Secretary-General 2019

¹⁰ Women Peace and Security: Policy Responses and Solutions for our Pacific Region A FemLINK Pacific Policy Initiative 2008

In the Pacific women are “waging peace” to allow effective responses to the complex and multifaceted threats and challenges to human security, which require the participation, recognition and valuing of the experiences and role of women¹¹.

The Global Study on UNSCR1325 (2015) emphasised a clear need to reimagine ‘peacebuilding’ in a way which is meaningful for women and girls—leveraging their capacities and contributions, and developing strategies for inclusion which recognize their roles, and diverse experiences of conflict. These diverse experiences are not just overt and specific to armed conflict but social, economic and political crises situations at local and national level.

This inclusive and transformative peacebuilding is not only a series of activities, or checked boxes for women’s participation. It is an approach which requires addressing systemic gender inequality, and ensuring the safety of women activists by addressing the root cause of conflict and all forms of violence in our pacific societies.

GPPAC Pacific has identified the need for distinct strategies to enhance engagement with men and boys as allies and counter deeply entrenched stereotypes of men solely as perpetrators of violence. Further, there is a need to raise awareness that only by working with both men and women can we contribute to women’s meaningful participation in prevention and protection from all forms of violence, and their subsequent access to justice resources. These processes require us to address notions of masculinity and tradition that perpetuate harmful gender norms acting as barriers to achieving our collective goal. Therefore, by mainstreaming gender into conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes, we aim to terminate the root causes which allow unequal power relations to persist and instead provide transformative solutions. As introduced in GPPAC’s Gender Policy document, we aim to adopt a Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) to influence the change of attitudes, behaviours, and norms that lie at the very core of unequal power relations and gender inequality.



¹¹ Policy for Peace A FemLINK Pacific Policy Initiative 2015

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE PEACEBUILDING IN THE PACIFIC

“We have been working closely with men to train them on peace education and understanding conflicts, power and violence. To work hand in hand with men to prevent violence against women and girls.” Adivasu Levu, Executive Director of Transcend Oceania.

The Pacific region has some of the highest rates of violence against women recorded in the world – twice the global average with an estimated two in every three Pacific women impacted by gender-based violence.

In this complex and dynamic environment, GPPAC Pacific uses peacebuilding tools including cross gender dialogues to enhance engagement with men and boys as allies and counter deeply entrenched stereotypes of men solely as perpetrators of violence.

These processes provide transformative solutions from addressing notions of masculinity and tradition that perpetuate harmful gender norms and building alliances with traditional and faith leaders to achieve our collective goal and show how to mainstream women’s rights into conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes.

In Fiji, **Transcend Oceania** advocates for gender, masculinity and non-violence through engaging men and boys as partners for prevention of violence against women. These “Cross Gender Dialogues” train men by taking them through dialogue processes that help them understand what is violence against women and how they can support women to reduce this.

In Bougainville, the **Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation** (NCfR) established four safe houses and two men’s hubs while also establishing a network of women’s human rights

defenders, male advocates as well as a school-based peer education program dealing with out-of-school youth. In October 2018, NCfR hosted a week-long forum in local villages, catalysed by the network of women’s human rights defenders. These women’s human rights defenders were able to invite and initiate face-to-face dialogue with key ministerial representatives including the President and Vice-President of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville.

The **Pacific Conference of Churches** (PCC) focuses on three core pillars of work including self-determination in West Papua, New Caledonia and Solomon Islands, ecumenism and stewardship. Through its national council of churches, PCC works with indigenous and faith leaders to confront real, growing and interconnected issues affecting indigenous communities including environmental degradation, weak political governance systems and high levels of social injustice. The Reweaving the Ecological Mat project will engage multiple stakeholders from churches, civil society, academia, communities and governments to address this ecological crisis from a theological, biblical and indigenous perspective and will lay the foundation for an Ecological Framework for Development that will complement existing regional development frameworks.

The **Vanuatu Young Women for Change** have been using intergenerational dialogues to implement peace education activities with chiefs across 6 provinces. By building the capacity of traditional leaders on gender equality young women are supported to raise issues at the community and sub-national levels particularly on women’s political participation.

VIII. Relief and Recovery

“For example, in (the) Pacific we might say...we are secure because we don’t have wars, we have food. We have abundance of food and what does that mean? Is it really security? Do we have the quality of access to that (food) and we do not have wars but we have silence.” **Adivasu Levu, Executive Director for Transcend Oceania, Fiji**

The Pacific Island region is recognized as one of the most vulnerable to the consequences of the ongoing global climate crisis, including environmental disasters, intense variations in temperatures, and extreme storms. Growing climate crisis insecurities at the local and national levels requires a conflict prevention and human security approach, as current political strategies allude to military responses and the “securitization” of the climate crisis.

Progressing a gender and youth inclusive human security agenda in line with the 2018 Boe Declaration adopted by Pacific Forum Leaders particularly as the strategic focus areas include Climate Security, Human Security and Humanitarian Assistance and Environmental and Resource Security and also provides an opportunity to enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration at both regional and national levels, as well as enhance a peace, development and humanitarian nexus approach for the Boe Declaration Action Plan. When approaching the difficult issue of how best to respond to the climate crisis, ecologically just approaches to locally driven solutions must align and be accountable to the gender equality, just peace and human security agendas.

Human security recognises that there are several dimensions related to feeling safe, such as freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom from indignity. A people-centred approach to security has implications for how we carry out and understand conflict assessment, programme planning, implementation, and evaluation of peacebuilding initiatives. It addresses sustainable peace by recognising the social, economic, and political grievances that are often the root causes of conflict and societal violence. It challenges us to consider participatory ways of doing and evaluating our work. The human security approach is not only centred on people as objects of interventions, but also as providers of security in their own right.

Furthermore, in times of climate change induced national and local natural disasters, which are increasing in the Pacific region, women and girls are more prone to increased cases of sexual violence in the context of displacement, due to the loss of their homes or traditional protection mechanisms through family/clan structures¹². Humanitarian crises may increase with the rise of sea level, increased occurrences and severity of natural disasters and other impacts of climate change in Pacific Island Countries.

When approaching the difficult issue of how best to respond to the climate crisis, ecologically just approaches to locally driven solutions must align and be accountable to the WPS and human security agendas.

That is why successive Pacific Island Forum (PIF) and Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) country statements during Open Debates on UNSCR1325 brought early warning attention to the reality of climate change and why as GPPAC Pacific we advocated for the peace, human security, development and humanitarian nexus in our contribution to the 2015 Global Study on UNSCR1325.

The Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, therefore, had the foresight to recommend that humanitarian action must take into account pre-existing gender inequalities and the discrimination faced by women, and ensuring that these are not further magnified or exploited during humanitarian crises. The Action Plan demonstrated the way in which UNSCR 1325 can be used to protect women’s human rights and provide women and girls access to health, psychosocial and legal protection in times of humanitarian emergency.

The study also enabled GPPAC Pacific to get two significant words into the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242 which seeks to fast-track 1325 implementation: **“climate change”**. This resolution reminds the UN Security Council of its responsibility to bring about a gender inclusive shift from reaction to prevention, also when considering climate change. The resolution notes “the impacts of climate change and the global nature of health pandemics, and in this regard reiterating its intention to increase attention to women, peace and security as a cross-cutting subject in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda”.

This was because, despite increased attention to and investment in women’s leadership in decision-making across the region, women are still notably absent from visible leadership roles within mechanisms focused on responding to climate change and resulting disasters. This is reflective of the broader trend across the Pacific region of women’s low levels of representation in decision making and cultural norms that exclude women from public life.

Without women’s adequate representation in discussions around climate change and disasters, the default approach is techno-centric and ignores the realities for women, which include the changing burden of unpaid work, the increased prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) and food insecurity and the institutionalized marginalization of women’s voices and leadership. Diverse women’s needs are marginalised through one-size fits all gender approaches that presume all women have the same experiences in disasters. Additionally in order for young women, and girls, to be able to be actively engaged in determining prevention and recovery measures, we need to ensure social, political and economic infrastructure not only support their access to education, but also ensure these are safe spaces and greater accountability by governments to prevent gender inequalities, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination including harmful traditional practices.

¹² A 300% increase in new domestic violence cases was reported by the Tanna Women’s Counselling Centre after two tropical cyclones hit Tafe Province in Vanuatu in 2011 for example (see CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTERS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE PACIFIC, UN Women - <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/inventory/unwomen701.pdf>)

FEMINIST COLLABORATION TO SHIFT THE POWER

“Cyclone Gita has proven the insurmountable resilience of the girls and young women of Tonga. Therefore, it is worth investing in building the capacity of the girls and young women as first responders’ - Vanessa Heleta, Executive Director of the Tonga based Talitha Project a member of the Shifting the Power Coalition (StPC)

The Pacific Island region is recognized as one of the most vulnerable to the consequences of the ongoing global climate crisis, including environmental disasters, intense variations in temperatures, and extreme storms. Successive Pacific Island Forum (PIF) and Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) country statements during Open Debates on UNSCR1325 brought early warning attention to the reality of climate change at the global level.

In 2015, the GPPAC Pacific network advocated for the peace, human security, development and humanitarian nexus in its contribution to the 2015 Global Study on UNSCR1325. The study also enabled GPPAC Pacific to get two significant words into the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242 which seeks to fast-track 1325 implementation: **“climate change”**. This resolution is a reminder to UN member states of their responsibility to bring about a **gender inclusive shift from reaction to prevention, within the climate change agenda**.

Recognising that **“Coalitions are more likely to challenge gender norms directly or indirectly and promote transformational change”**, in 2016 the GPPAC Pacific network contributed to the establishment of the Shifting the Power Coalition (StPC) forged by diverse 13 Pacific women and women’s organisations from Fiji, Papua New Guinea including Bougainville, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Australia, and the Pacific Disability Forum. As a unique, women-led mechanism, the feminist Coalition draws on the capacity of its members and collectively aims to enhance the capability for organisations to engage nationally and regionally in the humanitarian sector and climate change movement from a women’s rights and feminist approach.

“Women’s rights simply mean to me: my right as a woman with a disability in accessing information, communication, and accessibility to facilities, services... I think gone are the days that we work in silo. Once we are working together, our issue becomes stronger.”
Lanieta Tuimabu, Office Manager, Fiji Disabled People’s Federation

Through the StPC, network members are building on each other’s areas of expertise including the adaptation of the inter-operable Women’s Weather Watch information-communication system, as well as the application of peace

education and dialogues to address the persistent under-representation of women in local government and governance structures and their lack of responsiveness to women’s security needs.

Since the formation of StPC, Pacific Forum Leaders have adopted the Boe Declaration (2018), which broadened the definition of security to include human security, humanitarian assistance, environmental security, and regional cooperation. The declaration reflects successive Pacific Forum statements during previous open debates on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325) that amplified the need to address the growing climate crisis.

This expanded notion of peace and security is a welcome development and an opportunity to enhance multistakeholder collaboration at both regional and national levels, as well as enhance a peace, development and humanitarian nexus approach for the Boe Declaration Action Plan in line with the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2015). This regional WPS plan had the foresight to recommend that relief and recovery “must meet women and girls specific relief needs and to ensure that women’s capacities to act as agents in relief and recovery are reinforced in humanitarian crises and conflict and post-conflict situations.”

“I look at the Pacific region and I see the many issues that we deal with in terms of human rights, or women’s rights for that matter. And I see that many times we still have a lone voice. But I see that in instances where partners have brought organisations together the echo is greater” - Agnes Titus Advocacy Coordinator, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Bougainville

In 2019, the Coalition messages reached the UN Climate Change Summit as well as a panel convened by the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund coinciding with the 19th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR1325. Together the messages have been clear on Participation, Prevention and Financing:

- Strengthen the capacity and accountability of the humanitarian sector to ensure the protection of women’s rights in times of crisis in a meaningful way—i.e., with women’s rights organizations involved as key stakeholders;
- The prevention of all forms of violence, and ensuring the protection of women’s rights should be central to any humanitarian planning response. It must be integrated into early warning, response, recovery and resilience building;
- Ensure equitable allocation of resources towards the strengthening of women’s networks and coalitions that support women leaders to take up leadership and coordination roles alongside other national actors in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

IX. Accountability of State, Inter-Governmental Organisations and Multilateral Systems to the Sustaining Peace and Human Security Agenda

“Sometimes you just have to be proactive... and let [them] know that we have to be on their radar all the time” **Josephine Teakeni, Director of Vois Blong Mere Solomon**

Between 2006 and 2011, the Forum Secretariat responded to Pacific Island Countries’ request to broaden the concept of security in regional policy-making, to include: the importance of women’s role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding; enhancing the oversight and accountability of security institutions and; recognizing that sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a security threat in the region. The adoption of a Human Security Framework was linked to research on the drivers of conflict including migration from rural to urban areas and poorly planned urbanization; and inter-group tensions and the mobilisation of grievances and (mis)perceptions. In December 2010 as part of the 10th anniversary commemoration of UNSCR 1325, a Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security was established with members from Forum Members, CROP and UN agencies, and civil society. In June 2011, the Forum Regional Security Committee gave the group the policy task of developing a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. This was subsequently supported by Pacific Women’s Ministers in August of the same year.

To move beyond simply commemorating the 20th anniversary of UNSCR1325, there is an opportunity to consider how the modality for multi-actor cooperation facilitated by the Political Division of PIFS, between 2006 – 2011 resulted in collective action for the adoption of the Human Security and Conflict Prevention Frameworks as well as the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012 – 2015).

“We want the role of women to be visible, women to be heard and protected by our own laws. Our own separate Bougainville Action Plan will ensure just that” – **Minister Rose Pihei, Bougainville 2013**

Such a mechanism can engage with women peacebuilders as mediators, as technical experts and high-level advisers that supports the realisation of the integration of women-led peacebuilding, prevention and participation frameworks at both regional and national level.

We do not just need be consulted, but supported to enhance our infrastructures for peace and security at local and national level.

Therefore a renewed new multi-actor consultative framework can ensure the integration of peace, development and humanitarian agendas address the root causes of conflict through enhanced early warning and early response measures as well as national budgeting and security sector governance processes:

The Pacific Resilience Partnership Task Force, for example, is an important model of multistakeholder processes that brings relevant expertise to the table. This is an important workable model that should be considered – given that previously there was a regional reference group on WPS that provided recommendations for Forum processes. This included the Pacific Community, government officials reflecting the sub-

regional groups as well as women’s organisations from civil society working on WPS.

“When we collectively put together our expertise, intellect, ideas, experiences and passions only then the movement will be effective” – **Vanessa Heleta, Talitha Project**

The decision by Pacific Forum Leaders to adopt the Boe Declaration in 2017 is a welcome commitment to a human security approach. Enhancing the regional peace and security architecture must include collective learning and understanding of peacebuilding in order to contribute to a culture of nonviolence and prevention.

The Boe Declaration Action Plan can catalyse action so that the WPS agenda shifts from the silos of political, defence and policing networks to enhance the focus and collaboration via a conflict prevention platform that integrates gender equality, faith and indigenous peacebuilding practice into the local, national and regional development processes and security frameworks.

(regarding the) consultation on a national security policy for the Solomon Islands. It’s an important opportunity for Vois Blong Mere and GPPAC to have an input to that consultation process for women, peace, and security. We have a gender equality and social inclusion strategy led by the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs. It’s an inclusive one in terms of how they look at barriers such as social, cultural norms, confidence, money, sorcery, accessibility, distance, language, training, lack of information, lack of awareness on rights to human security, financial capacity, discrimination, legislation, and practice. These are the things Vois Blong Mere has been appointed as to be on the advisory reference group to oversee strategic development of the gender equality and social inclusion strategy. My concern here is about the while it’s okay for my country when it comes to social inclusiveness – they ask questions in meeting and I find it hard sometimes – when you talk about it in meetings, some people in Honiara have reservations about some of the inclusiveness items. So how do I communicate this to change the mindset of my people to understand, looking from a human rights perspective and we can be fully socially inclusive in my country – **Josephine Teakeni**

At the national level women peacebuilders must be able to bring their specific knowledge and expertise on security provision and diverse women’s needs, giving rise to the democratization of security sector governance. They can also ensure that oversight is comprehensive and responsive to communities by supporting the development of conflict prevention measures like early warning and early response systems within a human security and development framework:

In Fiji, women's NGOs collaborating with the Ministry of Women's Affairs met with the Fiji Government's National Security and Defence Review Committee as part of its review process in 2003. The women's organisations raised critical issues such as the way in which the review process was being conducted, who was being consulted and the issues being identified as security threats. Women provided

recommendations on how international standards and norms, including UNSCR1325 could be incorporated. As a result, two submissions were made to the Committee, including recommendations for the permanent appointment of the Minister of Women's Affairs on the National Security Council, and representation of women on provincial and district-level security committees (formally adopted in 2007).

SUSTAINING PEACE AND HUMAN SECURITY:

“One of the obstacles I see is space; that women and young people and other men do not have that space because when you have the politicians it is the politicians’ field, so you can’t come in. If it’s the church’s field you don’t have lay people coming in and questioning. Even when you go to the other cultures it’s like the chiefs.”
Ethel Suri, Pacific Conference of Churches/Solomon Islands

Security at regional policy-making levels in the Pacific must shift beyond recognising the important role of women in conflict-prevention and peace building. When women are resourced to engage at local, national and regional development processes, they are better positioned to redesign and redefine governance frameworks through a peace, development and humanitarian nexus approach.

The adoption of a Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (RAP) (2012 – 2015), was a result of inter-agency collaboration including women's civil society groups. It is a legacy of the efforts of Pacific women peacebuilders. It recognised the need to have a regional mechanism to strengthen the integration of development, conflict prevention and human security agenda from a gender perspective particularly to enable women to be equal participants with member states, UN agencies and regional inter-governmental organisations.

Despite the adoption of the RAP however, a number of obstacles remain that limit its effective implementation, preventing human security from being a reality for women in all diversities and their communities. They include:

- a focus on action planning rather than actual action and

implementation;

- endurance of militarized concept of security;
- and an emphasis on reaction rather than conflict prevention;
- lack of resources to support women's participation in enhancing prevention strategies or in advancing a human security agenda

Still, GPPAC Pacific network members continue to transform and localise the security council resolution into practical strategies drawing on documented qualitative and quantitative evidence and lived experiences of women leaders.

“To me, peace and human security go hand in hand - we can only achieve peace when there is an effective human security in place. I want to see the next generation of young women become champions” – Vanessa Heleta, Talitha Project, Tonga

These participatory processes of engagement have provided a mirror on governance systems and processes to remind Pacific Island leaders of their commitments to women's rights, peace and human security including linkages to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16: to “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

This highlights the importance of localizing a human security approach to address the ‘development’ drivers of conflict including climate change and poverty, as well as ensure accountability to human rights & gender equality, role of peace education, opportunity to hold private sector accountable.

GLOSSARY¹³

Disaggregated data is demographically informed data that, for example, can showcase the numbers of women and men, ages, and roles and positions of men and women in a particular setting. A combination of quantitative and qualitative data, can assist in respectively: seeing the allocation of responsibilities, benefits, resources and decision-making power, and in: identifying attitudes, priorities and willingness to participate, so that a well-rounded analysis can be achieved. After analysis, it can reveal how the web of social relationships within a community creates benefits and inequalities.

Gender refers to socially constructed roles and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviours, values, relative power and influence that society ascribes to the two sexes on a differential basis. Where biological sex is determined by genetic and anatomical characteristics, gender is an acquired identity that is learned, changes over time, and varies widely within and across cultures.

Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women and men's right responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for an indicator of sustainable people-centered development.

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, policy or programme, in all areas and at all levels before any decisions are made and throughout the whole process. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes so that both women and men benefit and inequality is not perpetuated. Gender mainstreaming is not a goal in itself but an approach for promoting gender equality.

Gender norms are ideas about how men and women should be and act. We internalize and learn these "rules" early in life. This sets-up a life-cycle of gender socialization and stereotyping. Put another way, gender norms are the standards and expectations to which gender identity generally conforms, within a range that defines a particular society, culture and community at that point in time.

Gender perspective - the term 'gender perspective' is a way of seeing or analyzing which looks at the impact of gender

on people's opportunities, social roles and interactions. This way of seeing is what enables one to carry out gender analysis and subsequently to mainstream a gender perspective into any proposed program, policy or organization.³¹

Gender parity is another term for equal representation of women and men in a given area, for example, gender parity in organizational leadership or higher education. Working toward gender parity (equal representation) is a key part of achieving gender equality, and one of the twin strategies, alongside gender mainstreaming.

Gender standalone programming - Programs that have a specific focus on improving gender equality. Often focused, for example, on women's empowerment.

Gender transformative approach in conflict prevention encourages critical awareness of gender roles, norms and power relations and their consequences in situations of violent conflict and war; questions and addresses harmful, inequitable gender norms and power relations and makes explicit the advantages of changing them; empowers women/girls and people of diverse sexual identities; engages with boys and men on masculinities and gender equality

Global Study - To mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council adopted resolution 2122 (2013) inviting the Secretary-General to conduct a fifteen-year review with regard to the implementation of resolution 1325. The review was to identify the gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action.

LGBTQI is a common abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersexed community.

Masculinities - the term masculinity refers to the social meaning of manhood, which is constructed and defined socially, historically and politically, rather than being biologically driven. There are many socially constructed definitions for being a man and these can change over time and from place to place. The term relates to perceived notions and ideals about how men should or are expected to behave in a given setting. Masculinities are not just about men; women perform and produce the meaning and practices of the masculine as well."

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by Council resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946

¹³ Source: GPPAC Gender Policy

