

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Women in Peace and Security: Complementarity of the**  
**Roles of Uniformed Women Peacekeepers and Women Peacebuilders**  
**13 December 2022**

1. On 13 December 2022, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith, convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting to discuss the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda with a focus on the role of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and their complementary contributions to conflict prevention and resolution. The meeting was an opportunity to explore the shared roles, successes, challenges, and opportunities of women peacekeepers and peacebuilders to collaborate in advancing s to sustainable peace especially in the conflict affected countries.
  
2. In his opening remarks, the Chair, **H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith**, highlighted the increasing recognition of gendered dimensions of the peace and security agenda in the United Nations (UN) since the adoption of the Security Council resolution 1325, pointing in peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding initiatives. He mentioned important frameworks for the implementation of the WPS agenda, including the Secretary- for Peacekeeping (A4P), Action for Peacekeeping + (A4P+), and and the results achieved in their implementation. The Chair noted that although the

peace and legitimate governance, he noted that strengthening peacekeeping facilitates access to women in their communities and their engagement. He informed about the initiatives of the DPO to advance the WPS agenda, particularly in the A4P+, which prioritizes , equal and meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels and in all functions. As noted by the USG, DPOs efforts in this regard are focused on creating enabling environments for women in peacekeeping, gender analysis, and gender responsive measures and include consultations of the mission leaderships with women leaders, peacebuilders, and civil society organizations (CSOs). He provided examples from the field, sharing how MINUSMA has supported participation in s transition process. He emphasized that enhancing data driven approaches and gender analysis enables more systematic integration of gender perspectives into political strategies and mission plans. Further, he noted how involving women in early warning mechanisms supported by the missions helped to identify threats for women and girls and to develop gender responsive protection measures for example in the DRC and CAR. He assured that role in peacekeeping and to create conditions for them to contribute at all levels in all roles remains a priority. However, he underlined that challenges remain to and meaningful roles in peacekeeping, and encouraged Member States to work together with the DPO in identifying and addressing barriers faced by women. He urged them to send female candidates for uniformed and civilian components of peacekeeping, especially for senior leadership positions. In conc between peacekeeping and peacebuilding and to work with the PBC to advance the WPS agenda.

4. **The Chair of the WPS Chief of Defense Network, Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman**, SGP, psc informed that the WPS Chief of Defense Network was established in 2017 and aims to support efforts of Member States to implement the WPS agenda and works on capacity-building and to increase opportunities for women at all levels. He outlined that the network, founded by Canada, United Kingdom, and Bangladesh, has grown steadily and currently consists of 57 members. He noted that the network provides a collaborative platform for Chiefs of Defense to plan and undertake measures to advance the WPS agenda within their respective forces and generate a positive effect by increasing participation in UN peacekeeping operations. While emphasizing the benefits of

gender issues in the armed forces, among others. Further recommendations included the need to ensure family support initiatives for female service members and appropriate accommodations as well as assignments. Lastly, he underpinned the need for gender sensitive workplace support initiatives and inclusive policy. He shared his experience that failing these basic requirements leads to early discharge of women military personnel, leading to reversal of hard-earned gains. He expressed the commitment of the network to continuing its efforts towards increasing women's means to advance Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

5. **The Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office, Ms. Awa Dabo,** underscored

contributes to improving peacekeeping operation effectiveness, ensures better access to local communities and enhances peacebuilding efforts of the peacekeeping missions. She underlined that several barriers underpinned by structural gender norms, power dynamics,

participation in conflict prevention and resolution. Ms. Dabo informed the meeting how PBSO has been integrating gender analysis in the and also facilitating PBC meetings as briefers in order to incorporate gender perspectives in peacebuilding. Further, she elaborated how the Secretary-Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) complements programmatic funding in peacekeeping operations and prioritizes financing for

She emphasized the crucial role of the Fund in transition contexts in an effort to ensuring the sustainability of WPS gains beyond peacekeeping operations. Emphasizing gender-sensitive conflict and political analysis, she stressed the need to ensure that women are fully involved as equal partners in all peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. She urged to ensure reliable, flexible and long-term investments in local women peacebuilders, their organizations and networks particularly in peacekeeping settings. She called for using the unique convening and advisory role to leverage its support to WPS and engagement in peacebuilding.

6. **The Chief of Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action of UN Women, Ms. Paivi Kannisto,** stressed the need

missions at all levels and in all roles, including senior leadership, highlighting the diversity of knowledge, perspectives, solutions and resources that unfold through gender inclusivity. She underlined the increased effectiveness as well as the improved perception, accessibility and credibility among local populations of gender inclusive peacekeeping missions. She further emphasized the crucial role of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders in peacebuilding and encouraged to strengthen partnerships between peacekeeping missions

She stressed the need to reshape the system-wide responses to peace and security through a more inclusive approach and of a Field Enabling Environment Guidelines to tackle barriers and assisting in the creation of a more enabling environment. She underlined the need for a more concerted effort to

change the status quo and . She informed about UN Women efforts, including their hosting of the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations, which aims to support and incentivize efforts to . She mentioned the Female Military Officers Course that provides technical and practical skills to military women in their preparation for deployment for UN peace operations. In conclusion, she underscored , equal and meaningful participation in all peace processes, peacebuilding and recovery is critical for lasting peace, highlighting the need for contribution and leadership of uniformed women and local women peacebuilders.

7. **The Military Gender and Protection Advisor of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Steel**, highlighted the existing challenges and barriers in advancing the WPS agenda in peacekeeping operations. She stressed the need for a better understanding of the WPS agenda among the military personnel, for a stronger advocacy and commitment to the agenda by the military leaderships and for increased resources for its implementation. She noted that lack of women in decision-making roles of peacekeeping operations remain a major challenge both for increasing the number of female UN peacekeepers and ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of those included. With regard to gender-responsive patrolling, she pointed out that solely including women peacekeepers to a patrol is insufficient to enhance engagement with the local communities, if the patrols are not equipped with the language skills and accessibility needed to engage with them. Referring to how cultural biases within militaries hinder the implementation of the WPS agenda in the UN peacekeeping missions, Lt. Cmdr. Steel stressed the importance of educating and guiding military peacekeepers in gender sensitive approaches. She underlined the need for dedicating more resources and expertise such as WPS and gender advisors, in Member States as well as in UN capacities. She called for creating structures and processes to overcome existing barriers to mainstreaming the WPS agenda in peacekeeping operations and enhance a collaborative and integrated approach.
8. **Ms. Lea Biason, representing the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations**, introduced the multi-partner trust fund facilitated by UN Women that was established in 2019. She informed mechanism to encourage Member States to adopt gendered approaches and promote the UN system-wide initiatives to overcome obstacles that prevent the sustained deployment of women military and police in UN peacekeeping operations. Pointing out the slow pace of achieving gender parity in different positions of UN peacekeeping operations, she introduced the Fund's goal of accelerating efforts to increase the participation of uniformed female personnel in these missions. She shared that the 20 projects the Fund has supported since 2019 tackle barriers throughout the deployment cycle addressing various levels simultaneously to support sustainable and transformative change within security institutions. She shared examples of results and impact from their projects in 15 troop and police contributing countries, which included increased deployment of trained women to UN peace operations, reinforced policy frameworks on gender equality in security institutions, as well as improved

infrastructure and receptive environments for uniformed women. She concluded by thanking the donors of the Elsie Initiative Fund, and pointing provides further examples of good practices gathered during the implementation of their projects.

9. **Ms. Mavic Cabrera Balleza, the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP),** introduced the network that comprises grassroots

organizations working in crisis and conflict-affected local communities across the world as well as her role as co-chair of the Board of the Compact on Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action, which contributes to the attainment of gender parity in peacekeeping.

as a key pillar of the WPS agenda and the New Agenda for Peace. While welcoming the increase of military and police gender experts and focal points in 2021, she called for addressing the lack of female representation at the Head of Mission level in peacekeeping operations.

accessibility to local populations and encouraging local women, she urged the UN and Members States to step up collective efforts to increase the number of female uniformed peacekeepers, including through implementing the DPOs Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy. She welcomed the Elsie Initiative Fund in this regard. She further called for the integration of the WPS agenda in the Terms of Reference of all senior leaders of peacekeeping operations and stressed the need for those missions to enha Tf1 0eW\*ñBTF3 12 Tf1 0 0 1 3

- They recognized the progress on the implementation of the WPS agenda and welcomed the A4P, A4P+, the UN system-wide Strategy for Gender Parity, and the PBC Gender Strategy to mainstream gender in the work of the Commission. Member States underlined al and meaningful participation in all aspects of peace processes at all levels.
- They acknowledged the important contribution of uniformed women in peacekeeping, including through their engagement with local populations. They called for addressing remaining challenges, including the low number of female uniformed personnel in peacekeeping operations and the lack of representations of women, especially in leadership positions. They welcomed the work of the Elsie Initiative Fund to tackle these challenges. They highlighted the importance of strengthened efforts to facilitate a conducive environment for women peacekeepers, including mitigating discrimination and developing retention strategies.
- They recognized that efforts to involve women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding begin at the national level.

them called for protection of women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders, including from sexual and gender-based violence.

11. In his closing remarks, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission stressed the need for attention of all stakeholders to the WPS agenda. Regarding advancing the agenda, he noted contributions of existing policies and initiatives of Member States and the UN as well as examples of successful collaboration between peacebuilders and peacekeepers. He expressed hope that Member States interventions will inform the work of the Commission on promoting WPS. Furthermore, the Chair pointed to the need to address existing challenges and barriers peacebuilding and to strengthen the engagement of women peacebuilding actors, starting on a local level. He expressed the commitment to advance advisory, bridging and convening role in implementing the WPS agenda and in this regard assured that the Commission to other relevant UN bodies, including the Security Council, will take the briefings of the women briefers into account.