EMPOWERING WOMEN ACROSS THE HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT PEACE NEXUS

SIDE EVENT ON THE MARGINS OF THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW 62)

WHEN: 11.30 AM – 12.45 PM ON 20 MARCH 2018
WHERE: UN SECRETARIAT, CR 11

INTRODUCTION:
Gender equality in humanitarian action, recovery, reconstruction and development is underfunded and under-prioritised. While women and girls are disproportionately affected by crises, only 1.7% of humanitarian programming targets gender equality and women’s empowerment, and only 1.6% of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in 2016 went to address sexual and gender-based violence. Similarly, a mere 2% of all aid to peace and security in fragile states and economies targeted gender equality as a principal objective. Advancing SDG5 in crisis contexts should be a priority and a key strategy for building back better, sustaining peace and achieving security for all. Whether in crisis zones, in refugee camps, or as returnees, women play active roles sustaining their families and rebuilding their communities. They also face unique challenges and risks in crisis settings. Displaced women who are unmarried or separated from their husbands, for example, are often unable to register their newborn children in the countries in which they have sought refuge. This denies them access to basic resources including health care, education and employment.

Protecting women’s rights and harnessing their knowledge and leadership is vital for the achievement of lasting peace and sustainable development. To realize this, there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity and collective action amongst all actors – in particular, UN agencies at the country level – to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed across all humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, development and peacebuilding efforts; that women are equality engaged as leaders of these efforts; and that sufficient resources are put towards meeting their needs and developing their capacities.

Towards this end, UNDP, UN Women, and UNHCR are preparing a joint initiative to enhance the coordination and the capacities of the UN Country Teams in
selected crisis and post crisis countries to deliver better results together with national and local governments and civil society on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

OBJECTIVE:
The high-level side-event will
• Raise awareness of the important leadership roles women are playing in humanitarian and crisis contexts and how investing in gender equality and women’s empowerment leads to better peacebuilding, recovery and development outcomes.
• Push for strong and consistent leadership by Member States, the UN and international organisations in addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
• Discuss new approaches, including joint UN initiatives to ensure transformative change for gender equality and women’s empowerment in recovery from crisis in order to improve the lives of women and girls.

FORMAT:
Davos style format with a moderator posing questions to the speakers and opening the floor for discussion.

PANEL MEMBERS:
• Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UN Women
• Natalia Kanem, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UNFPA
• Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA
• H.E. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations
• Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Bureau of Programme and Policy Support, UNDP
• Sheba Crocker, Senior Vice President of Humanitarian Action and Policy, CARE International
• Wesal Abdullah, Arab Women Organisation of Jordan

CLOSING REMARKS BY:
• H.E. Ivana Pajević, President of the Executive Board of UN Women, Ambassador and the Charge d’Affaires at the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations

MODERATOR:
• Femi Oke, Moderator

KEY PARTNERS:
The event will be co-organised by UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, OCHA, Care International and the Government of Denmark