



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations

The Role of Parliaments as Partners in Women, Peace and Security: Experiences from the Global Project High-Level Side Event

63rd Commission on the Status of Women – Side Event

Hosts: Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

Thursday, March 14th, 8:15-9:30 AM

Conference Room A - Conference Building

National parliaments are uniquely positioned to promote peace, pluralism, gender equality and women's empowerment in their responsibilities as overseers, law-makers and as representatives of the people. They can change people's lives by creating conditions for greater public participation in political decision-making and political processes leading to public sector reforms and stronger social protection responsive to the needs of women and girls. However, their role of in the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda has not been given adequate attention or support and especially, the potential for greater collaboration between parliamentarians, gender advocates and civil society committed to the WPS agenda has not been fully realized. This missed opportunity is being addressed by the **Global Project on the Role of Parliaments as Partners in Women, Peace and Security** currently piloted in four countries.

The event will showcase the recent real-life experiences from the Global Project which seeks to strengthen the capacity of parliaments in implementing the WPS commitments, simultaneously boosting parliamentary efforts to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely SDG-5 on gender equality and SDG-16 on governance, the rule of law and peacebuilding efforts. The project follows a two-fold approach, assessing the challenges and opportunities that shape women's participation and representation in democratic processes, while encouraging both female and male parliamentarians to use the full arsenal of tools at their disposal, including collaboration with civil society and media, to advance the implementation of the WPS agenda. During its pilot phase (April-December 2018), **the project supported national legislatures in four countries: Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka** – to advance their self-identified priorities for supporting women, peace and security (WPS) agenda.

Objective of the Side Event

The side event will illustrate the various modalities of parliamentary engagement on the WPS Agenda, highlighting their priorities for action, identified together with civil society. The participating experts, Members of Parliament and representative of women's organizations will share their experiences and innovate ideas of mainstreaming women, peace and security commitments in the SDG process, budget oversight and public services reform, as well as opportunities of engaging civil society and, specifically, women's organizations through collaborative and consultative processes.

Expected Outcomes



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Based on the practical experiences of the Global Project, the event will provide evidence base to:

- 1) showcase possible points of WPS-related intervention in key parliamentary decision-making and oversight processes based on the pilot experience
- 2) reinforce parliamentary oversight of the National Action Plans for UNSCR 1325 and foster the understanding of the importance of the Women, Security and Peace agenda among Members of Parliament and civil society, including as relates to public service reform and strengthening of social protection systems.
- 3) identify opportunities for active participation and leadership of female Parliamentarians in promoting the WPS Agenda within parliament and beyond;
- 4) encourage a stronger collaboration between parliaments and women's rights civil society organisations;

Format

This plenary session will be a dialogue between the participants and a moderator. The format is "Davos-style" with each speaker making a 5-minute introduction followed by discussions in the panel and with the audience. No power point presentations or formal speeches will be used, to foster an open debate and lively interaction. The dialogue will be followed by a Q&A.

Hosts and Speakers

Minister of Women and Child Affairs of Sri Lanka

Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Norway)

Representative of UNDP

Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, ICAN

Members of Parliaments of Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka

Representative of Women's CSO from Sri Lanka

For more information or to register for access to the UN building please contact Nika Saedi (nika.saeedi@undp.org) or Agata Walczak (agata.walczak@undp.org)