

25 February 2020

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Nicolas de Rivière
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the UN

H.E. Mr. Juan Ramón de la Fuente
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN

H.E. Under-Secretary-General of the UN and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile
Mlambo-Ngcuka

Ms. Shannon Kowalski, International Women's Health Coalition

Ms. Mabel Bianco, Foundation for Studies and Research on Women

**Re: Call for an Action Coalition on Women, Peace and Security
and Youth, Peace and Security in the Beijing+25/Generation Equality
Forum**

Excellencies and esteemed colleagues in civil society,

Greetings!

We are feminists, and women's rights and peace activists who are members of the **UN High-Level Advisory Group for the 2015 Global Study on UNSCR 1325**. We are writing to express our concern over the under-representation of women and youth peacebuilders; and the marginalization of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) as well as Youth and Peace and Security (YPS) issues in the Beijing + 25/Generation Equality Forum processes. We have the distinct honor of bringing to your attention the forward-looking and transformational recommendations contained in the 2015 Global Study which are very pertinent to the issues raised in this communication and in our joint advocacy initiative.

Gender inequality is one of the drivers of armed conflict. A key element in achieving a peaceful and inclusive society is gender equality. However, the official Action Coalitions for the Generation Equality Forum do not include peace and security. The announcement of the official list of Action Coalitions states that "the context of conflict could be incorporated within the theme on Gender-Based Violence." Gender-Based Violence is a critical and over-arching issue. However, using gender-based violence as a framework for discussing the impact of armed conflict on women and youth and of lack of their equal representation is totally uncalled for and will not reflect the depth and

breadth of issues covered by the WPS and YPS agendas, particularly women and youth's meaningful participation in peace processes and political decision-making.

Furthermore, integrating the WPS and YPS agendas in the discussions of the other Action Coalitions will not capture how gender inequalities trigger violence and conflict, are exacerbated during of armed conflict and continue during post-conflict reconstruction. **With a limited number of two to three specific actions per official Action Coalition that will be resourced, committed to, implemented, and monitored, the WPS and YPS priorities and challenges will not get the attention they deserve.**

As Secretary-General António Guterres said during the High-Level meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Addis Ababa on 08 February 2020, the anniversaries of Beijing+25 and of resolution 1325 must push us further and faster towards progress on gender equality and women's empowerment. **The Generation Equality Global Forum will not be an effective platform towards the full realization of the gender equality agenda if peace and security issues are not accurately and fully reflected,** thereby denying women and youth peacebuilders the opportunity to meaningfully participate and to substantively contribute to the shaping of the outcomes.

We call on you as the members of core group of the Generation Equality Forum to support the formation of an Action Coalition on Women, Peace and Security, and Youth and Peace and Security in the Beijing + 25/Generation Equality Forum processes and to ensure the meaningful participation of women and youth peacebuilders.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury,
Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN; Initiator as the Security Council President in March 2000 of the political conceptual breakthrough that led to adoption of UNSCR 1325; Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP)

Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy,
Former UN Under-Secretary-General;
Principal author of the 2015 UN Global Study for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325

Major General Patrick Cammaert,
Former United Nations Force Commander for the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; Former Military Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Former Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)

Ms. Julia Kharashvili
Chairperson, IDP Women Association "Consent" in Georgia

Mr. Youssef Mahmoud,
Former UN Under-Secretary General, SRSG
Senior Advisor, International Peace Institute

Ms. Luz Mendez,
President of the Executive Board,
National Union of Guatemalan Women

Dr. Alaa Murabit,
UN High-Level Commissioner: Health, Employment and Economic Growth; UN SDGs
Advocate; CEO, IMPACT2030; Founder of The Voice of Libyan Women (VLW)

Ms. Ruth O. Ochieng,
Women's Regional Network for Peace Building based in Uganda

Ms. Bandana Rana,
Chair - Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)
Coordinator - 1325 Action Group, Nepal
Co-Founder & Strategic Advisor - Saathi, Nepal

Ms. Madeleine Rees,
Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
(WILPF); Head of the Women's Rights and Gender Unit for the OHCHR from 2006 to
2010; Awarded an Order of British Empire (OBE) for her work on women, peace and
security.

Ms. Elisabeth Rehn,
Former UN Under-Secretary-General, SRSG,
Former Minister for Defence of Finland.
Currently Minister of State,
honorary title awarded by the President of Finland.

Ms. Igballe Rogova,
Executive Director of Kosovo Women's Network (KWN); Initiator for the founding of the
Women's Peace Coalition in Southeast Europe

Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls,
Beijing CSAG Member - Pacific Island region (GPPAC Pacific / Shifting the Power
Coalition)

Ms. Liliana A. Silva Bello,
Sociologist, Master in Peace Construction of the Universidad de los Andes,
researcher, coordinator and leader of social processes related to peacebuilding and
human rights. Currently collaborates with the Secretary of Culture of the Mayor's Office
of Bogotá and women's organizations to guarantee the rights and participation of
victims of the armed conflict and ex-combatants in art, culture and heritage projects in
Colombia

Ms. Yasmin Sooka,
Chair of the Commission on Human Rights for South Sudan; Executive Director of the
Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) in South Africa
