



# CSW 63 - High-Level Roundtable Discussion on Gender Equality in Public Institutions for Sustaining Peace

## CONCEPT NOTE & RUN OF SHOW

**Date:** Thursday 14 March 2019

**Time:** 11:30 am-12:45 pm (75 minutes)

**Location:** Amartya Sen Room – UNDP Offices (304 E 45<sup>th</sup> St. – 10<sup>th</sup> floor)

This event will bring together Member States, experts and practitioners to share their perspectives and experiences on the relationship between gender equality in public administration (GEPA) and sustaining peace. The event will serve as a platform to discussing key questions around the opportunities and challenges that sustaining peace poses for promoting inclusivity in public institutions. It will also serve as an occasion to present the latest findings from the UNDP-UPitt GEPA research initiative on how conflict shapes women’s participation in and leadership of the civil service.

### **1. Background**

Public administration is the bedrock of government and acts as the means by which vital national and local programmes and actions are implemented. The composition of public administration can have significant impacts on the inclusiveness and effectiveness of governance institutions, including on service delivery, health, sanitation and education.<sup>1</sup> In conflict-affected settings the re-establishment of core government functions, especially though equitable and inclusive public administration and service delivery, is key for accelerating recovery, building state legitimacy and trust and sustaining peace.<sup>2</sup>

Large policy shifts over the past few years have opened the way for development actors to re-orient their work towards a positive approach to engaging and collaborating with young people as key actors for peace and security. The twin sustaining peace resolutions adopted in 2016, A/RES/70/262 AND S/RES/2282 call on the international community to past approaching peacebuilding as something relevant to only to post-conflict settings toward working to prevent the “outbreak, escalation, continuation of violent conflict” by addressing root causes and potential drivers.

As has been widely recognized, moments of recovery and consolidation of peace present pivotal opportunities for governance institutions to “build back better.”<sup>3</sup> Yet in many cases, these efforts have not sufficiently leveraged the potential to increase the representation of women leaders in public administration. In addition, it appears that national commitments to increasing women’s participation in decision-making have not always transformed outcomes on the ground.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Public%20Administration/gender%20diversity%20in%20the%20state.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.pathwaysforpeace.org/sites/pathways/files/2018-02/Pathways-for-Peace\\_ES\\_eBook.pdf](https://www.pathwaysforpeace.org/sites/pathways/files/2018-02/Pathways-for-Peace_ES_eBook.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/core-government-functions/-re-building-core-government-functions-in-fragile-and-conflict-a.html>

Too little is still understood about how conflict dynamics shape gender representation in public institutions and what opportunities exist for overcoming these challenges in conflict-affected settings. Over the past years, UNDP has partnered with the University of Pittsburgh to begin closing the massive data gap on women in public institutions. Pairing an analysis of global data with in-depth case studies across several countries, new GEPA research has been discovering the mechanisms by which conflict shapes women's participation in and leadership of the civil service. The research has implications for how peacebuilding processes, post-conflict institutional reforms, and power-sharing strategies might be made more inclusive and sustainable.

The 2030 Agenda, through SDG 5 and SDG 16, calls on the international community to promote equality between women and men, and to promote just and inclusive governance of our societies. Now is therefore a timely moment to focus on how national governments, development actors and the international community can work together promote approaches that leverage a commitment to gender equality and inclusive governance for sustainable development and peace.

## **2. Session objectives**

This roundtable will bring together diverse participants, including Member States, practitioners and experts to explore how gender equality in public institutions can contribute to sustaining peace, and to consider key challenges and opportunities.

- Bring greater visibility to the role that gender equality in public administration can play in sustaining peace.
- Explore the ways in which conflicts shape women's participation and leadership in civil service.
- Showcase examples of how women in public institutions and civil service have helped to contribute to peacebuilding in diverse national contexts.
- Provide a platform for Member States to share how their own efforts to promote gender inclusive public institutions have/or can have an impact on promoting peaceful societies.
- Identify existing challenges—including data gaps—for increasing gender equality in public institutions for peacebuilding.
- Engage in a forward-looking discussion on existing opportunities for enhancing gender equality in public institutions to help prevent the “outbreak, escalation, continuation of violent conflict.”

The session will be based the following overarching questions:

- What are the challenges and opportunities that efforts to sustain peace present for fostering inclusive public institutions, and what are the ways in which inclusive public institutions can promote sustainable development and peace?
- How do conflicts shape gender equality in public institutions and women's access to leadership within them?
- What lessons have been gained from national experiences for promoting inclusive public administration and the possibility these strategies hold for advancing gender equality in public administration in conflict-settings?
- How can data, research and multi-stakeholder partnerships be leveraged to promote equitable and inclusive public administration in conflict-affected settings, precisely where they can make a difference for sustainable development and peace?

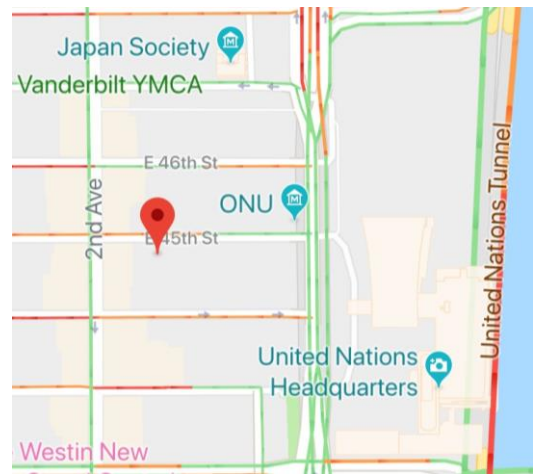
### 3. Roundtable participants

- H.E. Ms. Ana Maria Tribin Uribe, *President's High Advisor for Women's Equality, Republic of Colombia*
- H.E. Ms. Janet Camilo Hernández, *Minister of Women, Dominican Republic*
- H.E. Ms. Awut Deng Achuil, *Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Republic of South Sudan*
- H.E. Mr. Charlie Flanagan T.D., *Minister for Justice and Equality, Ireland*
- Dr. Melanie Hughes, *Co-Director of Gender Inequality Research Lab (GIRL), University of Pittsburgh*
- Dr. Müge Finkel, *Co-Director of Gender Inequality Research Lab (GIRL), University of Pittsburgh*
- Ms. Raquel Lagunas, *Senior Advisor on Gender, United Nations Development Programme* (moderator)

### 4. Venue

The roundtable will be hosted in UNDP's Amartya Sen Room located on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of UNDP's Offices on 304 E 45<sup>th</sup> St New York, New York 10017. Coffee and light fare will be served before and after the roundtable.

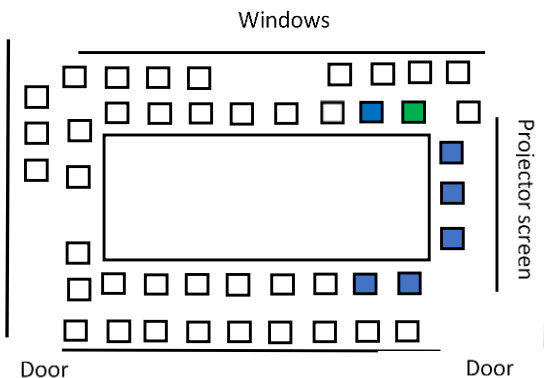
\*Please note: All participants and their guests are strongly encouraged to arrive **approximately 15 minutes prior to the event** to be escorted upstairs to the venue and ensure a timely start for the roundtable. UNDP staff will escort official participants and their guests to UNDP's Amartya Sen Room. All guests to the building will need to show government issued IDs.



We kindly ask that all the names of individuals accompanying Member State participants be **sent in advance** to [gepa@undp.org](mailto:gepa@undp.org). Please contact Regev Ben Jacob (+1 929-293-4198) if there any issues on the day of the event.

### Room Layout

UNDP's Amartya Sen Room is a relatively small venue. It can hold approximately 45 people and it is highly likely the event will be filled to capacity, so we kindly advise Member State participants to be mindful of the number of staff who are accompanying them.



Approximately 20 seats around the table  
Approximately 25 additional seats

- Roundtable participants
- Moderator

## 5. Livestreaming

The event will be livestreamed to reach a wider audience. The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics ([iKNOW Politics](#)) will livestream the event. Their online platform promotes women’s leadership in politics and is a joint initiative between UN Women, UNDP, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and International IDEA. The event will be livestreamed here: <http://tinyurl.com/yxo3gs37>. We encourage participants to share the livestream link.

iKNOW Politics posts brief interviews with women leaders globally is interested in interviewing Member State participants. If interested in scheduling an interview, please contact Meriem Trabelsi ([meriem.trabelsi@unwomen.org](mailto:meriem.trabelsi@unwomen.org)).

## 6. Roundtable moderation & questions for discussion

The session will employ a roundtable format. The session moderator (Ms. Raquel Lagunas) will ask each participant a few short guiding questions (see below). These questions will serve as a springboard for each Member State to speak about the issue from their national experience and perspective. After the sharing of national perspectives, the session will be opened up to a few questions from audience members and participants to each other.

## 7. Run of show

| Role  | Participant   | Remarks/Guiding Questions*   |
|---|---|--|
| Introduction & Welcome<br>(5 minutes)       | Raquel Lagunas, <i>United Nations Development Programme</i> (moderator)                                     | Introduction of speakers and session objectives  |
| Co-organizer opening remarks<br>(8 minutes) | H.E. Janet Camilo, <i>Dominican Republic</i>  | Welcoming remarks as co-organizer<br><br>Guiding questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is promoting gender equality in public administration (GEPA) relevant for sustaining peace?</li> <li>• How might GEPA help advance the implementation of the WPS agenda?</li> <li>• What are key lessons from the Dominican Republic’s own experience in promoting gender equality in public administration?</li> </ul> |
| Setting the stage<br>(7-8 minutes)          | Dr. Melanie Hughes, <i>University of Pittsburgh</i><br><br>Dr. Muge Finkel, <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present overview of findings on global trends and existing evidence on the way in which conflict shapes women’s participation in public institutions, including access to leadership.</li> </ul>  |

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|---|---|--|
| National perspective<br>(7-8 minutes)       | H.E. Ana Maria Tribin Uribe, <i>Republic of Colombia</i>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the relevance of promoting greater participation of women in public institutions in Colombia for helping to consolidate peace in the country?</li> <li>• What are some of the ways in which Colombia has attempted to promote gender equality in its public institutions, at the local or national level? Have these had any results relevant to peacebuilding?</li> <li>• What lessons are there from Colombia's national experience for other Member States and UN actors?</li> </ul> |
| National perspective<br>(7-8 minutes)       | H.E. Ms. Awut Deng Achuil, <i>Republic of South Sudan</i>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has been the role of women in public administration in South Sudan in promoting peace and security in the country?</li> <li>• What are the challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming gender in public institutions in the context of the new peace agreement?</li> </ul>  |
| National perspective<br>(7-8 minutes)       | H.E. Mr. Charlie Flanagan T.D., <i>Ireland</i>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has Ireland prioritized the promotion of gender equality in public institutions domestically and internationally? And what kind of contributions have these actions had in promoting and sustaining peace?</li> <li>• How might partnerships be better leveraged to promote equitable and inclusive public administration in conflict-affected settings?</li> </ul>   |
| Moderated Q&A<br>(15-20 minutes)            | Raquel Lagunas, <i>United Nations Development Programme</i> (moderator) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take questions from audience members</li> <li>• Take questions from Member State participants to other roundtable speakers</li> </ul>   |
| Summary of key points<br>(2 minutes)        | Raquel Lagunas, <i>United Nations Development Programme</i> (moderator) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of key take-aways from the discussion</li> </ul>  |
| Co-organizer session closing<br>(2 minutes) | H.E. Ana Maria Tribin Uribe, <i>Republic of Colombia</i>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks and closing remarks highlighting the significance of the issue.</li> </ul>   |

\*The questions above are proposed questions. Guiding questions can be amended at the request of Member State participants ahead of the event.

***UNDP Contacts***

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