

REPORT OF THE WPS 19TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS, New York

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) organized a delegation in New York to attend the annual events of Women Peace and Security week between the 26th October and the 2nd of November 2019.

The team comprised of the GPPAC Board Chair, relevant staff and Focal Points to engage around the official anniversary of the UNSC Resolution 1325. GPPAC side-events in New York this year was planned to be an opportunity to bring 'grounded and region-specific analysis to global policy makers. The team attended a series of events with colleagues from other civil society organisations, representatives from the Permanent Missions to the UN and respective UN agencies. During the week, in the days leading up to and the GPPAC team started with a preparatory meeting and a workshop on advocacy where a common message was developed – Redesigning the Table.

The UN Women Multi-stakeholders Forum kicked off the series of events and took different formats-plenary discussions, concurrent break session and paper presentations by various speakers. WANEP made a presentation on **"WPS Early Warning for Conflict Prevention"** The discussants deliberated on lessons learnt, benefits, challenges and recommendations.

During her presentation, WANEP argues that a gender sensitive early warning focus increases the understanding of factors that lead to armed conflict or contemporary security threats and improve analysis and the formulation of response options. Gendering early warning does not only benefit women; by ensuring that the concerns of men and women are considered. It also provides an overall improvement to existing approaches of information collection, analysis and formulation of response options. The presentation gave examples of how WANEP early warning system is structured using the North East of Nigeria, where trained women alert appropriate authorities on any identified issue for quick intervention.

At the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) organised in partnership with the Governments of Austria, Canada and Norway; the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and the Spotlight Initiative, the need to invest in women peacebuilders and humanitarian responders was emphasized. The collaboration with the UN Women and the grant processed were deliberated for greater understanding of local initiatives.



The GPPAC Team at the UN Security Council Meeting Room before the debate and adoption of resolution 2493 on the 29th of October 2019

At the 19th Open Debate on UNSCR1325 that adopted a 10th Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) UNSCR 2493, the representatives of member states again pledged their commitment to WPS. The question is, will this make the change for enhanced engagement and participation by women or will

it result in better protection for women's peace activists and human rights agenda and prevention of all forms of SGBV and violence.

For our West Africa region, as we call for an enhanced approach to a peace, development and humanitarian nexus, our leaders must find ways to demonstrate their value and commit to engagement so that in line with their declarations on gender equality and women's rights ensures the WPS agenda is the anchor ensuring accountability to human rights in line with CEDAW. The International Peace Institute event took the format of dialogue and plenary discussion. WANEP led the conversation on the **“The Challenges of WPS Agenda and the Small Arms and Light Weapons and Conventional Arms Control Agendas in the context of Disarmament.”**

During its discussion, WANEP highlights that disarmament, arms control and resolution 1325 play a critical role in preventing and ending crises and armed conflict. Heightened tensions and dangers can only be resolved through serious political dialogue and negotiation—never by more arms. And that both United Nations frameworks aim to secure and prosperous for more effective and efficient at delivering peace, sustainable development, human rights, justice and humanitarian assistance. Pointing out that however, challenges to delivering effectively on 1325 actions in the context of conventional arms control include the fact that disarmament is not explicitly included in Resolution 1325 other than its limit to Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR); issues of poor awareness and recognition of the prevention and protection pillars; lack of coordination and relevant agencies and weak political will. Suggestions for more effective outcome, specific and broader questions and strategies on women’s participation in conventional arms control is required rather than the limiting context of DDR was posited.

The Permanent Mission of Germany, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), along with Cordaid, WOMEN Dutch Gender Platform, and Frederick Ebert Stiftung also convened a side event with the goal of amplifying the experiences of young women working in conflict and atrocity prevention, and to assess opportunities for strengthening young women’s role in prevention. The event mapped UN-driven conflict and atrocity prevention spaces, assessing the current role that women play, and identifying opportunities for Member States, UN actors, and donors to enable young women to engage and create operational strategies and accountability frameworks on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding. It was an open space for Member States, UN actors, and civil society to share practical experiences, including successes, key challenges, and recommendations on sustained leadership of young women in conflict and atrocity prevention at the local level. The events were followed by meetings in small groups and social interaction. The Breakfast meeting with the German Permanent Mission, The UN Women and The EU Delegation.

In conclusion, attendance at these events improved WANEP’s visibility and capacity in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It also was an avenue for WANEP to demonstrate its strength and position in Africa. WANEP is encouraged to continue its attendance at such conference because it seemed like a market place for donors.