



Special Session 2

The nexus between the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region

Tuesday, 5 March 2024, 15:45-17:15 p.m. Beirut time

Background and objective

The increase in conflict in the Arab region resulted not only in profound instances of death and harm, but also a regression in efforts made toward sustainable development, with a heavy toll on gains made towards gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. The UN Secretary's General New Agenda for Peace emphasizes conflict prevention as key strategy to saving lives and safeguarding development. It calls for acceleration of the SDGs to address the underlying causes of insecurity and violence. The new agenda point so the urgency of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in its entirety given its transformative potential to de-escalate tensions and contribute to international peace.

The session aims to unpack the nexus between the WPS agenda and Agenda 2030. It will seek to identify the entry points and actions required for a stronger complementarity and interlinkages between the two frameworks for achieving peace and development, through presenting case studies and experiences from the Arab Region.

Questions to be addressed

- What are the nexus points between the Women, Peace and Security agenda and Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals?
- How do the efforts towards achieving the SDGs help in prevention of conflict and the implementation of the WPS agenda? What additional investments need to be made to tackle the key drivers of conflict?
- How can the SDGs and the WPS agenda contribute to prevention of conflict and to sustainable recovery and reconstruction? What conditions need to be available to ensure that?

Moderators

- Ms. Rania Tarazi, Gender Team Leader, UNDP, Amman Hub, Regional Bureau for Arab States [Session Introduction]
- Ms. Heba Zayyan, Regional Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action Advisor a.i., UN Women, Regional Office for the Arab States (Panel moderator)

Panelists

- Professor Fadia Kiwan, Director General, the Arab Women Organization [Keynote address]
- Dr. Amal Hamad, Minister of Women's Affairs, the State of Palestine
- Ms. Magda, El-Sanousi, International Expert on gender equality, development, peace and security, Sudan
- Dr. Buthaina Al-Mahdawi, Head and Founder, Hawa'a Organization for Relief and Development and the SDGs Network 2030, Iraq
- Mr. Marc Rubin, Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa [Closing remarks]

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in the Committee Room 2 (CR-II), B1 floor.



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