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For women's rights, peace and security



Permanent Mission of Lithuania
to the United Nations



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61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women:

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK

Side Event Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) and the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

***Theme: The role of female Parliamentarians in implementing the
Women, Peace and Security Agenda***

Concept Note

BACKGROUND

Women's active involvement in conflict resolution is key to sustainable peace. Nevertheless, women are continuously underrepresented in structures that contribute to peace and security around the world. Seventeen years after the ratification of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, its implementation on national level is still lagging behind. Parliamentarians are key in ensuring that National Action Plans for UNSCR 1325 are applied. **Yet, little effort has been made to engage Parliamentarians to actively push for the implementation of the global Women, Peace and Security Agenda on national level.**

Female Parliamentarians are key in advocating change in national legislation. To advance this work, the Women in Parliaments Global Forum is forming a WIP Council on Peace and Security. The WIP Council will convene selected female Parliamentarians from the WIP network to discuss and provide solutions to the challenges related to the implementation of the global Women Peace and Security Agenda. The purpose of the WIP Council is to share best practices, stimulate dialogue, shape agendas, advocate and drive legislative action at the national and regional level.

For the 61st Session of the Commission of the Status on Women, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations, the United National Development Programme (UNDP), the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP), and the International Civil



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Society Action Network (ICAN) seek to organise a side event highlighting the unique but often neglected role female Parliamentarians play in the implementation of the global Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The side event will also focus on the importance of engaging women's civil society organisations, by giving them a voice through collaborations and consultations. The discussions will form the basis for the WIP Council on Peace and Security.

PARTICIPANTS

- Date: 13.15-14.30, 15 March 2017
- Venue: Conference Room 8 - GA Building, UN HQ
- Speakers:
 - **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, Founder of Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP)
 - **Sarah Poole**, Deputy Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
 - **Marie-Claude Bibeau**, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie of Canada
 - **Eglė Radišauskienė**, Vice minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania (tbc)
 - **Elke Ferner**, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany.
 - **Florence Mutua**, Member of Parliament of Kenya
 - **Zita Gurmai**, Gender Advisor to the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica
 - **Sanam Anderlini**, Co-Founder & Executive Director, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
 - **Khadija Arfaoui**, Feminist Activist and Researcher, ICAN Network

FOCUS

- To seek the active involvement of female Parliamentarians and civil society to institutionalise the inclusion of women in peace and security processes on global and national level.



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EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Forging collaboration between women MPs and Women's Rights Civil Society Organisations;
2. Providing a basis for the WIP Council on Peace and Security that will focus on the following key areas;
 - a. Increasing participation and leadership of female Parliamentarians in key decision-making and oversight mechanisms;
 - b. Enhancing female parliamentarians' function in mediation and negotiation;
 - c. Encouraging female Parliamentarians to hold governments and other bodies accountable in regards to the WPS agenda in domestic and international arenas; reinforcing parliamentary supervision and oversight of National Action Plans for UNSCR 1325;
 - d. Increasing conscience and comprehension of the importance of the Women, Security and Peace agenda among Parliamentarians and civil society;

ORGANISERS

Women in Parliament Global Forum is an international, independent and non-partisan foundation which focuses on bringing together and creating a network between Women in Parliaments with the purpose of advancing society. It is the global network of female Parliamentarians at national level, including the European Parliament, of whom there currently are around 9000.

The United Nations Development Programme works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. It focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas: Sustainable development, Democratic governance and peacebuilding and Climate and disaster resilience.

International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) is a US based nonprofit whose mission is to support civil society activism in promoting women's rights, peace and human security in countries affected by conflict, transition and closed political space. ICAN spearheads the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) and the Global Solutions Exchange (GSX), with a focus on preventing and addressing extremism by promoting peace, rights and pluralism.

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