



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

A Key to Peace: More Women in Peacekeeping

[Saturday 21 September, 9.00 am EDT; 14.00 GMT+1; 15.00 CEST, Virtual]

Organized by: SecurityWomen (lead org.), the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations, the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations, UN Women, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Regional Office for Southern Africa, and the Southern African Liaison Office (SALO), the World Future Council, the UK Civil Society Women's Alliance (CSWA), National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO) and G100: Security and Defence Wing

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Women's participation is not just a moral imperative but a strategic necessity for achieving the goals outlined in the UN's Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goals 5 (Gender Equality) and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). UN Summit of the Future offered a unique platform for the international community to take decisive steps towards creating a more secure and peaceful world. This side event focused on the vital role of women in peacekeeping and conflict prevention. The expert panellists highlighted women's contributions, and the ongoing challenges faced by peacekeeping operations; and called for renewed political will and concrete measures to address these challenges, to ensure women's meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels of conflict resolution and peacekeeping.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

1. Member States need to act now, by increasing women's meaningful participation in peacekeeping and conflict prevention.
2. Post conflict and fragile countries can only build sustainable peaceful societies when women are fully integrated into peace operations.
3. The measurable impact of individual country NAPs for implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions calls for review.
4. A lack of funding and resource should not restrict the meaningful participation of uniformed women in peacekeeping and security operations.
5. Pre-deployment and deployment opportunities require both a gender-sensitive and gender-balanced approach.
6. Women are often the victims in conflict which does not discriminate.
7. The global sharing of best practices and narratives is a key contributor to increasing the representation of uniformed women.
8. Due diligence and transparency in institutional inclusivity processes is integral to making change happen change.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 8 bullet points)

1. A holistic understanding of gender equality and labour segregation is needed in peacekeeping operations and leadership which will lead to improved working and living conditions for women peacekeepers.
2. Meaningful participation and barriers to inclusivity, should be evaluated and identified at all levels of deployment and acted upon.
3. Data driven solutions are imperative – the measure of qualitative not just quantitative impact of women in peacekeeping must be underscored.
4. Acceleration of change through the implementation of innovative solutions, such as the Elsie Initiative Fund (EIF), in line with the UN DPO's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028 (UGPS); UNSCR 2538 (2020), A4P and A4P+.
5. Knowledge gathered contributes to the global conversation on increasing the representation of uniformed women in UN peace operations and increases the pool of eligible uniformed women.
6. Promoting more women in peacekeeping and strengthening women in leadership and decision-making roles will augment peacekeeping reform.
7. Promote women in peacekeeping to build more community engagement based on inclusive partnership and understanding of community nuances.
8. Greater emphasis should be placed on national and regional perspectives through global conversation, engagement and gender barrier assessments.

Webpage to find more information:

[Events \(securitywomen.org\)](https://www.securitywomen.org/) or <https://www.securitywomen.org/events> [Recording available]; for more information on the Elsie Initiative Fund (EIF) (UN Women)