



Launch of the Global Alliance of Women Mediator Networks

Concept Note

Background

Almost twenty years following the passing of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the number of women leading mediation, negotiation and other conflict resolution processes at the global level should be growing steadily. There equally should be a visibly higher number of women serving as lead negotiators representing conflict parties in formal peace negotiations and mediation. Yet, despite the legal and normative frameworks that have been put in place to advance the WPS agenda over the past 19 years, not much progress has been made. There are simply not enough women occupying and leading spaces of influence in global peace and security. The establishment of women mediators' networks across the globe is a reflection of women's common aspiration and commitment to participate in and lead peace processes. It reflects a belief that women are equal stakeholders in society, and can and should have a place at every table where peace is being discussed, negotiated or brokered. The Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks is a collective of voices demanding policy and decision-makers alike to hasten the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and consciously create spaces for women to participate in and lead peace processes

Format of the Launch

The Launch of the Global Alliance is part of an outreach and advocacy campaign that seeks to showcase how women have organized themselves globally in the area of WPS so that they come out clearly with one, louder voice. It is a discussion among policy and decision-makers, mediation experts and members of the women mediators' networks that make up the Global Alliance¹, reflecting on policy issues and practical considerations relevant to women's

¹ The Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa), the Arab Women Mediators Network of the League of Arab States, the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN), the Nordic Women Mediators and the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth

experiences as peacemakers. The launch goes beyond a discussion on achievements and challenges and barriers to access, and reflects on opportunities and possible modalities through which women's participation can be facilitated and enhanced. It is an inclusive space that seeks to build bridges between networks and key partners, including organizations, men and women who are active in the mediation arena and committed to making it more inclusive.

The Launch will take the format of an interactive meeting. It will be opened by a keynote speech, followed by two panels and a Ministerial-level session. The first panel will focus on first-hand experiences of women in the mediation arena, the gains that have been made in pursuit of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and some of the challenges that have been overcome, key remaining issues, and the opportunities waiting to be seized or built upon. The Ministerial-level session aims to highlight existing initiatives to support women and women mediator Networks, and encourage additional commitments to enhance women's meaningful participation in peace processes. The second panel will comprise high-level officials and experts that lead and make key decisions on mediation practice across-the globe. In sharing their experiences and organizational perspectives and priorities, they will outline what they are doing or have done to add to the voice and growing demand for women everywhere to get involved in peacemaking and mediation.

Expected Outcomes and Objectives

Through the Launch, the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks expects to achieve the following objectives:

1. Create awareness of the Global Alliance, including its membership, priorities and objectives;
2. Showcase the work being done by the individual networks and their members to promote and enhance women's participation in peace processes in pursuit of the broader Women Peace and Security Agenda;
3. Engage key policy-makers in order to leverage support from the UN, the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States and UN Member States, and build partnerships to advance the roles and participation of women in mediation processes at the global, regional and national levels;
4. Identify opportunities for collaboration with, among and between the Global Alliance Networks and other stakeholders;
5. Create a networking, outreach, advocacy and relationship-building opportunity for network members and key stakeholders, including policy-makers.

