

The Permanent Missions of Finland, Argentina, Canada, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey together with UNEP, UNDP, UN Women, PBSO, GCSP, World YWCA, and WILPF cordially invite you to a side event



Women and Natural Resources:  
Realizing Women's Peacebuilding Potential  
through Inclusive Natural Resource  
Management

Wednesday 24 June 2015  
12.00 – 13.30  
Room XXVII, Palais des Nations

Refreshments and sandwiches will be served.  
Participants without a valid UN badge are kindly asked to RSVP by noon Tuesday 23 June to Ms Petra Järvinen at [petra.jaervinen@undp.org](mailto:petra.jaervinen@undp.org).

## Background

Gendered roles and responsibilities make women often vulnerable to increased risks of discrimination, inequality and violence due to their heightened exposure to security risks as well as due to constraints in their rights to resources, upon which they are often directly dependent. At the same time, in times of conflict, coping strategies often require women to assume new responsibilities related to natural resources, which can contribute to breaking down existing barriers to their participation. In the aftermath of conflict, capitalizing on these shifting roles can contribute to breaking down barriers to women's empowerment and enhancing women's productivity in sectors that are often critical to economic recovery and sustainable development.

Since the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which recognizes women's contributions to global and national peace and security, remarkable normative progress has been made at the global, regional and national levels to advance and operationalize the women, peace and security agenda. UN Security Council resolution 1889 (2009), for example, recognizes the important role that women play in post-conflict peacebuilding by contributing to inclusive public decision-making, the economic activity and social development of communities, and family well-being. Yet, as recognized in Security Council resolution 2122 (2013), there continue to be significant deficits in implementation.

The policy report "Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential", released by UNEP, UN Women, PBSO and UNDP in 2013, improves the understanding of the complex relationship between women and natural resources in conflict-affected settings. The report argues that we can find entry points for increased participation of women in decision-making by looking more closely to the management of natural resources. Efforts should be made to tackle violence and discrimination that women face in trying to establish their full and equal rights to own, use, access, and inherit land and other natural resources to realize their full productive capacity. This, in turn, contributes to higher equality, stronger recovery and more effective peacebuilding.

It should also be recognized that education has the potential to build the capacities of communities to prevent and end conflict and to promote equality and peace. Therefore, ensuring women's and girls' non-discriminatory access to quality education plays a pivotal role.

Finland, together with several co-hosts, organized a launching ceremony for the policy report in Geneva in May 2014. Similar events had already taken place in New York, Nairobi and Geneva, during which the findings of this report were discussed with targeted participants. Following this, a side-event in the margins of the Human Rights Council on the same topic was held in Geneva in June 2014. Thanks to these very fruitful and thought provoking events, the focus was successfully shifted from asking 'why' to 'how'. Time is now ripe to move further, namely to make sure that the report's findings are taken on board to the fullest extent possible at the country level. Human Rights Council and other human rights fora are very important part of making this possible.

The objectives of the side event are to:

- In light of the main findings of the report, explore measures and means of implementation to enhance promotion of policies and programmes that address the gender - natural resource - peacebuilding nexus.
- Promote dialogue and cooperation among the gender, natural resources, peacebuilding and human rights communities.
- Raise awareness about the UNEP, UN Women, PBSO and UNDP led project targeting conflict-affected countries to test gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management.

Opening remarks:

- Päivi Kairamo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva

Key note speaker:

- Ms Elisabeth Rehn, a member of the Board of Directors of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims in the Hague and of the High Level Advisory Group for the Global Review on 1325, former Minister of Defence and Minister of Equality Affairs of Finland, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in The Republic of Croatia, FRY, Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYROM, former UN Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina, co-author of "Women War Peace" with Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in 2002

Panelists:

- Neil Buhne, Director, UNDP Office in Geneva
- Veronica Birga, Chief, Women's Human Rights and Gender Section of the OHCHR
- Silja Halle, Programme Officer, UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch

The event will be moderated by Caty Clément, Senior Programme Advisor and Senior Fellow at the Leadership, Crisis and Conflict Management Programme of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.



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