



What Role for Women Mediators and Peacebuilders on Current Security Challenges? The Case of Afghanistan

Event organized on the sidelines of the 2021 United Nations Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security

Wednesday, 27 October h. 2.00 pm (CEST-Rome time)

in collaboration with




Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation



A Global Alliance of Regional
Women Mediator Networks



Summary

On the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, Women In International Security (WIIS) Italy is organizing a panel discussion to reflect on the current global security challenges, with a particular focus on the Afghan crisis and the devastating situation of Afghan women and girls. The event is promoted in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy and the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks (GA).

Leading women mediators, peacebuilders and policymakers will discuss the urgency of this situation, address critical questions, and provide recommendations for a more cooperative, effective and inclusive response to the developing situation in Afghanistan.

Overview

Over the past six years, a number of regional women mediator networks have been launched in different regions across the globe, to support a full and meaningful participation of women in peace and mediation processes. In line with the main pillars embedded in UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, women's participation in decision-making processes is instrumental to effective peacekeeping and to achieving a sustainable peace. The establishment of regional women mediator networks is part of initiatives that Member States have taken to translate their commitment to Women Peace and Security (WPS) into concrete actions. The launch of a Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks (GA) in 2019 offered a historic opportunity to create an inclusive space to connect and facilitate experience sharing between regional networks and to amplify women's common aspiration and commitment to lead or at least participate in peace processes.

Based on this assumption, this event aims at providing a platform to discuss the possible role and contribution of women mediator networks in face of current global security challenges, and specifically on the Afghan context, and analyses the key contribution that women mediator and peacebuilders can provide at a global level in supporting Afghan women in achieving sustainable peace in their country.

Objectives

The overall objective of the event is to keep the international community focused on the devastating situation that Afghan women and girls are currently facing. By developing specific recommendations beyond the rhetoric that often surrounds the narrative on Afghan women, GA members will discuss the implementation of the WPS agenda in Afghanistan in the new political context, with a view to promoting actions to protect women and girls, as well as to strengthening their equal and meaningful participation in peace and political processes.

Specific objectives:

- Provide a strategic space for women mediators and peacebuilders to inform and influence the peacekeeping strategies for Afghan women and girls;
- Exchange experiences and best practices on peacebuilding and peacekeeping;
- Increase the visibility and role of Regional Women Mediator Networks;
- Build stronger partnerships between policy makers and practitioners;
- Identify specific WPS priorities and areas for the networks' members to engage on the ground.

The event will be hosted on Zoom. It will be conducted in English with interpretation in French.

Advance registration is required:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CL5cDLDnRIKcUt6tY-UadA

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2:00 - 2:15	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Hon. Marina Sereni, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy</p> <p>H. E. Lolwah Rashid Al-Khater, Assistant Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar</p>
2:15 – 3:00	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><i>The Afghan crisis: How to support women and girls' contribution to a durable peace and an inclusive development</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Irene Fellin, WIIS Italy, President & Coordinator of the MWMN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Vittorio Sandalli, Ambassador of Italy in Afghanistan - H.E. Mette Knudsen, Deputy Special Representative (Political) for Afghanistan in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) - Hon. Lia Quartapelle, Member of the Italian Parliament, Commission of Foreign and European Affairs of the House of Representatives <p>Voices from Afghan women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Fatima Gailani, Afghan Peace Negotiator - Ms. Quhramaana Kakar, Senior Strategic Advisor, Women Mediators across the Commonwealth - Ms. Zahra Ahmadi, Afghan Peace Activist and businesswomen

<p>3:00 – 3:45</p>	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><i>A feminist vision for the future of Afghanistan: What role for Regional Women Mediator Networks?</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Loredana Teodorescu, WIIS Italy, Secretary General & Coordinator of the GA Secretariat</p> <p>Representatives of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks (GA) will share their reflections and recommendations on how networks could support Afghan women and girls in the current circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Anna Cervi, Norwegian Refugee Council Country Director in Syria, Member of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN) - H.E. Amb. Parikhhan Shawky, Ambassador of Iraq in Bern, Member of the Arab Women Mediators Network (AWMN) - Ms. Shadia Marhaban, MBBI Regional Consultant for Southeast Asia, Member of the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators & Mediators (SEANWPNM) - H.E. Pia Stjernvall, Finnish Ambassador in Kosovo, Member of the Nordic Women Mediators (NWM) - Ms. Mossarat Qadeem, co-founder of PAIMAN Alumni Trust (Pakistan), Member of Women Mediators across the Commonwealth (WMC) - Ms. Gloria Kabage, Deployment Officer, FemWise-Africa Network
<p>3:45 – 3.50</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Ms. Irene Fellin, WIIS Italy, President & Coordinator of the MWMN</p>