



Women4Security

WOMEN LEAD. PEACE FOLLOWS.

NO MORE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: Advancing Women's Roles in Peace and Security for the Next 25 Years

High-Level Women4Security Forum

Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

11–12 November 2025

COMMUNIQUE

The High-Level Women4Security Forum was hosted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, in partnership with the European Union Partnership Mission in the Republic of Moldova (EUPM), UN Women, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), and the GS Foundation, with financial support from Sweden and Denmark.

PREAMBLE

We, the participants of the High-Level Women4Security Forum, representing governments, civil society and academia from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Canada, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Bosnia and Herzegovina, European Union, as well as international organizations, including the United Nations, NATO, and OSCE, gathered in Chişinău to commemorate the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Recognizing the historic role of Resolution 1325 in affirming women's indispensable contribution to peace and security, we celebrate the progress achieved through more than one hundred National Action Plans (NAPs) globally, regional partnerships, and the growing participation and leadership of women in diplomacy, defense, and crisis management and response. Yet, we acknowledge that progress remains fragmented and too often dependent on political will, rather than embedded in institutional practice.

We express concern that gender-based violence, including violence against women in political and public life, continues to undermine women's full, safe, equal and meaningful participation to decision-making. Intensifying crises – armed conflict, displacement, hybrid threats, energy insecurity, and disinformation – further exacerbate existing inequalities. The underfunding of women's organizations, contrasted with increasing global military expenditure, highlights the urgent need to rebalance priorities toward people-centered, sustainable security.

We commend the Republic of Moldova for its leadership in hosting this Forum and for tangible progress in advancing gender equality within its security and defense institutions, including two successive NAPs on WPS and the integration of gender provisions into the National Defense Strategy. At the same time, we recognize that persistent structural barriers and stereotypes continue to limit progress, demanding collective, coordinated, and sustained action.

We reaffirm that peace and security in Europe and beyond depend on the equal participation of women and men in all spheres of public life. The WPS agenda must evolve into a transformative and inclusive framework aligned with broader regional and international processes, including European Union (EU) accession and neighborhood cooperation – so that gender equality becomes a defining element of good governance, stability, and democracy.

Our shared vision is clear: no more missed opportunities. The next 25 years must mark a decisive shift – from commitment to coherence, from inclusion to leadership, and from fragmented response to integrated resilience.

A RENEWED STRATEGIC VISION

We reaffirm that the full realization of the WPS agenda requires systemic transformation built on political will, institutional accountability, and cross-sector partnerships that link national reforms with regional cooperation.

As the EU and its neighbors face new challenges to peace and democracy, **gender equality** must stand at the heart of enlargement and integration processes. The EU accession and engagement process provides new opportunities for harmonized and comprehensive actions, fully aligned with international human rights and international humanitarian law principles. Aligning WPS implementation with EU frameworks, including the Gender Action Plan III, the EU Strategic Compass, the Common Security and Defence Policy, and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, will reinforce the vision of peace based on equality, solidarity, and respect for human rights.

Localization of WPS agenda remains essential to sustaining peace. National commitments must translate into tangible benefits for local authorities, civil society, and communities, particularly in border and post-conflict areas. Predictable financing, participatory mechanisms, and gender-responsive budgeting are critical to ensure that women are not only consulted but are central actors in decision-making.

Digital transformation and information integrity are emerging dimensions of peace and security. Gendered disinformation, online harassment, and technology-facilitated violence have become tools of polarization that silence women's voices and erode democratic trust. We call for women's empowerment and participation in technology and innovation, and ensuring that online spaces are governed by the same principles of equality, accountability and human rights that underpin democratic societies.

Women's full inclusion in preparedness and resilience building is essential, as they bring critical community and societal perspectives. We also recognize that preparedness and resilience must be established before crises occur. Effective coordination among civil, military, humanitarian, and community actors practiced during peacetime is crucial to ensuring that emergency response and recovery are inclusive and effective.

Efforts to strengthen preparedness and resilience must also bridge military and civilian approaches. Integrated security systems, where community trust, civilian expertise, and gender-sensitive prevention measures are treated as core security functions rather than parallel tracks, are essential to building whole-of-society resilience. Embedding gender into the daily practice of security institutions requires not only policy commitments but also practical accountability mechanisms. WPS focal points with clear mandates and authority can serve as catalysts for institutional transformation, ensuring that gender perspectives shape training, planning, and operational decisions.

STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS FOR ACTION

To advance the shared vision of inclusive peace and security, the participants of the High-Level Women4Security Forum commit to the following strategic directions:

1. Embedding WPS within national, regional, and security governance

- Integrate WPS principles and accountability frameworks across defense, security, and internal and external affairs policies, ensuring coherence with the international norms and commitments.
- Establish permanent WPS focal points (FPs) within security, defense, and border institutions, strengthen institutional mandates, and align monitoring and accountability frameworks with UN and EU standards to ensure continuity, accountability, and operational impact.
- Ensure that WPS focal points actively contribute to and influence the EU enlargement process and related platforms, promoting the mainstreaming of WPS commitments across policies and legislation in full compliance with EU standards.
- Apply gender analysis and mainstreaming as standard requirements in threat assessment, contingency planning, and operational decision-making.
- Strengthen institutional accountability by embedding gender into everyday operational practice. Progress must be measured not only through the adoption of policies or strategies but through concrete, enforceable mechanisms within defence and security institutions. Empowered WPS focal points, equipped with clear mandates, resources, and reporting lines, are critical to ensuring that gender-responsive approaches are integrated into planning, oversight, and command structures.

2. Investing in women's leadership in defense and security sectors and crisis management

- Rebalance security priorities by shifting from a militarized approach to a **people-centered human security framework**. Prioritize investments in women's leadership and gender equality, as evidence shows that supporting women's participation leads to more inclusive, equitable, and lasting peace.
- Guarantee sustained, multi-year and predictable funding for women's organizations and peacebuilders, especially those operating in conflict-affected and post-conflict settings. Apply a target suggested by UN Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace – "a minimum of 1 per cent of Official Development Assistance in direct assistance to women's organizations, especially grass-roots groups mobilizing for peace".

- Integrate capacity building, mentorship, career progression pathways, and gender-responsive reforms into all defense, police, border-management, and emergency-response policies and plans.
- Actively recruit, train, and deploy more women in peacekeeping, mediation, crisis-response missions, and early-warning mechanisms, and ensure they are appointed to leadership roles in both field operations and policy decision-making structures.

3. Advancing digital resilience and information security

- Recognize and address gendered disinformation and online harassment as emerging security threats that erode trust, polarize societies, and silence women leaders.
- Reinforce trust between police, security institutions, and communities as a core dimension of digital and human security. Addressing online hate speech and technology-facilitated harassment targeting women in public service, especially women in security, law enforcement, defense, and politics, is essential to strengthening societal resilience. Growing gendered disinformation campaigns, which manipulate narratives to undermine women leaders and equality efforts, pose a direct threat to public trust, institutional legitimacy, and democratic resilience. Tackling these threats must be prioritized within national resilience frameworks and security-sector reforms.
- Acknowledge the dual role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping the digital security environment. AI-driven tools can amplify gendered disinformation, deepen online abuse through synthetic media and deepfakes, and accelerate the spread of harmful narratives targeting women and girls. At the same time, AI offers significant opportunities to strengthen resilience, through improved detection of harmful content, enhanced early-warning systems, more secure digital infrastructures, and data-driven threat analysis. Ensuring that AI systems are designed, deployed, and governed in gender-sensitive, human-rights-based, and transparent ways is essential for safeguarding women's digital safety and reinforcing democratic resilience.
- Expand digital access, literacy, and cyber-awareness programs for women and girls, and support their leadership in strategic communications, information security, and digital governance.
- Enhance cooperation with the UN, EU, NATO and OSCE to strengthen cybersecurity and counter-disinformation efforts through gender-sensitive approaches.
- Consider the new [UN Convention Against Cybercrime](#), signed by [65 countries](#) on 27 October 2025 (including 20 countries from the region and the EU), as an opportunity to reinforce WPS commitments on preventing and responding to cyber-violence against women and girls in crisis contexts. This convention can serve as a framework to align national and regional WPS actions with emerging global standards on cyber protection, digital safety, and accountability.

4. Strengthening localization, cross-border cooperation, and regional solidarity

- Empower local authorities, security actors, and women's groups to operationalize the WPS agenda at community level through local action plans, cross-border initiatives, and joint crisismanagement platforms.

- Promote regional dialogue and peer exchanges, including through EU-supported initiatives, to build trust, share knowledge and expertise, and consolidate peace across borders.
- Facilitate coordination between central and local security institutions to ensure consistent crisis-response mechanisms and inclusive participation in decision-making.
- Provide platforms for dialogue and evidence-based advocacy to amplify the voices of women-led organizations and challenge restrictive laws and discriminatory practices.

5. Building resilience through multi-sectoral and civil society-security partnerships

- Institutionalize coordination and accountability frameworks linking the law enforcement, military, humanitarian, civil society, and private-sector actors, emphasizing preparedness and joint response.
- Encourage and institutionalize civil-society engagement in policy making by establishing participatory and feedback mechanisms that ensure women's voices shape national security and crisis-management decisions.
- Promote shared responsibility for community security, combining state capacity with citizen engagement to prevent conflict and build trust.
- Establish safe, structured, and accountable engagement platforms where civil society and governments participate on equal footing. Involving impartial mediators, such as national ombudspersons, international organizations, or mediator networks, could build trust, transparency, and collaboration, in both conflict and non-conflict settings.

6. Protecting women and girls and advancing human security

- Fully implement and operationalize international normative frameworks to end violence against women and girls, including in conflict settings, and make adherence to these standards mandatory across prevention, protection, and prosecution measures. Ensure all relevant policies, institutions, and actors are accountable for compliance and results.
- Integrate gender-sensitive approaches into early-warning, border protection, and refugee-response systems, ensuring that security personnel are trained to identify and respond to gender-based risks and violence, including conflict related sexual violence.
- Acknowledge that protecting women's rights is a matter of national and regional security, central to democratic stability, rule of law, and public trust in institutions.
- Actively contribute to the 70th session of the [UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW70\)](#) to highlight access to justice for women and girls affected by conflict, linking to the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Advocate for measures that translate the Convention's commitments on prevention, protection, prosecution, and gender equality into concrete actions and accountability mechanisms in conflict-affected contexts.

OUR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT

We, the participants of the High-Level Women4Security Forum, commit to transforming the WPS agenda into a living framework that delivers tangible change for women, communities, and societies. We will strengthen cooperation among governments, civil society, the UN, EU, and other international partners to ensure that women's leadership drives progress toward peace, democracy, and sustainable development.

As Europe and its neighbors navigate complex and overlapping crises, we reaffirm that peace cannot be achieved nor sustained without women. The future of peacebuilding must be inclusive, forward-looking, and anchored in equality, justice, and solidarity.

We agree to continue convening the High-Level Women4Security Forum as a regional platform to monitor progress, review the implementation of suggested actions, share lessons learned, and sustain collective accountability for advancing the WPS agenda.

Together, we pledge: no more missed opportunities – only collective, sustained action for equality, peace, and human security for all.



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