



SDG 5: Gender Equality
15 April 2025, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

IDENTIFICATION	
Session/plenary title	Strengthening Institutions for Gender Equality and Youth Participation in Sustainable Development and Peacebuilding
Session/plenary focus	SDG 5
Session/plenary UN co-lead UN 1	UN Women
Session/plenary youth co-lead 1	Gender Youth Caucus - Major Group for Children and Youth
Session/plenary UN co-organizers	DPO/Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Session/plenary youth co-organizers	UNCCD Youth Caucus Global Youth Caucus on SDG 16 - MGCY World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM)
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>In 1995, at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the countries of the world came together and pledged to act for a world free from discrimination – a world of equality, justice, and peace. It established the Beijing Platform for Action, which remains a transformative framework calling for the rights of every woman and girl to live a life free from discrimination, violence, and inequality. Nearly three decades later, we reflect on progress and persistent challenges as we mark four critical milestones: the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security and recognizing that we are at the midpoint of the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>While important progress has been made in reducing gender disparities and lifting women and girls out of poverty, the journey toward true equality remains long. Today, 1 in every 10 women globally lives in extreme poverty and, without significant systemic changes, projections show that 342.2</p>	

million women and girls will remain trapped in extreme poverty by 2030. The harsh realities of conflict and humanitarian crises further exacerbate these inequalities. Last year, 612 million women and girls lived amidst the brutal realities of armed conflict, facing a 50-per-cent increase in conflict-related sexual violence. In 2024, nearly three hundred million people worldwide required humanitarian assistance and protection, with the majority being women and children.

These persistent inequalities and injustices underscore the need for targeted interventions; gender- and youth responsive institutions across sectors, gender-responsive, community-driven and youth-led initiatives to challenge harmful norms and ensure young women and girls, including those from marginalized backgrounds, have a decisive voice in shaping policies and decisions that affect their current realities and futures. To achieve real progress and break the cycles of inequality, injustice and exclusion, interventions must be accompanied by systemic transformations of institutional structures, norms, and cultures that remain deeply rooted in patriarchal gender norms and biases.

OBJECTIVES OF SESSION/PLENARY

This session will

- Explore the entrenched inequalities, systemic barriers, and discrimination that undermine lasting peace and sustainable development for young women and girls, especially in conflict-affected settings.
- Share evidence-based strategies, practices, policy reforms and grassroots initiatives that:
 - strengthen institutional capacities to prevent and respond to violence against young women and girls,
 - invest in youth-led organizations, and harness digital innovation,
 - enhance young women’s access to justice, security, and decision-making,
 - offer opportunities for young women to participate and influence peace processes.
- Explore practical solutions that:
 - integrate young women’s voices in decision-making and accountability mechanisms,
 - transform institutions to promote resilient, gender-and-age-responsive policies and practices that contribute to sustainable peace, social change, and justice.

OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

The session will open with an introduction that frames the discussion. Opening remarks will reference consultations from the UN Women global youth and adolescents’ Beijing +30 recommendations, the Global CSW69 Adolescents Girl Town Hall, including the outcomes on the CSW69 Youth Forum. It will also draw on the findings of OROLSI’s ongoing Review of its work to enhance gender equality and young women’s empowerment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can the Beijing Platform for Action, the Youth, Peace and Security and the Women, Peace and Security Agendas guide reforms that strengthen institutional responses to conflict and gender inequality?
- What are some of the evidence-based strategies, promising practices, interactive approaches, including intercultural dialogues and community-led initiatives needed to build gender and youth-responsive institutions across sectors to drive SDG implementation and inclusive peace?
- What are the lessons learned and good practices in building inclusive institutions, particularly in ensuring the participation of marginalized groups, including migrant and displaced youth?
- What reforms are necessary to build inclusive and people-centered institutions, including in the justice and security sector, which serve both gender equality and sustainable peace?
- How can governments and international organizations better support youth-led initiatives and integrate gender and youth perspectives, including those of migrant and diaspora youth, into the different agendas ensuring that resources are directly reaching young people in situations of vulnerability and amidst crises such as pandemics, conflicts, and climate change?

NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

Moderator

- Ms. Kinga Szalaba, Youth Representative, World Organization of the Scout Movement, Hungary

Speakers

- Ms. Gwendolyn Myers, Founder & Executive Director Messengers of Peace, Liberia
- Ms. Gauri Praveen Nimbalkar, Global Focal Point, Gender Youth Caucus, Major Group for Children and Youth, India
- Mr. Anes Demirović, Governing Board Member, United Youth Task Force Network of Young Kosovo Peacebuilders, Kosovo¹

Respondents from the floor

- Mr. Kornelius Sembiring, IOM Youth Change Maker, Student at New York University, Indonesia
- Mr. Nhial Deng, Team Leader, SheLeads Kakuma, South Sudan
- Ms. Isidora Uribe Silva, Inclusion Activist and Founder of Encuentra, Chile
- Mr. Sea Don Moïse, National Coordinator, Donation Center, Côte d'Ivoire
- Ms. Eva Langbehn, Young Justice Leader, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, Argentina
- Katerina Lewis, Advocacy Analyst, Office of the Permanent Observer to the United Nations, USA

¹ "References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)."

OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

- **OROLSI** is currently reviewing its work to accelerate gender equality and young women's empowerment. As part of this Review, OROLSI conducted interviews and consultations with a variety of stakeholders, including a roundtable with young justice leaders and identified key barriers young women face in the justice and security sectors across various countries, including about data gaps and persistent societal, legal, economic, and institutional challenges.
- **CSW69 Global Youth Forum, 9 March** More than 180 young activists convened to strategize on contributing to and influencing the implementation of the Beijing+30 Action Agenda.
- **Aligning the Beijing Platform for Action and the Pact for the Future, 12 March.** During a solutions-focused dialogue, youth representatives advocated for transparent, actionable strategies to implement the Pact for the Future in alignment with the Beijing Platform for Action.
- **To convene a one-hour x space** to explore the entrenched inequalities, systemic barriers, and discrimination that undermine lasting peace and sustainable development for young women and girls, especially in conflict-affected settings.
- **Peacebuilding Architecture Review:** UN Women organized a series of consultations with young women peacebuilders, including the GENForum in Asia-Pacific and the CSW69 Informal Dialogue with Young Women Peacebuilders, highlighting the need to strengthen intergenerational efforts and reinforce linkages between women, peace and security, youth, peace and security, climate security, and digital security.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING

- Regional fact sheets (additional resource to inform about the regional reviews): <http://bit.ly/B30YouthFactbook>
- Beijing+30 Global Youth and Adolescent Recommendations: <https://youngfeministcaucus.org/intergovernmental-support/>
- CSW69 Global Girl Leadership Town Hall: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mizJkNa3vhir9T-dFU9GOJKCTgocvUO5/view?usp=sharing>
- Contributing to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals through the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda <https://www.unaoc.org/resource/thematic-paper-sdg-yps-agenda/>

More questions to be explored during the session:

- How can we learn from each other's experiences to create inclusive, evidence-based solutions that contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to gender and youth responsive peacebuilding?