

## INVITATION

### **Monitoring Progress and Looking Ahead: Interactive Stock-Taking on High Level Commitments Made on Women, Peace and Security ahead of the 20th Anniversary of 1325**

***Wednesday 29 January 2020***

***9:30am – 1:00pm***

**Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN**

871 United Nations Plaza, Auditorium  
New York, NY 10017

**RSVP essential for access by January 22nd** to Katharina Kalaschnikow at [pol-s2-vn@newy.auswaertiges-amt.de](mailto:pol-s2-vn@newy.auswaertiges-amt.de).

#### **Background**

After the adoption in the Security Council of ten resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, and as we near the 20-year anniversary of the first one, implementation of this agenda remains uneven. One of the most common complaints by WPS advocates is that the words of policymakers are often not matched by commensurate actions, resources, accountability, and political will, and that commitments are made but are not followed up and implemented.

In April 2019, Germany, the United Kingdom, and UN Women invited Member States, regional organizations, and UN entities to make commitments ahead of the 20th anniversary of 1325. As a result, 75 actors (64 Member States, 8 UN entities, and 3 regional organizations) committed to diverse actions to be implemented over the following 18 months. A compilation of these commitments can be read here: <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/what%20we%20do/peace-security/wps-commitments-for-2020-en.pdf?la=en&vs=534>.

These commitments ranged from new national action plans with an adoption target date before October 2020 to funding pledges, institutional arrangements, and announcements to host, chair, or join existing global initiatives, among others. Some countries committed to support women's participation in specific, ongoing peace processes, and many others pledged to reach a certain target of women's representation in their security sector or their peacekeeping deployments. And if all the countries that committed to adopting their first national action plan on 1325 do so by October 2020, we expect to hit the 100-country mark by the 20th anniversary.

During the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security in October 2019, many countries made

new commitments, but only two gave an update on implementation of the WPS commitments they had issued in April 2019. Nine months after these commitments were issued, we are now at the midpoint between then and the 20th anniversary. This is a good opportunity to monitor progress and have a forward-looking discussion of how to take these commitments forward and reach the 20th anniversary with concrete progress made.

### Agenda

The event will be a half-day interactive discussion among expert-level representatives of the Member States, regional organizations, and UN entities that made commitments in April 2019. We will be using a web-based application for audience interaction and polling throughout the event, as well as small groups and plenary sessions. Participants are also encouraged to submit short written updates as bubble comments next to their commitments ahead of the event by using this shared document: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zdj\\_4t\\_Uv6rKDdrCEEUXhxWXmXk1kiEu](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zdj_4t_Uv6rKDdrCEEUXhxWXmXk1kiEu).

Lunch will be provided at 1 pm. Please plan to arrive before 9.30 am.

<p><b>9.30 am – 10 am</b></p> <p><i>Coffee provided</i></p>	<p><b>Opening - Welcome remarks by Germany and the UK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Amb. Christoph Heusgen</b>, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN</li> <li>- <b>Amb. James Roscoe</b>, United Kingdom Ambassador to the General Assembly</li> </ul>
<p><b>10 am – 11 am</b></p> <p><i>Coffee provided</i></p>	<p>UN Women will explain the purpose and format of the event, as well as explain the use of the web app Slido. Participants are expected to use their phones or laptops to answer three simple questions about their commitments, and the answers will be tallied and analyzed for the plenary. Participants will be able to use the app to raise questions or issues throughout the event.</p> <p>Participants will have a coffee break between 10.30 and 11.</p>
<p><b>11 am – 12 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Working groups</b></p> <p>Participants will be randomly assigned to smaller groups where they will be asked to give a very short 2 minute update on implementation of their commitments and challenges encountered along the way so far. Participants are encouraged to submit written updates using the shared Google doc, but each group will have a note-taker that will be updating this document in real time with the updates provided during these sessions. Colleagues from civil society will be invited to help moderate these working groups, keep everyone on time, and report the main findings to the plenary.</p>
<p><b>12 pm – 1 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Plenary</b></p> <p>In the last session, moderated by UN Women, we will hear a summary from each of the groups, report back on the findings from the polls conducted using Slido, and reflect on challenges or opportunities to implement these commitments over the next nine months.</p>
<p><b>1 pm – 2 pm</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p>