



## “Twenty years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Delivering on Implementation”

**The Republic of South Africa, the Office of the African Union Special Envoy  
on Women, Peace and Security and UN Women**

Concept Note

Women, Peace and Security Open Debate High-Level Side Event  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 | 01:00 p.m. to 02:30 p.m. (*afternoon*)  
at the United Nations Headquarters (*conference room TBC*)

### **Summary and Overview**

The year 2020 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). The annual report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security as well as the 2019 Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security underscore the importance of the upcoming milestones to highlight **progress on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda**. In addition, United Nations Member States, civil society organizations and women’s led movements recognize the lead up to 2020 as an opportune time to reflect on and share best practices, which can be leveraged and strengthened to ensure a more robust approach to implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Despite progressive resolutions on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, challenges and gaps in its implementation still remain in realizing, inter alia, the meaningful participation of women in peace and security activities. Therefore, this milestone revitalizes the necessity to enhance the voices and visibility of women-led organizations, who are key partners in the operationalization and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda objectives.

Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is also a core priority of the Republic of South Africa, presiding over the UN Security Council for the month of October 2019. This is also the overarching theme of the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security.



In this context, the Office of the Special Envoy of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security jointly with UN Women and the Republic of South Africa will co-host a side event entitled “*Twenty years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Delivering on Implementation*” on the margins of the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security taking place on 29 October 2019 which will be chaired by South Africa’s Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Her Excellency Dr Naledi Grace Mandisa Pandor.

Participants will share views on the best practices focused on implementation and progress achieved in supporting women’s meaningful participation in all phases of peace and security processes. The joint side event will further showcase women’s leadership in implementing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, as well as identify more opportunities to highlight this leadership by UN Member States, the AU and civil society organizations.

### **Objectives and outcomes**

The joint side event will:

- Profile the **work of women leaders and women-led organizations** from local and national levels in recent and ongoing peace and security processes, including in Sudan, South Sudan, and Central African Republic;
- **Raise awareness at the international level** on African Union initiatives to advance the Women, Peace and Security Agenda;
- Give a **broad overview of the promising practices** to ensure women’s meaningful participation in prevention and mediation of conflict, post-conflict reconstruction, reconciliation and peacebuilding, as well as women’s leadership and in the monitoring, planning and implementing mechanisms of peace agreements;
- **Enhanced support** to scale up the implementation of the WPS agenda leading up to 2020.

*The detailed programme will follow shortly.*