International forum on

Gender and Conflict Platform

October 2015
United Nations Headquarters, New York

#GenderNConflict
League of Arab States – Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations

Gender and Conflict Platform Forum Coordinators:

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Gender and Conflict Platform

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League of Arab States
• The need to increase and coordinate efforts in providing the support needed to enhance the participation of women in decision-making at all levels.

• The need of the solidarity of the international community and increasing its efforts in order to combat terrorism in all its forms. Such terrorism is threatening the security and stability of the society in particular women.

• Highlighting the importance of working together to find effective mechanisms to address the long-term negative effects of the mass migration of women resulting from wars and armed conflicts, specially the effects of terrorism and the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories.

• The need for the UN Security Council to undertake its responsibilities – in accordance with international law – to remove the obstacles facing people and women in particular living under occupation in order to exercise their right for self-determination.

• The importance of strengthening the role of media responsible for widening the sphere of public awareness to protect women from all forms of violence and discrimination against them.
“The League of Arab States is one of the key players for supporting the status of women, obtaining her rights, and moving forward in her advancement.”

H.E. Ahmed Fathalla
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the League of Arab States to the United Nations
• Women’s rights and freedoms are central to the struggle between rising violent extremism groups and the universal declaration to human rights.

• Invest in educating and building the capacity of women, from minority communities, to lead grassroots efforts to counter extremism.

• Create an interactive media platform to serve as a regional and international forum, to convey the voices of women in conflict zones and their various needs.

• Acknowledge that the threat of extremism against women's rights takes us hundred years back, as terrorism and extremism have reached far beyond the geographical boundaries.

• Do we need a new UN resolution to protect women in times of conflict, before we can implement the other women peace & conflict resolutions!
“Media plays a significant role in conflict and dispute arena, it has become important for women to look for new mechanisms in order to unite the efforts of women activists and women's organizations, involved in peace and security building.”

H.E. Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh

Under Secretary-General, Head of Media and Communication Sector, League of Arab States Supervisor for Early Warning and Crisis Response Centre
• We need to establish the narrative that women can be and indeed are agents of change, leaders, and spokespeople for their generation.

• We must ensure that women who fight for women’s rights and for equality, have a platform on which to speak on.

• We need media to portray women who fight for women’s rights, to allow us to see that despite the struggles faced by women, they will not be silenced.

• We should put laws in place to end violence against women and enforce these laws.

• We need to ensure that all young girls grow up with positive female role models that they can one day aspire to be.
“Women have the right to be free from violence, and all governments have a responsibility to ensure this.”

H.E. Cristina Gallach

Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, United Nations
“Resilience, cohesion and unity in any society in crisis are key to attaining and sustaining peace and cannot be achieved without the full participation of women, and without addressing their needs and protecting their rights.”

H.E. Dr. Sima Bahous
Assistant Secretary-General, Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States - UNDP
• UNDP capitalizes on shifting gender roles during the crisis to encourage a greater contribution of women to the achievements of solutions.

• Advocate for the equal participation of women in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction.

• Call for the protection of women and girls from sexual violence and gender-based violence in armed conflicts.

• Aim to help all those affected by the crisis to maintain their dignity, cope and recover in the face of protracted and expanding crisis.

• Governments must take decisive actions to ensure no impunity for those who target women in wars, with no statutes of limitation.

• Provide necessary health, psychological, social and economic support and recovery services for women victims of violence—not only out of political and moral responsibility, but also as an investment in the recovery of women and their re-integration in society as cornerstones for maintaining social cohesion and achieving development.
- We need to intensify efforts to improve the lives and protect the rights of women displaced by conflict.

- Increasing women’s political participation and leadership in sectors such as justice and security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and economic recovery.

- Supporting the development of policy and legal frameworks that are inclusive and protective of women and women’s rights.

- Protection of women and their well being are the center of our efforts as we deal with regional developments particularly displacement and extremism.

- Post-conflict peacebuilding requires integrated and long term political and financial commitments by the United Nations, national and international partners.
“The issue of women should not be taken apart from the issue of the whole human crisis going on in the world.”

H.E. Dina Kawar

Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations
“Women are agents of change, agents of peace and development.”

Ms. Mara Marinaki

Principle Advisor on Gender and UNSCR 1325 - European External Action Service (EEAS)
• We must "engender" our whole system of crisis management and humanitarian assistance.

• We must adopt an integrated approach to prevent and punish acts of sexual violence, as well as to bring justice, services and reparation to its victims.

• Empower women's participation and leadership in peacebuilding initiatives, through proper political advocacy and also through regular regional and thematic meetings with representatives of women's organizations.

• Engage civil society in women, peace and security policy formulation, in order to receive their valuable input.

• Promote and protect all women's human rights, and make conflict resolution and peacebuilding more effective and inclusive through the equitable and qualitative representation of women.
• UNSCR1325 has not been fully implemented because concrete actions have not been taken.
• Push for inclusion and participation of women—who are already deeply involved in trying to build peace at the community level—in peace talks and negotiations.
• Conflict not only threatens women's lives and livelihoods, it also threatens to reverse progress on equality and all aspects of their development.
• Women have a stake in building sustainable peace beyond their own individual interests. They want their children to go to school, they want their families to have access to healthcare, they want to stay in their communities.
• Member States should reform educational curricula to encourage respect for women’s rights.
• Work together to protect the rights of refugees, displaced women and women under occupation, and should monitor all form of violations against women to ensure accountability for violations of international law.
• Hold accountable and prosecute perpetrators of violence against women. End impunity for such acts.
• Support an inclusive peace process that is locally driven, whereby all stakeholders are involved and have equal say.
• Stem the flow of weapons into the region as conflict is largely fueled by the trade in arms.
“What we need to push for now to deliver the spirit of women’s participation in 1325 is for a civil society quota, to create space for the voice of women in civil society. The women we need to promote are not those fighting for narrow party interests but the interest of their communities.”

Ms. Hibaaq Osman
Founder and CEO Karama Organization
International forum on
“Gender and Conflict Platform”

New York, 14 October 2015 - United Nations Headquarters

By: HE Ambassador Ahmed Fathalla

Conclusions:
The forum welcomed, noted and recommended:

• The momentum reflected in the Security Council meeting in addition to all other meetings which took place during the week commemorating the 15\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the Security Council Resolution 1325.

• The importance of the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2242.

• The importance of exchange of information through the media including the social media and the need to have a more energetic role of the media.

• The importance of a wider public opinion to constitute a lobby in order to deal effectively with the issue of women and international peace and security.

• The relation between terrorism and the issue under consideration should be effectively addressed.

• The emphasis on the 3 pillars included in the Security Council Resolution; namely protection, prevention and participation of women.
• All the work undertaken should be action oriented, no way to go backwards; and women should be enabled and encourage her role in implementing the aims of sustainable development in order for the international community to be able to achieve the goals of the post 2015 agenda which cannot be done without the full participation of women.

• No impunity for the criminals; they should be brought to justice.

• The importance of the rehabilitation of women victims and of those affected by the conflicts.

• The issue of women and international peace and security should not be dealt with separately from the world crisis which need to be addressed through political solutions particularly in the Middle East.

• The focus should be made on the new weapon used against women; namely the sexual abuse and violence.

• The persistence of the status-quo will have a negative effect on the future generations.

• The need to have national strategies to implement the regional strategy.

• To establish a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions.

• The need to have a regular assessment of the performance of the international society concerning all steps taken or to be taken to implement Security Council Resolutions as well as the regional and national strategies.

• The importance of accountability.

• The need to have more work on the ground from the United Nations and the Member States with the cooperation of the civil society in order to implement the Security Council Resolutions as well as the regional and national strategies.

• The need to have practical measures for the protection of women
After much anticipation, the office of the League of Arab States to the United Nations in cooperation with the Media and Communication Sector of the General Secretariat (LAS), together with the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States (UNDP) and Karama Organization organized a High-Level Forum on “Gender and Conflict Platform” in the occasion celebration of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in October 15\textsuperscript{th} 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters.
A number of **Ambassadors**, **Women leaders** and **Stakeholders** from around the world gathered in New York to discuss the protection of Gender during Conflict and Crisis Platforms which has affected Women and Girls.
We brought International Stakeholders and Women leaders Together to address Peace and Security for Women in #GenderNConflict
Alaa Malhas @AlaaMalhas · Oct 14
Gov have 2 take serious actions stop #violenceagainstwomen#girls intimes of crisis #GenderNConflict #UNDPWomen4Peace
Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Sima Bahous, Randi Davis and 4 others

Karama @el_karama · Oct 14
After 70 years, the next @UN General-Secretary must be a woman
#GenderNConflict

Ahmed Mari @Ahmed_Mari · Oct 14
6 Million #refugees and the majority are #Women #Syria #Iraq #Libya #AmbKawar #GenderNConflict @UN @arabLeague_gs

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh @DrAbuGhazaleh · Oct 14
We need to engage with #women & take them on board & we have the obligation to make this happen. #GenderNConflict
Mara Marinaki, Cristina Gallach, Sima Bahous and 3 others
Kate Wolf @KateWooolf · Oct 14
#GenderNconflict @Worldbank  bit.ly/1dnYmxp

maya morsy @mayamorsy
"Violence against Women is used as a tool of War" @SimaBahousUNDP @DrAbuGhazaleh #GenderNconflict

Independent Libya @INLIFO · Oct 14
MT @mayamorsy
"We need women to be a SG of the United Nations UN should lead by Example on women participation" @el_karama #GenderNconflict

Project Silphium @PSilphium · Oct 15
#GenderNConflict

Haifa abu ghazaleh @DrAbuGhazaleh
Women r disproportionally affected by conflicts! #GenderNConflict in #NYC 14Oct #UN HQ @arableague_gs @mayamorsy @el_karama @SimaBahousUNDP

Ahmed Fathi @AhmedFathi_ · Oct 14
At the International Forum on Gender and Conflict Platform. #GenderNConflict
fb.me/3PfKRDBs8
New York was chosen as it stands for international diplomacy; it exerts a significant impact upon the world and is the home of the headquarters of the United Nations, where it safeguards international peace and security for Women, not only through the role of the Security Council, but also by the General Assembly’s endorsement.
Battle for Women and Girls rights:

Mission of Jordan @JordanUN_NY Oct 14
#Jordan participating in the International Forum on Gender & Conflict Platform.
#GenderNConflict, @AmbKawar women

Sima Bahous and League of Arab States

Haifa abu ghazaleh @DrAbuGhazaleh Oct 14
We need to engage with women & take them on board & we have the obligation
to make this happen. #GenderNConflict

Mara Marinaki, Cristina Gaillach, Sima Bahous and 3 others

Karama @el_karama Oct 14
@DrAbuGhazaleh notes that women's exclusion from peace processes hampers
those efforts #GenderNConflict

Randi Davis @RandiDavisUNDP
@DrAbuGhazaleh reminds us that women and children
pay the price of conflict and most need protection from violence
Mission of Jordan and 5 others Retweeted
UNDP Arab States SdC @Isophiedeccaen · Oct 14
Excluding Arab women hurts development says @SimaBahousUNDP
#GenderNConflict @UNDPArabStates

Haifa abu ghazaleh @DrAbuGhazaleh · Oct 14
Extraordinary efforts to tackle #GenderNConflict! An upcoming forum for
#crisisresponse will be held in #Amman on Nov

Sima Bahous, Dina Kawar, Mara Marinaki and 2 others

Karama @el_karama · Oct 14
@zianghi highlights the failure to prosecute human rights violators in Libya
#GenderNConflict

Maen Aloquili @Aloquili · Oct 14
Governance Approach to prevent recurrence of violence & building long-
term,sustainable democracies #GenderNConflict

Dina Kawar, Mission of Jordan, Nasser S. Judah and 7 others