

## Thematic Session

### Crisis in the achievement of gender equality in peace and security and humanitarian sector

29 March 2021, Generation Equality Forum, Mexico

Though the participation of women in formal peace processes has been inching up, between 1992 and 2019, **women constituted, on average, only 13% of negotiators, 6% of mediators, and 6% of signatories in major peace processes worldwide.**

Similarly in crisis contexts, the voices of crisis affected women and girls are often marginalized in the development of strategic response plans, **with 40% of planning processes reported no meaningful engagement with local women's organizations in the planning and prioritization of humanitarian response plans.** The rise of violent extremism in many parts of the world has led to a real threat to the lives of women as well as to a cycle of militarization where women are often in an ambivalent position, rejecting the structures of their conduct by violent extremists but wanting to protect their families and their communities from polarization and threat.

Funding for programs and processes remains abysmally low across all areas of the agenda. Total bilateral allocable aid committed to support gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected countries continue to increase, with USD 20.5 billion per year between 2017-2018, compared to USD 18 billion per year between 2015-2016. However, bilateral aid to women organizations has stagnated at 0.2% of bilateral aid to conflict-affected contexts. In addition, programming targeting gender specific needs in crisis settings remains deprioritized, with only 39% of requested funds being received.

In July 2020, the Generation Equality Forum announced the development of a Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (**The Compact**), as one of the outcomes of the Forum, aimed at fostering implementation of existing commitments on women, peace and security and humanitarian action. The Compact is a unique opportunity to integrate an inter-generational approach to dismantle discriminatory barriers that prevent women's equal participation at the forefront of peace, security, and humanitarian efforts, and to promote and protect women's human rights and the work of women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders, as well as ensure women's leadership in all peace and humanitarian decision-making processes.

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