



AUSTRALIA



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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

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Women, Peace and Security

**Statement by Mrs Ann Sudmalis MP
Federal Member for Gilmore, Parliament of Australia**

(Check against delivery)

Thank you, Madame President.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to ensuring women's meaningful participation in peace processes. We need research and to share knowledge to translate the theoretical concepts of the Women, Peace and Security agenda into action and good practice. We need to identify solutions and approaches that are context specific, inclusive, and informed by experience, especially that of the local actors.

Australia welcomes the report of the Expert Working Group, and its recommendations. We commend the work of the experts who contributed to that report.

Towards Inclusive Peace is an Australian-funded research project, in partnership with the Australian Universities, focusing on Women Peace and Security in the Indo-Pacific region. This research, which also informed the Expert report, is showing that one of the most crucial factors in securing lasting peace agreements is the active presence of women's civil society organisations.

Women's organisations are on the ground before, during and after conflicts. They help mediate and resolve conflict, and rebuild community relations and trust in institutions. Yet women's organisations in our region tell us that it is often only when women enter the post-conflict security sector or government that their governance skills, capacities and qualities are fully appreciated.

Australia is proud to be the founding and largest donor to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, in support of women's grassroots organisations. We are also proud to support UN Women's Women, Peace and Security Global Facility.

The research is also showing that women's *meaningful* participation is rarely adequately supported, or funded. Too often institutional arrangements exclude women from key processes, and stand alone measures such as quotas are not enough in isolation. Women from our region are seeking practical responses. Access to childcare, to safe transport and to toilets; consulting with women on the timing

of meetings; and funding travel for companions or carers are among their suggestions. They also seek protection from and an end to the violence they face from those who oppose their activism and leadership.

Madame President

Australia is also researching the gendered dimensions of violent extremism in our region, and the different roles that women play and could play in countering extremism and promoting stability and inclusion.

All of these research findings will inform Australia's second National Action Plan, expected in mid-2019.

Madame President

Australia has greatly progressed our military gender advisor capability. We have trained 101 Australian military gender advisors to deploy on operations and exercises. We have established ten full time gender advisor positions dedicated to mainstreaming and integrating a military gender perspective in Australia. We have also established four permanent deployed gender advisor positions, including the first Gender Advisor to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

Madame President, a commitment to peace demands a commitment to women's meaningful participation in peace efforts. We stand ready to learn more and share our knowledge on the meaningful actions we can take to secure and ensure genuinely inclusive peace. Madame President, thank you.