



SIDE EVENT TO THE 62ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

Jointly organized by Sida, the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), Switzerland and the International Peace Institute.

Join us for a conversation about:

Gender equality and women's empowerment in fragile and conflict affected situations

14 March 2018 | Time: 1pm - 2.45pm | A buffet lunch will be available for participants

Venue: International Peace Institute, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York

Please register using [this link](#).

Sustainable peace, inclusive institutions and gender equality are at the heart Agenda 2030. Conflict, fragility and gender equality erodes people's opportunities to fulfil their potential and undermine women's empowerment and prospect of sustainable development. Violence, harmful gender norms, weak institutions and other characteristics of fragile settings can compound burdens faced by women and girls, including through increased levels of gender-based violence, unpaid care and domestic work, lack of access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gaps in school enrolment and retention.

Women play important roles in peacebuilding and recovery at both national and local levels and their meaningful participation in peace negotiations and constitutional reform increases the likelihood that agreements are reached and implemented. Women's economic empowerment similarly contributes to post-conflict recovery and reconstruction and women's important roles in natural resource management can help strengthen peacebuilding and development in these settings. Fragile and conflict-affected contexts can provide opportunities for women's increased leadership in these areas, and can also offer particular openings to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

The OECD Policy Paper *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations: A Review of Donor Support* (October 2017) highlights that the development community often miss these opportunities. Development programmes tend to include women affected by conflict and violence as passive beneficiaries, rather than as active agents in strengthening gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development. Where development partners do support women's agency in strengthening recovery and reconciliation in rural areas, they often fail to link these activities to wider processes of women's mobilization, peacebuilding and statebuilding. These gaps reflect a general neglect of the ways in which a gender perspective can strengthen wider responses to conflict and fragility.

This event aims to generate ideas on concrete steps that development partners, governments and civil society can take to strengthen the quality of support to women in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. To this end, the discussion will bring together civil society, governments and international actors representing and/or working to support women's contributions to peace processes and conflict resolution. Participants will be invited to reflect upon:

- The specific experiences, needs and interests of women in different fragile, conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- What active roles women play in advancing gender equality, sustainable peace and development in diverse fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and what challenges and opportunities they experience.
- How international actors can effectively support women's rights as well as their role as active agents in peacebuilding and development in fragile contexts.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

- Ursula Keller, Chair of the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), Switzerland
- Barbro Svedberg, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Mavic Cabrera Balleza, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
- Sarah Douglas, UN Women

Moderator: Sarah Taylor, International Peace Institute

