

# WOMEN, DISARMAMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SEMINAR  
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OUTCOME DOCUMENT



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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**FOREWORD**

During the UN General Assembly general debate in September 2010, the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, announced that her government would introduce a resolution on “Women, disarmament, arms control and non proliferation” (A/RES/65/69) to the General Assembly.

This is the first time that the General Assembly formally addressed the vital links between women and disarmament. It was especially timely as last October marked the tenth anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace, and security. UNSCR 1325 is the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, and women’s contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. UNSCR 1325 urges states “to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms.” The General Assembly actively responded to this in its resolution on “Women, disarmament, arms control and non proliferation” in its first operative paragraph, by encouraging states and other organizations “to ensure equitable representation of women at all decision-making levels, in particular in the security sector, which may make or influence policy with regard to matters related to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.”



In order to further and advance work on this topic, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) organized a seminar on “Women, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation” on 7 March 2011. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together international experts, grassroots activists and diplomats to explore the nexus between disarmament and the implementation of the women, peace, and security agenda, the role of women as actors for disarmament and disarmament negotiations, and how women’s movements and networks can move these issues forward.

I look forward progressing the outcomes of this event. We must continue to make the necessary linkages between the different tools of peace-building: respecting women’s rights, increasing social justice, promoting economic development and engaging in disarmament efforts. It is our intention to continue this discussion and hope that this work can build up momentum for an expanded resolution on women and disarmament at the next General Assembly and for its effective implementation.



**Madeleine Rees**  
**Secretary-General**  
**Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom**

## SUMMARY



On 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) held a seminar on the occasion of the 2011 International Women's Day. Discussions centred on the 2010 General Assembly resolution 65/69, "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control," which focuses on the inclusion of women in disarmament efforts. This was the

first resolution to be adopted by the UN General Assembly's First Committee on Disarmament and International Security that has focused on this subject. The seminar, chaired by the Secretary General of WILPF, Ms. Madeleine Rees, addressed the impact of disarmament and arms control on human rights from a gender perspective. International experts and grassroots activists drew out the linkages between gender and disarmament in a panel of women's rights and disarmament activists from Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Pakistan, and the United Kingdom (UK).

The presentations and subsequent discussion revealed that disarmament is not only about the removal of weapons themselves, but it is also about tackling the militarisation of people and societies. Disarmament needs to be addressed from multiple angles, combining local, national, regional, and international levels as well as including both men and women in the processes. To not include women and their experiences of war in all levels of conflict resolution and peace building can, in the long run, legitimise gender-based violence and violations of women's rights and can undermine sustainable development, peace, and security. Militarisation and weaponisation are both part of conflict as well as root causes and outcomes of war. From the statements given during the seminar, it is clear that proliferation and the patriarchal militarisation of societies have a direct effect on women's lives and survival.

Adilia Caravaca, international board member of WILPF, spoke about the current situation in Costa Rica, where the of increased US military presence has an impact on the 'culture of peace' and women. Annie Matundu Mbambi, President of WILPF DRC, spoke on the proliferation of small arms, the inclusion of women in disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) processes, and how UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security (UNSCR1325) can be implemented in the DRC. Sameena Nazir, from the Potohar Organisation for Development

Advocacy (PODA) in Pakistan, addressed the present militarisation and internal insecurity in Pakistan and the impact on women and women's movements. Rebecca Johnson, vice chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and executive director of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, spoke on women's movements in the UK in relation to nuclear weapons and gave an overview on the UK's arms sale around the world.

Together, the panelists illuminated that ending open warfare and signing peace agreements is only one step towards peace. A war has also cultural and social effects. While as Ms. Caravaca explained how the culture of peace is deeply rooted in the Costa Ricans identity, Ms. Nazir explained how the current violence in Pakistan is a direct result of the proliferation of weapons and the persistent militarisation of Pakistani society. Militarisation, conflict, and insecurity increase violence, especially violence towards women. Post-war reconciliation and rebuilding efforts, including disarmament, must take these issues into account to tailor interventions so that they do not harm women. The approach used in post-conflict and conflict settings must therefore use the available resolutions so that no single group is left out and so the community is dealt with as a whole. As Maria Butler, director of WILPF's PeaceWomen project stated, "It is not about making war safe for women, or having more women peace keepers or more women with guns. It is about challenging violence and ending conflict."

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SEMINAR**

- Diplomats and civil society need to increasingly highlight the links between gender and women and disarmament in relevant UN fora, including the UN General Assembly First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament, the Commission on the status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- Over the next year, diplomats and civil society should work together to strengthen language in the follow-up to resolution A/RES/65/69 in order to make the text more comprehensive, specific, and action oriented.
- UN missions should encourage increased dialogue between gender, security, and disarmament experts, as well as between their international departments.
- Governments and civil society should ensure that disarmament decisions and processes are addressed from multiple angles, combining local, national, regional, and international levels and that they include both men and women.
- Those involved in designing and implementing DDR programmes need to be more gender sensitive to effectively target each relevant.
- The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, as set out in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, must not only be construed to deal with women as victims of conflict; those who are responsible for implementing these resolutions need to recognise that conflict has a direct and specific impact on women and that women must be involved in peace processes and decision-making.
- International disarmament and arms control initiatives need to recognise the specific responsibilities of weapon producing states to reduce violent conflict around the world.
- Arms producing-states are obliged to conduct responsible arms trade and should pursue an arms trade treaty (ATT) with the primary purpose to prevent armed conflict, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and seriously reducing the culture and economy of militarism.
- Arms supplier states must take a greater role in controlling, limiting, and ensuring that arms transfer to countries in conflict correspond with peace agreements and the individual policies of concerning states.

**WOMEN, DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION:****PANEL DISCUSSION****Perspectives from Costa Rica**

Adilia Caravaca, WILPF Costa Rica, spoke about current developments and the threat of re-militarisation in Costa Rica. On 1 December 1948, the Costa Rican army was abolished. Resources have since been put into health and education programmes rather than military expenditure, leaving Costa Rica with an “army of teachers” instead of armed forces. Even though the population identifies itself as an unarmed democracy, the Costa Rican administration has come under pressure in the past year due to calls for repressive rather than preventive responses to drug trafficking, increased crime rates, and rising concerns for citizen’s personal security. In the context of increased violence and militarisation, little attention is given to women’s inputs and concerns.



On 1 July 2010, the Costa Rican Congress approved the docking, pier taxi, and crew disembarking of US Navy vessels conducting anti-narcotic operations in support of the National Coast Guard Service. This 6-month operation was part of the bilateral maritime agreement between the government of Costa Rica and the government of the United States of America for the cooperation to suppress illicit trafficking. Although US Navy personnel are engaged in civil and humanitarian activities, their presence is perceived as a military occupation aimed at normalising a more militarised society. In her closing remarks Adilia called for encouragement and support of Costa Rica to continue its peaceful way of life.

**Perspectives from Democratic Republic of Congo**

Anni Matundu Mbambi, President of WILPF Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), described the process of demobilisation, demilitarisation, and reintegration (DDR) in the DRC, its effect on women, and possible ways of implementing UN Security Council resolution 1325.

In the DRC, women took part in the conflict alongside men, yet DDR programmes fail to adequately address their role and account for their reintegration. For example, women supporters of armed forces are not included in the DDR programme. Apart from this programmatic inequality,



*no discrimination against women has been observed, a finding, which might be affected by the low participation of women in the programme.*

In the DRC there are only a few women's organisations that work on disarmament issues. In 2008, WILPF DRC, together with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), held an awareness-raising day as part of IANSA's annual week of action against armed violence. In collaboration with the UN Development Program and the Ministry of Interior of the DRC, they identified weaknesses in the fight against small arms and light weapons (SALW) and, for the first time, informed the public about the DRC's National Commission to fight SALW. Unfortunately, there is no gender perspective in this National Commission. Integrating a gender dimension in disarmament efforts and building awareness of the differences between the needs of men and women, would contribute to the efficiency of DDR programmes in the DRC and provide the basis for improved human security.

### **Perspectives from Pakistan**

Sameena Nazir, director of the Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA), gave a speech on the links between militarisation and women in the current situation in Pakistan. In the past 20 years, Pakistan has been the battlefield for both national and international ideological, economic, and strategic interests. Due to the conflicts the region, Pakistan and Afghanistan in particular have become heavily militarised. The issue of women's rights is particularly alarming as women bear the greatest risk and impacts of militarism. The increase of domestic violence is directly linked to insecurity and the accessibility of small arms and light weapons. Ms. Nazir emphasised: "There were more women killed in Pakistan by domestic violence than in accidents or floods". At the same time, women are systematically excluded from all forms of decision making, particularly in disarmament and small arms proliferation agendas.

The intensification of war in the region and the militarisation of Pakistani society have resulted in 60 percent of the Pakistani population being under 25 years of age; the majority of suicide bombers are less than 16 years of age. Media plays an important role in the creation of a militarised culture, as does the glorification of suicide bombers and politicians stating that "either you are with us or against us". What we see in Pakistan today is a highly patriarchal, masculine, and nationalistic society.

In 1998, Pakistan demonstrated its nuclear weapon capability in response to India's nuclear weapon tests. Women's rights groups have pointed to the increased "defence" budget in Pakistan as a factor of instability when advocating for focus on a peaceful discourse. A lot of resources currently going to the arms trade and the maintenance of nuclear weapons could be diverted to economic and social development. Decreased investment in public services exposes the most vulnerable populations to even greater risk. As such, these populations, including women, are affected disproportionately by the consequences of instability and insecurity.

## Perspectives from the UK



Dr. Rebecca Johnson acknowledged the important work that Trinidad and Tobago in tabling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/69 on “Women, disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation. She criticised the UK’s simultaneous security policies of working towards a nuclear weapon free world and its engagements in the arms trade. In the face of such hypocrisy, women’s organisations in the UK are actively working against the proliferation of weapons and highlighting the security needs of women. Dr. Johnson also connected the prevention of violence against women with the need to pursue disarmament.

She emphasised the importance of innovative approaches at local, national, and international levels to more effectively link human security with disarmament. Citing the fallacy of pursuing security through nuclear policy, she advocated for a legally-binding treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. She gave a brief analysis of the dangerous myths of nuclear deterrence and the way in which patriarchal society feeds on insecurity and how maintaining the arms trade and militarism normalises oppression, discrimination, and violence against women

Dr. Johnson emphasised that militarisation does not only come from insecurity within societies but that it is also an outcome of a globally insecure world. Nuclear weapons are used as political tools to ensure the current power distribution in the world. In addition, the weapons being used in conflict around the world are usually produced in other parts of the world. To solve conflicts, other states not directly involved in the conflict, need to realise their responsibility and the effect that their arms trade decisions have on the local level.

**COMMENTS FROM WILPF AND AUDIENCE**

WILPF's project directors initiated discussion after the panel presentations. Maria Butler, director of the WILPF PeaceWomen project, reemphasised that UNSCR 1325 aims not to make war safe for women but seeks to challenge violence and end conflict. In order to realise these latter goals, she called upon the UN, UN member states, and civil society to open dialogue as a first, concrete step



towards a discussion on the integration of disarmament in the implementation of UNSCR 1325. She also pointed to the need to address the root causes of conflict rather than its consequences.

Ray Acheson, director of WILPF's Reaching Critical Will project, agreed that disarmament needs to be brought in to women, peace, and security issues and

stressed the equal importance of bringing women's issues into disarmament fora. She pointed out that it is an international legal obligation to apply UNSCR 1325 to all sectors of the UN's work, which includes disarmament negotiations. Ray emphasised the relevance and importance of gender perspectives and the participation of women to not only human rights concerns, but also security concerns. Ray also addressed the issue of military spending versus social and development spending, citing as an example the Canadian government's 40 percent decrease in funds for women agencies in 2009 and its plans to invest in new F-35 stealth fighter jets. She highlighted that one year of global military spending is the equivalent of 24 years of the additional foreign aid required to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Rounding off the speakers, Jasna Lazarevic from Small Arms Survey highlighted the fact that in some countries there is little difference between military spending and spending on law enforcement.

## CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

### THE WAY FORWARD

Gender mainstreaming was officially adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997 (A/RES/52/100) as the main tool to reach gender equality. In short this means ensuring a gender perspective in all policies and programmes and to be considered at every stage of a programme cycle. Gender mainstreaming in international relations is not a goal in itself but a strategy or approach to attain equality, justice and a safer world for all. The similar approach is relevant for disarmament. Disarmament is pursued for a reason, for creating a world without excessive



armaments and violence, a safer world for all. Resolution A/RES/65/69 was created to reaffirm and recognize “the valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures carried out at the local, national, regional and subregional level”. To better implement A/RES/65/69, the UN and civil society need to strengthen and improve the language in any follow up of the resolution.

Disarmament and gender equality are interconnected issues in the pursuit of global peace and security. They are both tools for moving towards the same goal; universal sustainable peace. The UN bodies where these two issues are being discussed need to start strengthening the linkages in order to improve and further a more inclusive approach towards peace. The idea behind the Security Council 1325 resolution was to include women in to all fields of operations and to support their participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction. This must also apply to disarmament negotiations, in order to address militarism and increased expenditures on weapons before armed conflict takes place. All member states of the UN must encourage such increasing dialogue, also amongst their national gender, security, and disarmament experts.

All UN organs are required to develop and implement a gender action plan, which aims to mainstream gender into its structure and programs. This should also be the case for the relevant UN disarmament fora. The gender action plans should include the UN organs’ co-operation partners and oblige them to also follow the gender mainstream policies. Linking gender and disarmament is not just needed on a UN level, all actors that are committed to the peace building goal needs to start connecting the different tools to be able to build peace and a safer world for all.

**ANNEX ONE - AGENDA****AGENDA**

The seminar will address the human rights impact of disarmament and arms control from a gender perspective, the role of women as actors for disarmament and disarmament negotiations, and how women's movements and networks can move these issues forward.

- Chair: **Madeleine Rees**,  
Secretary General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
(WILPF)
- 13:00 **Welcome, opening remarks**  
Chair
- 13:00 **Testimonies from around the world**
- Adilia Caravaca**, perspectives from Costa Rica,  
International Board Member, WILPF Costa Rica
- Annie Matundu Mbambi**, perspectives from the Democratic Republic of Congo,  
President, WILPF Democratic Republic of Congo
- Sameena Nazir**, perspectives from Pakistan,  
Executive Director, Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy
- Rebecca Johnson**, perspective from the United Kingdom,  
Founding Director and Editor of The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy
- 14:00 **Assessment on policy responses**  
Comments from gender and disarmament experts
- 14:20 **Q&A**
- 14:50 **Closing remarks**  
Chair
- 15:00 **End**

**ANNEX TWO - PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES****ADILIA CARAVACA**

Adilia Caravaca has worked extensively in several social organizations in Costa Rica and different parts of Latin America. At national level her work has included community capacity building, legal counseling and litigation. Her international work includes consultancy on human rights, democracy strengthening, with major focus on women's political participation, gender based violence, indigenous peoples and children and youth rights. In addition, she has been involved with WILPF since 1983 with which she has been involved in similar issues and peace building training and advocacy.

**ANNI MATUNDU MBAMBI**

Annie Matundu Mbambi has a Bachelor's degree in Hospital Sciences from the University of Brussels, a double Master degree in Public Financial and Economic Planification from the University of Antwerp in Belgium and Cambridge University. Ms. Matundu Mbambi has nearly 15 years of women rights activism and work experience in the NGO with a special focus on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. She is a member of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), and she works closely with many women grassroots organisations in DRC. At the moment, Ms. Matundu Mbambi is the representative of WILPF in the DRC. She is also a Board Member of Gender in Action in FRANCE, Vice-President of Action Femmes du Bas Congo and member of CAFCO. Her current focus is particularly on UNCR 1325 and she has been involved in eliminating violence against women.

**SAMEENA NAZIR**

Sameena Nazir is a human rights advocate who has worked extensively on NGO capacity-building. Currently she is the director at Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA), a grassroots organization in Pakistan that transforms the lives of women through education and public advocacy. She has a long-standing background in women's human rights and have prior to her current engagement worked with the International Human Rights Law Group in Washington, US. Ms. Nazir has studied Law and English Literature at the University of Punjab in Lahore, Pakistan.

**DR REBECCA E. JOHNSON**

Rebecca Johnson is the founding-director of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, and has analysed international security, multilateral diplomacy and nonviolent peace campaigning from the 1980s to the present. A long-time activist and prolific author, Dr Johnson is currently Vice Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and a member of the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM). She organised grassroots disarmament campaigning while living at the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp from 1982-1987, founded the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp(aign), and is a long time member of Women in Black and IANSA's Women's Advisory Group. Her book on civil society and government strategies to achieve the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), titled *Unfinished Business*, was published in May 2009 by UNIDIR. After jointly organising Faslane 365's yearlong nonviolent blockade of the base where Britain's Trident nuclear weapons are home ported, Rebecca coedited the book *Trident and International Law* with Angie Zelter (published in February 2011 by Luath Press).

**MADELEINE REES**

Madeleine Rees has worked as a lawyer since 1989. She specialised in discrimination law and in 1997 left legal practice in the UK to work in Bosnia and subsequently became the head of the UNOHCHR in Sarajevo. She developed a reputation for the work she did in relation to trafficking and post conflict transition from a gender perspective. From 2006 to April 2010, she was the head of the Women's Rights and Gender Unit in UNOHCHR. Madeleine Rees became the General Secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in May 2010.

**ANNEX THREE - OUTCOME STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

After the seminar, participants drafted a statement that was read by Ms. Caravaca in the Conference on Disarmament to mark the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March 2011.

The statement reads as follows:

"The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), talking on behalf of women from around the world, has taken this opportunity to address the Conference on Disarmament on International Women's Day. This day has linked women's engagement in political processes for peace and justice since 1911, celebrating 100 years this year.

Yesterday, WILPF organised our annual International Women's Day seminar on disarmament here at the United Nations here in Geneva. This year, the seminar focused on United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/69 on "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control," which was adopted without a vote in 2010. Participants discussed the importance of including the women, peace, and security agenda within the international security agenda in general, and in the disarmament and arms control agenda in particular. This approach has received increased attention during recent years, but the international security community often ignores the importance of gender in discussions on disarmament.

We had speakers from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom, who all highlighted the linkages between women, peace, security, and disarmament in their national and regional contexts. They emphasised the problems that ever-increasing militarism causes for human security and for women in particular.

United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace, and security clearly highlights the importance of women's participation in all levels of decision-making in the sphere of peace and security. However, women's participation in international disarmament and arms control negotiations is still very low, and the negotiations too often tend to ignore the importance of women's participation and experiences. The consequence is biased outcomes, with a disproportional and narrow focus on the experiences of a very limited number of men.

In addition to the Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, the Beijing Platform for Action from 1995 in its focus area E specifically addresses the importance of including a gender perspective in disarmament policies. It recommends states "undertake to explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security



requirements, so as to permit the possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, in particular for the advancement of women.”

16 years after the Beijing Platform for Action, the international arms trade is still big business. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimates that the value of the annual global arms trade as of 2007 was about 50.5 billion US dollars. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council account for about 76 per cent of arms sold each year. Despite the global economic crisis, global military expenditure has continued to increase, totalling 1.5 trillion US dollars in 2009. In addition to this, huge investments in the modernisation of nuclear arsenals are being planned around the world.

As the weapons spread, so does their use. Armed conflict, war, terrorism, and occupation are cause and consequence to the ever increasing levels of militarism and military spending around the world. While military expenditure increases, investments in conflict resolution, peace building, and development lags far behind. Armed conflict and excessive militarism prevent economic stability and sustainable livelihoods and absorb vast amounts of funding that could otherwise be spent on human security, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Funds reserved for development initiatives are increasingly spent on emergency relief and rehabilitation operations to clean up after violent conflict. The high level of militarism is also inextricably linked to the reported human rights violations and the failure of peace processes.

This is why WILPF believes that each disarmament measure must make a contribution to preventing armed conflict, preventing the violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, and seriously reducing the culture and economy of militarism.

In a world of increasing economic inequalities and political instabilities, and shrinking natural resources and environmental deterioration, weapons continue to be tools of violence and oppression for those that use them and tools of financial gain for those who make and sell them. The Conference on Disarmament must help realise the mandate of article 26 of the UN Charter, which demands “the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources” through “the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.” Right now, negotiations on an arms trade treaty are ongoing at the UN General Assembly, but article 26 goes beyond the mere regulation of the arms trade to the regulation of armaments themselves. It foresees a redirection of military expenditure, implying that the system of regulation will afford security by other means.

The CD should have been contributing to this objective throughout its history, but instead it has remained deadlocked for more than a decade and no progress on its four core issues have taken place. The CD must return to work, and when it does, it must recognise that in reality it only has one core issue: disarmament.

For example, if the CD is to negotiate a treaty banning the production for fissile material, it must lay the groundwork for complete, verifiable, and irreversible nuclear disarmament. And in order to achieve a treaty that would meet the needs and expectations of the international community, all nuclear weapon possessors should immediately cease and rescind their plans for the modernisation, replacement, refurbishment, and upgrading of nuclear arsenals, complexes, facilities, and delivery systems and cease production of fissile materials for military purposes.

People all over the world are expecting the nuclear weapon possessors to deliver concrete disarmament measures in line with their commitments. If the fissile materials treaty is to be a credible step in an approach to a world free of nuclear weapons, it will have to include provisions for the next steps on that road, a nuclear weapons convention. A simple cut-off that will do little more than keep the status quo will not be able to meet the demands for prevention of armed conflict, prevention of the violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, and reductions of the culture and economy of militarism. The CD is not mandated to maintain the status quo, it is mandated to negotiate multilateral disarmament treaties - it is thus in fact mandated to **change** the status quo.

In their report from 2006, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission emphasised the importance of gender in WMD negotiations. They conclude “that armament policies and the use of armed force have often been influenced by misguided ideas about masculinity and strength. An understanding of and emancipation from this traditional perspective might help to remove some of the hurdles on the road to disarmament and non-proliferation.” My advice to you today, distinguished delegates, is to keep this in mind in order to get past the stalemate of the CD and fulfil your mandate.

**REFERENCES**

- UNSCR 1325 *on Women, Peace and Security*
- UNSCR 1820 *on Women, Peace and Security*
- UNGA A/RES/65/69 *Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control*

**PHOTO CREDITS**

- Photo # 440156 UN Photo/Martine Perret
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- Photo # 140514 UN Photo/Eric Kanalstein
- Photo # 354943 UN Photo/Olivia Grey Pritchard

**SUGGESTED FURTHER READING**

## UN RESOLUTIONS:

UNSCR 1325 *on Women, Peace and Security*

UNSCR 1820 *on Women, Peace and Security*

UNGAA/RES/65/69 *Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control*

## WEBSITES

<http://www.peacewomen.org/>

<http://www.wilpfinternational.org/>

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/>