

**WPS REGIONAL CONVENING  
SUMMARY REPORT**

# **Twenty-five years on: Reigniting the WPS Agenda in Response to Growing Conflict and Climate Crisis**



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WOMEN PEACE & SECURITY

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**The Australian Civil Society Coalition for Women, Peace and Security is a non-partisan network of organisations and individuals working to advance the WPS Agenda in Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and globally.**

**We bring together activists, advocates, academics, and people with lived experience of conflict to promote feminist approaches to peace and security grounded in lived experience, intersectionality and decolonisation.**

# 1. Executive Summary.

On 26-27 August 2025, the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security (the WPS Coalition) hosted a regional convening of civil society representatives from Australia, Asia and the Pacific: *Twenty-Five Years On: Reigniting the WPS Agenda in Response to Growing Conflict and Climate Crises*.

Held on the traditional lands of the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples in Brisbane, the two-day convening brought together more than 60 leaders from 18 countries to take stock of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at 25 years.

A diverse spectrum of civil society representatives contributed valuable perspectives, including women with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ communities, First Nations peoples, diaspora groups, young people and women's networks involved in peacebuilding from the Pacific, Asia and Africa. The dialogue was further enriched by contributions from representatives from UN Women, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee, and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

This engagement continued at a public event held on the evening of the 26th August, which featured Australia's Ambassador for Gender Equality, Michelle O'Byrne (DFAT), Bandana Rana (CEDAW Committee), Norul Mohamed Rashid (UN Women Asia-Pacific) and Michelle Higelin (the WPS Coalition).

Leveraging the milestone of the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, the convening provided a strategic platform for civil society to strengthen regional networks, share lessons, and work to shape a collective agenda for policy influence ahead of key international and regional events.

Through extensive discussions, participants reaffirmed the enduring importance of the WPS Agenda in addressing interconnected global crises and called for renewed political will, feminist financing, and strengthened regional solidarity to support the leadership of women and gender diverse people for inclusive peace and security.



## 2. Context & Purpose.

The purpose of the Regional Convening was to reflect on the progress of the WPS Agenda over the last 25 years, from a regional feminist civil society perspective. Despite significant global progress being made since the adoption of UNSCR 1325, the rise of anti-rights movements and the widespread increase in global military spending threaten to undo decades of collective feminist action.

While the global adoption of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plans (NAPs) represents an important achievement, serious gaps remain in their implementation. Without dedicated resources and institutional embedding across governments, the WPS Agenda risks stagnating.

Twenty-five years on, there is a continuing need to address the structural drivers of inequality and exclusion, including the systematic discrimination faced by First Nations women. Diverse women, particularly those with lived experience of conflict, displacement and insecurity, must be meaningfully included as central actors in the implementation of the WPS framework.

Feminist peace requires the full enjoyment of human rights, safety and protection for all. The future of the WPS Agenda must embed these principles globally and within Australia's domestic context. This means fostering a safe and inclusive society that reflects the lived realities of communities and learning from Indigenous, traditional and customary models of peacebuilding across First Nations and Pacific communities. Shifting the language of WPS to embrace locally understood concepts of peace and security, rather than narrowly framed, militarised definitions, is crucial to realising sustainable peace and ensuring equality in areas such as land rights, health and wellbeing, and recognising that for many women, peace and security begins at home.





### 3. Key Themes & Challenges.

#### **Twenty-Five Years On: Reigniting the Women, Peace & Security Agenda for a Feminist Peace**

In the opening session, participants reflected on the modest but meaningful progress achieved since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 in 2000, and on the urgent need to renew and reimagine its vision. Through discussions, consensus emerged that while the global reach of the WPS framework has expanded, evident in the adoption of more than 110 National Action Plans and several regional strategies, implementation remains weak and underfunded. Participants agreed that declining aid budgets and increasing militarisation threaten to reverse hard won gains and risk sidelining the feminist peace agenda altogether.

The discussion emphasised the need to reposition WPS as a strategic framework for conflict prevention, not only post-conflict response, and to rebuild political commitment around its core principles. Participants called for feminist financing models to sustain women's rights organisations and local peacebuilders, and for stronger accountability from governments and multilateral institutions towards WPS commitments. Rising militarisation and defence spending continued to be flagged as

key barriers to sustainable peace, with calls to redirect resources towards gender equality and community-led peacebuilding initiatives.

Regional perspectives underscored that peace must be understood through intersectional and decolonised lenses. In the Pacific, the connections between climate change, militarisation, and peace were highlighted, alongside a vision for a “demilitarised, decolonised and denuclearised” region. In Southeast Asia, ASEAN is advancing the WPS agenda through a regional action plan aimed at delivering tangible progress for women, men, youth, children, and marginalised groups, reflecting a commitment to inclusive and locally relevant approaches to peace and security. Within Australia, discussions centred on grounding the WPS framework in local realities, recognising gender-based violence, systemic discrimination against First Nations women, and the leadership of refugee and diaspora communities as core peace and security priorities.

Participants highlighted that the strength of the WPS Agenda lies in its adaptability and inclusivity, seen in its embrace of emerging themes such as youth, climate, and disability. However, many expressed concerns about the widening gap between global commitments and local implementation, and the increasing risk of civil society being excluded from global, regional and national decision-making spaces. A forward-looking WPS Agenda needs genuine partnerships between governments and civil society and needs to build on cross-movement solidarity. Otherwise, the WPS Agenda risks becoming siloed. The opening session's key message was that reigniting the WPS Agenda will require renewed political will, sustained feminist funding, and stronger bridges between local action and international policy, anchored in the lived experiences of women and communities on the frontlines of conflict and insecurity.





## Building an Inclusive WPS Agenda

In the second session, discussions on inclusion within the WPS Agenda underscored that while intersectionality is increasingly recognised across peacebuilding and humanitarian policy, it remains poorly implemented in practice. Participants highlighted that the WPS framework has often failed to centre inclusion and diversity, relying on narrow understandings of “women” that overlook the realities of those facing increased marginalisation on the grounds of sexuality, disability, age, geography, and other intersecting identities.

There was broad agreement that language plays a critical role in either reinforcing or dismantling exclusion. Participants called for a shift towards a more inclusive gender, peace and security framing that recognises the distinct experiences of LGBTQIA+ people, women with disabilities, and others who face systemic barriers to participation. Engagement with LGBTQIA+ organisations in WPS processes remains inconsistent, often tokenistic, and at times unsafe. Addressing this gap requires equitable resourcing, sustained partnerships, and efforts to build mutual capacity between WPS actors and LGBTQIA+ networks. Participants stressed that inclusion must move beyond visibility to shared power and decision-making.

The dialogue emphasised the importance of shifting power to young people, and diverse communities, particularly in conflict and climate-affected contexts. Long-standing community-led models, such as the Bougainville Women's Federation, were highlighted as examples of initiatives creating intergenerational spaces for learning and knowledge sharing on peace and security. It emphasised that women's inclusive leadership not only advances peace and strengthens climate resilience but also illustrates the transformative impact envisioned under the WPS Agenda. Yet despite this expertise, global policy processes rarely reflect local priorities. Ensuring inclusion therefore means engaging communities as agents of change, not beneficiaries of aid, and ensuring that funding and decision-making authority reach those on the frontlines.

Inclusion was also recognised as essential to strengthening the WPS movement's credibility and effectiveness. It was noted that while disability inclusion is often acknowledged in policy, it remains limited in practice. True inclusion requires more than physical access, it demands structural shifts that recognise lived experience as expertise, challenge extractive consultation practices, and confront power imbalances within institutions and networks. Ultimately, the discussions reaffirmed that inclusion must be at the heart of the WPS Agenda. Reinvigorating the agenda for the next generation will require sustained and collective efforts.



### **Climate & Women, Peace & Security**

Participants in this session reflected on the growing urgency of integrating climate action within the WPS Agenda, recognising that the accelerating climate crisis is intensifying insecurity, displacement and gender-based violence across the region. Unprecedented and extreme weather events, including floods, wildfires, drought and cyclones, have become more frequent as global temperatures rise beyond the 1.5°C threshold. These events are having deeply gendered impacts, increasing sexual and gender-based violence, worsening food insecurity and further marginalising women and gender-diverse people already on the frontlines of response.

While women and gender-diverse people play vital roles in leading local climate adaptation and recovery, they continue to remain largely excluded from decision-making and under-resourced in implementing solutions. This exclusion perpetuates a cycle in which climate policy responses fail to adequately address their needs, leading to ineffective and unequal outcomes.

Discussions underscored the need to frame climate change as a human security issue. Climate change and conflict are heavily interlinked, and both are exacerbated by militarisation and continued dependence on fossil fuels. Speakers highlighted the potential of WPS National Action Plans to serve as vehicles for integrated climate and security policy, calling for each pillar of the agenda, participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery, to become “climate-sensitive.” This requires shifting resources away from military spending towards climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience building.

Regional reflections, particularly from the Pacific, emphasised that climate and peace are inseparable. Women’s leadership in local and Indigenous climate action was seen as central to this work, from community-based disaster response to the stewardship of land and ocean. Ensuring that these forms of knowledge and leadership are reflected in national and global policy is essential for a truly inclusive approach. Participants affirmed that climate change is not an adjacent issue but a critical and defining peace and security challenge. Embedding a climate lens within the WPS framework offers an opportunity to move beyond siloed approaches, recognising that achieving peace requires environmental justice, feminist leadership, and the redistribution of power and resources towards those most affected.



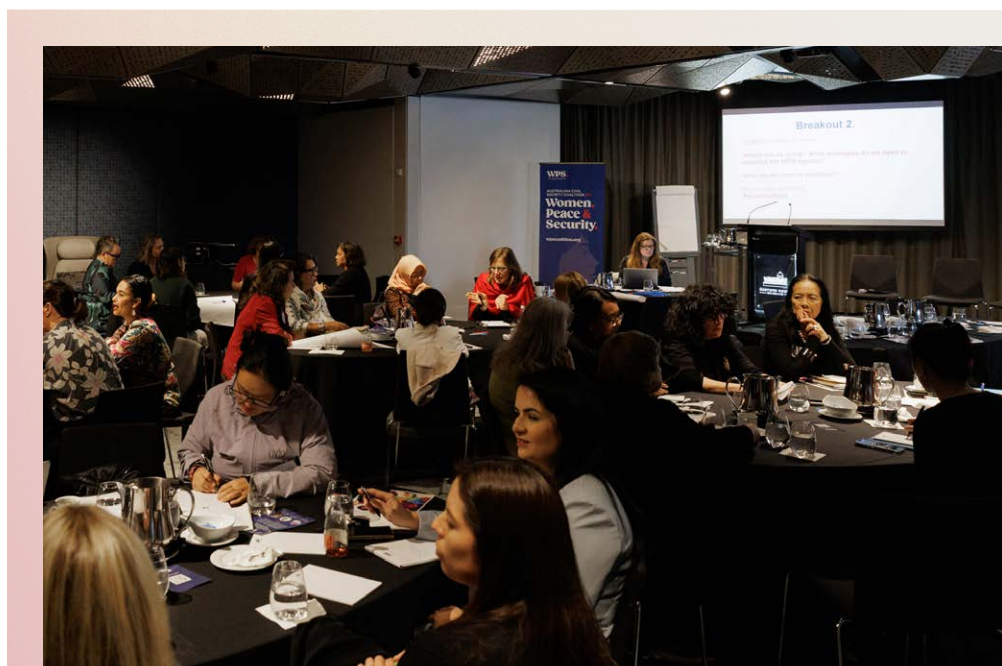
## Strengthening Regional Collaboration on Women, Peace & Security

The need to strengthen regional collaboration, advocacy and learning among women peace mediators, youth leaders and grassroots networks was the key theme in the fourth session. Examples from across the region highlighted the power of collective, feminist network-building. The Pacific Women Mediators Network (PWMN) has institutionalised feminist approaches to diplomacy and peacebuilding, grounded in strong civil society foundations. The PWMN has prioritised collaboration with traditional and faith leaders, enabling it to “weave together movements for climate justice and peace,” rather than working in isolation. In parts of Africa, women’s networks are advocating for reparations, accountability and improved psychosocial support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. These efforts highlight the urgent need to ensure services reach the most conflict-affected, and underscore that women’s expertise and lived experience is central to political leadership and peacebuilding.

Speakers also emphasised the importance of aligning the WPS and Youth, Peace and Security agendas, highlighting initiatives such as the ASEAN YPS initiative that advance youth participation in peace and security. With the Asia and Pacific regions being home to 60 per cent of the world’s youth population, young people must be recognised as political agents and co-creators of peace. Integrating intergenerational perspectives was seen as vital to sustaining the momentum of both agendas.

Looking ahead, participants identified opportunities to strengthen coordination and learning across the region. Suggestions included developing a collective impact model to align advocacy and resource-sharing, hosting regular regional convenings and virtual dialogues, and amplifying local expertise through joint advocacy and peer learning. Ensuring these efforts are well resourced and grounded in equitable collaboration was seen as critical to sustaining progress.

Ultimately, participants reaffirmed that regional solidarity is fundamental to advancing an inclusive and resilient WPS movement. Stronger, better-connected networks, built on trust, collaboration and shared purpose, will be key to translating commitments into collective action and ensuring women, young people and gender diverse people continue to lead efforts toward inclusive and sustainable peace.



# 5. Key Recommendations.

A major outcome of the Regional Convening was the co-creation of a set of recommendations aimed at national governments and other key stakeholders. These reflect the shared priorities of women peacebuilders and feminist climate activists in attendance. The recommendations were developed through a collaborative process. In the final session of the convening, participants workshopped a set of recommendations based on the outcomes of the preceding panels and facilitated table discussions. Participants refined, validated and further reflected on collective priorities. These recommendations will serve as a unifying advocacy tool for civil society to influence policymaking during upcoming global and regional events<sup>1</sup>.

**On the 25th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the following recommendations must be prioritised to move the WPS Agenda forward:**

- 1. Institutionalise and resource WPS commitments**
- 2. Advance an inclusive and intersectional WPS Agenda**
- 3. Elevate First Nations feminist peacebuilding**
- 4. Connect climate-gender-justice with WPS**
- 5. Build bridges between domestic and global agendas**
- 6. Strengthen regional and cross-movement collaboration**
- 7. Re-centre feminist peace and de-militarisation**
- 8. Invest in intergenerational and local leadership**

Each has a series of concise sub-recommendations for action as listed in Annex I. Annex II provides a summary of the breakout sessions and table discussions.

<sup>1</sup> Including but not limited to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP) in November 2025 and Women Deliver in April 2026.



## 6. Looking Ahead.

The Regional Convening outlined a clear path forward for advancing a feminist vision of the WPS Agenda at the 25-year milestone with climate justice as a central tenet. However, there is much work to be done. Decades worth of progress is at risk of being rolled back, pushing the WPS Agenda's ambition further away from realisation. Meeting this challenge requires a strong and well-resourced movement for peace, intersectional gender equity and climate justice. Ensuring diverse women peacebuilders and feminist climate activists – including First Nations and diaspora communities – are resourced to collaborate, strategise, and collectively influence national, regional and global policy spaces is crucial.

The WPS Regional Convening has built a strong foundation for this collaborative work and its momentum must be sustained. The WPS Coalition will continue to serve as a focal point with other regional networks in partnering with civil society across the Asia and the Pacific regions to mobilise for the realisation of this renewed vision and practice for the WPS Agenda.

## 7. Acknowledgements and Thanks.

The WPS Coalition gratefully acknowledges the financial support for the WPS Regional Convening provided by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Special thanks to all speakers and attendees, whose insights and participation over the course of the two days were essential in co-developing the recommendations and fostering a vital safe space for discussion. To those who travelled far to participate, your attendance and expertise is especially noted.

Warm thanks to the WPS Coalition Steering Committee, staff, volunteers and all panellists for contributing to the convening's success. The efforts of both ChitChat Design and staff at Customs House Brisbane who respectively provided design services and catering for the event are also acknowledged with thanks.





## Annex 1

# Recommendations 2025–2028:

We acknowledge that the WPS Agenda has made progress over its first two decades (2000–2020). However, it has also experienced significant regression in the past five years, due to the rise of anti-rights movements, authoritarian regimes and increased conflict and military spending across more than 100 countries globally.

There is a need for stronger institutionalisation of this agenda and for better use of the international instruments available to ensure the protection of all. We need better prevention, protection, resourcing, inclusion, and recovery to conflict and crises.

We must shift our language to emphasise the peace and security we want to see in our own communities, and drive a stronger intergenerational, intersectional and inclusive agenda. When we speak of ‘women’; we mean women in all their diversity.

We stand in solidarity with our sisters in Afghanistan, Sudan, Myanmar, Gaza, Ukraine, and other conflict-affected contexts, many of whom face conflict-related sexual violence, an area that is persistently under-addressed and impunity remains and needs greater attention.

### 1. Institutionalise & Resource WPS Commitments

**Stakeholders:** National governments, regional intergovernmental bodies, donors

- Governments in Asia and the Pacific to adopt or revise WPS National Action Plans with allocated budgets and mechanisms for Women’s Rights Organisation (WRO) participation; ensuring a significant proportion is core, flexible, multi-year funding for WROs as frontline actors of feminist peace.
- Create avenues for those interested to donate directly to WPS issues.
- Donors to commit a minimum of 15% (and set target for 30%) funding for gender equality programming, including women’s participation in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and humanitarian responses.
- Resource cybersecurity systems for non-government organisations as a priority.
- Ensure funds address the continuum of gender-based and sexual violence.



## 2. Action to Prevent Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

**Stakeholders:** National governments, CSOs, regional, intergovernmental bodies, donors

- Commit WPS National and Regional Action Plans to identify clear mechanisms and lines of responsibility for sexual and gender-based violence prevention, monitoring and reporting
- All funded programs on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and gender-based violence be survivor-centred and trauma-informed.
- Funding and programs must centre survivors' needs, safety, and priorities over efficiency and performance targets.
- All donors commit to NOT fund peace agreements and/or state actors that provide CRSV amnesties for combatants.

## 4. Centre Indigenous Feminist Peacebuilding

**Stakeholders:** Indigenous women leaders, governments (Australia, Asia and the Pacific states), donors, WPS Coalition

- By 2026, embed Indigenous feminist perspectives in Australia's WPS framework, recognising 65,000+ years of community-based models of peace, care for Country, and truth-telling.
- By 2027, establish an Indigenous Feminist Peacebuilding Exchange across Australia, Asia and the Pacific to share lessons with WROs.
- By 2028, secure long-term funding for Indigenous women-led organisations for inclusion in domestic, regional, and global WPS Agendas.
- Attendees emphasised that this suggestion requires further consultation.

## 3. Advance Inclusive & Intersectional WPS

**Stakeholders:** Civil society networks, government, regional and international organisations

- From 2025 onwards, all convenings and peace processes supported by governments and non-government organisations to ensure representation quotas: Indigenous, youth, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, refugees, and diaspora women.
- Elevate and include Indigenous knowledge and lived experience at all convenings.
- Move beyond tokenism to ensure substantive resourcing towards travel, interpretation, child and family care obligations, and accessibility costs.

## 5. Connect Climate-Gender-Justice with WPS

**Stakeholders:** Civil society coalitions, governments, regional and international climate platforms

- Increase investment and resourcing for women-led gender and climate justice initiatives, including strengthening data collection and amplifying evidence and storytelling of successful case studies.
- By 2026, governments review their existing WPS NAPs to ensure the integration of climate peace and security across the four pillars.
- By 2026, identify a regional climate peace and security network linking women peacebuilders and climate activists to promote collective prevention strategy and shared experiences of rapid response to threats and advocacy.
- Influence COP31 agenda to ensure gender expertise is included in the negotiation rounds, and the agenda focus is on the gender, climate, justice and security nexus.



## 6. Build Bridges Between Domestic & Global Agendas

**Stakeholders:** National governments, CSOs, diaspora organisations

- Embed feminist WPS principles in all national plans and domestic frameworks, e.g., National Plan to End Violence Against Women, UNFCCC, National Adaptation Plans, CEDAW Reports and Shadow Reports.
- Commit and implement existing Declarations (i.e. Boe Declaration), Frameworks (i.e. Sendai Framework), CEDAW and CEDAW General Recommendations, Rome Statute, Sustainable Development Goals and WPS Resolutions.
- Ensure that diaspora, stateless, refugee, non-independent states, migrants, and internally displaced persons are included in domestic and international WPS advocacy.

## 8. Re-center Feminist Peace & Demilitarisation

**Stakeholders:** Governments, regional organisations, bilateral and multilateral donors, resource industry, military industry, UN agencies

- Call for all governments to commit to demilitarisation by progressively shifting resources from military/security spending towards gender inclusive peacebuilding, humanitarian response, end violence against women, and climate resilience
- As part of this shift, we call for governments to commit 5% of current defence spending to funding the WPS four pillars
- Call for government and resource industry to address and compensate for the environmental damage, human insecurity and conflict caused by unregulated mining and develop safeguards to minimise environmental damage
- Donors recommit to funding a regional feminist peace fund for WROs in conflict and climate-affected areas.

## 7. Strengthen Regional & Cross-Movement Collaboration

**Stakeholders:** Civil society coalitions, regional youth and mediator networks, donors

- Sustain collaboration across existing networks, building solidarity between WPS, climate, youth, Indigenous, disability and LGBTIQ+ movements.
- Ensure local and Indigenous knowledge is included in national, regional and international action plans to drive accountability of international commitments
- By 2027, identify annual cross-movement and cross-issue campaigns to promote action in the lead up to the 2030 peace and development agenda.

## 9. Invest in Intergenerational & Local Leadership

**Stakeholders:** Donors, CSOs, youth networks, regional coalitions

- By 2026, ensure panels, delegations and negotiating teams in WPS spaces include young women and emerging leaders from the frontline
- By 2027, establish a regional youth peacebuilders' fund with micro-grants, mentorship, and exchanges to fund their participation across Asia and the Pacific
- By 2028, secure donor support for the participation of young women leaders from conflict-affected and climate-vulnerable communities in global forums
- Identify meaningful opportunities for young men, boys' and LGBTQ people engagement and leadership in WPS Agenda.



## Annex 2

# Table Discussions.

The Regional Convening included breakout and table discussions alongside the plenary sessions, giving participants space to share experiences, insights, and strategies. This annex summarises the key reflections and priorities raised across the discussion groups, bringing diverse perspectives from communities to international actors and informing the recommendations in Annex 1. The voices of civil society, community leaders, and diverse communities remain central to advancing the WPS Agenda.

### Session 1: Twenty-Five Years On – Reigniting the WPS Agenda for a Feminist Peace

#### Achievements and Progress:

Participants reflected on the tangible and intangible impacts of the WPS agenda over the past 25 years. Key achievements include the creation of a collective feminist voice, recognition of WPS as a core peace and security framework, and the establishment of strong global and regional networks. At a practical level, the WPS agenda has supported family law reforms, brought human trafficking and modern slavery to the forefront, and influenced the development and discussion of feminist foreign policy. Participants also noted increased women's leadership, the engagement of young people in advocacy, and the ways community-led initiatives have translated WPS principles into local action, even in countries where formal National Action Plans are absent.

#### Community-Level Impact vs Global Policy:

Much of the work advancing WPS happens at the community level without using WPS terminology. Domestic advocacy, media visibility, and human stories have indirectly strengthened the agenda, yet participants noted the ongoing challenge of linking this work to formal global frameworks.

#### Language and Inclusivity:

Participants reflected on the evolution of terminology and the shift towards language grounded in the lived experiences of women and young people. This has helped relate WPS to community realities and enabled discussion of issues such as water rights, land ownership, Indigenous rights, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, youth peace and security, and queering WPS. WPS has

slowly expanded what is possible to speak about and advocate for.

#### Networking and Leadership:

Strong networks and diversified representation, particularly across Australia, Asia and the Pacific, were identified as key strengths. Women's leadership has continued to drive progress even in contexts without formal WPS National Action Plans, with gender advocates using WPS principles to raise issues with their governments. However, this bottom-up pressure places a significant burden on civil society organisations, who are often under resourced.

#### Implementation and Accountability Gaps:

Despite clear achievements, participants acknowledged the difficulty of measuring WPS impact. Bridging global commitments with community realities and embedding WPS into accountability mechanisms such as CEDAW remain persistent challenges.

#### Key Takeaways:

- WPS has successfully created spaces to connect local realities with global frameworks and broaden discussions on peace, security, and gender.
- Strong networks, diversified representation, and women's leadership have driven progress, but bridging community-level action with global policy remains a challenge.
- Sustained attention is needed on implementation, monitoring and accountability, including the use of formal mechanisms to track and reinforce impact.



## Session 2: Building an Inclusive WPS Agenda

### Inclusive Participation:

Participants emphasised that intersectionality must be central to an inclusive WPS agenda. Representation of LGBTQIA+ people, women with disabilities, young people, Indigenous communities, and other marginalised groups needs to move beyond visibility to genuine shared power in decision-making. This includes reducing harmful behaviours among peers, bringing men into WPS spaces where appropriate, and actively challenging gatekeeping.

### Language and Communication:

Accessible, context-specific language is essential. Participants highlighted the need to simplify WPS terminology, use storytelling to bring people on board, and draw on Indigenous knowledge and lived experience, while ensuring safe spaces for those sharing their stories. A common language and a regional knowledge hub were proposed to strengthen connection and understanding.

### Bridging Local and Global Action:

Participants stressed the importance of connecting with communities and maintaining multi-level engagement across community, national, regional, and international spaces. Collaboration between governments and civil society remain essential, alongside creating safe spaces for CSOs and prioritising peacebuilders who are directly working in or with affected communities. Suggestions included greater use of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), cross-regional exchange on peacebuilding and prevention, and stronger mechanisms for resource sharing and ongoing connection.

### Capacity-Building and Education:

Skills building, feminist peace education in schools, and online learning modules were identified as key ways to support meaningful participation. Strengthening links between thematic agendas and establishing transnational networks of WPS implementers were seen as necessary for long-term sustainability.

### Intergenerational Leadership:

Supporting youth leadership, including Indigenous and community-based leaders, was seen as critical for the future of WPS. Participants noted the need to enhance WPS data and evidence, diversify leadership, and ensure voices from the region are represented in international forums.

### Key Takeaways:

- Strengthen connections with community-led efforts while ensuring meaningful inclusion across all levels.
- Simplify WPS language and embed feminist education to broaden engagement.
- Build strong accountability, resourcing, and funding structures to sustain long-term action.



## Session 3: Climate Change & WPS

### Community-Led and Indigenous Leadership:

Participants emphasised the need to centre community knowledge, traditional practices, and Indigenous knowledge in climate security responses. Climate change is already driving displacement and deepening insecurity, and discussions highlighted the importance of grounding responses in lived experience. Community approaches were seen as critical for sustainability and continuity.

### Inclusive Representation:

Ensuring diverse participation, women, young people, LGBTQIA+ communities, and marginalised groups, was identified as essential, particularly in government delegations and policy spaces such as COP31. Participants stressed that involvement must be meaningful rather than tokenistic, with attention to enabling safe and accessible participation across languages, identities, and regional contexts.

### Integration of Policy and Advocacy:

Tables noted significant gaps between climate frameworks, disaster risk reduction, gender policy, and WPS. Participants called for strategic mapping of existing mechanisms, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Gender Action Plan, and highlighted the need for stronger domestic commitments, noting that Australia's current Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is gender-blind. COP31 was seen as a key opportunity to strengthen accountability and coherence across agendas.

### Storytelling and Knowledge Sharing:

Storytelling, through personal narratives, visual media, exhibitions, and, use of local languages, was identified as a powerful tool for connecting communities with decision-makers. Participants emphasised the need to preserve languages as part of climate resilience, document lived experience and ensure community-led research informs advocacy.

### Capacity-Building and Youth Engagement:

Training programs, youth-led statements, mentoring, and preparatory workshops were proposed to support young women leaders, particularly Pacific and Indigenous youth, to participate in spaces such as COP31 and Women Deliver over the next year. Participants stressed that climate and WPS advocates often operate in silos and that allyship and accessible language are essential to bridging these gaps.

### Key Takeaways:

- Centre community-led, Indigenous, and intergenerational leadership in climate-security approaches
- Ensure diverse and meaningful participation in decision-making spaces, including COP31
- Strengthen policy coherence, accountability, and advocacy to connect local realities with global commitments.



## Session 4: Strengthening Regional Collaboration on WPS

### Coordinated Regional Structures:

Participants highlighted the importance of establishing a central coordinating entity to support regional collaboration, ensure shared vision, and translate commitments into tangible actions. This “backbone” approach was seen as essential for connecting diverse actors, sharing resources, and enabling sustained multi-level engagement.

### Inclusive Participation:

Participants emphasised diversifying representation to include new voices, including youth, Indigenous leaders, and marginalised groups. Creating safe, accessible spaces for participation, across languages, geographies, and cultures, was identified as key to meaningful collaboration and the sustainability of regional networks.

### Collaborative Advocacy and Capacity-Building:

Participants noted the value of collective advocacy, peer learning, and sharing of expertise across borders. Exchange programs, joint convenings, and mentorship were suggested to strengthen skills, knowledge, and confidence, while avoiding extractive approaches. Multi-track engagement ensures that local perspectives inform national and regional policy discussions.

### Integration of Frameworks and Knowledge:

Regional collaboration requires linking global and national WPS frameworks, including reporting mechanisms, NAPs, and regional initiatives such as ASEAN Women Peace Registry. Participants highlighted the need for coherent approaches that amplify local expertise and ensure that lessons learned are widely shared and applied.

### Sustainability and Funding:

Participants emphasised diversifying funding sources, including public, private, and philanthropic contributions, to support ongoing regional networks. Sustainable structures, infrastructure for coordination, and adequate resourcing for local peacebuilders were seen as critical to maintaining momentum beyond annual events or convenings.

### Key Takeaways:

- Establish a central coordinating structure to connect regional actors and translate commitments into action
- Ensure inclusive, safe participation that elevates diverse voices, particularly Indigenous and youth leaders
- Build collaborative capacity and sustainable funding to support long-term regional engagement and advocacy.

## Annex 3

# Attendee List.

**Anggia Valerisha**, Griffith University, Australia

**Asha Clementi**, Girls Run the World, Australia

**Bandana Rana**, CEDAW Committee, Nepa

**Baw Meh Thaw**, Women's League of Burma (WLB), Australia

**Behishta Anwar**, Afghan Women Federation of South Australia; Women, Peace and Security Coalition, Australia

**Beth Eggleston**, Humanitarian Advisory Group, Australia

**Bishnumaya Gharti**, Nagarik Aawaz (Citizen's Voices), Nepal

**Brittney Potvin**, Women, Peace and Security Coalition, Australia

**Carla Silbert**, The Asia Foundation, Vietnam

**Carolyn Angir**, ActionAid Australia, Australia

**Carolyn Kitione**, Shifting the Power Coalition, Fiji

**Celeste Harris**, Griffith University / Centre for Education and Violence Against Women, Australia

**Charlie Fox**, Women, Peace and Security Coalition, Australia

**Clare Gibellini**, National Disability Research Partnership, Australia

**Connie Gan**, Griffith University, Australia

**Cristina de Nicolas Izquierdo**, Humanitarian and Civil Society Consultant, Australia

**Dr Federica Caso**, La Trobe University, Australia

**Dr Ingrid Valladares**, Griffith University, Australia

**Dr Renee Dixon**, Forcibly Displaced People Network, Australia

**Emilie Hung-Ling He**, Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue, Australia

**Emily Dwyer**, Edge Effect, Australia

**Emma Palmer**, Griffith University, Australia

**Erika Isabel Yague**, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Australia

**Ethel Sigimanu**, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Solomon Islands Government, Solomon Islands

**Helen Berents**, Griffith University, Australia

**Hon. Michelle O'Byrne**, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

**Johana Marroquin**, Griffith University, Australia

**Karri Pledger**, Women, Peace and Security Coalition, Australia

**Leonesia Tecla da Silva**, Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators, Timor-Leste



**Linh Nong**, Institute for Women's Development and Advancement; Women, Peace and Security Coalition, Australia

**Ludmilla Kwitko**, Women, Peace and Security Coalition; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Australia

**Maria Adelaida Alberto**, United Nations Women, Tonga

**Melissa Monteiro**, Community Migrant Resource Centre; Women, Peace and Security Coalition, Australia

**Mélodie Ruwet**, Griffith University, Australia

**Michelle Higelin**, Women, Peace and Security Coalition; ActionAid Australia, Australia

**Mitra Khakbaz**, Immigrant Women's Support Service; Women, Peace and Security Coalition, Australia

**Naomi Woyengu**, HausKuk Initiative, Papua New Guinea

**Natalie Lynch**, Australian National University, Australia

**Norul Mohamed Rashid**, United Nations Women Regional Office, Thailand

**Patricia Garcia**, Institute for Economics and Peace, Australia

**Phyu Phyu Oo**, Centre for Education and Violence Against Women, Australia

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