

2019-2020



# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

IN ACTION





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PEACE **AND,**  
**SECURITY**  
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# WELCOME MESSAGES

## 1.1

### A Message from the Executive Director

In 2020, UN Women celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and a decade of contributing to the global agenda that puts women and girls at the centre of peace and security. As the only United Nations entity on the ground with a mandate from the UN Security Council, UN Women has substantially contributed to the United Nations' efforts to build peace and prevent conflicts. We have supported women peacebuilders, assisted survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in their demands for justice, successfully pushed for women's meaningful participation in peace processes, and helped women and girls affected by conflict rebuild their lives and communities.

The year 2020 also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women. These are moments to celebrate the progress we have made. Yet as the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps across the world with devastating force, bringing particularly dire consequences for women and girls in places suffering from conflict, our ability to accelerate the pace

of change has never been more urgent.

It is a moment to choose to rebuild better. We can address the inequalities and imbalances in the world today, and advance on the strength of many gains already made. This report demonstrates the possibilities, showcasing the breadth of UN Women's work on women, peace and security in 2019, and our growing capacity to bridge immediate crises with interventions and strategies for prevention and peacebuilding that last for the long term. With comprehensive partnerships across the UN, Member States and civil society, we are well-positioned to respond, both during the pandemic and beyond.

Always looking forward, UN Women today is leading the movement that aspires to make feminist peace a dominant shaper of global affairs in the twenty-first century. We are committed to engaging all UN Member States, and our allies across the UN system and civil society, in accelerating implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. Our vision is a world that emerges from the current crisis on a path to lasting peace, justice, equality and inclusion for all.



**Phumzile  
Mlambo-Ngcuka**

**“STRENGTH COMES FROM COLLECTIVE ACTION. IT WILL CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN US IN SURMOUNTING THE CHALLENGES WE FACE.”**

2020 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the women, peace and security agenda. The year was expected to be about celebrating achievements, as well as addressing gaps and identifying future needs. Instead, the world is in the middle of a pandemic that has impacted the feeling of safety and security everywhere. Less than two weeks after the crisis was declared a global pandemic, the UN Secretary-General made a call for a global ceasefire. The



**Paivi Kannisto**

## 1.2 A Message from the Chief

call was welcomed by women, peace and security actors everywhere around the world.

UN Women serves the Security Council on the women, peace and security agenda. We support UN Member States in implementing the agenda, catalyse and coordinate the UN entities' various WPS efforts and facilitate the work civil society is undertaking at both local and international levels. WPS specialists yielding from 88 offices around the world are meeting urgent needs in conflict-affected countries and places engaged in recovery or prevention efforts. Their expertise allows us to connect local, regional and global work being done on peace and security, from peace activists in villages in conflict areas to the Security Council decision-makers in New York. It is an incredible honour to work at UN Women, where I am surrounded by the world's leading experts on women, peace and security—a passionate group of individuals who are deeply dedicated to contributing to transformational change that serves all the people of the world.

On behalf of UN Women, we feel privileged to work with our Member State partners, and we thank them for their commitment and support to the agenda. Every single day we appreciate the work women's civil society does both in and out of conflict-affected and fragile

settings. Women peacebuilders and women's human rights defenders deserve our deepest respect and we must continue to work to support them. None of this work would be possible without collaborating with our partners in the UN system, at headquarters in New York and in the field. As you read through this report, you will see how UN Women has supported the UN Secretary General in analyzing trends and presenting the status of the implementation of UNSCR1325. Based on this analysis and information, the Secretary General gave clear directives to UN leaders and concrete recommendations to Member States in his report on women, peace and security in 2019. These recommendations provided a solid basis to work towards creating strong, resilient and peaceful societies. Of critical importance here is the United Nations' recognition and emphasis on the importance of women's participation and leadership in decision-making processes, especially in times of crisis. We can, and should, build on this foundational framework as we look towards transformation during the next decade.

One thing remains tried and true: strength comes from collective action. This unified strength will continue to sustain us in surmounting the many challenges we face globally and in achieving peaceful, just, equal societies one day.

*War, violent conflict, terrorism and violent extremism have different and devastating consequences for women and girls. In the face of these, women all over the world lead movements to prevent conflict, restore peace and rebuild communities.*

# SHAPING THE GLOBAL AGENDA

**88**

Number of countries  
and territories  
covered in 2019

**\$13 million**

Total revenue  
in 2019 for global  
programming

**2**

New Security Council  
resolutions on women,  
peace and security

**23**

Security Council briefings  
on countries by women

**85**

Number of United Nations  
Member States and Observers

**548**

Number of civil society  
organizations and

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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_21824](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_21824)

