



Background Note

Context

Impunity against women and girls during and in the aftermath of conflict and humanitarian disasters is a matter of concern and must be addressed in a sustainable manner. Evidence from the field suggests that the absence of a strong nexus between the peace and security, development and humanitarian agendas as required by Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, potentially stalls the effective delivery of justice to women in crisis-affected countries. In addition to addressing the important areas of sexual and gender based violence in situations of armed conflict, the participation of women in conflict resolution and transitional justice arrangements, it is also important to pay sustained attention to women's access to justice in all phases of conflict, post-conflict, humanitarian and development contexts.

Because post-conflict circumstances are not regarded as "escalating", women and girls are placed at higher risk of violence because their contexts are not deemed "urgent" enough to attract resources and sustainable interventions. Various Truth Commissions established to determine the circumstances and impact of internal armed conflict on civilians, however, emphasize the rebuilding of justice and security sector institutions to ensure their viability and ability to respond to continuing impunity against women and girls. In addition, these Commissions often recommend the strengthening of alliances between formal and informal justice institutions and the reform of gender discriminatory statutory, customary and religious laws. In this same light, all eight Women, Peace and Security resolutions as well as the Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 are unequivocal about the need to strengthen access to justice as a conflict prevention trajectory.¹

UN Women, UNODC and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) are working together in various degrees in 16 countries affected by conflict and humanitarian crisis to deliver justice services to women and girls², through a Global Programme that seeks to scale-up the delivery of justice to women and girls affected by various forms of crisis.³ The agencies are already implementing women's access to justice programmes in the concerned countries in partnership with other agencies such as UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF through various joint programmes, including the Global Focal Point initiative.

The Roundtable

The Donor Roundtable, to take place on **6 July, 2017, in Conference Room 12 of the Secretariat of the United Nations, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, brings together Member States, national partners, UN agencies and International Organizations to discuss the issues, forge a resource mobilization strategy and set the stage for a High-Level Forum on Women's Access to Justice. The proposed High-Level Forum on Women's Access to Justice will serve as the Steering Committee of the Global Programme and will be informed as to effective ways of influencing debates, decisions and discourse on the gender dimensions of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. Experiences from the implementation of the Global Programme will also feed into the first review of the SDGs in 2019.

¹ Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN Women, 2015)

² The 16 countries are: Afghanistan, Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria (through Lebanon and Jordan) and Tanzania.

³ Fact Sheets have been prepared on each country to demonstrate each country's response to impunity and what additional funding can/will do to expand such efforts.