

## Action Plan on how to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the settlement process/an eventual settlement process

### Recommendations of the Technical Committee on Gender Equality to the leaders, in fulfilment of the request of the UN Security Council in its resolution 2587 (2021)

#### INTRODUCTION

The following draft recommendations are herewith presented to the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Ersin Tatar, in response to the request of the UN Security Council in its Resolution 2587 (2021), which “calls on the leaders of both sides to submit to the Secretary-General by 15 December 2021 an action plan, in coordination with the Technical Committee on Gender Equality, to increase women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace talks and to provide direct support and encouragement to civil society organisations to enhance inter-communal contact and trust-building”<sup>1</sup>.

In response, this draft action plan seeks to address three main questions:

- A) How to ensure women's full and meaningful representation in the settlement process/an eventual settlement process?
- B) How to engage with civil society, including women's organisations, to solicit their views in an eventual settlement process/the settlement process?
- C) How to include a gender perspective in the settlement process/an eventual settlement process?

#### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The plan follows the Secretary General's five forward-looking goals on women, peace and security for the next decade, which calls for a “radical shift in women's participation in UN peacemaking efforts”<sup>2</sup>, to ensure that “women are fully involved as equal partners in peace, and from the earliest stages in each and every peace and political process that the United Nations support.”<sup>3</sup> The draft plan further considers the UN Secretary-General's call regarding an eventual settlement process/the settlement process and the need “to ensure the inclusion of at least 30 per cent women in future delegations”<sup>4</sup>. It also builds on the principles embedded in UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, and related resolutions, which recognize that the active and meaningful participation and leadership of women is essential in building peace in Cyprus and will contribute to making any future settlement sustainable.<sup>5</sup> To this end, the Technical Committee on Gender Equality also rests its recommendations on the growing body of evidence which concludes that women's participation in peace and political processes significantly contributes to both achieving and sustaining a comprehensive settlement<sup>6</sup>.

The Technical Committee on Gender Equality further acknowledge that persistent barriers to women's participation exist and need to be addressed as a matter of priority and as integral to a broader effort towards ensuring gender equality. As the UN Security Council has urged the leaders “to explore ways to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation and the inclusion of gender considerations in a possible resumed negotiation process,”<sup>7</sup> the recommendations are informed by the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). To this end, the recommendations are guided by the principle of gender mainstreaming and the need to ensure that the impact on men and women, boys, and girls is considered throughout an eventual settlement process/the settlement process, noting the importance of measures that address both direct and indirect forms of discrimination.

<sup>1</sup> S/RES/2587 (2021)

<sup>2</sup> S/2019/800/946

<sup>3</sup> S/2019/800/946

<sup>4</sup> S/RES/2587 (2021)

<sup>5</sup> S/RES/2587 (2021); S/RES/2561 (2021); S/RES/2537 (2020); S/RES/2506 (2020); S/RES/2483 (2019); S/RES/2453 (2019)

<sup>6</sup> A Global Study on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, <https://wps.unwomen.org/participation/#:~:text=Women%E2%80%99s%20participation%20increases%20the%20probability%20of%20a%20peace,probability%20of%20a%20peace%20agreement%20lasting%2015%20years.>

<sup>7</sup> S/RES/2587 (2021)

The action plan lastly, seeks to support contact and the engagement of civil society including women’s organizations and youth in the settlement process/ an eventual settlement process, aimed at achieving “an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement in Cyprus”<sup>8</sup>/ mutually acceptable comprehensive and sustainable settlement in Cyprus. It also seeks to propose ways in which the public may be informed about the benefits of a future solution by increasing the level of understanding, cooperation and mutual trust between Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots<sup>9</sup>.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **A. How to ensure women’s full and meaningful representation in the settlement process/ an eventual settlement process?**

1. In line with Security Council resolution 2587 (2021), all delegations participating in meetings leading up to, as well as taking part in the settlement process/ an eventual settlement process, shall include no more than two thirds of any gender.
2. The appointment of the co-chairs and members of working groups and technical committees supporting an eventual settlement process/ the settlement process, shall follow the same principle of no more than two thirds of any gender.

### **B. How to engage with civil society, including women’s organisations, to solicit their views in the settlement process / an eventual settlement process?**

3. The Technical Committee on Gender Equality should in advance of and throughout an eventual settlement process/ the settlement process, regularly engage with civil society, women and youth organizations to solicit their views on a broad range of topics in coordination with the two negotiators, including by organizing workshops in order to prepare the ground for a possible future settlement.
4. In response to the repeated request of the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary General, the two leaders should conduct public outreach and information sharing in order to inform Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots of the benefits of a settlement, to reinforce contact, build trust and confidence between Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots in preparation for a future settlement. To this end, the two leaders could consider requesting the development of a joint communication strategy in preparation for any future negotiations and/for the enhancement of the engagement of civil society.

### **C. How to include a gender perspective in an eventual settlement process/ the settlement process?**

*[Gender mainstreaming is the considerations and integration of the differential impact on women, men, girls and boys at all levels and in all aspects negotiated in an eventual settlement process/ the settlement process settlement process]*

5. In the settlement process/ an eventual settlement process, each core delegation is recommended to include, separate to the requirement of no more than two-thirds of any gender, a Gender Expert in order to ensure that a gender perspective is fully integrated at all levels.
6. Sufficient financial and human resources need to be allocated and budgeted for both sides in order to implement this action plan, including gender mainstreaming-related activities, necessary outreach and civil society engagement, including the organization of workshops carried out in support of an eventual settlement process/ the settlement process.

<sup>8</sup> S/RES/2587 (2021)

<sup>9</sup> S/2018/919; S/2019/322; S/RES/2587 (2021); S/RES/2561 (2021); S/RES/2537 (2020); S/RES/2506 (2020); S/RES/2483 (2019); S/RES/2453 (2019)