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## Concept Note

International Conference of the MWMN Kosovo Antenna Event

### **'Reclaiming Time: Women, Peace, Security and Justice Agenda in Kosovo and Beyond'**

On the occasion of 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the Launch of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN) Kosovo Antenna

#### **1. Introduction**

Within the framework of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network's activities, a project launched, promoted and funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Cooperation, in cooperation with IAI (Istituto Affari Internazionali) and WIIS Italy (Women in International Security Italy), on November 18, 2020 the MWMN/Kosovo Antenna will be launched. The Network, launched in 2017 aims at fulfilling the need to increase the number of women involved in peacemaking efforts and intended to reduce and fill a networking capacity gap in the Mediterranean area, a complex socio – cultural context, where women mediators can bring strategic knowledge and contribute to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. On one side, the Network works as a community of practice and provides opportunities for women mediators to strengthen their existing capacities through peer-peer learning, mentoring and targeted training. On the other, the scope of the Network is to consolidate its activities locally also through the establishment of local Antennas in the various Mediterranean countries.

The 20th anniversary of the milestone UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) is a significant momentum not only of celebration, but also of reflection on the future. This unique opportunity occurs in these unprecedent times of the global COVID-19 pandemic which poses further constraints to gender equality and women's rights.

Committed to advancing the implementation of the WPS agenda and achieving gender equality goals thus contributing to building a just, peaceful and prosperous future for all, MWMN Kosovo is organizing this event to mark this historic anniversary and to join global efforts for shortening the road to gender equality. The event will bring together women from diverse background to discuss and share views about their achievements in the past 20 years. The event will also be an opportunity to highlight key challenges and steps forward in reaching the overarching goals of the WPS Agenda in Kosovo and in the region. Further discussion will be focused on how to strengthen the localization of the National Action Plan (NAP) and the importance of funding and youth engagement to ensure inclusive implementation which will be beneficial to the whole society. Specific focus will be given to women's perspectives on peace processes, their meaningful participation in formal and informal tracks, and their mediation efforts in ensuring gender inclusive peace agreements. Finally, this event is a great opportunity to shed light on women's participation within the context of the ongoing international dialogue on the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

We aim at inspiring a new momentum in reinforcing the work done in the country on women's equal participation in politics, decision-making, democratic governance and peacebuilding. We believe that more needs to be done



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in joint efforts to promote sustainable empowerment of women at all levels, from national to local. This will be critical in leading the way towards sustainable peacebuilding, functional democratic institutions, rule of law, justice and transitional justice, reconciliation, economic growth and addressing other socio-economic issues. We consider that women's views on peace and security have a broader approach than conventional ones as they include the needs of citizens in socio-economic aspects leading to sustainable peacebuilding. It is also an opportunity to examine how the pandemic has impacted the WPS agenda in Kosovo and how we can ensure gender-inclusive crisis prevention and recovery.

## 2. Background

Kosovo has worked hard for the implementation of the WPS Agenda since the adoption of the UN Resolution 1325 in 2000. Kosovo women, both from politics and civil society, have been committed to empower women in peace, security, justice, economic and other areas in order to achieve gender equality and help advance postwar democratic transformations, reconstruction and peacebuilding. In normative terms, Kosovo has completed the WPS legal framework, including legislation, policies, National Action Plan and other necessary mechanism with relevant support from government dedicating 50 percent of government budget in support of the 1325 NAP. In 20 years, there have been some important achievements in different areas, however progress has been limited with respect to women's participation in politics, decision-making and formal peace processes. This despite the fact that women have been on the frontlines in war and peace times and now again during this pandemic leading to positive changes.

Kosovo has entered into the final phase of the international dialogue which aims to normalize the relations with Serbia after almost 7 years of peace talks in Brussels facilitated by the European Union and supported by the United States (2011-2018) despite consultations have been frozen for the past two years. The resumption of the dialogue on July 16, 2020 with EU facilitation and US support is expected to lead to a final agreement that will define neighborly relations between Kosovo and Serbia, and eventually it will establish a new phase of lasting peace and reconciliation.

Women in Kosovo were at the forefront of peaceful resistance during the 1990's. However, their role and agency has been marginalized after the war and in peace times. The peace process saw the presence of women chief negotiator, also including in the expert groups, nonetheless participation remains low. Women politicians and civil society have been active in lobbying for greater participation and gender inclusive agreements with limited success due to known barriers to gender equality.

## 3. Goal and Objectives

The overall goal will be to increase women's participation in politics, decision making and at the negotiating table, and increase their influence in deciding and shaping the future of the country, as well as ensuring gender inclusive peace agreements focusing specifically on the ongoing Kosovo-Serbia international dialogue.

The objectives will be to discuss and develop recommendations for Kosovo and the international community on how to improve gender equality as a whole and specifically in peace processes, and how to put women at the center of peacebuilding efforts in Kosovo and the region. This in line with the WPS agenda, UNSCR 1325 and its related resolutions, EU gender policies, MWMN mission, etc.



#### **4. The specific objectives would be:**

1. Develop recommendations on how to advance women's equal participation in decision making, democratic governance and peacebuilding; how to include women in the formal peace process and other different levels and how to ensure gender inclusive peace agreements – offering concrete mechanisms that can be tabled to authorities at the national and international level, and finally suggest concrete steps that women can take to achieve the identified goals.
2. Provide the peace talks participants and other relevant stakeholders with a structured document that reflects women's perspectives.
3. Prioritize issues and identify how to strategically move the identified recommendations forward.

#### **5. Expected Results**

Kosovo women from politics and civil society, supported by the MWMN and other international participants will be able to speak with a joint voice, vision and provide recommendations for their meaningful participation aimed at strengthening the formal peace process and its outcomes. They will be able to further advocate for the WPS agenda acting as agents of change for a better peace, stability and prosperity in Kosovo and in the region of Western Balkans.

#### **6. Participants, Date and venue**

The Conference will bring together women from politics, parliament, government, civil society, academia, experts, international representatives

The Conference will take place on 18 November 2020, Pristina, Republic of Kosovo, starting at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

#### **7. Organizers**

The event is organized within the framework of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN) activities in collaboration with the MWMN Kosovo Antenna and the RWLSEE, with the support of the Embassy of Italy in Kosovo.