

## **10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE- Yerevan 19.-20.11.2022:**

### **“WOMEN’S SHARED SECURITY IN OUR MODERN WORLD”**

#### **“Women’s innovative methodologies in preventive diplomacy, social justice and treaty ban the use of AI arms “**

The event coincided with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the International Young Women’s Peace and Human Rights Award and organization of parallel conferences dedicated to implementation of UN SC Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security.



#### **Background:**

Today, more than ever, humanity faces numerous existential threats with the heightened risk of a nuclear war, increased militarization with the introduction of unauthorized use of autonomous weapons, climate change, pandemics, rise of authoritarianism and fundamentalism, and inter-state confrontations. With ongoing modern wars, humanity pays an increasingly higher price. The proliferating use of weapons of mass destruction—banned under international law—have become methods of achieving and establishing power and control over seized lands—often, without impunity. Additionally, the violators of international laws and agreements have unleashed mercenaries and trafficked people as soldiers. Use of banned weapons and weaponized sexual violence breach the civilians’ most fundamental human rights. The horrific loss of life, millions of refugees and displaced people, has led to global economic shockwaves, food shortages, and hunger. Moreover, there is a diminishing space for democratic governance and human rights protection. The revival of traditional practices has decayed the achievements in the areas of women’s rights protection, which is exceptionally concerning. Women and girls are at heightened risk of violence during the wars and conflicts, sexual and gender-based crimes, as well as raise of horrendous crimes against women have become practice during the recent wars. Under such conditions, women and children are critically vulnerable and unprotected. Protection of prisoners of conscious has become exponentially more difficult. In many situations, these crimes stay unpunished, leaving space for recidivism.

The conference holds a tradition of introducing innovative thinking from the women’s perspective, investing in transforming contradiction to collaboration for our shared future security.

#### **Actual challenges:**

It is a critical time and a matter of urgency to develop and implement a new thinking and security approach and to introduce an agenda of transformative peace and common security that invites everyone to be responsible for our common, shared future security. The recently released “For Our Shared Future. Common Security Report 2022” developed by the international commission led by Olof Palme Foundation, is a pivotal document. The report demonstrates how security is created jointly. By taking the concept of Common Security as its starting point, the Common Security 2022 initiative analyzed the world we live in today and some of the greatest challenges we face. It was presented by Anna Sundström, Secretary General of Olof Palme International Centre.

The report states: “Now, in 2022, it is time to consider whether Common Security can help bring us back from the brink. All people have the right to human security: freedom from fear and freedom from want. Building trust between nations and peoples is fundamental to peaceful and sustainable human existence. There can be no common security without nuclear disarmament, strong limitations on conventional weapons, and reduced military expenditure. Global and regional cooperation, multilateralism, and the rule of law are crucial to tackling many of the world’s challenges. Dialogue, conflict prevention, and confidence-building measures must replace aggression and military force as a means of resolving disputes. Better regulation, international law, and responsible governance also need to be extended to cover new military technologies, such as in the realms of cyberspace, outer space, and “artificial intelligence”.



#### **Panel 1: Gender equality in accessing human security, freedom from fear and from want**

The panel discussed different dimensions of human security including economic, social and environmental aspects. The

participants focussed on inequalities, and how to build a more inclusive, resilient and peaceful society. They confirmed with their respective societal commitments that women play a critical role in building safe societies.

## Panel 2: **Women's critical role in negotiations on all levels and trust building**

With a key note address of Lara Scarpitta Senior Gender adviser of the OSCE (online) and WG members Dunja Khalil/Austria and Dayana Berisha/Kosova and Julia Kharashvili/Georgia. They focussed on conflict-affected settings where inequality, exclusion, lack of respect for human rights humanitarian and refugee laws often impede meaningful participation. "We have the knowledge we need space and courage to raise our voices!"



## Panel 3: **Gender and (nuclear) disarmament, strong limitations on conventional weapons, reduced military expenditure and new military technologies**

moderated by Heidi M. with Shirin Jurdi/WILPF, Julia Kharshvili/Georgia, Sean Connor/IPB, Nana Skau/World food program a.o.



## Panel 4: **Developing viable instruments in protection of human rights defenders**

women peacebuilders face grave and complex challenges- how to increase their safety and security, key risks and opportunities



## **YOUNG WOMEN PEACE AWARD – and Training**

The conference was accompanied by a wonderful award ceremony for young women peace builders: 1 international guest from Cameroun and 3 individuals or local organisations and a training of young people from the Armenian

borderline on WPS, YPS organised by Democracy today with Dajana Berisha/Kosovo, Shirin Jurdi/Wilpf and Heidi Mainzolt. It was fascinating to see the mature arguments, living in dangerous and partly traumatising environments of ongoing conflict. What a courage and enthusiasm of the young people who had issued the day before a great declaration of Youth:



### **Youth Declaration**

Today, the international order is at an inflection point that cannot be ignored and demands addressing. The challenges and crises posed by concerns around global health, destabilizing wars and conflicts, the changing climate, the refugee crisis, and the threat of nuclear weapons and proliferation prove that our world desperately needs competent leaders to prevent these and many other crises from reaching a tipping point. The next century may prove to be the most volatile our world has seen in generations and it is the inherent duty of our leaders to preserve and improve upon what we are fortunate enough to currently have. As today's youth, We, the youth—coming from diverse ethnic, religious, academic, and professional backgrounds—attending Democracy Today NGO's 10th



*International Conference: Women's Shared Security in Our Modern World*, we demand the following issues be addressed so as to preserve our collective future.

**1. Strengthen the global architecture for peace**

In a rapidly changing world, our old systems and structures, which have long promoted peace and prevented world-wide conflict, are eroding. Multilateralism is essential to address the real threats facing our world and to ensure global peace.

**2. A new peace dividend—disarmament and development**

The energy and resources which have long been spent on war and destruction must be redirected towards the creation of a vested interest in peace. International collaboration, not military force, will solve the challenges and threats facing humanity today.

**3. Revitalised nuclear arms control and disarmament**

A nuclear war cannot be won and therefore must never be fought. The extinction-level threat posed by nuclear war must unify the international community in pursuit of general disarmament.

**4. New military technologies and outer space weapons**

The fourth industrial revolution will bring about new technologies whose destructive potential has yet to be fully grasped. It is imperative for all states to unite and create structures to prevent such technologies from becoming tools used for unethical and illegal actions.

The crises and challenges, as well as opportunities confronting humanity today, must be addressed in multilateral formats that both respect the interest of every state while also demanding cooperation. This Yerevan Youth Declaration has laid clear our demands for a more peaceful and prosperous century. Please join us in demanding world leaders to act now.

**Yerevan Declaration on “Women’s Shared Security in the Modern World”** (can be signed online!)

*Democracy Today* NGO calls on global leaders to adhere to the Yerevan Declaration on “Women’s Shared Security in the Modern World” and to make its 2023 mission to:

- Secure all peoples right to human security regardless of their gender, race, religion, and socio-economic standing.
- Recognize women’s critical role in building safe societies and strengthen the international agenda for Women, Peace, and Security by ensuring 50% women’s participation at all levels of international peace and security undertakings for a safer world.
- Build an inclusive, resilient, and peaceful society to provide security of all.
- Work on a trust-building mission between nations and peoples as fundamental to peaceful and sustainable human existence.
- Build a global common security by signing nuclear disarmament, limit conventional weapons, and reduce military budgets.
- Build global and regional cooperation, multilateralism, and a strict rule of law to tackle our modern world’s most critical challenges as climate change, poverty, inequality, hunger, right to education and insecurity.
- Resolve territorial and political disputes with dialogue, and conflict prevention and confidence-building measures—NOT aggression and military force.
- Better regulate international law, and responsible governance of new military technologies including the realms of cyberspace, outer space and “artificial intelligence



Inside and outside of the discussion room