

**United Nations Human Rights Council: 58th Session**  
**Oral statement Item 6 – General Debate**  
**UPR Info – March 26th, 2025 (delivered by Mona M'Bikay, Executive Director, UPR Info)**

Dear M. President,

UPR Info welcome the International Gender Champions initiative to advance the women peace and security agenda.

The year 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, which reaffirmed women's crucial role in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding. However, this milestone is not one to celebrate. With over 110 conflicts reported globally, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected—facing displacement, food insecurity, gender-based violence, and limited access to healthcare and education.

This year, we must redouble our efforts to ensure:

- Greater women's participation in peace processes
- Stronger gender provisions in peace agreements
- Accountability for perpetrators of violence
- Improved access to justice for survivors

While we welcome the increase in national action plans on WPS, it remains concerning that only 26% have an allocated budget. We call on Member States to do better and commit real resources to implementation.

The WPS agenda must remain a key priority for the UN Security Council, but regional and international human rights mechanisms also have a crucial role to play in holding Member States accountable to their human rights obligations.

We urge Member States to strengthen accountability by making precise Universal Periodic Review recommendations that:

- Use explicit WPS language.
- Are action-oriented and linked to the four WPS pillars: Prevention, Protection, Participation, and Relief & Recovery.
- Call for the repeal of discriminatory laws and improved access to health, education, and employment for women and girls to build a sustainable peace.
- Demand stronger protections for groups living in vulnerable situations, including women with disabilities and women human rights defenders facing growing reprisals.

Now more than ever, the international community must move beyond commitments and ensure concrete actions to protect and empower women in conflict and post-conflict settings. The violations endured by women and girls must not be reduced to mere statistics. Let us empower women to be leaders, thinkers, and architects of their own lives and of an inclusive, sustainable and lasting peace.

Thank you.