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***High Level Launch of the Second Programming Round of the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations***

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**CONCEPT NOTE**

**28TH APRIL 2021, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (EDT)**

**REGISTRATION LINK: [Click here](#)**

**EVENT MODERATOR:** Ms Nahla Valji, *Senior Adviser, Gender, Executive Office of the Secretary-General*

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Opening and Closing Speakers:**

Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Department of Peace Operations

The Hon Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

**Speakers / Panellists:**

- Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, *Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women*
- Mr. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr, *Minister for Foreign Affairs, Liberia*
- Mr. Sidiki Kaba, *Minister of Armed Forces, Senegal*
- The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP, *Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, the United Kingdom*
- H.E. The Hon. Mitch Fifield, *Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations*
- H.E. Yoka Brandt, *Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations*
- Dr. Eduardo Jaramillo, *Director General for United Nations Organisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico*
- Major Suman Gawani, *Gender Advocate of the Year 2019 India (TBC)*
- Assistant Superintendent Doreen Malambo, *UN Woman Police Officer of the Year 2020, Zambia*

**EVENT**

The Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations (EIF) is launching its second programming round on 28 April 2021, with a high-level virtual event. Member States that have received funding in the first programming round, and new contributors to the EIF, will discuss the important and innovative work of the EIF. The event will also review progress in the deployment of uniformed women in peace operations and showcase Member States' progress and good practices.

**BACKGROUND**

Despite the valuable contribution that uniformed women peacekeepers make, progress toward increasing the number of uniformed women deployed on peace operations continues to be slow. In December 2020, uniformed women represented 7.1 percent of all uniformed personnel deployed in 12 UN peace operations.

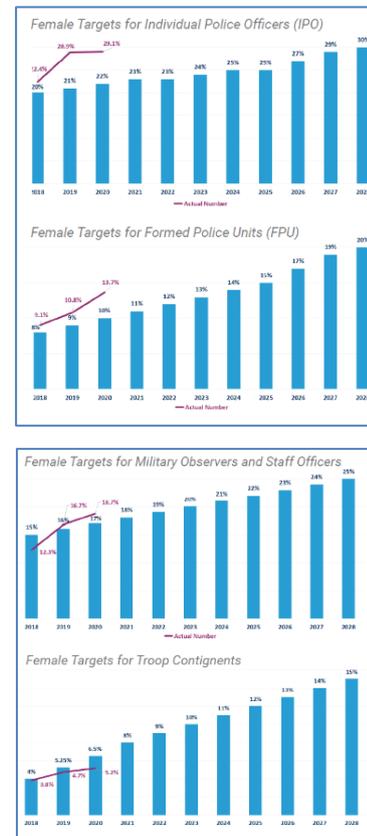
United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2242 (2015) called for doubling the number of uniformed women in peace operations by 2020. The United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO) Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028<sup>1</sup> (UGPS) subsequently set targets for women in uniformed components and outlines how DPO plans to meet those goals. UNSCR 2538 (2020), the first resolution that focuses exclusively on women in peace operations, encourages Member States to develop strategies and measures to increase the deployment of uniformed women to peacekeeping operations.

Despite these calls to action, significant disparities remain in troop and police contributing countries' (T/PCCs) contributions. In 2020, women represented 5.8 percent of United Nations deployed military personnel, and 17.6 percent of deployed police, compared to 3.2 percent and 10.2 percent respectively in 2015 - falling short of the UNSCR 2242 gender targets. Leadership positions in 2020 saw one woman out of 13 in roles as Heads of military components (8 percent) and four women out of 14 in roles as Heads of police components (28 percent), compared to one of 16 (6 percent) and one of 17 (5.8 percent) respectively in 2015.

And while the UGPS 2020 targets have been exceeded for military observers and staff officers (19 percent), individual police officers (29 percent) and formed police units (14 percent), they lag considerably behind for military contingents (5.2 percent).

The EIF, launched on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Mar 2019, is a global multi-donor trust fund<sup>2</sup> that aims to support the sustainable deployment and meaningful participation of uniformed women peacekeepers by (i) offering assistance to T/PCCs through project funding, and/or (ii) providing a Gender Strong Unit (GSU) premium to qualifying T/PCCs. The EIF seeks to accelerate progress toward achieving the United Nations gender targets in line with Security Council resolutions and the UGPS.

- (i) To access **flexible project funding**, a T/PCC will be required to submit a national barrier assessment which identifies the main factors impeding the T/PCC's deployment of uniformed women to UN missions. Project funding can also be sought to undertake a national barrier assessment using a rigorous methodology such as the DCAF – the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance 'Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations' (MOWIP) barrier assessment methodology<sup>3</sup>.
- (ii) The **GSU premium** is a direct payment to a T/PCC on completion of a GSU deployment, and, on verification that the unit has met the GSU requirements<sup>4</sup>, with priority given to T/PCCs that envisage reinvesting the premium in ways that further promote the objectives of the EIF.



<sup>1</sup> <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/uniformed-gender-parity-2018-2028.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/EIF00>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dcaf.ch/mowip-methodology>

<sup>4</sup> A gender-strong unit is a unit (typically a Formed Police Unit or Military Battalion) that (i) includes substantial representation of women overall and in positions of authority, (ii) has provided gender-equity training to all unit members, and (iii) has adequate materiel to ensure parity of deployment conditions for women and men peacekeepers, amongst other criteria. At a minimum, the percentages of women must exceed the targets set out in the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028 (UGPS) by five percentage points.