
Concept Note for the High-Level Launch of the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations Third Programming Round

Date and time: 30th March 2023, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM (EDT)
Venue: UNHQ Conference Room 11 and Zoom ([Registration link](#))

Event

The [Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations](#) (EIF) will launch third programming round at a high-level event on **Thursday 30 March 2023**. The goal of this event is to raise awareness of the new programming round and call for new funding proposals from Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and United Nations (UN) organizations. The event will feature a discussion with UN leadership, EIF fund recipients, donors and partners on the imperative of ensuring uniformed women's participation in UN peacekeeping and present the results and impact of innovative projects funded by the EIF. The event will also highlight Member States and the UN's steadfast commitment in advancing gender parity in the security sector and in UN peace operations.

Agenda

9:00–9:15	<p>Introduction by moderator: Ms Sarah Taylor, Policy Specialist at UN Women</p> <p>Opening session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under-Secretary-General Sima Sami Bahous, Executive Director, UN Women Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Department of Peace Operations
9:15–10:05	<p>Panel discussion: Making gender parity a reality in UN peacekeeping - Identifying and addressing barriers to uniformed women's participation</p> <p>Keynote address: Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Middle East, South Asia, UN and the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, the United Kingdom</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counsellor Maria N. Beretta, Political Coordinator of the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN Captain (Ghana Navy) Veronica Arhin, Gender Policy Advisor to the Chief of Defence Staff, Ghana Armed Forces Major General Maureen O'Brien, Deputy Military Adviser, UN Department of Peace Operations Commissioner Christine Fossen, Police Commissioner, UN Mission in South Sudan Dr. Sabrina Karim, Assistant Professor, Cornell University
10:05-10:30	<p>Member States Interventions from the floor</p> <p>Closing remarks: H.E. Jacqueline O'Neill, Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security, Canada</p>

EIF 3rd Programming Round Details

Date

The closing date for submission of a Letter of Interest (LOI) to the EIF is **31 July 2023**.

Eligibility Criteria

The EIF primarily offers assistance and incentives for T/PCCs. The EIF can also support projects submitted by UN organizations which are designed to implement and test innovations. Details on eligibility criteria can be found in the EIF's [Terms of Reference](#) - section 4.2.5.

Funding Modalities

The following funding modalities are available to EIF applicants:

➤ Barrier Assessment and Flexible Project Funding.

- Project funding can be sought to undertake a 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.
- To access additional project funding, T/PCCs will require to submit a credible national barrier assessment which identifies the main factors impeding the T/PCC’s deployment of uniformed women to United Nations missions.

➤ Gender Strong Unit (GSU) Premium: a reimbursement payable to a T/PCC on completion of the GSU’s deployment, and on verification that the unit fully met the GSU requirements¹, with priority given to T/PCCs that envisage reinvesting the premium in ways that further promote the objectives of the EIF.

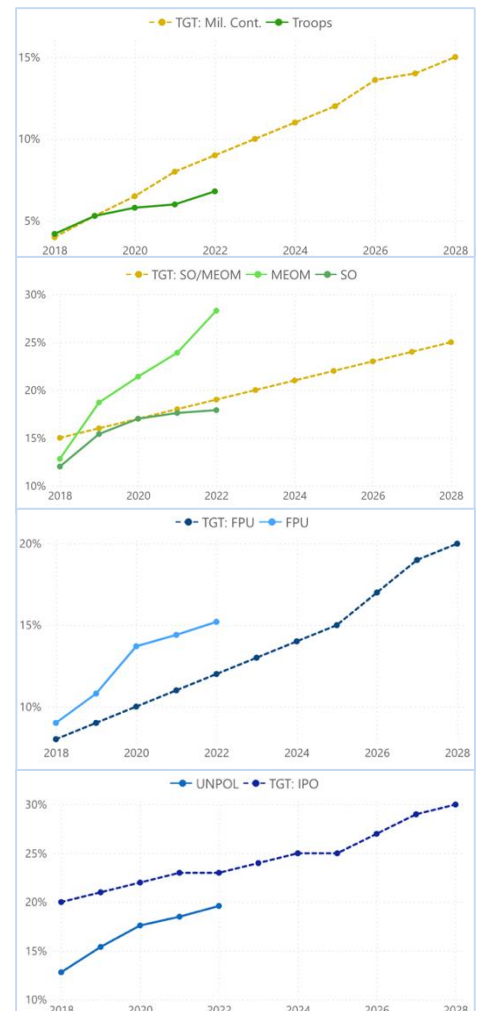
Background

The equal, full and meaningful participation of uniformed women is crucial to the success and effectiveness of UN peace operations. Recognizing women’s important role in peace and security, UN Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 2538 (2020) called for their increased and meaningful participation in UN peacekeeping. Furthermore, DPO launched the [Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028](#) (UGPS) and [Action For Peacekeeping](#) (A4P) and [A4P+](#) initiatives to encourage Member States to concretely take action to increase the deployment of uniformed women in peacekeeping.

Owing to the concerted and collective efforts of the DPO and Member States, there are more women serving as peacekeepers in all categories of uniformed personnel now than in 2018. While the UGPS 2022 targets were exceeded for military observers, individual police officers and formed police units, they continue to lag considerably behind for troops - 6.8* per cent against a 9 per cent target, and Staff Officers – 17.9 per cent against a 19 per cent target.

In order to accelerate progress towards achieving targets set out in the UGPS, the UN, Canada, and Member States established the EIF. Hosted by UN Women, the EIF is an innovative [multi-partner United Nations trust fund](#) designed to support the sustainable deployment and meaningful participation of uniformed women in United Nations peace operations by providing funding support and incentives. In doing so, the EIF seeks to drive transformational change in security institutions to sustainably increase the number of uniformed women peacekeepers.

To date, the EIF has supported [20 projects](#) from 21 security institutions and 2 UN peacekeeping missions. These projects are supporting the translation of international commitments to gender equality into concrete actions including through identifying and addressing barriers to women’s participation in security institutions and United Nations peacekeeping, developing gender-sensitive policies, and creating more receptive mission environments.



UGPS targets against actual deployment data 2018-2028

¹ 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 UGPS by five percentage points.