



UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

The [Commission on the Status of Women](#) monthly meeting was conducted in conjunction with the presentation of “Peace, Security, and the Role of Young Women: The Link between UNSCR 1325 and 2250”

The meeting was conducted on 28 September 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York City, New York, United States.

Report Submitted by Constance Sobon Sensor, Sigma United Nations Liaison

The keynote speaker was Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, initiator of [United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325](#) (UNSCR) as President of the Security Council in March 2000, and cofounder of [Global Movement for Culture of Peace](#). Other panelists included Jayathma Wickramanayake ([Envoy on Youth](#), Office of the United Nations Secretary-General) and Sophie Giscard D’Estaing (Policy Analyst, Peace and Security, [United Nations Women](#)). UNSCR 1325 was a political and conceptual breakthrough in 2000 that recognized for the first time the role of and contributions of women in the areas of peace and security. Ambassador Chowdhury states, “We should not forget that when women are marginalized, there is little chance for an open and participatory society. Peace efforts will continually fail until people embrace humanity’s oneness.” He believes that when women participate in peace negotiations, and in crafting a peace agreement, they keep the future of their societies, and their communities, in mind. They think of how their children and grandchildren will be able to live in their own homeland in a peaceful and secure environment and how they will benefit from the structure of peace envisaged in the agreement. They have the broader and long-term interest of society in mind, whereas historically, in post-conflict situations men are interested in ensuring that the peace process will give them the authority and power that they are seeking.

UNSCR [2250](#), Youth, Peace, and Security (passed in 2015), urges member states to increase representation of youth in decision-making at all levels. It is legally binding for all member states. In this resolution, youth are defined as people aged 18 to 29 years. It is based on the concept that a sense of disengagement and marginalization, despite the interconnected world we live in, leaves young people vulnerable to recruitment for violent extremism. It states that to effectively address the drivers of violent extremism and promote peace, youth must be engaged as partners in the design and implementation of relevant programs and policies. It calls for including young people and building their capacities to prevent and resolve conflict as a key aspect in the sustainability of peace efforts, in hope that this generation will grow up to be peacemakers and solve conflicts without turning to violence. It calls for action that goes beyond military responses, towards a more comprehensive approach that addresses the driving factors behind violent extremism. It also calls for protection of youth in times of conflict and reintegration post-conflict. Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, was a landmark for the

inclusion of women in issues of peace and security; therefore, the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda (UNSCR 2250) can learn a lot from the Women, Peace, and Security agenda as this landmark resolution is implemented worldwide.

This was a very informative discussion that was engaging and created a deep respect for the leading work of Ambassador Chowdhury, who was just amazing to hear. He was an advocate for women's rights and the importance of youth involvement and spreading the word about UNSCR 2250. He was so humble about all he has accomplished and so inspirational in passing on the torch for all that still needs to be done. I was not aware of these two resolutions and their impact on governments' policies and on civil society. Both resolutions are legally binding for UN member states. I encourage everyone to read the document "A Guide to UN Security Council Resolution 2250" at the link below to become informed about the resolution and to gain knowledge about advocacy strategies for raising awareness and holding their governments accountable for implementing these resolutions.

UNSCR 2250 ("A Guide to UN Security Council Resolution 2250"):

unoy.org/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-SCR-2250.pdf