



THE UN HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON GENDER AND INCLUSIVE MEDIATION STRATEGIES

Funmi Balogun, Ahmed Abaddi, Ayşe Cihan Sultanoğlu and Baudouin Hamuli Kabarhuza in 2019

Photo: Riku Isohella

The UN High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies is a forum for leading mediation actors to exchange insights and experiences on women’s inclusion in the design and implementation of peace processes.

The Seminar offers a platform to share challenges and practical “how-to” strategies for inclusive mediation.

The organizing partners: The Seminar is designed and implemented as a collaborative effort by the United Nations Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN DPPA), the CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation (CMI) and the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO). The Seminar series is funded by the Finnish and Norwegian Ministries for Foreign Affairs.

The target group of the Seminar is leading mediation actors: UN envoys and Special Representatives and their advisors; representatives of regional organizations and Member States; and mediation actors from civil society and academia.

The first Seminar was organised in 2013. By 2023, the partners have implemented a series of twelve (12) Seminars.

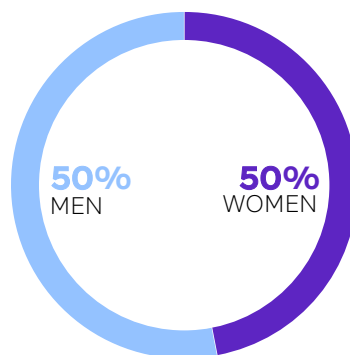
“The participation of women remains one of the defining issues of our time. Not least during this 20th anniversary year of UNSCR 1325. We all need to be creative about how we practically promote this important agenda in our peace work. This Seminar provides ways and strategies on how we may do that.”

2019, Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, DPPA-DPO

IN TOTAL

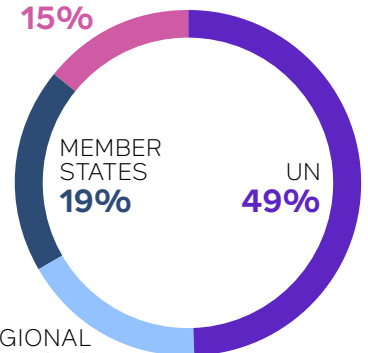
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PARTICIPANTS HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE SEMINAR FROM 2013 UNTIL 2023



CSOs AND OTHERS

15%



REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
17%



Hanna Tetteh and Rezlan Ishar Jenie in 2019



Modibo Touré and Georg Charpentier in 2017

“One of the most important benefits of such seminars is the fact that you are with your peers - you learn not only from a mix of experts who are helping you to build up your knowledge and competences, but at the same time you learn from other practitioners in the field.”

2019, Ayşe Cihan Sultanoğlu, UN Representative to the Geneva International Discussions

“It is always important, no matter how skilled you think you are in a process, to create the opportunity for engagement with others, who are dealing with different challenges and different situations.”

2019, Hanna Tetteh, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the UN Office to the AU

WHY?

- Notwithstanding existing normative frameworks and declarations at global, regional and national levels, women’s inclusion in mediation is still not full nor equal.
- Many efforts to support women’s participation, including advocacy with conflict parties, targeted process design options, and support to women delegates, tend to be ad-hoc and come too late in the peace processes.
- This Seminar series has been recognized as one of the key fora for senior mediation actors to explore practical ways to put the international norms into practice.

HOW?

- The Seminar builds on participants’ knowledge in dealing with complex mediation situations and experiences handling multiple, and often competing, dilemmas related to inclusion.
- The Seminar offers practical strategies and tools for more inclusive mediation process design and conflict analysis. It also provides advice on gender-relevant provisions for key thematic areas, such as conflict-related sexual violence in ceasefire and peace agreements.
- The methodology is a mix of lectures, experience sharing, practical exercises, and interactive discussions to explore joint challenges and reflections on lessons learned.



SEMINAR MODULES:

- International Gender and Peacemaking Normative and Policy Frameworks
- Mediation Preparedness: Gender-sensitive Conflict Analysis
- Mediation Process Design
- Digital Inclusion
- Women and Mediation: Engaging Track 2 Actors
- Ceasefire and Security Arrangements; and Conflict-related Sexual Violence
- Powersharing & Constitutions
- Women’s Political Participation
- Gender-relevant Language for Peace Agreements
- Implementation Arrangements