



## 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 2024, the partners have implemented a series of thirteen (13) Seminars.

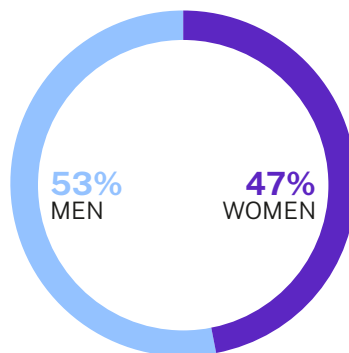
*"We are faced with increasingly complex, protracted and fragmented conflicts across the world. Without the involvement of women, we won't achieve sustainable solutions to these challenges. The Seminar explores critical, practical strategies for inclusion in the design and implementation of peace and mediation processes."*

2024, Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Assistant-Secretary-General for Africa, DPPA-DPO

IN TOTAL

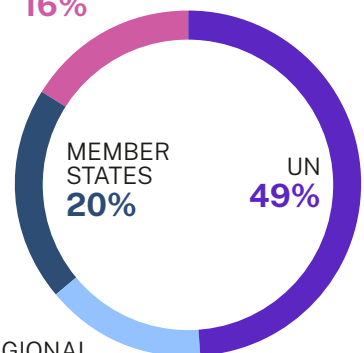
# 319

PARTICIPANTS HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE SEMINAR FROM 2013 TO 2024.



CSOs AND OTHERS

16%



REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS  
15%



Photo: Maria Hossain Santto

Patience Zanelie Chiradza and Markus Potzel in 2023.



Photo: Maria Hossain Santto

Janan Mosazai and Ulrika Richardson in 2023.

*“From the perspective of regional efforts, this seminar instilled a strong determination to strengthen our partnership and collective impact in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.”*

2024, Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Executive Director of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, ASEAN

*“The seminar helped me to be intentional about ensuring inclusivity in conflict resolution. When all stakeholders, particularly women, are heard and given a platform to be part of the solutions, it ensures ownership of the implementation and fosters sustainable peace.”*

2023, Patience Zanelie Chiradza, Director of Governance and Conflict Prevention, 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 concrete way to put international norms and lessons learned 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 SESSIONS:

- 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
- Simulation Exercise