

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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ANNUAL REPORT 2017 WILPF

ABOUT US

VISION

WILPF envisions a world free from violence and armed conflict in which human rights are protected and women and men are equally empowered and involved in positions of leadership at the local, national and international levels.

For more information please visit our website: www.wilpf.org

MISSION

WILPF's mission is to further by non-violent means the social transformation that enables the inauguration of systems under which social and political equality and economic justice for all can be attained to ensure real and lasting peace and true freedom.

To achieve this mission, WILPF conducts programmes in four areas: Disarmament, Human Rights, Crisis Response and Women, Peace and Security. The WILPF International Secretariat works alongside our global network of National Sections, conducting peace-building activities at every level, from the grassroots to the highest decision-making bodies at the United Nations.

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We are very proud of all that WILPF has accomplished together in 2017. From banning nuclear weapons, to the convening to reclaim the UN, to amplifying the voices of grassroots women peace activists, the year was about creating new spaces.

Building on the momentum of the historic Women's Marches in 2017, WILPF organised the Women's March to Ban the Bomb in June 2017. Our International President, Kozue Akibayashi, spoke to the one thousand gathered in New York: "The sufferings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have continued through generations. It is time for the governments to listen to the voices of women calling for elimination of nuclear weapons." One hundred and fifty diverse solidarity actions took place all over the world, from Cameroon to Japan.

In April 2017, WILPF gathered women's rights and peace activists from around the world to discuss how to make women count in the UN for sustainable and lasting peace. One loud message came across: local women and women's groups must be at the centre of conflict prevention efforts because they have the analysis, the knowledge and the capacity to do so. At the convening, we called for a paradigm shift in the approach taken to peacebuilding, one that ensures local women speak for themselves, that addresses women's human rights and that understands gender inequalities as one of the root causes of conflict.

Conflicts and violence continue to impact lives where we work. In Syria, for example, WILPF has worked to amplify the voices of women demanding space at the negotiating table for the peace process

and beyond. From Colombia to Zimbabwe, WILPF's local and global work and support remain as important as ever.

Together, the work of WILPF contributes to the Sustaining Peace agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 16 on peaceful societies and SDG 5 on gender equality.

In 2018, WILPF will continue to mobilise locally and globally. In August, WILPF members will gather in Accra, Ghana for WILPF's 32nd International Triennial Congress to exchange learning, build solidarity and take action to advance WILPF Manifesto (2015), revise governance structure, elect a new board and agree on a collective International Programme.

Madeleine Rees
Secretary General

On behalf of WILPF Executive Committee

- Kozue Akibayashi, *International President*
- Kerry McGovern, *International Treasurer*
- Catia Confortini, *Vice-President*
- Joy Ada Onyesoh, *Vice-President*
- Margrethe Kvam Tingstad, *Vice-President*
- Madeleine Rees, *Secretary General*

SUMMARY OF ACCUMULATED RESULTS

WILPF's Theory of Change outlines how we believe change can happen. Our overall aim is to advance feminist peace for equality, justice and demilitarised security. We believe that this happens by way of two interlinked paths - that we need to think differently and act differently. Thinking differently means challenging the status quo and addressing the root causes of violence with a feminist lens. Acting differently means mobilising for non-violent action and taking power back.

In 2017, WILPF's work showed great progress towards both thinking differently and acting differently as we worked on achieving six strategic outcomes we believe contribute to advancing feminist peace.

To encourage 'thinking differently', we worked hard to transform gendered power (Spotlight 1) and strengthened women's meaningful participation to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including through supporting grassroots women peace activists to have a voice at high-level international forums. We had a great success this year stigmatising war and violence (Spotlight 2), as years of hard work and dedication led to the banning of nuclear weapons at the United Nations.

This is huge step towards furthering progress on other disarmament initiatives. Thinking differently also means a new form of analysis and understanding how economic, political and social structures affect women and men differently. Promoting a Feminist Political Economy (FPE) approach (Spotlight 3) is an innovative way to open conversations to challenge neoliberal assumptions. The success of the feminist political economy work done in Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2017 shows great progress towards the use of this kind of analysis in other countries and regions where we work.

‘Acting differently’ is not just about getting others to act differently; it is about acting differently ourselves too. The first step of this, and where we have made great strides in 2017, is movement building and strengthening WILPF (Spotlight 4). One highlight of this was the WILPF Speaks report which solicited feedback from Sections on the restructuring of WILPF governance and reinforced the value of sisterhood and strong relationships for building a global feminist peace movement. Supporting grassroots peace activists is also reflected in our work to amplify local and regional change (Spotlight 5).

Each country and region of focus integrates all the outcomes, and achievements range from advancing women’s meaningful participation in Colombia to movement building across the Africa region. One of WILPF’s greatest strengths is our trust and credibility when it comes to engaging in multilateral forums, and in 2017 we were able to continue and improve our actions (Spotlight 6) and advocate for non-violent action, accountability, and taking back power for women and the feminist peace movement.

The summary of work in 2017 shows that WILPF is making progress towards each of our stated outcomes. The overall Theory of Change was validated through implementation and learning processes. The strategic direction and outcomes will not be modified significantly. By addressing root causes of violence with a feminist lens and mobilising for non-violence action, year one of implementation has reaffirmed the direction to advance towards a lasting feminist peace.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

WE BANNED NUCLEAR WEAPONS

On 7 July 2017, 122 governments voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations General Assembly. This new legal instrument outlawing nuclear weapons is the result of nearly a decade of work for WILPF and our partners in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), of which WILPF is an International Steering Group member ...

[Read more in the Spotlight 2](#)

CONVENING: WE REBELLED

As a response to the fast changing political events, WILPF organised a large Convening where women who were excluded from CSW could join. From 26 to 28 April, over 150 women's rights and peace activists from 40 countries gathered in Geneva to discuss how to make the UN more inclusive and help it live up to the founding principles of its Charter ...

[Read more in the Spotlight 6](#)

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEACE MOVEMENT

Two African regional meetings took place in 2017, in Stockholm (May) and Kinshasa (December). WILPF sections in Europe met on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome (March). On the other side of the globe, the Asia Pacific regional meeting took place (August) that aimed to shape the relationship of the sections in the region and to discuss organisational and political priorities.

Read more in the Spotlight 4

ONE YEAR OF WILPF IN NUMBERS

Facebook:	17 811 likes (+33%)	Twitter:	8 348 followers (+45%)	YouTube:	181 subscribers (+115%)
Publications (print and PDF):	17 (+21%)	Statements:	38 (+9%)	Newsletters:	154 (+162%)
Webinars (sessions):	14 (+233%)	Subscribers (to all our Newsletter):	12 669 (New baseline data)	Sections & Groups:	33 & 8 (+5%)

TRANSFORM GENDERED POWER

SPOTLIGHT 1

Understanding of gendered power and meaningful participation for women improves advocacy and actions for peace at global and local levels

MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN CAMEROON

Leveraging feminist movement leadership for nonviolence, gender justice and peace leads to direct policy changes. Despite political resistance and lack of awareness about Women, Peace and Security in the country, WILPF Cameroon leveraged the expertise and community in WILPF to push for the development of a national action plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Sylvie Ndongmo first met WILPF activists at a global women’s conference in Istanbul in 2012. So inspired by the root cause analysis and sisterhood she saw in these women and in WILPF, she went home and founded a local Section. Over time, the membership grew and raised awareness of UNSCR 1325. They trained new members and other civil society leaders, and exchanged experiences and best practices through WILPF Africa regional meetings. They developed partnerships with key stakeholders and the media, and demonstrated the urgent need of the resolution by participating at international forums. WILPF Cameroon was able to access WILPF expert support and capacity-building tools along the way.

After years of work mobilising action and compiling key data on the specific needs and problems of women living in conflict zones, the Cameroon NAP was officially adopted in November 2017. Today, the WILPF Cameroon activists are developing strategies to support peace work in Cameroon and implementation of UNSCR 1325 to substantially increase women’s participation and gender equality.

WILPF Cameroon is an example of how women peace activists can strengthen the agenda by overcoming the silos for local change. The Section used the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) human rights process to mobilise action for the adoption of the NAP. In doing so, they addressed the illicit flow of arms and provided recommendations to regulate and curb arms proliferation. They also advocated for the ratification of relevant international and regional instruments and provided recommendations to implement specific laws, programmes and training for the judiciary to prevent all forms of violence against women. They will continue this UPR advocacy in 2018.

WILPF Cameroon shows how strategic support from the regional and international level can help circumvent longstanding obstacles to women’s meaningful participation and build coalitions and movements to transform

gendered power, security and peace at the local level. Having overcome many challenges, WILPF Cameroon continues to show women's power to stop war and build feminist peace.

WE ALSO WORKED ON:

WILPF amplified local women's analysis of root causes of conflict to promote security that makes a difference for women in 2017. We took action to change the discourse on what security means and how to achieve it. WILPF's work applying a feminist lens to peace and security and addressing gendered inequality and power structures is part of the local, national and international work of WILPF.

WILPF focused attention on how transforming gendered power requires amplifying local women's voices. As Sweden launched the first Feminist Foreign Policy and Canada launched a Feminist Aid Policy, WILPF produced many publications and materials in 2017, including an op-ed and an infographic on "*What would a Feminist Security Council agenda look like?*", and a Security Council Scorecard on WPS Women, Peace and Security (2010-2016) and research briefs. We brought attention to the need to transform security from patriarchal top-down approaches to feminist bottom-up approaches that strengthen women's meaningful participation, protection and rights for conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

Amplifying the voices of grassroots women peace activists was critical in promoting the meaningful participation of women and sharing holistic gender power analysis of root causes of conflict and violence. The analysis of the women human rights defenders and peace activists in the WILPF network showed how militarised masculinity and the patriarchal status quo support political economies of war with huge humanitarian costs. Our analysis, research and advocacy throughout 2017 brought attention to the need to reorient peace work around local women's gendered root causes analysis and action for demilitarised security.

We supported space for civil society and took action to make this space have an impact. For example, a speaker from Colombia delivered an important statement to the Security Council during the open debate on Women, Peace and Security. This brought attention to the LIMPAL/WILPF Colombia campaign to disarm not just the FARC-EP, but society as a whole. WILPF Nigeria used the speaking opportunity at the General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Sustaining Peace to advocate for gender analysis and the addressing of root causes through engagement with grassroots women's organisations. This contributed to recognition of women's civil society as critical partnerships in UN action on Sustaining Peace. WILPF delegations of peace activists participated in key international forums, including in Human Rights Council sessions and the 17th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325. WILPF also facilitated the input from Yemeni, Nigerian and Cameroonian activists around the Informal Expert Group of Security Council on WPS.

As a result of WILPF's advocacy work, women's meaningful participation became an important issue on the Security Council agenda: it was taken up in the 2017 Secretary-General's report on Women, Peace and Security and the concept note for the WPS October debate and was reflected in 33% of statements during the October WPS Open debate (56% of speakers referenced 'participation' more generally).

Women's meaningful participation and analysis of root causes of conflict makes a difference. In statements to these forums, and to the UN General Assembly First Committee in October, more governments than ever talked about the intersections between gender perspectives, women's participation and disarmament discourse and policy.

The holistic approach of CEDAW Committee's General Recommendation 35 (GR35) builds on WILPF recommendations to the CEDAW Committee that gender-based violence should be recognised as part of a continuum of violence, based on militarism, violent masculinities and a political economy that fuels war.

“We all know that peace is not only the agreement itself but a process. The Colombian case shows the start of a different way – one that starts with local women’s voices and analysis of gender and how power is its product.”

- Madeleine Rees, WILPF Secretary General

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES:

WILPF’s advocacy and achievements in 2017 demonstrate considerable progress towards a global understanding and take-up of the importance of women’s meaningful participation for holistic violence prevention that addresses gendered power.

We showed that a strong foundation for peace is possible when gendered root cause analysis is integrated into peace agreements.

For example, in Colombia, more than 100 provisions on gender, including on zero tolerance on sexual and gender-based violence were integrated into the peace agreement based on women civil society’s recommendations. In 2017, a highly successful disarmament process included the lay down of over 7,000 arms.

Even with these gains, preventing the backward movement of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda remains a constant and critical challenge. Transforming gendered power requires a power shift to re-centre work on equality, development, security and peace around the voices and rights of women and those most marginalised. Every step forward faces two steps back, and independent women’s voices remain more critical than ever.

SPOTLIGHT 2

STIGMATISATION OF WAR AND VIOLENCE

Militarised thinking, systems and technologies of war are challenged at global and local levels

WE BANNED NUCLEAR WEAPONS

On 7 July 2017, 122 governments voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations General Assembly. This new legal instrument outlawing nuclear weapons is the result of nearly a decade of work for WILPF and our partners in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), of which WILPF is an International Steering Group member. This agreement is already changing the economic, social and political engagement on nuclear weapons, with divestments from nuclear weapon production and parliamentary debates ramping up around the world.

WILPF was also the official host of the Women’s March to Ban the Bomb, a global public mobilisation that took place on 17 June as negotiations resumed at the United Nations for the Treaty. Our staff and members around the world worked closely with other women-led organisations for peace, disarmament, women’s rights and indigenous, environmental and human rights communities to coordinate this epic event. While the primary march and rally took place in New York City, there were around 150 diverse solidarity actions all over the world! Many WILPF Sections and Groups organised solidarity walks, demonstrating the commitment of our movement to this cause.

“On the seventh of July this year, I was overwhelmed with joy when a great majority of the world’s nations voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Having witnessed humanity

at its worst, I witnessed, that day, humanity at its best. We hibakusha had been waiting for the ban for seventy-two years. Let this be the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons.”

- Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor, speaking on behalf of ICAN at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway, 10 December 2017. WILPF is a member of ICAN’s steering group.

Recognition at the highest level for the joint work between organisations as part of ICAN came with the awarding of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Peace Prize has been a valuable acknowledgement for all the hard work made within the ICAN coalition, including WILPF’s work to mobilise women, organise feminist campaigning strategies, and contribute invaluable advocacy, analysis and strategy to the campaign.

WE ALSO WORKED ON:

WILPF challenged militarised thinking and violence as a dominant narrative and promoted alternatives for non-violence throughout all our work in 2017. It was a historic year for WILPF and the work for peace. After decades of advocacy in support of nuclear disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons, to abolish nuclear weapons, WILPF and partners played an active and central role in the adoption of a new legal instrument outlawing nuclear weapons.

In addition to the historic work prohibiting the development, use and possession of nuclear weapons, WILPF’s disarmament initiatives in 2017 included work on armed drones and autonomous weapons, demanding an end to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and challenging arms transfers.

We continued to emphasise the intersection between gender and militarism, using our disarmament and arms control work to raise awareness about militarised and violent masculinities and the need for gender analysis in security and weapons discourse. For example, in 2017, we published a summary version of our resource guide on how to implement the gender-based violence provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty. We also provided a chapter about gender perspectives on armed drones in our recent publication focusing on the humanitarian impact of drones. We further published a research study about the links between foreign military bases, drone strikes, and sexual violence in Djibouti. We contributed to UN reports to the Human Rights Council, prepared and delivered 15 statements on arms issues, gender-based violence, and human rights.

#FEMINISTPEACE

WILPF’s disarmament work was disseminated through presentations to diplomats, lawyers, students and activists across multiple forums throughout the year. For example, in September, WILPF participated in a conference for medical professionals and activists to debate, educate and advocate for social justice and demilitarisation. WILPF co-organised a workshop on feminist peace organising, joining the London School of Economics to talk about constructions of gender and their relationship to militarism.

In 2017, WILPF launched an Arabic language interactive toolkit on Weapons, War and Women in the MENA region. The toolkit shows how arms transfers to Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq impact women disproportionately. In the midst of the military build-up and the tensions that have intensified in the Asia-Pacific region, WILPF, with the leadership of our International President, has continued to participate in non-violent direct actions to stop the build-up, as well as in activities to bring peace on the Korean Peninsula. This has been done together with the global group of feminists who in 2015 crossed the Demilitarised Zone between North and South Korea, advocating for a peace treaty to end the Korean War.

The ban on nuclear weapons clearly shows that while shifts in thinking can take a long time, progress can be made and real change can happen.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES:

The work that WILPF has carried out this year shows great progress on stigmatising war and violence by challenging militarised thinking, systems and technologies of war at both a global and local level. By increasing the strength of our analysis (as seen through research conducted and papers produced) and disseminating our learning through conferences, presentations and negotiations, and reaching new audiences, we have been able to challenge and shift thinking about the links between arms transfers, explosive weapons use, gender-based violence and human rights, which we believe will lead to long-term changes.

“The antinuclear movement has a rich, creative history, with which youth have always been involved... From its beginning, ICAN has sought to stigmatize nuclear weapons using “humour, horror, and hope”. While the horror of nuclear weapons is important to convey the urgency of the situation, hope is essential to drive people to action.”

- Ray Acheson, director of Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament program of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. She represents the WILPF on the international steering group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

SPOTLIGHT 3

FEMINIST POLITICAL ECONOMY

Feminist political economy of peace is our framework for analysis, accountability and actions at global and local levels

FEMINIST POLITICAL ECONOMY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The reforms taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) today are created behind closed doors, without any participation of the BiH citizens, and without proper gender and conflict analyses. Monitoring of the implementation of the reforms is equally poor. Reports from Civil Society Organisations in the country point out some of the negative effects, but have thus far not succeeded in bringing about a systematic and comprehensive feminist analysis of the reforms, nor have they been able to radically affect the political and economic course of BiH. Citizens of BiH are impoverished, disenfranchised and disempowered and are faced with irreversible neoliberal post-conflict restructuring to the detriment of their social and economic rights.

The main goals of the reforms are fiscal consolidation. This implies massive cuts in public spending and a reorganisation and privatisation of the health sector, privatisation of utilities, decreasing of public sector pay, benefits and pensions, and the dismantling of workers’ rights. Without conflict and gender analysis informing these measures, it can be expected that women will be affected more than any other group.

“This feminist political economy analysis enables us to affirm women not just as victims of violence but as agents of change.”

- Nela Porobic Isakovic, WILPF

WILPF has been closely working with local feminists to undertake the first feminist political economy analysis of the reforms, which helps us to understand their full implications for women. The report *Feminist Perspective on Post- Conflict Recovery and Reconstruction – the Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina* argues that a reform agenda for BiH that is not underpinned by a rigorous feminist conflict and gender analysis will contribute to entrenching structural and gender inequalities, and that the failure to prioritise economic and social rights will contribute to the ongoing social conflict in the country and increase the risk of conflict re-occurring in BiH.

The analysis and the recommendations of the report were used for a workshop discussion organised with local activists on 19 June, and as a basis for advocacy meetings with the UK and Swedish Embassies, World Bank office in BiH, EU Delegation and UN Women that took place 20 - 22 June in Sarajevo. In December 2017, WILPF visited Brussels, where we met with members of the EU Parliament and members of the EU Commission Directorate General to discuss the current EU approach towards BiH and to present WILPF's perspective on how that approach should be changed. The report was also disseminated to 115 local activists, NGOs, governmental structures, parties, international organisations in the country and individual embassies, as well as INGOs and other relevant multilateral organisations.

WE ALSO WORKED ON:

WILPF promoted feminist political economy analysis, accountability and actions at a global and local level in 2017. A feminist political economy approach allowed WILPF to analyse the role of gender in the economy, the asymmetric power-relations between women and men and the division of labour to better understand the economic realities for both women and men, the roles they play in that economy, and identify the differentiated impact of economic and political policies on the lives of women.

Work on feminist political economy was focused on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine. In Ukraine, feminist political economy was used to better understand the drivers of conflict and effects of violence on the lives of women in Ukraine, including a piloting of Ethnographic Time Use Survey in Ukraine, in cooperation with practitioners and academics from Monash University. WILPF used a feminist political economy approach to provide input and recommendations for various UN bodies. We submitted a report for the CEDAW Committee's review of Ukraine, which addressed the negative impact of austerity measures required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and illustrated the disproportionate negative impact on women. As a result, the CEDAW Committee recommended that Ukraine ensure meaningful participation of women at all stages of the peace process.

Recommendations were also submitted for the Universal Periodic Review of Ukraine, in which WILPF addressed the impact of austerity measures on women's economic and social rights. Feminist political economy was also used to provide recommendations and analysis for the Universal Periodic Review of Germany. In its submission, WILPF drew attention to Germany's roles and responsibilities as a member of multilateral international legal bodies, specifically the IMF, the World Bank and the European Union (EU), and the policies of such bodies with respect to human rights and non-discrimination, providing as examples Greece, Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2017, following on from its submission to the CEDAW Committee on the same issue, WILPF submitted a report for the Universal Periodic Review of Canada focusing on Canada's failure to effectively regulate the extraterritorial activities of Canadian companies and ensure effective access to justice by those whose rights are being violated as a result of them.

As a member of the Treaty Alliance, which advocates for a treaty on transnational corporations and other business enterprises, WILPF continued to advocate for the experiences of affected women to be reflected fully in the treaty and its drafting process. WILPF has also been instrumental in the coordination of a coalition of NGOs that promote a feminist approach to the treaty, by supporting the development of a strategy and co-leading on the drafting of a joint advocacy document on integrating a gender perspective into the treaty submitted to the UN Intergovernmental Working Group mandated to draft the treaty. The statement focuses on three areas: mandatory gender impact assessments of the impacts on human rights of business operations; gender sensitive justice and remedy mechanisms; and ensuring respect, protection and an enabling environment for women human rights defenders.

WILPF also co-organised with nine partner organisations the event: 'Mind the Gap: A Feminist approach to the Binding Treaty', during which women human rights defenders working on corporate accountability in Indonesia,

South Africa, Myanmar and Burkina Faso shared their struggles and experiences. They explained the specific harmful impacts of corporate abuse on women, as well as the gendered risks faced by women human rights defenders.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES:

In 2017, WILPF made significant progress on promoting feminist political economy as a driver of analysis, accountability and action at a local and global level. Work in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine in 2017 sets the stage for the feminist political economy approach to be used in other selected focus countries and regions, which will add value to the quality of analysis in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Understanding conflict and post-conflict countries through a feminist political economy lens is innovative and bold, and is outside of the mainstream approach of NGOs, governments, international organisations and funding institutions. However, our activities are important steps towards promotion of feminist political economy as a driver of the analysis and actions in conflict and post-conflict countries.

This approach and the conversations and questions that were opened in 2017 are part of the process to transform neoliberal ideology and practices.

Recognising the value of feminist work is essential, but it is not enough. This work must also be resourced, not as projects, but as strategic processes for change. Did you know total world military expenditure rose to \$1739 billion in 2017 (SIPRI)?

- WILPF demands we #Movethemoney from war to peace

SPOTLIGHT 4

MOVEMENT BUILDING

WILPF and its contribution to the peace movement are strengthened

SUPPORTING LOCAL ACTIONS IN WILPF

In 2017, WILPF provided grants to Sections/Groups to support projects on movement building, Women, Peace and Security and the implementation of WILPF Security Protocol. Grants were awarded to WILPF Section/Groups in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ghana, Nigeria, the Philippines, Spain, the UK, and Zimbabwe. The impact of these projects has been seen at the grassroots level, where women peace advocates have put their efforts in bringing together members and community women for advocacy and capacity building activities. Below are three examples of small grants initiatives:

IN AFGHANISTAN

WILPF Afghanistan Group organised a conference titled Development of the Women's Movement for Peace and Liberation in the Eastern Zone aimed at strengthening and expanding the work of the Group in the area. The objective of the conference, which gathered more than 120 participants, including representatives of provincial departments, was to raise awareness on the importance of the role of women in peace and security and counter radical and conservative traditions in the Eastern zone. At the end of the conference, the Group appointed 11 women as a focal point for the region, who will help the Group in expanding its membership and further mobilise the role of women in peace and the elimination of violence.

IN CHAD

WILPF Chad Group brought together members of the Group to set a roadmap to WILPF Congress 2018, where the Group aims at being recognised as a Section. Parallel to the meeting, the Group also organised a workshop for women's mobilisation around peace and security and UNSCR 1325 as the legal framework for implementation. Chad is one of the countries still without a UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (NAP) and the workshop aimed at building a network of different stakeholders to strengthen and deepen the engagement for lobbying, drafting and implementing the country's first NAP.

IN ZIMBABWE

The WILPF Zimbabwe Group organised training sessions with traditional leaders, women religious leaders, grassroots women and peace builders in the Kwekwe District. All these activities gave them the chance to become more visible in the community, where they held dialogues on how to curb the root causes of violence. As a result of the training, traditional leaders have promised to initiate discussion in their communities and advocate for peaceful co-existence.

One of the main strengths of the small grant was that Sections/Groups were given the opportunity to develop new interventions or expand existing ones. The small grants also had a function to support the organisational strengthening of our Sections and Groups. In particular, the implementation and reporting phases will, in the long run, positively influence the capacity building and the development of human resources within the Groups and Sections, enabling them to engage more actively with local actors and sustaining their relations with WILPF Secretariat...

WILPF members value the feeling of sisterhood and the importance of being part of a strong feminist movement. The sense of belonging and the shared commitment to values that surround WILPF were noted in a high number of responses in the WILPF Sections Speaks report, which was completed in 2017. Supporting this strong feminist movement for peace, justice and nonviolence required investing, organising and mobilising intelligently, both internally and externally in 2017.

SUMMARY OF WILPF WORK:

2017 was a year of growth and improvement for WILPF. Throughout the year, WILPF provided support to its 33 National Sections and seven Groups through programme engagement and Secretariat support. New Groups were formed in Kenya and Burundi in 2017.

The WILPF Speaks report explored the narratives that revolve around WILPF members' motivations and meaningful work. The report noted that, by working together, WILPF members support forging relationships and generating knowledge on solutions that work in peace- building. Relationships, team spirit and collaboration, along with trust and experience-sharing, were some of the main strengths identified through the report on membership. These are the true examples of WILPF sisterhood.

WILPF took strides this year to increase the engagement of its Sections and members. WILPF published nine regular editions and four special editions of Membership News, with a surge of members submitting their texts and pictures for inclusion. The Membership News contributes to keeping members informed about WILPF's news, activities and accomplishments while promoting events and activities, motivating members to take action.

2017 has seen the start of a new monthly webinar series called 'We Are WILPF'. WILPF also held thematic webinars on CSW non-participation, the Women's March to Ban the Bomb, Syria, WILPF Security Protocol and an information session ahead of the 2018 Congress. All of these webinars increased the engagement of WILPF

with the Sections and the Sections with each other, narrowing the geographic distances between us and, in so doing, enhancing WILPF.

myWILPF, an interactive platform for WILPF members which was launched in 2016, continued to grow in 2017. There are currently 170 members active online and 370 that have requested a user profile. myWILPF has proven to be an effective engagement tool and has helped members communicate among themselves, share knowledge and improve cooperation between Sections while increasing the two-way communication between Sections' members and the Secretariat.

Throughout 2017, WILPF also continued to engage with other movements and organisations. WILPF also participated in strategic coalitions aimed at realising a transformative change for peace. This included working with and serving on the board of the MenEngage Alliance. Through joined advocacy around the 2017 High-Level Political Forum and facilitation of a peace subgroup within the Women's Major Group, this partnership specifically helped us to challenge gendered power relations and work to transform negative masculinities and patriarchy by gaining men allies. Those who are committed to supporting women's existing work, and also to a political agenda that eradicates patriarchal violence from personal relationships to global institutions of militarised and patriarchal power.

“For us, being a WILPF member organisation gives us strength and energy to keep going because we are a big family in which problems are solved together, information is shared and progress can be made together.”

- WILPF Burundi Group, in WILPF Sections Speaks report

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES:

When we enable space for feminist solidarity and community, we invest in the individual strength for the activist and the synergies from our collective power. WILPF is stronger in 2017, and continues to grow, making progress towards movement building.

The increased engagement of the WILPF Sections and Groups, through Section-to-Section webinars, the myWILPF platform and various meetings and conferences, has strengthened and deepened the space for feminist solidarity and community building. In 2017, we have progressed towards becoming a more effective, learning, sustainable, feminist hybrid organisation which can support a strong feminist peace movement.

SPOTLIGHT 5

AMPLIFY LOCAL AND REGIONAL CHANGE

Strengthen how women organise, participate and provide gender perspectives on root causes of conflict, conflict prevention, resolution and peace process at local and national level.

It is essential for our local work to be relevant and effective in its context. Therefore, in addition to our global work, WILPF prioritised five focus countries and two regions for deeper engagements in 2017-2019. These countries are Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Nigeria and Ukraine. The two regions are Africa and MENA. The work in Outcome 5 cuts across the other five outcomes and aims to strengthen women's meaningful participation, and provide more analysis and gendered perspective on the root causes of conflict, conflict prevention, resolution and peace building. It also aims to strengthen regional movements. Below are examples of WILPF's work in the countries and regions of focus.

SYRIA

WILPF engagement with Syrian partners in 2017 focused on transforming gendered power, amplifying local and regional change, enhancing the accountability of the multilateral system and building the movement for feminist peace in Syria. To this end, WILPF worked to advance the international Women, Peace and Security agenda in Syria and refugee hosting countries through: a) holding regional consultations with women from Lebanon and Ukraine and developing a report to inform the UK National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325; b) supporting the development of feminist organising platforms in the political sphere; c) assisting Syrian partners to further their strategies, develop materials on WPS in Arabic, engage track I diplomacy with the grassroots, and provide psychosocial support to feminist activists; and d) delivering oral and written statements at the UN Human Rights Council.

“Women’s rights organisations are always being told that ‘now is not the time’. We have to make a shift.”

- MENA Participant at 17th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325

Later in the year, two Syrian feminist activists who met at a retreat organised by WILPF in 2016 founded the Syrian Women’s Political Movement, providing an alternative to the exclusionist, male-dominated culture of politics in Syria. WILPF helped to fund their first conference in October 2017, at which the platform was launched ahead of the Riyadh II talks, with the aim of bringing women with feminist demands to the negotiating table to stake their claim in peace processes and beyond.

At the national level, WILPF supported many local partners in their work. Syrian Female Journalists Network (SFJN) was supported to respond to the scarcity of materials on WPS in Arabic by developing practical guidance on incorporating the language of WPS into Arabic-speaking media. WILPF supported Women Now for Development to develop its organisational structure in order to empower their women’s centres in the field. WILPF amplified the voices of Families for Freedom in their campaign against detention and force disappearances, and provided access to psychosocial support for Families for Freedom activists.

At the international level, during the Geneva IV peace talks, WILPF made a statement calling on all states to “immediately cease the supply of weapons to warring parties and curb arms proliferation in Syria”, and demanding answers for why the Commission of Inquiry’s report did not include gender-disaggregated data or refer to any crimes of sexual or gender-based violence. WILPF and two Syrian partners also delivered a statement supporting the demands of Families for Freedom during the 34th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Following targeted advocacy to promote the recommendations put forward by WILPF and 11 Syrian partners in a summary report, representing the only submission to the Human Rights Council from a gender-sensitive perspective, the Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Syria on 16 March 2017. Through WILPF internal monitoring processes in 2017, it was found that some 30% of the language of partners’ recommendations was echoed in recommendations to the Syrian Arab Republic by Member States.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The work in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2017 is also highlighted under Outcome 3 on Feminist Political Economy. In parallel to the FPE research and activities related to the reforms, Women Organizing for Change in Bosnia engaged in a number of regional country visits. During the first half of 2017, we visited Serbia (Belgrade), Croatia (Zagreb), Albania (Tirana), and Kosovo (Pristina) with the idea to engage in dialogues with selected activists and/or organisations on the potential for joint activities related to the effects of the neo-liberal interventions across the region.

Following the regional visits, a meeting of feminists was held in Sarajevo on 22-23 November to identify a ‘space’ and framework for organisation of a cross- regional platform for actions, based on feminist values. During the meeting, the 14 activists present (from Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Kosovo) worked on identifying political, economic and social processes taking place in the region, and the main actors of those processes. The discussion was also initiated about mechanisms for joint political activism and how that cooperation might be shaped.

COLOMBIA

2017 was a very important year for WILPF Colombia (LIMPAL). We strengthened internal capacity to cope with the challenges seen in the first year of the implementation of the peace agreement. LIMPAL mobilised for disarmament, arms control and the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty from a feminist perspective.

In 2017, LIMPAL led a new campaign: ‘Women for Disarmament: More Lives Less Arms’. The campaign had 11 organisations at national level and nine at regional level. The campaign included a research report, which was distributed to 800 people at forums, and lobby meetings at the local and national levels. At a time when sexual and gender-based violence are being normalised as personal rather than political or conflict issues, this campaign is a critical reminder of the need for accountability on the zero tolerance commitments on sexual violence of the peace agreement, and the need for peace and security that works for women.

The National Forum was held in Bogota with three hundred participants; three regional forums were held in the main cities where LIMPAL has grassroots work (Cartagena, Villavicencio and Florencia) with three hundred and thirty participants; and other small meetings with local authorities and civil servants in eight municipalities in three regions (Bolívar, Meta, Caquetá). The Forums included local authorities, the police, the UN Verification Mission, academics and women’s organisations. They achieved the purpose of encouraging public opinion from civil society, women’s movements and different authorities on the importance of disarmament and arms control for the eradication of armed violence against women, as a necessary condition for the establishment of a sustainable, stable and lasting peace.

The analysis that resulted from the forums highlighted the negative impact of small arms on women’s lives and the need for stronger gun control, less expenditure on arms and more investment in social development. The lessons learned from this experience relate to the need to keep raising awareness and include this issue in public/political agenda. The issue of disarmament at different levels, not only from FARC-EP, transcends the armed conflict and the peace agreement, and means guarantees for human security and peace sustainability in the long term. It is important to strengthen women’s voices and discourses on this issue, which has been dominated historically by men and has been analysed in depth from men’s perspective. The advocacy work is critical in the implementation phase of the peace agreement to push for accountability on commitments during this critical transition time.

Despite the achievements of including a gender perspective in the historic Peace Agreement between FARC-EP and the Colombian government and the critical role of women civil society in this process, women are being relegated to a consultative, rather than a decision making, role in the implementation phase. For example, during 2017, the implementation process focused on establishing the legal bases and architecture for the full 15-year implementation. Yet despite the fact that women participated in sending recommendations for policy and law development, final drafts excluded their view and voices.

In addition, in 2017, LIMPAL engaged in a variety of other initiatives. As part of work on political economies for peace, they ran a project called ‘Women coffee farmers build peace in three regions affected by conflict in Colombia’. This project reached women, who are often victims of displacement or former combatants, enabling economic empowerment and building peace - one coffee bean at a time. The women receive training on Fair Trade entrepreneurship, and learn to defend and exercise their rights as women entrepreneurs and coffee farmers. In addition, as reported in WILPF Annual Report 2016, women activists in Colombia faced increased threats and risks. As a result of this, WILPF drafted an internal security protocol that included the voices of all women working and collaborating with LIMPAL. Strengthening women civil society leaders and ensuring their livelihoods, security and political participation will be critical to effective action in the implementation phase in Colombia.

NIGERIA

Political, economic, ethnic and religious conflicts continue to disproportionately impact women and girls in Nigeria. Exclusion of women from processes of peace and politics further disempowers women and destabilises local communities. Throughout 2017, WILPF worked to support women advocates and women policy makers at the state, local government and community levels with the aim to connect and develop an agenda on women’s rights and peace, and thereby building a more sustainable framework for women’s long-term substantive political participation.

The Women Situation Room Nigeria (WSRN), the initiative of WILPF Nigeria, implemented activities in 9 states: FCT Abuja, Imo, Gombe, Delta, Benue, Lagos, Plateau, Enugu and Rivers. The work included capacity building for women leaders in political parties, advocacy, town hall meetings and voter registration.

WILPF brought together 70 local women leaders (who are the local, state and zonal coordinators of WSRN), which enabled them to identify the formal and informal peace processes in their own areas. Advocacy in 2017 focused on more women’s participation as a peace building processes at the state and national levels. Engaging party leaders, chairmen, traditional rulers and partners to

support women’s leadership, especially in peace building processes, was important for building relationships and increasing consciousness on women, peace and security in Nigeria. Dialogues with members of political parties resulted in their support for increased women’s political participation within the party structures. The party chieftains made a commitment to follow through.

To move forward the localisation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, WILPF brought together women to strategise from Imo, Rivers Delta, Benue and Gombe states. Over 100 participants attended, including community/traditional rulers, religious leaders, political party leaders, community youth leaders, representatives from the media, Keke Riders association, market women association, Independent National Electoral Commission and civil society organisations, women groups, WSRN zonal, state and local government coordinators.

UKRAINE

Ukraine provides a complex context for our work but also opportunities. A major challenge is to confront the negative impact of the heavily promoted patriotism and militarism. Violence against women and human trafficking have increased. The peace process is failing without the consultation of

civil society. In addition to the work highlighted in Outcome 3, work in Ukraine has been focused on piloting a methodology for understanding women's lived experiences.

Throughout 2017, WILPF met with Ukrainian women activists to discuss the current situation, the effects of the political economy of war on the lives of women, and the mechanisms needed to link experiences on the ground with the policies and approaches of the political elite (both local and international). In June 2017, a bigger convening with women from Eastern Ukraine was held, during which an economic forum was recommended, and that will ensure continuous and accurate information flow and analysis from the activists to the policy level to present alternative policies and is inclusive of women and their experiences.

To increase our understanding of the political and economic effects of conflict from the perspective of women's lived experiences, their needs and priorities, WILPF gathered an interdisciplinary team of academics and practitioners to devise appropriate methodologies. The result was the piloting of an Ethnographic Time Use Survey in Ukraine, in cooperation with Monash University in Australia. Local Ukrainian women received training in time-use survey methodology and documented how women spend their time, the nature and weight of activities - including obstacles to accessing food, water, heating, housing, health care, education, employment, services - and the climate of security and violence, etc. The information gathered will contribute to a comprehensive and systematic feminist political economy analysis of the conflict in Ukraine, as well as assist the Ukrainian women to devise proper strategies for sustainable peace.

WILPF partnered with Kvinna till Kvinna in Ukraine for synergy and complementarity. We plan to work together more in 2018 as we continue the work on the peace agenda and economic forum. The approach will continue to be grassroots-driven with analysis based on human rights and gender, and using advocacy and the multilateral system when relevant.

AFRICA REGION

Two African regional meetings took place in 2017, in Stockholm (May) and Kinshasa (December). Both gathered the inspiring women of WILPF Sections from Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and the DRC, WILPF Groups from Burundi, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and the representatives of the emerging Groups from South Africa and the Central African Republic (CAR). WILPF Sweden and WILPF International (Geneva and New York) were also participating.

During the regional meeting, WILPF activists from the African region highlighted how they are working together toward a vision of feminist peace. They shared, explored and discussed how to build awareness, change laws, norms and attitudes to uphold women's rights as human rights. For instance, WILPF Zimbabwe Group is engaging traditional leaders to change perceptions about traditional women's roles in communities, WILPF Ghana is working with youth on peace education, and WILPF Uganda Group has been working on sensitising women on sustainable peace in the 'Luwero Triangle' area.

The meeting underlined the need to strengthen even more this regional cooperation and to sustain the creation and flourishing of new Groups. WILPF DRC's leadership has also provided support to movements across Africa through the creation of new WILPF Sections and Groups in the region. As

the representative of the emerging Group in the Central African Republic put it: “Working with WILPF Cameroon and WILPF DRC has given us two crutches to lean on.”

MENA REGION

In 2017, WILPF worked with its partner organisations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to transform gendered power, stigmatise war and violence, and improve accountability in the multilateral system. We have supported our partners from Yemen and Libya to engage in a consistent and long-term advocacy strategy

to address women’s multidimensional insecurities in both countries. After conducting a gendered and comparative analysis on Libyan and Yemeni women’s peace and security experiences, challenges and concerns, WILPF and partners met with member states, diplomats and international stakeholders in Geneva and New York to advocate for the issues and recommendations raised in the analysis. The document served as a very important and informative tool for international advocacy as it constituted the basis of an open letter from women-led civil society organisations to the Special Envoy to Libya, and fed into a letter from civil society organisations in Yemen to numerous Member States for the establishment of an independent and international commission of inquiry on Yemen (see under Outcome 6).

Among our engagements at the national level, WILPF supports its implementing partners across MENA to undertake advocacy to pressure their governments to repeal or amend discriminatory provisions, and to put in place new laws that champion gender justice and increase women’s participation at all levels. In the summer of 2017, this led to the revocation of Article 522 in the Lebanese Penal Code, which granted impunity to rapists who married their victims. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, WILPF partners founded a platform, Women Leading Change, to support female candidates in the elections taking place in May 2018 and to put a greater pressure on the political parties to meaningfully include women candidates.

WILPF has also had significant impact supporting our partners in MENA to design and implement multi-pronged advocacy strategies to influence discourse in Member States’ recommendations at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Israel as well as the CEDAW Committee Members on the CEDAW review of Israel. Intensive advocacy by WILPF partners from Palestine through a UPR Summary Report, multiple advocacy trips to Geneva and numerous bilateral meetings with member states contributed to influencing the latter’s messaging at the UPR of Israel, as well as to shaping the discourse of many CEDAW Committee members.

SPOTLIGHT 6

IMPROVE MULTILATERAL ACTIONS

We support the multilateral system and demand accountability

WE REBELLED

In 2017, WILPF took a difficult decision to protest the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Due to the travel ban from the new US Administration, WILPF International decided for the first time to protest CSW in

solidarity with women from countries affected by the travel ban. We did so as a matter of principle. From our perspective, the decision of the US Administration made it impossible for the UN to fulfil its role to represent ‘We the People’ and to be true to its founding principles. Our protest had an impact: the issue of missing voices was raised by a broad cross section of civil society, and the UN Secretary General held a civil society briefing that included an empty chair bringing attention to this issue, which significantly raised the profile of obstacles to women’s participation at the UN.

As a response to the fast changing political events, WILPF organised a large Convening where women who were excluded from CSW could join. From 26 to 28 April, over 150 women’s rights and peace activists from 40 countries gathered in Geneva to discuss how to make the UN more inclusive and help it live up to the founding principles of its Charter. The whole event was live-streamed so that those interested in the event but unable to attend it could follow the discussion too; 13,800 viewers watched the opening session.

The exchange of experiences of women peace activists showed that the UN is best when it facilitates more and does less. Feedback from participants underlined the value and uniqueness of the space for them to speak among themselves as civil society activists and exchange across situations to find common cause and build cooperation on critical issues. WILPF has developed a shared consensus around what women’s meaningful participation looks like: it means local women speaking for themselves (not being spoken for) in a way that addresses women’s human rights and root causes of violence with impact.

A WILPF booklet with recommendations addressed to states and one with recommendations to UN agencies and programmes on how to ensure women’s meaningful participation in the UN system and a video with testimonies from some of the participants capture the outcomes of the Convening. WILPF drew from the findings of the Convening to respond to the High Commissioner’s call for inputs for a report on ‘Civil society in multilateral institutions’ that will be presented to the Human Rights Council in 2018. It highlighted arms proliferation, militarisation of society and austerity measures, among the factors that create obstacles to women civil society actors’ meaningful participation in decision-making and in multilateral processes and institutions and that, therefore, should be included in a more comprehensive definition of a ‘safe and enabling environment’.

The initiative for this Convening was just the start of a longer and enduring process, with a number of follow-up conversations and high-level discussions that came out of the convening, and should be seen as a WILPF initiative targeting our joint goal on strengthening the multilateral system. On the margins of the 17th Anniversary of UNSCR1325, WILPF undertook several initiatives, including in partnership with the Group of Friends of UNSCR1325 and the Group of Friends of Sustainable Peace, to leverage the role of local women’s expertise and gender analysis for the UN work on sustainable peace. Reporting back from the Convening, WILPF shared the voices of local experts on how to make the United Nations more inclusive and make women count within the UN system for lasting peace.

WILPF continued to actively promote an integrated approach that connects human rights, disarmament and gender to feminist peace and aims to ensure that the reality of conflict from a gender perspective is brought to the attention of decision-makers at multilateral forums, including policy drafters and UN Member States. Advocacy with human rights bodies on states’ extraterritorial obligations with regard to the human rights impacts of arms sales, companies’ transnational activities and international financial institutions’ actions continued to be an essential part of this approach. Since all outcomes in WILPF’s strategy are interlinked, work related to multilateral system is also captured in other outcomes.

2017 was a big year for WILPF’s work on improving multilateral actions. WILPF worked to rigorously monitor, report and analyse discussions and outcomes in various fora including: the Security Council; select meetings of the General Assembly; High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; and disarmament fora. Reported under Spotlight 2 was the landmark success of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. While WILPF’s advocacy around the process for a UN treaty on transnational corporations and other business enterprises is reported under Spotlight 3.

WILPF further organised side events and technical briefings for state representatives, UN officials and other relevant actors on issues in order to illustrate the linkages between the different parts of the UN system. For example, WILPF held a workshop entitled ‘Mobilising Movements for Feminist Peace: Co-Creating Gender Power Analysis Through Meaningful Participation’, and also open event on ‘Sustaining Feminist Peace: Preventing Conflict Through Women’s Meaningful Participation and Gender Justice’ with UN Secretary General Senior Policy Advisor Menendez and activists from Bosnia, Colombia, Libya and Nigeria.

In 2017, WILPF monitored 19 debates, 42 reports and 52 resolutions of the Security Council around Women Peace and Security (WPS) issues; maintained and updated our database of WPS National Action Plans (NAPs), which now includes 72 NAPs; and contributed to 12 Monthly Action Points (MAPs) with our coalition NGO Working Group on WPS.

STRATEGIC SUBMISSIONS

WILPF also supported women peacemakers from WILPF Sections and partner organisations to engage with the UN human rights system in order to ensure accountability and the implementation of states’ human rights obligations towards feminist peace. Such participation took the form of strategic submissions to the Universal Periodic Review, treaty bodies - notably the CEDAW Committee - the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), oral statements to the Human Rights Council, and targeted advocacy with key stakeholders on relevant initiatives from the Human Rights Council. Such engagement was underpinned by tailored training sessions and strategic advice to WILPF Sections and partners.

WILPF used the CEDAW Committee’s reviews of Germany and Italy and the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s review of the USA as opportunities to address these states’ extraterritorial obligations with regard to the human rights and gendered impacts of arms transfers. Representatives from WILPF Germany and WILPF Italy presented the concerns and recommendations in the report on Germany submitted jointly by WILPF and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, and in the WILPF report on Italy. The CEDAW Committee shared our concerns about the impact of arms proliferation on the rights and safety of women in importing countries and recommended to both Germany and Italy a more stringent regulation of arms transfers. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the USA apply a full prohibition of arms exports and military assistance to countries where children are known to be, or may potentially be, recruited in armed conflict or hostilities.

WILPF supported the Section’s engagement with the CEDAW Committee review of Nigeria. In coalition with eight other Nigerian grassroots organisations, WILPF Nigeria submitted a report that pays specific attention to Women, Peace and Security issues.

In 2017, the CEDAW Committee adopted General Recommendation No. 35 (GR35) on gender-based violence against women, updating its GR19. Reflecting WILPF recommendations, made in a submission in 2016, the CEDAW Committee explicitly recognises in GR35 that violent masculinities, political economies of war and proliferation of small arms and light weapons contribute to the explicit or implicit social acceptance of gender-based violence against women and the widespread impunity for it in all countries. The Committee also reminds states of their extraterritorial obligations, including in relation to regulation of corporations and arms transfers.

WILPF supported Yemeni organisations’ call for the Human Rights Council to establish an international investigative commission into human rights violations in Yemen since 2011. As a result of this advocacy, the Council resolution establishing the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen explicitly includes a request for the Group to integrate a gender perspective.

With the shrinking space for civil society, in all the fora we engaged, WILPF pushed for meaningful participation of civil society, particularly women civil society, which led to an increased number of civil society speakers to brief the UN Security Council in 2017.

“I was energised by the number of women who spoke as feminists – I found this encouraging. It was also really great to have so many women from conflict settings and having them together in one space where their voices could be heard... I particularly enjoyed hearing from the Youth and the women from Yemen, Syria and Iraq.”

- Participant, WILPF Convening, April 2017

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES:

WILPF’s monitoring and analysis of multilateral forums, as well as its advocacy and partnerships, contributed to strengthening transparency and accountability of the international community around global commitments on peace, justice and gender equality.

Our persistent advocacy on states’ extraterritorial obligations contributed to the increasing attention by UN human rights bodies on this issue, especially in relation to regulation of arms transfers. Moving forward, this work will enable challenging the existing silos in the system for transformative and holistic action for feminist peace.

We influenced a number of processes, demanding that women participate fully to widen civil society engagement at the local and global levels.

WILPF IN THE WORLD (2017)

SECTIONS & GROUPS

33 national sections and seven national groups Partnerships and initiatives in eight countries:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| - WILPF Afghanistan Group | - WILPF Costa Rica | - WILPF Kenya Group | - WILPF Philippines |
| - WILPF Albania | - WILPF Denmark | - WILPF Lebanon | - WILPF Polynesia |
| - WILPF Aotearoa/New Zealand | - WILPF DRC | - WILPF Mexico | - WILPF Spain |
| - WILPF Australia | - WILPF Finland | - WILPF Nepal | - WILPF Sweden |
| - WILPF Bolivia | - WILPF France | - WILPF Netherlands | - WILPF Switzerland |
| - WILPF Burundi Group | - WILPF Germany | - WILPF Nicaragua Group | - WILPF Uganda Group |
| - WILPF Cameroon | - WILPF Ghana | - WILPF Nigeria | - WILPF UK |
| - WILPF Canada | - WILPF India | - WILPF Norway | - WILPF USA |
| - WILPF Chad Group | - WILPF Israel | - WILPF Pakistan | - WILPF Zimbabwe Group |
| - WILPF Colombia | - WILPF Italy | - WILPF Palestine | |
| | - WILPF Japan | | |

PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| - Bosnia | - Libya | - Ukraine |
| - Egypt | - Morocco | - Yemen |
| - Iraq | - Syria | |

“The global movement of feminism has a vision; it’s an old one, but even more valid in our current state of the world: equality and an end to violence. It’s a jigsaw as to how we get there. Each of us has to bring our pieces to the table and look up to see how they fit to build that vision into reality.”

- Madeleine Rees, Secretary General

IN THE AMERICAS

CANADA

WILPF Canada expanded its activism around nuclear disarmament by supporting WILPF International's campaign on banning nuclear weapons. Part of this effort consisted in organising a letter writing session for asking the Canadian government to vote for nuclear disarmament.

USA

Only a few steps from Jane Addams's Hull House, WILPF US celebrated its 33rd Triennial Congress on the University of Chicago Illinois campus between 27-30 July 2017. 90 members came together under the banner: RISE UP!: Women Organizing for Action to Remember, Reclaim & Reimagine.

MEXICO

WILPF Mexico focused on academic events aimed at sensitising the academic community, civil society organisations, and the media about women's rights, gender equality and peace culture.

COSTA RICA

WILPF Costa Rica organised a series of activities across the country to mark both the International Peace Day in September and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in November. During the latter, they participated in a 2-day fair against violence using WILPF materials including a poster of children in peace and in war, and banners against violence and bullying. They also led a workshop on peace education using colouring books created by members of the Section.

NICARAGUA GROUP

Established in 2015, WILPF Nicaragua Group has since worked on building more knowledge of women peace and security issues within their community and bolstering women's organising for peace.

COLOMBIA

WILPF Colombia launched an initiative called "Women Coffee Farmers build peace in three regions affected by conflict in Colombia" where women coffee farmers are being trained as Fair Trade entrepreneurs and are taught about Colombian legislation and how to defend and exercise their rights.

BOLIVIA

WILPF Bolivia engaged in different outreach activities, like organising seminars and conferences on women's rights. In particular, they continued their activities with women affected by domestic violence.

IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE-EAST

GHANA

WILPF Ghana organised a two-day training programme and a one day workshop under the theme "Enhancing WILPF end violence against women and girls campaign". This capacity building and resource mobilisation aimed at training WILPF activists in the strategic planning and implementation of the campaign. The initiative took place in Accra from 10 to 12 November 2017.

DRC (DEM. REP. OF THE CONGO)

In December 2017, WILPF DRC celebrated ten years since it officially became part of the WILPF family. To mark the occasion, between 4-6 December 2017 WILPF DRC brought together women peacemakers for a conference titled '10 years of consolidation of peace in DRC by women, for women and for all', alongside hosting the second WILPF African Regional Meeting of the year.

NIGERIA

WILPF Nigeria worked actively on the implementation of the revised National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and related resolutions in Nigeria.

CAMEROUN

WILPF Cameroon proudly participated in the official publication of Cameroon's National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. WILPF Cameroon has been a key contributor to the process and is working so that the implementation will substantially increase women's participation in peace processes in Cameroon.

BURUNDI GROUP

WILPF Burundi Group joined the WILPF family in May 2017. The group has emerged from the gathering of strong and motivated women united by the common aim of improving women's situation in Burundi. Their objective is that of contributing to positive change in the country towards peace and stability.

CHAD GROUP

WILPF Chad Group worked to increase the participation of its members in the work of the Group and strengthen the in-country network on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. More specifically, they organised a training with 25 women to create an advocacy strategy to deepen the engagement towards a National Action Plan (NAP).

KENYA GROUP

WILPF Kenya Group is the latest National Group to have officially joined the WILPF family, after being active for a couple of years. They envision a country free from violence and armed conflict, where human rights are protected and women and men are equally empowered and involved in positions of leadership at the local and national levels. The Group sees the WILPF approach to peace as an important tool that could be used in pursuit of long lasting peace in Kenya.

LEBANON

WILPF Lebanon celebrated the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament by meeting with United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) troops and personnel and discussing security and stability in the South of Lebanon.

ZIMBABWE GROUP

WILPF Zimbabwe Group had a successful dialogue with traditional and political leaders in which they made them realise the importance of women participation in all spheres of life. In the planning, development and implementation of the dialogue, women were at the forefront of the project and focused on how communities can build peace starting from household level.

UGANDA GROUP

WILPF Uganda Group worked to mobilise and sensitise grassroot women in the war-torn area of Luwero Triangle, Uganda. The activities aimed at strengthening the Group's in-country presence, building visibility within the community, and enabling women to increase their participation and realise their roles in promoting peace and freedom.

ISRAEL

Approved at WILPF's 2015 Congress, WILPF Israel worked to establish its presence in the country and conducted advocacy activities to disseminate information and recruit more members.

PALESTINE

WILPF Palestine participated in the launching of the international campaign to combat violence against Palestinian women. The campaign calls on the international community and international missions to stand up

against the violations committed against women in Jerusalem in particular and in Palestine in general through the follow-up to the United Nations resolutions on ending the occupation and recognition of the Palestinian state.

IN EUROPE

ITALY

WILPF Italy engaged in numerous activities that spanned from the participation in the implementation of Italy's third National Action Plan (2016-2019) to a project for welcoming refugees and asylum seekers in the municipality of Rome. Their work on nuclear disarmament peaked in the initiative "Women's caravan for nuclear disarmament" (19 Nov. and 10 Dec.) during which activists gathered in various Italian cities to discuss and collect signatures to request the Italian government to sign and ratify the Treaty banning nuclear weapons.

UNITED KINGDOM

WILPF UK held their yearly seminar under the theme Voices of Refugee Women. Its aim was to raise awareness and show solidarity with refugee women. Throughout the day participants heard from refugee women themselves, women who work with them and held group discussions and workshops.

GERMANY

WILPF Germany gathered peace activists and young feminists to the 'Rebels Against War - Anita Augspurg Award' ceremony in Verden, Germany. The weekend featured insightful talks and discussions, as well as the screening of the film 'Syria's Rebellious Women', directed by Zaina Erhaim who received the Anita Augspurg Award for her brilliant activism and feminist work.

NORWAY

WILPF Norway established cooperation initiatives with environmental organisations with a focus on militarism and the environment.

DENMARK

WILPF Denmark worked with refugees and the government to locally implement UNSCR 1325 in an effort to improve the living conditions of asylum seekers in the country. The Section hopes to ameliorate the condition for the women and children that have been placed in camps after their asylum requests have been rejected.

NETHERLANDS

WILPF Netherlands focused on bringing its members together to discuss urgent matters like refugees policies in the Netherlands and Europe, the TTIP agreement, nuclear disarmament and arms trade, as well as how to scrutinise the Dutch presidency of the UNSC (March 2018). These meetings introduced members to concrete actions for growing as peace advocates (eg. letters writing to members of the Parliament, working in coalition with like-minded organisations).

SPAIN

WILPF Spain's exhibition "WILPF 100 years of history" circulated widely in many Spanish cities. The exhibition was often coupled with a seminar, which has allowed an important number of women to get to know WILPF better.

FRANCE

WILPF France launched a petition that calls the French President to sign the Treaty and renounce the omnipotence given by the nuclear arsenal in its possession in order to build a truly peaceful and secure world.

FINLAND

WILPF Finland strengthened its cooperation with immigrant women. In this context, WILPF Finland's board member Bahar Mozaffari was selected the Refugee Woman of the Year by the Finnish Refugee Council for her commitment to women's rights and gender equality through integration training.

SWEDEN

WILPF Sweden focused largely on the negotiations leading up to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017. The Section actively lobbied the Swedish government before, during and after the negotiations in New York and has been an active voice in the public debate on nuclear weapons urging Sweden to sign the treaty.

ALBANIA

WILPF Albania organised activities in collaboration with other associations, particularly with youth organisations. They organised visits in rural areas with community women in order to discuss gender equality issues and present the work of WILPF.

SWITZERLAND

WILPF Switzerland took part in a Conference commemorating the Stockholm Socialist Peace Congress of September 1917. This concluded the series of events in Berne and Zurich exploring the role played by women in stopping the First World War and the militarisation of Europe. The Swiss Section participated in all the events and was able to point out the root causes of war while explaining the important role played by WILPF.

IN SOUTH ASIA AND ASIA PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN GROUP

WILPF Afghanistan Group focused on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and SDGs in collaboration with community and religious leaders through the mobilisation of 600 Afghan women and men from different walks of life to promote women's role in peace and development and the coordination of advocacy meetings for the inclusion of gender and women's rights perspectives within the peace process in Afghanistan.

INDIA

With a constant focus on women and peace, in 2017 the three branches of WILPF India (Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi) conducted awareness programmes with other organisations working to promote gender equality and strengthen women's participation, protection and rights.

PHILIPPINES

At the end of 2017 WILPF Philippines organised a leadership skills training for community women towards strengthening WILPF and its advocacy work on the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular gender equality and sustainable peace. As part of the initiative they also mobilised support for women and children victims of the martial rule in Mindanao.

AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

WILPF Aotearoa (New Zealand), in cooperation with Devonport Peace Group, organised a photography exhibition in Auckland on the history of peace activism to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament & Arms Control Act (1987).

PAKISTAN

WILPF Pakistan worked on increasing its membership and organised a session on women and peace issues with local women. They also did outreach activities and organised vigils to raise awareness on human rights.

NEPAL

WILPF Nepal conducted programmes on human rights including the elimination of discrimination against women. They worked on improving the condition of women in Nepal by visiting rural areas and meeting with community women.

JAPAN

WILPF Japan made a classroom visit of preschool children in East Hiroshima, visited Hiroshima Peace park and heard stories of a nuclear bomb survivor on the day when ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

AUSTRALIA

As founder of the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women Peace & Security (WPS), WILPF Australia has been a member of the group coordinating a series of community engagements roundtables in all capital cities as precursor to formal community consultations on the development of the next stage of the Australian National Action Plan on WPS. The roundtables were followed by a formal Policy Dialogue with government.

POLYNESIA

WILPF Polynesia was engaged in advocacy activities at the local level, in particular by working alongside other organisations in raising the call for the remediation of contamination and health monitoring and rehabilitation of nuclear test sites in the atolls of Mururoa and Fangataufa.

COSTA RICA SPEAKS

INSPIRATION

WILPF Costa Rica finds their inspiration in *“the principles of the organisation as established in the first resolutions in 1915”* and is committed to international solidarity both implicit in WILPF’s international programmes and demonstrated by its members. *“Our members really like being part of a peace movement that takes actions both in national and international campaigns”* explains WILPF Costa Rica. *“We sense it is a feeling shared by many members, that being part of our section comes from the conviction of the need of continued work for peace.”* An important aspect to peacebuilding, they say, is *“to keep trying and contributing as best as one can”*.

CURRENT FOCUS

The Section’s main focus is on education for peace. *“Most of our active members are retired”* they explain, but previously *“we also had more younger elements with no family or job responsibility demanding much of their time. Each member gives what she/he can to the organization and apart from that we are receiving very little external support”*.

WILPF: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

WILPF Costa Rica is currently working on multi-level campaigns: *“Nationally, we are networking with other NGOs as well as parliamentarians, journalists and sometimes with diplomatic missions. Internationally, we are mostly in contact with WILPF Secretariat but also occasionally with Costa Rican diplomats... through letters or communiques and, if needed, with demonstrations”*. The Section is hard-pressed to *“hire professional staff and [access] Spanish specialised literature to share relevant matters with our members. Translating English texts is often a hard task for us”*.

ZIMBABWE SPEAKS

INSPIRATION

WILPF's founding history and its commitment to *“women becoming active participants in peace building and reconciliation have greatly inspired us”* explains WILPF Zimbabwe. *“As women, we are all directly affected by violence. But, combining our voices aloud is really a major breakthrough.”* The Group's peacebuilding efforts begin at the household level, *“extending then to our community by giving access to women to reproductive health education by enabling partnerships with specialists from the health sector.”* Working with vulnerable women affected with social challenges *“motivates us so much to give hope to oppressed women and to bring positive energies within our communities”*.

CURRENT FOCUS

WILPF Zimbabwe faces funding and logistical roadblocks (transportation and no physical office) in their work to *“reach out to the most neglected communities [and] to make ourselves readily available for most women who need our help.”* So far, the Ministry of women's affairs and the Ministries of social welfare or youth *“have pledged to support our programmes and give us assistance whenever... possible.”*

WILPF: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

The Group has taken part in projects like the doll-making project *“that tackles and aims to solve key issues such as gender and domestic based violence.”*

“Externally, we are in touch with WILPF Secretariat, WILPF Sweden that has supported our setting up and the African regional group.” WILPF Zimbabwe's new Facebook page allows them to be connect with new people and organisations.

GHANA SPEAKS

INSPIRATION

WILPF Ghana *“is inspired by the need to develop a greater sense of universal responsibility... and the idea that a deep truth inside empowers us to act, to stand up for what we believe in and to be of service around social issues”*.

“Educating all and especially children for peace and non-violence is an important aspect of building a culture of peace” as is *“recognising the crucial role of education... to understanding and tolerance within the community, helping to build a future and making the world a more peaceful one”*.

CURRENT FOCUS

WILPF Ghana's main objectives include the WPS agenda, *“empowerment as well as serving as forums for dialogue and sustained engagement”*. *“The menace of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in Ghana, their proliferation has fuelled violence, chieftaincy and land disputes in various parts of the country. By influencing policies, legislations and government service... [and] policy making is another main aspect of our actions”*.

WILPF: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

WILPF Ghana's have the greatest need for *“Funds and support, inclusiveness and involvement in WILPF activities to motivate, inspire and create a sense of belonging”*. In the approaching year they *“are looking forward to hosting the 2018's international Congress in Accra. It is a great chance to connect with the worldwide grassroots movement”*.

The Section *“partners with the Women Peace and Security Institute of Kofi Annan International Peace Training Center through Women Peace and Security Institute Communications Network (WPSI- COMMNET).”*

PAKISTAN SPEAKS

INSPIRATION

Since 1992, WILPF Pakistan *“has been working in the area of women peace and security as a researcher, trainer, resource and activist section.”* The Section finds that as a whole, *“WILPF is a good platform to share and learn from each other. The challenges faced by us today in Pakistan keep us on the move as we coalesce to advocate for burning issues related to women. Due to the current situation in our country, we are feeling motivated by the few members available for meetings and events, though they are indeed few”*.

CURRENT FOCUS

“Some of the difficulties that we are dealing with” says WILPF Pakistan, are *“the lack of access to resources”* and the fact that the Section *“as a network is not a registered body in our country”*. This has proven to be a *“challenging situation for Women Human Rights Defenders and Peace activists. Everyone at WILPF Pakistan is trying to advocate the broader aspects of WILPF's work with the various civil society groups in our individual capacity. Sadly, no women or external groups to our section have yet benefited from the result of our work”*.

WILPF: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Recently, the Section has developed a brochure, which aids their communications outreach, *“focused on inviting people to our monthly meetings”*. The Section says that *“locally speaking, we have only been communicating with government agencies so far”* and importantly, *“funding is one of the main aspect that would be needed to make us an effective platform”*. WILPF Pakistan explains that *“our collective commitment to the cause of women peace and security agenda is our energizer”*.

PALESTINE SPEAKS

INSPIRATION

“To be a member of WILPF is of great importance, and takes courage as well as awareness” says WILPF Palestine. The Section's activities *“leads to society's recognition and confidence at the public and official levels. This gives more energy to our members and facilitates their participation in peacekeeping and State building”*. The Section has and continues to play a significant role at the Palestine National Council, in municipalities and with the UN's resolution 1325 and other initiatives. Active members advocate for the organisation's work by submitting reports, statements, speeches and holding workshops. The Section has received merit medals and honours from local groups.

CURRENT FOCUS

“As you can imagine, we work in unsettled situations that put us under emergency” explains WILPF Palestine. Currently they are operating “inside the battle and the struggle of the occupied population of Palestine”. Because their members in the West Bank are prohibited from entering Jerusalem, the Section must meet in different cities in Palestine each time. “You must be aware that with all the difficulties we face, such as closures, checkpoints or forcible evictions, it is hard. But we always find ways to challenge and overcome them”.

WILPF: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

WILPF Palestine communicates with local organisations dealing with similar issues and internationally with groups on a variety of subjects like “peace education and literature”. The Section uses email, Skype and teleconferences to enhance communication at monthly meetings and with international organisations such as the Red Crescent and the UN.

PHILIPPINES SPEAKS

INSPIRATION

“The basic principles” inspiring WILPF Philippine are “the abolition of war, the pursuit of a just and lasting peace and the advancement of sustainable development... The integration of women’s concerns in this pursuit with shared principles, goals, strategies and programmes help us a lot. Our organisation’s feminist and grassroots perspective provides a great framework to linking local issues to international development”.

CURRENT FOCUS

“The present political situation under Duterte’s administration calls for our critical engagement”, explains the Section. “We oppose the policies that endanger the rights and welfare of our population and especially women, as we support those that seek to protect and promote justice, peace and sustainable development.

The Section needs to recruit new and young members, though “this is difficult as they are [focused] on graduation or career building”. However, “the fact that our section is connected to global WILPF makes the organisation interesting, especially to students”.

WILPF: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Locally the Section communicates with other human rights organisations and government units. It has regular contact through “brochures and primers, position papers, action alerts, policy advocacy and linkages” with “representatives and senators, educators at the Department of Education, personalities in the religious sector and representatives from the embassies based in the country.” Internationally, WILPF Philippines communicates with AWID, AWAG, UN DESA, ICAN, IPB and WILPF International.

SPAIN SPEAKS

INSPIRATION

“Mainly two things” inspire WILPF Spain. First, “working together with the women from the section. Feeling that we share a desire for a peaceful feminist world and striving to achieve it inspires us to keep working”. Second, “and equally important, is feeling part of a global organisation doing a lot of international work and sharing a common effort with women across the world”.

“What allows us to keep working is our political and feminist commitment with the organisation and, very importantly, the personal relationship among the members of the Section. We are very careful to preserve this personal bond among the members and we try to take care of the different rhythms, vital moments, etc. of everyone, so that being a member of WILPF is not a burden”.

CURRENT FOCUS

“Our section works quite actively to implement the programme, develop work on WPS and UNSCR1325, disarmament, human rights and the history of our organisation. Members are always willing to contribute, though with different degrees of commitment and involvement”.

WILPF: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

“Personal relationships are fundamental to our Section” and “feeling part of a powerful transnational network of feminist women working for peace is a very important driving force”. The Section works with other Spanish CSOs and is in touch with other Sections like Colombia and The Netherlands. They participate in seminars and conferences, and write press articles. They also have “an exhibition explaining WILPF 100 years history that has been displayed in several Spanish cities”.

SWEDEN SPEAKS

INSPIRATION

“The dream of another world and the opportunity to find like-minded has truly inspired us” explains WILPF Sweden. “It was the feminist perspective that first brought our section to WILPF and made this organisation our natural choice. We have always felt that WILPF somewhat has the solution to the world’s problems, and that’s a very comforting feeling”. A challenge the Section faces is to assign “concrete activities” to members who “want to take on tasks, but they don’t really know what to do”. It is most constructive, says WILPF Sweden, when members “speak actively about WILPF” in their spheres.

CURRENT FOCUS

“As a member of WILPF Sweden you can be either active or passive and we need both categories” says the Section. Active members, usually branch members, are “quite independent in what kind of activities they undertake” but always with “support from the office if they need”. They think they “will get more members with activities/working groups like this, not be just one of these organisations who sit on complaining about the situation in the world”.

WILPF: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

“The local branches have many different partners, ranging from educational associations to other peace organisations,” says the Section. Nationally, they collaborate with groups depending on the focus, and internationally with groups like ICAN, IPPNW, the Red Cross and other peace organisations. The Section says “We also do our best to support various Sections worldwide with our expertise on communication, for instance”.

Externally, the Section *“liaises with media, our followers on social media, politicians, governmental agencies and other organisations”*.

OPERATIONAL REPORTING

HUMAN RESOURCES

WILPF International Secretariat has two offices in Geneva and New York with four programmes: Women, Peace and Security (PeaceWomen); Disarmament (Reaching Critical Will); Human Rights and Crisis Response. WILPF continues to strengthen its staff team. In 2017, WILPF employed 11 employees / 10.1 full time employees (excluding interns) in Geneva and 5 employees (excluding interns) in New York. Thanks to the continuous support of our members, partners and donors, the Secretariat was able to add new associate positions during the year. WILPF International Secretariat staff includes a very committed team with dedicated competencies and expertise in across our four programmes, and in the areas of finance, operations, communications led by WILPF Secretary General. WILPF also hired consultants in a number of areas to support the implementation of the Strategy and shortterm staff for specific projects such as the organisation of 2017 Convening. In 2017, WILPF has continued to work on the review of its Personnel Policy and has developed new procedures related to staff development and recognition, pay approaches and the development of new policies as to match the new challenges triggered by our organisation’s continuous growth.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL)

In WILPF, we use MEL to support the work and tell the story of implementation. 2017 was a year of testing MEL in practice alongside year one of implementation. We tracked implementation by: (1) measuring results and impact related to TOC; (2) learning from both positive and negative experience to test, refine and improve TOC; and (3) building the evidence base for processes of change and transformation within the TOC - what works well, what works less well, and how change or impact was achieved. The WILPF Approach to MEL is set out in the MEL Framework.

WILPF has put in place solid foundations for MEL since the 2016 external evaluation and strategic planning processes. WILPF has implemented the vast majority of the 2016 evaluation recommendations. The MEL resource base includes: Results Framework 2017-2019 with outcome indicators; case studies and internal reviews; learning forums/events/meetings; internal reports and documentation; activity tracking; external evaluations; and other learning tools (audio-visual documentation, interviews, feedback, surveys).

For example, we held an internal learning session on the Convening which yielded important lessons for WILPF internally on how we can improve management and delivery of time-pressed, opportunistic and catalytic activities and mitigate risks of strain on the organisation or relations with stakeholders and suppliers.

The coordinator group and external advisers have worked with the Director of Global Programmes to make the ongoing adoption and embedding of the MEL work. Challenges have included balancing the implementation and work with MEL and verifying the outcome level indicators.

RISK MANAGEMENT

WILPF’s capacity to manage risks has been further developed in 2017. WILPF developed the formal processes to manage risk, recognising the specific macro risks and challenges that affect our ability to operate, including risks to our people, reputation, finances and operations, and also liability to others and risks to property in 2016. The Standing Committee on Risk Management met four times in 2017. Work of the Committee includes reviewing and updating the Risk Registry.

The risks to Section and members continue to be of concern for WILPF. In 2017, the Security Protocol was distributed to Sections and Groups to enable Sections to identify the risks their members are facing in being visible in their communities working for peace. Furthermore, the Security Protocol is a way to illuminate how different aspects of security are interlinked and connected, and how physical, digital and psychological security issues affect the safety and well-being of the brilliant activists in WILPF.

An open webinar and toolkit were made available to all. An expert consultant and a special training session was held in May 2017 for WILPF with women activists. There was a focus on psychological health and the threat of stress-related sickness. The group shared experiences on the topic and agreed that it is a great risk when working with peace issues.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The total combined income for WILPF International Secretariat in Geneva and WILPF UNO Inc. in 2017 was approximately CHF 2.9 million, (deducting transfers between offices). The income of WILPF has shown a steady growth since 2011, with the trend of the last 5 years shown in the income trend graph.

INCOME/REVENUE SUMMARY: CHF 2'245'778 for Geneva Office • USD 951'674 for New York Office

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY: CHF 2'093'883 for Geneva Office • USD 722,341 for New York Office

The majority of these funds are from governments and private foundations. Other income sources are the United Nations, partners and major donors, private donations, membership contributions, merchandising, bequests & legacies, and miscellaneous income sources. Fundraising and donations are accepted in line with WILPF Ethical Fundraising Policy. WILPF International Secretariat in Geneva and WILPF UNO Inc. in New York are two different legal entities that share implementation efforts. WILPF UNO Inc. is therefore the sub-grantee receiving the funds from the WILPF International Secretariat.

WILPF resources extend beyond WILPF's financial resources. This includes financial and human resources, including significant voluntary and in-kind contributions. Budgets and resources for work financially managed through our Sections and partners are not reflected in full in the WILPF International Secretariat Budget.

WILPF has a Finance Management Manual, which is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the continuing process of strengthening internal controls and systems. WILPF will continue to implement and develop effective fundraising and financial systems.

WILPF International Secretariat Geneva expenditure in 2017 was CHF 2'093'883. The use of funds is shown in the graph below (graph 3). WILPF's Crisis Response programme was WILPF's biggest programme in 2017. The programme had a special focus on the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) countries.

WILPF International Secretariat continued its support towards its Sections and partners, via its regional work and implementation with Sections and through programme activities. This includes support to focus countries.

Audited financial statements for Geneva and New York (UNO) are available on mywilpf (members access only) or upon request.

SOURCES OF FUNDS IN 2017 - INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT GENEVA

- Government: 1 195 338 CHF
- UN: 26 983 CHF
- Foundations: 924 364 CHF

- Membership/Sections: 83 370 CHF
- Other incomes/sales: 10 222 CHF
- TOTAL: 2 245 778 CHF

USE OF FUNDS IN 2017 - INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT GENEVA

- WILPF Secretariat, Governance, Management and MEL: 23%
- Core Admin: 4%
- Core Communication and Membership: 6%
- Crisis Response programme: 42%
- Movement building (grants and support to Sections): 9%
- RCW programme: 4%
- HR programme: 6%
- WILPF Convening (Reclaiming the UN): 5%
- TOTAL: 2 093 883 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDS IN 2017 - NEW-YORK OFFICE

- Government: 299 211 USD
- Foundations: 230 112 USD
- PARTNERS/MAJOR DONORS: 271 751 USD
- Other incomes: 140 599 USD
- TOTAL: 951 674 USD

USE OF FUNDS IN 2017 - NEW-YORK OFFICE

- UNO Admin: 13%
- Programme Management: 8%
- PeaceWomen: 41%
- RCW: 38%
- TOTAL: 722 341 USD

CREDITS

- Texts written by WILPF International with the supportive contribution of Anna Brown
- Graphic layouts by Nadia Joubert and WILPF Secretariat
- Infographic designs by Dima Boukhary (Theory of Change - page 5) and WILPF Secretariat (all others)
- Illustrations by Aleksandra Kochergina
- Pictures by WILPF International and Sections except when specified

THANK YOU

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals around the world who have volunteered and dedicated their time to contribute to the success of WILPF in 2017. We appreciate the energy and dedication you put into the cause; without you the peace movement would not be the same.

WILPF International would also like to send a warm thanks to WILPF members for your continuous support and generosity. We also appreciate WILPF donors for your partnership and support. Every day, your contributions help prevent war and conflict as we strive to make a world that is peaceful and worth living in for ours and future generations.

We would also like to thank our interns and fellows who join us at our offices in Geneva and New York. You bring new perspectives and energy to the movement, and your hard work is greatly appreciated.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a worldwide non-governmental organisation (NGO) with national Sections covering every continent, an International Secretariat based in Geneva, and an office in New York focused on the work of the United Nations (UN).

Since our establishment, we have brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace. Our approach is always non-violent, and we use existing international legal and political frameworks to achieve fundamental change in the way states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security.

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