Women in the Peace Process -- Determining Direction

The widespread conflicts and wars today are taking their toll on people around the world, however, the impacts are not proportionate. Women are amongst the most affected in war time and despite the adoption of resolution 1325 by the UN Security Council in 2000, the role of women in prevention and resolution of conflict remains meager.

The resolution demands involvement of women in the prevention of conflicts, negotiations and mediation, peace-building and keeping, through their increased political participation. It also demands member states to take necessary political measures to ensure women sensitive response to prevent the severe atrocities levied upon them during wars. Although there has been an increase in the political participation of women around the world, their meaningful contribution to the process of peace-building is not as significant. Hence, there is a need to decipher whether the increased number of politically active women alone is an indicator of women’s increased say in the peace process or are we missing something more profound? The proposed panel shall look into the following questions:

1. What kind of social, political and economic development is necessary to ensure women are involved in the peace process?
2. Is political participation enough or is there a need to work beyond the increase in absolute numbers?
3. What kind of capacity development is necessary for strengthening the role of women in the peace process?
4. What kind of National Action Plan and institutional arrangement is required both at national and regional level to realise the UN Security Council Resolution 1325?

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