

A KEY ALLIANCE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	The Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks
7	Where the Global Alliance works
8	2021 by the numbers: The truly global reach of the Regional Women Mediator Networks
17	Meet the Regional Women Mediators and their powerful stories
18	Synergies and experience sharing: Highlights of the First Annual Event of the Global Alliance
21	What is added value of Regional Women Mediator Networks?
26	Stories of women mediators: Their contribution to mediation and peacebuilding
46	Looking ahead: The next 20 years of the Global Alliance



THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE
OF REGIONAL WOMEN
MEDIATOR NETWORKS

The Global Alliance brings together six networks: Nordic Women Mediators (NWM), African Network of Women in Conflict Prevention and Peace Mediation (FemWise-Africa), Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN), Women Mediators across the Commonwealth (WMC), Arab Women Mediators Network (AWMN) and the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators (SEANWPNM).

The Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks is a collective of voices demanding policy- and decision-makers to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions, and create meaningful spaces for women to influence global peace and security.

Its establishment in 2019 has offered a historic opportunity to create an inclusive space for connection and experience sharing between Regional Women Mediator Networks and to identify women's common aspiration and commitment to participate in and lead peace processes.

The Global Alliance acts on the fundamental premise that women's participation in peace processes and influence in peace and security is decisive, not only to ensure respect for women's rights, but to pave the way for inclusive societies that improve operational effectiveness, build resilience, prevent and resolve conflicts and sustain peace.



The launch of the Global Alliance in New York during the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.

THE MISSION

6

The overarching goal of all Regional Networks is to increase the participation and influence of women, including young women, in peace processes at all levels, as well as to work for gender-sensitive peace agreements. In line with this, the networks of the Global Alliance seek to reach this goal by:

1

Sharing information, building synergies and avoiding duplication.

2

Creating a platform for mutual support between the networks.

3

Engaging in joint advocacy and outreach where relevant.

4

Developing joint actions to enhance women's participation and influence in peace processes at all levels: local, national, regional and international, and in all phases.

5

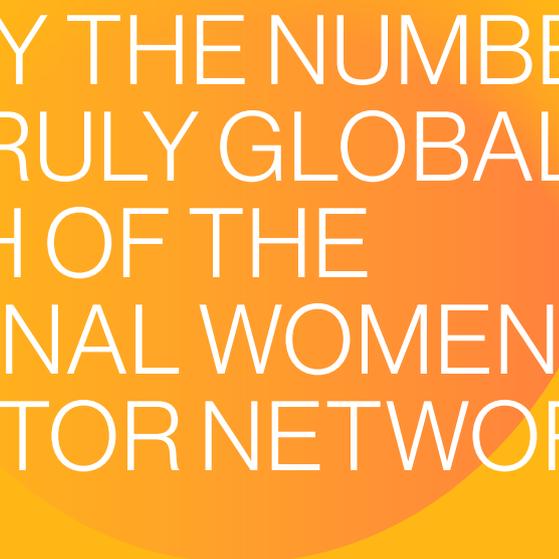
Implementing joint actions to secure better gender outcomes in peace agreements and implementation frameworks.

6

Working and liaising with international mediation actors to ensure that women's involvement in peace processes is given priority, providing names for senior mediation positions, connecting track 2 and 3 initiatives to the track 1 level, and more.

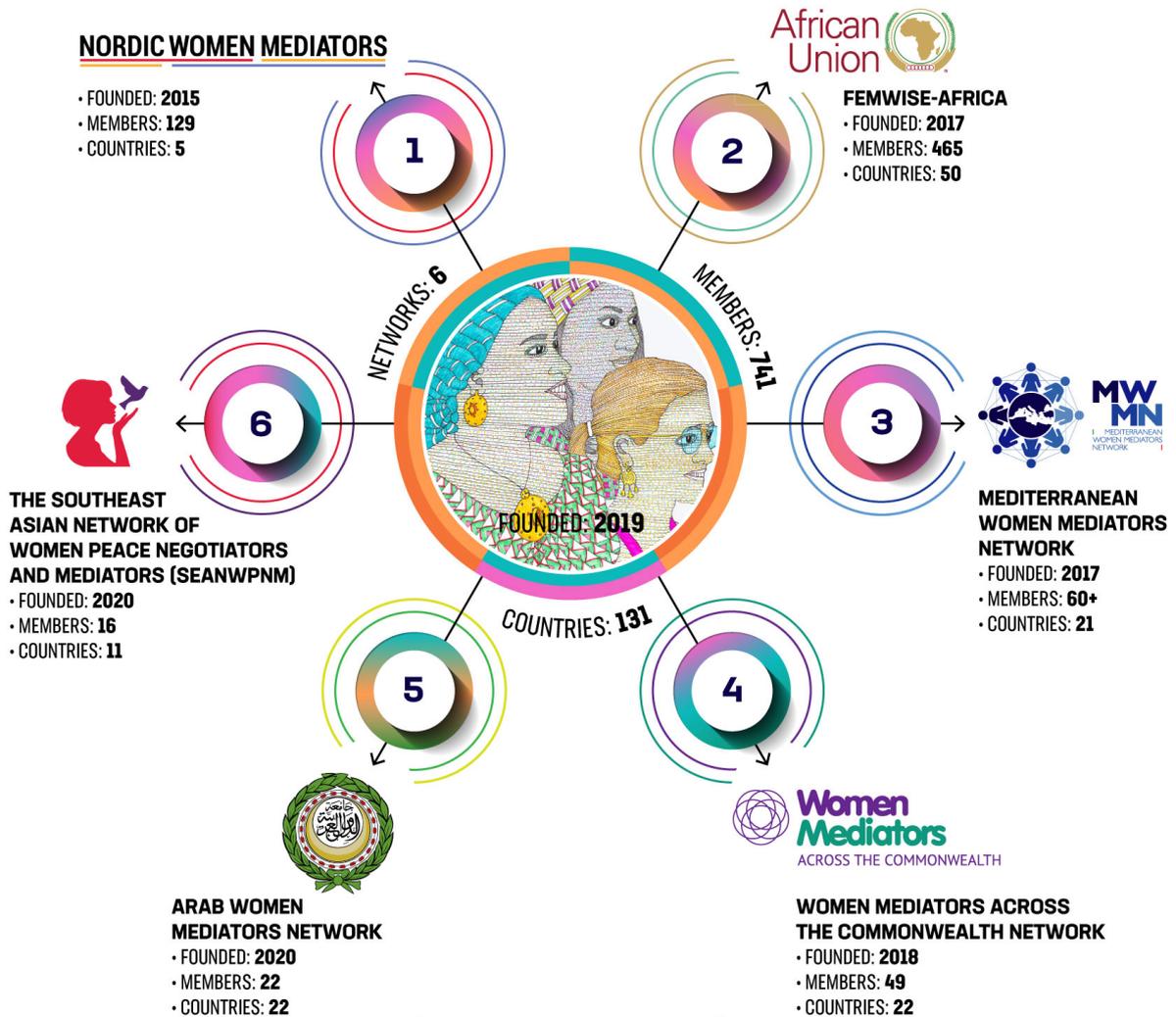


WHERE THE GLOBAL
ALLIANCE WORKS



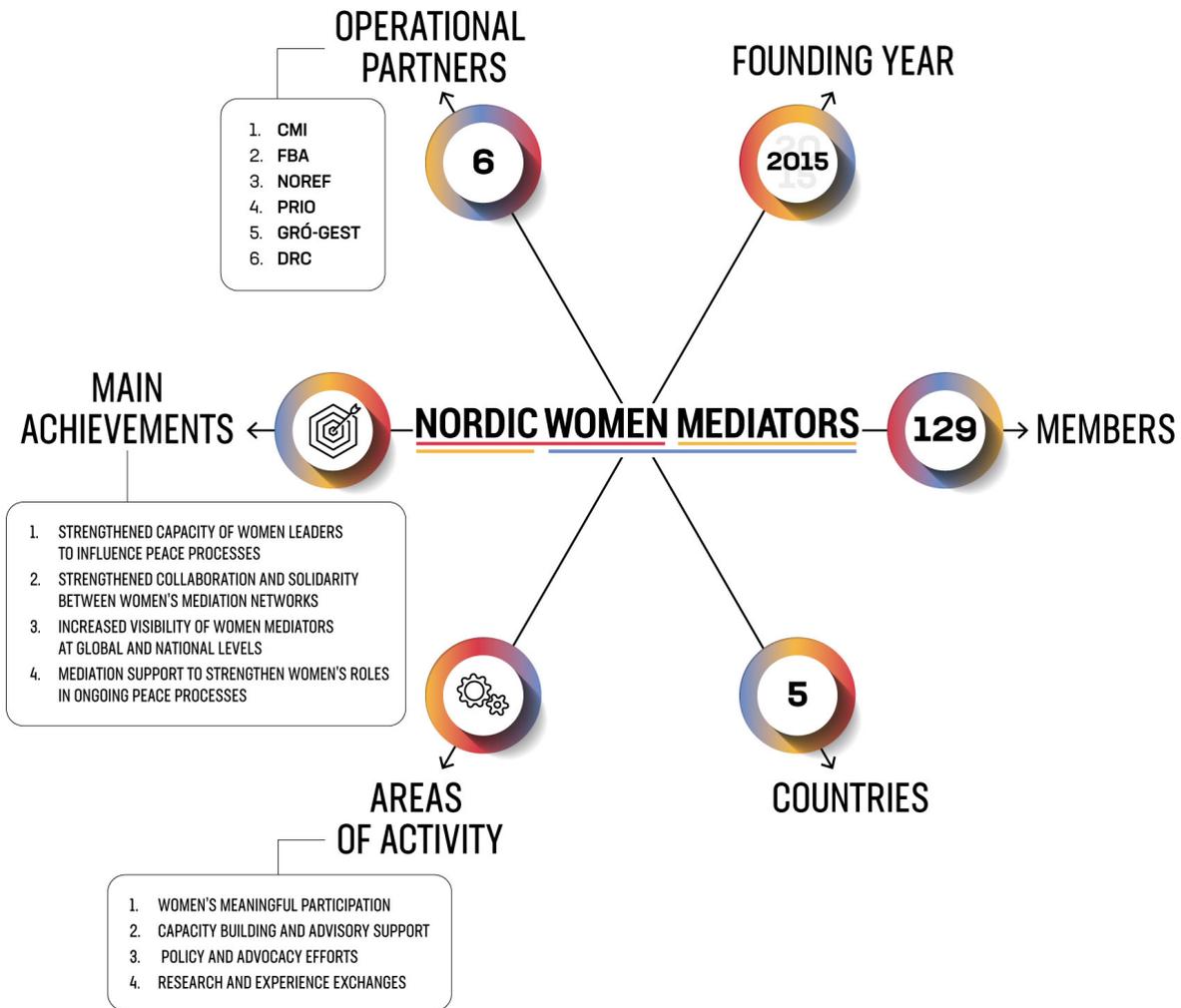
2021 BY THE NUMBERS:
THE TRULY GLOBAL
REACH OF THE
REGIONAL WOMEN
MEDIATOR NETWORKS

The Global Alliance has an important global reach across the world in the field of mediation, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The Global Alliance brings together women mediators with experience in mediating conflict at all levels, with the aim to push for women's full and meaningful participation in peace processes around the world, both at the main negotiating table as mediators or negotiators, and as part of consultation mechanisms and of longer-term peacebuilding processes. Network members have also worked with women peace leaders from countries across the world to strengthen their role and influence in relevant peace- and state-building.



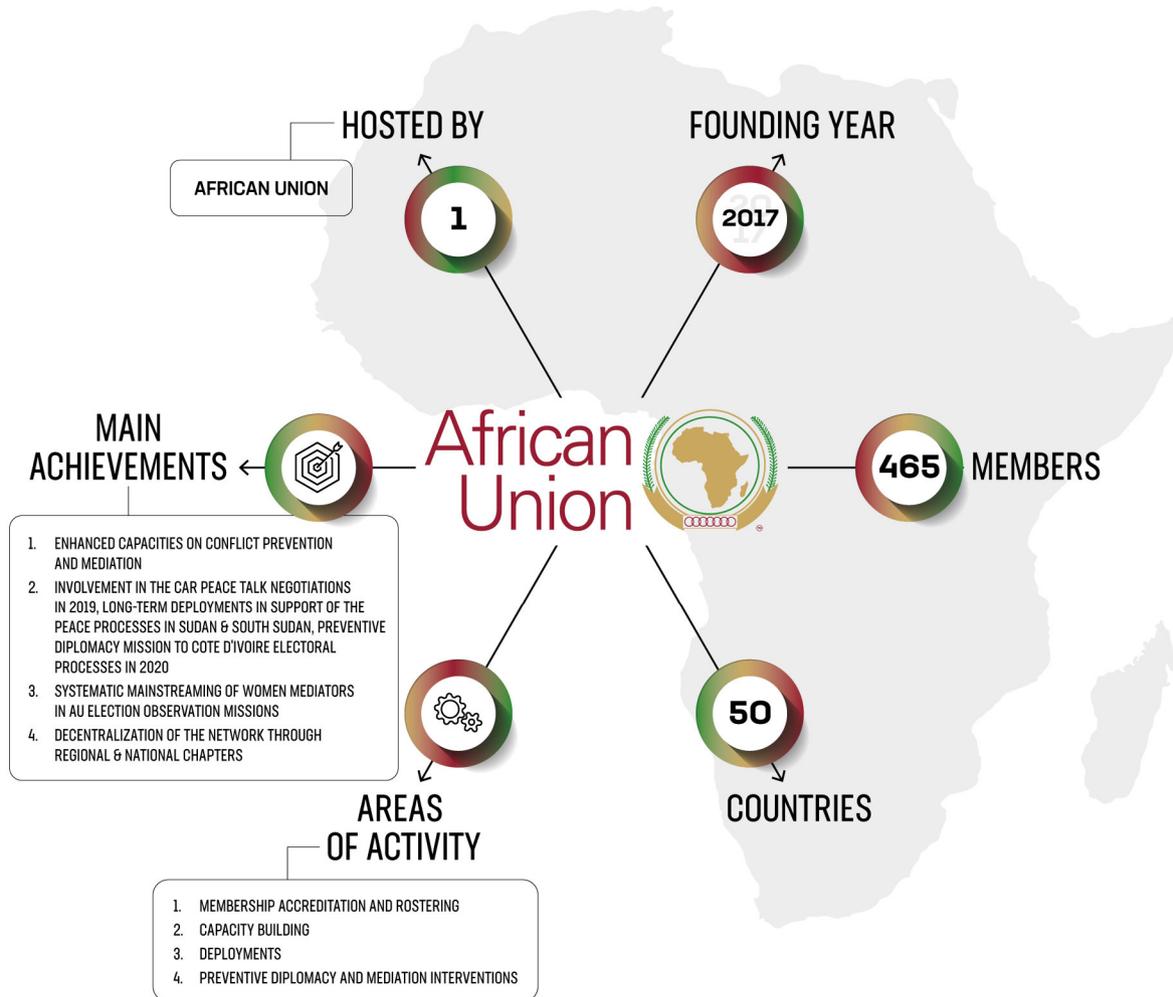
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL WOMEN MEDIATOR NETWORKS

CONNECTING FOR INCLUSIVE PEACE-MAKING

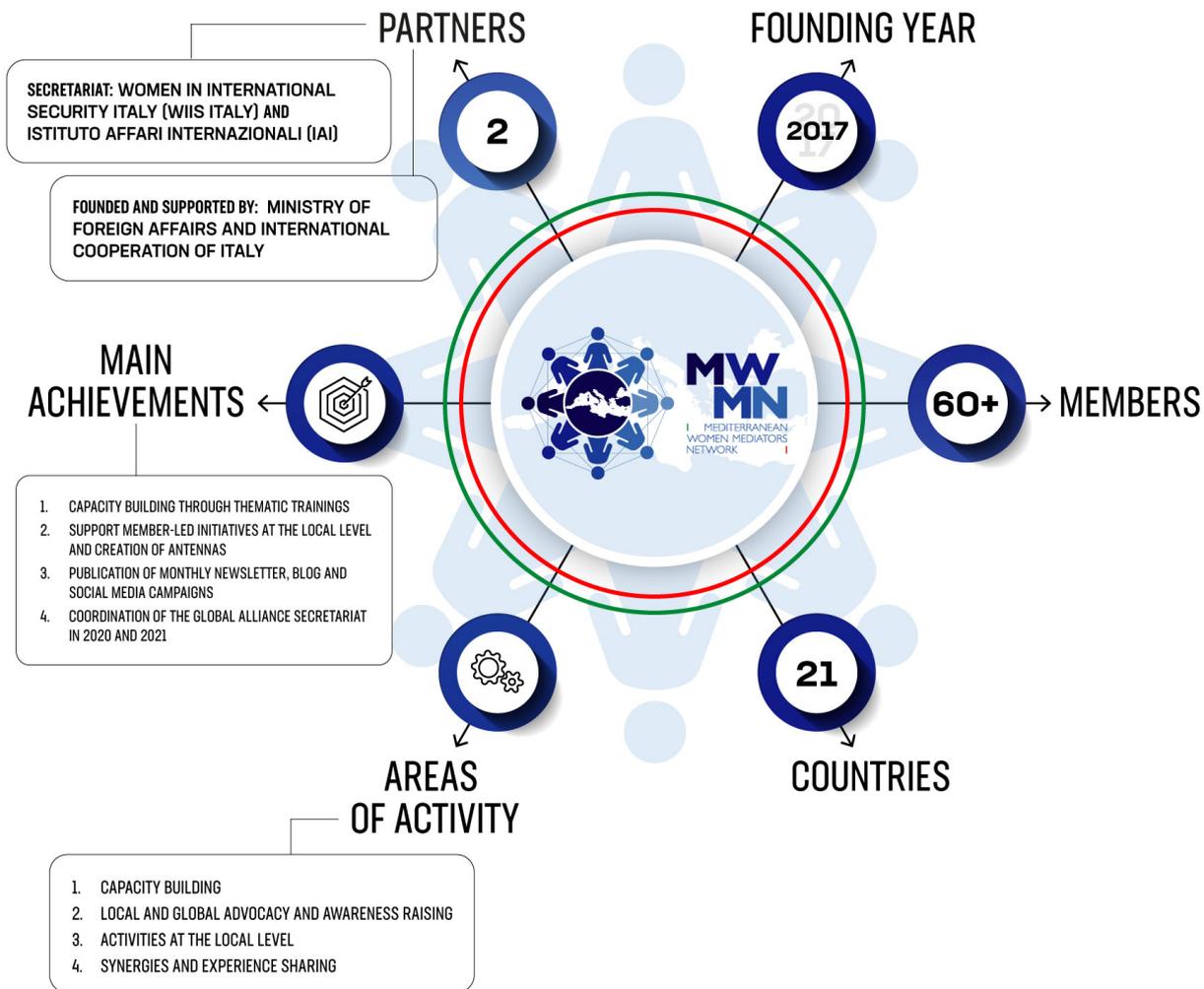


NORDIC WOMEN MEDIATORS

PART OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF
REGIONAL WOMEN MEDIATOR NETWORKS

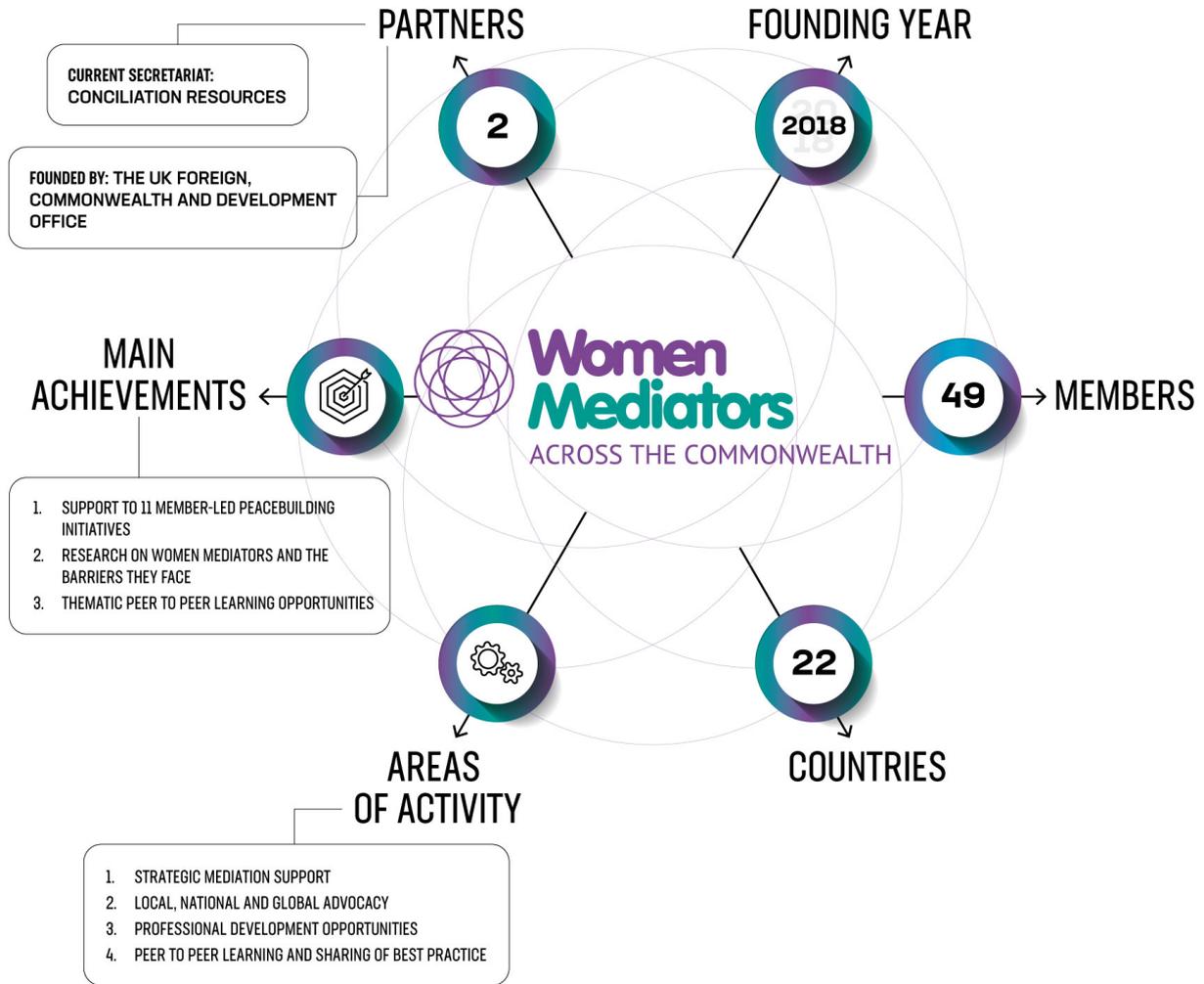


FEMWISE-AFRICA
PART OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF
REGIONAL WOMEN MEDIATOR NETWORKS



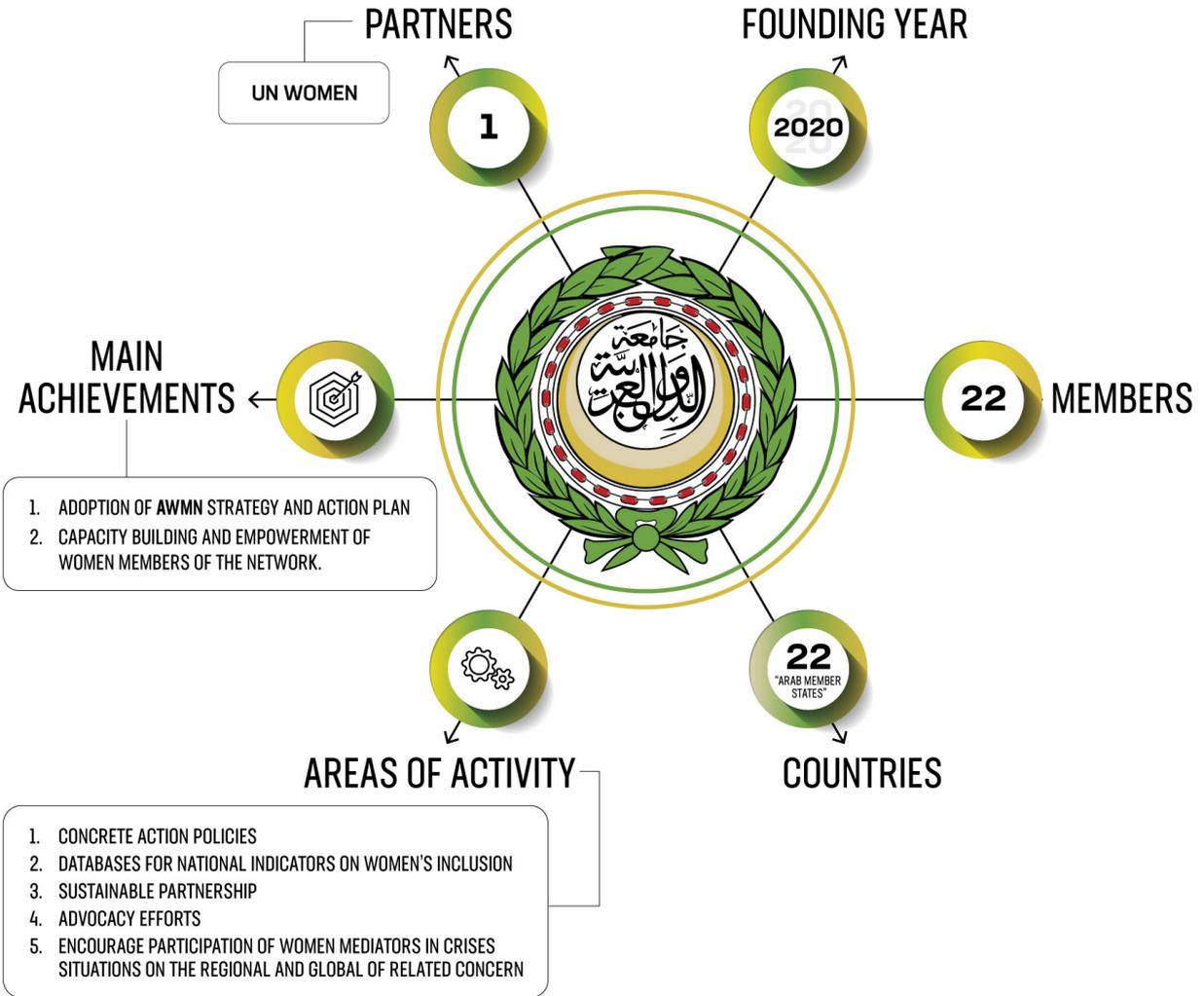
MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN MEDIATORS NETWORK

PART OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF
REGIONAL WOMEN MEDIATOR NETWORKS



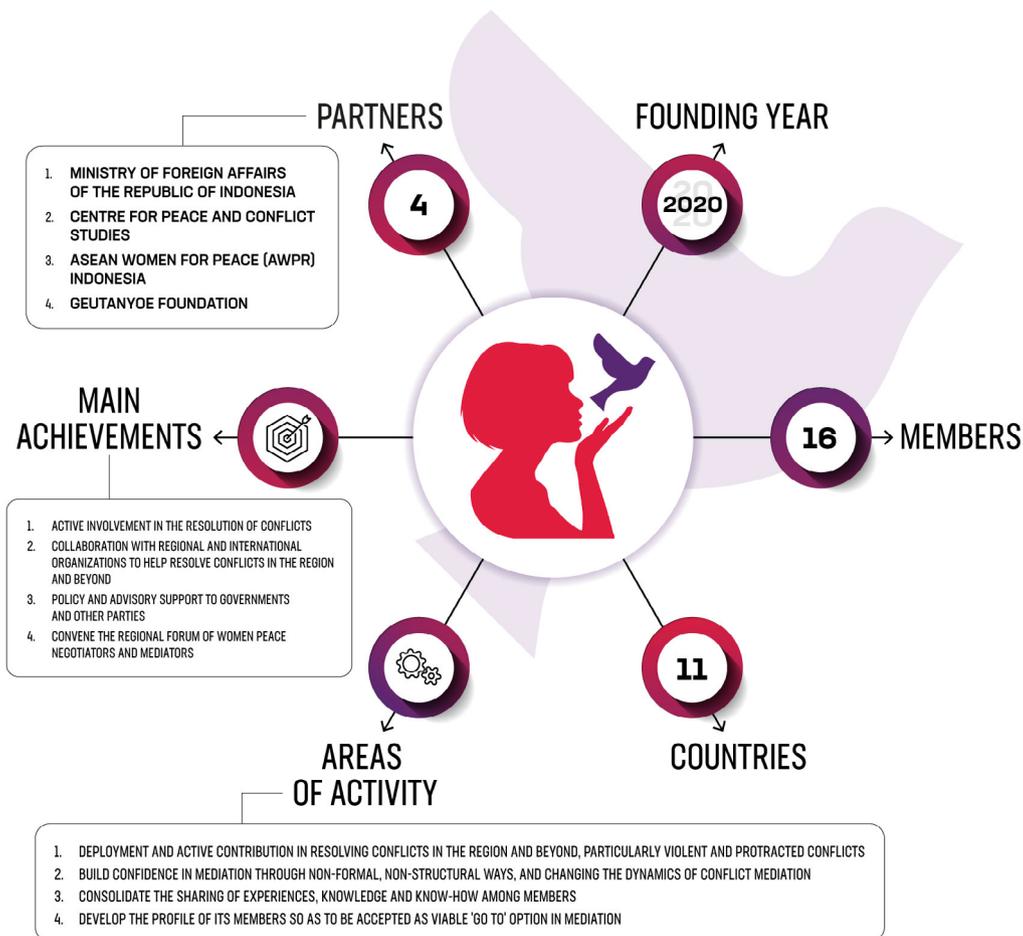
WOMEN MEDIATORS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

PART OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF
REGIONAL WOMEN MEDIATOR NETWORKS



ARAB WOMEN MEDIATORS NETWORK

PART OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF
REGIONAL WOMEN MEDIATOR NETWORKS



THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN NETWORK OF WOMEN PEACE NEGOTIATORS AND MEDIATORS (SEANWPNM)

PART OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL WOMEN MEDIATOR NETWORKS

MEET THE REGIONAL
WOMEN MEDIATORS
ACROSS THE GLOBE
AND THEIR POWERFUL
STORIES



SYNERGIES AND
EXPERIENCE SHARING:
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL EVENT
OF THE GLOBAL
ALLIANCE

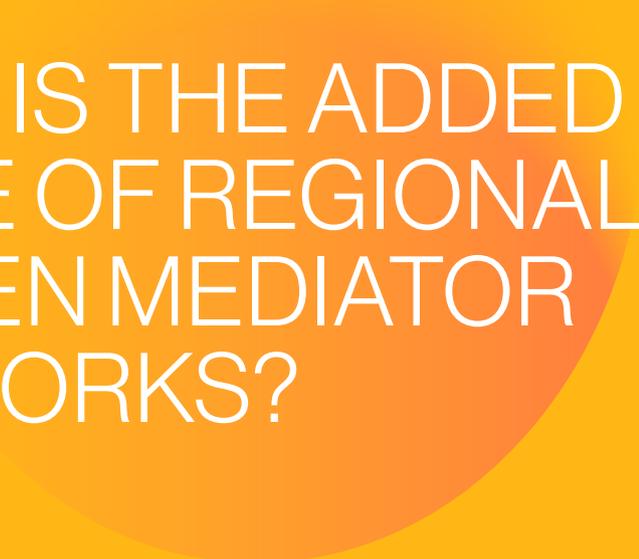
To mark the first anniversary since the launch of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks, the existing five Regional Networks (SEANWPNM joined later) virtually convened for the Annual Meeting to discuss key themes related to the next 20 years of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

As manifested by its virtual nature, the Annual Meeting held between 8 and 22 October 2020 reflected the extraordinary times we live in. The COVID-19 global health pandemic has exacerbated existing gender gaps and gender-based violence, which has further accentuated the need for a global coordinated response to prevent any setbacks in the progress made to further the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

The Meeting also took place as the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 marked its 20th anniversary. The Resolution addresses the need for greater involvement of women in the peace and security agenda, and calls for increased participation. However, the implementation of this resolution has yet to fulfil its potential as the commitments to women's inclusion agreed upon 20 years ago are not reflected in the current realities. Reflecting the spirit of the Global Alliance, this event sought to invoke the principle of cooperation and develop synergies between the regional women mediator networks and other key actors to jointly address the challenges of the past 20 years and change the course of the next 20.



Despite the robust legal and normative frameworks that have been put in place to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda, exclusion and underrepresentation of women in peace processes is still common. It is therefore necessary to ensure that relevant actors make good on unfulfilled commitments and overhaul the 'business as usual' approach to peacemaking.



WHAT IS THE ADDED
VALUE OF REGIONAL
WOMEN MEDIATOR
NETWORKS?

The global spread of the COVID-19 virus has further underlined the importance of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as women have been on the frontlines to fulfil the role of first responders and were the first to call for ceasefires in many conflicts.

With the lack of a coordinated response by the international community and travel restrictions set in place by national governments, the importance of local women interlocutors to mediate, help deescalate tensions, counter extremism, and provide essential services and needs has been vital.

The Global Alliance brings women together at all levels, demonstrating diversity, inclusion and interconnectedness.

The Alliance connects women across traditional divides, consolidates invaluable knowledge and experience across the board, and brings in notable women leaders as mentors. The Networks also provide key training and exposure to women mediators through a wide support network. Thanks to the different strengths, insights and experiences of the different Networks, the Global Alliance has the opportunity to pursue the meaningful participation of women in all phases of peace processes in complementary ways.

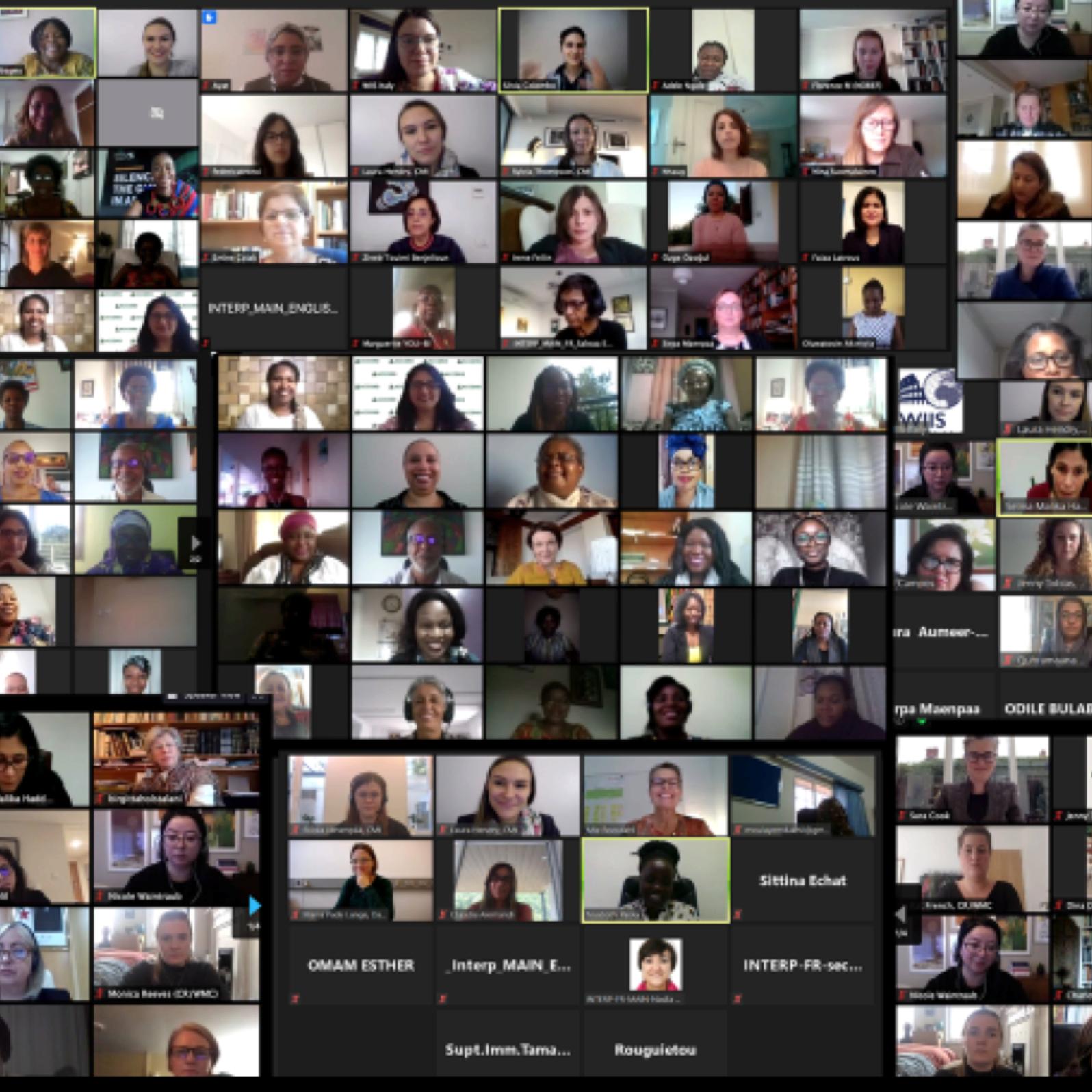


Women mediators play a crucial role in promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as they operate in spaces that are not beholden to rigid frameworks that limit national governments and other official institutional organisations. These women mediators can maintain dialogue with a wider set of actors and hold unique leverage.

All these benefits allow for an organised and effective approach to furthering the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

THEMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Over a period of two weeks (between 12 – 20 October 2020), more than 200 network members convened in five working groups to further address critical issues and develop relevant solutions to change the current modus operandi in peacemaking. Each working group convened three times to address a particular theme that will continue to affect the peace and security landscape in the next 20 years. The working groups were led by the five Regional Women Mediator Networks.



INTERP_MAIN_ENGLIS...

Margaret YOU-B

INTERP_MAIN_FR_Libna L...

Ensa Marnissa

Chusawan Minnola



LAURA HENRI...

Selma Malika Hal...

Jimmy Sabua

Gutormana

rpa Maempaa ODILE BULAR

Sena Cook

French, DRUMC

Moore Warrnab

Rosa Maempaa, DM

Laura Henning, DM

Mia Fouquier

Therese K. Knudsen

Marie-Pierre Longa, DM

Christine Anagnost

Muhammad Rizki

OMAM ESTHER

Interp_MAIN_E...

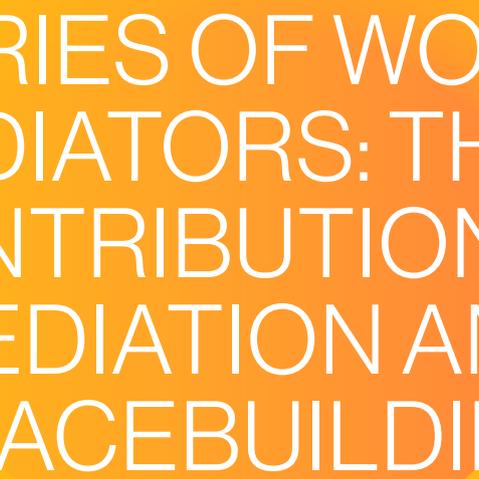
INTERP_FR MAIN Huda ...

Sitina Echaf

INTERP-FR-sec...

Supt.Imm.Tarna...

Rouguiofou



STORIES OF WOMEN
MEDIATORS: THEIR
CONTRIBUTION TO
MEDIATION AND
PEACEBUILDING

WORKING GROUP 1

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN MEDIATORS AND PEACEBUILDERS

PROMOTED BY WOMEN MEDIATORS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

THREATS TO WOMEN MEDIATORS AND PEACEBUILDERS ARE ON THE RISE INTERNATIONALLY, WITH INCREASED LEVELS OF PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL, FINANCIAL, PSYCHOSOCIAL AND ONLINE RISK. PROTECTION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY MAINSTREAMING AWARENESS AND PUSHING FOR PROTECTION MECHANISMS THAT ARE CONTEXT-SPECIFIC AND THAT REACH FROM THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL.

“

Increasing the visibility and recognition of women mediators and peacebuilders will reinforce their legitimacy and add to their protection.

”



SARA COOK

MEMBER OF WOMEN MEDIATORS ACROSS
THE COMMONWEALTH

Recommendations for policy makers

Protection mechanisms should be established at all levels, starting from the “bottom up” by addressing the needs of grassroots women mediators and peacebuilders and mobilising civil society groups, security actors and local governments within protection frameworks.

The public and private security sector should be trained and sensitised to transform norms and attitudes, understand specific risks to women peacebuilders and enforce protection frameworks. Further, an increased recruitment of women into the security sector should be strategic and sustainable.

Recommendations for networks

Mainstream self-care and psychosocial support – Networks should lead in mainstreaming self-care and psychosocial support within the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and push for the inclusion of protection mechanisms in all National Action Plans (NAPs) for UNSCR 1325.

Endorse I-CAN’s Framework – Networks should endorse I-CAN’s Women Peacebuilders Protection Framework, focusing on how the recommendations can be operationalised across four key themes:

1. Building a legal and political safety net for women peacebuilders
2. Prevention and mitigation of threats against women peacebuilders in the field
3. Security for women peacebuilders at the peace table and in international spaces
4. Emergency relocation and assistance for women peacebuilders

WORKING GROUP 2

WOMEN IN LOCAL PEACEBUILDING DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND

PROMOTED BY NORDIC WOMEN MEDIATORS NETWORK

THE COVID-19 RESPONSE HAS IN MANY CONTEXTS EXACERBATED EXISTING CONFLICT DRIVERS (INCLUDING INEQUALITY, MARGINALISATION, UNEMPLOYMENT ETC.), ALSO LEADING TO INCREASED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, WHILE THE NEED FOR PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IS GREATER THAN EVER. THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUPPORT TO PEACEBUILDING NEEDS TO CHANGE IN ORDER FOR IT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INSIGHTS AND NEEDS OF LOCAL WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS. COVID-19 NOT ONLY PRESENTS US WITH CHALLENGES FOR CONFLICT-AFFECTED CONTEXTS AND PEACEBUILDING, BUT IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE NEED FOR CHANGE AND TAKE STEPS TO TRANSFORM THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO SUPPORT LOCAL PEACEBUILDING AND LOCAL WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS.

“

Local women peace builders are on the frontline of sustainable peace building, and their insights, capacity, and broader potential must be mobilised to support national and global peacebuilding to a much greater degree than is currently the case.

”



PASKA NYABOTH ALFRED

MEMBER OF FEMWISE-AFRICA

Recommendations for policy makers

International support to local women peacebuilders must be strengthened and aligned with their needs, which necessitates an approach that is long term, flexible, accompanying, process-oriented and based on trust in their ability to lead the way – also in the midst of COVID-19.

Psychosocial support to local women peacebuilders must be provided as an integrated requirement of any international engagement.

Recommendations for networks

Push for stronger recognition – Networks should push for stronger recognition of the importance of local women peacebuilders for sustainable peace; adequate, timely and relevant support to their work; and increased attention to the value of drawing on their sound peacebuilding expertise also at the national and global level.

Enhance visibility, connectivity, support – Networks should play a key role in increasing the visibility of national and cross-national women's networks, establish stronger links with other women's rights platforms, and provide support and space for listening to women peacebuilders' stories as a contribution to psychosocial support and "self-care".

WORKING GROUP 3

WOMEN'S ROLES IN INDIGENOUS APPROACHES TO MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

PROMOTED BY FEMWISE-AFRICA

THERE IS A NEED FOR AN EXHAUSTIVE ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION APPROACHES TO SUPPORT THEIR INTEGRATION INTO CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES AND TO RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS FULL STAKEHOLDERS. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE STATES TO GIVE DUE RECOGNITION TO THE VALUE AND IMPACT OF WOMEN'S ROLES IN INDIGENOUS AND MODERN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACEBUILDING MECHANISMS. THIS WILL ALSO ENSURE A REORIENTATION OF THE MINDSET OF STAKEHOLDERS, WHICH WILL BROADEN THE SPACE FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT.

“

Intergenerational transmission of knowledge must take place through research and education and the sharing of success stories to preserve the traditional values of peace and social cohesion.

”



LEDET TEKA

MEMBER OF FEMWISE-AFRICA

Recommendations for policy makers

Develop and champion global, regional and subregional policies on alternative conflict resolution approaches that incorporate diversities across states and continents. In Africa, FemWise-Africa can advocate for the indigenisation of multilateral conflict resolution approaches. At the national level, indigenous/traditional approaches can be legitimised through legislation in parliament, in order to ensure political will and support, and to officially delineate responsibilities between the State and those in charge of alternate processes.

Local and traditional approaches should be given their due recognition – Leadership of multilateral/international organisations should give due recognition and clear direction for the consideration of local/traditional approaches to peacebuilding and conflict resolution and prevention within their institutions, with a strong human rights perspective and a gender lens clearly incorporated.

Recommendations for networks

Document, disseminate and champion traditional peace mechanisms – Networks should document, disseminate and champion traditional peace mechanisms as part of the heritage of the people. FemWise-Africa, the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth and other networks can commission a study on different indigenous approaches that are human rights and gender sensitive. The study should also investigate the nexus between indigenous approaches and governance systems, and how to leverage the opportunities this presents.

Create a platform to promote women's involvement in indigenous and traditional mechanisms – Multilateral institutions and the regional networks can create a platform for the exchange of lessons learned and good practices from the different parts of the world on women's involvement in indigenous and traditional mechanisms (historically and currently). This will enhance the capacities of women and the mainstreaming of indigenous approaches.

WORKING GROUP 4

HYBRID MEDIATION MODELS

PROMOTED BY MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN MEDIATORS NETWORK

A HYBRID APPROACH TO PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES. THESE INCLUDE WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCLUSION, ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN AND MARGINALISED GROUPS, AND DIALOGUE FACILITATION REGARDLESS OF ACCESS ISSUES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME CHALLENGES SUCH AS SECURITY CONCERNS, INTERNET PENETRATION AND ACCESS, AND TRUST-BUILDING IN VIRTUAL SPHERES.

“

Hybrid approach to peacebuilding is not new. Travel restrictions by COVID-19 have sped up the move towards a potential paradigm shift. Practitioners should embrace the shift and take the time to build their capacities, set the rules of the game and not give in to the digital hype.

”



AYAT MOHAMED

MEMBER OF MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN
MEDIATORS NETWORK

Recommendations for policy makers

Facilitate a dialogue between the peacebuilding field and IT industry with the aim to create custom-made tools that respond to the needs of the former.

Develop a systematic approach to hybrid mediation work including modalities, objectives and rules of the game.

Promote the digital literacy of the peacebuilding organisations by making resources available, including funding and adaptive budgets, in order to provide the necessary tools, research, participatory processes, etc.

Recommendations for networks

Develop network capacity – Networks should develop the capacity of their mediators to adopt a hybrid approach to their work and enhance their capacity to integrate digital tools in their work when suitable.

Enhance exchanges on women's experiences – Networks should share experiences, lessons learned and success stories across the networks especially with regard to which tools to use, AI and quantitative research tools.

Convene dialogues – Networks should convene dialogues to reflect on conflict sensitivity considerations and implications of hybrid approaches.

WORKING GROUP 5

PROMOTING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN PEACE AND SECURITY

PROMOTED BY ARAB WOMEN MEDIATORS NETWORK

PROMOTING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP REQUIRES LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS (REJECTING THE "PROJECTISATION" OF THE INCLUSION AGENDA) THAT ARE TAILORED TO SOCIO-CULTURAL, GEOGRAPHIC AND/OR CONFLICT CONTEXTS.

“

Women leaders must pursue innovative and transformative approaches to achieving lasting peace in increasingly complex conflicts.

”



SHAIKHA RANA BINT ISA
BIN DUAIJ AL KHALIFA
MEMBER OF ARAB WOMEN MEDIATORS

Recommendations for policy makers

“Put your money where your mouth is”
– establish and endow a global/regional trust to provide financial support and professional development resources to women mediators. Ensure that trust can be geared towards women working at all levels, including by engaging local players and developing their management capacities and financial skills.

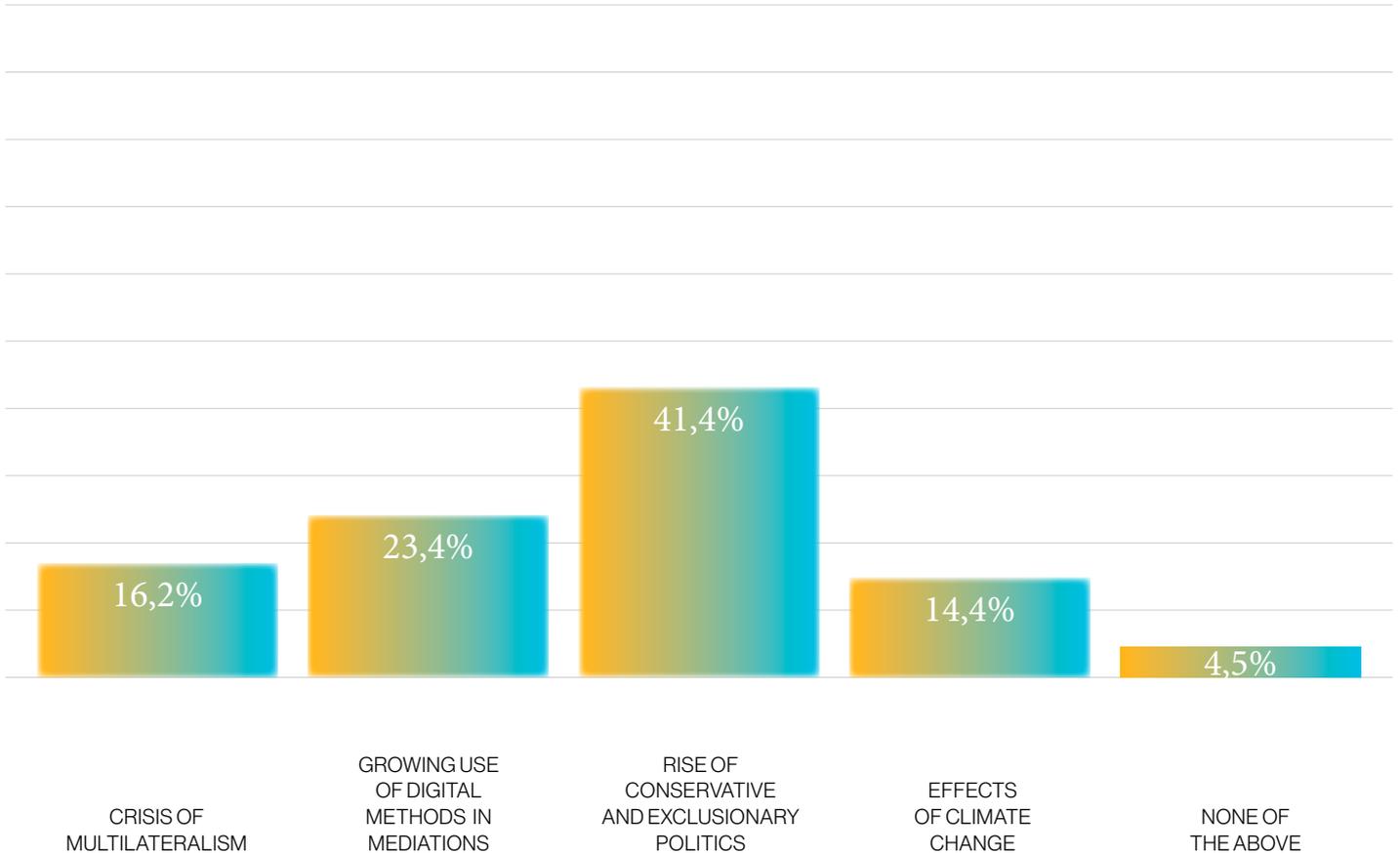
“Put your mouth where your money is”
– engage in the politics of WPS advocacy by making symbolic and financial support to peace processes at all levels as well as mediation programming conditional on the essential and full inclusion of women, especially in positions of leadership.

Recommendations for networks

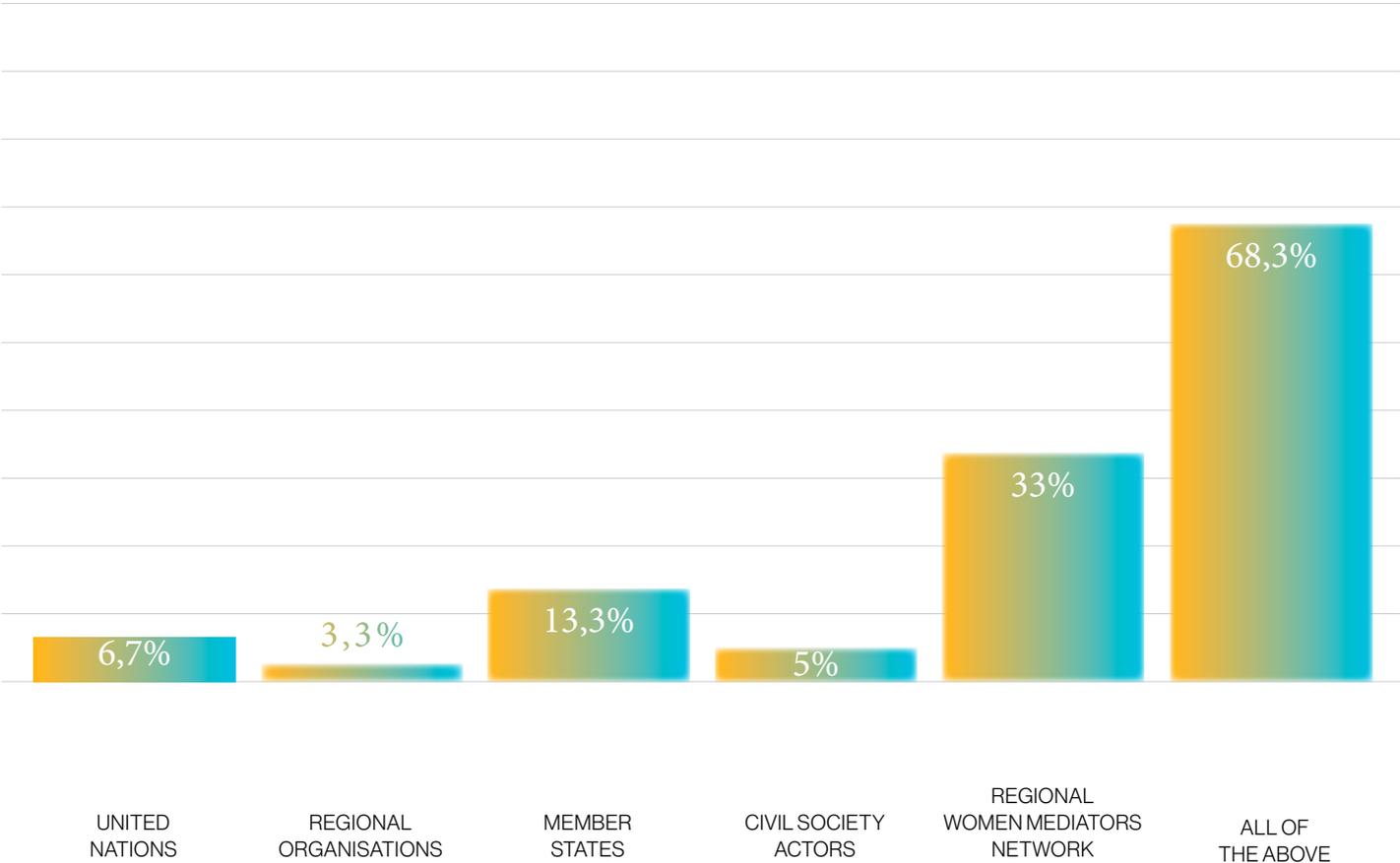
Build “deployability” – Share databases and rosters across networks with a view to standardising approaches, recognising and legitimising members as mediators, broadening the reach of expertise and agreeing on a strategy to exchange best practices and opportunities, incorporating elements of mentoring to increase access to junior members.

Engage a wider range of stakeholders
– This includes male allies in the Global Alliance and regional network endeavours.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF THE POLL THAT WILL DEFINE THE NEXT 20 YEARS OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN MEDIATION: RISE OF CONSERVATIVE AND EXCLUSIONARY POLITICS



THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF THE POLL ON WHO SHOULD HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOVING THE WPS AGENDA BEYOND “BUSINESS AS USUAL”: UNITED NATIONS, REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS, MEMBER STATES, CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS, REGIONAL WOMEN MEDIATOR NETWORKS.





SUCCESS STORIES
OF WOMEN MEDIATORS
FROM THE GROUND: THEIR
CONTRIBUTION TO MEDIATION
AND PEACEBUILDING

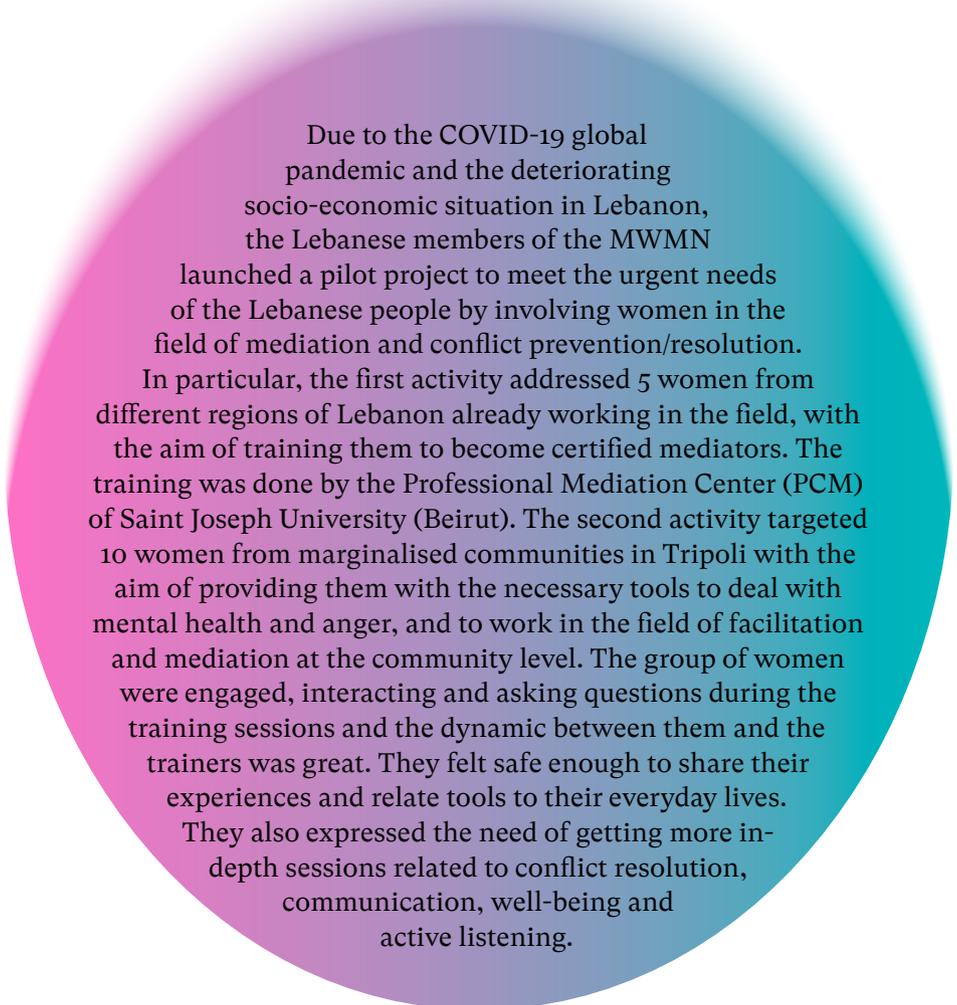
Following the high-level dialogue for women's participation in the peace process in Mali facilitated by Margareta Wahlström (member of the Swedish Network) in 2020, the three parties to the peace agreement decided to include women representatives **in the follow-up mechanism to the Mali peace agreement**. The decision followed years of advocacy by Malian women's organisations with support of the United Nations and others. Consultations within the parties to the agreement have taken place to select the women. Since late 2020, the nine women representatives have been participating in the meetings of the follow-up mechanism to the peace agreement. Subsequently, it has been decided to increase the number of women representatives in the main body as well as to nominate women representatives for the technical subcommittees.

Members of Nordic Women Mediators and FemWise-Africa collaborated in co-convening a roundtable discussion on **"Women's Experiences in the South Sudan Peace Process"** held in 2018. In 2019, as a collaborative effort by CMI, FBA and South Sudanese partner NTLI and building on the roundtable discussion, a publication on women negotiators' experiences was developed and published. The publication highlights the achievements, challenges and lessons learnt by women leaders and groups in the country's multifaceted peace process.

NORDIC WOMEN
MEDIATORS NETWORK

On long-term deployments, 2019 saw the deployment of four FemWise-Africa members to Khartoum and Juba to support the Sudan and South Sudan processes respectively. Similar long-term deployments have also been initiated to Mali, Libya and Cote d'Ivoire, with the focus expected to be on engagements in the field with local women, CSOs and women stakeholders, in order to ensure that the concerns of the affected populations and particularly local women are duly incorporated in ongoing processes.

On short-term missions, FemWise-Africa members have been part of high-level African Union (AU) Track 1 mediation delegations, notably towards resolving a cross-border conflict along the Tanzania-Malawi border in 2018; towards support in the implementation of the CAR Peace Agreement in 2019; towards support of the Mission of the AU Special Envoys to Ethiopia in 2020; as well as to various dialogues and forums where related policy formulation and implementation are discussed. FemWise-Africa members have also been engaged in electoral-related processes, notably by being deployed to be part of AU-led Election Observation Missions across the African Continent, including to DRC, Nigeria, Senegal, Benin, South Africa, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius and Cote d'Ivoire. The 2020 elections in Cote d'Ivoire also saw the first high-level (Track 1) FemWise-Africa delegation being deployed on a preventive diplomacy mission ahead of the elections, to foster dialogue across various political parties with the aim of calming tensions in the lead-up to the vote and paving way for potential post-election mediation processes that they could support.



Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Lebanon, the Lebanese members of the MWMN launched a pilot project to meet the urgent needs of the Lebanese people by involving women in the field of mediation and conflict prevention/resolution. In particular, the first activity addressed 5 women from different regions of Lebanon already working in the field, with the aim of training them to become certified mediators. The training was done by the Professional Mediation Center (PCM) of Saint Joseph University (Beirut). The second activity targeted 10 women from marginalised communities in Tripoli with the aim of providing them with the necessary tools to deal with mental health and anger, and to work in the field of facilitation and mediation at the community level. The group of women were engaged, interacting and asking questions during the training sessions and the dynamic between them and the trainers was great. They felt safe enough to share their experiences and relate tools to their everyday lives. They also expressed the need of getting more in-depth sessions related to conflict resolution, communication, well-being and active listening.

MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN
MEDIATORS NETWORK

The WMC and its Secretariat, Conciliation Resources, collaboratively published research documenting the diversity of contributions that women mediators have made to peace at the community, national and international level. This publication, *Women mediators: Bridging the peace gap* was launched in October 2020 and its findings were highlighted during the various events surrounding the UNSCR 1325 anniversary which reached government, policy-maker and UN-level actors.

The network has also enabled the direct participation of women in peace processes at the international level. The WMC supported the ongoing engagement of a WMC member in the South Sudan peace process, supporting her to develop a broader inclusion plan to support the implementation of the peace agreement, involving discussions with actors such as the President, members of armed groups, and civil society. Additionally, as part of the network's commitment to increasing opportunities for women's participation in peace processes and supporting the deployment of its members, the WMC developed a database of the network (launched in March 2021), allowing key actors to find expert women mediators across the Commonwealth.

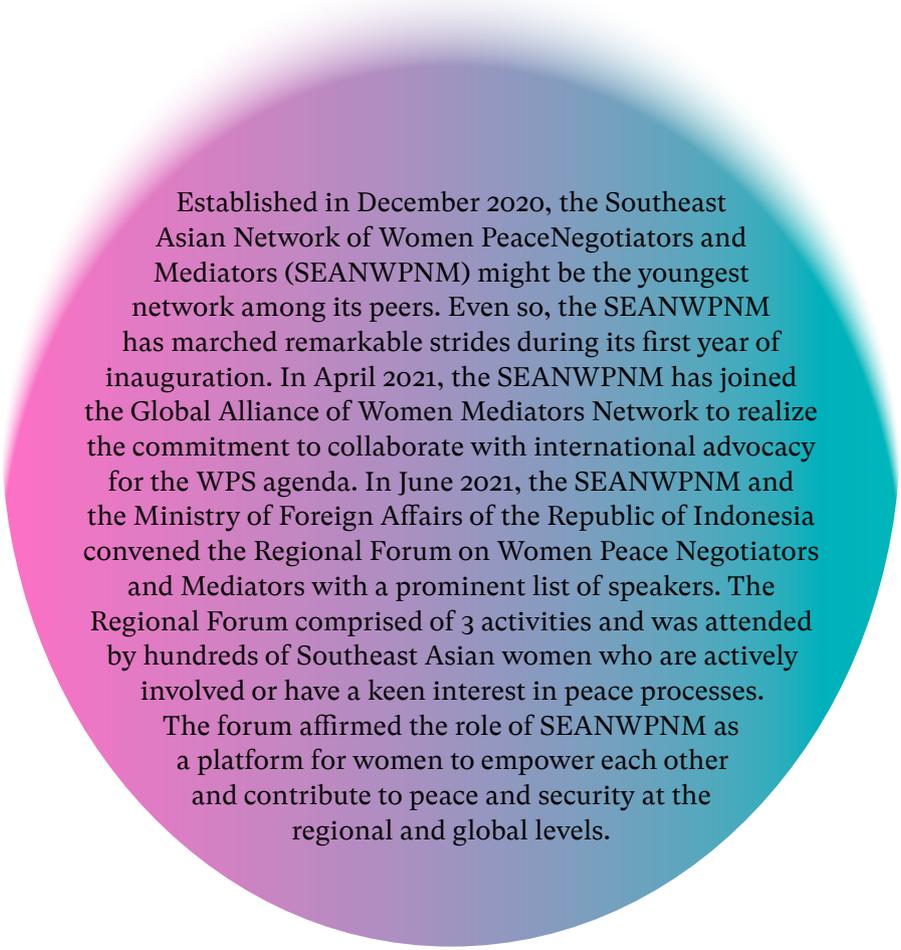
The WMC also established its grant-making mechanism, the Strategic Mediation Fund, to directly support the work of its members in their peacebuilding and mediation work at the national and community level. The pilot fund awarded 11 small grants to mediation initiatives led by members of the WMC network in Bougainville, Cameroon, Fiji, Northern Ireland, Nigeria, Uganda, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. These grants were able to increase the direct participation of women mediators in peace processes and gave them greater legitimacy in the contexts in which they work. The Strategic Mediation Fund also featured a strong advocacy focus and grants have allowed the women involved to develop or strengthen their relationships with authorities or decision-makers, which has led to more regular engagement after the completion of these grants.

WOMEN MEDIATORS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

Since the launch of the AWMN on a regional and international level as adopted by the Ministerial Council Resolution (8519) in 2019, the Secretariat of the League of Arab States collaborated with UN Women together with Member States in preparing a strategy and action plan reflecting a guideline for the women's endeavours as members of the network. In 2020, the Ministerial Council Resolution (8636) unanimously adopted the Strategy and Action Plan. The AWMN is the first-of-a-kind governmental network of Ambassadors adopting a strategy and action plan.

The importance of the Arab Network for Women and Peace Mediators lies in the inclusion of women in peace processes, an embodiment of the concept of inclusivity. The Network provides an opportunity for women to participate in the decision-making process, especially given that the representation of women in mediation and negotiation processes is still modest in the region.

ARAB WOMEN MEDIATORS NETWORK



Established in December 2020, the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators (SEANWPNM) might be the youngest network among its peers. Even so, the SEANWPNM has marched remarkable strides during its first year of inauguration. In April 2021, the SEANWPNM has joined the Global Alliance of Women Mediators Network to realize the commitment to collaborate with international advocacy for the WPS agenda. In June 2021, the SEANWPNM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia convened the Regional Forum on Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators with a prominent list of speakers. The Regional Forum comprised of 3 activities and was attended by hundreds of Southeast Asian women who are actively involved or have a keen interest in peace processes. The forum affirmed the role of SEANWPNM as a platform for women to empower each other and contribute to peace and security at the regional and global levels.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN NETWORK OF WOMEN
PEACE NEGOTIATORS AND MEDIATORS



LOOKING AHEAD:
THE NEXT 20 YEARS OF
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Setting our vision for the next 20 years, the Global Alliance will continue to serve as a key platform for furthering the Women, Peace and Security agenda. With the insights and recommendations from the Annual Meeting pointing to the need for increased inclusivity, connectivity, cooperation, support and leverage for women peacebuilders, the Global Alliance will continue to act as a space for regional networks to take these recommendations to heart, with a focus on expanding the Alliance's engagement with different stakeholders.

The Global Alliance will seek to further cooperate with key international mediation actors to meet its overarching goal of increasing the participation and influence of women in peace processes and work to further gender-sensitive peace agreements. Networks and the Global Alliance should ensure that uniformity exists between the commitments and statements made in public and actions carried out behind closed doors. The Global Alliance must work collaboratively as an effective system to further identify ways to bridge existing gender gaps and take action by continuing to promote exchanges and compile lessons learned. Collectively, the Alliance can increase women's visibility in the physical and virtual space, and act upon these recommendations to ensure that in 20 years' time we will have moved past the "business as usual".

The report of the Global Alliance
Annual Meeting 2020
is available at:

<https://cmi.fi/2020/11/10/global-alliance-annual-meeting-2020-report/>

The organisation of the event was led by the Global Alliance global contact group, and with leadership by **Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)** and **Women in International Security Italy (WIIS Italy)**. WIIS Italy serves as the **Secretariat of the Global Alliance** for the year 2020/2021, with the financial support by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and **International Cooperation of Italy**.