

## Strengthening the Impact of Security Sector Reform through Research, Knowledge and Evidence-Based Guidance Development on Climate and Gender

- **Brief description of the project**

The Security Council has underscored the importance for SSR of “best practices and lessons learned, knowledge and expertise”. In addition to exploring other topic issues, this project prioritizes SSR-relevant knowledge and guidance on climate, gender and national security sector assessments.

Climate: We are only just beginning to feel the effects of the existential climate crisis. In the midst of this worsening storm, national security institutions are beginning to respond. The crisis itself and the historic Paris Agreement have implications for national security institutions and, therefore, for security sector reform and governance. In April 2023, the Secretary-General and his Executive Committee asked UN DPO’s Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) to “prioritize the development of knowledge and guidance on this topic”.

Gender: The Security Council specifically encouraged Member States to develop security sector reform strategies and programmes that remove legal, institutional and regulatory barriers to women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the security sector. In response to these challenges, the Secretary-General committed to scale up United Nations support for barrier assessments to identify obstacles to women’s participation in national security sectors, particularly in decision-making positions.<sup>1</sup> The development of a methodology for barrier assessments is therefore a priority for OROLSI and the Interagency SSR Task Force.

*This project is a core component of the United Nations Programme of Action (PoA) on SSR. The PoA is a system-wide, multi-year (2022–2025) effort to implement the new United Nations vision on SSR (as outlined in S/RES/2553 (2020) and the Secretary-General’s most recent Report on SSR (S/2022/280)). The PoA is grounded in the ‘Call to Action for Human Rights’, A4+, as well as the agendas for sustainable development, women, peace and security, youth, peace and security, and action for peacekeeping+. The PoA also follows in the footsteps of the Common Agenda and considers the current ‘five-alarm global fire’, including the worsening climate crisis and diminished peace and security. Some of the outputs in this project will be delivered with the assistance of the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF).*

- **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Proposed Activities</b>
Strengthened capability to support Member States and their national security institutions to provide effective and accountable security in response to the worsening climate crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two CROSSROADS guidance module, on how to strengthen national security sectors to better address the climate crisis</li> </ul>	Preparation of quantitative and qualitative research and guidance drafting.
Strengthened capability to support Member States and their national security institutions enhance women’s participation and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One CROSSROADS barrier-assessment module to support countries in identifying obstacles to women’s participation and</li> </ul>	Preparation of quantitative and qualitative research and guidance drafting.  Development of barrier assessment tools based on

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 17 in S/2022/280, Report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening Security Sector Reform, 15 March 2022.

representation in the security sector.	representation in national security sectors.	findings and recommendations of the 2022 report on gender equality and the status of women in the defence sector.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One CROSSROADS guidance module on women's participation in the security sector.</li> </ul>	Preparation of quantitative and qualitative research and guidance drafting.

- Implementation timeline**

One year from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

- Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities.**

Strengthening impact of UN SSR assistance to Member States through research, knowledge and guidance on climate, gender and assessments will directly contribute to the realization of A4P+ first priority, i.e. collective coherence behind a political strategy, as well as priority three on strengthening capabilities and mindsets of UN peace operations.

- How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department to implement their women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

The project will support Member States advance the implementation of the WPS agenda by promoting measures to increase the participation and representation of women in national security sectors. The project also supports mainstreaming gender in all UN SSR support processes, including knowledge, guidance, and assessment methodology.

- Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.**

The project will require coordination with UN experts and Member State representatives. Effective coordination will be ensured by a personnel officer under the supervision of the SSRU's Team Lead, Research, Knowledge and Guidance Team.

- Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Personnel	One junior researcher for one year. CROSSROADS modules will be prepared in coordination with an external partner. This expert will assist the SSRU/partner on all modules.	\$72,000.00
Personnel	One senior consultant on barrier assessments and women's participation in the security sector for three months.	\$30,000.00
Personnel	Other assistance on priority issues.	\$15,000.00
Travel and operational	Mission visits, seminars, workshops	\$30,000.00
Communications	Communications tools and assistance, as well as publications and multimedia	\$10,000.00
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$20,410.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$177,410.00</b>