

United Nations  
Office to the African Union



Bureau des Nations Unies  
Auprès de l'Union Africaine

UNOAU

[Hybrid International Women's Day Panel Discussion on Digital Inclusion in the WPS Agenda in Africa](#)

[Date & Time: 8th March 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EAT](#)

[Venue: UNECA Conference Room 5](#)

[Concept Note and Program of Work](#)

[Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvdOmrpz0sHtFqpvIBCi\\_OqZHM6pZh82S9](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJEvdOmrpz0sHtFqpvIBCi_OqZHM6pZh82S9)

**Note:** For those who will be attending virtually, after registering, they will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## 1. Introduction

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. Part of this is the need to identify strategies to increase the effective participation of women in building sustainable peace and development. UNOAU is committed to implementing the Gender, Women, Peace and Security agenda in line with the UNSCR 1325, and other nine related security council resolutions that followed. UNSCR 1325 addresses not only the disproportionate impacts of war on women but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict prevention, conflict management and sustainable peace efforts. UNSCR 1325's framework consists of four pillars—participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery.

Putting into consideration the theme of this year's celebrations, UNOAU is host a high bride event featuring the role of the UN in the use of digital tools for women's inclusion in peace process and leadership. The event is planned for **8<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, at the UNECA compound.**

Technology is becoming a powerful tool for women and girls to engage in democracy, civic action, and peacebuilding, as well as to fight for their basic rights and gender equality. Different technological solutions (applications) have been developed to help users to document abuses and to discretely report instances of GBV, CRSV via SMS and web, to help authorities to map out the location of violence. The UN has in a number of conflict instances used technology as a tool to document instances of discrimination against women as well as tools for mediation community to gather data and to hold consultations to consult with the public to shape the agenda of the negotiations.

The role of digital technologies in facilitating peaceful settlements and sustaining dialogue between conflicting parties and stakeholders is increasing<sup>1</sup> especially with the COVID 19 situations that caused governments lock down and reduce movement of persons.

According to research commissioned by the UN Secretary-General in 2020, while women's digital inclusion has not been prioritized, it has also decreased in the last four years. Factors that perpetuate digital gender inequalities in Africa are related to Access, digital literacy and safety.

A review of National Action Plans in Africa demonstrates that while digital tools are considered, there is generally little consideration specifically for women's digital inclusion. Women's digital inclusion needs to be reprioritized as it can be a critical factor in the mediation and negotiation phases of broader peace processes and policies.<sup>2</sup>

UNOAU with the support of the Government of Sweden has produced a policy brief entitled: Digital Inclusion in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa”. This policy brief outlines the opportunities and challenges for women's digital inclusion in peace processes in Africa through the four pillars of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325.

Celebrating International Women’s Day therefore, UNOAU is hosting this event in line with this year’s International Women’s Day theme “ **DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**”. The hybrid panel discussion will take at **the UNECA on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EAT**. During the event, a number of speakers will share their experiences in light of the theme and **UNOAU** will also launch a policy brief on Digital Inclusion in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa.

## 2. Objective

The objectives of holding the hybrid panel discussion are as follows: -

- i) Exam challenges and opportunities in promoting women’s digital inclusion in the implementation of women, peace, and security agenda in Africa.
- ii) Share experiences of emerging trends and practices in promoting digital inclusion in WPS.
- iii) Identify practical strategies to enhance women’s digital inclusion in the implementation of women, peace, and security agenda.

## 3. Program of Work

Time	Agenda	Responsible Person
3:00 p.m – 3:10 p.m. EAT	Introduction	Moderator: UNOAU
3:10 p.m. – 3:25 p.m. EAT	Opening Remarks	H.E. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOAU

<sup>1</sup> Digitalpeacemaking.com (2020)

<sup>2</sup> POLICY BRIEF: Digital inclusion in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa

3:25 p.m. -4:20 p.m. EAT	<p>i). What are the challenges of Women’s Digital inclusion in Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa?</p> <p>ii). The emerging practices &amp; trends in promoting Digital Inclusion in general and Women’s Digital Inclusion. Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. MARWA AZELMAT,</li> <li>2. Ms. Mulunesh Tsegaye from UN Women on African Girls Can Code Initiative</li> <li>3. UNESCO</li> <li>4. ITU</li> <li>5. UN OHCHR</li> </ol> <p>iii). Opportunities of Digital Inclusion in Peacemaking. Speaker: DPPA</p>	<p>PANALISTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. MARWA AZELMAT</li> <li>2. Ms. Mulunesh Tsegaye from UN Women African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI)</li> <li>3. UNESCO,</li> <li>4. ITU</li> <li>5. DPPA</li> <li>6. UNOHCHR</li> </ol>
4:20 p.m. – 4:40 p.m. EAT	<p>Q &amp; A How can we ensure the digital inclusion of Women in Africa’s WPS agenda?</p>	Moderator: UNOAU
4:40 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. EAT	Launch of the Policy Brief on Digital Inclusion in the WPS Agenda in Africa	UNOAU
4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EAT	Closing Remarks	UNOAU
5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Refreshment and distribution of the policy brief on Digital Inclusion in the WPS Agenda and She Stands for Peace e/books	UNOAU/ UNECA