



AGENCY FOR  
PEACEBUILDING



MUSLIM WOMEN  
ADVANCEMENT OF  
RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

## Concept Note

### Women at the Peace Table: Regional Learning, Solidarity, and Advocacy in the Horn of Africa

#### I. Project Context

In response to these dynamics, under the first phase of the project the Horn Center for Democracy (HCD) and the Agency for Peacebuilding (AP) convened a regional webinar on 30 April 2025 titled *“Empowering Sudanese Women for Leadership in Peacebuilding and Mediation: Drawing Lessons from South Sudanese Women’s Experiences.”* The webinar provided a platform for cross-country exchange among women peacebuilders and mediators and highlighted the need for sustained regional learning, policy dialogue, and structured engagement.

Building on the first engagement, HCD, in partnership with AP and the Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP), is implementing the project *“Promoting the Participation of Women in Mediation Processes in the Horn of Africa.”* The project sought to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda by strengthening women’s meaningful participation in peacebuilding and mediation through research, policy engagement, and cross-country learning.

The first webinar has informed two key program outcomes: First, establishment of Policy Analysis Group (PAG), the Platform for Women in Mediators and Peacebuilders in the HoA. Coordinated by HCD, the PAG monitors and analyses peace and mediation processes, produces gender-responsive policy outputs, and serves as a bridge between grassroots women peacebuilders, national peace processes, and regional peace architectures. Currently the PAG is working on Sudan and South Sudan case studies.

Second, series of virtual cross-country learning and policy dialogue sessions among women peacebuilders to sustain regional exchange and collaboration.

Within this framework, HCD, AP, and MWARP are organising the third webinar under this project on **April 01, 2026.**

## **II. The Webinar: Women at the Peace Table: Regional Learning, Solidarity, and Advocacy in the HoA**

The third webinar series will focus on women’s leadership in peace processes in Sudan and South Sudan, providing real-time conflict analysis from a women-led perspective. Replicating an exchange format successfully tested during the previous two webinars, the session will bring together the PAG members, women mediators and peace experts from both contexts to share experiences, lessons learned, and practical strategies for engagement.

Building on lessons from the Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> webinar, one of the key priorities is to strengthen structured linkages among FemWise members across countries in the HoA, positioning them as active contributors to regional knowledge-sharing, solidarity, and peer learning. The session will therefore intentionally create space for cross-country exchange among FemWise members and women peacebuilders across the region.

The webinar will also highlight the critical role of regional and international partners that support peace processes in the HoA; particularly the peace and security architectures of IGAD and the African Union (AU). Discussions will explore how these actors can more effectively advocate for and institutionalize women’s meaningful participation in peace processes, including at Track I negotiation tables and in formal decision-making spaces.

The webinar will feature speakers from Sudan and South Sudan, FemWise members, and partners supporting peace processes drawing on their involvement in mediation and peacebuilding at the grassroots, national, and regional levels.

### **Objective**

The primary objective of this online session is to strengthen women’s roles in peacebuilding and mediation by:

- Presenting key findings of the PAG, providing an updated conflict analysis from Sudanese and South Sudanese women peace experts to inform context-sensitive peace engagement.
- Highlighting concrete entry points and strategies for women’s meaningful participation in ongoing and emerging peace processes at both local and national levels, including Track I processes.

- Strengthening cross-border learning, solidarity, and peer exchange between Sudanese and South Sudanese women peacebuilders.
- Creating structured linkages among FemWise members across the Horn of Africa to promote sustained regional knowledge-sharing and coordinated advocacy.
- Engaging regional and international partners to reinforce their responsibility in ensuring women's representation and influence in formal peace negotiations and decision-making spaces.

### **Target Audience**

The webinar targets Sudanese and South Sudanese women in mediation and peacebuilding and women's rights organisations actively supporting peace processes and conflict prevention, as well as emerging women leaders from conflict-affected communities in the region. It will also engage:

- FemWise members across the HoA region, Civil society and grassroots peace practitioners in Sudan and South Sudan and the broader region,
- Researchers and representatives of NGOs and international organisations working on WPS agenda, in Sudan, South Sudan, and the broader HoA region,
- Representatives and partners engaged in regional peace architectures, including IGAD and AU.

### **Key Themes and Session Structure**

The session will focus on:

- Current conflict dynamics and political trajectories in Sudan and South Sudan.
- Opportunities and constraints for women's participation in formal and informal peace processes.
- Lessons from South Sudanese women's engagement in mediation, ceasefire and peace agreement implementation monitoring, and community-level peace initiatives.
- The role of regional and international partners in shaping inclusive peace processes.
- Strengthening FemWise regional linkages for sustained knowledge-sharing and coordinated advocacy.

The session will combine expert analytical inputs from the PAG on Sudan and South Sudan with moderated discussion and active participant engagement.

### **Duration**

1 hour 30 minutes online session.

**Platform:** Zoom.

**Language:** English with Arabic Translation.