



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo

DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO
ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
全球和平妇女

Ukraine Recovery Conference 2023

To the
Head of the FDFA, Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis
Bundeshaus West
3003 Bern

Dear Federal Councillor Cassis

Today marks the start of the second International Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2023) in London, the logical continuation of the cycle of annual events last held jointly with Switzerland in Lugano. There, the Lugano Principles were adopted, which form the basis for Ukraine's recovery process and unite the world in its efforts. Ukraine has already taken initiatives to move forward with reconstruction in line with these principles and commitments, despite the prevailing circumstances caused by the war.

We now ask you to what extent the commitments take into account the agenda for Women, Peace and Security and specifically UNSCR 1325? The Ukraine Recovery Conference is dedicated to the transformation of Ukraine and in this sense should initiate processes in alignment with human and women's rights, this applies particularly to the decision on financial flows.

In Lugano, about 750 billion US Dollars were discussed. As far as we are informed, there is no open access for civil society in London – as was the case at last year's conference. We deeply regret that civil society is not seen as a stakeholder in such important issues and hold that a positive, peace-oriented and efficient reconstruction will only succeed together with civil society, and especially women's organisations.

While gender equality was mentioned in last year's press releases, women and girls were not mentioned in the more than 2000 pages of work plans prepared by the Ukrainian government. Unfortunately, there are no signs that this time it will be any different. Most Ukrainian women activists do not even know that these donor conferences are taking place, let alone that they could participate. But it is often these NGOs, especially those that try to keep everyday life going during the war, that bear the burden of all the care work and build important social networks that would be eminently important for a just and inclusive reconstruction. As witnesses, women are best placed to report on everyday life and to describe and formulate their needs and expectations for a positive and sustainable reconstruction. Particularly the women who work in agriculture need additional support, for example, to cope with the environmental catastrophe caused by the war.





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We therefore expect the Swiss delegation to make a special effort to ensure that at least its own reconstruction programmes provide enough space to listen to the opinions of women, especially those who have remained in eastern Ukraine, and to create concrete opportunities for them to share their knowledge and experiences to ensure that local (economic) development is sustainable and inclusive.

We would therefore like to ask you specifically how the Swiss government

- 1- ensures that women are involved in all phases of reconstruction planning, decision-making (especially regarding financial flows), etc.?
- 2- ensures that projects take into account women's competencies, involve them and meet their needs?
- 3- complies with the commitments of the WPS Agenda/UNSCR 1325 or the Swiss National Action Plan (NAP)?
- 4- fulfils its accountability towards Ukrainian women and the Swiss electorate?

PeaceWomen Across the Globe participated in the "International Summit for Peace in Ukraine" in Vienna on 10-11 June. Now we are contacting our foreign ministry and hope that our questions will be considered.

We look forward to a reply and thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Gaby Vermot, President

Deborah Schibler, Director

Bern, 21 June 2023

