

# BEYOND CONSULTATIONS

All women have a fundamental right to meaningfully participate in the decision that frame and impact their lives, at all levels. There is also clear evidence that women's inclusion in political processes leads to more effective peace and stability.

Despite this, globally, we are failing to engage meaningfully with women living in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) on the policies, processes and programmes that affect their lives [UN Women/CFR 2018].

For example, between 1990-2017, women constituted only:



## THE TOOL – WHY AND WHEN TO USE IT

The Beyond Consultations tool was developed in partnership with women and women's organisations in FCAS, in response to their feedback that many consultation exercises tend to be extractive, tokenistic and disempowering.

This tool will enable you to:

- benchmark the extent to which you are engaging meaningfully with women in FCAS
- Identify targeted areas of challenge and opportunity
- Identify additional steps to improve the effectiveness of your current engagement strategies
- Assess the way in which national and international decision-makers are consulting with women and women's organisations

It should be used as early as possible during the planning and design phase of engagement, and regularly revisited throughout the participation activity and its evaluation.



## PRINCIPLES FOR MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

1

All women have a **right** to meaningfully participate in **decisions that affect their lives**

2

Women and women's organisations should be engaged as **equal partners** in the planning, design and implementation of decision-making processes

3

Women should be supported to participate through a variety of appropriate, **context-specific methodologies**

4

Women should be **supported, prepared and reimbursed** for their participation

5

Women should be able to **set and shape agendas**

6

Women's participation should be **representative of women in all their diversity**

7

Participation should be **accessible**, ensuring women's access and resource needs are met

8

Participation should be **safe, empowering, respectful and not extractive**

9

**Knowledge and learning** generated by consultations **should be shared** with the communities from which it was informed **on an ongoing basis**

10

**Meaningful participation is not an end in itself** – women should experience **tangible benefits** through their engagement

Visit [www.beyondconsultations.org](http://www.beyondconsultations.org) to download the tool  
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