



After the Seat

A WPS framework for term-based authority and leadership transition

A seat may be temporary. The responsibility to convert authority into durable public and institutional value should endure.

The proposition

Public office, United Nations Security Council membership, diplomatic and multilateral service, institutional leadership, and executive or board mandates are often time-bound. Each creates the ability to set priorities, allocate resources, shape rules, convene actors, and influence whose knowledge counts. A constructive Women, Peace and Security test asks whether that temporary authority strengthens systems, expands women's decision-making power, and leaves accountable arrangements that survive transition.

Five responsibilities while the seat is held

01 SET A GOVERNING QUESTION

Organize WPS leadership around a testable problem: who decides, who is financed, who is protected, and who remains?

02 USE EVIDENCE FROM AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Create credible routes for women peacebuilders, young women, and local actors to inform priorities, decisions, and review.

03 CONNECT COMMITMENTS TO THE TOOLS OF OFFICE

Use the laws, budgets, appointments, mandates, policies, partnerships, and operating standards available to the seat.

04 DISTRIBUTE OWNERSHIP BEYOND ONE PERSON

Build coalitions and accountable roles across government, institutions, civil society, communities, and successive leaders.

05 DESIGN THE HANDOVER EARLY

Document commitments, evidence, relationships, indicators, responsibilities, and unfinished work before authority transfers.

Responsibilities across different seats

HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Set whole-of-government priorities; align budgets, appointments, national plans, delivery, and public accountability.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Use agenda-setting, negotiations, mandates, sanctions practice, briefings, evidence, financing, and coalition-building to advance WPS.

DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER MULTILATERAL ROLES

Connect national commitments to negotiation, regional cooperation, monitoring, partnerships, and implementation.

HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Align governance, decision rights, safeguarding, data, resources, operations, leadership pipelines, and succession.

The continuity test

A credible WPS legacy should be visible in institutional behavior, not only in personal visibility, public statements, or institutional memory.

DECISION RIGHTS Women and young women can alter priorities, not only testify or advise.	FINANCING Resources reach local women-led structures predictably and transparently.
PROTECTION Risk mitigation preserves public voice, movement, livelihood, and leadership continuity.	POLICY INTEGRATION WPS is embedded in peace and security analysis, mandates, budgets, and national systems.
EVIDENCE ROUTES Community knowledge travels into national, regional, and multilateral decision-making.	INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY Responsibilities, relationships, data, and commitments survive personnel and membership changes.

Questions for a panel, keynote, or policy dialogue

01 WHAT CHANGED BECAUSE WOMEN WERE PRESENT?

Identify the decision, resource, mandate, protection measure, or implementation outcome that changed.

02 WHAT CAN WOMEN SUSTAIN?

Examine safety, compensation, institutional backing, care burdens, and the private costs of public leadership.

03 WHAT SURVIVES TRANSITION?

Name the accountable office, financing arrangement, evidence system, and coalition that will remain.

04 WHAT WILL THE NEXT HOLDER INHERIT?

Leave a usable agenda, not a ceremonial record.

WPS AUTHORITY™ POSITION

Term-based authority should function as a bridge between leadership intention and institutional change. The real legacy is what remains usable, accountable, and capable of advancing women's authority after the seat changes hands.



EXPLORE THE WIDER FRAMEWORK

Visit WPS Authority for continuing commentary on term-based leadership, transition, and institutional continuity.

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SELECTED SOURCES

UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)
documents.un.org | View official source

UN Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (2015)
un.org | View official source

UN Women, Women, Peace and Security explainer
knowledge.unwomen.org | View official source

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