

## **Gender, Peace and the Environment**

**Workshop 9 and 10 December 2019**

**Call for Papers**

**Deadline for Abstracts: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (GMT -5)**

In 2000, the UN adopted Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) a landmark instrument which recognises the essential role that women play in peace processes, peacebuilding and in the post-conflict context. The Women Peace and Security agenda (WPS) has made visible the differential impact of conflict on women and girls, and called upon States Parties to take into account the needs, rights and knowledge of women in designing plans and policies made as part of efforts towards securing sustainable peace. In the same vein, General Recommendation No 30 of the CEDAW Committee made it clear that conflict aggravates gender inequalities and that certain groups of women and girls, such as those who are displaced, women human rights defenders, women who belong to minority communities, are often exposed to greater risks of the violations of their human rights.

As far back as 1992, the international community recognised in a separate international framework that conflict is antithetical to sustainable development. The Rio Declaration on the Environment stated that peace, development, and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible (Rio Principle 25). The environment, and its diverse dimensions: natural, artificial, physical, and biological are all affected during conflict. The use of conventional, chemical and nuclear weapons, landmines, the presence of state and non-state armed groups, the extraction of natural resources without mitigation of the environmental impact, and the grabbing and abandoning of lands, among others, all negatively affect ecosystems.

Resolution 2422 (2015) of the WPS resolutions and General Recommendation No 37 by CEDAW both indicate that the degradation of the environment and climate change differentially impact women and girls. In other words, the interrelation between the environment/nature, climate change, and the gendered dimensions of conflicts must be analysed in order to understand, and develop an agenda for change to secure gender equality and promote sustainable peace. In 2018, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights explicitly recognised the right to a healthy environment as an independent right, forming part of the growing evolution of rights which recognise the intrinsic value of natural entities such as forests, rivers and wildlife. Constitutions and courts from around the world in countries such as Ecuador, Bolivia, India and Colombia have moved to recognise so called 'rights of nature' to protect biodiversity and guarantee inter-generational equity.



Colombia, and Latin America more generally, are contexts in which the exploration of these relationships is particularly urgent and relevant. In the case of Colombia, the implementation of the peace process with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia - FARC- and the demobilisation of its members has resulted in challenges and opportunities with respect to the environment. Challenges include the destruction of the environment and threats to Colombia's rich biodiversity; the struggle of indigenous and diverse peoples and communities, whose socio-economic condition has been exacerbated (including by those acting in the name of green capitalism); and the current experiences of environmental human rights defenders who work in extremely dangerous and precarious conditions. Yet opportunities have emerged too, with the presence and resistance of women who have historically played a leading role in theory and practice with respect to the relationship between sustainable development and sustainable peace.

And yet, despite this recognition, women and their roles continue to be marginalised. In light of this, exploring the connections between gender, peace and the environment in the region presents an opportunity to consider holistically the situation and the roles that women play in situations of conflict, and peacebuilding, including their leadership in environmental protection. It also lets us consider human rights, and the peace and security framework through these multiple sites.

This workshop takes place following a significant international conference on climate change. From the 2 December until the 13 December 2019 the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25) will take place in Santiago, Chile. Before the COP25 takes place, people will come together between the 8-10 October in Costa Rica for the pre-COP. The objectives of these meetings is to follow up on the commitments made by states in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change with respect to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as set out in the Paris Agreement and to seek further action to protect our ecosystems, human rights, and biological diversity.

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the relationship between the environment, nature, armed conflict, gender and gender-based violence in the context of the WPS agenda. This workshop aims to explore gender, peace and the environment through a number of different perspectives including academic research, activism and legal strategic litigation, with a particular emphasis on Colombia and Latin America. The topics might include nature, climate change, environmental peacebuilding, extraction/extractive economies, water, land rights, mining indigenous rights, natural disasters and sustainable development. The workshop welcomes gender analytic work which explores these issues from a range of disciplines under the broad umbrella of peace and security.

Key questions for exploration include:

- What is the relationship between gender, the environment/nature and peace?
- What role do women play in environmental protection/defending nature?
- What gendered obstacles do environmental protectors face in the context of armed conflicts?
- What place and space does nature/environment have in the Women, Peace and Security agenda?
- What is the relationship between sustainable development and the political economy?
- What relationships exist between land rights, sustainable development and armed conflict?
- What do we understand by environmental reparations?
- What does effective access to justice mean with respect to gender, peace and the environment?
- How can we queer nature and how might this relate to sustainable peace?

Papers are encouraged to consider one or more of these key questions, and both theoretical and empirical papers are welcome. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be sent along with a biography of no more than 1 page.

Abstracts in Spanish or English are welcome. The workshop will be for two days and is designed with one day each of discussion and presentations in each language.

**Deadline for Abstracts: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and participants selected will be informed by September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**Workshop dates: December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of 2019**

**Location: Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá (Colombia)**

**Funding:** Limited standard class travel fares and accommodation may be available for those are invited to present and would otherwise be unable to participate. This is only available to those participants within Colombia and is very limited.

**Please send abstracts to [linam.cespedes@urosario.edu.co](mailto:linam.cespedes@urosario.edu.co) , include in the subject heading “Abstract Workshop Gender, Peace and the Environment”.**

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