

## POLICY BRIEF: The Gender Dividend in National Security

TO: UNDP

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### 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 This brief explores the localization of the WPS agenda to ensure sustainable peace.

1.2 It argues that gender inclusivity is a force multiplier essential for achieving long-term regional stability, institutional legitimacy, and state survival.

### 2.0 CURRENT LANDSCAPE

2.1 In the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, traditional security models are increasingly challenged by asymmetric threats and non-state armed groups.

2.2 Current "top-down" approaches suffer from a localized intelligence deficit, largely because they overlook the social networks and influence held by women within these communities.

### 3.0 STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR NATION-BUILDING

3.1 Intelligence and Early Warning (The "HUMINT" Advantage) Women often notice shifts in community dynamics, radicalization trends, or insurgent movements before formal systems. Formalizing channels for women to engage with security actors transforms them into a critical layer of the national early-warning system.

3.2 Economic Stabilization and Radicalization Prevention Empowering women economically creates a buffer against extremist recruitment. As primary influencers in the domestic sphere, women's socio-economic stability directly correlates to the resilience of the youth against insurgent narratives.

3.3 Inclusive Peace Architecture Peace negotiations are 35% more likely to last at least 15 years when women participate. Their presence ensures that root causes—such as land rights, education, and community reintegration—are addressed in final accords.

### 4.0 ACTIONABLE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Security Sector Reform (SSR): Increase the recruitment and leadership placement of women within intelligence and tactical units to bridge the "Gendered Intelligence Gap."

4.2 Gender-Responsive Budgeting: Allocate specific defense and development funds toward female-led community peace initiatives that act as frontline de-escalation tools.

4.3 Legislative Quotas: Mandate a minimum 30% representation of women in high-level committees overseeing National Security and Foreign Policy to ensure diverse strategic input.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 A nation-building process that excludes women operates at 50% capacity.

5.2 To build a resilient, modern state, we must shift from viewing women as "victims in need of protection" to "strategic partners in national survival."