

AFSC AND GPPAC PRESENT THE

NORTHEAST ASIA PEACE GAMES

SCENARIO

Drafting a Regional Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace, & Security

Welcome to the Northeast Asia Peace Games! This document will give you some of the background information you will use while playing the simulation. The document is divided into the following four sections:

- A. **Background on Women, Peace, and Security** – This section gives the background information and context for understanding the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in Northeast Asia.
- B. **Simulation Scenario** – This section describes the fictional scenario you will be roleplaying in during the simulation.
- C. **Instructions for Writing a Regional Action Plan** – This section describes the task you will be working on with your group during the simulation.
- D. **Appendix** – This section has additional resources that are optional for a deeper understanding of information included in the body of this document.



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**



A. Background on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)



When did WPS Conversations Start in Northeast Asia?

Civilian level dialogue on peace in Asia and the role of women began in May 1991 when women from North and South Korea, together with Japanese women, came together for the first *Seminar on Peace in Asia and the Role of Women* held in Tokyo. Follow up seminars were held in Seoul, Pyongyang, and Tokyo from late 1991 to 1993. The main topics discussed in these gatherings included the settlement and compensation of Japanese colonial rule from women's perspective, the issue of wartime sexual slavery (“comfort women”) committed by the Japanese Imperial Army, unification of the Korean Peninsula, disarmament in East Asia, and peace in Asia through the elimination of patriarchy and militarism. The plan was to continue holding such gatherings until unification, but they were suspended in 1993 due to the North Korean nuclear crisis and deterioration of North-South relations.

In 2021, 30 years after the initial seminar, a coalition of 11 Korean women’s groups held the *International Seminar on Peace in Asia and the Role of Women*. This seminar expanded the participating countries to South Korea, Japan, China, Canada, and the United States, but did not receive a response from North Korea. The organizers expressed hope that such a gathering could foster solidarity and cooperation among women in Asia and would be a start to unraveling the complicated relations between the parties in the region.^{1, 2}

What is UNSCR 1325?

On October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) which emphasizes the importance of women in preventing and resolving conflicts, making peace negotiations, building lasting peace, and providing humanitarian responses. United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 also highlights the importance of equal participation of women in all the levels of planning, maintenance, and promotion of peace and security issues. This

¹ Choi, Susanna. (2021). "Asia-ui jisok ganeunghan pyeonghwa-wa yeoseongpyeonghwaundong-eul wihae" [For Sustainable Peace in Asia and Women's Peace Movement]. Korean YWCA Federation. (Korean)

² GPPAC. (2021). "2021 International Seminar on Peace in Asia and the Role of Women".

resolution also calls on all security council member states to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender sensitive perspectives (also known as “Gender Mainstreaming”) in all United Nations peace and security efforts. For example, inviting local women to peace negotiations to contribute their insight about a conflict in their region. Resolution 1325 also calls on all parties in a conflict to make a special effort during an armed conflict to protect women and girls from gender-based forms of violence, such as rape and other forms of sexual abuse.

The goals of UNSCR 1325 are divided into four main categories or “pillars”. The four pillars of UNSCR 1325 are:

1. **Participation** : Calls for increased participation of women at all levels of decision-making, including in national, regional, and international institutions; in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict; in peace negotiations; in peace operations, as soldiers, police, and civilians; and as Special Representatives of the U.N. Secretary-General.
2. **Protection** : Calls specifically for the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, including in emergency and humanitarian situations, such as in refugee camps.
3. **Prevention** : Calls for improving intervention strategies in the prevention of violence against women, including by prosecuting those responsible for violations of international law; strengthening women’s rights under national law; and supporting local women’s peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.
4. **Relief and recovery** : Calls for advancement of relief and recovery measures to address international crises through a gendered lens, including by respecting the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps, and considering the needs of women and girls in the design of refugee camps and settlements.

How is Women, Peace, & Security Measured?

In 2017, Georgetown Institute for WPS (GIWPS) and Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) created the Women, Peace, and Security Index, which looks at 177 countries and measures women’s inclusion, justice, and security³. As seen in Table 1.1, Japan, South Korea, United State, and China score above the *East Asia and the Pacific* regional average, and the *Global* average. This means women’s inclusion, justice, and

³ [Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and Peace Research Institute Oslo. \(2023\). “Women, Peace, and Security Index”](#)

security is generally high in these countries, when compared to other countries. The WPS Index report divides all 177 countries into five levels or tiers based on their score. Below, we look at which tier each country in the region falls into.

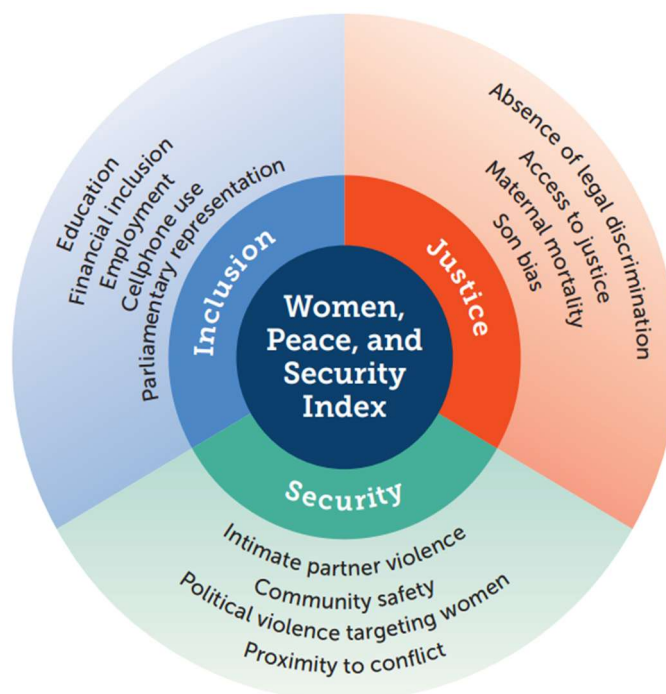


FIGURE 1.1 The WPS Index captures 13 indicators of women's status classified under three dimensions⁴

TABLE 1.1 Women, Peace, Security Index (2025/26)	
Country (Rank)	WPS Index
Japan (23)	0.866
South Korea (37)	0.815
United States (31)	0.840
China (89)	0.685
East Asia and the Pacific Average	0.680
Global Average	0.650
North Korea (n/a)	n/a

⁴ For a full explanation of indicators see the table in the appendix of this document

What is the Situation Like in Each Country?

Looking more closely at the data from the region, we see both Japan and the U.S. rank in the top tier of the WPS report, meaning they scored highly compared to the other 177 countries in the report. For Japan, many of the 13 indicators used in the WPS Index are scored high, although parliamentary representation of women is 19 which is notably lower than similarly ranked countries, while absence of legal discrimination is 78.8 which is lower than index peers. Parliamentary representation of women in South Korea is also notably lower than similarly ranked countries at 20.3. Additionally, employment of women skews low relative to peers at 67.8, while intimate partner violence against women is slightly higher than peers at 8.0.

The United States ranks in the first tier of the report. Notable indicators for the United States include a maternal mortality ratio of 171 which is higher than the median score for first tier countries, a community safety score of 58.0 which skews low for similarly ranked countries, and a score of political violence targeting women at 0.006 which skews high relative to peer nations in the report.

China ranks in the third tier of the report. Many of China's WPS indicators score on par with similarly ranked countries, although access to justice for women is scored at 1.9 which is low relative to similarly ranked countries. Son bias is also higher than average for third tier countries at 110.3.

Data from North Korea was not sufficient enough for the report to give an overall WPS score, though available data included in the report indicates parliamentary representation of women is 17.6, access to justice for women is 0.42, maternal mortality ratio is 67.0, son bias is 106.0, and political violence targeting women is 0.000 all of which are on par to include North Korea in the fifth tier of the report.⁵

What this data reveals to us is that while there is success in some areas of women, peace, and security at the domestic level throughout the region, there are still areas within the four pillars of UNSCR 1325 where each country could improve. Some of these high scoring indicators in the WPS Index may be attributed to low levels of direct violent conflict in the region. However, some WPS advocates express concerns about inadequacies in the perception of what "conflict" entails. Specifically, WPS advocates point to a narrow application of the WPS agenda by member states in the

⁵ For full data on all summit members, see the excerpt from the full report included in the appendix of this document. Full data on all 177 countries can be found at <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/WPS-Index-2025-Report.pdf>

region as a foreign policy for zones experiencing active violent conflict while giving little focus to domestic legacies of militarism, colonialism, and patriarchy.

What is an Action Plan?

While UNSCR 1325 provides a map for the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, it is up to each individual UN member state to achieve the gender equality and fulfillment of human rights described in the resolution. To do this, member states create action plans. Action plans are practical guides for governments who have adopted a specific resolution at the UN. An action plan explains what a government is doing to fulfill its responsibilities under the resolution. They also make sure that governments turn their promises into real policies and programs that improve people's lives. These plans also help serve as a metric for both governments and civil society groups to see if governments are doing what they said they would. Currently, 107 (55%) of UN member states have adopted a UNSCR 1325 national action plan.⁶ While member states are the ones who publish the final action plan, the UN Security Council encourages member states to work with local civil society groups as they draft and implement their UNSCR 1325 plans.

Some groups of member states have also come together to create action plans at the regional level. For example, the League of Arab States produced the "Regional Strategy for the Protection of Arab Women", and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) created their "Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security". These and similar regional action plans seek to provide a general framework and regional tools that support and guide the implementation of the WPS agenda in the local context, while promoting women's full participation in conflict resolution and peace building in the region.⁷

B. Simulation Scenario

With the above background information in mind, the Northeast Asia Peace Games simulation will be proceed based on the following scenario:

⁶ [Women's International League for Peace & Freedom. \(n.d\) "National Action Plans: At A Glance"](#)

⁷ [WPS Focal Points Network. \(n.d.\). "Regional Action Plans and Strategies"](#)

What is the Simulation About?

In the year 2040, on the 40th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, UN Women and in collaboration with regional parties, has started a bold new initiative that aims to draft a Northeast Asia Regional Action Plan for UNSCR 1325. A working group of government and civil society delegates from the region will gather for the *Northeast Asia Women, Peace, and Security Summit*. At the request of UN Women, Beijing has agreed to host this track 1.5 summit. This summit provides a forum for state and civil society actors in the region to gather together to discuss collective ways of achieving the four pillars of UNSCR 1325.

Parties in attendance at the Summit include, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, China, the United States, and a regional international nongovernmental organization (INGO) called Women for Peaceful Asia (WPA). As the primary convener of the summit, UN Women will facilitate the event but no delegation from the UN will participate in the negotiations about the Regional Action Plan. Each of the countries in attendance has specific motives for sending a delegation to the summit.

Japan and South Korea are eager to join this summit because, as two of the countries geographically located in Northeast Asia with a published UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan, this summit provides a way for them to contribute to building a regional standard for WPS and highlight their own progress on the WPS agenda.

As the host of this summit, China's participation in this summit will highlight its role in maintaining common security, promoting common development, and building a shared future in the region. It will also provide an opportunity to strengthen diplomatic ties with neighboring countries.

North Korea is interested in being represented at the negotiation table and highlighting its own success related to its Law on Gender Equality and the eradication of all colonial and medieval abuses that infringed women's rights in North Korea. North Korea views this as similar to the delegation that attended the *Seminar on Peace in Asia and the Role of Women* in Tokyo and Seoul in the 1990's.

In order to help build good will and reduce geopolitical tensions in the region, UN Women has also extended an invitation to delegates from United States government and civil society organizations to join the summit. As a party to many of the security concerns in the region, the US government delegates hope to increase stability, strengthen ties with allies, and promote human rights protections in the region.

What is My Goal in the Simulation ?

The groups in attendance at the Northeast Asia Women, Peace, and Security Summit will work to compose a Regional Action Plan for UNSCR 1325. This Northeast Asia Regional Action Plan aims to create a shared agreement that compliments and supports each nation's individual efforts and provides guidance, while also bringing together the collective insights and capacity from around the region. The goal of each group is to get other groups to support their positions and add them to the Regional Action Plan.

C. Instructions for Writing a Regional Action Plan

Based on the items your group supports and opposes in your Role Sheet, you will need to negotiate and work together to write a Regional Action Plan that can pass a collective vote among the members in attendance at Northeast Asia Women, Peace, and Security Summit. Some members may have differing and conflicting needs or interests, so you must use your negotiation and diplomacy skills to create a consensus about what to include in the Regional Action Plan. You may need to be creative and add, cut, or change the wording in your Role Sheet to suggest outcomes other groups will agree to.

What are Outcomes?

The action plan must include *at least* six target outcomes. The outcomes your group prefers are listed on your role sheet under "*In Support of*". All the parties must agree to the outcomes. The Regional Action Plan must contain at least six outcomes, but may contain as many as needed to pass a unanimous vote of approval among summit members. If one member vetoes an outcome, negotiations must continue.

How Do Groups Vote and Veto?

Your group will meet with other groups for several rounds of negotiations where you will try to convince and bargain with other groups to support your suggested outcome. After several rounds of negotiation, facilitators will call all the groups back into one large group for a "Roundtable Negotiation". In the Round Table negotiation, each group can propose one outcome and each group can veto one outcome. Groups must propose an outcome, but they do not have to veto if the whole group supports all of the outcomes proposed by other groups. If all six outcomes do not pass the Roundtable negotiation, the Roundtable ends and groups continue individual negotiations to try and persuade the vetoing parties.

What does an Action Plan Look Like?

Below is an example action plan with an outcome filled in:

<u>NORTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON UNSCR 1325</u>	
<u>Outcome</u>	Promote the equal participation of women in political decision making at the national and regional level.
<u>Outcome</u>	
<u>Outcome</u>	
<u>Outcome</u>	
<u>Outcome</u>	
<u>Outcome</u>	

When is the Simulation Finished?

The simulation is finished when either all the time has run out or when a complete Regional Action Plan has been approved by all the parties in the Roundtable Negotiation. The ultimate aim of this simulation is to allow you to experience the opportunities and challenges negotiating for your groups interests, so even if a completed action plan is not unanimously approved by the end of the simulation, as long as groups engage actively and respectfully in the negotiations, it can be considered a successful simulation

D. APPENDIX

WPS INDEX INDICATORS, DEFINITIONS, AND RATIONALES		
DIMENSION AND INDICATOR	DEFINITION	RATIONALE
INCLUSION		
Education	Average number of years of education of women ages 25 and older	Critical to women's opportunities, freedom from violence, and health (more precise measure than, for example, secondary school completion)
Financial Inclusion	Percentage of women and girls ages 15 and older who report having an individual or joint account at a bank or other financial institution or who report using a mobile money service	Allows women to manage risk, invest in education and health, and start and expand a business
Employment	Female employment to population ratio: number of employed women ages 25–64 in the formal or informal workforce, expressed as a percentage of the total female population in that age group	Captures women's economic opportunities, which are central to realizing women's capabilities (preferred to labor force participation, which includes unemployment)
Cellphone use	Percentage of women and girls ages 15 and older who report having a mobile phone that they use to make and receive personal calls	Essential to women's opportunities to participate in the economy, society, and politics
Parliamentary representation	Percentage of total seats in lower and upper houses of the national parliament that are held by women	Critical to women's participation in high-level decision making
JUSTICE		
Absence of legal discrimination	Extent (on a scale of 0 to 100) to which laws and regulations differentiate between women and men or protect women's opportunities across 35 aspects of life and work	Makes it easier for women to own property, open bank accounts, start a business, or take a job and enter a profession dominated by men

Access to justice	Extent (on a scale of 0 to 4) to which women are able to exercise justice by bringing cases before the courts without risk to their personal safety, participating in a fair trial, and seeking redress if public authorities violate their rights	Critical to women's ability to exercise their rights under the law
Maternal mortality	Number of maternal deaths due to pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births	Reflects women's access to healthcare and the responsiveness of the healthcare system to their needs
Son bias	Extent to which the sex ratio at birth (ratio of number of boys born to number of girls born) exceeds the natural demographic rate of 1.05 (results are reported as the number of boys born for every 100 girls born)	Exposes deep discrimination against girls and women
SECURITY		
Intimate partner violence	Percentage of ever-partnered women who experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey in which the information was gathered (current rate of intimate partner violence)	Reveals discrimination and violence that women face within the home
Community safety	Percentage of women and girls ages 15 and older who responded "Yes" to the Gallup World Poll question "Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live?"	Affects women's mobility and opportunities outside the home
Political violence targeting women	Number of political violence events targeting women per 100,000 women	Undermines women's ability to participate in civic activities and decision-making processes
Proximity to conflict	Percentage of women who lived within 50 kilometers of at least one armed conflict event during 2022	Affects women disproportionately through higher risks of gender-based violence and livelihood threats

Report Excerpt

			Inclusion dimension					Justice dimension				Security dimension			
WPS Rank		Women, Peace and Security Index	Education (years)	Employment (%)	Financial Inclusion (%)	Cell Phone Use (%)	Parliamentary Representation	Absence of legal discrimination (score)	Access to justice (score)	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100k births)	Son bias (# of sons per 100 girls)	Intimate partner violence	Community safety (%)	Political violence targeting women (events per 100k women)	Proximity to conflict
2025	Country	2025	2019-2023	2021-2024	2021-2022	2024	2025	2023	2024	2023	2024	2018	2022-2024	2024	2025
22	Japan	0.866	12.5	78.6	98.8	92	19	78.8	3.6	3	105.1	3.9	71	0	0
31	United States	0.84	14	71.2	96.8	99	28.3	91.3	3.4	17	104.9	6	58	0.006	0
37	South Korea	0.815	12.1	67.8	98.7	96	20.3	88.1	3.3	4.0	105.9	8	72	0.004	0
89	China	0.685	7.6	57	787.3	100	26.5	78.1	1.9	16.0	110.3	7.6	93	0.010	0
na	North Korea	na	5.6	61.3	53	73.4	17.6	71.9	0.4	67.0	106.0	16.2	66	0.000	0
	Country groups and regions														
	Developed countries	0.847	12.9	73.1	98.1	96.3	31	93.2	3.5	10.0	105.3	5	65.3	0.006	0.9
	East Asia and the Pacific	0.68	7.9	60.3	78.1	9.25	25.3	76.9	2.0	67.1	108.4	8.1	84.3	0.02	7.8
	Fragile States	0.458	5.3	58.9	34.2	69.2	19.7	64.4	1.8	456.8	104.1	18.9	49.2	0.212	60.2