

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

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Geneva, 13 October 2015

Dear Ambassador Hamamoto,

I refer to the Geneva Gender Champions Leadership Network to promote gender equality. As I indicated in my e-mail dated 25 August 2015, UNIDIR is pleased to be a part of this initiative. We were happy to participate in the brainstorming held on Tuesday 8 September 2015. As a research institute UNIDIR is firmly committed to a world in which gender equality and diversity are the norm.

I am writing to inform you of three “concrete, measurable, accountable institutional actions” UNIDIR is taking as part of its commitment to the Geneva Gender Champions initiative.

The first action, which UNIDIR has in fact already taken, is to sign up to the Geneva Gender Parity Pledge, which serves to formalize the Institute’s posture toward the composition of panels as needing to involve an appropriate balance of women and men. In this connection, UNIDIR will highlight its signing of the Pledge and its involvement in the Geneva Gender Champions Network on the Institute’s website before the end of 2015, as well as a link to those commitments.

The second action the Institute is taking is to designate an institutional coordinator and point-of-contact for the Geneva Gender Champions Leadership Network and for gender issues more broadly within UNIDIR. This will be done before the end of 2015, and we will convey this information to the Network.

The third action UNIDIR is taking relates to reporting on our work. As part of our regular reporting to certain funders of the Institute’s research (such as Norway), UNIDIR is required to provide substantive narrative reporting on how the research concerned relates to implementation and promotion of the aims of United Nations Security Council 1325 of 31 October 2000 on *Women, Peace and Security*. From the end of 2015, all UNIDIR project reports to all funders will contain such reporting. Although this represents an additional burden for the Institute’s staff, we feel it will have two specific benefits. The first is that it will prompt our own personnel to reflect on how their work promotes gender equality and diversity. The second benefit is that it also places these issues before our funders, and by showing the commitment of the United Nations to these, should encourage those funders in their own gender equality and diversity efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Jarmo Sareva  
Director

H.E. Mrs. Pamela K. Hamamoto  
Permanent Representative  
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cc. Michael Møller, Director-General  
United Nations Office at Geneva