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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEW GLOBAL POLL SHOWS WOMEN'S SECURITY NEEDS UNMET

80% of women surveyed say security policies do not address their needs; 82% say women are not adequately represented in security decision-making.

BROOMFIELD, CO: According to a new global poll, a majority of women say that current security measures are failing them. However, women across the globe are unified in their views about the state of security—they call for nothing less than a complete redefinition of security to address their unmet security needs.

Our Secure Future: Women Make the Difference (OSF), a program of One Earth Future, partnered with World Pulse and Women's Alliance for Security Leadership/ICAN, to crowdsource the views of over 400 women from 62 different countries on the topics of security, violence, representation and how women's security priorities differ from those currently in place. Conducted in the summer and fall of 2018, the survey asked women to lend their voices to shed light on what peace and security means to them. The poll is unique in that it was conducted within networks that allow for frank responses and addressed security as the primary topic.

"This poll is a wake up call for leaders around the world. Government systems simply aren't getting the job done. Nothing less than a fundamental and transforming redefinition of global and national security is needed. For all the women we talked to, security is personal, national and global. They see what is broken and have the ideas to fix it. They just need to be invited into the room," said Sahana Dharmapuri, OSF's Director.

A diverse array of women, some of whom live in countries in the midst of active conflict, participated in the project. A key finding that cuts across conflict zones and more stable countries is women's pressing need for physical security. Fifty-eight percent of those surveyed said that more than one type of violence affects them on a daily basis. Women and girls are continually faced with threats of harassment, assault, and limitations placed on them due to gender discrimination. A majority of women also said that security decision-making would be better if more women participated in peace and security arenas.

In addition to the survey, 150 women worldwide submitted personal experiences about how violence affects their lives, as well as recommendations for including more women in security efforts. Their courageous stories show that the current narratives surrounding traditional security have gaping holes in terms of support and protection for those on the ground.

This new global poll shows that women call for nothing less than a fundamental and transforming redefinition of global and national security. By reading their recommendations, we hope you are inspired to be a part of reforming ineffective security strategies to create an inclusive, peaceful reality for all.

If you have any questions, please contact OSF's Project Specialist Tara Dillon at tdillon@oneearthfuture.org.