



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 13 April 2021 from the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On International Women's Day, 8 March 2021, Ireland and Mexico co-hosted an Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council on the theme "Call to lead by example: ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in United Nations-led peace processes". We take this opportunity to thank once again the co-sponsors of the meeting – Estonia, France, Kenya, the Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam – for their support.

We are pleased to share the compilation of statements made at the meeting by the briefers, members of the Security Council and other States Members of the United Nations, as well as the written statements submitted (see annex).<sup>\*</sup> This is not a verbatim transcript and the statements may be checked against delivery by viewing the recording of the meeting, which is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWfs1RseYvU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWfs1RseYvU) and on United Nations Web TV.

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**  
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

Juan Ramón **de la Fuente**  
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

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<sup>\*</sup> The annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only.



**Annex to the letter dated 13 April 2021 from the Permanent  
Representatives of Ireland and Mexico to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Call to Lead by Example:**

**Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led  
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**8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

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## **Arria formula meeting on Women, Peace and Security**

### **Statement by Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason**

*08 March 2021*

Dear friends, a chairde,

Fáilte romhaibh, welcome to this Open Arria Formula meeting on the auspicious date of International Women's Day.

Ireland is delighted to co-host this meeting with Mexico, our fellow co-chair of the Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security. Along with our ten additional co-sponsors – Estonia, France, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam - I believe we might be setting a new record!

The strong interest in today's discussion among Council Members is heartening. We stand together in this call to action to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in UN-led peace processes.

25 years ago, in 1996, before Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted, a group of determined women in Northern Ireland came together to contest elections to decide who could participate in peace negotiations. This cross-community, anti-sectarian coalition secured two seats and went on to participate in the talks, playing a key role as honest brokers and securing provisions in the Good Friday Agreement on issues like victims' rights and reconciliation. Through

their trusted position in the community, they were crucial in winning public support to approve the peace agreement in a referendum. One of those women, Bronagh Hinds, is with us today.

For Ireland, the WPS agenda is personal. We witnessed at first hand the powerful impact of women's meaningful participation in peace negotiations.

The participation of women in peacebuilding is not naïve idealism. Gender equality is not an aspiration reserved for peaceful countries, somehow too difficult or inconvenient for countries in conflict. The evidence shows that women's participation in peace processes leads to better outcomes in the substance and quality of peace agreements, as well as their durability.

Yet, sadly, real participation has not been the norm.

Yes, there have been some bright spots – in Liberia and Colombia to name a few.

But we need to be honest with ourselves and with each other. Two decades on from the adoption of Resolution 1325, the participation of women in peace negotiations remains unacceptably low, and that includes negotiations facilitated by the United Nations.

It is worth reminding ourselves just why the WPS agenda is so important. It offers nothing less than the tools to transform peacebuilding and achieve sustainable peace. Instead of relying on the instigators of conflict to create peace, the participation of women disrupts the status quo that begot the conflict in the first place by establishing an inclusive vision of peace.

By failing to achieve the promise of 1325, we are depriving ourselves of the means to achieve peace.

When something is not working, we need to change how we do it.

At today's meeting, our hope is to show our strong support as Member States for the United Nations to insist on the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and political processes it leads or co-leads. We want to give concrete political impetus to the UN in making this a requirement.

The UN exerts a special moral authority. For those of us smaller Member States in particular, it incarnates our hopes for peace. In order to be a guardian of peace in our world, the ideal of equality – in particular gender equality – must permeate all areas of the UN's work.

That is why our focus today is on the role of the United Nations in leading the way on women's participation. If the United Nations does not insist on this, what hope have we that other actors will do so?

We acknowledge that there are deeply embedded structural barriers impeding women's participation, and that the UN is working in some of the most difficult contexts for peace. We will soon hear from Special Envoy Pedersen regarding Syria and from Rasha Jarhum regarding Yemen.

We 100% support and commend the efforts of USG DiCarlo, Special Envoy Pedersen and their colleagues to push through on this and to advance the participation of women. What we want to make clear today is that you have our backing to press harder. It is not easy to insist on women's participation in these contexts. But we believe that it is necessary, and it is overdue. Not to do so seems to be an unforgivable missed opportunity.

As I said earlier in another meeting earlier today, Women are not asking permission to be at the table. We are demanding to be at the table. Participation

is our right. Tokenism will not satisfy that right: we need direct, substantive inclusion of diverse women so that they can influence the course and outcome of negotiations.

I hope you will join us in this call to action. We look forward to hearing from you this afternoon.

With that, I give the floor to my esteemed colleague, Ambassador de la Fuente.



**Statement delivered by Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente, Permanent Representative, at the Security Council Open Arrria Formula meeting on the occasion of International Women's Day, entitled: "Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes"**

New York, March 8, 2021

Thank you very much, dear Geraldine. First of all, congratulations for your initiative and for your leadership in this sensitive issue. Distinguished panelists and colleagues:

It is a pleasure being here with Ireland, as co-chair of the Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security of the Security Council to commemorate the International Women's Day, under the theme of Women in Leadership.

Enhancing the leadership of women and girls and ensuring their full, effective and meaningful participation in our societies is not only a moral duty, but rather an obligation under the international human rights law. It will bring benefit and progress for all our societies. Yet, as obvious as it seems, every single report of the UN reveals that women are still underrepresented in public and political life and excluded from decision-making spaces. This is no longer acceptable.

More than 20 years have passed since the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1325, however, progress in the implementation of the WPS Agenda, which is a critical part of the human rights agenda, has been extremely limited. We have created a comprehensive framework to guarantee that women in conflict-affected countries and humanitarian situations have a seat at the negotiation tables, recognizing the crucial role they play in matters related to peace processes, conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. Regrettably, to date, they continue being marginalized. It is urgent to take bold action if we want to stop the systemic and discriminatory barriers that perpetuate male domination.

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We must ensure that all peace and political processes that the United Nations is leading in different regions of the world, ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, at all levels of the decision-making process. Women in all their diversity, particularly those from marginalized groups, must be included in all stages of peace processes, as an essential component of all UN operations with clear directives to all UN staff and UN agencies, funds and programs.

It is time to set system-wide transparent accountability mechanisms in our Organization, that include the accountability of UN senior leadership, such as the heads of UN departments, agencies, peacekeeping, political and peacebuilding missions and special envoys deployed in specific conflict situations. The Security Council should receive from them, on regular basis, information on the progress made on the ground, to ensure women's meaningful participation in a transparent, systematic and timely manner. Particularly important for the Council is to hear, if such is the case, why the UN is not able to fulfill this mandate in specific country situations and respond for the consequences of such failure.

The creation of safe and enabling environments for women's meaningful participation, at all levels, must be a priority in the fulfilment of this endeavor, and concrete steps should be taken to prevent any kind of reprisals, threats or attacks aimed at intimidating women who participate in political or peace processes. Systematic and meaningful consultations with women peacebuilders, women human rights defenders, women's rights organizations and civil society representatives, who all are an integral part of the WPS agenda, should be conducted to inform any decision and policy planning by any agency of the UN system, in all conflict-affected communities.

We recognize that the failure to allocate sufficient resources and funds has been one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the WPS agenda. As co-chairs with France of the Generation Equality Forum, Mexico strongly supported the launch of the Compact WPS and Humanitarian Action, aimed to accelerate implementation of commitments, strengthen accountability, enhance international cooperation and mobilize funding.

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To conclude, let us be clear, colleagues and friends, without real accountability, there can be no real progress. The time has come to carry accountability forward, with the full support of the Secretary General, a gender champion who is persistently advocating for the advancement of women's human rights. Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 and post COVID-19 world is possible. We are sure that this is the Organization to lead that process, under the leadership of the Secretary General, with the support of member States. I think, I believe, indeed, we can accomplish it.

Thank you, Geraldine. Thank you very much.

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**USG DiCarlo Remarks at the Security Council Arria Formula Meeting “Leading by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

Thank you, Ambassador Nason. I am pleased to be here on International Women’s Day to discuss an issue so fundamental to women’s rights.

Let me begin by congratulating Ireland and Mexico on assuming your roles as chairs of the Security Council’s Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security. Your efforts to bring attention today to the issue of women’s participation in peace processes reflect both the seriousness of the challenges we face and the urgency of action required.

Last year, as we marked the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the resounding message from women’s activists across the world was clear – far more remains to be done to realise the promise of the women, peace and security agenda.

As the Secretary-General recently reported, women are currently Heads of State or Government in 22 countries, and only 24.9 per cent of national parliamentarians are women. At the current rate of progress, gender equality of Heads of Government level will take another 130 years.

We are, therefore, pleased that this year’s session of the Commission on the Status of Women is devoted to increasing the participation of women in public life – and that includes participation in peace and political processes.

We know that women are essential to identifying durable and inclusive political solutions that can lead to sustainable peace. Yet overcoming the obstacles to their participation – entrenched power politics, patriarchal attitudes and unequal social structures – has no quick fixes.

Comprehensive, long-term efforts are needed from all stakeholders. The United Nations is committed to playing its part.

So you may ask, “What efforts are we making?”

First, we know that we must lead by example.

The Secretary-General is committed to achieving gender parity among UN staff. He has appointed women to serve in over 57 per cent of senior leadership posts in Special Political Missions, including the heads of mission in Afghanistan and Iraq that are the two largest missions.

We have ensured that UN-led and co-led processes consistently include women in mediation support teams. In 2020, 40 per cent of staff working in these teams were women.

And we are committed to meaningful women's participation in peace processes led by the United Nations. We have made a progress but much more needs to be done.

Second, we are pursuing innovative participation models. In Libya, the UN has facilitated consultations with women's groups that has led to the inclusion of more women in intra-Libyan dialogues. The UN also ensured 22 percent women's participation in the 75-person Libyan Political Dialogue Forum meeting last November. The Forum agreed to a new political roadmap with a 30 percent quota for ministers and deputy ministers in governmental agencies. In Yemen, our envoy has held focus groups with over 500 Yemenis, over a third of them women and nearly half youth regarding potential peace negotiations.

There is no substitute for having women at the table, but we have encountered obstacles even in the processes that the UN leads.

To overcome them, we have created women's advisory boards in Iraq, Syria and Yemen to ensure that women's voices are taken into account. Members of the Syria advisory group are now sitting at the table in Syria's Constitutional Committee, which includes 30 percent female membership.

We have strengthened our cooperation with regional women mediator networks. In 2020, this included supporting FemWise deployments to Cote D'Ivoire, Libya, Mali, and South Sudan.

We are also working with international mediators on practical ways to expand women's participation in peace processes. Since 2013, more than 250 senior envoys, negotiators and experts, from all regions of the world, have participated in the UN High-Level Seminar on Gender-Inclusive Mediation Strategies.

Women's participation also continues to be a matter of acute concern in peace processes not led by the United Nations.

The Afghanistan peace negotiations that began in September represent a significant step towards peace. Regrettably, women remain underrepresented in both negotiating teams.

The UN has supported the convening of hundreds of Afghan women, over several months, on their priorities for peace negotiations. I travelled to Afghanistan in July 2019 with the Deputy Secretary-General to hear the views of Afghan women on the future of their country.

They were determined to maintain the rights they have gained and eager to lead. They deserve our full support.

And my third and final point - we need sustained funding for our efforts. Every project funded by the UN's Peacebuilding Fund includes dedicated funding towards women's empowerment. Since 2018, the Peacebuilding Fund has allocated 40 per cent of its annual total investments towards gender equality initiatives, which in 2020 amounted to \$69 million.

Young, marginalized and rural women face additional barriers to their political participation. This is why we have scaled up the Peacebuilding Fund's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative from \$2.7 million in 2016 to \$36.6 million in 2020. In Sudan, these funds will be used to build a diverse, intergenerational group of women leaders from remote, conflict-affected areas to meaningfully engage in peace efforts.

In all these efforts, the UN works closely with partners in pursuit of our common objective of securing women's participation.

After all, it is clear, that more than 20 years since the adoption of resolution 1325, the hard work of influencing decision-makers, expanding community support for women's participation, and overcoming structural obstacles, can only be done with the sustained political will, commitment and investment of us all.

Thank you.



شبكة التضامن النسوي  
Women Solidarity Network



## CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

### Statement by Ms. Rasha Jarhum Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting 8 March 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the importance of women's participation in peace and security by sharing the example of my own country, Yemen. I am Rasha Jarhum, co-founder and Director of the [Peace Track Initiative](#). Today, I brief you on behalf of my organization and the [Women Solidarity Network](#), which together represent more than 300 Yemeni women leaders.

When the war broke out in Yemen seven years ago, we feared a protracted conflict. We had to focus all our efforts on building peace. Our members have stepped in to facilitate local ceasefires and mediate an end to conflicts over water and land.<sup>1</sup> In Taiz, our members have negotiated opening humanitarian corridors and undertaking evacuations, sometimes tiptoeing around landmines and dodging sniper bullets to bring food to families trapped in crossfire.<sup>2</sup> Our members, like the Mothers of Abductees Association, have contributed to releasing almost a thousand arbitrarily detained civilians.<sup>3</sup> Yemeni women also actively participated during the national dialogue conference led by the UN in 2013, securing women's participation by almost 30%, and contributing to a landmark package of rights that included a 30% quota for women in all state levels.<sup>4</sup>

However, despite the leading role Yemeni women have played in working towards peace, we were subsequently excluded from peace negotiations held in Kuwait in 2016 and Stockholm in 2018, as well as all the committees established thereafter.<sup>5</sup> Today, women are completely excluded from Track I diplomacy and their participation is limited to a tokenistic role on the sidelines as advisors that are not meaningfully consulted. Women have also been completely excluded from the formation of the new government. This contradicts the national dialogue outcomes and represents a historic failure as it is the first cabinet in two decades with no women.<sup>6</sup> It also contradicts the Yemeni government's own Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan, launched last year, which calls for women's inclusion.<sup>7</sup>

Despite the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, which was welcomed by all the conflict parties,<sup>8</sup> arms have continued to flow into the country and hostilities have escalated,<sup>9</sup> including in Mareb, where a Houthi offensive has disproportionately affected women and girls and caused widespread displacement. Although Yemeni women's organizations first sounded the alarm for a ceasefire to address COVID-19,<sup>10</sup> our requests to

<sup>1</sup> Women Solidarity Network, Mareb Ceasefire Initiative, 24 June 2020, <https://www.womensolidaritynetwork.org/news-statements-en/mareb-ceasefire-initiative>.

<sup>2</sup> Forbes, Jackie Abramian Yemen's First Responders Are Women Peace Builders, 28 May 2020, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackieabramian/2020/05/28/yemens-first-responders-are-women-peace-builders/?sh=46891397592b>.

<sup>3</sup> Peace Track Initiative, Yemeni detainees' plight and the political will for peace, 10 April 2020, <https://medium.com/@PeaceTrackInitiative/yemeni-detainees-plight-and-the-political-will-for-peace-57cd9fbc512a>.

<sup>4</sup> WILPF, Changes Ahead: Yemeni Women Map the Road to Peace, December 2018, [https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/WILPF\\_Yemen-Publication\\_web.pdf](https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/WILPF_Yemen-Publication_web.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, Women's Participation in Peace Processes, Yemen Case Study, 2020, <https://www.cfr.org/womens-participation-in-peace-processes/yemen>.

<sup>6</sup> Peace Track Initiative and Women Solidarity Network, Yemeni women's statement on a government without women, 18 December 2020, <https://sites.google.com/view/nowomennogovernment/press-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9>.

<sup>7</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Republic of Yemen Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, National Action Plan to Implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security 2020 -2023, 13 February 2020, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/124TDuOLOjX1kfXt-qrH9ZHiwB6e5WoX0/view>.

<sup>8</sup> Reuters, Mohammed Ghobari, Lisa Barrington, Yemen warring parties back U.N. truce call, as U.S. starts aid reduction, 26 March 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security/yemen-warring-parties-back-u-n-truce-call-as-u-s-starts-aid-reduction-idUSKBN21D0KN>.

<sup>9</sup> UN Press Release, Amid Unrelenting Violence, Spread of COVID-19, Crisis in Yemen at Its Worst, Top Officials Tell Security Council, Warning Inaction Will Push Country into Abyss, SC/14266, 28 July 2020, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14266.doc.htm>.

<sup>10</sup> Food4Humanity Foundation, Yemen's Food for Humanity Foundation: Humanity calls for an immediate cease fire to ensure an emergency medical response, 23 March 2020, <https://icanpeacework.org/2020/03/23/yemens-food-for-humanity-foundation-humanity-calls-for-an-immediate-cease-fire-to-ensure-an-emergency-medical-response/>.

obtain the draft of the ceasefire agreement in order to support these efforts were rebuffed under the pretext of safeguarding the fragile peace process. The draft was not even shared with the Yemeni Women's Technical Advisory Group.

We have heard all types of patriarchal excuses justifying women's exclusion — excuses that question our qualifications, our legitimacy, our ability to represent our constituencies, our agency and our very right to participate in public life. However, the most frustrating justification of all is that including women will upset the negotiating parties and disrupt a fragile peace process. When we point to Resolution 2451 (2018), which underlines the importance of women's full participation, or refer to Yemen's obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), we are told that ending war comes before fulfilling our human rights. We hear these excuses not only from our own government, but also from the UN and supportive Member States. As mediators, we understand the challenges involved in mediation. As activists dedicated to peace, we recognize the important efforts made and share the same goal of ending conflict. But to appease conflict parties who have shed blood to advance their narrow political gains over an inclusive peace process and women's rights, directly contradicts the fundamental premise of Resolution 1325 (2000). Without women, and without gender equality, peace is not an attainable goal.

In Yemen, we learned that exclusion from the UN-led peace process helped legitimize women's exclusion in other spaces. We also learned that a lack of political will combined with zero accountability meant that nobody could be held responsible for ensuring women's participation. We believe that the UN can play an important role in changing this unacceptable status quo not only in Yemen, but around the world, by using its influence and resources to make the peace processes it supports more inclusive. This would send a strong message to Member States, national governments and conflict parties that the UN's value of equality is not negotiable and will never be compromised for an expedient political solution.

An additional key challenge to women's participation in both Yemen and in other fragile countries today, such as Iraq, Libya or Afghanistan, is retaliation for participating in public and political life, for advocating for human rights or engaging in other activities contributing to peace. Today, the violations and abuses against women and girls in Yemen have reached a level never witnessed before.<sup>11</sup> As noted by the Group of Eminent Experts, sexual violence is used against women and girls by all parties to the conflict. The Houthis in particular have arbitrarily detained, tortured and repeatedly raped women and girls who oppose them.<sup>12</sup> Some of these women have been targeted simply for participating in demonstrations against hunger or calling for disbursement of their salaries. In November 2020, the Houthis also issued death sentences against 91 civilians,<sup>13</sup> such as journalists and political leaders,<sup>14</sup> including Dr. Nadia Al-Sakkaf,<sup>15</sup> a member of the Women Solidarity Network.

Here, we thank the Security Council for including an individual responsible for, and I quote, a "policy of intimidation and use of systematic arrest, detention, torture, sexual violence and rape against politically active women" on the sanctions list last month.<sup>16</sup> You have taken an important first step towards bringing justice to hundreds of Yemeni women and addressing a life-threatening obstacle to our ability to participate in defining the future of our country.

To build lasting peace in Yemen, we urge the Council to support an inclusive, transparent and accountable peace process ensuring multi-party participation, and ensure the meaningful participation of women, youth and civil society of all political backgrounds from all regions of Yemen, including the South, in all diplomatic tracks and

<sup>11</sup> See, for example, "A Pandemic of Impunity in a Tortured Land", Situation of human rights in Yemen, including violations and abuses since September 2014, Report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen, UN Index: A/HRC/45/6, 28 September 2020, paragraph 80. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=26315&LangID=E>; and "Situation of human rights in Yemen, including violations and abuses since September 2014, Detailed findings of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen", UN Index : A/HRC/45/CRP.7, paragraph 331. <sup>12</sup> See, for example, "Situation of human rights in Yemen, including violations and abuses since September 2014, Detailed findings of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen", UN Index: A/HRC/45/CRP.7, paragraphs 105, 173 -174, 205 - 213, 331.

<sup>13</sup> Debrief, Houthi group sentences 91 political, military opponents to death, 26 November, 2020, <https://debrief.net/en/news-21407.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Human Rights Watch, Yemen: Jailed Journalists Face Abuse, Death Penalty, 6 November 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/11/06/yemen-jailed-journalists-face-abuse-death-penalty>.

<sup>15</sup> Women Solidarity Network, Solidarity Statement with Dr. Nadia Al-Saqqaf, 13 December 2020, <https://www.womensolidaritynetwork.org/news-statements-en/solidarity-statement-with-dr-nadia-al-saqqaf>.

<sup>16</sup> UN Security Council, Resolution 2564, S/RES/2564 (2021), [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2564\(2021\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2564(2021)).

stages of the peace process. We also urge the Council to support the protection of women, including women political leaders, and call for immediate release of those who have been arbitrarily detained.

But we need the UN and this Council to do much more. Our experience in Yemen, reflected in so many other countries mired in conflict, is clear evidence that women's participation cannot be left to negotiation or to the will of conflict parties — doing so is a guarantee that our rights will be demoted in favor of patriarchal philosophies of mediation that reward violence. The UN must defend the standard for women's participation. Women's participation must be direct, formal and substantive. We must have influence over the outcome, otherwise our participation is just superficial. Our participation is not free if we have to live with the constant fear of arrest, torture, rape or death sentences. And, above all, women's equal participation must be the norm in all peace processes the UN supports.

To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Resolution 1325 (2000) last year, over 500 civil society groups worldwide endorsed the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security's [open letter](#) calling for women's participation to be a requirement in UN-led peace processes. Today, you have an opportunity to heed our collective calls for action and make historic change to advance women's rights.

Let us not lose our fierceness in working for gender equality and justice and not compromise women's rights.

Thank you and I look forward to today's discussion.

**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SYRIA  
GEIR O. PEDERSEN  
BRIEFING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA FORMULA MEETING  
ON PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN UN-LED PEACE PROCESSES  
8 March 2021**

Thank you so much Geraldine. And allow me first to thank you for inviting me for participate, and also for the interventions from Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo and now for what we just now heard – a moving testament from the challenges in Yemen from Rasha [Jarhum].

1. Allow me to start by reminding all of us of the intensity of the conflict in Syria. Next week we will be commemorating the tenth anniversary of the start of this terrible crisis, and the lack of progress in the political process is high on our collective mind.
2. No country would emerge unchanged from a tragedy of this magnitude. Ten years into this war, the Syrian society has been altered in ways that no one could have foreseen when it started. And the impact on Syrian women in all regions and communities has of course been considerable.
3. From my contacts with women's groups and visits to Syrian communities, I learned firsthand about this impact. And let me say a few words about it. For instance, against the backdrop of all the tragedies of death and displacement that have happened, we are probably close now to 20 per cent of female-led households in Syria – 20 per cent of female-led households. Female interlocutors have emphasised a number of predicaments impacting them in specific ways. They tell us about the detained, abducted and missing which has left no family unscarred.... They describe the toll taken by the loss of loved ones in previous combat operations.... They speak of the aggravating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the harsh winter conditions on the internally displaced and they remind us of the dramatic impact of the economic crisis on women across the country.... We understand from them also the scale of conflict-related sexual violence, including at checkpoints and in detention.... We also learn from them on gender-based violence, all over Syria.... We hear how negative coping mechanisms like early and forced marriages are now happening – even increasing.... They tell us how girls' school attendance in such settings has plummeted even further with the global spread of the COVID-19.... And they remind us of the plight of women activists – many of them survivors of arbitrary detention and abuse, or relatives of the forcibly disappeared....
4. But friends, what strikes me about Syrian women across the board is their determination to be actors of their own future, not the victims of decisions made by others. Their experience through these years of conflict means they will not accept to revert to previous ways of doing things – as was emphasised to me in unmistakable terms by women I had the privilege of meeting in refugee camps.
5. The direct and meaningful participation of Syrian women in the political process will of course not happen by itself – as we also just now heard from the experience in Yemen. It requires political will – of course first and foremost from the Syrian parties themselves, but

supported by all of us. It was one step in the right direction when the Syrian government and opposition, facilitated by my predecessor, agreed that women should make up at least 30 per cent in any new institution. And of course, Security Council resolution 2254, my mandate, encourages the meaningful participation of women in the political process.

6. It was crucial for me that as we were striving to establish the Constitutional Committee, as Rosemary [DiCarlo] just mentioned, we would insist on a 30 per cent representation for women. The advocacy of women's groups was critical to our efforts to secure this important milestone. Women comprise approximately 28% of the 150 Constitutional Committee members. But of the civil society group – the 50 members in which the United Nations had the most direct role in facilitating the composition of -- nearly half are women. This is a landmark achievement -- but should be seen as a floor and not as a ceiling.
7. In a week from now, I will be briefing the Council on our efforts to overcome the challenges facing the work of Constitutional Committee, which has so far met five times. During these meetings, women members have constantly made important contributions across all dimensions. And the agreed Terms of Reference commit the Co-Chairs to promote gender mainstreaming.
8. To further inform my work as Special Envoy, I continue to draw on available **platforms** to ensure that Syrian women from across the political, socio-economic and geographic spectrum are meaningfully engaged in the political process.
9. The Syrian Women's Advisory Board – the **WAB**, as Rosemary [DiCarlo] also mentioned, for short – has functioned since 2016, also with the support of UN Women, as an independent source of expertise and advice for my office across a range of policy concerns, including on bringing women's perspectives and gender lens to bear on all topics under discussion. The WAB comprises 17 Syrian women from all walks of life, points of view and political persuasions. The diversity within the WAB makes it a unique forum. While they of course not always agree, they use their different backgrounds to identify options and possible pathways to overcome difficulties in my efforts to find common ground between the parties. They have shown themselves dedicated to the hard work of forging confidence and trust. It is an example of the commitment to negotiated peace that I would like to see reflected in the formal process.
10. My Deputy Khawla Matar and I confer regularly with the members of the WAB. Over the past year, owing to the pandemic we have shifted our interactions entirely to a virtual format. While this has allowed for regular interaction, we must also recognise the challenges posed by purely virtual work. We will reconvene the WAB in person as soon as conditions allow.
11. WAB members have articulated the importance of legislative reform in Syria. Syrian women share that an urgent priority is reform of laws and legislation that are discriminatory in nature and perpetuate gender inequality. And they continue of course to call clearly for women's full and meaningful participation in the political process.

12. In addition to the WAB, we also have the Civil Society Support Room (**CSSR**), our consultative platform with over 700 members, 40 per cent of them women, that represent Syrian civil society that also gives us access to the voices of diverse Syrian women from different geographic areas and professional backgrounds – many of whom operating at the forefront of humanitarian efforts to meet the needs of Syrians.

Dear co-chairs, in closing,

13. The plight of Syrian women must be heard. But let us not lose from sight that their main demand is for them to be fully part of the political deliberations about Syria. The UN acts as the facilitator of an immensely challenging and difficult political process in line with Security Council resolution 2254 that is to be fully inclusive, to meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, and to respect and restore Syria's sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and independence. To this end, we count on the **support of Member States**, to promote confidence between the parties and bring them closer to a negotiated political settlement of the conflict, and while doing so, ensure that women are at the table at each and every juncture so that they remain empowered to shape their own future and the future of their country.

Thank you so much.

## International Women's Day 2021 Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes

### Example of Women in the Northern Ireland Peace Process Bronagh Hinds, Senior Associate DemocraShe

#### Pursuing Full Participation at Negotiations

The 1998 Good Friday Agreement ended 30 years of violent conflict in Northern Ireland and has given us 23 years of peace.

25 years ago, urban and rural women who hailed from different politics, religions, classes and generations, formed the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and pledged to work for a political accommodation inclusive of all interests.<sup>1</sup>

We were determined to be at the negotiating table. We wanted our say on the future, and a different model of politics and governance.....a model that welcomes women. To quote a Coalition colleague, “the audacity of men sitting around a table planning the future of N.Ireland without women present!”. Today, the suite of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security makes such an androcentric arrangement unacceptable.

Experience taught us that the exclusion of women and civil society impacts negatively on the capacity to make sustainable peace.<sup>2</sup> So in addition to gender justice, we realised that new ranks of women from the civic space would make a difference.

Women brought a variety of life skills to the Coalition. Many ran complex organisations, led projects and negotiated between competing interests. Participation in grassroots organisations gave us the confidence to represent the concerns and aspirations of those communities. We worked across conflict divides and found ways to manage the differences that made conflict intractable for others.<sup>3</sup>

As the process for multi-party talks was being designed to embrace political representatives of armed groups, we lobbied for gender proofing. This resulted in our inclusion in the election to the Talks.<sup>4</sup>

#### Meaningful Engagement In the Talks

Throughout, we remained focused on our twin goals of women's full, equal and meaningful participation, and achieving agreement for a durable settlement that would win the consent of Northern Ireland people.

We argued that all parties and interests had to be heard if realistic political options were to emerge.<sup>5</sup>

The inveterate ingredients of adversarial politics - antagonism, bullying, sectarianism, sexism, demonising and threatening behaviour - were deeply damaging. The violent, militaristic language of 'battle', 'enemy', 'smashing' and 'destroying' corroded the democratic process. Calling those prepared to dialogue and compromise 'traitors' was life-threatening and intended to intimidate and stop them.<sup>6</sup>

We were called 'naïve' when we challenged hateful rhetoric. But we were far from naïve. Abuse was used to thwart political progress and avoid negotiation. We interrupted this behaviour and set new standards. Such transformation was also required if women were to be encouraged to participate in politics.<sup>7</sup> We had the support of the mediators,<sup>8</sup> and we won the support of the public.<sup>9</sup>

We worked from a different starting point to other parties: our values and principles were predicated on human rights. We had a different end point: we were committed to finding an accommodation for the common good, taking account of differing interests. As women with opposing aspirations for new constitutional arrangements but experienced in collaborative practices, we redefined problems in mutually beneficial ways. We sought to be creative<sup>10</sup> and innovative,<sup>11</sup> explore all ideas and options, offer solutions rather than obstacles,<sup>12</sup> and frame and re-frame issues to assist agreement.

Every effort to pigeon-hole the Coalition into one or other side of the divide, or to drive a wedge between women from different political or religious traditions met with failure.<sup>13</sup> We declined to engage in positional bargaining. We dialogued through our differences. We were prepared to live with ambiguity, and experiment with various configurations until we reached consensus.

### **Influence on the Agreement**

The Women's Coalition made invaluable contributions to all elements of the Agreement: the constitutional position, power-sharing and governance, criminal justice, decommissioning of weapons, policing, prisoners and inter-jurisdictional matters were all subjected to the scrutiny of the Coalition's set of values.

We advocated provisions on human rights, equality and reconciliation (good relations).<sup>14</sup> We inserted proposals on women's participation,<sup>15</sup> a short-lived Civic Forum and integration of our communities.<sup>16</sup> Alone among the parties, we ensured that the victims of the conflict were included.

### **Supporting Women in Conflict**

Our good fortune in maintaining peace makes us duty bound to share our lessons and expertise, and to learn from and work with the courageous women across the globe who challenge the barriers to meaningful participation - from the women in Afghanistan I was with a few months ago, to the diverse women in regions as different as Yemen, Iraq, Ukraine, Colombia and South Korea.

I have been privileged to work with Syrian women and the Syrian Women's Advisory Board for many years as a UN Women-appointed expert on women's engagement in peace processes. The WAB's composition was unique and their work has not been easy or painless. With the unstinting and highly effective support of Gender Advisor Christina Shaheen in the Special Envoy's Office they have worked tirelessly for women's impact in negotiations and a pathway to peace. Through this UN-led process Special Envoy Pedersen and Deputy Special Envoy Khawla Matar can lead in breaking further ground for women in peace and security.

## Conclusion

A more inclusive negotiating process leads to more sustainable peace. Women's participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20 percent, and 15 years by 35 percent.<sup>17</sup> Northern Ireland surpasses this. We didn't have the benefit of the UN's women, peace and security drivers in our 1998 negotiations, but the suite of 10 UN resolutions provides an unassailable framework and UN mandate today. We need full and effective implementation.

We must challenge the norm of bringing only the 'key warring parties' to the table.<sup>18</sup> We must end the tendency to give into blocking tactics that prevent others from participating. We must end the propensity for trade-offs between male power-blocs. Instead, we must reset the balance. UN-led peace and political processes should be designed to be inclusive, with women participating fully, equally and meaningfully including in leadership.

The prize is the greater likelihood of a peace that is holistic, durable and more widely supported - a much better outcome than marginalising women and condemning societies to cycles of conflict and suffering.

23 years after the Good Friday Agreement our peace process still needs attention, but there is a deep wish to keep it safe. Women's political influence has grown: both our First and deputy First Ministers are women and four of our party leaders are women. Of course, much, much more remains to be done to deliver substantive change for women. Meaningful involvement in Northern Ireland delivered change - this can be done in other places.

Between 1992 and 2019 women constituted 6 percent of mediators, 13 percent of negotiators and 6 percent of signatories in major peace processes.<sup>19</sup> Transformation can happen - but only with a significant increase in political will and accountability.

<sup>1</sup> Mediator Senator George Mitchell, reflected that "the cause of women in Northern Ireland is essential to the cause of peace". DemocraShe Event, 29 January 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Civil society and community activism is longstanding in N.Ireland. Civil society actors have been instrumental in pathways to peace and in testing out elements of peace e.g. Opsahl Commission.

<sup>3</sup> Women worked in community development, ran women's centres and community services, campaigned on human rights and equality, led peace movements. Some were trade union organisers, others business women and others in NGOs.

<sup>4</sup> The entry mechanism was an election to win a democratic mandate to become one of 10 parties in the negotiations. Parties contesting the election were named in the Entry to Negotiations legislation; pressure to widen participation saw 26 parties registered. Despite lacking the ready-made electoral machinery of traditional political parties, within 7 weeks the Coalition had the 5th largest roster of candidates and planned and managed an effective election strategy to be elected in 9th place.

<sup>5</sup> We entered negotiations with the intention of nurturing the Talks and keeping all doors open. We opposed exclusion of parties when ceasefires stalled. Unlike some, we dialogued with all parties. When two parties left the Talks rather than sign the Agreement, our reputation on defending inclusion gave us the authority to publicly appeal to them to return.

<sup>6</sup> Misogyny was rife. We were called "silly women", "whinging", "whining", "feckless", "time wasters" and 'moo'ed' at like cows. One party leader said he wasn't going to listen to "the Greek chant from the women". One commented "They must be a cult so they will grow into each other and disappear". The leader of the largest party in the Talks, later First Minister, said "Women should leave politics and leadership alone". The deputy leader of another major political party, later First Minister, said "The Ulster woman in the past has seen herself very much in support of her man". We were told to "go home and breed for Ulster".

<sup>7</sup> "Let the ladies take the banter as part of the hurly-burly of political life. Let them grow a thick skin and give us all a smile." Politicians and media considered the behaviour normal politics. They ignored the danger and damage. Our strategy was to expose it as deviant and unacceptable and lead change in political culture.

<sup>8</sup> The mediator, former Senator George Mitchell, said: "The women overcame a great deal of adversity. Early in the process they were not taken seriously in our talks and they were insulted in the Forum. I would not permit such conduct in the negotiations, but it took many months for their courage and commitment to earn the attention and respect of the other parties. In the final stages of the negotiations they were serious, important participants, and were treated as such." George J. Mitchell, *Making Peace* 44 (1999).

<sup>9</sup> Despite verbal abuse and some physical jostling in the Forum for Political Dialogue that accompanied the Talks we continued to stand our ground and put alternative views. There was a strong public reaction against the behaviour directed at the Women's Coalition that the offending parties were forced to moderate their behaviour.

<sup>10</sup> When we saw each party take a section of the dining room for themselves, we in the Women's Coalition pretended not to notice this at first and instead we split up and joined them at their tables.

<sup>11</sup> E.g. We initiated and chaired a Small Parties Group to build cross-party collaboration and consensus. We held meetings at times of difficulty in the Talks to see if we could collectively add our weight to something.

<sup>12</sup> E.g. (i) The Coalition played a small but critical role in moving the process to substantive talks after months of stalling. Two of the ten parties in the Talks were cynical participants, who were unwilling to negotiate with all parties, filibustered throughout and walked out rather than reach Agreement. As they prepared to oppose a cross-community proposal for the agenda by the two largest parties, we negotiated with all other parties to replace the proposal with the same one signed by all the pro-Talks parties. We rendered opposition pointless and reached agreement on the Talks agenda. (ii) We "interpreted" between parties to prevent confused communication from exacerbating conflict and enabling positions to be restated and differences to be considered and addressed.

<sup>13</sup> By insisting that we take a position on the constitution. It was our view that in reaching the Agreement we would reframe Northern Ireland's constitutional arrangement and we were prepared to put our energy into finding a solution for this rather than defend traditional positions.

<sup>14</sup> An Equality Commission and a Human Rights Commission in N.Ireland, a Commission for Human Rights and Equality in Ireland and Joint North/South Ireland Human Rights Body. Legislation on equality and good relations (reconciliation). Single Equality Bill. Bill of Rights. Chapter of Rights on the island of Ireland.

<sup>15</sup> "The right of women to full and equal political participation". "The advancement of women in public life".

<sup>16</sup> Integrated housing and integrated education.

<sup>17</sup> 1 Global Study on 1325: "Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace" (Oct 2015) <http://wps.unwomen.org/en>

<sup>18</sup> Whether politically warring or armed actors.

<sup>19</sup> Data from the Council on Foreign Relations "Women's participation in peace processes" <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield  
U.S. Representative to the United Nations  
Washington, D.C.  
March 8, 2021

## Remarks by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield at a UN Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on Women, Peace, and Security

AS DELIVERED

Thank you, very much, Geraldine. And thank you, Juan Ramón, for convening us here today for this important Arria meeting – and it is my first Arria. I kept asking in the early days, “what exactly is an Arria?” Now I know what it is. I want to thank today’s briefers for their insight on how we can make progress on our Women, Peace, and Security commitments, and on the important work left to be done. Their insights were invaluable. And I particularly want to thank Rasha for her comments, and for her courage, and for her service and the work that she’s been doing throughout her life.

Today, I’d like to make three main points. First, the United States strongly supports the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Second, it’s time for all of us to turn our commitments on the agenda into action. And third, we need to do more to protect women, especially women leaders, from silence and violence.

The United States and the Biden-Harris administration care deeply about gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls around the world. We all believe and understand that women do better, countries do better, communities do better, and families do better. Not just women, but everyone.

That is why the United States is joining the UN Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

And it is why I am pleased to announce that Vice President Harris will deliver the United States national statement at the 65th Commission on the Status of Women on March 16.

The United States is back at the UN and we are resolute in our support for the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

We believe that the agenda needs to go beyond mere rhetoric. It is time we translate our noble commitments into concrete actions. Women should be part of mediation and negotiation teams. They should also serve in roles behind the scenes that are just as powerful – such as technical experts, or civil society leaders consulted by those in power. With so many ways for women to lend their voice to – and lead – in peacebuilding, there is no excuse for their perspectives to be absent.

Last October, the Group of Friends on Women, Peace, and Security called on the UN to make women full, equal, and meaningful participants a requirement in all mediation teams, political transitions, and peace processes that it leads or co-leads. This must be a priority within the UN. It should be incorporated into its staffing models. The UN must lead by example.

And we have to do this work within our own systems too. I am personally proud to have spearheaded one of the first dedicated funds for the United States to invest in women peacebuilders across Africa. With several peace processes stalled, the world has an urgent, security-based need to deliberately engage women leaders if we are to address these conflicts and create lasting, sustainable peace agreements.

Finally, we need to do more to protect women in positions of visible leadership. Peacebuilders, human rights defenders, journalists, public officials – including those who brief the Security Council – are increasingly subjected to threats, harassment, and gender-based violence. This violence is meant to silence. We cannot allow that to happen. The issue of safeguards for women peacebuilders and civil society leaders is the next frontier for Women, Peace, and Security.

Thank you, very much.

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**MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS  
DES NATIONS UNIES  
À NEW YORK**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**APPEL A MONTRER L'EXEMPLE :  
GARANTIR LA PARTICIPATION PLEINE ET VÉRITABLE DES FEMMES, SUR UN PIED D'ÉGALITÉ,  
AUX PROCESSUS DE PAIX MENÉS PAR LES NATIONS UNIES**

**INTERVENTION DE M. NICOLAS DE RIVIERE, REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DE LA FRANCE  
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**REUNION DU CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ EN FORMAT ARRIA**

=Traduction de l'anglais=

New York, le 8 mars 2021

Chère Géraldine, cher Juan Ramón, chers collègues,

Je salue le leadership de nos nouveaux coprésidents, l'Irlande et le Mexique. Et je voudrais remercier Rosemary DiCarlo et tous les briefers pour leurs exposés. La référence aux pourparlers de paix irlandais a été éloquente pour rappeler qu'une paix durable ne peut être atteinte sans les femmes.

La France est fière de figurer parmi les douze co-parrains de cet événement. Ce soutien quasi unanime est le seul message approprié que le Conseil de sécurité puisse envoyer en ce jour à toutes les femmes et plus largement à la communauté internationale.

Beaucoup de choses ont été réalisées depuis l'adoption de la résolution 1325 du Conseil de sécurité et des résolutions ultérieures sur les femmes, la paix et la sécurité. Nous soutenons les efforts actuels des Nations unies pour intégrer l'agenda "Femmes, Paix et Sécurité" à tous les niveaux, en particulier dans les processus de paix. Cependant, il reste encore beaucoup à faire. Nous sommes encore loin de garantir la participation pleine, égale et significative des femmes aux processus de paix.

Nous ne pouvons tout simplement pas accepter l'erreur ou la perception erronée d'un manque de candidates qualifiées. Les femmes artisans de la paix existent et sont actives depuis des années au Yémen, en Syrie, en Libye, au Mali, au Soudan, au Soudan du Sud et en Afghanistan par exemple. À cet égard, nous voudrions féliciter Mme Habiba Sarabi, qui a reçu aujourd'hui le "Prix Simone Veil" de la République française pour le rôle crucial qu'elle joue en faveur des droits et de la participation des femmes en Afghanistan.

Les réseaux "Femmes, Paix et Sécurité" doivent être encouragés et élargis. Nous appelons tous les envoyés spéciaux et les RSSG à continuer à travailler avec les femmes qui construisent la paix et défendent les droits de l'Homme. De même, nous appelons à la mise en œuvre de la résolution 2538 sur les femmes dans les opérations de maintien de la paix.

Dans un contexte de pandémie de Covid, nous devons faire un meilleur usage des outils numériques pour atteindre les leaders locaux. Parce que nous devons également entendre la voix des jeunes femmes et préparer les médiatrices et les négociatrices de demain, nous devons renforcer le lien entre les agendas "Femmes, Paix et Sécurité" et "Jeunes, Paix et Sécurité". Nous devons également promouvoir la parité entre les sexes en tant que principe non négociable des Nations unies. Nous devons nous opposer avec force aux rôles ou aux stéréotypes genrés. Enfin, nous devons soutenir une approche globale de l'agenda Femmes, Paix et de Sécurité qui promeuve l'égalité des sexes et les droits des femmes dans leur ensemble.

La France continuera à promouvoir l'intégration de l'agenda "Femmes, Paix et Sécurité" dans les travaux du Conseil. Nous continuerons à faire pression pour des mandats forts et des ressources adéquates. Nous continuerons à soutenir la participation de représentantes de la société civile au Conseil. Nous sommes également heureux d'annoncer qu'un nouveau Pacte pour les Femmes, Paix et Sécurité et l'action humanitaire sera lancé lors du prochain Forum Génération Égalité, qui se tiendra au Mexique et en France.

Enfin, je voudrais rendre hommage à la société civile et aux femmes défenseuses des droits de l'Homme pour leur travail en faveur de la mise en œuvre de l'agenda Femmes, Paix et Sécurité.

Je vous remercie.



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**CALL TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE: ENSURING THE FULL, EQUAL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION  
OF WOMEN IN UN-LED PEACE PROCESSES**

**STATEMENT BY MR. NICOLAS DE RIVIERE,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN ARRIA FORMULA**

New York, 8 March 2021

Dear Geraldine, dear Juan Ramón, dear colleagues,

I praise the leadership of our new co-chairs, Ireland and Mexico. And I would like to thank Rosemary DiCarlo and all briefers for their comments. The reference to the Irish peace talks was eloquent in reminding that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without women.

France is proud to be among the twelve co-sponsors of this event. This near-unanimous support is the only appropriate message the Security Council can send on this day to all women and more broadly to the international community.

A lot has been achieved since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent Women, Peace and Security resolutions. We support the ongoing efforts of the United Nations to mainstream the Women, Peace and Security agenda at all levels, especially in peace processes. However much more needs to be done. We are still far from ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes.

We simply cannot accept the fallacy or wrong perception that there is a lack of qualified candidates. Women peacebuilders exist and have been active for years in Yemen, Syria, Libya, Mali, Sudan, South Sudan and Afghanistan for example. In this regard, we would like to commend Mrs. Habiba Sarabi, who was awarded today the “Simone Veil Prize” of the French Republic for the crucial role she is playing for women’s rights and participation in Afghanistan.

Women, Peace and Security networks must be fostered and expanded. We call on all Special envoys and SRSGs to continue to work with women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders. Similarly, we call on the implementation of resolution 2538 on women in peacekeeping operations.

In the context of Covid, we must make better use of digital tools to reach local grassroots leaders. Because we also need to hear the voices of young women, and prepare the mediators and negotiators of tomorrow, we must further the nexus between the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas. We also need to promote gender parity as a non-negotiable principle of the UN. We must forcefully oppose gender roles or stereotypes. Finally, we need to support a comprehensive approach of Women, Peace and Security which promotes gender equality and the rights of women as a whole.

France will continue to promote the mainstreaming of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Council’s work. We will continue to push for strong mandates and adequate resources. We will continue to support the participation of women civil society representatives in the Council. We are also happy to announce that a new

Compact for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action will be launched at the forthcoming Generation Equality Forum, which will take place in Mexico and France.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to civil society and women human rights defenders for their work in favor of the implementation of Women, Peace and Security.

Thank you.



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**Remarks by Ambassador Mr. Abdou Abarry  
Permanent Representative of Niger to the**

**International Women's Day – Arria Formula**

**A Call to Lead by Example : Ensuring the Full, Equal  
and  
Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led  
Peace Processes**

New York, 8 March 2021

## **Excellences, Dear Colleagues,**

I begin today's remarks by wishing happy International Women's Day to all the women on this virtual meeting. While this day is a celebration, it is a day to take stock about how far we have come but also a stark reminder of the damaging inequality which to shape women's participation in decision-making, including peace processes, twenty (20) years after resolution 1325. I also thank the briefers for the quality of their interventions.

For a country like mine, nested in a region with multiple crises, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is not simply a concept, it is fundamental to sustaining peace and preventing conflict. Niger firmly supports this agenda.

## **Madam Chair,**

We have continuously made commitments and strengthened the normative framework, it is time to act in a decisive way to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making and all peace processes.

As today's discussion aptly highlights, the UN can lead by example. For the first time in history, there are as many women as men in top UN jobs, an achievement that shows the Secretary General's commitment to gender equality. What this also conveys is that ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes can be achieved with political commitment.

In UN-led peace processes, women remain direly unrepresented. As the latest report of the Secretary General on WPS pointed out, between 1992 and 2019, women constituted only 13 per cent of negotiators and 6 per cent of mediators in peace processes. Despite the critical role of women's organizations and women human rights defenders in consolidating peace and in post conflict reconstruction, women are often absent when peace agreements are signed. Only 6% of signatories in peace processes were women.

We are literally staling the chances of sustained peace by excluding women from decision-making and peace processes. Evidence has shown, time and again, that women's participation in peace processes is a pillar for peace consolidation and conflict prevention. Conflicts, in their consequences, have a gendered

dimension which amplify existing inequalities and reinforce patriarchal and unequal power structures that disadvantage women. Yet only 22% of peace agreements signed between 1995 and 2019 contain special provisions for women. Even fewer made specific reference to violence against women which, we know, is an unfortunate reality in all conflict and post conflict situations.

My delegation would like to stress that while the instrumental value of equality in peace processes stands, women's full, equal and meaningful participation is also simply a matter of justice: if peace is a collective issue, then why should it be discussed, consolidated, and achieved without women?

### **Madam Chair,**

My delegation reiterates the need to respond effectively to this longstanding injustice and rights' violation that not only handicap our work but also the effectiveness of peace processes. To this effect, we issue five key take-aways:

- **First**, there needs to be a systemic overhaul to account for women's participation in all levels and stages of peace and security processes. We stress that geographical representation matters.
- **Second**, the UN must hold itself accountable and conduct a review of all its ongoing peace processes with regards to the inclusion of women. Actionable inclusion strategies can be adopted with regular reporting on what the gaps are and what steps are adopted to tackle these gaps. On this point, the involvement of national actors would be critical to ensure contextually relevant gender-sensitive analyses from the negotiation and mediation stages to implementation.
- **Third**, there can be no substitute to greater women's leadership and influence in positions of power and decision-making. Given the entrenched structural barriers which exist, there is need to support the strengthening of legal and institutional measures, including national legislations, to effect sustained change.

When there are more women in public leadership, they can fundamentally alter policies in ways that induce structural change. Our assessment of

various interventions by women peacebuilders, during the past year, shows that, one of the common recommendations is the call for the meaningful engagement of women, beyond a tokenistic involvement or consultation at specific stages.

During conflict and post conflict stages, when agreements are negotiated, signed, and monitored, women need to be meaningfully engaged as actors that influence political processes and reforms, economic development, and various aspects of transitional justice and reconstruction.

- **Fourth**, my delegation, as a major troop contributing country, calls for the more effective participation of women in peace keeping operations. Niger is particularly keen to see the trend for women participation in UN peacekeeping missions and police forces be strengthened. In 2016, a female officer, a Captain from Niger, serving in the UN peace-keeping mission in Mali (MUNISMA) was awarded a Presidential Award by President Obama for her excellent work with soldiers and their families.
- **Lastly**, we believe that the notion of women's full, equal and meaningful participation must be nurtured early in order to fundamentally and positively alter societal norms including structural barriers to women's leadership and violence against women and girls.

Access to education for girls in conflict affected areas is critical and is a priority of our mandate at the Security council. The PRST adopted under Niger's presidency, last September, highlights the gendered drivers and incidence of attacks against schools. We commit to furthering the fundamental rights of girls and young women for access to education – as a pillar of conflict prevention but also as a means to ensure women take their rightful space in decision- making and leadership. Nobel Peace laureate, Wangari Maathai, has rightfully said, “You cannot enslave a mind that knows itself. That values itself. That understands itself.”

African women have a long tradition contributing to peace building and conflict resolution efforts in their societies. In 2011, Liberian women's efforts to end

the Second Civil War in Liberia earned Leymah Gbowee and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a shared Nobel Peace Prize.

I end by stating that the idea of women's leadership and participation, which is a priority for Niger, is deeply rooted in our region's long and more recent history where women like Sarraounia Mangou, Queen Amina of Zazzau, and Nana Asmau Fodio have shaped the social and political spaces in ways that cemented women's leadership as a norm rather than an anomaly.

In a more recent history, the implementation of the gender policy (2017) and the quota law (2000) have provided the government a significant opportunity to appoint women in critical decision-making positions which positively impact the implementation of peace and security programs in our country that is negatively affected by regional wars and humanitarian crisis. In the current government which was formed in 2016 for five (5) years, women held very critical cabinet positions as Minister of planning, Minister of Social Development, Minister of Labor, and Minister of Women's Affairs. As Heads of cabinets, these female leaders have placed gender equity at the center of their respective mission with great success. This March 2021, 28% of the elected parliamentarians are women while the quota law a significant progress that allows these parliamentarian women an opportunity to create a specific commission in Parliament that monitors the implementation of the 1325 National Action Plan. This is a very positive trend for our country.

**I thank you for your attention.**

*UNSC Open Arria-formula Meeting, 8 March 2021*

**Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes**

*Statement by PR of Estonia Sven Jürgenson*

Colleagues,

The number of members of the Security Council who are co-sponsoring today's event is a clear and undisputable reflection of the strong support to women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes by Council members across the regions.

Estonia is proud to be a part of this group.

We are, however, less glad with how we collectively have done so far in implementing this objective – which is essential for sustainable peace. Women's participation in peace processes remains low, though not due to the lack of women's initiative and efforts. We still need to get much better at combining expertise, experience, resources and *political will* to achieve it.

Estonia therefore fully endorses the call to the UN to “show the power of its example” by insisting on the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes – be it in Syria, Yemen or Libya. It cannot let down women who have risked their lives to take part in deciding their countries' future.

I emphasise that the cornerstone for the realisation of women's participation is the protection of the human rights and the empowerment of women and girls. It is not something that we can afford to focus on further down the line, but a proven factor for a country's resilience or fragility.

Women's participation in political and peace processes is too often associated with reprisals and targeted attacks against women activists, human rights defenders, leaders and public figures. The UN system and we, as member states, need to follow up with coordinated and systemic measures to protect them better.

Estonia is compiling its third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security – for us, it is also an opportunity to analyse and build on the experience gained on means we can support women's participation.

We thank the presenters today for the exchange of ideas on how the UN can do better in ensuring women's participation in UN-led peace processes. The objective of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in securing peace is shared by countries beyond the Security Council and an essential expression of women's equal right to participation and decision-making in public life – which we sincerely hope will be reflected in this year's CSW outcome as well.

Thank you.



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF NORWAY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting**  
**on Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful**  
**Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes**  
08 March 2021

**Delivered by:**  
Mona Juul, Permanent Representative of Norway

I want to thank Ireland, Mexico and the briefers for setting the stage for today's discussions.

20 years after the adoption of resolution 1325, we are still here, discussing targeted initiatives to include women fully, equally, and meaningfully in peace processes.

Women have the right to participate in decisions concerning their future. Yet there remains a disconcerting mismatch between the commitments made in statements and resolutions, and the realities on the ground.

This shows a lack of resolve. And it has been proven to make our peace and security efforts less effective and less sustainable.

We see three areas where the UN can lead by example:

**First: level the playing field from the outset.**

We must leverage in-house expertise. Include UN gender advisors and protection officers, and use the convening power of UN Women and their networks.

Prioritize early outreach to diverse women mediators and human rights defenders, including youth;

Incorporate their priorities into the design of peace and political processes; and

Ensure their continued involvement in the implementation phase, monitoring mechanisms, constitutional and security sector reforms, as well as DDR efforts.

**Second: learn from past experiences.**

Noteworthy inclusion mechanisms have evolved in the past few years such as the sub-committee on gender in the Colombia process, the Syrian Women's Advisory Board and Civil Society Support Room.

These complement, rather than replace, the direct influence of women in formal processes.

We must engage with diverse practitioners, like the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediators Networks and utilize their competence and experience.

Seek synergies within all aspects of the UN's work: Support national action plans, local peace committees, good governance and PVE.

We know that inclusion is difficult. It requires creativity and steadfast commitment, together with political will and ownership by the parties. But we can build upon what we have learnt.

**Finally: create a safe and enabling environment**

Not only must we insist on women's right to participate in all aspects and phases of peace and security efforts, we must ensure that they can do so safely.

Harassment, threats and violence against women peacebuilders and human rights defenders have only been increasing.

In closing, let me send a message to fellow women peacebuilders and echo a South Sudanese female poet:

Choose to challenge in small spaces. Choose to challenge in big spaces. Choose to challenge in any space you find yourself in; it will surely make a difference.

We are here today because of generations of women who dared to challenge.

**Thank you and have a full, equal, and meaningful International Women's Day**

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**Security Council Arria Formula Meeting**  
**Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful**  
**Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes, 8 March 2021**  
**UK Statement by Amb. Barbara Woodward**

The United Kingdom would like to thank the organisers behind this important discussion today, on International Women's Day and the eve of CSW.

We have the normative framework we require; we have UNSCR 1325. It does not need amending or adapting. Now, as Juan Ramon said, is the time for bold action. We have heard from Rasha Jarhum the cost of excluding women.

We need to Protect, Promote their participation and empower them to Participate meaningfully.

**Protection**

We are increasingly seeing violence used as a tool against women building peace. Women must be able to participate without fear of violence or retaliation for their participation.

The UK is proud to have supported the International Civil Society Action Network to develop the Protection Framework for women peacebuilders. The framework provides guidance to states and multilaterals on how best to prevent and respond to reprisals against women peacebuilders and recommendations on mitigating the threats to women peacebuilders to ensure their safe participation in international events, such as peace negotiations and Security Council briefings. I can circulate these recommendations.

**Promote Women Mediator Networks**

Secondly, we should ensure appropriate mechanisms are in place to promote and support facilitate women's full participation in peace processes. That is to take down the barriers women mediators face and listen to recommendations. The Women Mediators across the Commonwealth Network is one example of a group of skilled and experienced women who stand ready to deploy to UN peace talks.

In 2019, on the formation of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks, members handed over a list of women mediators to consider for future deployments. Their collective effort is having a direct impact on the participation of women in all aspects of peace processes. I encourage you to magnify their voices and contributions to sustainable peace.

### **Meaningful participation**

Finally, we must ensure that women's participation is **meaningful**.

Meaningful participation means that women are present in decision-making spaces and can to exert real influence, including the issues that particularly affect women and girls.

When women meaningfully participate in peace processes, the resulting agreement is 64% less likely to fail and 35% more likely to last at least fifteen years. Our Peace and security depend on the protection of women in peace processes, the promoting their participation, and making that participation truly meaningful.

Thank you.



**THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**By H.E. Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy**

**Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

**To the United Nations**

**At the Security Council Arrria Formula Meeting on “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-Led Peace Processes”**

*New York, 8 March 2021*

*Thank you, Madame Chair*

First of all, I would like to send my warmest congratulations to all my female colleagues [and briefers] and I wish you all great health and happiness on International Women's Day.

*Madame Chair,*

In every part of the world, as active agents of peace, women have been taking up significant roles in every stages of conflict resolution. However, in some places, their admirable contributions have been under-recognized or excluded from formal peace processes. In this regard, we call for stronger efforts to enable and ensure full, equal and meaningful women's participation in the peace processes. Toward this end, we wish to highlight the following points:

**First, Awareness.**

A common understanding of and appreciation for women's participation in the conflict resolution should be enhanced at all levels. The rights, interests and needs of female contributors should be heard and promoted to ensure equal partnership from the earliest stages in each and every peace and political process.

**Second, Empowerment.**

Women must be empowered politically to be equipped with relevant knowledge and skill, and given access to full and equal participation in policy and decision making. In doing so, we are aiming to attach due importance to the role of women in making policies, strategies and initiatives at a national, regional and international level on peace and security.

**Third, Enforcement.**

International cooperation, especially on capacity-building and best practices sharing, should be strengthened to enforce women participation in UN-led processes. In this connection, we call on the donor community for universal compliance with a minimum of 15 per cent of ODA to conflict-affected countries dedicated to advancing gender equality.

*Madame Chair,*

Last year, as the ASEAN Chair and a member of the UNSC, Viet Nam lent a strong voice to assert the role and contribution of women in all spheres of life by hosting “The High-Level Meetings and Summits on Women's Empowerment and Promotion of Women's Role for Sustainable Peace and Security” as well as “The International Conference on Strengthening Women’s Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: From Commitments to Results”, among others. In addition, many Vietnamese female peacekeepers have been devoting to the noble UN peacekeeping missions in the Central African Republic and South Sudan. Dedicated to improving local livelihood and inspiring the message of love and change, women representation is crucial in the field of conflict resolution.

To conclude, we reiterate our readiness and commitment to join efforts with the international community to ensure full, equal and meaningful women's participation in the peace processes.

I thank you./.



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Kenya to the United Nations  
Security Council Elected Member - 2021-2022

**STATEMENT BY AMB. MICHAEL KIBOINO, DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING- *CALL TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE: ENSURING THE  
FULL, EQUAL & MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN UN-LED PEACE  
PROCESSES***

**MONDAY, 8 March 2021 (3-6PM)**

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**Thank you, Madam Chair,**

**Wishing you all a Happy International Women's Day!**

- 1)** On the occasion to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN resolution 1325, H.E Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, Africa's first elected female Head of State, and Nobel Peace Laureate observed that it is important for women to participate in peace processes because,  
*"Experience shows very clearly that when women are involved, the durability of peace can be secured."*
- 2)** It is a great honor for Kenya to co-sponsor this event, calling for leadership by example in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in *a//* UN-led mediation teams, political transitions, peace processes and peace agreements.

- 3)** I join others in thanking Ireland and Mexico for spearheading this, and our fellow co-sponsors for championing it.
- 4)** The briefers have aptly demonstrated that there is no singular template in assessing what constitutes the success of UN-led or UN-supported peace processes, including their implementation, monitoring and verification.
- 5)** Peace processes come in different structures, formats and settings. However, what is consistent is that a comprehensive and sustainable peace requires women not only to be at the negotiation table, but also as an integral part including at leadership level, of the entire process from formulation to implementation.
- 6)** We saw the positive shifts following the inclusion and wider participation of women in the 2003 Liberia Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the 2018 South Sudan Revitalized Agreement processes. Tangible benefits have also been visible in among others: the formation of the Sub-Commission on Gender in the Colombian peace process; the mediation role of Afghanistan women's working groups; and, the contribution of the women participating in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum.
- 7)** The UN is currently leading or supporting a number of these active peace processes globally. The good thing is that this Call for Action comes at a time when key foundational elements are already in place.

**8)** The question is how do we make them stick? Of course, ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in UN-led Peace Processes is the right thing to do. But we must also do it the right way. In this regard allow me to highlight four points:

- i) First, we need to Focus on what is working:** We need to acknowledge the fact that although much more needs to be done, there has been progress in the participation of women in peace processes in fragile and conflict-affected regions, where women's participation was only considered an aspiration, with no guarantees , just a few years ago. We are also seeing young women and women from marginalized groups increasingly becoming the voice of peace. These case studies need to be analyzed, publicized and supported by the international community including the UN.
- ii) Second - UN-led peace processes should work in synergy and not as parallel tracks to local mediation peace processes:** The overriding trend is for UN efforts to focus on national-level peace agreements. As we continue advocating for women's full participation at the formal negotiation table, women's intra- and inter community leadership will always remain a good mirror of broader socio- economic development and environmental issues that interlink with national peacebuilding and security.
- iii) Third - we need to interrogate the Council's peace operation mandates further:** On the one hand, peacekeeping mission mandates are increasingly becoming multidimensional through

incorporating language pertaining to women representation and participation in political and peace processes. The Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) Declaration of Shared Commitments also enjoins its members to fulfill this call.

But the question remains - Why do we still have women comprising only 6% of mediators, 6% of signatories of peace agreements, and 13% of negotiators of all peace processes including those led by the UN to date? What are the actual building blocks needed to actualize this Call including, but beyond numbers and quotas?

**9) Lastly**, as we call for the political will of national stakeholders, we at the UN should intentionally **incorporate cultural knowledge and sensitivity into our multinational peace engagements**, including by exploring how , and what is achievable particularly in contexts that call our attention to specific cultural, gender and social dynamics.

**I thank you.**



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations**

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**Statement**

by

**H.E. Dr. Halimah DeShong**

Deputy Permanent Representative

**United Nations Security Arria Formula on Women, Peace and Security:  
*“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and  
Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”***

Security Council

Monday 08 March 2021  
New York

Check against delivery

We thank Ireland and Mexico convening today's meeting. We also express our gratitude to today's distinguished briefers for the critical insights shared.

More than 20 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), women's participation in peace processes, including UN-led efforts, remains unacceptably low. With some ten resolutions and over a dozen presidential statements on women, peace and security, the Security Council has signalled its commitment to gender justice. These products call for enhanced, meaningful and, more recently, equal participation of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Yet, tangible gender parity, equality and justice continues to lag behind what has come to be regarded as a robust normative framework on women, peace and security.

As country-specific and regional Security Council mandates are expanding to include WPS priorities, we wish to recognise the critical capacity building work undertaken by UN political and peacekeeping missions. All UN-led organs and agencies must consistently ensure that gender analysis guides their operations and that the WPS target on the full, equal and meaningful participation of diverse women is achieved at every stage of peace processes. With the exception of women's involvement in peace agreement monitoring of the gender commitments in Colombia, and women's contribution to peace efforts in Liberia, UN-led peace processes have failed to meet their commitments on women's participation. Political will in the form of financial and technical support within UN-missions and organs, as well as building national capacity to enhance women's participation, are tangible ways in which the UN must lead by example. In short, all aspects of UN-led peace processes must symbolically and systematically ensure gender parity and justice at every stage.

We recognise existing local and national expertise on women, gender, peace and security among women civil society, and advocate for their leadership in capacity building actions to enhance women's participation in peace processes. Equally, strategies to prevent threats and acts of violence against women involved in peace processes must form part of any plan of action to accelerate women's participation.

Women constitute approximately half of populations globally, including in conflict-affected countries and regions. Women and children constitute the vast majority of displaced persons in conflict settings. Diverse women must rightfully lead and participate equally in peace efforts as negotiators, mediators, signatories to peace processes, in monitoring peace

agreements, in transitional authorities, and in all other political and economic processes related to building and sustaining peace. The effectiveness of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R), transitional justice, and reconciliation initiatives will be vastly improved by the equal participation and leadership of women.

There must be no conditions placed on diverse women's equal leadership and participation. This must become our starting point, rather than a historical wrong that we are forever seeking to redress. On International Women's Day, we are reminded of our global pledge to gender-responsive, inclusive peace and development outlined in CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Agenda 2030 and several other multilateral and national commitments. These remain our promise to transform existing patriarchal arrangements, which inhibit inclusive peacebuilding efforts. It is precisely because conflict-affected countries and regions are grappling multiple socio-economic and socio-political crises that we must centre gender justice in all peacebuilding actions, including peace processes, to ensure women's concerns are prioritised and to guarantee durable peace everywhere.



البعثة الدائمة للجمهورية  
التونسية لدى منظمة الأمم  
المتحدة بنيويورك

## **Statement of Tunisia**

### **Security Council Arria Formula**

# **Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes**

*(New York, 8 March 2021)*

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like at the outset to extend my congratulations to all women and girls around the world at the occasion of the International Women's Day and to thank the briefers for the insightful comments.

Indeed this year's commemoration comes against the backdrop of a devastating global health crisis with all its disproportionate consequences on women and girls, particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings. However, this commemoration also serves as a reminder of women's resilience as relentless front-line fighters against the pandemic and towards gender equality and human rights.

For more than two decades, this Council recognized the importance of women's full participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. While some progress has been made in the implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, the reality still shows that we are far from achieving the promises and commitments made 20 years ago:

Women still constitute on average only 13% of negotiators, 6% of mediators and 6% of signatories in major peace processes around the world. Such low levels of representation are not without a cost. Without women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, any peace process is likely to overlook the particular vulnerabilities, grievances and needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings, which can only minimize the opportunities to rebuild peaceful, resilient and inclusive societies.

As we seek to build back better, the world looks up to the UN to lead by example and scale up efforts on the ground towards women's equal participation in UN-led or co-led peace processes. This requires a coordinated and concerted action across all of the UN System, at all levels and in all stages of peace processes. We should aim to achieve the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through a comprehensive approach that takes into account the political, security, development, human rights, gender equality, and the rule of law aspects.

Women's full and equal participation must be reflected at the highest levels of leadership and decision-making. However, it is equally important that peace processes allow for a broader multistakeholders approach, where diverse women and girls from civil society, grass root movements, feminist organizations, local communities, women journalists and women human rights defenders are included

and consulted on all aspects of negotiation, implementation and assessment. It is therefore essential that UN-led peace processes aim to enhance the capacities of such organizations and groups and to create a safe and enabling environment allowing them to contribute freely and safely from reprisals.

Finally, women participation in peace processes must provide an opportunity to address the causes and manifestations of gender inequality that increase their vulnerability in the face of conflict. Special attention must be given to conflict-related sexual violence. Peace processes need to promote a survivor-centered approach which puts an end to impunity, ensures access to remedies, eliminates stigma and marginalization and addresses the underlying drivers of conflict related sexual and gender based violence. Such measures need first and foremost to be tailored and to recognize that women and girls are not a homogenous group and that they require adequate response measures according to their different needs and contexts.

It is within this spirit that Tunisia established a National Committee in charge of the implementation of Resolution 1325 which comprised of representatives of the relevant government structures, constitutional bodies and civil society, with women representation exceeding 50%. The work of this multistakeholder Committee culminated in the adoption of a comprehensive and multi-dimensional National Action Plan in August 2018, followed by 14 coordinated sectorial action plans covering specific areas such as law enforcement, security, health and prevention of violent extremism.

Along with its national efforts, Tunisia is committed to continue to advocate for stronger international efforts rooted in peacebuilding priorities and principles that seek to protect women rights and to ensure their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership in peace and in decision making processes.

**Thank you.**

## **United Nations Security Council Open Arria Formula meeting**

### **“Call to lead by example: Ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

**Statement by Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti  
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations**

**8 March 2021**

**Madam Chair,**

I thank Ireland, Mexico and all the co-sponsors for organizing this meeting on this important theme, especially to coincide with the International Women’s Day celebrations though we have reservations on the use of the ARRIA format per se.

We in India have been shaped by the idea of “Shakti”, the divine feminine strength and energy that creates the world. Our history, both ancient and contemporary, hold numerous examples of strong women role models.

During India’s struggle for freedom, women were at the forefront in practically every aspect of our effort. In fact, the Indian freedom-fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose raised for the first time an all Women Regiment in the Indian National Army – Rani of Jhansi Regiment, where this Regiment fought on the eastern front of India and created history.

Even in the United Nations, coincidentally, we have just celebrated today the life of Dr. Hansa Mehta through a memorial lecture in her name. She made a historical contribution to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by changing the words “All men are born free and equal” to “All human beings are born free and equal”. She was the only woman member of the committee other than Madam Eleanor Roosevelt. Additionally, India’s Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was the first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly.

India had a woman Prime Minister long before most other countries had one. Let me underscore, that it is important that women’s voices find greater say not just in higher decision making but are also integrated from grass roots governance structures upwards, so that equal participation at all levels of society gets fully mainstreamed. I am happy to inform that in India, we now have more than 1.3 million elected women representatives at the grassroots level who take a leadership role in decision-making for the welfare of their local community. Our Prime Minister has called for moving from women’s development to women-led development. Let us not forget that a woman-led development is also a more compassionate one.

**Madam Chair,**

We have no doubt that the full and equal partnership of women in peace and development is the foundation of a peaceful, equitable and sustainable world and sustains the effectiveness of peacebuilding.

UNSC resolution 1325 was a landmark step that for the first-time linked gender equality and the maintenance of international peace and security and recognized women's participation as key to resolving conflict and securing peace. The enhancement of women's involvement in conflict prevention and post conflict reconstruction activities requires commitment, capacity and institution building at the ground level.

India has been an active participant in the deliberations on issues focusing on women empowerment and gender mainstreaming at various UN bodies. During the past two decades, the normative frameworks on Women, Peace and Security have been strengthened considerably. Today, there is a greater awareness about the centrality of meaningful participation of women in UN's peace and security efforts including peacekeeping.

In the "Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations" under Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), Member States agreed to collectively commit to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda and its priorities.

India welcomes the recently launched "Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy" and sees it as a collective commitment towards implementing A4P. India is committed to increasing the number of women peacekeepers. India has already deployed a Female Engagement Team at the Democratic Republic of the Congo as part of the Rapidly Deployable Battalion in MONUSCO. We have also pledged a Women Formed Police Unit (FPU) under the Peacekeeping Readiness Capability System.

**Madam Chair,**

India fully supports UN Secretary General's zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse. India was the first country to contribute to the Secretary-General's Trust Fund for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and also signed the voluntary compact on SEA with the Secretary-General in 2017. The Indian Prime Minister has joined the "Circle of Leadership" on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations.

India is also funding a project of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance called, "Pipeline to Peacekeeping Command Program" (PCP) to develop the capacity of future commanders and managers to lead by example and raise awareness of UN standards of conduct among their personnel.

Indian peacekeepers are playing an important mentoring role to prevent conflict related sexual violence. Major Suman Gawani, an Indian woman peacekeeper, deployed earlier with UNMISS, mentored over 230 UN Military Observers and ensured the presence of women military observers in each of the Mission's team sites. In recognition of her service, she was awarded the UN military gender advocate of the year-2019. She also trained South Sudanese government forces and helped them launch their action plan to prevent conflict-related sexual violence.

**Madam Chair,**

India's contribution to the strong and positive engagement of UN with the countries facing or recovering from prolonged conflicts through deployment of uniformed women contingent goes back to 1960 when women of the Indian Armed Forces Medical Services headed to the UN Peacekeeping mission in the Republic of Congo to assist with the setting up of a 400-bed hospital.

In 2007, India created history by deploying the first ever all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) for UN Peacekeeping in Liberia. This unit served in Liberia for a decade and through their work served as an example of how the deployment of more female uniformed personnel can help the UN in its efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse. During the farewell of Indian FPU, the then President of Liberia underlined the contribution of the force in *"inspiring Liberian women, imparting in them the spirit of professionalism and encouraging them to join operations that protect the nation"*. The tenure of the Indian FPU brought profound changes in Liberian societal matrix. It may be noted that after deployment of the Indian FPU:

- *The number of women applying to join the Liberia National Police (LNP) tripled from approximately 120 to 350 within two months of the arrival of Indian FPU*
- *The number of women enrolled at police academy shot up from four per class to 30 per class in 2007 and 100 per class in 2008 and 2009.*
- *Female representation in Liberian Security Services grew from 10% to 17%.*

Lastly, Madam Chair,, women's effective participation in electoral and political processes and women's leadership in decision-making have been globally acknowledged as vital contributors to more stable and inclusive societies. Unfortunately, women even today continue to be outnumbered by men in political decision making worldwide. This must change.

India remains committed to working towards the meaningful participation of women in all areas of human activity and decision-making, be it political representation or resolving international peace and security issues.

I wish all colleagues, including you, Madam Chair, a very happy Women's Day indeed.

**I thank you.**

**Постоянное представительство  
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**STATEMENT**  
**by the representative of the Russian Federation**  
**Mr. Stepan Kuzmenkov**  
**at the VTC Security Council Open Arria Formula meeting**  
**“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful**  
**Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

**8 March 2021**

Chairs,

At the outset let me wish a Happy International Women’s Day to everyone. Women in Russia are proud to be at the forefront of the international womens’ movement as far as the beginning of the XX century. In our country women’s rights and equal participation of women in political processes were ensured long before it became a rule on international level.

We express our appreciation for organizing this discussion on women’s participation in peace processes. The need to promote women’s inclusion and decision-making at all stages of peace process has been well recognized. It is obvious that these efforts will be more effective

when they emerge from national efforts with the assistance and support of international community.

Last year we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council resolution 1325 and the establishment of the "Women, peace and security" agenda. It was a great disappointment to realize that there was no consensus anymore on this important topic. The reason is that some well-known countries seek for "monopoly" on the Agenda, taking it away from the mandate of the Security Council on the maintenance of international peace and security and towards the protection of human rights. At the same time they are arrogantly turning down other Security Council member's initiatives aimed at contributing to the balanced discussion across all the WPS pillars.

We would like to remind that national governments hold the primary responsibility on the protection of their people. It is only through cooperation with the governments of states in situation of armed conflict and respect to their sovereignty that we can achieve a real progress in peace processes. Special emphasis must be made on the settlement of disputes by peaceful means in line with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, rather than the threat of, or use of force.

The Russian Federation has been consistently supporting measures aimed at creating an enabling environment for the increased inclusion of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, as well as women's active participation in every possible aspect of peace negotiations.

In 2020 report on WPS the UN Secretary General highlighted the importance of addressing the economic inequality. The international community should pay more attention to economic reconstruction and development in post-conflict countries, facilitate the empowerment of women and assist in building their capacity to serve as a significant force in bringing peace and stability to their homeland. Women's economic empowerment, including access to decent work, is key to sustaining peace, improving their incomes and livelihoods. Increased protection and support has to be provided to the family, as a fundamental group of society, and female-headed households. These are impossible, while a country in armed conflict is under unilateral cohesive measures, which don't allow women to have access to assets, productive resources, healthcare and education, leave them vulnerable to extreme poverty, hunger and loss of job opportunities. These are the issues the Security Council can and has to solve.

Having said that, we are compelled to conclude that the Informal Experts Group of the Security Council on WPS has not succeeded in fulfilling the aspirations upon its creation. Under the leadership of the previous co-chairs it has been unable neither to avoid a certain degree of politicization in its work, nor to elaborate genuinely transparent and democratic procedures for the development of its outcomes, which is prerequisite for mutually respectful dialogue.

We are convinced that in order to effectively advance the WPS agenda, it is crucial to focus on concrete actions, avoid duplication

in the work of the United Nations and respect the division of labour between its organs, including their subsidiary bodies.

Thank you.

**Remarks by Counsellor Jiang Hua at the Open Arria-formula  
meeting on Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and  
Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes**

(8 March 2021)

Madam Chair, please allow me to express our appreciation to Ireland for convening today's meeting. I thank USG Ms. DiCarlo for her briefing and my thanks also go to other briefers for their informative briefings.

Today is the International Women's Day. I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all female SRSGs, Special Envoys, peacekeepers and every woman who are currently dedicating themselves to peace and security in UN missions around the world.

Madam Chair, since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325, there has been much progress made in systematic integration of women, peace and security into implementation of peace agreements, as well as comprehensive analysis and reporting of women's participation and representation in peace operations.

However, there is still a long way to go before we could achieve the goal of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all stages of political processes such as mediation, peace agreements negotiations, ceasefire monitoring mechanisms, peace agreements implementation, security sector reforms and so on. To fill the gap, we need to take a holistic approach, and attach equal importance to conflict prevention,

women's empowerment and capacity building of women.

It is important that we make every effort to prevent conflicts by addressing the root causes. The Security Council should make concerted and focused efforts on conflict prevention, mediation and foster an enabling political, security environment for women's participation in peace processes.

Women are not only important partners in each and every peace and political process that the United Nations supports, but also indispensable contributors to post-conflict reconstruction. Priority must be given to help women escape poverty, enjoy quality education, which constitute important guarantee for their meaningful participation in peacebuilding endeavors.

To strengthen cooperation for greater synergy, the United Nations could work closely with regional and sub-regional organizations in development of training and capacity building programs for women in conflict-affected countries. International donors could make important contributions to support women working for peace in fragile contexts. This is more urgent in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madam Chair,

To conclude, let's build on the progress made in the women, peace and security agenda, and move on to address challenges ahead to build a better world for women, and for all.

Thank you Madam Chair.

Statement by Finland  
on behalf of the Nordic countries

Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting  
8 March 2021  
15:00-18:00

Call to Lead by Example:  
Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women  
in UN-led Peace Processes

H.E. Mr. Jukka Salovaara  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Finland  
to the United Nations

New York, 8 March 2021

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Thank you Mister/Madam Chair

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Finland.

Today we celebrate the intrinsic value of women's full, equal and meaningful participation, and its crucial benefits for our societies. Without women, there can be no inclusive and sustainable peace. Unfortunately, inclusive peace processes are still a rare exception. We need concrete steps to change that.

We fully support the Secretary-General's System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy, and welcome his Call to Action to Advance Women's Role in Transforming Peace and Security. We reiterate our call for concrete steps to make women's full, equal and meaningful participation a requirement in all mediation teams, political transitions and peace processes that the UN leads or co-leads.

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The Nordics work hard to enhance the implementation of the WPS agenda.

We commit to including the views and competences of women living in conflict or crisis-affected areas, in all peace and conflict resolution efforts. At the Security Council, briefings from women civil society representatives lead to better-informed decisions.

We pay attention to linking formal and informal processes and ensuring a gender focus in all stages of the peace and conflict continuum. Regular consultations with women's organizations are crucial, and their recommendations must be followed up and acted upon, including in the Security Council. The Nordics continue efforts to strengthen mandates and to monitor that they translate into concrete action on the ground.

Gender analysis and gender disaggregated data in reporting from conflict situations are another imperative. Security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration processes must include a gender perspective in order to achieve inclusive transitions.

We emphasize the need for sustainable funding and call for increased official development assistance to promote women's participation and leadership in building and sustaining peace. To that end, the Nordics will secure sustainable and long-term investments to promote women's and girls' rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

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The Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks is one example illustrating the vast number of women with relevant expertise and experience. Women, including young women, are strong agents for positive change. Their potential and participation is required in all peace negotiation delegations and relevant mechanisms for the implementation of peace agreements.

We call on the UN to ensure that Special Envoys and Special Representatives take steps towards women's systematic inclusion in peace processes, for example by urging parties in a conflict to include women in their delegations and by consulting regularly with women's civil society groups. Gender Advisors should be appointed in all missions. Training and practical guidance are a must.

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Our to-do list is long. We must urgently act on our promises and make women's leadership and meaningful participation in peace processes a norm, not an exception.

Thank you and let us keep the focus on this important topic – not only on the International Women's Day but consistently, throughout the year!



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United Nations Security Council

**Open Arria-Formula Meeting “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

Statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security

And

Canada’s National Statement New

York, 8 March 2021

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Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies

**Réunion publique en formule Arria « Un appel à mener par l’exemple : assurer la participation pleine, égale et véritable des femmes aux processus de paix dirigés par l’ONU »**

Déclaration au nom du Groupe des amis des Femmes, de la paix et de la sécurité

Et

Déclaration nationale du Canada

New York, 8 mars 2021

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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF  
THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

**ENGLISH** (*français ci-dessous*)  
**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Madam / Mister President / Moderator,

I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace, and Security, an informal network of 64 interested Member States<sup>1</sup> and the European Union, chaired by Canada, representing all five regional groups of the United Nations.

On this International Women's Day, our Group thanks the co-sponsors of this Arria- Formula meeting and the briefers for convening this important meeting to highlight the importance of the full and effective implementation of the WPS agenda as it relates to the leadership and participation of women in UN-led peace and political processes.

The Group emphasizes that women's participation in peace processes is not only desirable, it is essential to achieving sustainable peace. It is critical for women to have full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and security.

The UN must lead by example in this regard. The Group would therefore like to reiterate its call made last October "on the UN to aim towards making women's full, equal and meaningful participation a requirement in all mediation teams, political transitions and the peace processes it leads or co-leads".

In closing, the Group recognizes that respect for women's human rights and gender equality are critical and complementary in order to ensure women's full participation. This includes participating without fear or risk of any form of violence or retaliation. These issues are key and need to be addressed concurrently to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, United States of America, Zambia.

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**DÉCLARATION AU NOM DU  
GROUPE DES AMIS DES FEMMES, DE LA PAIX ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ**

**FRANÇAIS**  
**L'ALLOCUTION PRONONCÉE FAIT FOI**

Madame/Monsieur,

Je suis heureux de m'exprimer au nom du Groupe des amis des femmes, de la paix et de la sécurité, un réseau informel de 64 États membres intéressés et de l'Union européenne, présidé par le Canada, qui représente les cinq groupes régionaux des Nations Unies.

En cette Journée internationale de la femme, notre Groupe remercie les co-parrains de cette réunion en formule « Arria », et les présentateurs d'avoir convoqué cette réunion capitale pour souligner l'importance de la mise en œuvre complète et efficace du programme FPS en ce qui a trait au rôle de chef de file et à la participation des femmes dans les processus de paix et les processus politiques menés par les Nations Unies.

Le Groupe souligne que la participation des femmes aux processus de paix n'est pas seulement souhaitable, elle est essentielle pour parvenir à une paix durable. Il est crucial que les femmes puissent participer pleinement, sur un pied d'égalité et de manière significative à tous les aspects de la paix et de la sécurité.

Les Nations Unies doivent montrer l'exemple à cet égard. Le Groupe souhaite donc réitérer l'appel qu'il a lancé en octobre dernier « aux Nations Unies pour qu'elles s'efforcent de faire de la participation pleine, égale et entière des femmes une exigence au sein de toutes les équipes de médiation ou dans le cadre des transitions politiques et des processus de paix que les Nations Unies dirigent ou codirigent. »

En conclusion, le Groupe reconnaît que le respect des droits de la personne des femmes et l'égalité des sexes constituent des éléments essentiels et complémentaires pour assurer la pleine participation des femmes. Cette participation signifie pouvoir participer sans crainte ni risque de toute forme de violence ou de représailles. Ces enjeux s'avèrent essentiels et doivent être abordés simultanément pour garantir la participation pleine et entière des femmes, sur un pied d'égalité, aux processus de paix.

Je vous remercie.

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## CANADA'S NATIONAL STATEMENT

**ENGLISH** (*français ci-dessous*)  
**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Madam / Mister President / Moderator,

I would like to make a few additional remarks in a national capacity.

On this International Women's Day, Canada is launching #PeacebyHer, a global advocacy campaign through our diplomatic missions to increase the recognition, access, support, and protection of women peacebuilders. We need their expertise, and they need our recognition, protection and support.

As Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission last year, we led efforts to more than quadruple the number of briefings by women peacebuilders, and the quality of the PBC's advice improved as a result.

Canada has increased its programming support to grassroots women peacebuilders, directly as well as through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, and launched a new Women, Peace and Security Awards program, which this year will award women peacebuilders.

These initiatives are expressions of Canada's feminist foreign policy, and of my government's conviction that gender equality is a foundation for peace.

Thank you.

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## DÉCLARATION NATIONALE DU CANADA

### L'ALLOCUTION PRONONCÉE FAIT FOI

Madame / Monsieur le Président / Modérateur,

Je voudrais faire quelques remarques supplémentaires à titre national.

En cette Journée internationale de la femme, le Canada lance #PaixAuFéminin, une campagne mondiale de sensibilisation par l'intermédiaire de nos missions diplomatiques pour accroître la reconnaissance, l'accès, le soutien et la protection des femmes artisanes de la paix. Nous avons besoin de leur expertise et ils ont besoin de notre reconnaissance, de notre protection et de notre soutien.

En tant que président de la Commission de consolidation de la paix l'année dernière, nous avons mené des efforts pour plus que quadrupler le nombre d'exposés par des femmes consolidatrices de la paix, et la qualité des conseils du PBC s'est améliorée en conséquence.

Le Canada a accru son appui programmatique aux femmes artisans de la paix, directement ainsi que par l'intermédiaire du Fonds pour la paix et l'action humanitaire pour les femmes, et a lancé un nouveau programme de prix pour les femmes, la paix et la sécurité, qui récompensera cette année les femmes artisanes de paix.

Ces initiatives sont l'expression de la politique étrangère féministe du Canada et de la conviction de mon gouvernement que l'égalité des sexes est le fondement de la paix.

Merci.

4 March Draft

**Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and  
Meaningful  
Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes  
EU Statement ARRIA formula UNSC meeting  
8 March 2021**

I would like to thank Ireland, Mexico and all co-sponsors for co-hosting this meeting on the day when we celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

There can be no sustainable peace without the full inclusion of women and girls and the involvement of civil society. Women, including young women, must participate in all parts and levels of peace processes, because they have a right to full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and security. This is the right, smart, and *only* way forward.

Though the empowerment of women and girls should be a key priority worldwide, it is, admittedly, also a considerable challenge for the EU, as women are still under-represented in positions of influence and power both in our Member States and in the EU institutions. Significant cultural and social barriers that prevent women's leadership and full, equal, and meaningful participation, not least in politics, need to be addressed in all our societies.

In the 20 years since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions, we have learned that change is indeed possible. We must challenge gender stereotypes and negative social norms, enabling women and girls to come forward and contribute to the prevention and resolution of conflicts. We must continue to invest time and money in building the capacities of the growing number of women who have entered traditionally male- dominated spheres of public life dealing with conflict, such as the armed and the security forces.

In this context, we also recognise the critical work of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring better integration and collaboration between peace operations, sustainable development policies and the UN country teams, with gender equality being at the core of all work.

The full, equal and meaningful participation of all women in peace processes is essential to achieve sustainable peace. It starts with a safe and enabling environment, free of violence and threats of any kind. Last year, the UN Security Council held a first Arria formula meeting on addressing reprisals against women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders who engage with the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies. It is high time that the conclusions of this meeting are put into action. A clear prevention mechanism should

be established and funds should be mobilised to counter the alarming increase of reprisals against women peacebuilders.

A safe and enabling environment also requires more efforts to ensure full and equal access to education and essential health services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, for all women and girls in conflict and other crisis settings.

The EU has been at the forefront of promoting women's participation in peace processes. In addition to supporting the Women Advisory Board of the UN Special Envoy and the Civil Society Support Room, in March 2018 the EU launched the Gaziantep Women Platform (also known as the Women for Peace Initiative), aimed at preparing Syrian women to play a more active and visible role in the political and peace processes at all levels. Yet, we recognise more efforts are needed. Only 26% of the members of Syria's Constitutional Committee are women. The same goes for other UN-led peace processes, including in Yemen and Libya. There is no substitute for direct and substantive participation in talks at all levels, and we call on the UN and other partners to do more in this regard.

The EU's ambition is to lead by example. We have set the bar high for ourselves- in our 2019 Action Plan on

Women Peace and Security, we established the objective of reaching a minimum 33% participation of women in all EU activities and projects related to peace processes by 2025. This is also a recommendation to EU Member States and we hope that other relevant stakeholders will do likewise. We are set to make gender-responsive leadership the new norm and a standard requirement in the EU institutions.

The EU and its MS are determined to implement the WPS agenda together with our allies and partners, especially with civil society organisations, women mediators and women human rights defenders, who dispose of valuable knowledge on the ground.

For the next 20 years of UNSCR 1325, our main recommendation is to turn aspirational words into action, and to hold to account those who try to obstruct its implementation.



**Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations**



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**Ambassador  
Adela Raz**

**Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of  
Afghanistan to the United Nations**

**Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting - Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring  
the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace  
Processes**

**08 March 2021**

**NEW YORK**

**(Please check against delivery)**

Honorable Ambassadors, distinguished briefers, dear friends.

Happy International Women's Day!

First, allow me to thank all the organizers for hosting this vital and timely conversation on International Women's Day. Ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes led and supported by the United Nations should not only be a priority for the organization but a unified call by all Member States. The evidence is irrefutable - the full and meaningful participation of women in peace processes is one of the best guarantees to achieve sustainable, just and positive peace.

Afghans understand this simple fact better than most. We know that peace in our country will fail if women's rights are not guaranteed and the hard-fought achievements that have become an intrinsic element of our young democracy are not preserved. Afghan women have also shown that they understand the importance of action and they are taking the initiative to ensure that their voices are heard. They did so by hosting the 2019 Afghan Women National Consensus on Peace conference and by pushing for a protagonist role in the subsequent peace jirgas and other meetings. Due to their efforts, both Afghan men and women demanded an inclusive negotiating team that would fight to preserve the hard-won gains of the past two decades.

The Government heeded the call of the people. Four women are part of our courageous and adept team that is leading the complex talks in Doha. Nevertheless, the other side has not been inclusive and the lack of women as part of their own negotiating team is reflective of the policies that they continue to support.

The role of the United Nations and the international community as a whole has been and will continue to be vital to ensure that the situation of women and their participation continues to be at the center stage of negotiations and a part of a post-peace resolution. We must all recognize that ensuring that peace processes are inclusive both throughout the negotiations and in their outcomes are a joint objective for our community of nations. We must recognize the power of our voices and understand the value that the success of inclusive peace processes can have in achieving more peaceful and democratic societies that effectively represent all their citizens.

In closing, allow me to take a moment to thank the United Nations and all Member States who have supported our efforts for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process that will result in a peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous Afghanistan. We hope to see continued efforts by the organization in this regard and are ready to support these efforts by sharing our experience and discussing lessons learned with other Member States to help improve the way we discuss and implement our efforts for gender-sensitive peace.

I thank you,

## Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting

### Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes

Thank you dear Geraldine and Juan Ramon for organizing this important meeting, and many thanks to the panelists as well.

There is clear progress made to date with regard to the normative framework of the “women, peace and security” agenda. However, we all agree that there is still a wide gap between what we have achieved on paper and the reality on the ground.

Today I would like to focus on three points:

Firstly, the need for a UN system-wide approach. UN Agencies, Country Teams, Special Envoys and Representatives should play a more pro-active role in ensuring the meaningful and safe participation of women, in all stages of peace processes. The UN should not only ensure that women’s voices are part of the conversation, but also that they are fully taken into account in the final outcome. Women’s leadership must be prioritized.

Secondly, there is a need to review UN-led peace processes with a gender lens. It’s important to assess, on a regular basis, how these processes are concretely taking into account women’s perspective.

Thirdly, I would like to highlight the important role that the Security Council plays, in holding the UN teams accountable for ensuring the full and equal participation of women.

If elected in the Security Council for the 2022-2023 term, Albania will champion the Women, Peace and Security Agenda across the full breadth of the Security Council’s work, by including relevant language in all country-specific discussions and mandates of peace operations. We will systematically request UN leadership to share gender analysis and information about concrete efforts to ensure women’s full and equal participation in all areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate that women should not just *be consulted*. Their expertise, their experience, their unique ability to understand the needs of communities, should have a real influence on all phases of peace processes. The UN must lead by example

and send to the world a crystal-clear message: no lasting and inclusive peace can be achieved without women's meaningful participation.

Thank you.



**الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية**  
**REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE**

**International Women's Day**  
**Security Council open Arria-formula meeting**  
**8 March – 15h -18h**

**“call to lead by example: ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful  
participation of Women in UN-led Peace processes**

**Statement by H.E Sofiane MIMOUNI**  
**Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations**

**Madam President,**

## Excellencies,

Let me at the outset thank the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Mexico, Estonia, Kenya, Niger, Norway and Tunisia for leading our discussions today on the role of Women as critical agents for peace and security. My thanks go also to the panelists for their inspiring statements.

As we celebrate, today, the International Women's Day in the midst of our recovery efforts from an unprecedented pandemic, which brought to light deep-seated disparities impacting especially women and girls and posing severe threats in conflict zones, It is due time to take stock of what we have achieved since the adoption (in 2000) of the milestone Security Council resolution 1325 and the inception of the WPS (Women and Peace and Security) Agenda, in order to strengthen our commitment to the full and effective participation of women in UN-led peace processes.

In this regard, let me highlight two important **achievements**:

- First, we have succeeded in building consensus around the importance of women's participation in building peace. Despite the differences on the best ways to achieve this goal, there is a broad agreement that prospects for successful peacekeeping and peacebuilding are better where women have greater degrees of empowerment.
- Second, a more visible role in peace support operations has been given to women. The numbers in the deployment of women in peacekeeping operations have increased at all levels, making the prospects for stability promising.

However, despite this significant progress, and as it has been shown by the UN documentation and the speakers before me, it is clear that more efforts are needed to place women's participation and leadership at the core of conflict prevention and peace settlements efforts.

Against this backdrop and building upon our commitment to the empowerment of women, **Algeria endeavors to promote the role of women as key actors for peace both at the national and regional level**. Indeed, as part of the implementation of Resolution 1325, Algeria has adopted a national action plan which will serve as a roadmap to define the country's priorities in the promotion of the role of women in peace processes. This action plan has been elaborated by a multisectoral and multidisciplinary committee including representatives of civil society, ensuring an inclusive and ground-rooted approach.

Within the League of Arab States, Algeria led the establishment of the "Emergency Committee for the Protection of Women in Armed Conflict" which enabled the creation of an institution dedicated to Peace related to the Arab women's Commission. An Algerian women Ambassador has been appointed to be part of the mechanism dedicated to mediation intitled "Mediators for Peace", set up by this Commission, in February 2020.

At the level of the African continent, the role of women, who are the main victims of conflicts, crisis and forced displacement, remains major. In this regard, Algeria has always advocated for the strengthening of the participation of women in peace processes and conflict management within the African Union.

In this context, Algeria hosted the first General Assembly of the Pan-African network of women mediators (Fem-Wise AFRICA), which aims at institutionalizing the place and role of women in peace negotiations. These meetings helped shaping the debate on the importance of developing strategies to accelerate women's action in peacebuilding efforts and stimulate dialogue among AU member states, in order to develop guidelines for gender sensitive actions in conflicts and post conflicts recovery processes.

**Madam President**, I do believe that the success of our common endeavor lies in the political will to empower women and strengthen their ability to be at the center of peace building architecture. **Two areas of action should be considered in this regard:**

1. First, we should reinforce the participation of women in conflict-resolution and peacekeeping operations. In this regard, we should provide the necessary training for the mediators and envoys who participate in mediation and ceasefires and in achieving peace and preventive diplomacy. We should ensure that peace agreements include provisions to strengthen the role of women in conflict-resolution, as it was the case in the Algiers Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.
2. Second, we should reinforce the dialogue and the engagement with relevant stakeholders, such as regional and national organization and civil society that are dealing with peace, security and development to better understand the role of women in a wide range of mediation and conflict prevention activities, especially in Africa.

Let me conclude by stressing that more than 20 years after the establishment of WPS agenda, the responsibility of its implementation falls on us as part of the international community. We should strengthen our joint action to meet the challenges faced by women and give the UN the proper means to put women at the Center of the peace efforts worldwide. We can only deliver on the peace agenda, if we re-center the role of women as the key element to achieve progress. Algeria is fully dedicated to this common goal.

**I thank you.**



## ARMENIA

### **UN Security Council VTC, Arria Formula Meeting “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in Peace Processes”**

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia  
8 March 2021**

Madam Chair,

Armenia is pleased to be part of this important conversation on the topic of full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes and to mark the International Women’s Day. I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Di Carlo, Special Envoy Pedersen and other briefers for their valuable remarks.

Resolution 1325 has been instrumental in consolidating the efforts of the international community to promote the role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacemaking. The adoption of Armenia’s National Action Plan on the implementation of the Resolution has enhanced the coherence and coordination of national policies on advancing the women, peace and security agenda. The National Action Plan puts a special emphasis on the inclusive engagement of all women affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in peace and security efforts.

The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the suffering of women and girls in situations of conflicts, humanitarian crises and other fragile contexts. Despite the call of the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire, some parts of the world, including our region became a hotbed of violence and atrocity crimes instigated amidst a global healthcare crisis. The biggest military escalation in times of pandemic, leading to thousands of deaths, 90 thousands displaced, including women and girls, causing a major humanitarian crisis was the large-scale war unleashed by Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone in September-November last year.

Targeted attacks on schools and healthcare institutions, including the maternity hospital in the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh Stepanakert, further exacerbated the suffering of women and girls, who have been affected by conflict, trapped between war and pandemic. Four months after the Trilateral Statement establishing ceasefire and termination of hostilities, Azerbaijan has yet to implement all the provisions they have committed to.

The calls of the international community including the UN human rights machinery have been loud and clear: all prisoners of war, hostages and detainees must be immediately released. However, to this date Azerbaijan is refusing to release the prisoners of war and civilian hostages, including women among them, who continue to be held in captivity, in gross violation of the legally binding obligations under international humanitarian law.

Madam Chair,

Consolidated support of the international community is crucial for ensuring that women and girls are protected in conflict settings and in situations of humanitarian crises. Full upholding of human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, residing in conflict areas is a key prerequisite for their equal and meaningful participation in peace processes.

The 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women that will start next week is an opportunity to further galvanize momentum for women's rights, gender equality and addressing the persistent challenges and gaps in promoting women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, including in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacemaking. In my capacity as Chair of the CSW, I look forward to having an informative and engaging session and I count on the support and cooperation of all member states in adopting action-oriented and forward-looking Agreed Conclusions.

Thank you.



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**8 March 2021**

**Arria formula meeting: Call to Lead by Example –  
Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful  
Participation of Women in UN-led Peace  
Processes**

**Statement on behalf of Australia delivered by H.E. The Hon.  
Mitch Fifield, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
Australia to the United Nations**

Madam President

In marking the 20-year anniversary of the WPS agenda last year, Australia joined the international community in celebrating a lot of gains – including, really importantly, an evidence base that women’s participation makes peace processes more sustainable and durable – but we all know there’s a lot more than has to be done.

Last year, the UN Secretary-General reported that women continue to be stifled in decision-making processes, in peacebuilding efforts, and are underrepresented in recovery and reconstruction, including peacekeeping. We do have a collective responsibility to ensure these setbacks are addressed.

The full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women is essential in preventing and resolving conflict, in peacekeeping, and in relief and recovery efforts following conflict and crises.

It has never been more important for the UN and for the international community to recommit to promoting women's right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. As we speak, COVID is raising the stakes globally, posing risks to gender equality, women's rights, empowerment, leadership, safety and resilience.

For our part, Australia calls on the UN to take a leading role in making women's full, equal and meaningful participation a reality, including by making it a requirement for all mediation teams, political transitions and the peace processes it leads or co-leads. In particular, we think there are gains to be made in promoting female candidates for roles in peace and political processes at all levels, as well as in identifying and overcoming obstacles that prevent the participation of diverse women, including women with disabilities, young women, and women who work at grassroots levels.

Australia is proud to support this work, including by promoting female candidates such as Australia's MAJGEN Cheryl Pearce who recently completed her tenure in Cyprus, only the second woman to serve as a UN Force Commander.

We are also proud to partner with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the WPS Global Facility and the Elsie Initiative for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations.

Finally, we are very happy to have supported the development of the PeaceFem App which offers best practice guidance on gender provisions in peace agreements.

I thank you.

**Statement by Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN at the Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting, “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”  
8 March 2021, 15:00 – 18:00 (Virtual)**

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Thank you, Excellencies, for convening today’s meeting. I thank the briefers for their insightful remarks.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered by Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends on WPS. Allow me to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Let me begin by quoting a line from the Security Council’s Press Release issued on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2000, during the presidency of Bangladesh:

“Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men. Equal access and full participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.”

That same year, resolution 1325 was adopted. 20 years have passed since then. Some progress has been made. Women are now part of peace processes in most of the conflict situations; however, the situation is far from ideal. Much remains to be done.

Successive WPS resolutions, as well as the first standalone resolution on ‘women in peacekeeping’, have contributed to the consistent progression of this agenda. The Secretary General’s ‘Call to Action’ issued last year was an important effort.

We need to however, redouble our efforts to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the peace process. And undeniably UN's role in this matter remains critical.

Allow me to highlight three key imperatives in this regard:

First: we need women in leadership positions; on the peace tables. Women's participation should not remain confined to the role of foot-soldiers; rather they must be allowed to be part of the table where decisions are being made.

Second: the WPS agenda must be implemented in an integrated and coordinated manner at the country level through internalization of this agenda with the 'One UN' concept. Perhaps in situations where it is warranted, WPS focal points may be designated in the UNCT. National Action Plans can also play a critical role in this regard.

Finally: we must ensure predictable and sustained financing for the implementation of WPS agenda. The international community, IFIs and other stakeholders need to come forward this regard. UN also needs to redouble efforts to forge effective partnerships to support WPS agenda at the grassroot level.

I thank you.



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

## KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Intervention at

**Arria-formula meeting on *Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes***

New York, 8/03/2021

Madam President,

My delegation supports many of the points raised by colleagues before us: indeed, we have only heard arguments for the inclusion of more women in peace negotiations. We also appreciate the testimonies of the rapporteurs, particularly that of Mrs. Jarhum and Mrs. Hinds.

I would like to emphasize four points:

1. If we want women to participate equally in public life, we need to address the **structural obstacles facing women and girls**. We can achieve this by dismantling discriminatory laws, investing more in girls' education, ensuring that women and girls are free from gender-based violence, have equal economic and political opportunities, can make free decisions about their bodies and family planning, and have access to social protection.
2. Throughout history, many women and girls have demonstrated what they are capable of, but **often patriarchal norms and stereotypes persist**. We need to address gender stereotypes and gender-based violence. The media, including social media, has an important role as a catalyst for positive role models and messages about women's leadership.
3. We often have high expectations of the few women negotiators in current peace processes: we expect them to be able to somehow represent all women in a conflict. It is imperative that we **include young women, women from different regions, migrant and refugee women, women with disabilities and LGBTI+ people**. For example, UNAMA has a mandate to support and engage with various women's groups. **Monitoring** should be undertaken to determine the extent to which the power brokers leading the peace process are taking concrete steps to ensure that the expertise and priorities of diverse Afghan women are taken into account, including preserving all constitutional protections of women's human rights.

4. Finally, I want to recognize the **work and achievements of civil society organizations, women human rights defenders, women journalists and women's networks**. They play an essential role in achieving progress and deserve our recognition, support, including financial support, and protection. This is why Belgium is proud to support the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

If the UN cannot set an example, we cannot expect the same from others. Belgium fully supports the Secretary-General in his call for action to adopt a feminist approach and accelerate the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes. Belgium is one of the countries that asked the United Nations, in October last year, to work to ensure that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women becomes a requirement in all mediation teams, political transitions and peace processes.

Madam President, we are a few days away from the beginning of the Commission on the Status of Women, which will discuss the participation of women in public life. We call on all Member States to heed the Secretary-General's call for a feminist approach to peace processes.

Thank you.



Written Statement by the Permanent Representative of Brazil, H.E.  
Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho, submitted on the occasion of the  
Arria Formula Meeting "Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful  
Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes"

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*Tuesday, March 9, 2021*

Madam Chair,

Brazil thanks and congratulates the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Mexico, Estonia, France, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Viet Nam, the United Kingdom, and the United States, for co-hosting this event, timely held on the very date we celebrate the International Women's Day, and on the month of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

As outlined in Note Verbale 17, which we circulated to all Member States on January 29 2021, the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is one of the priorities of our current campaign for a non-permanent seat at the UNSC, for the 2022-2023 biennium. We are proud that, for two consecutive years, in 2019 and 2020, Brazilian blue helmets received the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award, for their work at the United Nations

Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic – MINUSCA, Commanders Carla Araújo and Márcia Braga. Commander Braga has recently been relocated to New York, where she continues to contribute to the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, serving as Strategic Communications and Military Peacekeeping Affairs Officer to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Commanders Braga, Araújo and many others are proof of the excellence of the training offered to the troops by the Brazilian Armed Forces and of the benefits achieved by the full, equalitarian, and significant participation of women in UN peacekeeping missions. It is a well-established fact that, the more we ensure women have equal participation in UN-led Peace Processes, the better the chance that peace deals will be struck and last longer and that peacekeeping missions will be successful. Women's presence is conducive to more efficiency in mandate implementation, and their presence encourages reporting of cases of sexual violence.

In yet another demonstration of our unwavering commitment to this issue, President Jair Bolsonaro has joined, in 2020, the UNSG's circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations.

Madam Chair,

One area where progress could be achieved is in the 2018-2028 Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy. In 2017, Brazil launched its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, which was extended for four additional years in 2019. Through said Plan, Brazil commits to increasing the proportion of women military and police officers in peacekeeping to achieve the Strategy's targets.

Madam Chair,

Regarding sexual exploitation and abuse, Brazil adheres entirely to the SG's Zero Tolerance Policy, which we envisage as a starting point and as a coherent conceptual framework to tackle this lingering scourge in the context of peacekeeping. Brazil believes that our experience in prevention and training can provide effective formulas to solve this problem, and is proud of the overall track record of our peacekeepers in their performance over seventy-plus years under the UN flag.

Thank you.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BULGARIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Call to Lead By Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of  
Women in UN-led Peace Processes**

*New York, Monday, 8 March 2021*

*H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, Permanent Representative*

**Madame Chair,**

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement of the European Union as well as with the statement made by Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, which Bulgaria is happy to have joined recently.

Today, we celebrate International Women's Day and there is no better way to mark the occasion than to discuss how to contribute to women's empowerment, while sending a united call for full and effective implementation of the WPS agenda. I would also like to express our appreciation to the organizers of today's Arria formula meeting and to the briefers for promoting the importance of women's leadership and their full, equal and meaningful participation in UN-led peace processes.

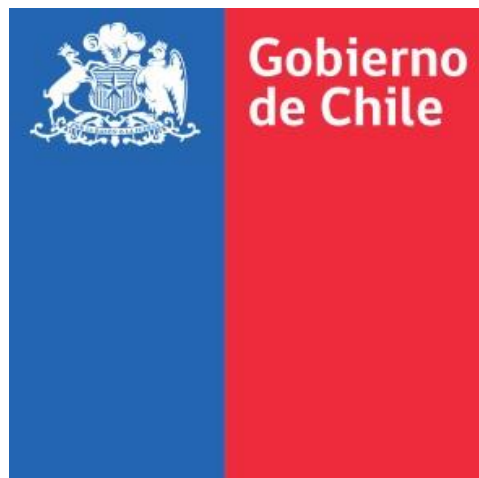
In March last year Bulgaria adopted its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for the period 2020-2025, which was a critical step for my country's commitment to the WPS agenda. It is no coincidence, that we worked closely with Ireland who is a champion in this field, in the process of drafting the plan.

We all have made some progress. However, positive developments are not to be taken for granted and there is a lot more work to be done. It is crucial that we continue to break down social norms and gender stereotypes limiting women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes. In this regard, the number of women in the Bulgaria defense system tends to increase gradually over the last half decade, while female servicepersons participate in peacekeeping operations and missions abroad. Moreover, Bulgaria is a leading nation in the international project "Female Leaders in Security and Defense", implemented within NATO, which aims to enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the Armed Forces by integrating gender equality in the planning, development and training of forces.

Any discussion on the role of women in the peace and security pillar, without a specific focus on safety and gender-based violence is missing a critical dimension. That is why it is crucial to invest and provide women and girls with equal access to essential healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health and rights. Despite their critical roles in advancing efforts to sustain peace and build social cohesion, women's NGOs continue to lack sufficient support in conflict-affected contexts. Bulgaria reaffirms its commitment to leveraging gender-oriented and women's empowerment networks operating at the grassroots level to achieve equality, advancement and inclusive political processes. In this regard, human rights defenders are critical, as recognized in last year's Arria formula meeting on reprisals against women human rights defenders and peacebuilders who engage with the UNSC.

The international community should continue striving to increase the number of women negotiators, mediators and peacebuilders. This is essential not just because women need to be included but because for any peace process to be successful, all members of the society need to be part of it, 50% of the global population cannot and should not be ignored.

Thank you!



**Statement  
by  
The Permanent Mission of Chile to  
the United Nations**

**Security Council Arria Formula Debate**

**“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal  
and Meaningful  
Participation of Women in UN-led Peace  
Processes”**

**March 8th, 2021**

Excellencies, Dear colleagues,

While commemorating Women's International Day, Chile would like to thank the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Mexico, Estonia, France, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Viet Nam, the United Kingdom and the United States for co-hosting this important event to address the urgent need to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Women Peace and Security agenda. Particularly, when the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need to ensure the leadership and full, equal and meaningful participation of women in UN-led peace and political processes.

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda constitutes a fundamental normative and political framework for the protection of women's rights in the face of gender-based violence and sexual abuse in crisis and conflict situations and for understanding the differentiated impacts that these situations have on women.

The Agenda provides us with important lessons regarding the relevance of women's full equal and meaningful participation and the incorporation of a gender approach at all stages and levels of response to emergency situations of any kind. This implies going beyond number quotas, and ensuring more women to occupy leadership positions in security and defense institutions, in peace operations and political missions, and to be at the center of decision-making in peace and security matters at the local, state, regional and international levels.

The full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision making processes is a priority for Chile, to such extent that after the constitutional process that will start in April 2021, our country will have the first constitution in the world drafted by a paritarian assembly.

In this regard, Chile has also taken decisive action for the development and implementation of the 1325 Resolution, through two successful National Action Plans, which responds to the new opportunities and challenges we face. From 2004 to 2017, 248 women were deployed in MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti), who developed operational activities, such as: Civic-Military Activities, machinery and transport section, among others.

Along the same line, I would like to highlight Chile's role in the "Regional Network of Women Mediators of the Southern Cone", together with Argentina, which is the first regional network of women mediators and peace builders, whose main objective is to

increase the participation of women in peace processes, in negotiations and mediations in all their stages, as well as their role in decision-making positions in these processes.

If it was not obvious before, the last few months have shown us how women - who suffered the disproportionate socio-economic impact of the pandemic due to an increase of non-remunerated workload, the loss of jobs, and the the “shadow” pandemic, among others, have deep ties to their communities and still were in the front line of crisis response and recovery, an all more complex task in the context of conflict and crises situations.

That is why today, it is especially important that we take steps to tackle the challenges ahead; address the causes of gender inequality; and support the work that women carry out in their communities to strengthen the social fabric, and empower them to have a say in all relevant processes that address the root causes of conflicts. This must be done so by fostering women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in decision making processes at all levels, and ensuring they have a say in all decisions that affect them. Only then, we can come close to truly foster peaceful and inclusive societies, which we know also brings with it sustainable development and growth.

I thank you.

# Costa Rica



## MISIÓN PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS / PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement at the Security Council

### Arria-Formula: “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”

*H.E Maritza Chan, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative*

New York, 8 March, 2021

*Check against delivery*

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Ireland, Mexico, Estonia, France, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam for organizing this timely Arria-Formula meeting calling us to lead by example in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in UN-led peace processes.

Women and girls have never had the option of absenting themselves from the horrors of wars or the violence of weapons. But for too long women and girls have also been completely absent from the negotiating table and their voices completely absent from the finished texts of our collective efforts to mitigate the impacts of armed conflict. Indeed, in many cases the effects of such conflict are felt excessively by women, yet their voices —even now— remain largely unheeded in the process of finding sustainable conflict solutions.

We must do more to challenge this stark reality which has remained affixed to our collective agenda for far too long. In this regard, please allow me to stress three points:

First, the inclusion and active participation of women needs to be promoted by design. Mechanisms of inclusion such as quotas or reserved seats and targeted recruitment are important first steps to get more women in the door and to contribute to the normalization of women in political life. Post-conflict States together with the UN ought to mandate gender parity in negotiations and consultations on peace and reconstruction, as well as ensure the appointment and/or candidacy of women to local and national governance bodies, particularly in parliament where the constitution-making process takes place. The quota system must translate into meaningful political authority and influence for women which is crucial to ensure more inclusive institutional frameworks.

Second, addressing the problem of women’s inclusion must be about more than making physical space for women, or making sure that there are “enough” women in the room. It must be about democratizing and reframing the discourse around women's involvement in peace processes, creating spaces that are truly capable of honoring the different roles, experiences and contributions of women and girls – beyond mere formal representation -- to forging and sustaining peace. Post-conflict States and the UN need to understand the ways in which the important concerns women raise through Track II diplomacy complement the achievements of women and men officials in Track I. The concerted effort to connect these two tracks in peace negotiations is critical to ensuring the inclusion of women's voices in all peace processes.

Third, the responsibility of connecting insights from the two tracks rests in large measure with mediators. DPA and the MSU should require not only the nomination or appointment of more women mediators, but also encourage closer coordination with emerging women's mediation networks. Sharing contacts, best practices and lessons learned and working together to formally train local mediators on inclusive peace processes are all steps that we should endorse. It is also important to create specific benchmarks for UN

**Costa Rica**



**MISIÓN PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS / PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Security Council Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and Special Political Missions (SPM's) to measure the quality and quantity of women's inclusion in Track I and Track II peace processes.

Madam President,

The burden of gender-equity cannot fall solely on the shoulders of women. Moreover, the WPS agenda cannot fall on the shoulders of only some but not all the members of this Council and the wider UN membership. After 20 + years, it is past time to interrogate and satisfy what remains to be accomplished regarding our collective commitment to promote both the leadership and the full, equal, and significant participation of women in all efforts to maintain and promote international peace and security.

I thank you.



# CZECH REPUBLIC

## **Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations**

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75<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly

UN Security Council Arria-formula meeting on  
“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of  
Women in UN-led Peace Processes”

**Statement by**

**H. E. Ms. Marie Chatardová**

**Permanent Representative**

New York, March 8, 2021

*Check against Delivery*

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Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

Firstly, let me thank Ireland, Mexico and all co-sponsors for organizing this important meeting. Much has been said, the Czech Republic has joined the EU and the Group of Friends Statements, nevertheless, let me underline some points in our national capacity.

Today, we commemorate the International Women's Day. We celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations, women's fight for their rights and international peace. In a few days the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women will start its deliberation and focus on women's and girls' participation and leadership in public life. Even though the Czech Republic is not currently a member of the Commission, we will participate actively. The Czech Republic considers the WPS Agenda to be a crucial and integral part of our upcoming deliberations. We are looking forward to giving out a strong message in this sense. We would also like to invite you to our side-event on gender-based violence in the age of digitalisation, which is to take place on Wednesday 17 March, and our side-event on equal pay for women and the tools and policies to secure it, which is to take place on Monday 22 March.

Ms Chairperson,

Let me thank the panellists for their valuable presentation that reassures us about the importance of cooperation of all stakeholders on national, regional, international level, among governmental representatives and the civil society. All women voices should be listened to, however, it's time we stop counting the numbers of women involved and consider their full, equal and meaningful participation to be natural. Even though we celebrated last year the twentieth anniversary of the UNSCR 1325, much has to be done to ensure full participation of women on peace making and peacebuilding processes that will certainly lead to better stability and sustainability of our peace processes.

Last autumn, the government of the Czech Republic approved the Second National Action Plan on the implementation of the 1325 Resolution for 2021-2025. The aim of the Second NAP is to maintain natural continuity with the first NAP, to ensure that the Czech Republic's efforts and activities in the field of peace and security adequately reflect current needs and priorities. It is not a cliché but our conviction that mainstreaming gender equality is the only way to achieve a sustainable future based on the three pillars of the UN – peace and security, human rights, and development.

Thank you for your attention.



**Reunión en Fórmula Arria**  
**8 de marzo de 2021 de 3:00pm-6:00pm**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to reiterate the Dominican Republic's unequivocal support to the complete and full implementation of the WPS Agenda.

Now, with an increased sense of urgency.

This is why we **welcome** this important meeting as we also celebrate the immense contributions women have made to the fulfillment of peace and prosperity for all, and in all aspects of our common humanity.

Despite this, women's participation in current peace processes and in peacebuilding continues to be low.

We are still falling short of our goals.

We thank the distinguished briefers for their valuable contributions and particularly for their individual contributions to advance the WPS agenda.

Colleagues, let me put it clearly. For us, gender equality and effective women's participation in peace processes **is a predictor of peace.**

In other words, there is no possibility to achieve peace, or sustain it without women's participation.

This calls for continuous political support and determination, but also concerted, strategic and fearless action.

Full implementation comes with addressing the intersecting forms of discrimination many women face, as well as with the removal of structural barriers that prevent their inclusive participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Civil society, women human rights defenders, and their civic space, must be protected by states and supported without reserve by this Council and the UN as a whole so that they carry out their critical work without fear of reprisals.

Many peace agreements do not include gender provisions to sufficiently address women's security and peacebuilding

needs, another reason why the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and young women, in peace processes and in decision making is not negotiable. It has to be at the core of any peace process for it to be credible and sustainable.

But also, conflict prevention requires converting a culture of impunity into one of accountability including to victims of conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence.

To conclude, COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting women and girls, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected areas, threatening decades of progress for women's rights and equality. Nevertheless, against all odds, women have become critical figures in responding to the virus in their communities and countries.



Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the  
United Nations

Remarks by Ambassador Cristian Espinosa,  
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations,

**Security Council Arria formula meeting on  
“Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women  
in UN-led Peace Processes”**

8 March 2021

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Madame President,

1.- I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Ireland, Mexico and all delegations that organized and sponsored this timely Security Council Arria Formula that allows more inclusivity in such a relevant topic.

2.- I also thank the briefers for their presentations and note that despite the efforts made during the last two decades, Women’s participation in peace processes remain drastically low.

3.- The 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review Process which coincided with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was an opportunity to discuss and evaluate the situation of Woman in conflict settings, deteriorate by the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the role of Women on peace processes, and how their work contributes to sustaining peace. Now we need to act.

4.- While inequality was already a major challenge for peace and development before the pandemic, Covid-19 exacerbated inequalities by impacting women incomes; increasing domestic violence, conflict related sexual violence, trafficking, early marriage, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.

5.- Women’s active participation in long-term pandemic responses will also be central for social cohesion, development, peacebuilding and prevention of violence.

6.- Ecuador acknowledges the crucial work from women peacebuilders at local, regional and international levels. Furthermore, to better advance the full, equal and meaningful participation of Women in Peace processes the United Nations needs to lead by example.

7.- On this regard Ecuador supports the Secretary-General's action areas to address persistent challenges in Women, Peace and Security, including with promoting an increase in the number and share of women in uniform in peacekeeping and national security services and ensuring predictable, adequate and targeted financing for women peacebuilders.

8.- The UN should continue leading peace processes globally and should also strengthen its efforts on women's participation and contribution to peacebuilding efforts with the aim to ensure lasting peace agreements.

9.- To conclude, Ecuador believes that implementing the Secretary General call for a global ceasefire would allow a greater protection for women and girls. But while conflict persist it is vital that we support the participation of women in peacebuilding processes, as well as in the planning and development of preventive diplomacy.

Thank you very much.

**EGYPT**



**مصر**

**The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York**

**نيويورك لدى الأمم  
المتحدة بعثة مصر  
الدائمة**

**Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

**delivered by**

**Dr. Obaida El Dandarawy**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations**

**during the Arria Formula Meeting on “Ensuring the Full, Equal and  
Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

**EGYPT****مصر**

**The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York**

**نيويورك لدى الأمم  
المتحدة بعثة مصر  
الدائمة**

**Thank you to the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Mexico, Estonia, France, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Viet Nam, the United Kingdom and the United States for organizing this important Arria Formula on the occasion of International Women's Day.**

**The role of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace cannot be overstated. A month ago, right after the election of Egypt to the Chairmanship of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Commission adopted an Action Plan on the Implementation of the PBC gender strategy. This represents a major step towards taking stock of progress made in the implementation of the PBC gender Strategy and its overall contribution to the women, peace and security agenda. As the Chair of the PBC, Egypt remains committed to continue advancing all efforts to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peacebuilding.**

**It is worthy to highlight that Egypt earlier this month hosted the second edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development. Titled, "Shaping Africa's New Normal: Recovering Better, Rebuilding Stronger".**

**EGYPT****مصر**

**The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York**

**نيويورك لدى الأمم  
المتحدة بعثة مصر  
الدائمة**

**The Forum provided a platform for African Heads of States and governments, high- level officials from international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society to discuss means by which Africa can rechart its pathway towards achieving peace and development post-COVID-19 through decisive leadership, innovative solutions and robust partnerships.**

**In that same regard, I would like to call attention to the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, publication entitled “More than a Seat at the Table: Advancing the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa” which is based on the first edition summary of Aswan Forum, the publication contained a big number of key messages regarding the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the peace processes.**

**Women’s participation should not be measured solely by the number of seats occupied at the table. Equally important is the impact and quality of their contribution to the entire spectrum of peace interventions (from conflict prevention to sustaining peace). Women mediators’ networks provide valuable opportunities for building capacities and knowledge transfer, conducive to effective participation in peace processes, both formal and informal.**

**EGYPT****مصر**

**The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York**

**نيويورك لدى الأمم  
المتحدة بعثة مصر  
الدائمة**

**In conclusion, it is Egypt's firm view that bringing them to the table requires women, at all levels, to be engaged, and empowered to share their experiences and play meaningful roles. The integration of young women, in particular, into women mediators' networks remains crucial.**

**Thank you.**



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR  
ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

**Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting  
International Women's Day**

**Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful  
Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes**

New York, 8 March 2021

We thank the co-organizers for convening this Arria-formula meeting on the full and effective implementation of the WPS to commemorate the International Women's Day.

I would like to begin by reaffirming El Salvador's commitment to the WPS Agenda. Our history has taught us that women are essential to achieve and sustaining peace. The lack of meaningful participation of women in peace processes could preclude the inclusion of gender-related elements in the peace agreements, hindering women to benefit from demobilization arrangements and thus losing the possibility of access to other benefits, such as special credits, programs, and scholarships.

As we have mentioned in other meetings, ignoring the needs of women and youth and the reconstruction of the social fabric in El Salvador provided a fertile ground for structural and protracted violence.

Therefore, El Salvador developed the National Plan on WPS 2017 - 2022, with the aim of implementing Resolution 1325 according to our national contexts. Their main strategies are the prevention of violence against women and girls; to incorporate gender mainstreaming in our security forces; and to increase the participation of women in Peacekeeping Operations.

I take this opportunity to share some insights on how to ensure a direct, substantive, and formal participation of women in peace processes, more specifically in Peacekeeping Operations:

- Extensive training on gender issues is key prior to deployment of Peacekeepers. The content and methodology should be adapted to each country and region.

- El Salvador has highly trained female police and military personnel. However, when addressing their lack of interest to participate in peace processes, we have realized that cultural and family challenges are part of the equation. Those aspects must be given more attention to overcome these barriers. In this sense, we welcome important efforts such as Elsie Initiative.
- WPS agenda must be strengthened not only by leadership but with adequate resources. Briefings of Peacekeeping Missions to the Fifth Committee during budget discussions and those to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations are opportunities to raise awareness of these needs.

We invite more to join the A4P initiative and to organize further Arria Formula meetings and other events to better understand the needs of women in conflict-affected areas, to hear the staff in the field, and more importantly, women and young girls who are already making a difference in their countries, looking to achieve and sustain peace.

Thank you, chair.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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NY 6/4/11

The Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and reference the United Nations Security Council Open Arria-Formula meeting, to be held on 08 March 2021.

The Permanent Mission is grateful to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to be allowed this opportunity to participate in this Security Council Arria-Formula meeting. A written statement is submitted to be included in the meeting documents.

The Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 08<sup>h</sup> March 2021

Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations,  
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza  
885 Second Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
New York, N.Y. 10017.





**Statement by the  
Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations**

**Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting  
Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of  
Women in UN-led Peace Processes  
March 8, 2021**

I would like to thank the Mission of Ireland and other organizers for convening today's Open Arria-Formula meeting and thank the briefers for their presentations.

Last year we celebrated the 20th anniversary since the adoption of the UN Security Council (UNSC) landmark resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which recognized women as proactive participants at all stages of the conflict cycle – from prevention to conflict resolution, peace operations to peacebuilding. 20 years later, participation of women in the decision-making processes concerning prevention, handling and resolution of conflicts still lags behind.

Ensuring the meaningful engagement of women in the peace process as well as promoting issues related to the needs of the IDP and conflict-affected women is a high priority for the Government of Georgia which, on its turn, is reflected in the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSC Res. on WPS. Let me highlight some of the steps that have been made out to this end:

The Georgian delegation in the Geneva International discussions (GID) and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs) actively raises all issues related to the needs and priorities of women IDPs and conflict-affected women within each round of the GID which is the formal format of negotiations between Georgia and Russia on the security and humanitarian issues stemming from Russian aggression and occupation of the two Georgian regions. The issues are discussed with the Co-chairs of the Geneva International Discussions (EU, UN, OSCE), as well as with other international organizations and partner countries to properly reflect the needs and priorities of women IDPs and conflict-affected women in peaceful conflict resolution process.

Moreover, with support of the UN Women Georgian participants of the GID meet regularly with the representatives of civil society, including women IDPs and conflict-affected women, women's rights defender NGOs, in order to ensure that the needs and priorities of women IDPs and conflict-affected women are integrated in the planning for the peace process and raised at the negotiation formats, particularly at the GID and the IPRMs.

On the other hand, the Georgian Ministry of Defense continues the implementation of the third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security by designing gender equality policy, collecting and analyzing sex-disaggregated data, ensuring equal opportunities and

career development for service men and women. In parallel, personnel of peace missions and students of all professional military education institutions are trained on WPS.

In 2020, the Georgian Ministry of Defense has continued efforts to increase capacity of peacekeeping personnel on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, including in conflict, and post-conflict situations. All peace mission deployed personnel were trained on UNSC resolutions on Women Peace and Security in the frame of mandatory pre-deployment training during 2020.

In conclusion, let me underline the importance of building back better after COVID-19 by ensuring full, equal and meaningful participation of women, including in leadership positions, in peace and political processes in a way that they can influence the outcome of those processes as well as their implementation.

**UNCS Arria Meeting “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes” on International Women’s Day, 8.3.2021**

**Statement Ambassador Günter Sautter, Deputy Permanent representative of Germany to the UN**

Madame Chair,

We have heard it many times today already: There can be no lasting peace without women! We all know what the problems are. Now is the time to find solutions, now is the time to go beyond mere words, now is the time to finally act.

The past year has sadly shown how fragile the progress that we had made in the past decades on gender equality and empowerment is. The SG’s warning was loud and clear: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are on the verge of losing all progress made so far. But every crisis comes with opportunities: to reshape the world that we all want to live in - a world that offers fair chances to everyone, including to the 4 billion women and girls worldwide!

Now is the time to hold everyone accountable for their promises – including and especially the UN! Who has more credibility and potential to act than the UN? The UN needs to lead the way and serve as a role model. We should have hard targets and quotas when it comes to UN-led peace processes: we need 50% women among senior negotiators and mediators who are women. We need 50% of their teams to be women. We need gender expertise and experience in all mediation teams. We need to have full, equal and meaningful participation of women around the table, from all parties! No more excuses!

And we need to make sure that all agreements signed and sponsored by the UN are gender-sensitive and gender-responsive. We need women in implementing agreements, in monitoring ceasefires and peace agreements; we need women peacebuilders and women leaders. No more excuses!

Women do not need more just capacity building – they already have capacities. What they need is access, funding and support to get to the right decision-making tables, to be included and to be heard. This is why the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund is so important – it just launched its new campaign 1000 Women Leaders right before this Arria meeting. The WPHF’s Rapid Response Window tries to close this gap of access and funding – often small amounts make a much bigger difference on the ground than extensive complicated programming. This is why Germany proudly supports the WPHF as one of its biggest donors, so that women in Iraq, Columbia, Afghanistan and many other places take their active part in building peace.

During our tenure on the Security Council and as Co-Chair of the IEG we have had many discussions with UN senior leadership on how to best implement the WPS Agenda. We have seen where the gaps are, and we have seen great potential for more action. Let’s make use of all this potential.

**UNCS Arria Meeting “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes” on International Women’s Day, 8.3.2021**

**Statement Ambassador Günter Sautter, Deputy Permanent representative of Germany to the UN**

We all need to do our share in going beyond words, in being held accountable for our promises and commitments. Germany intends to do its part, also as a newly selected Catalytic Member of the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action of the Generation Equality Forum. Let’s make 2021 the year where women are finally equally represented in all peace processes!

**UN Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting**  
**Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in**  
**UN-led Peace Processes (8/3/2021)**  
**Intervention by Greece**

Mr. President,  
 Excellencies,  
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank our co-hosts for organizing today's Open Arria-formula Meeting on ensuring meaningful gender-equal participation in UN-led peace processes.

[Greece fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Additionally, please allow me to make some further remarks, under my national capacity]:

Greece firmly believes that meaningful gender-equal participation in decision making at all levels, constitutes an essential precondition for the design and implementation of gender-responsive policies, which, subsequently, will accelerate the achievement of substantive gender equality.

In this regard, gender-equal representation, participation and leadership are deemed of paramount importance in peace processes.

The disproportionate impact of armed conflict and violence, including gender-based and sexual violence, on women and girls necessitates their voices and experiences being carefully listened to, in order for justice to be served and peace to be promoted.

At the same time, women's meaningful participation, in their full diversity, as empowered agents of change, in peace processes is extremely beneficial for achieving long-lasting and sustainable peace.

Nonetheless, evidence illustrates that women today remain excluded, to a great extent, from conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building efforts.

In order to reverse this negative trend, the UN Secretary-General, in his Call to Action, encourages the adoption of a feminist approach to accelerate women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership.

This goal entails, first and foremost, systematic gender mainstreaming as well as coherent policy action, in order to give voice to and empower women.

Additionally, it requires a human security approach which focuses on the specific challenges that women and girls experience, and, therefore, aims at people-centered, gender-responsive and prevention-oriented solutions thereto, based on national ownership.

Added to that, a human rights approach ensures the protection of the rights of women and girls, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, their relief and recovery for conflict-related gender based violence as well as the accountability of the perpetrators.

Mr. President,

Greece prioritizes gender-equal representation, participation and leadership, as a cross-cutting issue, which guides its domestic as well as foreign policy action.

This is evident in the National Action Plan on Gender Equality, which is currently being renewed for the period 2021-2025, as well as in the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS 2020-2024), which is being finalized.

In implementing the NAPWPS, Greece seeks to strengthen meaningful cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in order to advance the crucial role of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building.

In this vein, my country fully supports UN efforts to ensure that women are at the heart of peace processes.

Mr. President,

As a final note, I would like to underline the valuable contribution of women -young or marginalized women, indigenous women or women working at the grassroots level- in peace and political processes. In fact, it is their substantive and meaningful inclusion in decision making, which can lead to long-lasting and sustainable peace and security.



**GOBIERNO de  
GUATEMALA**  
DR. ALEJANDRO GIAMMATTEI



**MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES  
EXTERIORES**  
MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA ANTE  
NACIONES UNIDAS, NEW YORK

### Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting

#### **“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

8 March 2021 from 15:00 to 18:00

Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me to express my gratitude to the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Mexico, Estonia, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Tunisia and the United States for convening this important meeting, which comes in a timely manner, on a date in which we commemorate the International Women’s Day.

We have seen that meaningful participation by women measurably strengthens protection efforts, accelerates economic recovery, deepens peacebuilding efforts, and leads to sustainable peace. Guatemala considers of paramount importance the full involvement of women in decision-making processes at all levels, taking into account that they play a key role in promoting justice, reconciliation, support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategies (DDR); the reconstruction of national institutions and the prevention and resolution of conflicts - all of the above essential for the consolidation of lasting peace.

Mister President,

When we are talking about equal and meaningful participation of women, we need to bring to the table the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. Last year we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its adoption, which was a date that not only recalled what has been done, but also provided an opportunity to evaluate where we are at and what remains to be done to close the gaps and ensure more inclusive and peaceful societies. Consistent political support at the international and national levels towards the 1325 agenda remains essential to protect the gains towards achieving women’s empowerment and equality.

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From Guatemala's perspective, the National Action Plans (NAPs) provide a valuable tool for states to implement their commitments. NAPs provide an opportunity for national stakeholders to identify priorities, determine responsibilities, allocate resources, and initiate strategic actions within a defined timeframe to deliver policies and programmes that respond to the needs and priorities of women in conflict-affected countries. The timely protection and active participation of women and girls, are inextricably linked and mutually reinforced, as reflected in all resolutions on women, peace and security.

Guatemala remains steadfast in supporting women's role as agents of change and reiterates that the UN can assist in the promotion and empowerment of women's participation in peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities, for instance those spearheaded through the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), as a platform to convene all relevant actors, including civil society and women's groups, to further strengthen cooperation and promote good practices in particular, through capacity and institution-building.

Thank you.

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**Statement by  
H.E Mohammad K. Koba  
*Chargé d'Affaires* of the Republic of Indonesia  
to the United Nations**

**Arria-Formula Meeting on “Call to Lead by Example:  
Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation  
of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

**New York, 8 March 2021**

**Check against delivery**

**Madam President,**

Happy International Women's Day.

Allow me to begin by thanking the co-hosts for initiating this meeting. I also thank the briefers for their presentations.

In line with the first resolution on women, peace and security – resolution 1325, Indonesia firmly believes in the importance of ensuring full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in peace processes, especially UN-led peace processes.

Against this backdrop, allow me to make three points.

**First, inclusive approach in peace processes.**

Indonesia is a firm believer that the meaningful participation of women is indispensable for reconciliation and enduring peace.

In many peace processes, women's participation in mediation efforts at the local level has contributed to reigniting peace talks, preventing escalation of violence, facilitating the provision of assistance and halting the escalation of intercommunal tensions.

We are pleased that, in some conflict areas, a minimum quota of women's participation in politics has been set, in the range of 25-35%. However, much remains to be done.

This brings me to my **second** point... **broadening the network of female leaders.**

In line with our commitment to ensure equal, full, and meaningful participation of women, we need to further enable and enhance the capacity of women negotiators and mediators, including through broadening the network of women leaders.

Last year, Indonesia started linking Indonesian female leaders with their Afghan counterparts to exchange best practices through the Indonesia-Afghan Women's Solidarity Framework. This is a part of our initiative to

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ensure the role of women in the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.

Indonesia is also proud to have been working together with the region in establishing the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators to Advance the Agenda of Women, Peace and Security in the Region.

We call on all countries to streamline the efforts to broaden and further strengthen these networks.

**Third, enhancing the role of women peacekeepers.**

Women peacekeepers possess better situational awareness and are better placed to support women and girls from suffering and violence on the ground.

Most importantly, they serve as an inspiration for women and girls in the local community. Enhancing their role in peacekeeping operations is therefore very critical.

Indonesia commends the Council's unity in adopting resolution 2538, initiated by Indonesia and co-sponsored by 97 countries, including all members of the Security Council.

We call on current Council members to ensure the full implementation of this resolution, especially in strengthening the role of women peacekeepers.

**Madam President,**

To conclude, Indonesia is confident that together, we will further enhance the role of women in peace processes around the world.

Thank you.



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - New York

## Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting

*Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes*

Monday, March 8th, 3-6 PM  
VTC

### ***National Statement***

*Madame Chair, distinguished briefers, colleagues,*

*I align myself with the statements delivered by the Representative of the European Union and the Chair of the GoF of WPS, and would like to add a few remarks in a national capacity.*

*First of all let me thank Ireland, Mexico, and all the co-sponsors for convening this meeting on an emblematic day for women's rights and achievements.*

*Indeed, as we celebrate the International Women's Day, we have to face the persistent underrepresentation of women in peace processes. The last updates from the UN Secretary-General do not leave any room for interpretation: more than twenty years from the adoption of landmark Resolution 1325, women continue to be left out of the mediation and negotiating scene despite some notable exceptions. Furthermore, few peace agreements include gender-relevant provisions or protect women's fundamental rights.*

*As the SG often points out, gender equality is first and foremost a question of power, and wherever we look, power structures are dominated by men. Decisions about*

*international peace and security are still overwhelmingly made by men, which is at odds with women's meaningful contribution to conflict resolution and with their positive influence on the outcome of peace talks.*

*We must not underestimate some encouraging signs, thanks to the impulse of the Secretary General to step up the pace on the WPS Agenda and to the DPPA's new policy on WPS, mainstreaming the Agenda in all the fields of action.*

*Building on the positive experience of the peace process in Colombia, we saw positive signs in Libya, with the participation of Libyan women in the Political Dialogue Forum, thanks to the tireless work of Stephanie Williams; in Somalia, where the UN Mission engaged women in the constitutional review process and encouraged their representation in federal elections.*

*The International Community must collectively support these efforts, and make sure that these positive signs translate into actual and long-standing participation. The briefing of our valuable peacebuilder from Yemen was truly enlightening in this regard. Last Tuesday, we heard the call by members of the Syrian civil society for women to be included in the constitutional process, and we support the UN's efforts to that end.*

*As Member States, we have the responsibility, alongside the United Nations, to advance the full and effective participation of women in mediation and peace processes. Italy is doing its part in fostering women's participation in mediation: in October 2017, we promoted the launch of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, which, last year, joined the Global Alliance of the Regional Women Mediators Network. Women's participation is a priority for the Italian Government, and a cross-cutting theme in the Agenda of our Presidency of the G20, and that of our current mandate in the HRC. is a priority. We acknowledge that fully implementing the WPS Agenda is going to be a long and winding road. We are under no illusion that the process will be completed overnight, but it is essential to build on the legacy of the twentieth anniversary of Resolution 1325, and to ensure we continue to make steady progress towards a fair representation of women in peace processes and in the decision-making as a whole.*

*I thank you.*

# Japan

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## PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Statement by H.E. Mr. KIMURA Tetsuya**  
**Ambassador, Economic, Social and United Nations Management Affairs**  
**Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations**  
**Security Council Open Arrria-formula Meeting**  
***Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful***  
***Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes***  
**8 March 2021**

Madame President,

I would like to begin by thanking you and the co-sponsors for convening this Arrria-formula Meeting on International Women's Day and ahead of the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women.

Madame President,

Peace will never be achieved while excluding a certain group of people, which is why full, equal and meaningful participation of women is an indispensable component of peace process. For all individuals to be protected and reap the dividends of peace, people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses are required. This is why looking at leading examples matters, and I would like to share with you the ways in which Japan has been engaged in areas where the UN is currently facilitating active peace processes.

I would like to highlight a UN Women project in Yemen. Japan supports capacity building of women to engage effectively at all levels of the peace process including negotiations, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. This is done through capacity development of civil society organizations to address needs and challenges within their crisis-affected communities, especially those of refugees, IDPs and returnees, and creating spaces to leverage women's potential as community mediators. In Yemen, Japan has been providing humanitarian assistance and support for women and girl's empowerment and protection from GBV through UNFPA and IOM as well.

In Libya, Japan supports training for women and CSOs on mediation and peacebuilding to enhance their capabilities for active participation in these efforts. Through this UN Women project, women municipal councilors are also trained on WPS and peacebuilding with the aim of amending policies and plans at local levels to promote women's participation in peacebuilding.

These projects promote diverse representation of women, including young women, women from marginalized groups and women working at the grassroots level. Japan prioritizes this agenda in our WPS National Action Plan, both globally and domestically, by creating an environment that fosters women's participation in peace processes, thus building a foundation for equal participation of women in their communities.

Let me conclude by reaffirming Japan's continued commitment to ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes.

Thank you.



Statement

by

H.E. Dr. **Amal Mudallali**

Permanent Representative of **Lebanon**  
to the United Nations

at the Security Council open **Arria-Formula Meeting**

**“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and  
Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

New York, April 8, 2021

*Check Against Delivery*

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations  
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

Allow me at the outset to thank you and the briefers for their remarks, and to thank as well the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Mexico, Estonia, France, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Viet Nam, the United Kingdom and the United States for co-hosting this very important Arria Meeting.

Mme. Chair,

While the third committee is still negotiating the CSW agreed conclusions for this year under the theme “Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”, we meet today to join the call to lead by example by ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in UN-led peace processes.

20 years after the adoption of the landmark resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, progress is still too slow. According to UN-Women, “between 1992 and 2019 (...) about seven out of every ten peace processes did not include women mediators or women signatories.”

Progress is not just slow but it is unacceptable too. While women do groundbreaking work for peace and security, and play instrumental roles in forging and sustaining peace, they continue to be sidelined in peace processes and negotiations.

Women must be part of the solution. Women's voices must be heard, included and amplified in peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities. We must not fail to acknowledge their crucial work in this arena and we must ensure their full, effective and meaningful participation in peace processes. We have to focus as well on preventing and eliminating all forms of violence including sexual and gender-based violence in conflicts and post-conflicts situation against all women including women peacebuilders, and ensuring accountability.

In Lebanon, women have been mobilized in all spheres in response to the many crises we have been facing, showing exemplary strength. After the blast of 4th of August they were among the first responders. With regard to COVID-19 as well, women have been at the forefront of the response and recovery from the pandemic.

Through its first National Action Plan on resolution 1325, Lebanon has committed to engaging women in political dialogues and in peacebuilding efforts, to increasing women's representation in the security forces as well as promoting their participation and representation in local and national governance structures.

Here at the UN, Lebanon has started its two-year term as a new member of the Peacebuilding Commission. One of our top priorities in the PBC is to focus on the Women Peace and Security agenda, including strengthening women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peacebuilding and bolstering the linkage between the WPS agenda and the Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace agenda.

Mme. Chair,

Regarding Women Peacekeepers, Lebanon is deeply grateful for the immense contributions of women blue helmets working under the umbrella of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and making a positive and significant impact in peacebuilding.

While UNIFIL women peacekeepers, both military and civilian are deployed in all areas of the mission, the number of women in uniform is still low: currently, women account for 6% only of UNIFIL's some 10,300 peacekeepers.

We express our appreciation to the troop-contributing countries and we encourage them to increase the number of women in UNIFIL, as well as to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of operations.

Mme. Chair,

UNIFIL Gender Affairs Officer, Rana Rahal, proudly pointed out that "local community sees the UN Mission as a men-and-women force both working together side-by-side to achieve peace and security in the area of operations."

Let us ensure that women are represented everywhere, at the table and in the field. The world is watching us and learning from us. Let us continue leading by example.

I thank you.



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

NEW YORK, 8 MARCH 2021

SECURITY COUNCIL - ARRIA FORMULA MEETING ON 'ENSURING THE FULL, EQUAL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN UN-LED PEACE PROCESSES'

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam Chair,

Thank you for marking International Women's Day with this Arria-Formula meeting on a topic of vital importance for peace. The Women, Peace and Security agenda has had enormous impact on the ground, but it also continues to leave massive room for improvement, in particular regarding the full and effective implementation of its participation pillar. In all parts of the world, women's participation in peace processes remains unacceptably low. Of all peace processes between 1992 and 2019, women comprised only 6% of mediators, despite clear evidence that women's participation leads to better, high quality peace agreements the implementation of which is more sustainable. Over twenty years ago, my predecessor convened a group of PRs advocating for more female UN Special Envoys and SRSGs. It is sad to realize that over two decades later, the proportion of women in these roles remains insufficient, and that the UN as an organization lags behind where it should be leading by example.

Improving the meaningful participation of women in UN-led peace processes also requires further thinking about the aims and purposes of these processes. Those that aim only at conflict termination are less likely to result in such participation, given that leaders of both State and non-state armed actors are overwhelmingly male. While sustainable peace can obviously only be

fostered in the absence of conflict, such processes exclude women's experience of conflict from the creation of arrangements, and in the long-run may incentivize violent approaches that allow armed leaders to entrench their dominance in post-conflict governance. Two conclusions are pertinent here. Women must occupy meaningful roles at all stages of peace processes if resulting agreements are to be truly representative of the population in whose name they are being struck. In addition, the UN should consider how its peace processes can be set up not only to terminate ongoing conflict, but also to prevent its recurrence by building sustainable peace, for example by linking ceasefire arrangements to explicit peace-building or constitution-making phases.

Madam Chair,

Ensuring women's participation is critical in peacekeeping and reconstruction. The impact of the participation of women in armed forces on the respect of international humanitarian law is a relevant and largely unexplored dimension of this discussion. To this end, Liechtenstein has recently launched a research project on the interplay of the Women Peace and Security Agenda and International Humanitarian Law together with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The findings of this research project will hopefully inform our efforts to increase compliance with IHL.

Allowing women to be agents of change and to contribute to a more peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world requires an environment that is enabling, inclusive and free of discrimination, unfair social norms and attitudes. Mainstreaming the WPS agenda within the entire UN system is essential to this end, as is the mainstreaming of gender equality, reflected in SDG 5.

I thank you.

## **Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes**

March 8, 2021

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

Let me start by thanking Ireland and Mexico and all of the co-sponsors for co-hosting this meeting, as well as the panelists for their invaluable insights.

Today is an opportune occasion to remind ourselves of what has been accomplished and reassess what must be done to overcome the challenges that still lie ahead of us in ensuring a full, equal and meaningful participation of women in public life, including all parts and levels of peace operations and crisis management, peacebuilding and peace processes.

Last year we marked twenty years since the unanimous adoption of the landmark Resolution 1325. Despite some achievements along the way, we see that the implementation gaps persist and our progress could be faster. The numbers of women's representation in peace negotiations, mediation and other peacebuilding efforts remain very low. Women are still very frequently denied access to decision-making, both in peacetime and conflict situations. Even when involved, they are disproportionately impacted by sexual and gender-based violence, including assault, threats, abuse and harassment, both online and offline.

Only inclusive and equality-based peace process can be sustainable, therefore we must focus and finally overcome social, cultural and political barriers that limit women's full, equal and meaningful participation in achieving and sustaining peace. We need appropriate gender responsive reforms, strengthening normative, legal regulatory frameworks, and for that, we most of all need a political will to make a change. We must push for women's meaningful involvement, participation and increased availability of financial support. We have to work towards capacity building. At the same time, it is equally important to eliminate gender stereotypes that marginalize women and limit their involvement. We have to work on all levels  
– local, national, regional and here at the UN.

Having in mind that COVID-19 pandemic was a significant setback for gender equality in 2021, we must be even more determined to ensure a full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. One of the

earliest occasions for us to demonstrate our determination to focus on the women's inclusion and leadership is the upcoming 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Lithuania remains fully committed to working together and ensuring that women are fully involved as equal partners in peace from the earliest stages in all peace and political processes.

Let us all choose to challenge.

**Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting****“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful  
Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”****New York, 8 March 2021****15:00 – 18:00****Statement by Luxembourg**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Luxembourg commends the twelve Permanent Missions for organizing this timely open Arria-formula meeting. I would also like to thank all the briefers for their valuable contributions.

Luxembourg aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Two decades after the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1325, women’s full and meaningful participation in peace processes has come to be recognized as a key element for achieving durable peace. This remains true today in Yemen, in Syria, and elsewhere. There is a strong correlation between gender inequality and risk of conflict, and a strong link between individual security and the respect of women’s human rights and international peace and security.

While significant progress has been made over the last twenty years, the Secretary-General’s last report reveals that there remain significant gaps in the implementation and in the financing of the Women and Peace and Security agenda. In order for the UN to be able to lead by example, it is crucial that, in budget and mandate negotiations, all Member States remain committed to supporting politically and financially gender equality and women’s full and meaningful participation.

In 2018, the Luxembourg government decided to adopt a feminist foreign policy. The commitment to gender equality and the promotion of women’s rights and participation at all levels of decision-making has been a longstanding priority for my country. It has been an integral part of our external action and human rights policy, including during Luxembourg’s membership in the Security Council in 2013-2014.

Gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination more generally are cross-cutting priorities that Luxembourg will seek to promote if elected as a first-time member of the Human Rights Council for 2022-2024.

At a time when women's rights are increasingly under attack, you can count on Luxembourg's determination and commitment to continue to promote the Women and Peace and Security agenda – in the UN system, as well as on the national level and within the European Union.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**HE Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the  
United Nations**

*Security Council Open Arria Formula meeting  
Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women  
in UN-led Peace Processes  
Ireland, Mexico, Estonia, France, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,  
Tunisia, Viet Nam, the United Kingdom and the United States.*

**8 March 2021 New  
York**

Madame President,

Malta thanks Ireland, Mexico and all co-sponsors for holding today's Arria-Formula meeting. We also thank the Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen, Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo, and civil society briefers for sharing their insights and experiences.

Women, Peace and Security will be one of Malta's four main priorities if we are entrusted to serve as a member of the Security Council in 2023-24.

Malta aligns herself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to make some additional remarks in her national capacity.

History has shown us that women have a significant role to play in prevention, resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding as highlighted in UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted over twenty years ago.

Despite this bold and unequivocal commitment, women are often excluded from peace talks, and their presence round the negotiating table is still below desired levels. This is truly regrettable, especially since data suggests that the participation of women significantly increases the likelihood of reaching a peace agreement and sustainable peace.

In Syria, just 27% of the Constitutional Committee are women, a number that is lower than the already conservative 30% advocated by the UN. In Libya, women played an influential role in the 2011 protests, but their role in the peace process is not as strong or prominent as it should be. In Yemen, efforts by Yemeni women in handling an increasingly dire and worrying situation are truly remarkable, but inequalities in society are holding them back.

8 March 2021

As Ms Ekomo-Soignet said in her powerful statement during the Security Council meeting on MINUSCA just a couple of weeks ago, the participation of women cannot be limited to ad hoc consultations, but must be part of an inclusive approach. The international community has the duty and responsibility to support such efforts.

We have heard first hand today why it is imperative that women are involved in all the stages of the peace process. The full, equal and meaningful participation of women, in all their diversity, in peace processes is essential to achieve sustainable peace.

The framework and necessary tools are at hand, and we need to step up the pace in implementing the WPS agenda. In this regard, by leading by example, the UN is in pole position to show leadership and also has a responsibility to do so.

This is also not something that women can do alone. Men need to be brought on board too. The significant cultural and social barriers that still prevent women's leadership and full, equal, and meaningful participation, not least in politics, must be addressed by all. We will all gain from women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace processes, and we need to join forces to achieve this together.

I thank you.

## Statement from the Netherlands

- Thank you to the co-hosts for organizing this Arria-meeting on International Women's Day.
- The world needs women's full participation and decision-making in public life. Still, in 2021 women's participation in peace processes remains unacceptably low.
- It is good that today we confirm again that this is not right. But, being like-minded doesn't change that. And more worrying: we run the risk that some of the progress we did make, will be reversed. And this begs the question: how can it be that Resolution 1325 was passed more than 20 years ago, meetings were held, more resolutions were passed and substantial resources were dedicated to peace and security, but we have not made more progress?
- Clearly, we don't need more research or more proof. To answer this question, we must look at our own actions. The UN must lead by example. And UN Member States must lead by example. We must lead by example.
- Allow me to highlight three actions we should prioritize:
- First, let me agree with others on the importance of the participation of women and women's organizations at all levels and throughout the

peacebuilding cycle. It simply leads to better outcomes and is crucial for sustainable peace. The Peacebuilding Commission has an important role to play here. As a new member of the PBC, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is fully committed to play its part.

- Second, we need to make sure women peacebuilders are adequately supported, also financially. As a start, the Netherlands has reserved EUR 40 million for WPS programming in 10 countries for the period 2021-2025. In June this year, the Netherlands and partners will organize a conference on strengthening women's meaningful participation in the Yemeni peace process, where we will also focus on this issue.
- Finally, we must ensure that all UN-mandates reflect the importance of consistent implementation of the WPS-agenda. We all have our part to play: not just Security Council Members but all UN member states need to have this in mind. The Netherlands will make sure WPS will be on the agenda when we mark the 3rd anniversary of 'Action 4 Peacekeeping' on the 29th of March, an event we are proud to co-host.
- Let me close by quoting Australian writer and feminist G.D. Anderson: "Feminism isn't about making women stronger, women are already strong, it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." In his speech on International Women's Day last year, the UN Secretary General called himself a proud feminist. Let's all be proud feminists.
- Thank you.

**STATEMENT**

**by**

**Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS**

**AT**

**THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN ARRIA-FORUMA MEETING  
ON**

**CALL TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE: ENSURING FULL, EQUAL AND  
MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN UN-LED PEACE  
PROCESSES**

**New York, 8 March 2021**

Please check against delivery

**Mr. President,**

Let me from the outset thank all the organizing Missions for hosting today's important meeting. We also thank the Under-Secretary General with the Department of Political & Peacebuilding Affairs and other briefers for their insightful briefings.

2. The United Nations Security Council adopted the landmark resolution 1325 (2000) to emphasize the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts aimed at maintaining and promoting peace and security. This Resolution, with its four pillars of prevention, participation, protection peacebuilding and recovery, is also pivotal for galvanizing global efforts in addressing the challenges that women go through in situations of conflict.

3. Between 1992 and 2019 women constituted on average 13% of negotiators, 6% of mediators and 6% signatories in peace processes worldwide. The rights of women to participate fully, equally and meaningfully is self-evident and its value clear for all to see. Women's participation is not about counting numbers, but part of the significant influence that should be recognized as part of the peace process transition.

4. To buttress the value of the foregoing, we welcome the Secretary General's gender parity strategy which has also yielded positive results. As of August 2020, women accounted for 41% of the senior leadership of Special Political Missions and Peacekeeping Operations, an increase from 21% in 2017 when the strategy was first launched. In countries where the United Nations is supporting a peace process, Gender Advisers organize consultations with civil society and women groups and also provides advice on ways to include women in such processes.

5. It is a well-known that women rarely initiate violent conflicts; yet, they suffer its worst consequences on multiple fronts: physically, psychologically, economically, socially and politically. Often, women fall victim to predatory warlords, who systematically use rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war. Their suffering is compounded by their exclusion from key decision-making processes that might enhance peace and stability.

**Mr. President,**

6. We must, therefore, redouble efforts and engage in new and creative thinking to resolve persistent gaps and structural barriers to female participation and leadership. This can be done, among other ways, through the provision of resourceful women protection advisors, since women are greatly affected in different ways during conflicts, be it as relatives, caretakers, politicians, peace activists or combatants.

7. The African Union has been a useful platform for the advancement of women in peace and security agenda, by its strong advocacy for the engagement of women and youth in the continent's development. This has been clearly reflected in the Agenda 2063 of the AU and presently has over fourteen instruments that relate to women, peace and security.

8. At the sub-regional level in West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa, in September 2010, developed an integrated plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The plan of action emphasizes the

importance of the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and peacebuilding efforts, as well as the rebuilding of post-conflict societies.

**Mr. President,**

9. Building on the regional and sub-regional efforts, the Government of Nigeria in 2013 launched a national action plan to fully implement the relevant provisions of the Resolution. The plan was re-launched in 2017 to reiterate Government's commitment to ensuring the security of women and girls during armed conflicts and enhancing their active and direct participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

10. We are already familiar with Boko Haram's activities in the north east of Nigeria and the mayhem they unleashed in the communities, including displacement and deaths. It is to be noted that 80 per cent of the internally displaced persons are women and girls. We are taking concrete steps to meet their humanitarian needs and establishing the necessary conditions leading to the voluntary return of displaced persons to their places of origin in safety and dignity.

11. We are also catering for the victims of Boko Haram, who have suffered such crimes (rape and other sexual violence against children, abduction of children and other grave violations) by putting in motion several legal and social remedies such as the diligent prosecution of many of the detained Boko Haram terrorists in competent courts of law, as well as reintegration, reorientation and rehabilitation programmes designed to meet the needs of

victims. Some of the victims are also back to school in Nigeria and across the globe. The kind support of the UN and many partners and countries in achieving a measure of stability is greatly appreciated.

**Mr. President,**

12. In conclusion, It is my delegation's belief that to achieve the implementation of resolution 1325, member states, regional organizations, the media, civil society, women and youth have important roles to play. We must hold ourselves and others accountable.

**I thank you.**

Misión Permanente del Perú  
ante las Naciones Unidas



Permanent Mission of Peru to  
the United Nations

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**PERU'S INTERVENTION IN THE ARRIA FORMULA MEETING**

**“ENSURING THE FULL, EQUAL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN  
UN-LED PEACE PROCESSES”**

**NEW YORK, 8 MARCH 2021**

1. We would like to express our delegation appreciation to Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam for convening this important meeting. Likewise, we thank the valuable presentations made by the briefers.
2. For Peru, the agenda of gender equality and empowerment of women is central, and therefore we have made great efforts to improve the enjoyment and exercise of the rights of all women, adolescents and girls. In this framework, Peru is committed to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which includes, inter alia, achieving the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the different instances and processes of decision-making at all levels. This commitment was clearly expressed in our work during our past participation in the Security Council, within the informal group of experts on Women, Peace and Security, which Peru had the honor to co-chair together with Germany.
3. The importance of incorporating women and their perspectives on peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes to ensure sustainable peace is undeniable. However, and despite this understanding, evidence shows us that we must redouble our efforts to achieve a true effective, full and meaningful participation of women in them, considering their double dimension: As active agents for peace; and as beneficiaries of it, as well.
4. If we want to accelerate the achievement of sustainable peace and security, we have to ensure the participation of all relevant actors, including women. But their involvement alone is not enough, their participation must be meaningful and under equal conditions, at all levels of decision-making. We welcome the progress achieved so far, however, we must speed up the adoption and implementation of measures with the goal of consolidating the true role that women deserve, and with the view of achieving gender equality and their full empowerment.
5. Moreover, we see that the diversity of women is not properly recognized yet. Women are not a single, homogeneous group and, therefore, their diversity and particular needs must be recognized and taken into account. This will have a strong positive impact on advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Misión Permanente del Perú  
ante las Naciones Unidas



Permanent Mission of Peru to  
the United Nations

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6. It's on these bases that Peru guides its action and encourages the participation of women. We want to emphasize that our country is the fifth largest gender-based contributor of troops to UN Peace Operations, considering the percentage of female personnel in such operations, and that an important part of them are officers.
  7. To conclude, we wish to express our firm commitment to continue working with the organization and its member States, in a proactive and constructive manner, to continue advancing in this agenda.

Thank you.

**Call to Lead by Example:**

**Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes**

**Statement by Poland**

- I would like to thank Ireland, Mexico and all co-sponsors for co-hosting this meeting and I would like thank the briefers for their valuable interventions.
- On this day, when we celebrate the International Women's Day, we believe that it is particularly important to underscore the value women bring to the complex global security environment.
- In 2000 grassroots women peacebuilders were the inspiration behind UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that for the first time in history called for the inclusion of women in matters of peacebuilding and peacekeeping.
- During those twenty years a detailed path has been laid out that shows us what needs to be done to achieve the goals we have set within the WPS agenda.
- Evidence proves that women's inclusion increases the quality and sustainability of peace processes. Their engagement in conflict prevention and resolution, including negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, improves outcomes before, during, and after the conflict. Effectiveness and national ownership of peace process, as well as durability of its results, depend directly on allowing women exercise their influence. What is more, female negotiators guarantee that the results of post-conflict recovery foster recognition, protection and promotion of the role of women and girls in all spheres of life.
- But they are still overwhelmingly absent from track one negotiations. Acknowledging the existence, skills, influence, values and approaches of women peacebuilders is a necessary preliminary step to ensure their rightful and systematic place at the tables of negotiations and decision-making and foster future peace around the world. We need to confront and bring down social, cultural and political barriers that limit women's participation in public life. We have to create as well a safe enabling environment for women who often face high level of insecurity.

- UN can be and should be instrumental in facilitating women's access to national and international decision-making. It is crucial that support to women's peace groups starts long before formal negotiations take place. They need to be identified, informed, and supported technically, politically and financially. Moreover, better reporting on local-level peace efforts, where women are often well represented, is needed in order to foster linkages between formal and informal peacebuilding processes.
- Knowledge-sharing and good practices exchange mechanisms backed by the UN and national security institutions should be further developed. In this vein, targeted trainings that will focus on women's diplomatic skills, especially in the sphere of negotiation and mediation need to be made available for a greater group of women. The ultimate success of this approach would be an increase in the number of women working within the UN structures, including those deployed in the UN peacekeeping operations.
- We recognize that the responsibility to implement the provisions of UNSC 1325 as well as all other resolutions that make up the WPS agenda framework lies primarily with the states. WPS National Action Plans proved to be useful and valuable tools that support the reform processes in national security sector institutions. Enabling environment at the national level that helps building women's skills and capacities is crucial for the advancement of the WPS agenda.
- We would like to stress that Poland takes the WPS responsibilities seriously. This year we will complete our first ever Polish NAP (National Action Plan) on WPS. We are committed to develop strategies that increase the deployment of uniformed women to peacekeeping operations. Accordingly, we promote policies that address potential barriers that women soldiers face in the processes of recruitment, participation and level of engagement in peace operations. After reengagement in the peacekeeping operations Poland paid special attention to the meaningful and adequate assignment of women soldiers in our contingent in UNIFIL. In 2020 level of participation of women within Polish UNIFIL contingent reached around 10%, while the average is 5%.
- Leading by example is one of the best ways to inspire changes. Hence, it is key that within peace processes led or supported by the UN, women's full, equal and meaningful participation is ensured at all stages of peace-making: from conflict prevention and conflict resolution, through mediation and negotiation of peace agreements, to post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding.



*Check against delivery*

Statement by H.E. the Permanent Representative of Portugal

Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes

Security Council *Arria* Formula: "*Call to lead by Example:  
Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women  
in UN-led Peace Processes*"

New York, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021



Let me begin to thank you, as well as the Permanent Missions of Mexico, Estonia, France, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Vietnam, the United Kingdom and the United States for co-organizing this Arria formula meeting, on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

We welcome the opportunity to follow-up on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, 20 years after the adoption of the UNSC Resolution 1325 and in context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought a new impetus and challenges to the participation of women in peace processes.

Ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation has proven to lead to more inclusive societies.

Women have the right to participate at all levels and in all spheres and aspects of public life, including in peace and political processes. Women, Women Human Rights Defenders and Women's-led Organizations across the globe make significant contributions to peace and stability. In most communities, women are fundamental drivers of change. Although women and girls are some of the major victims and survivors of conflict situations, they are also protagonists in their prevention and resolution.

However, women are still underrepresented, including when it comes to peace processes, their voices as mediators, signatories and negotiators are not heard enough.

The UN has an essential role in facilitating and supporting the access of women and women's organisations throughout the conflict cycle, from conflict prevention and mitigation, to peace talks and implementation of peace agreements. We recognize and welcome, in this context, the ongoing work of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the increment of women's voices as guest speakers at Security Council meetings and also the UN Gender Parity Strategy, in particular for the Uniformed personnel.

Portugal has adopted its Third National Action Plan (III NAP) for the implementation of Resolution 1325 during 2019-2022.

To conclude: Strong and gender-responsive leadership is key to overcome the resistance to inclusive and diverse peace and political processes. We must lead by example, starting from within, by promoting substantive and formal inclusion of women in decision-making positions.



**Statement by  
H.E. Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani  
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN**

**At  
The Arria-Formula Meeting of the Security Council**

**On  
Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and  
Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-Led Peace Processes**

**By VTC  
8 March 2021**

Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations  
809 UN Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10017 - Tel: 212-486-9335 - Fax: 212-758-4952

- At the outset, I would like to thank the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Mexico, Kenya, Tunisia and the United States for organizing this Security Council Open Arria- formula meeting.
- Ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in UN-led peace processes is fundamental to sustaining peace, sustainable development and human rights.
- The inclusion of women widens the range of topics discussed at the negotiation table. More inclusive processes can contribute to more comprehensive agreements that better integrate and reflect the concerns of the broader community.
- Therefore, we commend the commitment by SRSR Geir Pedersen to full inclusion of women in the peace process as evidenced by the meetings he regularly convenes with Syrian women representatives and CSOs; and we are similarly glad that SRSR Martin Griffiths has committed to fully focus on Yemeni women's representation in any formal talks and to the importance of gender perspective.
- The State of Qatar has a long track record of facilitating peace processes and mediation toward the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts.
- In undertaking these efforts, we recognize the importance of women's participation in conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict reconstruction.
- For instance, Afghan peace talks facilitated by the State of Qatar have witnessed active engagement by women, including the 11 outstanding women who were among the representatives of the government, civil society and media in the Intra-Afghan Peace Conference held in Doha in July 2019, as well as the participation of women in the Intra-Afghan Peace Talks launched in Doha in September 2020. This engagement contributes to the protection of

the rights of all Afghans, including women, as affirmed in Security Council resolution 2513 (2020).

- In coordination with the SG's Envoy on Youth, Qatar will host in Doha on 29-30 May, a high-level global conference on youth inclusive comprehensive peace processes. Hosting this conference reflects the commitment of the State of Qatar to promote young women's inclusion in peace processes.
- We are hopeful that the conference will mark a turning point for young women and the peace and security agenda by generating political commitments at the national level and by promoting an enabling environment for inclusive peace processes to become more sustainable.
- Young women and women's organizations will participate in all stages of preparation, implementation and follow-up of the conference outcomes.
- To conclude, I would like to reiterate the State of Qatar's unequivocal commitment to continuing to develop frameworks and tools for ensuring women's meaningful participation in dialogue, negotiation, and peace processes.

**Security Council Arrria Formula Meeting****“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”****8 March 2021****Amb. Bae Jong-in****Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea  
New York**

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The Republic of Korea aligns itself with the joint statement of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). I would like to thank the co-hosts for convening today’s timely meeting on International Women’s Day and our briefers for sharing valuable lessons learned from their first-hand experience.

Madam Chair,

Today, we are standing at a critical juncture. Throughout the past year, women and girls around the world have been disproportionately hurt by the social and political impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, we need to place women’s empowerment at the heart of our efforts to “build back better” from the pandemic.

Against this backdrop, the Republic of Korea would like to highlight the following three points.

First, I would like to echo the importance of ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women throughout the entire peace continuum. Doing so will improve the resilience of the peace process by securing political participation from the local population. Of course, engaging women in all aspects of the peace process requires strong political determination from all parties in conflict. Everyone involved should be committed to making the process as inclusive and transparent as possible.

That is why the United Nations should lead by example. In this regard, we fully support the Secretary-General's gender parity strategy and encourage equal representation at all levels of UN-led mediation and conflict-prevention efforts.

Second, we should leverage the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). With its mandated capacity to bridge and convene, the PBC is best suited to facilitate discussions on this cross-cutting issue of Women, Peace, and Security agenda. The PBC can also bring synergy from the ongoing work of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). Allocating 40% of its budget to women's empowerment, the PBF has proven to be an agile, catalytic, and effective tool to garner international support. We should continue addressing these issues at the PBC to harness our collective efforts in advancing women's participation in peace processes.

Third, implementation is the key. No plan or strategy can be successful until it is actually carried out. Each of us needs to make sure that we make concrete actions out of guiding resolutions such as the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), or 2467 (2019). For our part, the Republic of Korea is steadily increasing the female representation in leadership positions to fully implement the National Action Plan for the implementation of the resolution 1325.

Madam Chair,

I would like to reaffirm the ROK's unwavering commitment to advancing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda and assure you that we will continue to spare no effort to this end. In this vein, Korea will mainstream the WPS agenda at the upcoming Peacekeeping Ministerial, which will be held in Seoul at the end of this year.

Thank you. /END/



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement**

**by H.E. Dr. Ion I. Jinga**

**Permanent Representative of Romania**

**at the UNSC Open Arria-formula Meeting on “*Leading by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace processes*”**

**New York,  
8 March 2021**



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its members states. I will make now a few remarks in national capacity.

We strongly believe that the UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is one of the most important commitments made at international level to advancing gender equality and acknowledging the vital role women can play in conflict prevention and resolution.

Sadly, women continue to be less represented in decision-making processes and to experience discrimination and gender-based violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rise in gender-based violence and stereotypes, and suspended some of the vital work previously done to empowering women.

Therefore, Romania calls for an increase in women's leadership and for women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all UN-led peace processes.

My country strongly supports the efforts carried out by the Secretary-General through his initiative *Action for Peacekeeping*, and the subsequent *Strategy on Gender Parity 2021-2028*. Romania also co-sponsored the resolution on *Women in Peacekeeping Operations* adopted last August by the UNSC.

**Mr. Chair,**

One of our top priorities is advocating for gender equality, equal opportunities and the advancement of the rights of women, and we have been particularly active in engaging with UN initiatives and programmes in the area.

The President of Romania, H.E. Mr. Klaus Iohannis, is one of the ten heads of state in the world who act as champions of the *HeForShe* movement.

I would also like to recall that in 2018 the Peacebuilding Commission, which that year was chaired by Romania, had on its Annual Session agenda the theme of "*Empowering youth and women as agents of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel region*".

Last year, the Romanian Government adopted the *National Strategy* and the *National Action Plan* for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 for the period 2020-2023, and the Ministry of National Defence assumed the role as integrator of the National Action Plan.

The allocation of 2% of GDP for defence and the increased representation of women at all decision making levels are part of the set of measures adopted for the implementation of the WPS agenda.

Romania promotes fair access for women - military or civilian personnel - at all hierarchical levels, to both leading and executive positions. Women can participate in military operations on front lines, and there are no restrictions on women's presence in military forces, either in terms



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

of performing combat roles, operating in hostile environments, or the selection for command and executive positions specific to permanent or temporary missions abroad.

My country has already reached a threshold of 18% military women and 22% police women deployed in UN peacekeeping operations. Moreover, we are increasing the number of security personnel trained to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and expressed firm support for the *Secretary-General's Call on Gender-based Violence and COVID-19*.

Many Romanian women peacekeepers made outstanding contributions during their missions. A Romanian police chief superintendent, former commander of the South Region within the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, was awarded the International Female Police Peacekeeper for 2015, and another Romanian woman police officer acted as Chief of Police Operations within the United Nations Mission in Liberia, during the period 2016-2018.

**Mr. Chair,**

I conclude by quoting the inspirational words of President Barack Obama: *"If more women were put in charge, there would be less war"*.

I believe that it is high time to make this happen and to involve more women in all phases of conflict resolution and sustaining peace, in all peace processes, in order to forge a world of long-lasting peace.

I thank you!



**STATEMENT**

**by**

**H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár Permanent Representative of Slovakia  
to the United Nations**

**Security Council Arria Formula Meeting**

**on**

***Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation  
of Women in UN-led Peace Processes***

**8 March 2021  
New York**

**-Check against delivery-**

Thank you Madam Chair,

We thank the Permanent Missions of Ireland and Mexico, as well as other supporting missions for organizing this meeting. In addition to the EU statement, allow me to present few remarks in national capacity.

As reflected in our National Action Plan for the implementation of UN SC Resolution 1325 for years 2021-2025, Slovakia strongly supports an equal and full participation of women in all efforts to create and maintain international peace and security, while adopting and supporting concrete and targeted measures with the aim of increasing the percentage of women in our armed forces, their representation in military structures and decision-making positions. Currently, servicewomen comprise nearly 12 % of our Armed Forces and the increasing trend is set to continue.

Slovakia has been an active troop and police contributing country since its admission to the UN. I would like to highlight that members of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic in Cyprus, one of our biggest presence in UN missions, has already exceeded the targets set in the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028, whereby almost 10 % of our military contingent personnel and 80 % of police personnel are uniformed female peacekeepers. Overall, more than 44% of all contingents' uniformed female personnel in Cyprus is from Slovakia.

Not only in peacekeeping, but also in the area of security sector governance and reform, we need to intensify our efforts leading to wider

involvement of women. As co-chair of the Group of Friends of SSR together with South Africa, we have worked very closely already since 2018 with the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Gender Parity, and we are continuing our efforts. To my knowledge, it is a first case when two groups of friends launched a joint effort and we are committed to continue in this initiative.

Madam Chair,

Role of national action plans and regional frameworks in ensuring tailored and context-specific approaches for advancing this agenda is essential. However, women's contributions remain outside the mainstream of formal efforts and too often are undervalued. We, the members states, need to take bold steps, and the UN needs to clearly show its leadership by urgent concrete action to fulfil its promise.

I'd like to stress the need for dedicated funding for gender responsive peacebuilding and allow me to highlight that the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has allocated 40% of its resources for that purpose. We also need dedicated partnerships with regional organizations, IFIs and other relevant stakeholders.

More than two decades after the adoption of landmark Resolution 1325 much remains to be done in implementing WPS agenda and finally walk the talk. Only that way we can ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes.

Thank you for your attention!

*Check against Delivery*

## Arria Formula UNSC meeting

### Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes

8 March 2021

Statement by Slovenia

Excellencies,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU and Group of Friends on WPS.

We would like to thank Ireland, Mexico, and the cosponsors for organizing this timely debate.

On this year's International Women's Day, as we look at the past twenty years since adopting the Security Council resolution 1325, we must recognize that achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes continues to be a significant challenge. Despite our efforts - and this surely cannot be our best efforts - the representation of women in the peace processes, on average, does not reach or barely reaches 10%.

Slovenia **remains firmly committed** to advancing and implementing the WPS agenda and women's full, equal and meaningful participation at all levels and in all aspects and stages of the peace and security processes. We believe in the power of leading by example.

Our activities also aim to support women's participation in the UN-led peace processes and remove barriers to their participation. I am pleased to recall that the very first woman to **command a UNIFIL contingent** came from Slovenia.

In November last year, the Slovenian Ministry of Defense and the Slovenian Peacekeeping Operations Centre (POTC) organized **a virtual International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security**. Participants also reflected on the need for the UN to make women's full,

*Check against Delivery*

equal and meaningful participation a requirement in all its mediation teams, political institutions, and the peace process. National and international reports have shown that women's participation in international missions and operations has been slowly increasing.

In the past 20 years, we have also noted **national progress concerning women's participation** in areas related to peace and security. Women currently hold leading positions in the **Slovenian Armed Forces' functional areas** and are in command of the tactical units and contingents abroad. Slovenia had twice women Ministers of Defence and women had been appointed as heads of the General Staff of Slovene Armed Forces and of the Police.

Our recent **study on equal opportunities in diplomacy** has shown that in the past 20 years, the percentage of women at the top positions in Slovenian diplomacy has risen to 40. And the overall percentage of women in Slovenian diplomacy has increased to 58. However, challenges remain.

Women and girls represent half of the world's population, but they are continually denied an equal seat at the table when it comes to decision-making processes. We have heard and said it times and times again: Women's full, equal and meaningful participation must be at the heart of all peace and security-related activities. But now it is time we act for this to become what should never have been a question – normality.

Thank you.

*Check against delivery*



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MATHU JOYINI**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN ARRIA FORMULA MEETING ENTITLED “CALL TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE: ENSURING THE FULL, EQUAL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN UN-LED PEACE PROCESSES”**

**8 MARCH 2021**

Colleagues,

We thank co-hosts for co-convening this timely Arrria formula meeting on International Women’s Day. We agree that it is important to shine a light on the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as it relates to the leadership and participation of women in UN-led peace and political processes.

Colleagues,

South Africa’s position on the WPS agenda is informed by the principle of equality for all South Africans, women and men, enshrined in our Constitution. For the purposes of our discussion, this principle prescribes the necessity to address the root causes of inequality and marginalisation of women through removing barriers, creating opportunities, and increasing the contribution and role of women in peace and security.

We recognise that the UN the Security Council has taken a number of decisions over the past 20 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 to advance the WPS agenda. South Africa is pleased to also have contributed to this body of normative framework through Security Council resolution 2493, which called for the full and effective implementation of all commitments made to advance the WPS agenda. Today’s theme “*Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes*” is not only apt but it also resonates with South Africa’s approach in advancing the WPS agenda.

Chairperson, this brings me to the following **key four** points:

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- South Africa wishes to underline the imperative of implementing the recommendations of the **2015 Global Study** on the implementation of resolution 1325, which are still relevant to date. We refer, in particular, to the need to remove the **barriers** that continue to hinder the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all peace processes.
- We call upon Member States and the international community to enhance efforts to ensure the meaningful participation of women in peace processes, by primarily **changing mind-sets, investing in capacity building, training, and allocation of adequate and sustainable resources** to increase the role of women in positions historically dominated by men. This is necessary particularly in prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding as well as by ensuring that women form part of **leadership teams in political and post-conflict transitions, mediation and in peace processes that the UN leads and co-leads**. In this regard, South Africa reiterates its support for **quotas** to ensure women's representation and participation in peace processes.
- South Africa believes that it is imperative for the UN to **improve inclusivity** taking into account the representation of diverse women in age, stature and geographical origins. This approach will deepen its efforts to tap into the multiplicity of skills and expertise available in the field and across all UN Headquarters which could enhance the quality of work, monitoring and accountability mechanisms, analysis, and decision-making within the UN.
- We, thus, welcome the progress made in the UN's efforts and particularly the Secretary-General's commitment towards the full, equal, and meaningful participation within its system, and at all levels across its Secretariat, Funds, Programmes and Agencies. However, more needs to be done in representation and fully implementing the **UN's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity** and its recommendations. We are also pleased by the progress made in the implementation of the **UN's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy** where targets set for women deployed as military, police, justice and corrections have been met and some surpassed in the previous year. We encourage the Secretary-General to continue with its implementation.

Chairperson, this brings me to **my final point that**:

*Check against delivery*

- South Africa recognises that it is also the responsibility of Member States to ensure that we support the UN to lead by example towards the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in UN-led peace processes. In this regard, South Africa remains committed to contribute towards reducing the gap in women's underrepresentation in mediation, negotiations, and leadership positions. We will continue to build the capacity of **women negotiators and mediators** by providing annual training to women mediators and negotiators at the local and Continental level have partnered with African Union to FEMWISE and other likeminded countries to provide this training. We are proud that many women who benefitted from these training programmes are actively involved in peace processes in their respective countries. These include women from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan, to name just a few. This is also important to us, as South Africa remains the leading female troop contributing country in **UN peacekeeping operations with 15.1% of South Africa's deployed troops being female**.
- South Africa will also continue to encourage cooperation and sharing of **lessons learned and best practices** as it relates to implementation of the agenda through various forums, and to increase the **role of regional and sub-regional organisations such as the African Union in the advancing WPS agenda**.

Chairperson,

**Let me conclude** by reaffirming South Africa's commitment to advancing the WPS agenda and addressing the challenges and barriers which hinder its full implementation and reiterate that we will continue to promote women's full and effective participation in decision making in public life, including in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacemaking. Harnessing our local, regional, and international capacity gives us all the momentum we need to continue investing in our own talent which can encourage women to consider international civil service at organisations like the UN in all sectors, and thereby, supporting the UN in setting an example for all.

I thank you.

## STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SPAIN

FÓRMULA ARRIA *“CALL TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE: ENSURING THE FULL, EQUAL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN UN-LED PEACE PROCESSES”*. Nueva York,  
March 8 2021

Thank you very much Madame Chair,

First, let me extend my appreciation to the Permanent Missions of Ireland and Mexico for organizing this Arria Formula and for their call to lead by example in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Certainly, we need to reflect about concrete ways to implement the gap between programmatic statements and the reality on the ground. For Spain, it is crucial that the WPS Agenda is implemented effectively in its two fundamental pillars: participation and protection. The former reaffirms the principle that there is no sustainable peace without the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all their diversity. The latter aims at eliminating all forms of sexual and gender based violence and exploitation, as well as reparation of survivors and accountability of perpetrators. Vulnerability of women and girls in armed conflict and their exposure to atrocities compels us to remain especially vigilant and proactive, also in the defense of sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls.

Madame Chair,

In this line, and following your call to lead with the example, let me mention some instances where Spain has been proactive and taken initiatives to ensure full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity:

1. There cannot be an effective implementation of the WPS Agenda without adequate funding of its architecture. Therefore, Spain will continue to fund the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. In 2020 we increased our voluntary contribution to this fund and we will continue to do so in the coming years.
2. Neither can there be an effective implementation of WPS Agenda without cooperation among Member States. Therefore, we are cooperating with other Member States in the implementation of their national mechanisms. In this regard, Spain is working together with Jordan in the implementation of their National Action Plan.
3. Besides that, it is essential to make an exercise of self-criticism to assess our internal process of implementation of this agenda. For that reason, Spain is carrying out an evaluation and review of our second National Action Plan (2017- 2023).
4. Finally, in order to achieve full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in peace processes, a set of clear commitments by Member States is needed. Those commitments need to be done both at political and operational level. With that in mind, in 2019 Finland and Spain launched the initiative

Commitment 2025, which includes specific actions at political and operational level, but also with financial and capacity building targets. It is therefore, a set of concrete commitments that include a follow up exercise, as well as a roadmap for its implementation. Commitment 2025 is open to all Member States and we encourage you all to join this initiative if you have not done so yet.

Finally, Madame Chair, I would like to announce that before the end of this month Spain will join the small and exclusive group of countries with a feminist foreign policy.



**Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting**  
**“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful**  
**Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”**

**Statement by H.E. Mohan Peiris,**  
**Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations**

08 March 2021 (virtual)

Madam Chair, permit me to first thank and congratulate the co-chairs Mexico and Ireland for putting in place this initiative to discuss the participation of women in UN-led peace processes, on a very important day when we celebrate “International Women’s Day”.

We have all heard many times and know for a fact that violations of human rights in most conflict affected communities, disproportionately affect women and children. In situations of heightened violence and insecurity, women are one of the most vulnerable segments of the population, they may even experience such violations from within the family itself, in addition to existing discrimination in society. We know that this has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Last year, was a pivotal year for advancing gender equality where we commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, considered the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women’s rights, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the 5 year milestone in the path to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. While recognizing that vital steps have been taken by the global community towards achieving

gender equality and empowering women and girls, we know that challenges and obstacles remain that stall the socio-economic and political development of women.

I must however hasten to remind ourselves of the salutary message by our Commissioner for Human Rights Madam Bachelet who had this to say: "The Beijing Platform for action was nothing short of revolutionary. We should always celebrate it, but we must remind ourselves that the Beijing Agenda is unfinished. The risk for setbacks are real and growing." She went onto say "we must resist the challenges to the hard won affirmation of what we know; women's rights are human rights and they are not negotiable. Human dignity cannot be dissected, compartmentalized, compromised - nor can it be a privilege of the few."

I am also reminded of the words of Malala Yousafzai who said, and I quote "I raise my voice not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. We cannot succeed when half of us are held back" unquote. This surely must be the reason that 20 years since the adoption of the WPS Agenda we still feel that women are being held back. What can we do to accelerate this process? How can we ensure the enhanced leadership and participation of women in peace processes and political engagements?

We commend the Secretary-General for the leadership that he has taken to improve the gender parity at the UN, particularly at the senior leaders level and amongst the UN Resident Coordinators. In UN field missions, women's leadership is at 41%. Sri Lanka will continue to support the Secretary-General in his endeavors to push for gender parity at all levels.

Madam Chairperson, Sri Lanka is proud to have a long association with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, having served as a member of the 1956 Advisory Committee that led to the establishment of the first "classical" peacekeeping mission – UNEF 1, deployed during the Suez crisis and later deployed as UN Peacekeepers to the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) in 1960. Having engaged in a

humanitarian struggle with a terrorist organization that used human shields, suicide bombers and child soldiers, Sri Lanka's armed forces and Police have been sharing expertise in handling difficult and complex terrains of the humanitarian engagement field, in difficult areas of the world.

Since then, with over 20,000 Sri Lankan Peacekeepers, having served in UN Peace Missions across the world providing critical services to conflict affected communities in the most difficult and dangerous terrains, they are widely recognized for their valor and capabilities and appreciated by the UN Peacekeeping Missions they serve in. Over the years, Sri Lanka has consistently made efforts to encourage women peacekeepers and currently we have 12 women peacekeepers serving in South Sudan. We believe that women peacekeepers improve overall peacekeeping performance, have greater access to communities, help in promoting human rights and protection of civilians and encourage women to become a meaningful part of peace and political processes.

As Kathy Calvin the former President and CEO of UN Foundation put it "We should rededicate ourselves to ensuring that every girl is educated, healthy, skilled and empowered. Investing in their today is investing in our tomorrow." Let us pledge today to do much more than pay lip service to all these ideals but work towards real change for the women of the world to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for the continued existence of mankind.

While it is useful to share the experience among the international community on the obstacles faced by women and the prescriptions needed to alleviate from such setbacks, we must be sensitive to the diverse situations and circumstances, in which the proposed programs and strategies have to be implemented. The role of women in society is different in varied cultures and as such a one-size fits all policy cannot be applied in the pursuance of their rights. It is imperative for policies in this regard to be formulated, in tandem with domestic compulsions and requirements.

Madam Chairperson, let us continue to remain cognizant of the invaluable contribution of women to the social, economic and political development of countries and reaffirm our commitment towards consistent and sustainable pro-equality and pro- empowerment policies for women conducive to the local contexts. As a global community we must not deter from this path and ensure that voices once unheard will be heard loud and clear.

Thank you.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

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## Security Council

Arria-formula meeting (VTC)

### Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes

New York, 8 March 2021

Statement by Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative

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Mr. President

I would like to thank Ireland, Mexico and the other co-sponsors for this meeting and the briefers for sharing their insights.

The evidence shows that women's meaningful participation in peace processes leads to better and more durable peace agreements. However, twenty years after resolution 1325, we have made little progress in fulfilling our common vision of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and security matters. Member States have committed themselves to achieve gender equality, while the UN must lead by example.

Let me highlight three priorities for Switzerland going forward:

**First, UN-led peace processes must be inclusive:** civil society and women-led organizations are often engaged in local humanitarian responses and conflict resolution long before official negotiations are initiated. We need to harness such critical contributions.

Switzerland designed - for example - the Civil Society Support Room in 2016, in cooperation with the Office of the UN Special Envoy on Syria. This is the first institutional mechanism to link civil society to official negotiations in a major peace process. It allowed over 400 Syrian civil society representatives, including many women, to provide possible solutions for peace in Syria.

**Second, gender-sensitive agreements are key** to strengthen women's role in conflict transformation and their full, equal and meaningful participation in public life in the long term.

In Colombia, the inclusion of a gender perspective in all stages of the peace process empowered women and put a spotlight on gender equality. Switzerland supported the peace talks with expertise for the ceasefire negotiations and advice on transitional justice. Meaningful participation of women in the implementation phase must remain a priority.

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**Finally, women must be in the room** - and in positions of influence - when negotiations happen. While the UN must set the example with its mediation teams, Member States need to ensure inclusive negotiating delegations. Switzerland launches today its own network of women in peace processes. This will strengthen our own capacities and allow us to exchange with other sister networks of women mediators.

Switzerland has been on the forefront of the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, being among the first to adopt a National Action Plan in 2007. We will continue to highlight the importance of the inclusion of women in all dimensions of peace and security in our first-ever bid for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council.

I thank you.

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Monsieur le Président,

Je tiens à remercier l'Irlande, le Mexique et les autres co-parrains de cette réunion ainsi que les intervenantes et intervenants pour leurs perspectives.

Les faits montrent que la participation significative des femmes aux processus de paix conduit à des accords de paix meilleurs et plus durables. Vingt ans après la résolution 1325, peu de progrès ont été réalisés en faveur de notre vision commune de la participation pleine, égale et significative des femmes en matière de paix et de sécurité. Les États membres se sont engagés à atteindre l'égalité des sexes. L'ONU a également un rôle essentiel à jouer pour y parvenir et doit donner l'exemple.

J'aimerais souligner trois priorités pour la Suisse à l'avenir :

**Premièrement, les processus de paix sous l'égide de l'ONU doivent être inclusifs** : la société civile et les organisations dirigées par des femmes sont souvent engagées dans des réponses humanitaires locales et la résolution des conflits bien avant le début des négociations officielles. Nous devons tirer parti de ces contributions essentielles.

La Suisse a conçu, par exemple, le « Civil Society Support Room » en 2016, en coopération avec le Bureau de l'Envoyé spécial des Nations Unies sur la Syrie. Il s'agit du premier mécanisme institutionnel qui relie la société civile aux négociations officielles dans le cadre d'un important processus de paix. Il a permis à plus de 400 représentantes et représentants de la société civile syrienne, dont de nombreuses femmes, de fournir des solutions possibles à la paix en Syrie.

**Deuxièmement, des accords sensibles au genre sont essentiels** pour renforcer le rôle des femmes dans la transformation des conflits et leur participation pleine, égale et significative à la vie publique sur le long terme.

En Colombie, l'inclusion d'une perspective de genre à toutes les étapes du processus de paix a permis d'autonomiser les femmes et a mis en lumière l'égalité des genres. La Suisse a soutenu les pourparlers de paix avec son expertise sur les négociations de cessez-le-feu et sur la justice transitionnelle. Une participation significative des femmes à la phase de mise en œuvre doit rester une priorité.

**Enfin, les femmes doivent être à la table** - et dans des positions d'influence - lorsque des négociations ont lieu. Tandis que l'ONU doit montrer l'exemple par ses équipes de médiation, les États membres doivent garantir des délégations de négociation inclusives. La Suisse lance aujourd'hui son propre réseau de femmes dans les processus de paix. Cela renforcera nos propres capacités et nous permettra d'échanger avec d'autres réseaux de femmes médiatrices.

La Suisse a été à l'avant-garde de la mise en œuvre de l'agenda « Femmes, paix et sécurité », étant parmi les premiers à adopter un Plan d'action national en 2007. Nous continuerons à souligner l'importance de l'inclusion des femmes dans toutes les dimensions de la paix et de la sécurité lors de notre première candidature pour un siège non permanent au Conseil de sécurité.

Je vous remercie.

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK



البعثة الدائمة  
للإمارات العربية المتحدة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Statement by**

**Her Excellency Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh**

**Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations**

**at the Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting on the occasion of International Women's Day: "Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes"**

8 March 2021, from 3-6 pm EST

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I would like to start by thanking Ireland, the chair of today's meeting, as well as Mexico, Estonia, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Tunisia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Vietnam for convening this discussion on the occasion of International Women's Day. When talking about overcoming the multi-layered challenges that still hinder women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes, it is critical to do so in partnership with all stakeholders, so I also thank the briefers for their valuable contributions.

I will refrain from repeating the staggeringly low numbers of women's participation in peace processes - be it as mediators, negotiators or signatories. But like my colleagues who have spoken so far, I *will* be vocal about the fact that we cannot allow inertia to persist in this chamber, especially when there is plenty of evidence before us that emphasizes the significance of women's contributions to peace processes, for reasons of substance as well as durability. Women's inclusion is not only a moral imperative, it is also a peace and security imperative.

To ensure that UN efforts reflect this reality in peacemaking efforts, we as Member States and the UN – especially SRSGs and USGs – have many of the levers we already need.

The first is management commitment – making WPS a core and normalized standard operating procedure and not a peripheral or good-to-have issue. We have seen progress on this front, but we need to match good intentions with good incentives. Linking UN staff performance to WPS metrics would be a powerful way to mainstream them, giving people clear responsibilities and accountability.

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Second, to make sure that we are incentivizing the inclusion of women on these critical conversations, we need to allocate targeted funding, with a clear indication from the implementing agencies what outputs are entailed. The SG's recommendation that 15% of peace and security spending explicitly target gender equality is a good starting point.

Third, Security Council members can include relevant language in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions where it is relevant, again lifting WPS from a niche status. Beyond this Council, Member States should also be consistent in supporting these priorities during the budgetary process and adopting relevant policies and guidance in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for example. We need to supplement high-level events about the issue with work on a clear management system for accountability and delivery.

Fourth, the UAE joins many other Member States in emphasizing that increasing the number of women in peacekeeping is an important component of ensuring the inclusivity of peace efforts. This is a critical gap that the UAE is working to address through our WPS training programme for women peacekeepers through the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace, and Security Initiative with UN Women. So far, over 300 women from Asia, Africa and the Middle East have been trained through this programme. We are hoping to organize a third round of trainings later this year. A key focus for us will be on working with troop- and police-contributing countries on the appropriate incentives and conditions to ensure these women can be deployed to UN-led operations in a systematic manner.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that advancing women's full, equal and meaningful participation will remain a key priority for the UAE and we look forward to collaborating with today's hosts and the whole membership during our term on the Security Council for 2022-2023.

Thank you.

**Statement of by the delegation of Ukraine at the Arria Formula Meeting on “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes**

(8 March 2020)

**Madam Chair,**

We commend Ireland, Mexico and all co-sponsors for making a good use of today’s special date as an opportunity to consider further steps towards equal gender approach in UN-led peace processes.

Before delivering a statement in my national capacity, I’d like to say that Ukraine aligns itself with the statement made by Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

As the concept paper rightly points out, women’s participation in peace processes remains unacceptably low. It is a matter of fact as well that the number of conflicts continues to grow and the peaceful resolution of most of them remain a goal rather than a reality. To fix the latter, we have to intensify our efforts in addressing the former.

We agree with you, Madam Chair, that our efforts should be built on the framework provided by the Resolution 1325. For Ukraine commitments to promote the Women and Peace and Security agenda have gained new importance since the beginning of Russian aggression.

The occupied territories of Crimea and parts of Donbas became home for gender discriminatory practices, in particular repressions against those women, whom the occupation forces suspect of supporting Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

At the same time, over 7 years of the Russian aggression women have proved to be an indispensable part of the solution. They have contributed to defending the country, negotiating on peaceful resolution and release of illegally detained persons, providing the suffered regions and population with humanitarian aid.

That is the reason why the provisions on gender justice and women’s important role in conflict prevention and resolution have been included in a draft law on the state policy for the transition period, aimed at reintegration of the currently occupied territories. The draft is now at the stage of public consultations.

Ukraine fully supports the need for the UN to increase women’s participation and leadership in peace and political processes it leads or co-leads, as well as in processes it supports. There should be a coupling of efforts made on both levels, the UN and its Member States, including through fine-tuning of training activities and awareness programmes.

For its part, Ukraine has initiated a number of steps at the national level within the framework of the updated National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 till 2025. Along with launching new trainings and exercises for women-peacekeepers, they include enhanced participation of gender policy experts in the process of selection of Ukrainian personnel for the UN peace operations.

In conclusion, let me reiterate our strong belief that achieving full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes is an important part of our efforts to ensure respect for women’s human rights and gender equality.

**Thank you.**



# URUGUAY

Statement by

Embajador Carlos Amorín

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF URUGUAY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Security Council - Open Arria-formula Meeting

“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and  
Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace  
Processes”

***NEW YORK, MARCH 8, 2021 - 15:00 – 18:00***

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Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations

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Madam President,

On this International Women's Day, Uruguay thanks the cosponsors of this event for the excellent initiative to highlight the importance of the full and effective implementation of the WPS Agenda as it relates to the leadership and participation of women in UN-led peace and political processes.

I would like also to thank the distinguished briefers for sharing their views with us, and fostering the dialogue on this issue with new elements and perspectives.

Uruguay aligns itself to the statement made by the delegation of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends on Women, Peace and Security, and reiterates its long-standing commitment with the WPS Agenda.

I would like to recall that my country organized an Arria-Formula meeting in 2016 on synergies between Security Council resolutions on WPS and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); Uruguay has been co-President of the WPS Focal Point Network; is part of the initiative on "Commitment 2025" for the effective participation of women in peace processes; and participates actively in the ELSIE initiative, among other things, through the implementation of the assessment survey of barriers to the deployment of women in uniform.

In this sense, Uruguay reiterates that women's participation in peace processes is not only desirable, but it is essential to achieving sustainable peace.

As it has been mentioned, evidence shows that women's participation in peace processes leads to better outcomes in terms of the substance and quality of peace agreements, and also their implementation and durability.

In this regard, Uruguay underlines that when we refer to full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace process, it means direct, substantive, and formal inclusion of diverse women in positions of power so that they can influence the outcome of negotiations and other processes as well as their implementation.

To conclude, I would like to recall that 2020 was a historic milestone within the Women, Peace and Security Agenda with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Resolution

1325, the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the 75th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations;

We cannot afford to miss this momentum as we are still far from ensuring our goal - the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes -, and in this sense, Uruguay would like to emphasize that the United Nations has central and essential role to play.

Thank you.



**Statement of the Republic of Yemen**  
**At the UN security council Arria-formula meeting**  
**on the International Women's Day**  
**Delivered by H.E. Abdullah Al-Saadi**  
**Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations**  
**8 March 2021**

Madam Chair,

I thank the organizers for convening this very important meeting. Indeed, celebrating Women's roles and achievements should not only be a matter of International Women's day, but rather a practice of everyday.

In Yemen, women's public and political participation has seen a significant increase since the start of the political transitional process in 2012. Ever since, Women have been at the core of shaping the present and future of Yemen, including in the National Dialogue Conference that was held between March 2013 and January 2014. In this Conference, women obtained a 30% participation quota of the total number of 565 participants, and 4 women out of 17 members participated in drafting the constitution of the new federal state.

Unfortunately, this progress was partially halted by the Houthi militia's coup since 2014. The Houthis' oppression against women in areas under their control has been outrageous, including depriving women from exercising their right, including the right to work, as well as using Alzainabiat, the Houthi women policing, to force Yemeni women to send their children to the fighting front lines. The militia continue to also prosecute, oppress and violate the rights of women who voice their opinion, including opposition against the Houthis' terrorist activities. The UNSC Panel of experts has documented some of those Houthi heinous crimes against women, including imprisonment, forced disappearance and sexual abuse. The government of Yemen commends the Security Council's decision to list the Houthi leader Sultan Zabin to be subject to measures of the sanction regime. However, the Security Council and the International Community need to exert more pressure on the Houthis to stop their heinous violations and to put an end to the conflict that is hurting civilians, mainly women and children.

On the other hand, the Government of Yemen did not only ratify international conventions and protocols related to protecting and preserving the rights of women, and to respecting the rules of "International Humanitarian Law" including international covenants to protect women during armed conflict, but also reflected those on national laws and legislation

framework to entitle rights without discrimination based on sex, and contribution in all economic, social and cultural fields.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The suffering of the poor and those in need of humanitarian assistance has increased, mostly for women and kids. Women are in particular more vulnerable to face risks, they bear the heavy psychological, health, social and economic burden of the conflict, as well as displacement and widowhood. Therefore, the Government has adopted a national action plan for the years (2020-2022) focused on implementing the Security Council Resolution 1325. This comes in line with the Government's commitment to respecting human rights and promoting the concepts of justice, equality and partnership.

The Action Plan also responds to the recommendations of the Security Council that call for partnership with NGOs to face extremism and enhancing women's participation to play new and important roles in preventing Conflicts.

Finally, allow me to reiterate the Government of Yemen's position that ending the absurd war waged by the Houthi militias is the only way to ending the suffering of the Yemeni people. The Government of Yemen recognizes the important role of women in achieving a fair and sustainable peace. In fact, in all previous UN-led peace talks, women have only been represented in the Government delegations, in the capacity of both negotiators and technical support. And thus, the Government continues to be committed to protecting women, advancing their rights and ensuring their participation in all Government bodies by at least 30%, in accordance to the outcomes of the National dialogue Conference.

Thank you, madam Chair.