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Advancement of women**Security Council**
Seventy-sixth year**Identical letters dated 15 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ha Noi Commitment to Action, the outcome of the international conference entitled “Strengthening women’s role in building and sustaining peace: from commitments to results”, hosted by the Government of Viet Nam in collaboration with the United Nations from 7 to 9 December 2020 in Ha Noi (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dinh Quy **Dang**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the identical letters dated 15 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

International Conference on Women, Peace and Security

Strengthening Women's Role in Building and Sustaining Peace:

From Commitments to Results

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 7–9 December 2020

HA NOI COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and Viet Nam

Cosponsored by Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, El Salvador, Fiji, Greece, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, and State of Palestine

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, the 20th anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the establishment of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, and the 5th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals, we welcome the International Conference entitled “*Strengthening Women's Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: From Commitments to Results*” hosted by the Government of Viet Nam in collaboration with the United Nations on 7–9 December, 2020, in Ha Noi, Viet Nam,

We recognize the key role of women in achieving sustainable peace and development, whether as peacemakers, peacekeepers, peace-builders, or as responders to crises, and commit to promoting gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and the realization of their human rights as an integral part of efforts to maintain international peace and security, prevent conflicts, rebuild societies, and to build and sustain peace,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, we underscore the importance of national ownership and leadership in the implementation of the WPS agenda, and recognize the support and contribution of the United Nations, regional and sub-regional organizations, development partners, NGOs, women and youth organizations and networks, local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders to national and local efforts,

We reaffirm our resolute commitment to the full implementation of the WPS agenda across all pillars of prevention, protection, participation, relief and recovery, and in all stages of peace processes,

We recognize that women and girls remain the most vulnerable in fragile contexts, conflicts and post-conflict situations, and thus require effective, gender-responsive and comprehensive response to their special needs, especially of people with disabilities, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs),

We acknowledge the multi-faceted and disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, including increase in violence against women, as well as the critical role of women in prevention, response and recovery efforts, which has proved crucial in delivering health services, maintaining social cohesion and preventing further instability,

We encourage gender mainstreaming in all peacebuilding and recovery processes and sectors, including through timely, accurate, reliable, sex-disaggregated data. We further encourage the development of well-resourced National Action Plans, where appropriate,

We welcome progress to achieve the WPS agenda, while acknowledging that far more must be done to scale up and accelerate implementation efforts. We commit to leveraging on the momentum achieved in 2020 in celebration of the Agenda's 20th anniversary by taking actions in the following areas:

Strengthening women's representation and participation in peace and peacebuilding processes

1. Ensure full, equal, and meaningful participation, representation, leadership and engagement of women, especially at decision-making levels, in all stages of peace processes at all levels, including implementation efforts, especially of post-conflict peace building and economic recovery strategies,
2. Recognise the importance of assigning clear, visible and formal roles to women in these processes, and take steps to nominate and support the appointment of women as mediators and negotiators participating in all formal peace processes and the monitoring and implementation of peace agreements,
3. Take measures to enable women and women's organizations to further their roles in peacebuilding processes, with special emphasis on funding and providing equal access to education, training and capacity building, raising public awareness, and countering negative societal attitudes regarding women's participation and leadership, and ensuring the protection of the rights of women and girls, as well as women's economic empowerment,

Enhancing women's economic empowerment

4. Raise awareness and increase education at all levels on the critical importance of women's economic empowerment and full, equal and meaningful participation in economic activities, and their crucial contributions to post-conflict recovery, reconstruction and peacebuilding; and recognize the multiplier effect of women's economic empowerment that spurs economic growth, enhances both human welfare and social stability,
5. Apply gender-responsive analyses and inclusive approaches to support meaningful participation of women and women's organizations in economic revitalization and reconstruction in taking actions across 3 critical pillars: 1) invest in education, workforce development, skills training; 2) foster entrepreneurship and facilitate access to capital, productive resources and property rights; and 3) create an overall enabling gender-responsive environment of policies, laws, regulations, and practices that affect women's equal economic participation,

6. Ensure women's full, equal and meaningful engagement in economic decision-making and post-conflict strategies, including in resource allocations, aid management, planning and monitoring,
7. Foster partnerships to ensure gender-responsive reconstruction and recovery based on gender analysis and consultation with women and women's organizations,

Increasing robust financing for WPS

8. Ensure financial assistance to conflict-affected countries and mobilise resources from all available funding mechanisms and modalities, including innovative financing to implement the WPS agenda,
9. Enhance the role of women in the decision-making processes of funding for the WPS agenda at local, national and international levels, and applying gender analysis throughout this process,
10. Adopt gender-responsive perspective in financing for post conflict recovery and reconstruction, and to invest in women by enhancing capacity building, for their sustainable engagement in peacebuilding processes,

Integrating the WPS agenda in peacekeeping at all levels

11. Mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping and peace operations, including through comprehensive assessment to identify key challenges and barriers to female participation in peacekeeping operations, prioritising gender-focused and gender-responsive approach in training of troop contingents, and incorporating gender expertise in peacekeeping and peace operations, as appropriate,
12. Stress the need to increase the number of women deployed as civilian and uniformed personnel to peace operations at all levels and in all positions, including senior leadership positions,
13. Provide civilian and uniformed women personnel with equal access to education, training and capacity-building, including by supporting national and regional capacities through partnerships,
14. Utilize technological and digital means to develop and sustain a global platform for former, current and prospective women peacekeepers to foster regular and timely exchange of experience and information regarding participation in peace operation,

Promoting the key role of women in addressing emerging challenges

15. Promote and raise public awareness and political support for women leadership at all levels and their key role in maintaining social cohesion and building community resilience which is fundamental to achieve just, equal, inclusive and peaceful societies and to prevent conflict and instability, especially through digital platforms,
16. Ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes, and undertake gender-sensitive and responsive assessments in the development and implementation of response and policies to emerging challenges, taking into account the compounding impacts of conflict, terrorism, climate change, public health emergencies, disasters, food and water insecurity and illicit flows of small arms and light weapons,
17. Mainstream gender perspectives, through equal participation of women and enhanced technical gender expertise, in the establishment of sustainable frameworks and solutions to emerging challenges that have a profound and disproportionate impacts on women and girls,

18. Guarantee digital inclusivity, equal and meaningful access for women to digital technology as well as funding, training, education, capacity building and employment opportunities,
 19. Make efforts to refine, update, and publicise, as appropriate, data on women's roles in peace processes and peacebuilding, as part of the campaign to raise public awareness on the role of women as fundamental and productive stakeholders in building and sustaining peace.
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