



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 27 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the now 15 signatories from former, current and incoming Security Council members (Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom), I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of shared commitments on women and peace and security, which were launched in December 2021, building on the trio initiative of September 2021 by Ireland, Kenya and Mexico (see annex I).

In connection with the shared commitments, I also have the honour to transmit herewith the joint press stakeouts, held in 2022 by the different Member States as the group of signatories expanded, on Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti and Yemen, in addition to a stakeout held in advance of the annual open debate on women and peace and security in 2022 (see annexes II to VII).

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

*(Signed)* Mona Juul  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations



## **Annex I to the letter dated 27 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

### **Statement of shared commitments on women and peace and security**

Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Japan, Malta, the Niger, Norway, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom, during their respective presidencies of the Security Council in December 2021, January, March, April, June, July, September and October 2022 and January, February, May, June, July, September, October and December 2023, are committed to making women and peace and security a top priority, and to ensuring its implementation in concrete and tangible ways. These commitments build on the initiative launched in September 2021 by Ireland, Kenya and Mexico.

We believe in the transformative power of the women and peace and security agenda to enable the Security Council to fully realize its mandate to maintain international peace and security. We are determined to advance the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, and to ensure that the Council approaches women and peace and security in a systematic way to help close the persistent gap between rhetoric and reality, especially on the ground.

Women and girls have the right to participate fully, equally and meaningfully in all matters of peace and security, including conflict prevention, and to protection in situations of armed conflict, including from sexual and gender-based violence, in accordance with Security Council resolutions and international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Our shared goal is to ensure that the women and peace and security agenda is fully and meaningfully integrated into all aspects of the Security Council's work, including in country-specific discussions, and that the crucial work of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace is supported and recognized.

#### **To drive forward implementation of the women and peace and security normative framework, we commit to:**

*Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in meetings of the Security Council*

- Promoting gender balance and striving towards gender parity among those we invite to brief the Security Council.
- Ensuring strong representation of diverse women civil society briefers in Security Council meetings.
- Supporting the safe participation of civil society briefers in Security Council meetings, including by consulting and coordinating with the briefer in question to assess risks and develop appropriate risk mitigation strategies, and also committing to a zero-tolerance approach to reprisals against the briefer and calling for accountability for such acts.
- Drawing attention to, and following up on, the recommendations and priority issues raised by civil society briefers in Security Council meetings and other available opportunities.

*Including gender perspectives in Security Council meetings and products*

- Requesting the inclusion of gender analysis as a cross-cutting theme in United Nations briefings to the Security Council.
- Sharing civil society statements and recommendations from previous meetings as a reminder to briefers, and requesting United Nations briefers to reflect on previous civil society recommendations to the Security Council.
- Making issues related to women and peace and security an explicit focus of at least one mandated geographic meeting of the Security Council or specifically host a women and peace and security signature event in each presidency and requesting United Nations briefers to focus on this aspect.
- Ensuring that Security Council products integrate strong language on women and peace and security, taking into consideration the recommendations from the reports of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security and conflict-related sexual violence, and the recommendations from Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security.
- Including substantive gender perspectives in the signature events of our presidencies.
- Highlighting the work and recommendations of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security and coordinating with the Informal Expert Group and relevant United Nations Groups of Friends to ensure information-sharing.

*Transparency in advancing the women and peace and security agenda in the Security Council*

- Upholding the provisions of all previous Security Council resolutions pertaining to the women and peace and security agenda, and advocating for their full implementation.
- Highlighting and advancing key issues related to women and peace and security in Security Council statements and heightening the visibility of our discussions on women and peace and security, including by holding press stakeouts on women and peace and security.
- Reflecting highlights and recommendations related to women and peace and security in our end-of-presidency wrap-up sessions.
- Calling for the United Nations to lead by example in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes it leads or co-leads.

**Annex II to the letter dated 27 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Joint women and peace and security press stakeout on Colombia by Security Council members Albania, Norway and the United Arab Emirates, together with Colombia, 20 January 2022**

Today, before the Council convenes for a briefing and consultation on the situation in Colombia, Norway, the UAE, and Albania come together under our shared commitments to prioritize the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda during our terms on the Security Council, to urge the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women leaders in the implementation of the Colombian Peace Accord. We are pleased and honored to do this together with Colombia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

We acknowledge the work undertaken to ensure women's full, equal, and meaningful participation. The implementation of the Agreement's gender provisions, and its ethnic chapter is an essential condition for lasting peace. In particular, we encourage that special attention and priority be given to the Ethnic Chapter and the 130 provisions on gender equality and women's rights.

Much has been achieved since the beginning of the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia, and this should be commended. While there has been an increase in women former combatants participation in productive projects, their active and meaningful participation in economic reintegration still faces some challenges. Further progress must be made, given that the economic inclusion and empowerment of women is critical to building economies, which, in turn ensures long-lasting peace.

For Colombia, the WPS agenda is fundamental in the efforts of peacebuilding. This Agenda guides the 51 gender indicators of the Implementation Framework Plan of the Final Agreement, foreseen for 15-years, which has already shown a high level of progress in 57% of them. Hence, 79% of women included in the reincorporation process are already involved in productive projects.

We have built strong institutions, policies, and programs with a gender perspective that cover, among others, women's political and economic empowerment, prevention and fight against all forms of violence, protection of women social leaders and human rights defenders, as well as the participation of women in the public force.

As Council members, we pledge to support the women of Colombia by prioritizing the women, peace, and security agenda during our terms. Women have been at the center of efforts from the beginning, and we know that women's participation is fundamental to reach a sustainable and lasting peace in Colombia. Today, we are looking forward to hearing from a female former FARC combatant.

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**Annex III to the letter dated 27 December 2022 from the  
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Joint women and peace and security press stakeout by Albania,  
Brazil, Norway and the United Arab Emirates ahead of the  
Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, 2 March 2022**

Today the Council convenes to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. The UAE, Norway, Albania, and Brazil have come together under our shared commitments for the principles of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) to stress once again the critical situation that Afghan women and girls find themselves in and urge their full, equal and meaningful participation in Afghanistan. As Council members, we stand with the women of Afghanistan and commit to prioritizing their needs during our ongoing discussions on the UN's role in Afghanistan.

We reiterate the importance to ensure that the Taliban keep their promise to open schools by this March. Recovery in Afghanistan cannot happen without women back at work and girls back in school. Their rights to education, work and freedom of movement must be respected and protected. We will closely monitor the progress through various reporting sources from UN agencies and civil society organizations and speak up if their basic human rights and freedoms will continue to be under attack, restricted and threatened.

UNAMA has been doing some incredible advocacy work in Afghanistan to underline that discrimination against women and girls is unacceptable and that they must be at the heart of efforts to build a functioning Afghanistan. The disfranchisement of women that make up half the population will lead to further economic desperation and ultimately instability. The Council needs to keep women's and girls' situation as the highest priority on the agenda when it comes to Afghanistan.

Despite the promises of the Taliban to respect women's rights, we cannot claim to have seen any progress in empowering women.

Rather, the institutions that were in charge to protect their rights are no longer functional, and there are increasing restrictions on women's rights.

It is imperative to protect rights like freedom of expression and movement for all Afghans.

We condemn the harassment of, and attacks on women human rights defenders. And we support the call for investigation of such matters so that perpetrators can be held accountable.

Today, the Security Council finds itself at a critical juncture, as we are discussing the future of the UN's presence in Afghanistan. We are strongly committed to women and girls maintaining full access to education and the workplace, and we will vigorously pursue this objective, including by stressing that their empowerment and protection are not just a moral and ethical duty but a necessity for building a prosperous Afghanistan.

**Annex IV to the letter dated 27 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Press statement by the Security Council signatories of the statement of shared commitments for the principles of women and peace and security (Albania, Brazil, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom), 23 June 2022**

Today the Council convenes to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. We, the Security Council signatories of the Statement of Shared Commitments for the principles of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), built on the Trio Presidency initiative from 2021, Albania, Brazil, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, the UAE, and United Kingdom, have come together to express concern regarding the critical situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Since the Taliban seized power in August 2021, women have been systematically erased from public life, those protesting have been violently repressed, intimidated, abducted, killed, or subjected to other forms of reprisals. It is deplorable that, despite continuous promises and commitments to the international community and to the people of Afghanistan, girls above the sixth grade continue to be denied their education.

We urge the Taliban to immediately reverse the policies and practices which are currently restricting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Afghan women and girls, and which continue to aggravate the humanitarian, economic, human rights and social crisis and undermine the goal of sustainable peace and stability in Afghanistan.

We call on all parties in all circumstances to respect and to promote the full enjoyment of human rights of all individuals, including women and girls, and recall Afghanistan's obligation to implement the provisions of instruments concerning human rights and fundamental freedoms to which Afghanistan is a State party and by which it is bound, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

We strongly support the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in supporting and promoting gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment and the full protection of their human rights, including education, and the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women in all levels and stages of decision-making processes.

We strongly condemn all cases of violations, abuses and reprisals committed against women-human rights defenders, women peacebuilders, civil society activists, and against journalists, healthcare and humanitarian workers, as well as against those previously associated with the government, police, justice, and security sector. We join the strong calls for urgent investigations of such matters so that perpetrators can be held accountable.

It is undeniable that gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment are fundamental to achieving Afghanistan's economic and sustainable development goals. Recovery in Afghanistan cannot happen without women going back to work and girls back to school. Their rights to education, work and freedom of movement must be guaranteed, respected, and protected.

We will closely monitor developments through various sources, including UN agencies, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and civil society organizations and will continue to speak out if women's and girls' universal human rights and freedoms will continue to remain under attack, or are restricted and threatened. The situation of women and girls in Afghanistan must remain high on the agenda of the Security Council. As Council members, we stand with all women and girls of Afghanistan and commit to prioritizing their rights and needs during our ongoing discussions at different levels.

## **Annex V to the letter dated 27 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

### **Press statement by the Security Council signatories of the statement of shared commitments for the principles of women and peace and security (Albania, Brazil, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom), 14 June 2022**

Today the Council convenes to discuss the situation in Yemen. We, the Security Council signatories of the Statement of Shared Commitments for the principles of Women, Peace and Security (WPS), built on the Trio Presidency initiative from 2021, Albania, Brazil, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, the UAE, and United Kingdom, have come together to express concern regarding the situation of women and girls in Yemen, who have been disproportionately affected by more than seven years of conflict, exacerbating inequalities faced by women and girls in the country.

We welcome the UN-mediated Truce which came into effect on 2 April, and its extension on 2 June 2022. We recognize that the Truce has alleviated some of the humanitarian suffering faced by many women and girls in Yemen, including by improving the freedom of movement of people and goods across Yemen and reducing civilian casualties, and express concern about the grave humanitarian impact of the continued road closures around Taiz and call upon the Houthis to act with flexibility in negotiations and immediately open the main roads.

We support the Special Envoy's efforts to consult with a diverse group of actors, including Yemeni women, as part of the multi-track peace process, and we urge continued prioritization of this work, which is crucial to achieving sustainable peace. We call on all parties to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the peace process in Yemen, and underscore the importance to uphold their commitment to a minimum 30 per cent participation by women in line with the Outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference, as recalled by the UNSCR [2624 \(2022\)](#).

We are deeply concerned about the shrinking space for civil society in Yemen. Yemeni women activists, journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders and peacebuilders are often targets of arbitrary arrests, harassment or reprisals, and other forms of gender-based violence, particularly by the Houthis. We strongly condemn such attacks and reiterate our call to guarantee the protection and participation of women in all decision-making processes.

Gender equality and women's socio-economic empowerment are fundamental to achieving Yemen's economic and sustainable development goals. We remain concerned regarding persistent barriers to women's participation in the Yemeni economy and workforce, and urge all parties, including UN Agencies, to provide training and technical assistance in sectors that create viable and sustainable livelihoods for women. We express our concern on the impact of the war in Ukraine is having on the global food market, especially in the rise of food prices and growing shortages of basic foods, thus affecting women's economic situation, especially of women living in the rural areas.

Displacement, poverty and collapse in the rule of law have created an environment in which women and girls, including migrants, are frequently subject to gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence. We are deeply concerned by evidence of a policy of targeting of politically active women by the Houthis. We urge all parties to the conflict to adopt commitments to prevent and



address conflict-related sexual violence, develop a victim and survivor-centered approach, and hold perpetrators to account. Humanitarian actors must also be facilitated to provide appropriate assistance and support services to survivors.

The situation of Yemeni women and girls must remain high in the agenda of the Security Council. As Council members, we stand with the women of Yemen and commit to prioritizing their needs during our ongoing discussions.

**Annex VI to the letter dated 27 December 2022 from the  
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Joint press statement delivered by Brazil on behalf of Albania,  
Brazil, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, the United Arab  
Emirates and the United Kingdom, 21 July 2022**

The Security Council unanimously adopted last Friday resolution [2645 \(2022\)](#) renewing the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and urging actions by the Haitian authorities and the international community to address the current situation. We, the Security Council signatories of the Statement of Shared Commitments of Women, Peace, and Security, built on the Trio Presidency initiative from 2021, Albania, Brazil, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, the UAE and the United Kingdom, have come together to express concern about and highlight the situation of women and girls in Haiti.

In recent discussions, including the first ever Informal Expert Group on WPS meeting on Haiti held in September 2021, we have heard how the rapid deterioration of the human rights situation in Haiti, particularly in gang-controlled neighborhoods of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince has been linked to an alarming growth of reports of sexual and gender-based violence, including rape and sexual slavery. These abhorrent crimes, which affect mostly women and girls of all ages, but also men and boys, are reported to be intentionally used to cause fear and forced displacement.

Despite the pervasiveness of sexual and gender-based violence in Haiti and various alerts of UN entities about it over the years, underreporting has always made it difficult to assess the real dimensions of the problem. High levels of insecurity, insufficient medical and psychological services or effective response mechanisms as well as feelings of guilt and shame, stigma, fear of retaliation or reprisals, or taboos surrounding the subject have prevented victims and survivors from coming forward. As a result, the full extent of the problem is often concealed.

Addressing the prevailing culture of impunity for the crime of sexual and gender-based violence in Haiti is urgently needed. We support the calls for urgent, comprehensive action by the international community to help the Haitian authorities in their efforts to strengthen legislation as well as police and legal response mechanisms. To that end, training to enhance response to sexual and gender-based violence and increasing women's participation, including in leadership positions, in the armed forces and in the National Police are very important.

We recognise the need for strengthening BINUH's capacity to help the government of Haiti in its efforts to promote human rights, including women's rights, and prevent further human rights violations and abuses. Increasing BINUH's ability to help national authorities in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence was a particular objective of the Security Council while discussing the renewal of BINUH's mandate. Therefore, we welcome the new language in the resolution which encourages the identification of women's protection advisers, as well as other protection mechanisms.

Promoting gender equality and women's full, equal and meaningful participation and socio-economic inclusion is fundamental for the achievement of Haiti's economic and sustainable development goals, which will build the foundations to a lasting peace. As Council members, we stand with Haiti and commit to including women organizations and women leaders in our discussions about the situation in the country in order to be able to adequately identify their needs and promote their safety and support their political participation.

**Annex VII to the letter dated 27 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Joint statement by the signatories (Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Ireland, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom) of the shared commitments to advance the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in the work of the Security Council, 20 October 2022**

The world is witnessing record numbers of violent conflicts and humanitarian crises. Women are persecuted for speaking up or simply for going about their daily lives. In different regions of the world, women's and girls' rights are under attack. And women who defend women's rights and contribute to build peace - are increasingly being attacked as well.

Together here today is a group of 13 Security Council members – current, previous, and incoming, permanent members as well as elected members – that have joined a Statement of Shared Commitments. We have a shared goal:

To ensure that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is fully and meaningfully integrated into all aspects of the Council's work – including in country-specific discussions, that the voices of women are heard around the Council table, – and that the crucial work of women, peacebuilders and human rights defenders in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and sustaining peace is supported and recognised.

For today's Open Debate, my country, Gabon, has asked member states to propose how we can advance women's resilience and leadership as a path to peace in regions plagued by armed groups.

To prevent conflicts, build and sustain peace, it is time we stop focusing on conflict actors alone and start paying equally attention to peace actors. We call for the UN to lead by example in ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in peace processes it leads or co-leads. Well aware that full, equal and meaningful participation, in all aspects of peace and security, can only be achieved with sustained support also from the member states.

Our Shared Commitments – building on the initiative launched by the Presidency Trio – have fostered collective action. Two examples: we have drawn public attention to critical Women, Peace and Security challenges in Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, and Yemen, as well as those faced by women police officers in peace operations. And we have worked together to ensure that Security Council products have language on Women, Peace and Security that is more detailed, more specific, and covers more areas than ever before.

Together we have hosted about 80 women civil society briefers to Security Council meetings since the beginning of the Presidency Trio in September 2021. We are committed to supporting their safe participation in these meetings – with a zero-tolerance approach to reprisals.

With this, we are heeding the Secretary General's call from 2020, that identified five goals to achieve transformational changes in Women, Peace and Security over the next decade.

The Secretary-General urged an all-out effort to address the remaining implementation gaps. We, standing here today, are supporting his efforts to turn the unconditional defence of women's rights into one of the most visible markers of the United Nations' work on peace and security. In particular; the protection of women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders.

That is why we urge more countries to step up action to ensuring that the Women, Peace and Security agenda actually is implemented in concrete and tangible ways.

Our common goal must be to promote and protect women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in conflict affected countries or those facing humanitarian crises.

Thank you.

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