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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 9th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 9 October 2024, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Maniratanga ..... (Burundi)

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Agenda item 27: Advancement of women (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 27: Advancement of women (continued)** ([A/79/112](#), [A/79/322](#), [A/79/325](#), [A/79/500](#) and [A/79/514](#))

1. **Ms. Carty** (United States of America) said that, around the world, women and girls were experiencing the consequences of the international community's inaction on Sustainable Development Goal 5. Based on current economic trends, it would take 137 years to lift all women and girls out of poverty, and, by 2050, up to 158 million more women and girls might be pushed into extreme poverty owing to climate change. Women and girls accounted for the majority of the 362 million persons requiring humanitarian assistance. In 2024, the world was on track to surpass that number. Currently, 119 million girls were out of school, and women comprised just 26 per cent of the data and artificial intelligence workforce.
2. Given that actions must be taken to close those gaps, her Government supported the proposal of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to focus efforts on accelerating gender parity in leadership positions, adopting national action plans to end gender-based violence, bridging the digital divide and creating greater economic opportunity for women.
3. Those who stood in the way of the advancement of women and girls reduced the prosperity and security of all persons. They eroded the full potential of a democratic way of life and undermined achievement of the Goals, while those who stood with women and girls created space for the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons.
4. Women and girls must be fully, equitably and meaningfully included in all decision-making processes and must have access to leadership roles. Given the pledge to leave no one behind, it was regrettable that efforts to advance gender equality faced opposition from some Member States, who stood in the way of consensus agreement and weakened outcome documents, contrary to the spirit of cooperation in the Charter of the United Nations.
5. **Mr. Indāns** (Latvia) said that his Government had addressed the gender pay gap and poverty through the provision of economic and social empowerment initiatives and access to quality education. Furthermore, Latvia had introduced policies to enhance men's involvement in childcare and to encourage fathers to take parental leave and share family responsibilities. His Government planned to help to eliminate pay discrimination and to narrow the gender pay gap.
6. Education was a cornerstone of progress in Latvia. Women constituted more than 63 per cent of university graduates, and their participation in the workforce was increasing. Through the initiative Riga TechGirls, coding workshops and mentorship programmes were provided to women and girls, female innovators were transforming the digital landscape in Latvia, and bootcamps had been organized in Cameroon and South Africa, with plans for a project in Egypt in 2024.
7. His Government had implemented legislation and launched public awareness campaigns to combat gender-based and domestic violence. As a candidate for the membership in the Security Council for the period 2026–2027, Latvia emphasized the need to tackle conflict-related sexual violence.
8. The non-governmental organization Economic Cooperation and Investment for Latvia had enhanced the entrepreneurial and leadership skills of women in Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and would expand its scope to include Ethiopia and Rwanda in 2024. His Government had also worked with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to enhance women's economic participation through training and mentorship

programmes. In Ukraine, through partnerships with local organizations, Latvia had established rehabilitation centres for survivors of sexual violence perpetrated by the Russian military.

9. **Ms. Luque Nuñez** (Panama) said that, in 2023, her Government had established a Ministry of Women to oversee policies, programmes and campaigns aimed at the prevention and eradication of discriminatory practices and harassment against women. Panama had created public policy on equal opportunities for women, a national policy for gender equality in science, technology and innovation, a national gender and climate change plan, a plan for the right of Indigenous women to political participation and decision-making, and a gender equality awareness workshop for the State security forces.

10. Her Government had made significant progress in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and was committed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as a road map for achieving equality and respect for the human rights of girls and women worldwide. As an elected member of the Security Council for the period 2025–2026, Panama would defend the rights of women and girls while working towards international peace and security.

11. **Mr. Kifle** (Brunei Darussalam) said that his Government was focused on advancing women's rights in line with its commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. His Government was developing a social blueprint that comprised a strategy for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in line with its national Vision 2035 development plan. The blueprint was focused on ensuring that no one was left behind, including women.

12. Through research on women's development in Brunei Darussalam, his Government had found that the rate of school enrolment for girls at the primary and lower secondary levels was nearly 100 per cent, highlighting its policy of ensuring compulsory and universal education. In addition, compared with men, women had higher enrolment and graduation rates at the upper secondary level. Women held approximately 37 per cent of managerial positions across the economy, with high representation in the public sector and 34 per cent of managerial roles in the private sector. More than 60 per cent of women who were working currently or who had worked in the past believed that flexible work arrangements had helped them to manage household tasks and childcare, and 54 per cent of women had access to workplaces that allowed remote work. The research findings would be used to formulate a national plan of action on women, focused on prioritizing women's safety and well-being, including eliminating gender-based violence, optimizing women's work potential and career development opportunities, including building a more supportive workplace for them, and driving women's empowerment within communities, including increasing their economic participation and leadership opportunities.

13. **Mr. Kim Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that it was his Government's policy to respect the right of women to promote their status and capabilities, which was guaranteed in the Constitution and in a law on protection of women's rights. Pursuant to a 1946 decree on gender equality promulgated by the Government, all women in his country enjoyed the same rights as men, without discrimination. All received free medical care, and paid maternity leave had been extended by 240 days. Childcare facilities were available at all workplaces.

14. The Japanese crime of military sexual slavery was universally acknowledged as an example of contemporary human rights violations against women. The sexual enslavement by Japan of 200,000 Korean women and girls during the Japanese occupation of Korea amounted to organized and systematic human rights violations

and the most serious crime against humanity. However, the Japanese authorities were distorting historical truth, denying State responsibility for those crimes and not offering an apology or compensation. Denial and whitewashing of past crimes were an attempt to repeat such crimes. Japan must address its crimes against Korean women and girls and many others in Asia before it could talk about peace and women's rights. His delegation reiterated its demand that Japan accept legal and moral responsibility and provide a sincere apology and reparations for its crimes of sexual slavery, and all of its other past crimes against humanity, such as the conscription of over 8.4 million Koreans and the genocidal massacre of more than 1 million Koreans.

15. Since its accession in 2001 to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had complied with its treaty obligations, including the submission of several reports on the implementation of the Convention. Furthermore, it cooperated closely with international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of women's rights and health.

16. **Mr. Zahneisen** (Germany) said that the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were far from being achieved. There were worldwide attempts to push women out of politics, decision-making and the public sphere, to water down agreed language, resolutions and declarations, and to question the right to make decisions about one's own body. The international community could not accept a backlash against women's rights and gender equality.

17. The situation in Afghanistan was an urgent and glaring such example. Since the Taliban had returned to power, Afghan women and girls had been systematically excluded from education, employment and public life, in violation of the obligation of Afghanistan under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Such persecution violated the fundamental human rights of Afghan women and girls and threatened the future development of the nation. In response, Germany, along with Australia, Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, had made it clear to the authorities in Kabul that they expected them to comply with the obligation of Afghanistan under the Convention. Supported by many countries, the initiative was a collective stand against the erosion of women's rights in Afghanistan.

18. His Government was strengthening legislation on equal access to resources and the protection of women and girls from violence. The German Code of Crimes against International Law had been reformed to include new offences relating to sexual violence. His Government supported initiatives to empower women in conflict zones and to contribute to the women and peace and security agenda. An alliance for gender-responsive and inclusive recovery in Ukraine was launched at the Ukraine Recovery Conference of 2024 to include women and marginalized groups.

19. His Government's feminist foreign policy encompassed the protection of marginalized groups, including in relation to gender identity and sexual orientation, ensuring that all people could participate equally in society. The leadership of Germany, as Co-Chair of the Equal Rights Coalition with Mexico, was the cornerstone of its global efforts to combat discrimination against LGBTQIA+ persons.

20. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal) said that his Government was concerned by persistent barriers to achieving gender equality and to empowering women and girls and protecting their human rights. Through constitutional provisions and other interventions, his Government had made significant strides towards women's empowerment and gender equality. The Constitution of Nepal guaranteed women's rights as fundamental human rights and mandated quotas for women members of the Federal Parliament, the provincial parliaments and local bodies. As a result, women's

representation had reached 34 per cent in the Federal Parliament and 35 per cent in the provincial parliaments, and more than 41 per cent of the total representatives elected to the local bodies in 2022 were women.

21. Through a constitutional provision, his Government had ensured the right to safe motherhood and reproductive health and had enacted policies and laws to ensure gender equality and prohibit violence and discrimination against women. It had made gender equality and women's empowerment development priorities in its sixteenth five-year periodic plan. Direct gender-responsive budgeting had risen fourfold in 2024. His Government had adopted a national strategy to end child marriage by 2030. It had made progress towards increasing women's literacy rates, lifespan and ownership of land and property and towards decreasing fertility rates.

22. Despite those initiatives, more women than men were suffering from poverty, the effects of climate change had affected women's economic opportunities and activities excessively, and digital exclusion was more widespread among women than among men. To overcome such barriers, robust partnerships, stronger policy support, and adequate finance, technology and capacity were needed. Investment in gender equality must be increased to provide women with equal access to education, employment and entrepreneurship.

23. **Ms. Aljalahma** (Bahrain) said that the advancement of women was essential for the achievement of sustainable development worldwide. In particular, women's participation in the labour force promoted economic growth and helped to build fairer and more balanced societies. In Bahrain, women had held many senior positions in government and the judiciary. They made up 22 per cent of the Cabinet and 23 per cent of parliamentarians. They comprised 56 per cent and 35 per cent of the public and private sector workforces, respectively, and 34 per cent of the diplomatic corps. The Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain had led a national effort to design and implement a comprehensive system to promote equal opportunity in the country, including specific mechanisms to monitor the full integration of women in the development process.

24. Bahrain attached great importance to the exchange of expertise between the United Nations and Member States. The Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment, a joint collaboration between the United Nations and Bahrain, promoted women's contributions to development. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5 on gender equality, Bahrain had introduced policies that promoted women's participation in the labour market, especially in the field of technology. To that end, a committee on women in information and communications technology and cutting-edge science had been formed.

25. **Ms. Pires do Canto** (Cabo Verde) said that her Government had made progress towards advancing gender equality and equity through national efforts to promote them across all levels of society. Gender had been integrated into her Government's strategic plan for sustainable development. The State budget funded resources to meet commitments to reducing gender-based inequalities. Cabo Verde was implementing a national plan for gender equality to foster social development and to ensure equality between men and women. Her Government guaranteed the free exercise of the rights and duties of all citizens. The Cabo Verde Institute for Gender Equality and Equity was a testament to her Government's focus on equality.

26. A component of her Government's national strategy for the eradication of extreme poverty was an initiative to raise funds through tourism and invest them in human capital, in particular women and children. In one year, nearly 2,000 women had benefited from training programmes, escaping extreme poverty and becoming self-sufficient. The ripple effect on their communities included the employment of

other women and the creation of value chains, which revitalized the economy and reduced violence.

27. In Cabo Verde, the Constitution, government programmes and the national action plan to address violence against children and adolescents were aligned with the priority of eliminating violence against women and girls. In 2023, support centres were restructured, and an assistance fund had been established to better assist survivors of gender-based violence. Sexual and reproductive health and rights had been promoted, especially for women and girls with disabilities, migrant women and people living with HIV. Her Government was promoting positive masculinity to help to eliminate stereotypes that continued to foster gender inequalities.

28. **Ms. Hazlewood** (Guyana) said that her Government was deeply concerned by the number of women and girls disproportionately affected by climate crises and armed conflict, which resulted in sexual violence, hunger and repeated displacements. International support must be increased to alleviate dire humanitarian situations, perpetrators of violence must be brought to justice, and women must be part of the solution. The international community must also continue to protest the fact that girls in Afghanistan were being deprived of an education and call for the immediate reversal of the more than 70 decrees that deprived Afghan women and girls of their most basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

29. Her Government had eliminated gender disparity in primary and secondary education, and more girls were attending school and completing their tertiary education. Women and girls represented most of those who had gained access to thousands of Government-funded online scholarships. The Women's Innovation and Investment Network had accorded training opportunities to thousands of Guyanese women, providing them with the skills to pursue economic opportunities and become financially independent in various professions.

30. Her Government was working to ensure that all women and girls in Guyana had quality free healthcare through efforts to provide access to it for those living in rural and remote areas, including through the use of telemedicine.

31. Guyana continued to combat gender-based violence. Her Government's family violence bill strengthened the legal framework to counter domestic violence, enhanced protections for victims and ensured that offenders were held accountable. Hope and justice centres were being established to provide comprehensive services to survivors of gender-based violence under one roof. The Women and Gender Equality Commission had instituted a five-year strategic plan built on access, equity, economic justice, participation and human rights.

32. **Ms. Dunca** (Romania) said that her delegation was committed to ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls. It was crucial to safeguard the progress achieved in advancing gender equality and to address emerging challenges with vigour and global solidarity. Her Government was dedicated to eliminating violence against women and girls, promoting gender equality and empowering women to achieve their full potential. The advancement of women's rights was fundamental to ensuring peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies worldwide.

33. Her Government had recently adopted a national identification and referral mechanism for victims of trafficking. Its national strategy on trafficking in persons for the period 2024–2028 was focused on reducing risk factors and enhancing preventive and protective measures.

34. The growing prevalence of cyberviolence and digital abuse presented new threats to women and girls. Her Government had taken legislative action to expand the definition of domestic violence to include cyberharassment, online stalking and

other forms of digital abuse to ensure that the rights of women and girls were upheld both offline and online. The international community must act decisively and collectively to create an environment where all women and girls could exercise their rights fully and equally, free from violence, intersectional discrimination and inequality.

35. **Ms. Martirosyan** (Armenia) said that the principle of gender equality was incorporated into all of her Government's legislation, encompassing both the Constitution and sectoral laws. Furthermore, policymaking in Armenia was focused on protecting and promoting women's rights through inclusive and gender-responsive regulations. Her Government had recently developed a strategy for the implementation of gender policy for the period 2024–2028, which included overcoming gender discrimination, encouraging gender-sensitive approaches in social and economic spheres, addressing discrimination in education and science, ensuring equal opportunities in health, combating gender-based violence and developing gender-sensitive strategies for climate change.

36. Her Government had been working to ensure greater participation and leadership of women in political, economic and social life. Currently, women occupied more than 36 per cent of the seats in the National Assembly of Armenia, which constituted a meaningful increase. A number of State-led initiatives, implemented in partnership with the United Nations, were aimed at women's economic empowerment. The achievements of Armenia in economic advancement for women exceeded the regional average, with 40 per cent representation of women in the information and communications technology sector.

37. The Criminal Code of Armenia, adopted in 2021, criminalized various forms of gender-based violence. Her Government was in the process of ratifying the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) of the International Labour Organization.

38. Within the framework of the women and peace and security agenda, her Government had developed its third national action plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), aimed at enhancing the role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacemaking. The current plan, for the period 2022–2024, addressed emerging issues affecting women in border regions, in particular those affected by military violence and forced displacement from Nagorno-Karabakh.

39. In recent years, her Government had been actively engaged in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women through its chairship of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions. Armenia was committed to the principles outlined in the Commission's political declaration and agreed conclusions.

40. **Mr. Oehri** (Liechtenstein) said that his Government was concerned by the negative impacts of artificial intelligence on women and girls, namely sexualized deepfakes and job displacement. Given that artificial intelligence models were fed with data that lacked diverse gender perspectives, it was unsurprising that gender biases had been reproduced by such systems. Addressing the forms of social vulnerability created by artificial intelligence should be a priority for the international community in its discussions on how to shape global artificial intelligence governance in follow-up to the adoption of the Global Digital Compact.

41. The education and leadership of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics must be advanced. For that purpose, his Government had launched an experimentation laboratory aimed at helping to deepen children's interest in and knowledge of those fields. Only by challenging persistent gender

biases and digital divides could the international community reshape the technology ecosystem to benefit all of society.

42. Gender persecution under the Taliban amounted to crimes against humanity, and thus the International Criminal Court had jurisdiction and a role to advance accountability for that crime, among many others committed in Afghanistan. In September 2024, together with her fellow women colleagues, his Government's Foreign Minister had spoken out in support of the voices that had been silenced. Furthermore, his Government had supported the initiative of Australia, Canada, Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to hold Afghanistan accountable for grave violations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The future of Afghanistan could only be peaceful, just and prosperous if women and girls were allowed to shape it.

43. **Ms. Al Shibli** (Oman) said that her country had laid solid legislative foundations for gender equality in rights and duties. In addition, women were placed at the centre of the Oman Vision 2040 development strategy, in view of their vital role in building a sustainable future. Oman had enhanced the status of women through promulgation of the Social Protection Act, which provided the necessary protection for women, including widows, divorced women and women with special needs. The Act also provided that women should receive social insurance benefits, including for maternity, old age and disability, in addition to comprehensive social care. Furthermore, her Government had issued a royal decree that guaranteed paid maternity leave and childcare for working women, which allowed them to balance their careers with their family responsibilities. It also offered integrated health services for women, including reproductive healthcare, as well as social programmes aimed at supporting women at various stages of their lives.

44. Oman was deeply concerned about the suffering of Palestinian women in the Gaza Strip as a result of the ongoing war. Women in conflict areas must be granted protection and their basic rights must be guaranteed. Oman called for intensified international efforts to support Palestinian women and emphasized the importance of efforts to end conflicts and achieve comprehensive peace.

45. **Mr. Uddin** (Bangladesh) said that it was unacceptable that, at the current rate, it would take 300 years to end child marriage. The well-being of society and of women and girls were interconnected; when women were treated with dignity and fully enjoyed their rights, peace prevailed in society. His Government had formulated a national women's development policy in 1997, following its commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1984.

46. His Government had introduced gender-responsive budgets in 2009. Some 4 million women were working in his country's industrial sector, and more than 3 million women were working in the ready-made garment sector alone. The Central Bank of Bangladesh was providing collateral-free loans of up to 2.5 million taka to women entrepreneurs, and its Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation was providing them with financial support. Rural women were provided with collateral-free microcredits. To support poor women, his Government had expanded its social safety net programmes. It was implementing projects to empower women through information and communications technology.

47. Bangladesh had played a key role in the adoption of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) as a non-permanent member and was committed to enhancing the participation of women peacekeepers to advance the women and peace and security agenda.



48. **Ms. Banaken Elel** (Cameroon) said that, since the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, held in Beijing in 1995, significant progress had been made towards advancing the status of women in education, science, technology, labour and politics, as well as in the fight against discrimination and violence against women. Nevertheless, recent rhetoric from the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UN-Women referred to a pushback against the rights of women.

49. No one disputed the fact that, in some countries, due to specific situations, the status of women, as well as their rights, had been hindered. Such situations must be addressed with due seriousness, taking into account national context and culture, because external solutions were never the answer. So-called sexual and reproductive rights were, for some, the benchmark for the advancement of women. Increasingly, women's rights were defined by access to sexual and reproductive health services and to abortion, as well as bodily autonomy. However, many women's rights were recognized in international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The voluntary interruption of pregnancy and bodily autonomy were not among them, and presenting them as human rights was misleading. It was regrettable that those issues, which deeply divided the international community, served as measures for evaluating the status of women worldwide to the point of fuelling the discourse on the regression of women's rights.

50. The thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women should be an opportunity for the international community to revitalize the consensus that it had barely reached. That involved avoiding biased interpretations of the Conference's content and ensuring that gender-related actions were consistent with the definition of that concept contained in the annex to the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

51. **Mr. Nidup** (Bhutan) said that his country, guided by its development philosophy of gross national happiness, considered gender equality to be a matter of social justice that was fundamental to achieving inclusive and sustainable development. Driven by its commitment to achieving the goals outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, his Government had enacted a national gender equality policy in 2020 aimed at identifying critical areas for action, including gender mainstreaming, legal reforms and increasing the representation of women in leadership roles. His Government was working towards bridging a gap in women's representation and had implemented training programmes aimed at enhancing women's capacity in governance and entrepreneurship to promote women's leadership. Bhutan had undertaken efforts to support women entrepreneurs, in particular in rural areas, by providing access to credit and markets, as well as capacity-development programmes. His Government had initiated gender-responsive budgeting to ensure that women's needs were integrated into all sectors of national development.

52. The Domestic Violence Prevention Act, 2013, provided a legal framework to address gender-based violence. The National Commission for Women and Children and the organization Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women had provided protection and support services to victims of violence, and harmful gender norms had been challenged through public awareness campaigns.

53. **Ms. Ndiaye** (Senegal) said that, notwithstanding efforts that her Government had made to promote women's rights, challenges that were increasingly linked to poverty, gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices persisted. Moreover, there was an increasing feminization of poverty in the world socioeconomic situation.

Globally, there were enormous disparities between men and women, in particular in education and training, employment and participation in public life. Progress towards improving maternal health was slow. Such inequalities were even more pronounced in developing countries, especially in rural areas. The situation required Governments and the international community to ensure that women received at least basic protections.

54. With a predominantly female population, including nearly 60 per cent rural women, who represented a significant portion of agricultural production and produced some 80 per cent of foodstuffs, Senegal had made several advancements. Her Government had allocated funds to gender units within ministries and had created a delegation for the entrepreneurship of women and young people, aimed at supporting their economic empowerment.

55. Her Government had established a scholarship programme for girls from disadvantaged families with support from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and had created a literacy and vocational training programme targeting rural women. Senegal had implemented programmes that were focused on reducing maternal mortality, enhancing access to reproductive healthcare, and combating female genital mutilation and obstetric fistula. Her Government had made efforts to combat school dropout as a national priority and had achieved an elementary school enrolment rate of 91.10 per cent for girls. It had established regional committees to combat gender-based violence and had assessed the gender dimension in public policies to improve data collection and monitoring.

56. Gender equality was an urgent moral and social concern and an important economic issue. Addressing it required strong international cooperation that took into account the realities of each community without imposing ready-made solutions.

57. **Mr. Kuzevich** (Russian Federation) said that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remained a road map for States on gender equality and the advancement of women. The Commission on the Status of Women was also a key intergovernmental forum for constructive dialogue on the status of women. It was therefore very disappointing that the Pact for the Future contained a request to revitalize the Commission, which itself had not taken such a decision and no substantive discussions had been held on the advisability of doing so. His delegation questioned proposals to reform a well-functioning mechanism on the pretext of adding new human rights tasks.

58. The successful work of the Commission on the Status of Women was not possible without technical assistance from UN-Women, which should stick closely to its mandate. One of its main tasks was to provide support to the work of intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system on issues relating to the status of women. When drawing up the draft strategic plan for the period 2026 to 2029, the mistakes of the past should not be repeated and the document should be duly drafted and agreed at the intergovernmental level. Furthermore, when the document was implemented on the ground, it was absolutely necessary to take into account national realities, local legislation, cultural particularities, capacities and the level of development of States. The document should also be approved by the countries in question. As UN-Women was not a human rights body, women's rights issues were only a part of the overall topic of gender equality and the women empowerment of women.

59. The Russian Federation remained committed to complying with all its obligations on the advancement of women. Accordingly, in May 2024, Russia had submitted to the United Nations Secretariat a national review of successes and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform

for Action, and of the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

60. Women in Russia played an important role in the country's development and they made a significant contribution to its social economic development. Almost 49 per cent of all workers in Russia were women, and more than 80 per cent of them had a higher or specialized secondary education. Their potential was being harnessed as much as possible to drive the country forward. The national strategy of action for women for 2023–2030 was a fundamental document that set out key policy areas for women over the medium term.

61. Lastly, the Russian Federation would host the Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum on 18 to 20 of October 2024 in Saint Petersburg.

62. **Ms. Ochoa Espinales** (Nicaragua) said that her Government assigned Nicaraguan women a central role in decision-making at all levels, including at the head of State institutions. Her Government had implemented strategies and programmes on gender equity, restoring women's rights and strengthening compliance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the Global Gender Gap Report 2024 of the World Economic Forum, Nicaragua ranked sixth, with a gender gap of 81.1 per cent, moving up 84 places from its ninetieth position in 2007. There was currently equal participation of men and women in State authorities and municipal governments in Nicaragua, where women held leadership positions in elected and appointed roles, including that of the Vice-President and the Attorney General. Through electoral and municipal laws, political parties must guarantee the equal participation of men and women in candidacies for mayor, deputy mayor, councillors and regional councils.

63. Her Government recognized and ensured the role of women that originated from its Indigenous Peoples as guardians and protectors of cultural and ancestral values in defence of Mother Earth, territory and natural resources, as well as from women's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It acknowledged the role of Nicaraguan women in advancements aimed at reducing poverty, as they represented some 70 per cent of small businesses supported by the ministry that promoted family- and community-based economic activities, cooperatives and business models in terms of financing for small enterprises. Through a cybercrime law, amendments to the Penal Code and the Constitution, her Government had protected the lives and dignity of women by enabling the imposition of a life sentence for those who committed hate crimes.

64. **Ms. Zedan** (Iraq) said that her Government had made efforts to ensure genuine gender equality, remove all discrimination from legislation and policies and combat stereotypes linked to social customs and traditions. The Government of Iraq had adopted strategies and procedures aimed at supporting and enhancing the role of Iraqi women, including a national strategy to combat violence against women for the period 2018–2030.

65. Her Government had designated 3 March each year as a national day for the appreciation and recognition of the efforts of Iraqi women. The Supreme Judicial Council had issued a decision to reconstitute regional family courts and, currently, a review of the Penal Code was underway that would result in the amendment of discriminatory legal provisions. To enhance women's participation in the peacemaking process, a national network of women peace mediators, the first of its kind in the region, had been formed.

66. Iraq had created programmes aimed at protecting vulnerable groups from trafficking in persons, which sought to address the root causes of the phenomenon through small business loans and grants to the most vulnerable women. In addition,

soft loans had been provided to support businesses run by women with disabilities, displaced women, returnees and older women.

67. Her country affirmed its solidarity with Palestinian and Lebanese women, who were subjected to the crime of genocide. Iraq called for concerted efforts by the international community to protect women in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon from the killing, displacement and starvation that they had been suffering at the hands of the occupying forces.

68. **Mr. Šimonović** (Croatia) said that it was important to strengthen accountability mechanisms for gender-related human rights violations in order to provide justice and prevent crimes. The challenges faced by women and girls required a comprehensive approach supported by effective legal instruments. Croatia called upon all States to align their laws with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and accede to the Optional Protocol thereto. Safeguarding women's rights in peace was key to preventing violations of their human rights in situations of conflict and insecurity.

69. Croatia had implemented a system for monitoring gender-based killings and had made femicide a distinct criminal offence to eliminate gender discrimination and foster equality. The United Nations gender equality architecture should be strengthened, and the Commission on the Status of Women should be revitalized to fulfil the promises of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

70. Solutions should be sought to improve the deteriorating human rights situation of women in Afghanistan, where institutionalized gender discrimination and the denial of fundamental rights constituted crimes against humanity.

71. **Mr. Scappini Ricciardi** (Paraguay) said that health services, access to education and the promotion of women's rights had improved in Paraguay in the 30 years since the International Conference on Population and Development, but progress was still needed. His Government implemented national plans on mainstreaming women's inclusion in public programmes to support their empowerment and autonomy.

72. Paraguay had been developing a national care policy to support dependants, emphasizing responsibility shared among the State, society and families and promoting employment and training for caregivers. Many key government roles were held by women, but more women leaders would be transformative for society.

73. Ongoing violence and femicide were being tackled by a task force, established under the Act on the comprehensive protection of women from all forms of violence, which was enhancing coordination mechanisms, care services and women's shelters, among other measures.

74. **Ms. Salem** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that the Khreis family and others taking cover in their home had been forced outside waving a white flag during the Israeli ground invasion of Gaza City in November 2023. Leading the group and holding her grandson's hand, Hala Khreis had been shot dead by an Israeli sniper, leaving her family devastated in yet another example of the targeting by Israel of Palestinian civilians in Gaza in breach of international law.

75. The evacuation orders were a tactic of Israel to forcibly displace, maximize suffering and exacerbate the collective punishment of the Palestinian people. The safe zones designated by Israel did not exist; nowhere was safe in Gaza. Israel bombed civilian and non-military targets indiscriminately, inventing pretexts for their targeting of hospitals, grandmothers, pregnant women and human rights defenders, with reports of the sexual assault of men, women and girls.

76. Civilians, in particular women and girls, were not military targets. Victims deserved justice and accountability for such violations. The international community must act immediately to end the unlawful occupation by Israel.

77. **Ms. Calem-Sangiorgio** (Monaco) said that women held an increased number of senior positions in Monaco but were underrepresented among corporate and strategic roles. Her country maintained excellence in its educational system and provided financial aid to international programmes supporting education and entrepreneurship in order to promote women's education and empowerment.

78. Monaco had intensified its efforts to combat violence against women through collaboration with local associations. It complied with international conventions on combating trafficking in and violence and discrimination against women.

79. The percentage of women participating in United Nations peace processes was low and must be increased.

80. Women and girls in sports faced missed opportunities and online threats and harassment. To combat such issues, Monaco had included online violence protections in the agreed conclusions of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and supported the Sport for Generation Equality initiative of UN-Women.

81. **Mr. Carlos** (Mozambique) said that his country was working to promote and protect women's rights by integrating regional and international instruments into its legal system and strategic development policies and by adopting gender strategies in government institutions. Gender parity in governance had been achieved in 2022 and almost achieved in 2023, but increasing women's participation in decision-making bodies remained a challenge.

82. Girl's school enrolment had risen across all levels and in both rural and urban areas. Improved data collection and increased numbers of qualified staff in the health sector had resulted in improved care and services.

83. Gender-based violence in Mozambique had been reduced by 25 per cent, but greater efforts were needed to tackle persistent domestic violence and early marriage. Women's representation in media and information technology had increased substantially, enhancing the access of women and girls to information.

84. **Ms. Williams** (Ghana) said that Member States should act collectively and urgently and localize global commitments for women's advancement to combat gender-based violence, discriminatory norms, economic exploitation and the denial of fundamental rights. They should also prioritize investments in gender-responsive protection, improve women's access to justice, address the gender wage gap and integrate gender perspectives into climate action.

85. At the national level, the Government had enacted the Affirmative Action Act in 2024 to increase women's leadership, had expanded maternal healthcare and had increased educational opportunities for girls. It was implementing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which was focused on combating gender-based violence and promoting women's participation in the peace cycle. Legal support for marginalized women had been strengthened through the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit and the Justice for All Programme.

86. Her Government supported financial inclusion through the Microfinance and Small Loans Centre, which lent primarily to women-led businesses. It had expanded maternal care access and had increased educational opportunities for girls.

87. **Ms. Azzi** (Algeria) said that her country had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and

the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. Algerian women, who had played a significant role in liberating their country from colonialism, continued to participate in the development process and were key to the stability of the family. Her Government was working to achieve gender equality in employment through the adoption of a policy on equal pay. It had also taken steps to protect women from violence in the professional and private spheres and ensured that victims benefited from special support structures and legal aid. Algeria had criminalized all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and harassment.

88. Under Algerian law, candidate lists for elections were required to incorporate gender parity. Algerian women, including rural women, had made great strides when it came to health, education and the labour market, and had demonstrated their leadership capabilities. As women were key to the achievement of global peace and security, Algeria had adopted a national action plan in 2023 to implement Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security.

89. For the past year, Palestinian women in Gaza had been suffering from the scourge of war. They were subjected to the worst forms of repression, persecution and torture at the hands of the occupation forces. Algeria reiterated its call for an immediate, permanent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and throughout the Middle East to ensure the protection of civilians, especially women and children.

90. **Ms. Más Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that gender equality remained elusive in the face of underdevelopment, hunger and poverty, which were perpetuated by an unjust international order that inflicted suffering on millions. Unilateral coercive measures affected women and girls worldwide and were an injustice that must be tackled.

91. Through decades of constant effort, Cuba had demonstrated that results could be achieved despite adversity. Women and girls enjoyed equal access to free education and legal employment protections, and free healthcare included abortion and fertility services. The Gender Equality Observatory had been established in 2023 to further advance women's empowerment.

92. However, the limitations imposed under the economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States of America against Cuba were the main obstacle to the country's development. The blockade, which had been exacerbated by the inclusion of Cuba in the fraudulent list of State sponsors of terrorism, hindered development and the quality of life of women and girls, as well as progress on a human papillomavirus vaccination project.

93. **Mr. Islamuly** (Kazakhstan) said that his country had made progress on gender equality by adopting legislation and policies to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure their equal participation in all spheres of life. Women accounted for nearly half of the workforce and gross domestic product of Kazakhstan and they surpassed the number of men with higher education in the country.

94. The Government had enacted legislation criminalizing domestic violence, provided crisis centres and legal and psychological support for survivors, and it continuously improved the collection of gender-disaggregated data to inform policymaking. Further reinforcing the contribution of Kazakhstan to achieving gender equality, the Central Asian Alliance to End Gender-Biased Violence had been established as part of the Spotlight Initiative and a woman diplomat from Kazakhstan had recently been elected to the Third Committee.

95. In Kazakhstan, gender imbalances persisted in wages and career opportunities, and greater efforts were needed to eliminate violence against women and girls. His Government aimed to reduce the gender wage gap, boost the proportion of women with material assets and increase the representation of women in decision-making at

all levels by 2030 through women-focused collaborations with United Nations partners and grass-roots organizations.

96. **Ms. Alomair** (Saudi Arabia) said that, in 2025, her country would chair the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which would set standards and formulate policies to support the advancement of women globally.

97. At the national level, the country's Vision 2030 initiative was focused on encouraging the full participation and empowerment of women. Ongoing reforms that supported women's empowerment were beginning to bear fruit; for example, the number of licences granted to women lawyers had increased by more than 700 per cent, and the unemployment rate for women had decreased significantly. In addition, the number of women working in the private sector had increased by 130 per cent over the previous four years. Saudi women were increasingly hired for senior positions and were joining professional fields that had long been the preserve of men. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development had launched initiatives to support women's public sector participation, which involved the review of policies, the creation of job opportunities and support for inclusivity and diversity in the labour market.

98. Saudi Arabia contributed significantly to humanitarian and relief assistance to women in conflict zones around the world through projects aimed at improving their living conditions and meeting their basic needs. Through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, her Government supported women affected by conflicts by providing food, medical and educational assistance and by supporting vocational programmes that helped those women to acquire new skills and become self-reliant.

99. **Mr. Pieris** (Sri Lanka) said that while his country had elected the world's first female Prime Minister and had recently appointed its third female Prime Minister, women's electoral representation remained low. Sri Lanka had worked hard to advance women's rights, resulting in increased enrolment of women in higher education and a larger share of women in public service.

100. Sri Lanka continued to work towards gender equality and women's social, economic and political advancement through law reforms. The Women Empowerment Act No. 37 of 2024 had been enacted to establish the National Commission on Women and an Ombudsperson for Women's Rights and to set up the National Fund for Women.

101. Sri Lanka had launched an online market for women entrepreneurs to foster women's economic independence. Laws against domestic violence provided crucial support, and shelters offered protection, counselling and training. Sri Lanka had achieved a literacy rate of 93 per cent for men and women, and nearly 60 per cent of tertiary education students were women.

102. **Ms. Abd Karim** (Malaysia) said that the role of women in national development featured in development plans that were focused on gender-based policies and had successfully enhanced women's participation in leadership positions within the public sector and on corporate boards.

103. Malaysia strengthened protection mechanisms for women by providing accountability for victims. The Anti-Sexual Harassment Act had been enacted in 2022, and the Tribunal for Anti-Sexual Harassment had been established in 2024. Following the abolition of the mandatory death penalty in 2023, the sentences of one third of women on death row had been commuted.

104. Her Government aimed to increase women's participation in the workforce through the Madani Economy Framework. Provisions of the Employment Act 1955 had been amended to protect women's rights.

105. Malaysia had prioritized public healthcare initiatives to improve access to reproductive health services and maternal and child healthcare.

106. **Ms. Al-Banna** (United Arab Emirates) said that inclusion of women and girls was necessary for the achievement of sustainable development and the building of strong, interconnected societies. To that end, the United Arab Emirates had launched a national policy for the empowerment of Emirati women for the period 2023–2031, which was aimed at advancing the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes related to the economy, law and science. The United Arab Emirates had ranked first regionally and seventh globally in the 2024 Gender Inequality Index of the United Nations Development Programme, reflecting the country's commitment to the advancement of women and girls.

107. The international community must act immediately to provide the necessary protection to women and girls affected by conflict. As the cruel war on Gaza reached the one-year mark, the conflict was spreading elsewhere in the region. While an immediate and permanent ceasefire was the only way to truly protect women and girls, her Government remained committed to providing gender-responsive humanitarian assistance, such as sanitary and maternity kits, to conflict zones.

108. Women and girls must be included in efforts to address emerging global threats. In that regard, the United Arab Emirates had signed a strategic partnership framework in 2024 with UN-Women that established a women's climate fund. In addition, during the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, her country had launched the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership, which was aimed at strengthening the role of women in sustainable adaptation and mitigation efforts.

109. **Mr. Moriko** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his Government had taken legislative and institutional measures to achieve gender equality and empower women, which included ratifying national and international conventions on women's rights.

110. At the national level, the Government had adopted laws on equal access for women to administrative positions and elected assemblies. It had also aligned the tax regimes for men and women, implemented a national domestic violence strategy and formulated a women's empowerment strategy. Furthermore, his Government had developed infrastructure to improve women's living conditions that had facilitated rural water access and had increased investments to ensure education for all, in particular girls. Several funds had been established to finance income-generating activities of women entrepreneurs, lifting about 2 million people out of poverty.

111. **Ms. Brattested** (Norway) said that efforts must be scaled up to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030. It was important to mobilize resources to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action appropriately. Issues agreed upon three decades ago remained unresolved, as time was spent defending the status quo against regressive forces, which was disturbing.

112. The rights to sexual and reproductive health and physical autonomy were prerequisites for other rights and political and economic empowerment. Increasing women's participation in the labour force was smart for women, society and economic growth. In times of conflict, women and girls were particularly vulnerable, as was the case in Afghanistan.



113. However, women were not only victims but also agents of change who must be involved in all aspects of society, including peace negotiations, technology, finance, and discussions on climate change and food security.

114. **Ms. Mangalanandan** (India) said that her Government had enacted a law in 2023 reserving one third of seats for women in Parliament and in State legislative assemblies. Women's full and equal participation was key to the aspiration of India to be a developed nation by 2047.

115. During the Group of 20 presidency of India, women-led development had been prioritized, and the Working Group on Women's Empowerment had been launched to champion progress for women in decision-making and development.

116. In the Union Budget of India for 2024–25, more than \$36 billion had been allocated to schemes benefiting women and girls. Flagship programmes had increased female literacy, and over 12.9 million women received maternity benefits.

117. Her Government had dispersed loans to help women from underserved communities start businesses, provided financial assistance empowering women in rural areas to become self-reliant and revolutionized women's financial inclusion, enhancing their economic independence and ability to participate in the workforce.

118. **Ms. Lortkipanidze** (Georgia) said that the promotion of women's rights was addressed in the national human rights strategy for 2022–2030 and the national human rights action plan for 2024–2026. In 2022, her Government had approved State compensation rules and amounts for women victims of violence, for whom it had also adopted national referral procedures in January 2024.

119. The Innovation Grants for Regions programme had been launched to encourage female entrepreneurship, while Enterprise Georgia provided increased funding to women-owned business entities. Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency had been established to enhance women's employment in technology parks, with several programmes solely for women implemented in the first half of 2024.

120. The national action plan for the period 2022–2024 was focused on women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution. The delegation of Georgia raised the needs of women internally displaced by conflict in the Geneva International Discussions. However, women and girls in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions faced human rights violations owing to the ongoing occupation by the Russian Federation, which hindered her Government's ability to implement protective policies there.

121. **Ms. Ndoundou** (Congo) said that specific measures were regularly adopted to promote gender issues and eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination, including making domestic violence and trafficking in persons illegal. The Congo had enacted Act No. 22-2019 of 17 June 2019 to combat trafficking in persons, and the Mouébara Act No. 19-2022 of 4 May 2022 to combat violence against women.

122. Actions promoting and protecting women's rights included the adoption of the 2021–2025 National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence and capacity-building for law enforcement and magistrates to assist victims of violence against women and girls.

123. The principles of gender equality and gender parity were guaranteed and ensured women's representation in political and administrative roles. Preventive actions against gender-based violence had achieved encouraging results but remained insufficient and lacked coordination in the broader strategy for vulnerable populations.

124. **Ms. Alabbad** (Kuwait) said that, over the past decades, women in her country had become a symbol of strength and social progress. Currently, women comprised more than 58 per cent of the public sector workforce, 48 per cent of the private sector workforce and more than 70 per cent of students and researchers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Women were involved in decision-making in all executive and legislative institutions, including ministerial, municipal and parliamentary councils. To date, 88 women prosecutors and 19 women judges had been appointed. Women held 22 per cent of all diplomatic posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, comprised 54 per cent of employees of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and held 47 per cent of managerial and supervisory positions in the military. Women served as police officers and held positions in the Kuwait Emiri Guard.

125. The United Nations played an important role in the achievement of gender equality through the setting of global standards. Her Government had formulated laws and policies to ensure that those standards were implemented, in line with all international instruments ratified by Kuwait.

126. The Jeddah Document on Women's Rights in Islam, adopted in 2023 at the International Conference on Women in Islam, was a basic reference for women's rights and duties in Islam. The Document confirmed that Islam guaranteed women's rights to education, work, social and political participation and their right to hold leadership positions.

127. **Ms. Hussain** (Maldives) said that her country had played a role in establishing the International Day of Women in Diplomacy on 24 June through General Assembly resolution [76/269](#).

128. The Gender Equality Act of 2016 was being supported in her country by a gender equality plan for 2022–2026, and a national gender statistics strategy was under development to support evidence-based policymaking.

129. Her Government was pursuing women's economic empowerment through initiatives such as a loan facility for women entrepreneurs, with 25 per cent of funds set aside for women with disabilities. In July 2024, the first woman Commissioner-General of Customs had been appointed in the country. The national health insurance scheme had been expanded to cover in vitro fertilization and endometriosis, empowering women to lead healthier lives.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*

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