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Agenda item 3 (a)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/5](#))

Interactive dialogue: peaceful and inclusive societies

Chair’s summary

1. On 19 March 2025, the Commission on the Status of Women held an interactive dialogue on peaceful and inclusive societies. The dialogue was aimed at showcasing good practices and exploring how the realization of the women and peace and security agenda could contribute to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and, in the current global context, how the agenda could be an essential lever for accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Vice-Chairs of the Commission, Robin de Vogel (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and Nataliia Mudrenko (Ukraine), chaired the dialogue. The Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office, Awa Dabo, moderated the dialogue.

2. The following speakers made opening remarks: the Special Envoy and Ambassador at Large for Women, Peace and Security and Empowerment of Women in International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia, Darja Bavdaž Kuret; a Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, Anne Havn; the Director of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Sarah Hendriks; the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Nègès Mawon, Pascale Solages; the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, Mavic Cabrera Balleza; and a former African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace, Khouloud Ben Mansour. Two Member



State representatives, one representative of the United Nations and three civil society and youth speakers shared good practices, highlighted key issues and discussed priorities and immediate actions during the panel discussion. Representatives of seven Member States, one observer organization and one civil society organization contributed to the dialogue. The speakers and moderator made closing remarks.

Strengthening the role of the women and peace and security agenda to build peaceful and inclusive societies

3. Speakers and Member States highlighted how the women and peace and security agenda was critical to building peaceful and inclusive societies and evoked the upcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). Some speakers emphasized the alarming increase in military expenditure, which was contrary to the call made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for excessive military expenditure to be reduced and resources to be redirected from military expenses to peace and development. Some Member States acknowledged the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls.

4. Several Member States underscored the importance of including women and girls in peace processes as a proven strategy for achieving sustainable peace and stability and emphasized that the full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making was central to building resilient, peaceful and inclusive societies. Two Member States underscored that the inclusion of women and girls in peace processes was a core priority in their foreign policy. Several Member States reaffirmed their commitment to continuing to advocate for women's rights and the needs of women and girls and support their inclusion in political, peace, security, humanitarian and recovery processes.

5. Several Member States outlined their national efforts in support of the women and peace and security agenda, including the adoption, implementation and localization of national action plans, and reported progress in ensuring the inclusion, non-discrimination and protection of women and girls, including through the promotion of the youth and peace and security agenda and the role of women in early warning and response mechanisms and community dialogues. One civil society speaker highlighted positive examples and good practices from the Latin America and Caribbean region of promoting the inclusion of women, including Indigenous women, and women's organizations in peace processes and government institutions.

Supporting the efforts of women and women's civil society organizations as agents of peace

6. A few speakers and Member States highlighted the role of women's civil society organizations and women activists. Despite enormous challenges, those organizations and activists continued to work on the frontlines, mediate conflicts, negotiate peace and provide essential services. The need to address and act on the growing threats, harassment and violence they faced was also underscored, with a view to creating safer and more inclusive spaces for women. Speakers called for greater direct and sustained funding for their work, beyond symbolic gestures and rhetorical support.

7. One Member State highlighted the need to ensure the availability and safeguarding of services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. A civil society speaker highlighted the need for more resources to be allocated for the prevention and elimination of femicide and gender-based violence, and for compensation and services for the victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

Leveraging mechanisms and partnerships for the women and peace and security agenda

8. One civil society speaker emphasized the importance of building partnerships across sectors and social movements to foster adaptability and learning in addressing interconnected issues, as the challenges faced by women in conflict and crisis were often exacerbated by poverty, climate change and the lack of access to healthcare and good quality education. Partnerships also played an important role in building trust, which was essential for peacebuilding.

9. Two civil society speakers underscored the importance of women's economic empowerment, especially at the local level, including the role played by local businesses, microfinance institutions and women entrepreneurs. They highlighted economic inequalities and the need for feminist economic models.

10. Several Member States emphasized the importance of financing and gender-responsive budgeting, as well as that of providing sustained funding to support grass-roots organizations.

11. Speakers highlighted the role played by the media in promoting peace and the need for communications and media training. One Member State emphasized the role of women media workers in conflict contexts and the need to avoid gender stereotypes in the media and promote media content with greater gender balance.

Strengthening synergies between the women and peace and security agenda and the youth and peace and security agenda

12. One speaker emphasized the need to increase alignment between the women and peace and security agenda and the youth and peace and security agenda, as young women were central to peace processes. She noted that Sustainable Development Goal 16 could not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young women and recommended that data-driven policymaking take into account disaggregated data on young women. The speaker also called for gender-responsive approaches to national action plans on youth and peace and security and recommended that both constituencies should contribute as co-designers of such plans.

13. One Member State highlighted the importance of engaging young people in decision-making so as to secure lasting peace.

Addressing key challenges and priority issues in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda

14. One Member State emphasized that, while the women and peace and security agenda was a cross-cutting priority in the Security Council, it had been challenging for the Council to make any meaningful progress in 2024 and that the challenge would be intensified in 2025. Another Member State underscored the issue of low implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, despite the strong normative framework.

15. Several Member States and speakers highlighted the low participation of women in key peace processes, despite evidence showing that peace agreements were more durable, inclusive and likely to be implemented when women were included. They called for increased efforts to ensure women's participation in political and peace processes. One Member State suggested several good practices, including creating their own alternative peace tables for women, engaging men as allies, engaging mediators and negotiating parties and setting an example at the national level, by establishing inclusive teams in national institutions and in the design of mediation processes.

16. One civil society speaker emphasized the need for health and psychosocial support, highlighting the link between conflict and mental health issues, which were often aggravated by the misuse of technology and prevented young women from participating in peacebuilding.
