

**Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission
2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture
“Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding”**

**Electronic consultation
21 April – 1 May 2020**

Written statement of the Argentine Republic

- Allow me first to express the gratitude of my Delegation for the initiative of the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Blanchard, to convene this virtual consultation on Women, Peace and Security, which offers an opportunity to share good practices and lessons learned, assess progress on recommendations made and identify priorities where there has been little or uneven progress with a view to promote the participation of women in peacebuilding efforts and to strengthen the convening, bridge and advisory role of the PBC in this area. I would also like to thank the briefers for the presentations made and information provided.
- Openness and inclusiveness should be pillars that guide the process of reviewing the architecture of the Peacebuilding, in accordance with the provisions of the parallel and substantially identical resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. In this regards, Argentina reiterates its full support for the course of action designed to move forward with informal consultations, before starting the formal negotiation process, in particular through focused discussions on specific issues.
- Argentina welcomes the considerable progress made by the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda since the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), including the Gender Strategy adopted by the PBC in order to help advance the WPS agenda.
- Argentina considers that the PBC should continue to provide a platform for women peacebuilders from different contexts to share their diverse experiences. In support of resolution 1325, the PBC should promote women rights, gender equality and the full and meaningful participation of women across all decision making processes, from regional organizations, national policies and women networks.
- The Argentine National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325/2000 (adopted by Decree 1895/2015) stresses the commitment of Argentina to this issue, which is materialized by national and international actions such as the support and participation in the "Elsie" initiative, the “Group of Friends on Women, Peace and Security”, the participation

in “Commitment 2025 on Women's Inclusion in Peace Processes”, and the active work of the National Focal Point created to monitor and follow up on Resolution 1325/2000.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought an unprecedented global health crisis with profound social, economic and political consequences, including relating to international peace and security. Its risks could reverse decades of progress in the fight against poverty and exacerbating already high levels of inequality within and between countries. More immediately, the pandemic has the potential to worsen the situation in conflict-affected countries, overwhelming already weak and faltering health systems and assailing the most vulnerable: those caught up in conflicts, refugees and others forcibly displaced by violence and persecution, vulnerable population especially women and children.
- The pandemic is disproportionately affecting women and girls in several ways. Women and children in conflict-affected settings are particularly likely to face obstacles accessing health care, livelihoods/education and other critical support. Their needs for protection — including domestic and gender-based violence (GBV) — may increase with the imposition of much needed social distancing measures and movement restrictions. In terms of girls education, the risk of school drop-out and caregiving burden tends to increase if schools, with the limited remote learning system, are closed for an indefinite period to mitigate the spread of the outbreak as was the case in the Ebola outbreak. The process of reviewing the architecture of the Peacebuilding should take into account these new challenges and set creative solutions to address them.
- Argentina agrees with the findings of the Report of the Secretary General S/2019/800. We live in a world where women face exclusion from peace and political processes, where the number of attacks against women human rights defenders, humanitarians and peacebuilders continues to rise, where the attempted erosion of international human rights standards persists and where xenophobia, racism, intolerance, homophobia, transphobia and violent misogyny continue to spread. We also continue to see high levels of conflict, violence and instability which will fuel further global insecurity and crises. Bold and urgent action is needed to ensure that the women and peace and security agenda continue to strengthening commitments and create an impactful action rather than just empty rhetoric.
- Argentina strongly supports the meaningful participation of women in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements. As the 2019 Secretary-General's Report on “Women and Peace and Security” indicates, the participation of women as delegates and decision-makers in these processes has been difficult. Therefore, Argentina echoes the call of the Secretary General recommending Member States to propose and support the appointment of women as mediators and negotiators to participate in all peace processes and participating in an increasingly direct and significant way in the supervision and application of peace agreements.
- In August 2019, the "II Meeting of Federal Network of Mediators with a Gender Perspective" took place in Buenos Aires, which was attended by national authorities, UN-WOMEN, non-

governmental organizations and representatives from Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the European Union. In this meeting, Argentina presented the proposal to create a Regional Network of Women Mediators in the Southern Cone, with the aim of strengthening the area of women mediators in the region, to promote empowerment and greater participation of women in the peacebuilding.

- Argentina considers that the Organization need to ensure an increasing the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. We must accept our shared responsibility to increase inclusion and eradicate discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, ability, age or other status. Efforts to support and resource the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes must be urgently enhanced, as must endeavors to promote women’s civil society organizations, peacebuilders and human rights defenders as key political constituents in the maintenance of peace and security.
- The collective promotion of women human rights as a core objective of the PBC should ensure access for women to political, economic, financial and natural resources, decision-making and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, without discrimination. This is essential to the fulfilment of normative commitments and legal obligations and a necessary response to an evidence that cannot be ignored: the existence of gender inequality and gender-based violence in all societies as a key factor in increasing the society’s risk of descending into violent conflict.
- I thank you.