



ARMENIA

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mher MARGARYAN
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations**

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

30 April 2020

I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Canada, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission Marc-André Blanchard for convening this virtual consultation to reflect upon the topic of full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding. I also thank Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women and the representatives of civil society organizations and women networks for their important inputs to this conversation.

The twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action create an important momentum for mainstreaming women, peace and security agenda in the framework of the 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. I am hopeful that, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19, the virtual consultation will be an important contribution to the 2020 report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace on the theme of “women’s participation in peacebuilding”.

The Secretary-General’s recent report on the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action reveals certain progress in terms of growing number of member states adopting national action plans for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

Armenia supports the operationalization of the commitments towards the promotion of the women, peace and security agenda. The adoption of the National Action Plan on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 by Armenia in 2019 promotes coherent and coordinated government policies for enhancing the role of women in the security sector governance and reform, in particular their participation in peacekeeping, as well as peacebuilding activities.

We have supported the Secretary-General’s Action for Peacekeeping Initiative and the efforts taken towards equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes.

Ensuring solid and meaningful involvement of women in conflict prevention, post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation processes is key to amplify the chances of credible and sustainable peace.

The involvement of women in peacekeeping missions is among the priorities of reforms implemented by the Armenian Armed Forces. Armenia has already deployed women peacekeepers to UN and UN-mandated operations, and undertakes measures to increase the number of uniformed women in peacekeeping.

Mr. Chair,

The civil society is an important partner for governments in scaling up the participation of women in peace processes. Non-governmental organizations, women's networks and grassroots initiatives are instrumental for women's engagement in peace and security related activities through supporting their involvement in reconstruction and rehabilitation activities. Since 2015, the HALO Trust (the world's largest humanitarian mine clearance organization) has been training and employing local women in humanitarian demining missions in the affected areas of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The "Women for Peace" campaign initiated by the spouse of the Prime Minister of Armenia provides an inclusive platform for women and mothers to promote peace and reconciliation in our region and beyond.

Inclusivity is key to promote dialogue, building confidence across dividing lines and advancing peacebuilding processes. Engagement of all women caught up in conflicts, in particular, those residing in conflict areas, is vital to promote peace processes. In this regard, we encourage the Peacebuilding Commission in implementing its Gender Strategy to identify mechanisms for addressing the needs of all women affected by conflicts, in an inclusive manner.

Mr. Chair,

The current crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is a test that involves not only the healthcare systems, economic and social protection mechanisms, but also for global values of solidarity, commitment to equality, non-discrimination and protection of the most vulnerable and marginalized. The pandemic has disproportionate impact, in particular on women and girls affected by conflict, including those residing in conflict areas, displaced or facing the risk of displacement. Free and unhindered humanitarian access to the conflict areas is ever more crucial for addressing the specific protection needs of women and girls.

Response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 on women affected by conflicts needs to be adequately reflected in future plans on integrating gender perspective into the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Armenia is fully committed to the promotion of gender-sensitive policies, as a priority in its domestic and foreign policy agenda. The Government of Armenia attaches particular importance to promoting women's representation at all decision-making levels.

We are pleased to note that the Political Declaration on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Forth Conference on Women adopted on 9 March 2020 at the 64th session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW64) specifies the importance of strengthening the protecting women and girls in armed conflict and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all stages of peace processes, recognizes their leadership and the need for their enhanced representation in peacekeeping.

As Permanent Representative of Armenia and Chair of CSW for its 64th and 65th sessions, I am determined to continue to support the efforts towards greater gender equality through enhancement of women's participation in all areas, including through substantial involvement of women in peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities.

I look forward to our continued dialogue on this important agenda and to our further deliberations.

Thank you.

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