

**PBC Virtual consultation on the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture:
“Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding”**

22-29 April 2020

Opening Remarks by the PBC Chair

Excellencies and dear colleagues,

I am pleased to open this virtual consultation organized by the Peacebuilding Commission, open to all Member States, on the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture, focusing on full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding.

This consultation, which was originally scheduled to take place on March 16th, is the first to take place in a virtual format due to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank our briefers and Member States for your flexibility in adapting to this new format.

The 2020 peacebuilding review coincides with the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325, and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This is an important moment to reflect on the status of implementation of global commitments under the women, peace and security agenda as it pertains to peacebuilding.

And as we work to marshal a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women is more important than ever.

Following the 2016 resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the PBC adopted a Gender Strategy with a view to mainstreaming gender in all aspects of the Commission's work, including by further promoting women's participation in peacebuilding efforts.

Since 2016 the Commission has integrated a gender dimension into its country-specific, regional and thematic discussions and strives to routinely invite women leaders to its meetings and meet with women's organizations during its visits.

It has held dedicated meetings with a focus on women and peacebuilding, including on challenges and gaps in financing for women-led peacebuilding initiatives.

The PBC has committed to continue providing a platform for women peacebuilders from different contexts to share their diverse experiences, and to reflect these perspectives in the PBC's advice to the Security Council.

However, PBC members have acknowledged that we can do more in implementing the Gender Strategy and helping to mainstream women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peacebuilding.

This consultation offers us an opportunity:

- to share good practices and lessons learned;
- to assess progress on recommendations made;
- to identify priorities where there has been little or uneven progress;
- and to be pragmatic in finding concrete ways to further implement what was agreed five years ago.

I am pleased that we have been able to line up an excellent set of briefers for this consultation, and invite all Member States to listen to and reflect on the briefings as they prepare their own inputs.

I thank the following briefers for having provided recorded statements for this consultation:

- **Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, Executive Director, UN Women
- **Ms. Euphemia Akos Dzathor**, Member, WANEP/Women in Peacebuilding Network, Ghana
- **Ms. Ana Cristina Pino Cabrera**, Director, Corporación Centro de Apoyo Popular, Colombia
- **Ms Tintswalo Makhubele**, Secretary-General, South Africa Congress of Non-Profit Organizations

Excellencies,

Your participation in this consultation is a testament to the strong commitment of the UN and its Member States to further strengthen the work of the United Nations on peacebuilding.

While we regret that we are unable to meet in person, I am confident that this virtual consultation will provide useful inputs to the Secretary-General for his consideration and inclusion in the 2020 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Thank you for your participation.