

REMARKS
BY
ESHETE TILAHUN WOLDEYES
MINISTER COUNSELLOR AT PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS
AT
THE AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL CONSULTATION OF THE
PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION 2020 REVIEW OF THE
PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE
“FULL, EQUAL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN
PEACEBUILDING”

01 MAY 2020
NEW YORK

Mr. Chair

I would like to thank Canada for convening this timely consultation on the agenda of women peace and security. I would also like to express our appreciations to the briefers.

As this year marks the 20th anniversary of adoption of the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and quarter a century since the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted; we are hopeful that implementation of the commitments will show progress in the context 2030 Agenda. We must be, however, mindful of the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that have a serious weakening effect on gains by countries under the PBC agenda.

We strongly support women's role in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, mediation and peace enforcement be strengthened. These roles of women are not only demonstration of equality, but beneficial for maintenance and promotion peace and security. This is particularly true in Africa where women have unreplaceable role in the sustenance of families. Provision of financial and technical support through the Peacebuilding Commission for empowerment of women is what we always advocate, in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

We believe that the 2020 review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture offers an opportunity to consolidate integrated thinking and assessment towards the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding. Ethiopia strongly supports, the need to increase women's role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, and these elements must be central in the review. Women are outstanding

in providing victims and local communities particularly to fellow women and children who are most vulnerable to conflict and violence situations. We believe the sense of security and confidence towards women is very strong.

In light of the above, I wish to highlight the following;

1. We must underscore the necessity of encompassing empowerment of local women peacebuilders in the review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. No doubt, the important organs of the architecture PBC, PBF and PBSO can contribute in this endeavor.
2. Prioritizing the gender dimension of the Architecture into PBC's country specific strategies and regional as well as thematic discussions is a very useful intervention. Providing the necessary support reference to the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 by countries under the PBC agenda will be another area to expand integration of the gender dimension of the review.
3. The Peacebuilding fund is not a developmental fund, and it can't provide continuous funding mechanism, but it can help to avail and release resources that are desperately needed to support local women peacebuilders. This is especially useful in the context of rural areas.
4. Attention in addressing special needs of women in conflict affected situations are often overlooked including in the UN Peacekeeping Operations. The review of the Architecture must, therefore, clearly map the role of women in prevention, participation, protection as well as relief and recovery. Measures to improve women's participation and representation in conflict resolution, especially through leadership positions has to be encouraged.

Mr. Chair,

Challenges to protect and promote women's rights, lack of funding for national budgets need to implement WPS National Action Plan and weak coordination among national, sub-regional, regional and international level still needs streamlining.

Full participation of women in decision-making at the center of a national policies witnesses serious gap. In this regard, Ethiopia, under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, attained a better gender parity in the cabinet. This includes appointment of the First woman Head of State and women to head the Supreme Court as well as the National Election Board. The newly formed Ministry of Peace, a very important portfolio including security sector institutions, is also under the leadership of a woman Minister.

We believe it is time to translate words to concrete actions and the agenda of gender mainstreaming at national, regional and international levels must be interlinked with objectives and strategies of women organizations. Despite some efforts, there is still a significant a gap between our aims and ambitions. Political support and financial commitment provided for women empowerment including their Peacebuilding role must be always prioritized.

I thank you,