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**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**

Mister President,

I first wish to thank you for organizing this timely electronic consultation. I also want to thank the peacebuilders from South Africa and Colombia for their useful insights and recommendations.

As we are celebrating this year the 20 years of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325, and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, there is no doubt that we are still far from the goals we have collectively set for ourselves. Worse, the progress that has been achieved is now undermined by the COVID-19 crisis. As UNWomen Executive Director rightly pointed out in her statement, the ongoing pandemic has revealed once again the pervasive gender inequalities in our societies and exacerbated the challenges that women are facing globally. This disease outbreak and its consequences have disproportionate effects on women and girls. Not only are women largely on the front line of the COVID-19 response globally, as around 70% of health and social workers are women, but also social norms create settings where women are the primary care givers at home. Yet, they are too often excluded from decision-making on the COVID-19 response. France fully supports in this regard the Secretary General’s recent policy brief on the impact of the pandemic on women and the efforts of the United Nations, including UN Women, in responding to COVID-19.

France is committed to engage women and women’s organizations in decision-making in all aspects of the response to the pandemic. For this reason, we have taken measures to support women’s rights organizations, such as allocating 1 million euros to support those organizations in addition to the usual grants.

We recognize that the Women, peace and security agenda provides us with a very useful insight on how we can “build back better”, and in particular how to protect women while ensuring their participation. Protection comes also, and mainly, through empowerment. Empowering women is indispensable to sustaining peace.

France remains fully committed to the full implementation of the “Women, peace and security” agenda. In 2019, France granted 232.3 million euros to projects contributing to the implementation of the agenda. We are particularly committed to support the victims of sexual violence in conflict and therefore provided financial support of 6.2 million euros to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence created by Nobel peace prize recipients Dr. Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad. The 2021 Generation Equality Forum, organized jointly with Mexico and UN Women,

will also allow us to pursue our holistic approach in favor of women. Achieving equality between women and men is fundamental to building peaceful societies and to achieving Agenda 2030.

We welcome the Peacebuilding Commission's active engagement in promoting mainstreaming of the WPS agenda. We know that peace processes that fully involve women are more robust and last longer, and that societies that take gender into account are less vulnerable to crisis. This is the foundation of the Secretary-General's strategy for lasting peace that we fully support. We also commend the strong commitment of the Peacebuilding Fund toward a better political participation of women and in implementing gender-sensitive prevention and peacebuilding projects. We also commend and support its systematic incorporation of gender in its programming.

We also encourage the peacebuilding commission to invite more women briefers, especially women engaged for promoting peace and reconciliation at the community level. It's very useful to listen their point of view as peacebuilders. The visit of the chairs of the country configuration should also be focused on women participation and empowerment.

UN peacekeeping operations need to establish mechanisms and strategies across the peace and conflict continuum to address the structural barriers that still marginalize women from peace and security related decision-making. This can be done by strengthening mechanisms monitoring progress and increase accountability for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

Je vous remercie./.



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