



2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture

“Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in Peacebuilding”

Electronic Consultation: 1 May 2020

- Written Statement by Germany -

Germany commends the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Ambassador Marc-André Blanchard, for organizing the virtual thematic consultations on the “Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in Peacebuilding”. We attach great importance to implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as well as to its linkages to Peacebuilding. We therefore welcome the PBC’s focus on how to better integrate the WPS agenda as a cross-cutting issue into its work. We thank the panelists for sharing their perspectives and their important insights from which these consultations have benefitted greatly.

2020 is a special year for the WPS Agenda as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on WPS, and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. Many steps have successfully been taken in strengthening women’s participation in peace processes. However, it is critical to reflect not only on the achievements made but also on the vast remaining challenges and possible reforms. With a view to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of crucial importance that we continue our efforts which aim at achieving the complete and effective inclusion of women in peacebuilding. New challenges have presented themselves, and our response needs to address the “new” way of working.

The remaining challenges and gaps for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding processes are manifold, including lack of political will, logistical and administrative difficulties to travel to meetings, to access and be present at negotiations; gender-blind transitional mechanisms, lack of funding; and lack of coordination among donors. Germany is convinced that strengthening the measures aiming at combating those challenges is crucial. We welcome the PBC’s active engagement and fully believe that the PBC can play a more active role in combating the challenges and gaps for women’s participation at all stages and all levels of peacebuilding processes, considering its unique

bridging and convening character. We very much welcome these consultations to be part of the Review Process of the Peacebuilding Architecture 2020.

In order to contribute to the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding, Germany actively engages in several areas, including funding for WPS, contributing to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), and supporting Women Peacebuilders and Mediators:

1. Germany underscores that funding is crucial for an effective inclusion of women in peacebuilding processes. In 2019, Germany donated 40 million Euros to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), which exceeds the minimum share of 15% of funds for gender equality and women's empowerment set by the UNSG. Germany further commends the UNSG for his achievements in this field, especially by greatly exceeding this quota in the PBF.
2. Germany remains fully committed to strengthening the WPHF. In 2019, Germany contributed 3 million Euros to the WPHF in order to support UN Women and civil society organizations in the implementation of the WPS Agenda and to contribute to making peacebuilding processes as inclusive as possible. A further contribution of 1 million Euros in 2020 has been announced. Germany encourages the close communication between the PBF and WPHF which could help create synergies and coherence in order to support the efforts of grassroots organizations on the ground in building and sustaining peace.
3. Germany further recognizes the importance of Women Peacebuilders and Mediators and is therefore actively supporting the participation of women peacebuilders, civil society representatives and women mediators in peace processes around the world. Since 2017, Germany together with UN Women in cooperation with the African Union, has been supporting the African Women's Leaders Network in its establishment and capacity building with the aim to inter alia contribute to inclusive peace processes throughout Africa by including women in all phases of conflicts and crises. Furthermore, Germany has been hosting an annual workshop on WPS since 2011. One of this year's panels was meant to focus on how to ensure women's

meaningful involvement in peace negotiations. Due to COVID-19 the event had to be postponed and will be resumed as soon as regulations will allow for it.

In closing, Germany would like to reiterate that the inclusion of women remains a fundamental prerequisite for ensuring sustainable and peaceful development. The Review Process of the Peacebuilding Architecture 2020 is therefore another opportunity to make measurable progress on the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding processes.

Thank you.