

**Draft MT statement for the Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the
Peacebuilding Commission**

**2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture “Full, equal and meaningful
participation of women in peacebuilding”**

Mr President

We thank the Peacebuilding Commission for organising this electronic consultation. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of crucial importance that we continue with our work.

2020 was supposed to be the year for women’s rights and gender equality, with the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 1325. Against the backdrop of an already difficult battle against the pushback against women’s rights, the pandemic has deepened pre-existing inequalities and exposed vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems, which are amplifying the impacts of the pandemic.

Mr President

Malta is deeply concerned by the reports of increased violence against women and girls around the world, particularly in conflict-affected areas and in fragile, humanitarian and armed conflict affected contexts, where social cohesion is already undermined and services are limited. In this regard, we intend to heed to the UN Secretary General’s call that the effective implementation of the women, peace and security agenda needs to remain a priority through this period; in fact, as previously stated, Malta intends to launch its first Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan this year.

Among its various objectives are awareness raising, the organisation of training sessions for persons working on WPS-related matters, the provision of health services, the conduction of research, the prevention of human trafficking and increased advocacy at the international level.

Mr President,

In closing, we join the call to strengthen women leadership and to ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of women and women's organizations in decision-making processes and in all stages of response to COVID19, including women peacebuilders in fragile, conflict and post-conflict settings, as well as the need to include gender mainstreaming across the board.

Thank You.