

[Electronic consultation]

**ROK's Remarks at the Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the PBC
2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture
“Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding”**

1 May 2020

I would like to first thank the briefers for sharing their insights and experiences. I also take this opportunity to thank the PBC and PBSO for their important efforts to more systematically address women's human rights, gender equality and the gendered impact of peacebuilding.

After two decades of implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the international community has delivered significant progress. Despite the progresses we have achieved, however, there still remains a wide gap between our goals and the reality on the ground. Women are still amongst the most vulnerable groups in conflicts, and much more needs to be done in terms of women's political and economic empowerment. Bearing this in mind, I would like to underline three key elements, or 3Ps, that should be highlighted: Participation, Persistence and Prevention.

First, Participation. The meaningful and inclusive participation of women in the full continuum of peace processes is essential.

In line with the DPO's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, the ongoing efforts of the heads of missions and Special Envoys in promoting direct participation of women throughout all stages of peace processes need to be supported by the Member States. This need to occur through the nomination and appointment of women as mediators and negotiators in all formal peace processes.

In this connection, the Republic of Korea is proud to have already pledged to increase the representation of our female peacekeeping officers and observers from 17% to 25% by the year 2028.

The Government of the Republic of Korea also established the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on WPS. While the first NAP was formulated in 2014, the second NAP for the period 2018-2020, adopted in 2018, is currently being implemented jointly by nine ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Accordingly, the ROK has achieved 27.3% of women's participation in peacekeeping operations in terms of staff officer and observer positions

In addition to our domestic efforts, the Republic of Korea has been actively

contributing to global efforts for further strengthening the critical role of women in the field of peace and security. This includes our leadership in the Peacebuilding Commission as previous Chair and our robust support of the recently-released 2020-2024 Peacebuilding Fund strategy, which clearly lays out the Secretary-General's prioritization of women empowerment projects.

Second, Persistence. The international community must demonstrate persistence through its political will and full commitment in the implementation of the WPS agenda.

At the national level, the Government of the Republic of Korea puts great priority on the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It launched the new initiative of "Action with Women and Peace" in June 2018 to join the common endeavors of the global community against sexual violence in conflict. Under this initiative, the ROK, in collaboration with international organizations such as UNFPA, UNICEF and IOM, has supported Rohingya refugee women and Syrian refugee women, as well as victims of gender-based violence in Afghanistan and the Central African Republic. In addition, the first international conference on "Action with Women and Peace" was held in Seoul in July 2019 to further enhance the WPS agenda globally, while the second conference is in preparation with a view to bringing sharper focus to essentiality of the victim and survivor-centered approach. The outcome of this Conference will be discussed comprehensively during the upcoming Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference in 2021, which will be held in Seoul.

Third, Prevention. The building of adequate capacities under a long-term approach to address the root causes of conflict is crucial to ensure the prevention of violence against women and youth.

In this regard, the Republic of Korea has been promoting its National Action Plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 to raise greater public awareness of the WPS agenda, in both on and off-line channels. This includes development of educational programmes in both primary and secondary schools for interdisciplinary learning for the WPS agenda. We are of the view that similar measures should be benchmarked in other societies as well.

Mr. Chair,

As the year 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the landmark resolution 1325, we simply can no longer be complacent in further advancing the WPS agenda until it becomes a bedrock norm throughout the international community. And we must not lose sight of this overarching goal as the world collectively responds to the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. In this vein, I assure you of the firm commitment of the Republic of Korea in continuing to work closely with the international community to protect and empower women as agents of peace and development in the 20 years to come and beyond.

I thank you. /END/