



Security Council

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Letter dated 14 March 2022 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the 8989th meeting of the Security Council, convened on 8 March 2022 under the agenda item “Women and peace and security: women’s economic inclusion and participation as a key to building peace”. The interventions of the in-person participants will be published as an official record of the Security Council (S/PV.8989).

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members for the 8989th meeting, the following delegations submitted written statements, copies of which are enclosed: Colombia, Kazakhstan, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia. These statements will be issued as a document of the Security Council in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to Permanent Representatives of members of the Security Council (S/2020/372), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, and reference to the document will be made in S/PV.8989.

(Signed) Lana Nusseibeh
President of the Security Council



Annex I**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations**

[Original: Spanish]

Colombia appreciates the Security Council's efforts aimed at placing the women and peace and security agenda at the centre of the debate. As we mentioned in January (see S/2022/38), gender equity is one of the transformational legacies of the Government of President Iván Duque Márquez. Colombia has been committed to achieving greater economic independence for women as a fundamental aspect of preventing gender-based violence.

The topic of today's debate, raised by the United Arab Emirates Council presidency, is of fundamental importance for a country such as Colombia, which is operating in a peacebuilding framework. This occasion gives us an opportunity to share with pride as well as humility our progress and lessons learned through the positive and affirmative measures that we have taken, which have allowed us to advance in the economic empowerment of women. Furthermore, it allows us to share the way in which gender equity has been a guideline for the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace through the peace with legality policy framework.

In Colombia, the implementation of this public policy is based on a women's equity approach that responds to the differentiated impacts of the armed conflict. In this context, the State has worked to implement resolution 1325 (2000) by integrating its guidelines into national policies.

Under the leadership of Vice-President Marta Lucía Ramírez, the first woman to hold that position in Colombia, the Government has, as a priority, positioned women in the design of public policies and the implementation of new programmes. By implementing strategies to promote political inclusion and economic empowerment, it has managed to reduce the gender gap that had been evident for years in various regions of the country affected by violence.

In terms of women's political and democratic participation in decision-making bodies for the implementation of the Final Agreement, initiatives taken include the implementation, since 2019, of the Government's High Instance of Gender as a tool for realizing women's rights within the Agreement framework; drafting 51 indicators for monitoring the mainstreaming of the gender approach; training 12,000 women leaders within the framework of the Comprehensive Programme of Guarantees for Women Leaders and Human Rights Defenders; ensuring the permanent representation of women's platforms in the National Commission of Security Guarantees, which met eight times in 2021; and setting up the Women's and Gender Operating Committee, in December 2020, which generates recommendations for building an approach that mainstreams women and the gender in the Comprehensive Security System for the Exercise of Politics.

Beyond the implementation of the Final Agreement and the peace with legality policy, it is worth noting that, under the Duque Márquez Government, the country has for the first time had in place a Cabinet with gender parity. Similarly, in order to elect House of Representatives candidates in the next two legislative periods in the 16 special transitional electoral districts for peace, which were created for victims, specific measures were included so that women's social organizations could nominate women candidates.

With regard to economic inclusion in the framework of the peace with legality policy, several achievements can be highlighted. Between 2019 and 2020, access to

credit for women increased by 25 per cent, and the value of rural housing subsidies increased by 40 per cent. Likewise, 398,290.46 hectares were officially set aside and awarded to 29,758 rural women, who represented 45 per cent of the beneficiaries.

Within the framework of reintegration policies, the gender approach was included in a cross-cutting manner. Accordingly, in 2019, the National Reintegration Council's working group on gender was launched, and today 94 per cent of reintegrated women are banked, and 85 per cent are linked to lines of economic sustainability through productive projects or labour inclusion. Women's participation in peacebuilding is a priority issue that contributes to achieving the transformations that the peace with legality policy offers to women, particularly rural women: better living conditions translated into economic autonomy, as well as the creation of spaces that provide dignified working conditions so as to break the cycles of violence that violate women's rights.

There remain many challenges in Colombia related to the economic inclusion and the participation of women in peacebuilding. However, the road we have travelled allows us to lay the foundations for a future in which women will continue to be at the centre of policies aimed at promoting a peaceful society.

Annex II

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, Magzhan Ilyassov

At the outset, on the occasion of International Women's Day, I honour and salute women around the world, and commend the United Arab Emirates presidency of the Security Council for highlighting the important theme of economic inclusion through partnership in today's open debate on women and peace and security.

In his most recent annual report on women and peace and security (S/2021/827), the Secretary-General notes that women have been the hardest hit by the economic fallout of the coronavirus disease pandemic. We therefore fully support the Secretary-General's call for increasing women's access to economic resources, decision-making and participation in peace and security. This can be made effective only when each State Member of the United Nations integrates all four pillars of the women and peace and security agenda in its national policies and legal and institutional environments.

Gender equality has been an important priority for Kazakhstan since our independence 30 years ago. We have been gradually introducing and implementing progressive women-oriented policies and reforms to improve our quality of life and create equal opportunities for all. These measures have made women resilient and enabled them to play a robust role in national development through self-determination and the capacity to control their destinies.

Consequently, we have achieved significant progress in addressing gender issues. We have reduced our gender inequality index by 60 per cent, introduced a 30 per cent quota for women and youth in Parliament and local representative bodies, and increased the proportion of women managers in State-owned corporations to the same level of 30 per cent.

In addition, more stringent penalties for sexual crimes and domestic violence were introduced in 2020 to better protect our women and children. Furthermore, a presidential decree was signed on further measures to promote human rights, with gender equality as one of its key priorities.

We are extending our support beyond our borders. At the regional level, we are focusing on Afghanistan with a multidimensional approach to conflict recovery, reintegration, development and humanitarian assistance. The lack of access to quality and inclusive education is the main obstacle to achieving women's empowerment. That is why we have initiated a joint programme with the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme to educate Afghan women in our universities. We are in the second phase of that project, with a budget of €4 million, hoping it will have a multiplier effect and serve as a model for women's leadership as policy designers and peacemakers.

In addition, last year, my Government issued visas to, and provided safe passage through our territory for, 99 women Afghan judges and their families during the turmoil in Kabul.

Kazakhstan has also supported a regional programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan as part of the United Nations-EU led Spotlight Initiative and joined two of the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions, namely, Gender-based Violence and Economic Justice and Rights. We also support the multi-stakeholder Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact launched at the Generation Equality Forum.

Kazakhstan was among the first countries to undertake the so-called Zhusan and Rusafa humanitarian operations to repatriate and reintegrate its citizens from

Syria and Iraq, mainly women and children, into society. It serves as a good model for other countries, and we are ready to share our experiences and lessons learned with the international community.

In December 2021, Kazakhstan adopted its first national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, for the period 2022 to 2025 — a whole-of-government strategy developed in inclusive consultations with United Nations agencies and civil society organizations. As of today, there are five women military officers serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Western Sahara and Lebanon. The adoption of a national action plan will contribute to increased women's engagement in decision-making at all levels, their deployment in United Nations peacekeeping operations and improved gender-sensitive training for armed and security forces. We have strong and sustained political will, all the necessary resources and a results-based monitoring and evaluation plan to achieve that.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan is committed to joining the multilateral action for women to become agents of change and shape their societies.

Annex III**Statement by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Rabab Fatima**

In my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), I wish to offer the Commission's observations and advice on women's economic inclusion and participation in peacebuilding contexts, based on its work and engagements.

Since 2016, the Commission's work has been guided by a gender strategy to ensure a more systematic integration of gender issues in its work. In 2021, the PBC adopted an action plan with specific indicators and action areas to monitor its progress in implementing the strategy.

The Commission supports national efforts to promote women's economic empowerment and advocates for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in socioeconomic development with a view to strengthening peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Commission also regularly invites women peacebuilders to better integrate their perspectives and recommendations in its thematic and country engagements.

In 2021, half of PBC meetings included briefings from women peacebuilders who were either representing civil society organizations, or were local business leaders. In 2020, 70 per cent of briefers from the private sector were women Chief Executive Officers, providing testimonies and examples of how local businesses can play a critical role in empowering women.

In Colombia, for example, the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) promoted innovative financing initiatives to leverage additional investments for peace. The PBF funded projects in conflict-affected areas and improved the socioeconomic condition of women ex-combatants and victims of conflict, thereby helping to advance sustainable development, economic resilience and social cohesion.

Based on the discussions at the Commission and its engagement with women peacebuilders and leaders on the ground, the Commission wishes to underscore the following.

First, with regard to the importance of economic stability and growth in conflict-affected settings for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the promotion of women's economic inclusion and participation for peacebuilding and sustaining peace are far underdeveloped. Women's empowerment and the elimination of poverty are key priorities.

Secondly, additional measures to increase the role of women in social and economic development in many conflict-related settings should be taken. Measures are needed to strengthen women's economic capacity and to expand women's access to opportunities, education, financial and material resources, markets and modern technology.

Thirdly, the socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities of women. Many women lost their livelihoods and income, resulting in their reduced ability to contribute effectively to peacebuilding. That needs to be factored in while developing and implementing COVID-19 recovery plans, and adequate support should be provided to create livelihood opportunities for women, including through skills development.

Fourthly, noting the importance of ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, it is critical that women and youth peacebuilders and their organizations be sufficiently financed and that women entrepreneurs be empowered to be agents of change in conflict-affected settings.

Fifthly, in many conflict-affected settings, such as the Great Lakes region, the role of women as entrepreneurs is catalytic for regional economic growth. It is therefore important to improve the business climate, tax regimes and trade policies to achieve the full potential of small and medium-sized women-led businesses.

Sixthly, the COVID-19 pandemic and instabilities have pushed more and more women and girls into extreme poverty, thereby highlighting the importance of the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by scaling up efforts at poverty eradication for women and supporting women entrepreneurs.

Finally, enhanced partnerships and cooperation with international and regional financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank, are critically important in ensuring women's economic inclusion in conflict-affected countries.

Annex IV**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, Cho Hyun**

My delegation would like to commend the United Arab Emirates for convening today's timely discussion on this important agenda item. The Republic of Korea aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security (see S/PV.8989). My delegation would now like to deliver a statement in its national capacity.

At the outset, the Republic of Korea would like to reaffirm its full solidarity with Ukraine and its people. We deplore the situation in Ukraine caused by Russia's act of aggression. Reports of increasing civilian casualties and massive displacement, as well as the horrific destruction of civilian infrastructure, are of grave concern. The disproportionate consequences of the war severely threaten the lives of the most vulnerable, particularly women and girls. My delegation notes with concern that the current situation places women and girls at increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

The unfolding tragedy in Ukraine has again proved the importance of the women and peace and security agenda, which has been aimed at ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and security since resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted.

Against that backdrop, I would like to highlight the following three points.

First, peacebuilding and sustainable peace require a holistic approach, including the building of resilience in conflict-affected countries. To achieve that goal, it is imperative to provide women and girls equal access to livelihoods and education and to ensure equal opportunities. In that light, my delegation is deeply concerned that women and girls have been increasingly and systematically excluded from economic participation, public education and access to essential services in conflict-affected countries, including Afghanistan.

Secondly, we must step up our efforts to build a solid foundation for partnerships with the private sector and civil society on post-conflict reconstruction and recovery. Women peacebuilders, human rights defenders and civil society voices have been repeatedly targeted by violence in many parts of the world. Such violence has had a profound impact on participation and has further undermined partnerships. My delegation reiterates that women peacebuilders, human rights defenders and civil society members must be fully protected and should be heard more often at the United Nations; in particular in the Council itself, as their participation is indispensable in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Last but not least, peacekeeping operations can play a positive role in protecting and promoting women's participation in relief and recovery efforts. Women peacekeepers serve as powerful mentors and role models for women and girls in post-conflict settings. As the host of the 2021 Seoul United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial as well as the third International Conference on Action with Women and Peace, Korea proudly emphasized the need to advance the women and peace and security agenda, including through strengthening the role of women in peacekeeping. My Government will continue to expand its efforts in that regard, including its contribution to the Elsie Fund.

The Republic of Korea pledges to remain a staunch advocate of the women and peace and security agenda. As a candidate for non-permanent membership on the Security Council for the term 2024 to 2025, we are fully committed to sparing no effort in achieving the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes, while also ensuring a safe and enabling environment that leaves no one behind.

Annex V**Statement by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, Mohammed Abdulaziz H. Alateek**

[Original: Arabic]

First and foremost, my country wishes to congratulate the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates on assuming the presidency of the Security Council this month. We wish it every success in that endeavour and are confident that its delegation can contribute positively to new successes in the maintenance of international peace and security.

My delegation is grateful to the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates for convening this important meeting on the topic “Women and peace and security: women’s economic inclusion and participation as a key to building peace” on this significant date, as we mark International Women’s Day 2022.

Saudi Arabia is convinced that security is the basis for development. There can be no development without an appropriate security environment, and no comprehensive development without involving all of society, both men and women. Saudi Arabia is working to achieve security and stability throughout the country, foster a safe and serene environment and combat all forms of crime, with a view to keeping society as a whole safe and enabling it to move forward and flourish. Women are a fundamental part of that process.

Saudi Arabia has helped involve Saudi Arabian women in the areas of safety and security by empowering them in several areas, including public safety, civil defence, the border guard, the Directorate of Prisons, the fight against drugs and the National Security Operations Centre, areas in which Saudi women now serve alongside men in a range of security, technical and administrative roles.

As one of the world’s foremost humanitarian assistance providers according to United Nations statistics, Saudi Arabia attaches the utmost importance to relief and humanitarian assistance for affected persons in zones of conflict and natural disaster, and in particular for women in areas of armed conflict.

Acting through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, Saudi Arabia has devoted considerable attention to meeting the needs of vulnerable societies, in particular those of women and girls. In order to empower the most vulnerable groups, it analyses United Nations reports on women and humanitarian needs in affected and least-developed countries and works with partners in recipient countries to deliver humanitarian and relief projects that are free from discrimination and consistent with the principles of humanitarian action. Its aim is to alleviate the suffering of women and enable them to live with dignity. It implements those projects in cooperation with United Nations entities and international and local partners. And it does so in the conviction that women have an important role to play in building resilient societies.

Over the past five years, Saudi Arabia has enacted a range of relief and humanitarian actions in zones of disaster and armed conflict. For that purpose, it has implemented 788 projects in 79 regions around the world, spending a total of \$520,686,055 for 109,644,690 female beneficiaries.

Through the support provided to women by the Centre, Saudi Arabia has been able to achieve the following goals: increase women’s workforce participation through economic programmes aimed at building women’s economic, social and psychological capacities and preserving social cohesion; increase women’s

participation in education and educational programmes through educational, social and other initiatives aimed at creating a sustainable environment that would have an enabling effect for women in the labour market and generate a return on investment by boosting performance to realize the Sustainable Development Goals; and step up efforts to protect girls and women, particularly from gender-based violence, and create a safe environment for them during and after conflicts and disasters, by providing programmes to protect women from all forms of violence, including through psycho-social, protective and legal services focused on their specific needs.

As crises and disasters proliferate around the world, a need has emerged for strategies and an approach that can strengthen women's role in responding to crises and delivering humanitarian assistance in order to facilitate access to services for all, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, such as older persons, women, persons with disabilities, orphans and women caregivers, and shore up their capacity for resilience. Humanitarian needs assessments should include the voice of women in vulnerable societies, particularly those affected by armed conflict. In doing so, response plans can be improved and made more responsive to women's needs, especially in emergency situations and where the most vulnerable categories are concerned. Women need to be involved in designing and implementing humanitarian programmes.

Lastly, there is a pressing need to coordinate and strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in order to foster comprehensive and sustainable development with the involvement of women. Action should therefore be taken to consolidate partnerships among humanitarian stakeholders with a view to assessing and meeting women's needs in all types of interventions; improve the management of sources of funding for humanitarian and development assistance; and ensure that women are involved in the development of vulnerable and affected societies, in the hope of achieving peace.
