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## Seventy-third session

Item 99 (gg) of the preliminary list\*

### General and complete disarmament

## Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

### Report of the Secretary-General

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\* A/73/50.



## I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [71/56](#), entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, urged Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it related to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict.

2. The General Assembly welcomed the continuing efforts of the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to accord high priority to the issue of women and peace and security, and in that regard noted the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting the implementation of all resolutions related to women in the context of peace and security.

3. The General Assembly also urged Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels.

4. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and to report to the Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of resolution [71/56](#). The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

5. In that connection, a note verbale was sent to all Member States seeking their views on the subject. A memorandum dated 30 January 2018 was also dispatched to relevant United Nations system entities. Member States, relevant United Nations system entities and other international organizations were invited to provide inputs. The replies received are contained in sections II, III and IV of the present report. Any views received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs<sup>1</sup> in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

## II. Replies received from Governments

### Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

[15 May 2018]

In the Ministry of Defence, the National Directorate of the Controller of Defence Equipment is responsible for the topic of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms transparency and control.

As regards gender-related aspects of this topic, the Directorate has reported the following:

- Half of its staff are women and their numbers are increasing every year. The percentage currently remains stable.
- Activities relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and control of arms and weapons of mass destruction are continually monitored by working groups

<sup>1</sup> [www.un.org/disarmament/topics/gender](http://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/gender).

composed of staff of the National Directorate, of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces and of the Scientific and Technical Defence Research Institute.

This monitoring consists of analysis of the documents produced under the various disarmament conventions and drafting of applicable conclusions, proposals and recommendations, attendance at the monthly meetings (eight each year) held by the working groups on the various topics and participation in relevant international conferences.

- The female staff of the Directorate participate actively in courses, seminars, lectures and other training offered at the Military Institutes and at the National Defence Faculty.
- Women who are highly trained and specialize in the issues represent the Ministry of Defence in international forums dealing with the topic.
- As part of its responsibilities, the National Directorate carefully monitors the obligations of the Argentine Republic under the various international systems of disarmament and arms control and continues to ensure that women participate in all tasks, with a view to creating a critical mass of specialists.
- A female staff member of the National Directorate is responsible for coordinating the activities of the National Commission for the Monitoring of Sensitive Exports and Exports of War Material (Decree 603/92). The Commission monitors these exports in order to ensure compliance with Argentina's international commitments concerning disarmament and non-proliferation.

#### **Coordination of gender policies and non-discrimination in the Ministry of Security**

On 2 March 2018, Decree No. 174/2018 established, within the General Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Security, a Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination. Its role is to find ways of ensuring that the police and security forces are effectively enforcing the National Act on Comprehensive Protection to Prevent, Punish and Eliminate Violence against Women (Act No. 26.485). This role includes action to prevent and deal with cases of gender-based and family violence, disciplinary measures against the perpetrators of this type of violence, as well as protection and compensation of victims of such behaviour within the police and security forces and gender mainstreaming in training and awareness-raising as well as in analysing patterns of this crime in its various manifestations.

#### **Gender training programmes for the security forces**

As part of their training, staff of the police and security forces receive ongoing instruction in gender issues. A resolution of the Minister of Security (a woman) established a working group on skills training that reports jointly to the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination and to the National Directorate for Training of the Under-Secretariat for Planning and Training in the Ministry of Security. Various methodologies and institutional facilities are used to ensure dissemination and ownership of policies for the prevention of gender-based violence.

This approach is based on multi-agency involvement and gender mainstreaming in all aspects of institutional life (symbolic, normative and practical). Work has thus been spread among multiple institutions either within the Ministry of Security, where all staff participate in virtual courses, or through on-site instruction at agencies all over the country.

For example, the following courses on gender are offered to the staff of the federal forces and to the provincial police involved in the topic:

(a) Early detection of human trafficking at border crossings: Virtual training is designed for staff of the Argentine National Gendarmerie, the Argentine Naval Prefecture and the Airport Security Police, because these are the forces working at Argentine border crossings. The goal of this training is to enhance the capacity of the staff responsible for migration controls and identification of potential cases of human trafficking and early detection of possible victims and their traffickers. The staff are provided with standardized criteria and guidelines.

(b) Treatment of complaints for early detection of human trafficking situations. Human trafficking is one of the major activities of transnational organized crime and the complaints are not always categorized as human trafficking. In this case, the police may be dealing with possible situations of trafficking with other legal classifications. It is crucial to be able to provide correct assistance to possible victims; this is why the training describes criteria and provides guidelines applicable to this type of crime.

(c) Federal criteria for appropriate intervention in cases of domestic violence. The goal is to cultivate a sensitive approach to domestic violence and to provide an efficient response in situations in which the police and security forces are required to intervene in a case of this type. The training equips participants so that they can recognize gender-based violence in family relations, familiarize themselves with intervention guidelines, understand the legal and conceptual aspects, promote access to justice for female victims, foster institutional coordination, enforce judicial measures and ensure correct decision-making in accordance with judicial requirements. This ensures that citizens, and particularly female victims of gender-based violence, will receive appropriate police assistance with the tools needed to guarantee their safety.

Each of the police and security forces has a Comprehensive Gender Centre providing training at locations throughout the country on gender, domestic violence, labour relations from a gender viewpoint and sexual harassment. These Centres raise staff awareness and make known their availability to receive complaints, make presentations and provide advice to all workers (especially the most junior among them).

The Ministry of Security has also decided that no member of the police and security forces may be promoted without having received gender training. This will ensure that gender is mainstreamed in each member's training by the end of 2018.

### **Gender policies within the Police and security forces**

#### **a. Treatment of complaints**

The Coordination Unit has decided to use the term "internal complaints" to describe complaints among staff within the police and security forces — in other words, when both the complainant and the accused are members of any of the four federal police and security forces and the alleged offence occurred at or affected the workplace, excluding offences described in article 6 (a) of Act No. 26.485 (domestic or family violence). In this task, there is coordination with the Comprehensive Gender Centres of each of the federal police and security forces.

Most complaints take a long time to process. This is because, after the complaint has been submitted (via the Ministry's 134 hot line, by email, through the media or by other means), internal investigations are conducted into the employment status of the accused as well as the existence of other complaints made to the Comprehensive Gender Centres or the Ministry.

Following the internal investigations, formal memoranda are prepared requesting information and adoption of measures. The time required will depend on the content of the complaint, since not everything reported will in fact constitute behaviour described in Act No. 26.485. Similarly, not all behaviour constitutes a crime, although it may be “categorized” as a breach of the codes of conduct of each of the Federal Forces. In particular, situations involving sexual harassment must be dealt with individually, depending on the nature of the complaint and the grade and seniority of the persons involved, since in many jurisdictions this is currently considered to be an infraction or an unlawful act but not a crime.

**b. Leave for gender-based violence**

Resolution No. 443-E/2017, which came into force on 18 May 2017, allows special leave for gender-based violence to be granted, with full pay, to women in the police and security forces who are experiencing or have experienced any form of gender-based violence and need time off from work for that reason. This special leave may also be granted to male or female cadets, trainees and students at or candidates for the Training/Recruitment Institutes.

The special leave must be requested by the victim and approved by the interdisciplinary team in the Comprehensive Gender Centre of the institution to which the victim belongs. Once it takes effect, the Centre must immediately notify the head of the unit in where the victim works, specifying the duration of the leave. Leave shall be granted for three working days and may be extended by decision of the Comprehensive Gender Centre or the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination.

The Resolution also designates a specific forum for gender-based research in all areas of internal affairs of each of the federal police and security forces to conduct all investigations involving the granting of special leave for gender-based violence.

**Prevention of domestic violence**

In response to reports of cases of domestic violence made by staff of the four federal police and security forces via the 134 hot line for complaints to the Ministry of Security, this Coordination Unit transmits these complaints to the courts if a crime has been committed or in cases where the complainant using the hot line decides to bring the case before the courts, leaving the magistrate to decide whether to prosecute.

The Unit then brings the situation to the attention of the police and security force to which the complainant belongs.

**Prevention of the use of weapons**

Resolution 1515/2012 of the Ministry of Security specifies that, in the case of complaints of gender-based and/or domestic violence involving a member of the federal police and security forces and if the courts have issued a protective order (to protect the complainant), the carrying of a service weapon must immediately be restricted. The goal is to prevent the weapon from being taken into the family home in which violent situations exist.

In addition, Resolution 299/2013 allows the Ministry of Security to consult the National Agency for Controlled Materials regarding the carrying of a civilian weapon by the accused, so that the courts are aware of its existence and may, if necessary, search the domicile in question and confiscate the weapon.

The two Resolutions apply simultaneously and the federal forces are immediately ordered to constitute a Medical Examination Board to evaluate whether

the accused should be allowed to carry the weapon and to assess that person's mental and physical condition.

### **Lifting of the restriction on carrying a weapon**

Once the protective order has expired, or the court case has been dismissed, the possibility of lifting the restriction on carrying a weapon is evaluated and a Medical Examination Board is again constituted. If found to be fit for service and able to carry a weapon, prior to the lifting of the restriction the accused must attend the Psycho-Socio-Educational Programme created and implemented by the Coordination Unit since 2018. Once these requirements have been met, steps are taken to restore the service weapon.

In 2017, before it had its own Psycho-Socio-Educational Programme and in order to comply with Resolution 1515/2012, the Coordination Unit on Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination arranged with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to hold an on-site workshop entitled "Dialogues on Gender and Culture", as a collaborative effort to assist with reinsertion in the federal forces of men with violent behaviour covered by Resolution 1515/2012.

Recognizing the need for a programme similar to that workshop, in 2018 the Coordination Unit created the "Healthy Ties" Psycho-Socio-Educational Programme. Attendance is mandatory, prior to lifting of the restrictive measure.

The goal of the Programme is to reach all members of the federal forces covered by Resolution 1515/12. In addition, it is planned to extend the Programme to persons accused of acts of violence within the force (workplace violence).

The Programme focuses on psycho-socio-educational rehabilitation, increasing awareness of topics relating to gender-based and/or domestic violence and reinsertion into a force whose main function is to protect public order and the safety of persons. The Programme consists of 12 meetings (four hours a week or a total of 48 hours) and is divided into three segments: (1) Knowledge; (2) Reflection; and (3) Relevance.

### **Femicide**

The Guidelines for police and security forces for the on-site investigation of femicides were adopted by the Security Ministry of the Argentine Republic in Resolution 1278-E/2017 of 24 November 2017.

This document was produced by two working groups convened by the Ministry's Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination, which involved specialized staff from the four federal police and security forces and persons dealing with the topic in the civil service, the judiciary, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and civil society organizations.

The focus was on rethinking and revision of the Guidelines for the federal police and security forces for on-site investigation of femicides, adopted in 2013 by Resolution 428/2013 implemented from that time until January 2016 in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

The participants were given the task of reviewing that working instrument in the light of four years of implementation, court decisions and the needs of the judiciary and public prosecutors when investigating violent deaths of women, with the goal of improving police intervention in such cases.

Following these discussions, the intervention instructions were updated to reflect the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide) developed by the Regional Office for

Central America of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN-Women Americas and Caribbean Regional Office.

With the goal of federalizing this police intervention instrument, in March 2018 the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination submitted Guidelines for the consideration of the provincial authorities in the context of the Internal Security Council in a convention of accession by which the provinces of Chaco, Entre Ríos, Jujuy, La Pampa, Misiones, San Juan, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Tierra del Fuego and Tucumán pledged to create the necessary mechanisms to incorporate the provisions of the Guidelines in police procedures for cases of violent killings of women. This measure will also be accompanied by material and on-site training organized by the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination.

These actions are part of the Federal Plan of the Ministry of Security for the Identification of Causes of Femicide, designed to provide quantitative and qualitative data on femicides that occur in the Argentine Republic in each of the 24 jurisdictions and to identify their causes. These include socio-economic variables and features of the public security system and their impact on the occurrence of events of this kind in Argentina. The findings will help us to design programmes to reduce femicides in our country.

In this connection, the Coordination Unit for Gender Policies and Non-Discrimination is responsible for training the staff of the agencies and expert scientific offices of each of the federal and provincial police and security forces as well as the prevention officers, with the goal of imposing a gender perspective when approaching the crime scene in cases of violent killings of women and in order to comply with court injunctions at all stages of the investigation.

### **Human trafficking**

In 2008, the Ministry of Security established special units in each of the federal Security Forces to prevent and investigate the crime of human trafficking: in the Human Trafficking Division of the Argentine Federal Police; in the Anti-Human Trafficking Department of the Argentine National Gendarmerie; in the Human Trafficking Investigation Department of the Argentine Naval Prefecture; and in the Operational Unit of the Airport Security Police for the Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Related Crimes.

The Integrated Information System on the Crime of Human Trafficking was also created in this Ministry to compile quantitative and qualitative data on each of the activities (investigations or searches) conducted by federal forces in connection with the possible commission of human trafficking and complex crime.

### **Australia**

[Original: English]  
[15 May 2018]

Australia welcomes the opportunity to share our views on “ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control” and the implementation of resolution 71/56. Australia strongly supports the promotion of the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Gender-inclusive responses to global and regional challenges are necessary to support increased stability, security and prosperity. Australia promotes the need for forums that are dynamic and creative, focused on solving real-world problems and building

trust, where women and men contribute equally, to making our world more secure and stable.<sup>2</sup>

Further, linking resolution 71/56 to related agendas facilitates the effective implementation of the objectives outlined in that resolution. We welcome links made in resolution 71/56 to the women and peace and security agenda, which recognizes the role of women, including as leaders and mediators in conflict prevention, conflict responses and peace processes, and to the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the promotion of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Below we outline the steps Australia has taken to implement resolution 71/56, followed by ways and means to promote women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control further.

### **Steps taken by Australia to implement resolution 71/56**

Australia works to pursue the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men as an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security. The below list of practical steps taken by Australia to implement aspects of resolution 71/56 is limited to a few specific examples. It is not an exhaustive list nor does it address all of the operative paragraphs of that resolution.

*Steps taken related to paragraph 1: “Urges Member States ... to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict”*

Australia is committed to women’s full and equal participation in the security sector.

(a) Promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control sits within the core of Australia’s foreign policy. Australia’s 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper states that “Australia’s foreign policy pursues the empowerment of women as a top priority”.<sup>3</sup> Our gender equality and women’s empowerment strategy, which guides our work on gender equality, has established as one of its three priority areas the enhancement of women’s voice in decision-making, leadership and peacebuilding.<sup>4</sup> Research has demonstrated that, where women are included in peace processes, the probability of peace agreements being reached and then lasting improves. Our National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018 (which has been extended to mid-2019), includes the following ways Australia, through a whole-of-government approach, is promoting the role of women in the security sector:

- By integrating a gender perspective into the policies of Australia on peace and security
- By embedding the women and peace and security agenda in the Government of Australia and ensuring that women have opportunities to participate in decision-making positions

<sup>2</sup> Statement by Australia to the Conference on Disarmament on the occasion of International Women’s Day (8 March 2018).

<sup>3</sup> Government of Australia, 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper (2017), p. 93.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Strategy* (February 2016), p. 6.

- By promoting the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda internationally, including through the United Nations and other multilateral forums<sup>5</sup>

(b) Australia has ratified and currently implements a number of international treaties and United Nations programmes on arms control and disarmament that actively promote women's participation, including the Arms Trade Treaty, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction:

- For example, through the International Development Fund, a flexible small-grants programme run by the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Australia supported a delegation of young women from different geographic regions to participate in the 16th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction as members of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines delegation in December 2017

(c) Australia uses United Nations and other international forums to engage and embed language that promotes and advocates gender perspectives on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:

- For example, on 8 March 2018, International Women's Day, Australia called for the Conference on Disarmament to show more leadership with regard to gender equality
- On the margins of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2018, Australia co-hosted, with the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada, a side event on "Women in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation of Treaty" on 25 April 2018
  - At this event, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, promoted women as "powerful agents for peace and progress" and said she was encouraged by the increasing interest in recent years on the part of Member States in incorporating gender considerations into nuclear non-proliferation discussions despite only slight improvement in female participation in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference<sup>6</sup>
- During the general debate of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the general statement on behalf of the Vienna Group of Ten, which includes Australia, emphasized the importance of promoting the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men in nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.<sup>7</sup> In its statement to cluster

<sup>5</sup> Government of Australia, Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018, table 1.

<sup>6</sup> Remarks by High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu at the "Women in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" event hosted by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

<sup>7</sup> Statement delivered by Australia on behalf of the Vienna Group of Ten at the general debate of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018.

III on strengthening the Treaty review process, Australia indicated that achieving gender parity was not just good policy but also had the potential to enhance the capability and effectiveness of Treaty processes and their outcomes<sup>8</sup>

- On 26 October 2017, during a meeting of the First Committee of the General Assembly, Australia joined a statement made by Canada on behalf of a group of States highlighting the importance of increasing the representation and participation of women in disarmament machinery and consideration of the gender dimensions of disarmament issues<sup>9</sup>
- On 14 October 2017 at a meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Australia presented its perspectives on implementing Security Council 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, which built on the topic Australia chose for the OSCE conference with Asian partners that it hosted in 2013 on improving security for women and girls.<sup>10</sup>

*Steps taken related to paragraph 5: “Urges Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels”*

*Steps taken related to paragraph 6: “Calls upon all States to empower women, including through capacity-building efforts, as appropriate, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts”*

(a) Australia is proud to have a number of women represent Australia, at home and abroad, on issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Through our role as co-chair of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear, which comprises 23 states, we work in consultation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to identify practical initiatives to increase the representation of women in the secretariat of IAEA:

- Australia is currently looking at practical and concrete ways to support the gender equality objectives of IAEA and work with the agency’s focal point network. This includes capacity-building efforts that emphasize and evaluate the role played by focal points to support an inclusive culture

(b) Australia was equally proud to chair the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 2018 and be the second consecutive female Chair of the Commission, taking over from Argentina. In the same manner as Argentina, we also achieved gender parity with the two working group chairs of the Commission (Jamaica and Belgium);

(c) Australia is a leading donor to the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, in which donors have agreed on selection criteria whereby applicants need to demonstrate that their proposals have taken gender considerations into account;

(d) Australia supports the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at all levels and has a history of sending female

<sup>8</sup> Statement by Australia to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, “Statement for cluster III (strengthening the NPT review process)”.

<sup>9</sup> Statement by Canada delivered on behalf of a group of States to the First Committee of the General Assembly entitled “Statement on gender and the disarmament machinery, cluster 7” (New York, 26 October 2017).

<sup>10</sup> Statement by Australia at the Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Asian Contact Group on “Implementing Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security: Australian perspectives” (14 October 2016).

representation to participate in the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, including in 2018.

*“Calls upon all States to develop appropriate and effective national risk assessment criteria to facilitate the prevention of the use of arms to commit violence against women and children” (paragraph 8)*

(a) The risk assessment of Australia for the export of arms is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure the integration of gender analysis, in compliance with and in implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty;

(b) In 2017, as a joint initiative with civil society, Australia reviewed the link between the Arms Trade Treaty and gender perspectives, highlighted in the publication “Reinvigorating the narrative: the broader benefits to the Arms Trade Treaty”;<sup>11</sup>

(c) In 2016, Australia sponsored the production by Handicap International (now Humanity & Inclusion) of the publication “Guidance on an integrated approach to victim assistance”, which is aimed at promoting non-discriminatory and sustainable victim assistance efforts under disarmament conventions on cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war. The Guidance highlights the need for an age- and gender-sensitive approach to victim assistance, to ensure that survivors of all ages and genders are included among the beneficiaries of both specific victim assistance and broader development assistance efforts.

#### **Further means to promote women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control**

Globally, great strides are being made towards gender equality and women’s empowerment, but women continue to be underrepresented at the top: in positions of leadership, representation and influence. We will not achieve gender equality while women are absent from leadership.

Australia offers some further practical suggestions to promote women’s participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:

- Member States can make an effort to be better informed of the gender dimensions of the issues on which they work and apply a gender lens to every aspect of international security
- Member States can demonstrate leadership by backing diversity in decision-making positions, both in their own government structures and in international organizations
- Women representing Member States can act as mentors to future colleagues and provide an opportunity to hear from our experienced colleagues
- Member States can facilitate women contributing more actively to forums on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including by ensuring that delegations are gender diverse and by supporting the participation of women from all levels and backgrounds in delegations
- When considering experts and participation on panels, ensure that panels are gender diverse and seek out qualified women to enrich perspectives

<sup>11</sup> Centre for Armed Violence Reduction, “Reinvigorating the narrative: the broader benefits to the Arms Trade Treaty” (2017).

- Use social media and other public platforms to recognize, promote and celebrate the contribution of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control as a way to counter stereotypes
- Encourage the collation and presentation of sex-disaggregated data where possible on women's participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and as a way of measuring progress going forward.

## **Cuba**

[Original: Spanish]  
[5 April 2018]

Cuba is aware of the importance of increasing the participation of women at all levels of decision-making, in both national and international institutions, for the formulation of policies on issues relating to the promotion of international peace and security.

We support the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as its appeal to ensure peace for the advancement of women and its recognition of the role of women in promoting peace and general and complete disarmament under strict, effective and efficient international control.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are increasingly important. In this connection, it is the responsibility of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council to provide effective monitoring of the international commitments made by the States Members of the United Nations to achieve that goal.

Cuba is committed to the promotion of complete equality of opportunity for women at all levels, including decision-making with regard to issues relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Cuba has had considerable success in promoting women's employment, education, health and participation in political and economic life, thanks to the public policies of the Cuban revolution in favour of the population in general and of women in particular.

The participation of Cuban women in the political life of the country is exemplified by the strong female presence in all the organs of the Cuban State and Government, including the armed forces. Following the elections held on 11 March 2018, the proportion of women in Parliament rose to 53.22 per cent. This is a record high, exceeding the targets set by the Beijing Platform for Action and making Cuba the country with the second largest female presence in the legislature.

Cuba reiterates its determination to continue working for the advancement and empowerment of women in all spheres of social life.

## **Ecuador**

[Original: Spanish]  
[15 May 2018]

The Constitution of Ecuador specifies that the Armed Forces are an institution that protects the rights, freedoms and guarantees of citizens. It also recognizes the right of persons to be free from any form of violence and the principles of gender equity and elimination of inequality and discrimination against women. In addition, it stipulates that the criteria of gender equity are the fundamental basis of the laws governing the rights and obligations of the members of the Armed Forces and the National Police. The 2017–2021 national development plan (“A Whole Life”), based

on a participatory approach with extensive national dialogue, mainstreams gender in its goals, policies and guidelines. Ecuador considers that policies geared to gender equality and empowerment of women are essential to the cause of peace.

The Ministry of Defence espouses the concept of defence as a public good, including a gender-based approach in the political defence agenda. In this connection, Ecuador has an instrument designed to contribute to the integration of women in the military: the Armed Forces Gender Policy. The policy is based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination against women and provides political and strategic guidance for the participation of women in the military, with equal rights and opportunities. It encourages the abandonment of cultural patterns that foster gender-based violence, incorporates this in military training and promotes educational programmes to prevent sexual violence, particularly in troop training. There is also a monitoring system to measure the impact of gender policies and a Gender Handbook of the Armed Forces of Ecuador that promotes human and gender rights to encourage the process of inclusion of female military personnel and provide instructions to be followed by members of the armed forces.

Ecuador believes that strengthening national arrangements strengthens international arrangements. It is essential to combat impunity in cases of sexual violence during conflicts, including its underlying causes. Ecuador is concerned about instances of gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict situations. In such cases, nobody should be beyond the reach of national and international justice. In this connection, States are encouraged to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Court of Justice.

Ecuador remains committed to support and to continue contributing to a genuine culture of peace and new forms of coexistence that promotes equal conditions and opportunities for women as well as their empowerment to participate in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

## **Honduras**

[Original: Spanish]

[24 April 2018]

Honduras recognizes the importance of the participation of women in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof, as well as of equal opportunity to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, as established in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In this connection, Honduran women are gradually being employed throughout the government machinery and the institutions that compose it such as the Armed Forces, where at the senior levels a total of 2,390 women are performing a variety of tasks and missions nationally and internationally.

However, we acknowledge the need to increase female representation not only in security and defence institutions but also at their decision-making levels and in negotiations on disarmament or other topics.

Programmes can be created at the institutional level to promote the development of Honduran women's managerial skills for decision-making, so as to foster their qualities of leadership, self-esteem and confidence, as well as the self-assurance that motivates women to take up challenges requiring decision-making in an important area such as disarmament, non-proliferation and effective arms control.

## Morocco

[Original: French]  
[8 May 2018]

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the determination of the Security Council and of the United Nations Secretary-General to deal with violations committed against women in periods of armed conflict and the progress made in involving women in peace-keeping operations.

Morocco condemns all violations of international law committed by the perpetrators of crimes against women in periods of armed conflict.

Morocco recalls that the adoption of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) gives international recognition to the role of women in peace and security.

Morocco suggests that efforts should be concentrated on far-reaching actions such as the consideration, through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, of the fate of women who, in conflict situations, are recruited against their will by armed factions and forced to bear arms.

## Philippines

[Original: English]  
[9 May 2018]

The Philippines, through its government agencies, namely the Department of National Defense and the Philippine National Police, welcomes the resolution, as it recognizes the importance of women in promoting international peace. A gender-sensitive approach on issues pertaining to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control may provide new perspectives on how issues may be addressed. The Department of National Defense is of the view that incorporating gender-based perspectives can potentially reshape how disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are framed in discussions at both the national and international levels.

The Department, through the Armed Forces of the Philippines, is also taking steps in support of the active participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Armed Forces encourages the participation of women from its ranks in training endeavours and conferences on such issues in the national and international arena. Locally, women from the military were heavily involved in support operations and rehabilitation programmes during and after the Marawi crisis. At the international level, the Armed Forces also encourages the participation of women in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The Philippine National Police also supports the adoption of General Assembly resolution [71/56](#). The Philippines is compliant with respect to paragraph 5 of the resolution regarding “effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament” at the local, national and subregional levels. Women are involved in the Mindanao Peace Process, which includes disarmament of belligerent Muslim groups. Republic Act No. 8551<sup>12</sup> “prioritizes women for recruitment”<sup>13</sup> and promotes the role of women in law enforcement, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, and public safety. The Act also establishes a women’s desk in all police stations throughout the country to administer and attend to cases involving crimes against chastity, sexual harassment and abuses committed against women and their children and other similar offences.<sup>14</sup> With this provision, various issues and concerns confronting women and

<sup>12</sup> Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998.

<sup>13</sup> Section 58, Prioritization of Women for Recruitment.

<sup>14</sup> Section 57, Creation and Functions.

children caught in armed conflict are addressed by policewomen in the Philippine National Police.

The Philippine National Police recommends that Member States be encouraged to develop appropriate and effective programmes or mechanisms that will protect women who have participated in the implementation of disarmament-related matters at the local, national, subregional and regional levels. Local government officials are also encouraged to be involved in this endeavour. Tapping the media may also be enhanced to solicit support from the general public and promote the pivotal role of women in capacity-building and their efforts to investigate and prosecute firearms trafficking.

## **Ukraine**

[Original: English]  
[15 May 2018]

Pursuant to Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1834 of 27 December 2006, on approval of the State programme for ensuring gender equality in Ukrainian society, in order to implement the principle of equal rights and opportunities for men and women, relevant state bodies of Ukraine strictly adhere to equal distribution when making appointments to the civil service.

As of today, the gender balance of the office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine is the following: women — 48.9% and men — 51 per cent.

More than 5,000 women do military service in the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, 90 per cent of whom serve in the units of the State border control.

All women working in relevant State institutions actively participate in diverse training courses, seminars and conferences on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which are held at both the national and international levels.

For instance, the course on democratic civil control over the security sector, which includes lectures on gender policy in the field of security and defence, is provided at the National Academy of the Security Service of Ukraine.

### **III. Replies received from the United Nations system**

#### **Office for Disarmament Affairs**

[Original: English]  
[15 May 2018]

##### **General observations**

Since the last report on this topic, gender perspectives have become increasingly central to the discussions of Member States on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation issues. As a cross-cutting issue, gender considerations were raised in a number of disarmament bodies in a variety of contexts, including a focus on enhancing women's participation in disarmament forums, the gendered impacts of weapons and the nexus between effective arms control and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goal 5 on gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence. Member States also demonstrated a renewed emphasis in 2016 and 2017 on gender considerations with regard to weapons of mass destruction.

Issues related to women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control were addressed in a variety of multilateral forums, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament and the review processes of

disarmament instruments. The Secretary-General also addressed the relationship between gender, small arms and light weapons, and the women and peace and security and sustainable development agendas.

In the outcome document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/2](#), annex), held from 6 to 10 June 2016, States undertook: to take account of the differing impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys in policies and programmes designed to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; to promote the meaningful participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action; to encourage the collection of disaggregated data on gender and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; and to seriously consider increasing funding for policies and programmes that take account of the differing impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

In his 2016 report to the General Assembly on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects ([A/71/438](#)), the Secretary-General noted that women's groups could be powerful actors in monitoring peace agreements if given the access and support to do so. In his 2017 report to the General Assembly on this issue and on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them ([A/72/122](#)), the Secretary-General highlighted progress achieved on gender-related issues in the outcome document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms. In addition, the Secretary-General underscored the acknowledgement of the link among the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular Goal 16.4, which relates to the reduction of illicit arms flows), the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument as one of the most significant achievements of the Meeting. States underlined that achieving Goal 16.4 would have positive effects on other development goals, including those concerning gender equality.

On 18 December 2017, the Security Council held an open debate on the issue of small arms and light weapons. The debate was informed by the biennial report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons ([S/2017/1025](#)). In that report, the Secretary-General noted the highly gendered nature of the causes and consequences of the use of weapons and recommended that the gendered nature of armed violence and conflict inform policy and programmatic responses. He has also recommended the mainstreaming of gender into efforts to control small arms to ensure more effective outcomes.

Regarding the women and peace and security agenda, in his 2016 report to the Security Council on women and peace and security ([S/2016/822](#)), the Secretary-General welcomed the increased commitment to addressing the destabilizing impact of the illicit transfer, accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, including its negative impact on women and girls. In his 2017 report to the Security Council on this issue ([S/2017/861](#)), the Secretary-General noted that the prior year had seen the continued use of heavy and unconventional weapons, including chemical and explosive weapons, in civilian areas, with grave impacts on civilian populations, particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic. He reiterated the importance of focusing on the gender-specific effects of armed violence and the promotion of the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control to better understand how illicit arms flows and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons fed a continuum of violence.

At the initiative of the Presidency of Pakistan, and building on the success of the first meeting in 2015, the Conference on Disarmament held its second plenary meeting on women and disarmament on 19 May 2016. Member States highlighted the importance of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, in providing frameworks for further promoting the relationship between gender and disarmament. States underlined the need to include women in decision-making processes and leadership positions to enhance the effectiveness of disarmament efforts. States also noted the different impacts of armed conflict, including the use of nuclear weapons, on women and men.

Since 2010, a focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons has brought renewed impetus to disarmament efforts. The groundswell of support for the humanitarian initiative has contributed to increased attention being paid to integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender, public health and the environment, into multilateral processes in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

During the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, States parties used the forum to express support for the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, including its relationship to gender, at each of the preparatory meetings held in 2017 and 2018. Many States supported the call to ensure that women and men were equally represented in Treaty discussions to enhance the capability and effectiveness of Treaty processes and their outcomes. The disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women was also noted. On the margins of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the Permanent Missions of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva hosted a side event on “Women in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty” on 25 April 2018.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on 7 July 2017, included a reference to the gendered impact of nuclear weapons, as well as to the strengthening of women’s participation in nuclear disarmament. In its preamble, States parties highlighted that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons had a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation, recognized that the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men was an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security, and committed to supporting and strengthening the effective participation of women in nuclear disarmament. In addition, article 6 of the Treaty commits States parties to adequately providing age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance.

Several States also raised gender considerations in their statements at the seventieth and seventy-first sessions of the General Assembly during the meetings of the First Committee. In both sessions, States emphasized the need to make greater progress on mainstreaming gender perspectives in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation policies and programmes to ensure the participation of women in decision-making processes. During the seventieth session, the Permanent Mission of Ireland, in conjunction with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, held a side event on the topic of gender and nuclear weapons. The event was informed by the joint study by the Institute and the International Law and Policy Institute on “Gender, development and nuclear weapons: shared goals, shared concerns”. The study argued that a gendered impact was useful in understanding the impact of, discourse on and the actors dealing with nuclear weapons. It found that nuclear weapon detonations affected women and men differently, including biologically, that applying a gender lens to the discourse on nuclear weapons challenged the established pattern of power relations and that women continued to be underrepresented in multilateral disarmament forums.

During the seventy-first session, Canada delivered a joint statement on behalf of 43 States on the participation of women in disarmament deliberations, characterizing the approach of the disarmament machinery to gender representation and gender perspectives as tepid, highlighting the gendered impacts of various weapons and calling for a comprehensive approach to including gender perspectives in First Committee resolutions and other disarmament instruments.

On 5 December 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution [71/55](#) on the ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world, a follow up resolution to resolution [70/50](#), adopted in 2015. In resolution [71/55](#), the Assembly again declared that greater attention must be given to the impact of nuclear weapon detonation on women and the importance of their participation in discussions, decisions and actions on nuclear weapons.

### **Activities and initiatives of the Office for Disarmament Affairs**

The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to address the link between gender and disarmament. In 2016, the Office updated its gender mainstreaming action plan<sup>15</sup> and, in consultation with UN-Women and the Department of Political Affairs Gender Unit, designed new mandatory training for its staff. In 2017, the Office adopted a gender parity strategy implementation plan to complement its Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan and to align the Office with the recommendations in the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity. In addition to creating pathways to reach numerical targets for professional staff at all levels, the plan calls for concrete measures to be adopted in three strategic focus areas: leadership and accountability; recruitment and progression; and creating an enabling environment. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has also been a vocal advocate for strengthening the effective participation of women in disarmament, including by publishing an op-ed<sup>16</sup> for young women on the need for greater participation in disarmament, as well as speaking at a side event on “Women in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty”, hosted by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.<sup>17</sup>

Throughout 2017 and 2018, the Office supported the Secretary-General in the development of a new initiative to revitalize global disarmament and renew efforts to accomplish “disarmament that saves lives”. In May 2018, the Secretary-General launched his disarmament agenda, “Securing our Common Future”, which prioritizes ensuring the equal, full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament. The Agenda also calls for States to incorporate gender perspectives in the development of national legislation and policies on disarmament and arms control.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs has also made an effort to answer the calls of Member States to improve capacity to consider the gendered impacts of weapons, as well as to collect gender-disaggregated data. Following the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms, and in response to the recommendations made in the outcome document of that Meeting, the Office revised the Programme of Action national reporting template to include for the first time two questions regarding gender considerations. Of 77 national reports received as at 31 March 2018 for the

<sup>15</sup> <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/update-gender-action-plan-2016.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/international-womens-day-2018-the-women-who-have-shaped-policies-on-nuclear-weapons>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Izumi-Remarks-at-Women-in-the-Nuclear-Non-Proliferation-Treaty-event.pdf>.

2016–2017 reporting period, 33 States affirmed that gender considerations are taken into account in policymaking, planning and implementation of the Programme of Action. Nineteen States provided specific examples or relevant criteria. Eleven States replied that they collected disaggregated data on gender and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. These voluntary national reports are made publicly available on the Office’s website.<sup>18</sup>

The United Nations internal mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) adopted a new International Small Arms Control Standards module on men, women and the gendered nature of small arms and light weapons.<sup>19</sup> The module provides guidance for practitioners on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-sensitive small arms and light weapons control initiatives. Additionally, the 2017 call for proposals for the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation required for the first time the inclusion of gender considerations for all funding applications.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa continued to support gender-focused activities and the participation of women at all levels of decision-making. In December 2017, the Centre organized a capacity-building workshop to help develop substantive and advocacy skills for supporting gender perspectives in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes in the Lake Chad basin. Civil society representatives from four Lake Chad basin countries — Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria — were joined by government representatives of those same countries to discuss several themes that underscored the important role of women in fighting the proliferation of arms and ammunition. The workshop, in which 85 per cent of participants were women, was part of a project funded by Sweden, to increase the participation of women at all levels of decision-making in conflict resolution. The initiative, entitled “Mainstreaming gender perspectives in preventing the acquisition of arms and ammunitions by terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin”, is also designed to reduce illicit arms trafficking in support of the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific promoted a gender perspective in all its activities by ensuring the highest possible female participation at its events and by selecting female experts whenever possible. The gendered impact of the illicit small arms trade was a central element of two subregional workshops organized by the Centre in 2017 to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and to reduce illicit arms flows.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean continued to include gender issues as a cross-cutting theme in the design and implementation of all its projects. In December 2017, the Centre organized its first regional symposium on women and security, which was held in Peru and brought together more than 40 women from the region dedicated to advancing the global peace and security agenda. The Centre also made a significant effort to include women in its activities: over the course of 2017, on average, female participation reached 40 per cent.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs at the Vienna International Centre continued to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, including through the implementation of its Women Scholarship for Peace initiative to train young female professionals on peace, disarmament and non-proliferation. In 2016, 170 early career female professionals from the global South received scholarships through the programme. In 2017, the Office began implementing a similar training

<sup>18</sup> <http://smallarms.un-arm.org/national-reports>.

<sup>19</sup> [www.smallarmsstandards.org/isacs](http://www.smallarmsstandards.org/isacs).

course for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe region, whereby 60 scholarships have been provided to train local early career female professionals working on issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

## **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**

[Original: English]

[15 May 2018]

In its resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), the Security Council encouraged all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to take the diverse needs of females and males ex-combatants and their dependents into account. In its first resolution on that topic (resolution [65/69](#)), the General Assembly recognized the significant contributions of women to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Both resolutions have helped raise awareness on the importance of engaging women in peace, security and disarmament efforts.

Women have been peacebuilders and spoilers of peace. They perform a critical role as back end support to the male combatants, as frontline active combatants themselves, as dependants and as peacebuilders advocating for their sons, husbands and fathers to silence the guns. However, women and girls have not equally benefited from the services, cash incentives, health care, training, travel remittance, small business grants or housing support that flow to their male counterparts — males with guns — as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration packages. Leaving women and girls outside of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration undermines the sustainability and equitable development.

Pursuant to the implementation of these resolutions, UN-Women and women's civil society organizations have been instrumental in advocating and lobbying for gender-responsive disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, women and women's organizations played a prominent role in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which resulted in a Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 and the achievement of treaty-based prohibition of nuclear weapons. The treaty negotiations were chaired by a female president, Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez of Costa Rica. The UN-Women office in the Latin American and Caribbean region collaborated with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in a symposium to engage over 40 women working on security, disarmament and/or development from 26 countries in the region to bolster the momentum created by the Centre's *Forces of Change* publications and to strengthen the emerging network of female professionals working for a safer future for the region.

In the Sudan, UN-Women Sudan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are implementing a joint disarmament, demobilization and reintegration project in the Darfur region. The project is strengthening community stabilization through the reintegration of male and female ex-combatants, including through the provision of livelihood support. Technical support has also been extended to law enforcement officers through training sessions on human rights and international conventions on the protection of women. A total of 50 police officers have been trained to date, covering the five states in Darfur.

As active member of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, UN-Women is leading the revision of the gender module and mainstreaming gender in the other modules of the Integrated

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Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards that will be launched in 2018.

## IV. Replies received from other international organizations

### European Union<sup>20</sup>

[Original: English]

[14 May 2018]

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women are important priorities for the European Union. The European Union is fully committed to mainstreaming gender into all disarmament work, including with regard to nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. This is reflected in the fact that gender and disarmament is one of the 11 high-level priorities for the three disarmament and non-proliferation working groups of the European Union.

The European Union believes that the active participation and leadership of women in peace and security decision-making and action are crucial in achieving peace, security and sustainable development. The role of women in these areas, including disarmament and non-proliferation, should be enhanced by ensuring systematic gender analysis and the integration of gender perspectives.

The European Union and its Member States have a long-standing commitment to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and subsequent resolutions of the Council on women and peace and security, in their internal and external actions. The unanimous adoption of resolution 2242 (2015) sent a strong message of continuous engagement of the international community on advancing the women and peace and security agenda in an effort to address emerging global challenges. The European Union actively promotes the strengthened and effective implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and expansion of its scope.

The European Union continues its efforts to integrate gender and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security into its Common Security and Defence Policy. All planning documents for Policy missions and operations make reference to the requirements to integrate gender perspectives and to include specific activities focused on gender equality, women's empowerment, and women and peace and security.

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<sup>20</sup> The full text of the information provided by the European Union will be available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs ([www.un.org/disarmament/topics/gender](http://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/gender)). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.