

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 9 May 2019 from the representatives of Belgium, the Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Peru, Poland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the President of the Security Council

We are writing with regard to the letter sent by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations ([S/2019/363](#)).

We are grateful to Inas Miloud for her comprehensive briefing on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, at the invitation of the Security Council, and for her valuable contribution to the open debate on sexual violence in conflict. We welcome the opportunity to engage with the Government of National Accord on the issue of women and peace and security, as it rightly highlighted the importance of civil society participation and its commitment to the women and peace and security agenda.

In this regard, we would like to make the following observations:

(a) Briefings by independent members of civil society, including by women human rights defenders, provide an important perspective for the Security Council's deliberations, as indicated in its resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#), in which the Council expressed "its intention to invite civil society, including women's organizations, to brief the Council in country-specific considerations and relevant thematic areas", and in the newly adopted resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#), in which the Council welcomed "the regular briefings by women from civil society";

(b) In its resolution [1889 \(2009\)](#), the Security Council encouraged Member States to design concrete strategies to address the needs and priorities of women and girls, including "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights". In its resolution [2122 \(2013\)](#), the Council noted "the need for access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, including regarding pregnancies resulting from rape, without discrimination". The provision of sexual and reproductive health services to survivors is a central component of any survivor-centred approach to fighting and preventing conflict-related sexual violence;

(c) We look forward to continuing to engage with the Government of National Accord and to supporting the meaningful participation of civil society in work on the women and peace and security agenda and on broader peace and security issues in the future. Notwithstanding the disagreement of the Government of National Accord with the content of Ms. Miloud's briefing, we trust that she will be allowed to continue her work unhindered.



We should be grateful if the present letter would be issued as a document of the Security Council.

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Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

(Signed) José **Singer Weisinger**
Representative of the Dominican Republic

(Signed) François **Delattre**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

(Signed) Christoph **Heusgen**
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

(Signed) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
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(Signed) Joanna **Wronecka**
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(Signed) Karen **Pierce**
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