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Peacebuilding and sustaining peace****Security Council
Seventy-fourth year****Letter dated 18 June 2019 from the representatives of Canada,
Germany, Namibia and Uruguay to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

Namibia, together with Canada, Germany and Uruguay, has the honour to transmit the communiqué of the third annual capital-level meeting of the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network, which was held in Windhoek on 10 and 11 April 2019.

Almost 200 participants attended the meeting, which brought together national and regional focal points of the Network and representatives of United Nations agencies, the security sector and civil society organizations to discuss the theme of the event, “Women and peace and security: towards full participation” and the sub-theme, “Mainstreaming the women and peace and security agenda in the programmes of regional economic communities”.

The communiqué contains key recommendations for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda that were made during the meeting.

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 66, and of the Security Council.

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Ambassador
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(Signed) Neville Melvin **Gertze**
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Annex to the letter dated 18 June 2019 from the representatives of Canada, Germany, Namibia and Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Meeting of the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network

Windhoek, 10 and 11 April 2019

Joint communiqué by the Focal Points on women and peace and security

We, the representatives of Angola, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Mali, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay, as well as of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and various United Nations agencies, have come together in Windhoek, Namibia, on 10 and 11 April 2019, for the third capital-level meeting of the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network, organized by Namibia, 2019 Chair of the Network, in close collaboration with Germany, Canada, Uruguay and UN-Women. The meeting included participants representing national, regional and international civil society organizations. This year's meeting also heard the first-hand field experience from Namibian women who have served in various peacekeeping missions.

The 2019 meeting deliberations were held under the theme "Women, peace and security: towards full participation" with the sub-theme, "Mainstreaming the women, peace and security agenda in regional economic communities."

This year's capital meeting built on discussions at the foundational meeting of the Network, held in September 2016 in New York, preceding capital-based Network meetings in Alicante, Spain, and Berlin, Germany, in 2017 and 2018, respectively, as well as other Network meetings held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 and 2018.

The Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network meeting was opened by Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, who in reflection on the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), recalled the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration of 2000, which served as a precursor to resolution 1325 (2000). She underscored the necessity to put in place effective measures to prevent conflict through effective disarmament, including through regional initiatives such as the African Union's Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative. She emphasized the important role women play in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In this regard, Namibia intends to establish an International Women's Peace Centre, which will focus on issues such as conflict resolution and management activities, aspects of mediation and negotiations, as well as peacekeeping operations.

Bineta Diop, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, stressed the importance of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda to ensure delivery of commitments and presented the Continental Results Framework adopted by the

African Union Commission to facilitate and accelerate implementation by African Union member States.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women, in the run-up to the twentieth anniversary of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), delivered a call to action urging participants to make and implement commitments that amplify the role of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Throughout the session, Focal Points discussed the following recommendations:

1. Focal Points emphasized the importance of **integrating the women and peace and security agenda in regional organizations plans and fostering implementation through the development of regional frameworks or action plans**. Focal Points highlighted the increasing role regional organizations play in promoting peace and security and stressed the need to deliver tangible results on women and peace and security, especially given the common, transnational nature of conflicts. Regional organizations need to consider how to devise definitive and directive mechanisms on how, when and through what channels new initiatives are to be taken and who should lead the way. Focal Points recognized the necessity of mainstreaming the women and peace and security agenda into regional policies to establish coherence with existing regional objectives. The meeting also discussed the need to harmonize regional and national action plans and indicators, defining clear lines of responsibilities while putting in place effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective implementation. Focal Points discussed that collaboration between member States, regional organizations and United Nations agencies is key in implementing the women and peace and security agenda.

2. Focal Points acknowledged that many regional and subregional organizations such as the European Union, SADC, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and others have adopted regional policies or action plans. Given the regional dimensions of conflict today, such plans and strategies can serve important functions towards conflict prevention and resolution, in addition to national action plans. Their effective implementation depends on high-level political will. Focal Points spoke to the importance of moving efforts beyond negative peace and looking at how to contribute to positive peace, including by applying a human security lens to efforts. Participants noted this approach was important to effectively implement resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and its focus on prevention, particularly given the evolving nature of conflict. The trend of action plans in countries/regions where there is no armed conflict is to be further encouraged (such as in Namibia, South Africa, Canada (domestic elements) and SADC). Participants also spoke to the need to improve information-sharing between regional organizations and between regional and subregional organizations. The meeting recognized the need to integrate early warning systems for conflict prevention into regional frameworks to enhance effective preparedness and responses. Participants noted the potential value of global coalitions of women peacekeepers, to exchange notes on peacekeeping, and strengthening global networks of women mediators.

3. Focal Points underscored the importance of **accelerating the development and adoption of national action plans to accelerate the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and other relevant subsequent resolutions**, while sharing best practices on national action plans coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and financing. Many Focal Points reported on the progress of their Government's national action plan and highlighted the importance for Governments to have inclusive and open discussions when formulating national

action plans by engaging civil society, youth, non-governmental actors, and other relevant implementing stakeholders. Some countries also reported on launching their first national action plan, building on experiences and lessons learned from other countries' national action plan processes.

4. Recognizing the role of national action plans in catalysing change, Focal Points identified emerging best practices and lessons for the successful implementation and monitoring of national action plans, including through consultation and partnership with civil society. Focal Points recognized civil society as a “critical friend” in supporting Governments in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, as its critical voice and partnership often leads to the development of lasting solutions.

5. Focal Points further highlighted emerging areas where leadership with a women and peace and security lens can lead to more successful solutions today in addressing the challenges of tomorrow — such as youth engagement, cyberspace and security, climate change (including natural disasters), countering violent extremism, and trafficking in persons. The meeting acknowledged that financing and dedicated funding remains a challenge that hinders the implementation of national action plans for many countries and called for efforts to address this gap.

6. Focal Points welcomed the United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament and recognized **the link between disarmament and the women and peace and security agenda, including but not limited to the trafficking of small arms and light weapons**. Focal Points highlighted the negative impact of trafficked arms on women, girls and youth in and outside of conflict situations, in particular. The meeting discussed the relative underrepresentation of women in arms control and disarmament forums and emphasized the need to mainstream the women and peace and security agenda into disarmament. The women and peace and security agenda and Network can benefit from more gender-responsive disarmament, inter alia, through advocacy for enhanced linkages across these agendas, increasing women's participation in disarmament processes, supporting the introduction of gender frameworks and analyses in arms control discussions, and encouraging gender-disaggregated data on arms and their impact.

7. The Focal Points recognized state commitments to the Arms Trade Treaty, while expressing concern over the impact of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, particularly illicit trade's effect of perpetuating conflict and instability. Focal Points undertook to further continue engaging in discussions on the nexus between disarmament, small arms and light weapons and the women and peace and security agenda in future Network meetings.

8. The meeting also underlined the involvement of **youth leaders in tackling the challenges of participation for women and youth**. The meeting emphasized the importance of opening spaces and ensuring accountability for the meaningful participation of young people in all aspects of peacebuilding. Using an innovative and participatory Peace Lab methodology to identify barriers and solutions, young people identified the need to be invited into spaces, and to be listened to and respected, and emphasized that sustainable peace requires the participation of all women and youth. The Lab also designed the hashtags: #wearehere; #peaceneedsher; #letusin; #allowusto. The meeting underscored that access to information, youth networks and the use of technology, including social media, can play a crucial role in promoting and supporting women and youth's active engagement in peace and security.

9. Throughout the discussions, participants emphasized the importance of increased women's participation in peace and security by enhancing their involvement and increasing their presence in peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, decision-making, negotiations and mediation positions at both the

national and international levels. Leading to the twentieth anniversary of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), Focal Points reaffirmed their commitments to the women and peace and security agenda and pledged to redouble their efforts to continue advocating for the agenda and ensure that women are adequately represented in political decision-making and peace negotiations at the national, regional and international levels.

10. Focal Points were urged to support a women and peace and security resolution focusing on sexual violence in conflict, to be tabled by Germany in the United Nations Security Council on 23 April 2019.

11. Focal Points emphasized the importance of the biannual Focal Points Network meetings to build partnerships and underlined the importance of using the momentum created by the Network meetings to ensure continuity and exchange in implementation related to women and peace and security over the year.

12. Focal Points emphasized the Network's mandate to stimulate national and regional action, yet highlighted the continued importance of linking the discussions in Windhoek to the United Nations context, in particular given the direct relevance of the women and peace and security agenda to the work of the Security Council. To this end, a **debriefing will be organized by the Focal Points Network in New York**, co-hosted by Namibia, Germany, Canada and Uruguay as the chairing troika of the Network.

13. The Focal Points called on other Member States and regional organizations to consider joining the Network.
