

**UN Security Council
Open Debate
on**

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

“Women in Peacekeeping”

**Statement by
Ms. Eenam Gambhir
Counsellor**

11 April 2019

Mr. President,

We thank you for convening this Open Debate on this important issue. We also thank the Secretary General and other briefers for their useful remarks.

The normative and operative frameworks relating to Women, Peace and Security agenda has considerably strengthened across the UN system over the last two decades. Today, there is greater awareness about the centrality of meaningful participation of women in UN's peace and security efforts including peacekeeping.

Mr. President,

In the “Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations” under Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), Member States agreed to “collectively commit to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda and its priorities by ensuring full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of the peace process and by systematically integrating a gender perspective into all stages of analysis, planning, implementation and reporting. They further recommitted to increasing the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping at all levels and in key positions.”

In this context, India welcomes the recently launched Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy and sees it as a collective commitment towards implementing A4P.

Mr. President,

India is committed to increasing the number of women peacekeepers and to meeting targets in this regard within the specified timelines.

The landmark first ever deployment by UN of all Female Formed Police Unit in Liberia by India became a role model for the local women, to participate in policing and in relevant rule of law frameworks.

India is fully prepared to deploy a Female Engagement Team (FET) comprising of 22 women officers and soldiers as part of Rapidly Deployable Battalion in MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of Congo) by August 2019. We are also deploying a women Formed Police Unit (FPU) in UNMISS (South Sudan) by the end of this year.

Mr. President,

We fully welcome the initiatives by the UN Secretariat in driving the formulation of policy frameworks to increase the number of women peacekeepers. However, we do perceive that there is some hesitation to put in strong commitments into the policy framework.

In order to achieve the increased targets under the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, we ought to encourage countries who are willing to contribute full women units. However, we notice that to accommodate those who cannot fulfill the all women unit commitments, the policy frameworks are being diluted to prefer mixed units over full women units. If this is the approach, how can we possibly achieve the targets that we set for increasing women participation in peacekeeping.

Instead of supporting a policy of mixed units, we believe that all women units need to be incentivized to encourage greater participation. Priority should also be given to deploying from the pending pledges related to women peacekeepers.

Mr. President,

On its part India stands ready to make all efforts to fulfill these goals and strengthen both institutional capacities as well as international cooperation on this issue.

India partners UN Women towards capacity building initiatives at the New Delhi-based Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUPNK) which conducted the 3rd UN Female Military Officers Course for 40 women military officers from 26 countries.

India also provides adequate pre-deployment training on gender sensitization to its peacekeeping forces.

Mr. President,

We will continue to engage with partners to work towards ensuring the meaningful participation of women and for building inclusive, peaceful and resilient societies.

I thank you Mr. President.
