Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Peacebuilding Commission for organizing this meeting. We appreciate the useful remarks by USG DiCarlo and other briefers.

The raison d’etre of the UN’s peacebuilding agenda is to break normative and organizational silos in addressing challenges to durable peace.

It is now well recognized that meaningful participation of women in decision-making measurably strengthens prevention efforts and deepens the effectiveness of peacebuilding in post-conflict situations.

Women also play active role in providing early warning signals and prevent the escalation of violence.

Women play critical role in efforts to counter violent extremism in situations of armed conflict and in addressing conflict-related sexual violence helps secure sustaining peace.

Women’s participation in peacebuilding is important to promote human rights and social justice, enables better monitoring of the implementation of formal peace agreements, political transparency and anti-corruption mechanisms.

Despite recognition of women’s contributions to preventing and resolving conflicts, they are often excluded from negotiations during peace processes.

Majority of peace agreements signed in last three decades have no women signatories. Vast majority of peace agreements fail to reference women and address their concerns, such as gender-based violence.

There is a need to institutionalize the involvement of women in conflict prevention and post conflict reconstruction. This requires not only normative advice but also commitment, capacity and institution building at the ground level.
In this context we support UN Secretary General’s commitment to strengthen women’s participation in peacebuilding through the Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding.

Strengthening of UN Country Teams and the Resident Coordinators to work across the development-humanitarian-peacebuilding continuum is a welcome measure, in the context in countries facing humanitarian emergencies and in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

In the context of UN peacekeeping, all women units in need to be prioritized to encourage greater participation.

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

Despite such evidence and strong commitments, even today only 6% of the UN peacekeepers are women.

We reiterate that India remains committed to increasing the number of uniformed women in peacekeeping and to meeting targets in this regard.

Providing adequate pre-deployment training on gender sensitization to the peacekeepers is important. India’s partnership with UN Women in capacity building initiatives at the New Delhi-based Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUPNK) is a reflection of our lasting commitment in this regard.

Sustainable and predictable financing for promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in peacebuilding processes remains a key challenge.

Funding through assessed contribution will give a strong political signal regarding collective commitment to peacebuilding. We also need to explore other alternatives. The dedicated funding instruments adopted in some countries, with specific provisions for women’s participation, and greater engagement of private sector in financing peacebuilding, need to be consolidated. India, under South-South Cooperation initiatives continues to support initiatives that focus on women’s participation and empowerment in fragile settings. India follows demand-driven approach in its developmental assistance which naturally dovetails into the national priorities of the recipient country and builds local capacity.

India’s own experience of guaranteeing participation of women in local governance at grassroots level offers inspiring lessons.

India stands ready to engage with our partners to work towards ensuring the meaningful participation of women and mainstreaming of women, peace and security considerations for building and sustaining durable peace.

I thank you.