

# **UN Security Council**

## **Open Debate**

### **Women, Peace and Security**

**“Promoting the Implementation of Women, Peace and Security Agenda and Sustaining Peace through Women’s Political and Economic Empowerment”**

### **INDIA STATEMENT**

**by**

**Ms. Paulomi Tripathi, First Secretary**

25 October 2018

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this Open Debate on this important issue. We thank the Secretary General for his report and all the briefers for their remarks.

Mr. President,

The normative and operative frameworks relating to Women, Peace and Security agenda has been 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 peace processes and incorporation of gender perspectives in UN's peace and security efforts.

We appreciate Secretary General's emphasis and achievement on gender parity in UN's senior leadership.

The importance of women's active engagement and leadership in peace and reconciliation processes and in countering spread of violent extremism is now well established.

Action oriented initiatives such as African Women Leaders Network and encouraging results from peace processes including from Colombia and Guinea Bissau re-confirms the importance of women in bringing transformative changes.

Mr. President,

Despite these efforts, women's role and perspectives in peace processes remain largely neglected.

Sexual violence, abductions and human trafficking continue to be used as weapons of war in armed conflict by non-state actors and terrorist organizations. Rapidly expanding trans-boundary criminal networks finance terror, supply arms, recruit and train of foreign fighters and destabilize

whole regions which disproportionately affect women. Large scale movements of refugees emanating from armed conflicts increase the vulnerability of women to discrimination and exploitation.

No country is in a position to effectively counter these challenges alone.

Mr. President,

The issue of Women Peace and Security has also to be seen in the wider societal context, involving gender and development issues, which are dealt with outside the Council.

The mutually reinforcing role of gender-responsive development and building peaceful and resilient societies is well recognized.

The normative work done in this regard outside the Council including at the Commission on Status of Women and the Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women must continue to inform our actions. The normative work done by UN Women and work of other agencies such as UNODC are of relevance for building capacities. The Peacebuilding Fund committed more than one-third of its funding towards gender mainstreaming programmes.

Mr. President,

As the General Assembly focuses on gender sensitive and inclusive development to build peaceful and resilient societies, the Council must push for effective cooperation on countering terrorism that threatens peace and security.

The Council must make all efforts to realize the full potential of integrating women, peace and security considerations in sanctions regimes. The Sanctions Committees of the Security Council need to address the issue of proactively listing terrorist individuals and entities involved in sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts. International cooperation for prosecution of criminals engaged in transboundary crimes is important to bring justice to the victims, large number of whom is women and girls.

Mr. President,

In India the discourse on women's empowerment has progressed from viewing women as beneficiaries of welfare schemes to mainstreaming their concerns and harnessing their leadership for inclusive development.

More than 1.3 million directly elected women representatives participate in formulating and implementing gender responsive policies in India.

Gender-based budgeting has proved beneficial for mainstreaming of gender perspectives in policy implementation across sectors.

Mr. President,

India is committed to a higher representation of women in peacekeeping missions and has fulfilled the pledge to have 15% of military observers as women.

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. India is also committed to provide another all-female formed police unit.

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

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

India also fully supports UN Secretary General's zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse, and strong commitment to achieving gender parity in peace operations.

Mr. President,

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 inclusive, peaceful and resilient societies.

Thank you.