

Intervention by
Ambassador K. Nagaraj Naidu,
Deputy Permanent Representative
at the
Peacebuilding Commission
on
Gender Responsive Social Protection systems and Access to Public
Services in Peacebuilding contexts – connecting local women’s
perspectives with global policies and priorities
20 March 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

2. We appreciate the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for organizing this meeting to reflect on the priority theme of CSW 63 from a peacebuilding perspective.
3. India has been associated with UN peacekeeping for over half a century and with the PBC since its inception in 2005. We are committed to support the efforts of international community in ensuring peace and prosperity for all.
4. The idea of building and sustaining peace is inherent in the vision of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development. Women empowerment and gender equality are essential to peacebuilding and thereby in achieving the SDGs. A holistic approach is needed to strengthen economic opportunities for women as well as political and social stability. We believe that when countries invest more in social protection systems and ensure greater access to public services, it is possible to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
5. For instance, in India we are moving from ‘women development’ to women-led development’. Women are seen as agents of change rather than beneficiaries of welfare programmes. With progressive mainstreaming of gender perspective in our development priorities, women’s empowerment is at the core of our SDG implementation action. There is focus on measures such as income guarantee programmes, cash benefit transfers, improved access to healthcare and education for women and girls to improve living conditions in short-term. We are trying to link these with actions targeted to increase productivity and ensure better access to markets, in order to derive sustainable, long-term benefits.

6. I would like to share an interesting and innovative example – an Indian NGO named Self Employed Women’s Association is working with the women of Afghanistan and imparting vocational training to women in the areas of food processing, garment stitching and embroidery and eco-regeneration, which resulted in providing decent and sustained livelihood opportunities. Their target is to train 200 Afghan women to be Master Trainers and 3,000 Afghan women across five Afghan provinces. This project is also being funded by the US Agency for International Development and is unique example of how the governments of Afghanistan, India and the United States have come together to contribute to empowerment of women and girls for sustained peace and progress.

7. To give another example from our peacekeeping experience, Indian women police have inspired the women in Liberia to join security sector of the country. The all women formed police units deployed under UN peacekeeping mission during 2007 to 2016 set an example of what women can achieve through community engagement. Facing challenges from riots to Ebola, the all female formed police unit officers have proven themselves up to the task again and again. Through their work, they managed criminality, deterred sexual and gender-based violence and helped rebuild safety and confidence among the population. These women served as role models, and the effect on Liberian women was very significant. It is estimated that this positive influence resulted in the increase of number of women in Liberia’s security sector from 6% to more than 17%.

9. India has consistently held the view that greater participation of women in the areas of conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peace keeping and post conflict reconstruction is an essential pre-requisite for lasting peace and security.

10. Genuine peace requires not only the absence of war but also the elimination of unjust social and economic relations, including unequal gender relations.

11. A sustainable notion of peace and security would be one that privileges the values of pluralism, inclusivity and gender equity. These are the values that have traditionally been excluded from statist conceptions of peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.