

## **Joint Statement on Gender, Diversity and Inclusion at the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference (General Debate)**

**I have the honour to take the floor on behalf \_\_\_\_\_ States Parties, namely Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States and my own country, Canada.**

During the current review cycle of the NPT, a large number of States Parties from diverse regions have addressed the relevance of gender perspectives to the Treaty and its implementation across all three pillars. We welcome the increased attention given to this vital issue, which demonstrates the growing recognition of the importance of gender considerations in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

Action 36 of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament makes clear that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in representation, advocacy and decision-making processes is key to moving towards a safer future. Gender perspectives provide key

insights into how individuals and groups are differentially impacted by armed conflict and weapons, and gender inclusivity makes for better and more effective arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

Various factors come into play when applying a gender perspective to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses. The intersections of race, gender, economic status, geography, nationality, and other factors must be taken into account as risk-multiplying factors. To accurately assess how different populations and groups are affected, we must give greater consideration to diversity and inclusion in all processes and decision-making bodies such as this one to ensure that outcomes reflect their vital perspectives.

Taking a holistic approach to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is to understand that nuclear weapons have different effects on different demographics as evidenced in studies with survivors of nuclear weapons use and testing. It also means identifying gaps and barriers in existing regimes and forums. This may be done through disaggregating data and integrating gender analysis in research, requiring gender parity in delegations, panels, and national representatives, or providing meaningful and accessible opportunities for under-represented and marginalised groups, including women, to

contribute to existing procedures and policies, as well as craft new ones. In sum, the process of nuclear disarmament must be carried out with an eye to the diversity, equity, and inclusion of all women, minorities and diverse populations.

As the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, the NPT has seen hundreds of delegates, ministers, and heads of state represented in this body. This review cycle has seen some improvements in the number of women participants which should be recognized. We also welcome increased focus in ensuring that youth and other historically excluded voices are heard, including the work of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs through the #Youth4Disarmament initiative. As the generation that will have to live with the consequences of our success or failure, youth have a very real stake in this Treaty's work. They can also make a valuable contribution, including by providing views from affected communities and under-represented populations, and by bringing fresh and creative ideas to our work.

Diversity and inclusion in the NPT Review Conference requires more than adding diverse individuals to delegations. It means having diversity at all levels, from interns to heads of delegations, and ensuring their

meaningful participation. For women and other underrepresented groups, there must not only be a seat at the table, but also real opportunities to shape conversations, policies, and outcomes. We thus reiterate our call for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women across all disarmament processes, including in the NPT's implementation and review. In the more than 50 years of the NPT's pre-eminence, we have learned time and time again that a greater diversity of voices in this body results in more sustainable, effective and equitable outcomes.

Beyond issues of participation, there are other areas of the Treaty in which gender roles are relevant. Across the three pillars of the Treaty, gender can affect exposure to nuclear risk; the impact of ionizing radiation resulting from nuclear weapons use; the ability to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and access to education and training in nuclear science and engineering. In this regard, we would like to highlight the importance of gender analysis as a tool that can be used to design and implement policies in a gender-responsive way.

Improving gender diversity and mainstreaming gender perspectives into nuclear policymaking will strengthen the Treaty process. This recognition is far from ground-breaking, and we would be remiss to

ignore the efforts of civil society and UN organizations such as UNODA, the IAEA and UNIDIR in the field of gender equality. These organizations conduct research, outreach, field work, and produce statistics and reports, which enable mainstreaming and gender responsive policy design and implementation. They have contributed greatly to our ability to make more informed and inclusive decisions. Civil society provides evidence, expertise, advice and ideas that spurs us on to meaningful action. Moreover, civil society have played a vital role in providing a platform for gender, diversity and inclusion in this review cycle as well as in the disarmament and non-proliferation space more generally. We are thankful for their commitment and look forward to continued collaboration.

In conclusion, we look forward to continuing these conversations throughout the duration of this conference and to work together to ensure gender equality and inclusion are reflected in the outcome of our collective work.