

**Peacebuilding Commission**  
**Virtual Meeting on Women, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**  
***‘Enhancing the Leading Role of Women in Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Efforts’***  
**Wednesday, 13 October 2021, 10:00 AM**  
**Chair Summary**

1. On 13 October, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held a virtual Ambassadorial-level meeting on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) under the title “*Enhancing the Leading Role of Women in Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Efforts*”. The meeting was convened by Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek, Chair of the PBC. In his opening remarks, the Chair thanked DPPA/PBSO for the timely submission of a written update on the implementation of the PBC gender strategy and action plan from October 2020 to October 2021, and for sharing the findings of a recent thematic review on gender responsive peacebuilding undertaken by the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). He stated that the written update allowed the PBC to take stock of its efforts to enhance the role of women in peacebuilding and discuss related input to the Security Council’s Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security. The Chair stressed the importance of expanding partnerships to implement the WPS agenda and the important role of the PBC in amplifying the voice of women peacebuilders across the UN. He mentioned the “Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development” as a vital platform to discuss challenges and opportunities and formulating recommendations to enhance meaningful participation of African women in peacebuilding settings
2. Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General and head of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) emphasized areas of work that are critical for the promotion of women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and political processes. These include improvements in gender analysis that guides DPPA’s work; support for efforts to expand special measures for women, such as quotas, while also focusing on the quality of women’s participation in political and peace processes; and linking participation with protection needs by addressing conflict-related sexual violence and other forms of widespread gender-based violence and discrimination. The USG stressed the importance of advocating for adequate, predictable, and sustained funding for women’s political participation and highlighted that the Peacebuilding Fund allocated, for the third consecutive year, 40% of its annual investment towards gender equality and women’s empowerment and that DPPA’s Multi-Year Appeal also dedicates at least 17% of its funding to projects entirely devoted to the WPS agenda.
3. Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, presented persisting challenges in the implementation of the WPS agenda, including the fact that, as reported in S/2021/827, only 23 per cent of delegates in peace processes led or co-led by the United Nations were women and only 42 per cent of the over 3,100 policy measures adopted throughout the world to respond to COVID-19 can be considered gender-sensitive. Ms. Bahous stressed the importance of protecting civic space for women peacebuilders, human right defenders and women in politics as well as briefers to the UN and other intergovernmental bodies. She underscored the need to continue to finance women led and women focused peacebuilding and development initiatives, including through the SG’s Peacebuilding Fund and the

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. She also stressed the importance of continuing to improve the gender analysis that guides the work of the UN Secretariat and the intergovernmental bodies of Member States and committed to contributing to this objective through even stronger partnerships with the rest of the UN system.

4. Dr. Meghna Guhathakurta, Executive Director of 'Research Initiatives Bangladesh' presented her country's experience in the development and implementation of a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 and how the NAP has been used to address more effectively natural and humanitarian crises as well as challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. She presented evidence showing that women's physical, mental, and social well-being is being affected differently to men's during humanitarian and security crises and explained that this was also demonstrated based on evidence collected in Rohingya refugee shelters as well as in local communities affected by climate related challenges and the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Dr Guhathakurta stressed the need for all Asia-Pacific States to develop and implement their own National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 with a view to enabling peace and stability across the region.
5. Ms. Diallo Tata Touré, Director of ODI-Sahel (Organization for Integrated Development in the Sahel) and President of the Regional Coordination of NGOs in Mopti, Mali. emphasized the importance of supporting the efforts of women's peace outreach activities in the Mopti region, which have recently been further complicated due to challenges related to climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. She explained how women in the Sahel region are disproportionately affected by massive displacement, abuse and exploitation, lack of access to education, financial resources, and shelter, and lack of safety and security. She stressed that women's inclusion, leadership and safety should be key aspects of any emergency response in the Sahel region
6. Ms. Julieth Viviana Garcia Carreño, a representative of 'Yo Puedo,' a Young Women's Movement in Colombia, shared the experiences of young women peacebuilders in Colombia who organize themselves to influence public policies, local development plans and peace building processes. She presented local community initiatives that focus on psychosocial support through local solidarity networks and art and culture events. She stressed that the participation of young women in the implementation of the peace agreement is critical for its success. In this respect, she explained how the participation of young Colombian women in the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition has allowed them to share local perspectives, which in turn helped enhance progress in transitional justice. She encouraged support from across the UN system and the Peacebuilding Commission to help ensure that young women in Colombia are empowered to contribute to peacebuilding initiatives, including through support to territorial entities, youth leaders, and youth organizations.
7. Ms. Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos, Director of Programs at the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), presented recommendations pooled together from the experiences GNWP, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, and

the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). She stressed the need for sustainable, flexible and locally-oriented financing for women led and women focused organizations that takes women's protection seriously. She suggested that donors should make funding opportunities more accessible to local peacebuilders, including by reviewing and easing some of the eligibility, application and reporting criteria and requirements as appropriate, and by taking concrete steps to ensure the inclusion of women peacebuilders from diverse backgrounds into governance, advisory, funding and review boards and committees. Ms. Santos expressed hope that these recommendations will be reflected during the deliberations of the high-level General Assembly meeting on financing for peacebuilding next year.

The PBC welcomed the briefings and made the following observations and recommendations:

- While recognizing some positive steps towards the objectives of the women, peace and security agenda over the last year, the PBC regretted persisting implementation gaps. The PBC highlighted the importance of women's economic empowerment for their full, equal, and meaningful participation in public life, and stressed the need to increase women's quotas, including through special measures, while at the same time focusing on the quality of women's participation in political and peace processes, as well as in peacebuilding initiatives.
- The PBC encouraged the UN Secretariat to adopt further measures to ensure that the number of women delegates in peace processes led or co-led by the UN (currently at 23 per cent as reported in S/2021/827) increases in the future. It also encouraged the UN Secretariat to ensure that relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council comprise gender analysis, including verified and reliable data and recommendations, for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.
- The PBC recognized that women's protection and participation are mutually reinforcing priorities that need to be pursued simultaneously. In this respect, the PBC called for more action to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict as well as other forms of widespread gender-based violence that specifically target women peacebuilders. Some PBC members emphasized the need for more systematic efforts to protect womenpeacebuilders . In this respect, some PBC members welcomed the fact that the Peacebuilding Fund's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) has recently allocated a total of \$19.2 million to protect women and youth peacebuilders.
- The PBC encouraged countries that engage with it to adopt comprehensive national action plans on women, peace, and security and to take steps to ensure their effective implementation. This is even more important at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic continues to magnify and exacerbate the very issues the women, peace and security agenda tries to address.
- Several PBC members took note of the civil society briefers' recommendations for the promotion of sustainable and flexible financing for local women-led and women-focused

organizations and locally driven efforts to implement the WPS agenda, including efforts to ensure sufficient resourcing of NAPs, and underscored the importance of these recommendations in light of the High-Level General Assembly meeting on financing for peacebuilding in 2022. In this respect, several Member States that the PBF is setting an example; having for the third year maintained a 40% allocation of its annual investment towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

- Taking note of the written update on the implementation of the PBC gender strategy and action plan from October 2020 to October 2021, PBC members committed to ensuring progress in all areas specified in the action plan, including by encompassing gender analysis into their respective interventions; continuing to enhance the quality of gender references in PBC outcome documents; creating space for women peacebuilders to share their experiences and reflecting their messages and recommendations into other intergovernmental bodies; undertaking outreach activities and seeking the feedback of women peacebuilders even after they have briefed the Commission; and by supporting their peacebuilding efforts and protection needs on the ground through policy advocacy and by mobilizing technical and financial support.
- Several PBC members welcomed the launching of the Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda and his commitment to place women and girls at the center of peace efforts and renewed their own commitment to mainstream gender dimensions across all aspects of the Commission's work, including through the full implementation of the PBC gender strategy and its action plan. In this respect, they asked DPPA/PBSO to continue to submit annual written updates on the status of its implementation.

\*\*\*