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Statement

by

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**United Nations Security Council
Arria Formula on Women, Peace and Security:
*“Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and
Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”***

Security Council

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We thank Ireland and Mexico convening today's meeting. We also express our gratitude to today's distinguished briefers for the critical insights shared.

More than 20 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), women's participation in peace processes, including UN-led efforts, remains unacceptably low. With some ten resolutions and over a dozen presidential statements on women, peace and security, the Security Council has signalled its commitment to gender justice. These products call for enhanced, meaningful and, more recently, equal participation of women in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Yet, tangible gender parity, equality and justice continues to lag behind what has come to be regarded as a robust normative framework on women, peace and security.

As country-specific and regional Security Council mandates are expanding to include WPS priorities, we wish to recognise the critical capacity building work undertaken by UN political and peacekeeping missions. All UN-led organs and agencies must consistently ensure that gender analysis guides their operations and that the WPS target on the full, equal and meaningful participation of diverse women is achieved at every stage of peace processes. With the exception of women's involvement in peace agreement monitoring of the gender commitments in Colombia, and women's contribution to peace efforts in Liberia, UN-led peace processes have failed to meet their commitments on women's participation. Political will in the form of financial and technical support within UN-missions and organs, as well as building national capacity to enhance women's participation, are tangible ways in which the UN must lead by example. In short, all aspects of UN-led peace processes must symbolically and systematically ensure gender parity and justice at every stage.

We recognise existing local and national expertise on women, gender, peace and security among women civil society, and advocate for their leadership in capacity building actions to enhance women's participation in peace processes. Equally, strategies to prevent threats and acts of violence against women involved in peace processes must form part of any plan of action to accelerate women's participation.

Women constitute approximately half of populations globally, including in conflict-affected countries and regions. Women and children constitute the vast majority of displaced persons in conflict settings. Diverse women must rightfully lead and participate equally in peace efforts as negotiators, mediators, signatories to peace processes, in monitoring peace

agreements, in transitional authorities, and in all other political and economic processes related to building and sustaining peace. The effectiveness of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R), transitional justice, and reconciliation initiatives will be vastly improved by the equal participation and leadership of women.

There must be no conditions placed on diverse women's equal leadership and participation. This must become our starting point, rather than a historical wrong that we are forever seeking to redress. On International Women's Day, we are reminded of our global pledge to gender-responsive, inclusive peace and development outlined in CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Agenda 2030 and several other multilateral and national commitments. These remain our promise to transform existing patriarchal arrangements, which inhibit inclusive peacebuilding efforts. It is precisely because conflict-affected countries and regions are grappling multiple socio-economic and socio-political crises that we must centre gender justice in all peacebuilding actions, including peace processes, to ensure women's concerns are prioritised and to guarantee durable peace everywhere.