



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
on behalf of the A3 (Kenya, Niger, and Tunisia) and Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines

"UN Peacekeeping Operations: Police Commissioners"

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Thank You Mr. President,

I have the esteemed pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the Republics of Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - the A3+1.

Our delegations attach great importance to the theme of today's discussion, and to our distinguished briefers – Under-Secretary-General Lacroix, Commissioner Lusala of UNISFA and Commissioner Boughani of MINUSMA – we thank you for your insightful remarks. We value this opportunity to interact with each of you today, to learn more about the strategic vision for UN Police Components, and to benefit from the operational perspectives of women's participation in the peace processes of the Abyei, and of gender mainstreaming in MINUSMA.

We thank the UN Police serving in the field for their commitment to peace and to those at the HQs for providing the leadership and motivation.

Mr. President,

It is an undeniable certitude, *grounded in both historical fact and in contemporary political reality*, that women are indispensable stakeholders to effective peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. And as we continue to bear witness; women are

fundamental partners for just, peaceful and prosperous outcomes in all countries and for all peoples.

Mr. President,

The United Nations police peacekeeping has expanded considerably in the last few years and its activities have become increasingly wide-ranging and complex. The A3+1 commend the work of the United Nations Police in maintaining peace and security, they are central to multilateral efforts to prevent, mitigate and resolve violent conflict.

The A3+1 remains committed to all efforts aimed at ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in UN Policing - *and in peacekeeping more broadly*. The immense expertise, competitive advantages and wider societal benefits that women bring to peace operations – *in all roles, both uniformed and civilian, and at all levels at the headquarters and in the field* – prove ever so critical. So too are women's contributions essential to special political missions, peacebuilding initiatives, and across the wider spectrum of development projects and programs required to deliver lasting peace.

It is imperative that all of these activities are well-coordinated to establish best practices for gender mainstreaming; to successfully

confront implementation gaps in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda; and to fully address the structural and systemic inequalities that continue to affect women and girls.

In addition, as we work to enhance women's participation in peacekeeping and UN policing, we must avoid assumptions which position women as limited to caring and nurturing, thus restricting their participation to sexual and gender-based violence response. Instead, we must consistently ensure women's meaningful participation and leadership in all aspects of peacekeeping, including police patrols, operations and planning; responding to the growing threat of small arms and light weapons; disarmament demobilisation and reintegration; and security sector reform.

We commend the demonstrated commitment to increasing the number of women in UN policing and the broader efforts to ensure gender-responsive policing and peacekeeping. In particular, the progress made in women's participation in the UNFICYP's police components and MINUSMA's establishment of the gender unit are indicative of good practice among UN PKOs. In both instances, the wider commitment to gender analysis and gender responsive peacekeeping are evident. This must however become the norm among *all* UN PKOs and SPMs.

With this in mind, USG LaCroix, *how do you envision the delivery of a more comprehensive gender mainstreaming strategy across all UN SPMs and PKOs? We seek more concrete proposals as these are needed to enhance gender responsive policing and all other aspects of the WPS agenda relative to peacekeeping and peacebuilding.*

Mr. President,

The A3+1 welcomes continued progress, *by all peacekeeping missions*, towards implementing the United Nations Zero Tolerance Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. These standards and codes of conduct deliver protective mechanisms not only to women who serve in UN Peace Operations, but they also deliver positive normative changes to the most marginalised communities in which peacekeeping personnel are deployed. All allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse – *wheresoever and by whomsoever committed* – should be thoroughly investigated and perpetrators brought to justice. Furthermore, we urge all stakeholders to fully implement all provisions of resolutions 2518, 2538, 2594 and other Security Council decisions that address the interlinkages between peacekeeping and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

The A3+1 reiterates our support to the various efforts of the Secretary-General, including the "Action for Peacekeeping" (A4P) and "Action for Peacekeeping Plus" (A4P+) initiatives, aimed at

strengthening partnerships; enhancing effectiveness and accountability; boosting safety and security; improving conduct; and delivering political solutions through peacekeeping. We also commend the continued efforts to further develop and implement the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing (SGF) which reinforces and enriches all peacekeeping, rule-of-law, protection-of-civilians, and peacebuilding activities.

Women are crucial participants to achieving all of these noble ambitions. In all contexts and under all circumstances, we must ensure that women not only meaningfully participate, but also lead in building consensus, advancing reconciliation, and establishing stable and resilient democratic societies. Without a greater mobilisation, participation, leadership and promotion of women, *from all backgrounds and in their full diversity*, the successful mission transitions and sustainable exit strategies that we all look forward to would be hard to envisage and even harder to attain.

Mr. President,

The simple truth is that women are not only effective peacekeepers and police officers; they are also powerful peace advocates, diligent community organisers, conscientious political leaders, and tireless nation builders. We must therefore redouble our efforts to ensure that women are always fully represented at each decision-making table and level without discrimination or bias - *as equal*

participants, key decision makers, and primary beneficiaries. Any obstacle to women's engagement provides a barrier to lasting peace. Let us remove these barriers and build a more peaceful and prosperous world, to the benefit of all countries and peoples.

I thank you.