

United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace & Security and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Remarks

by

Mr. Yannick Glemarec

Excellencies, representatives of missions, members of the CEDAW Committee, and civil society,

I am delighted to represent UN Women at this Arria meeting on the linkages between resolution 1325 and CEDAW General Recommendation 30 and would like to deeply **thank the Ambassador Rosselli** and the Permanent Mission of Uruguay for hosting this meeting. UN Women is committed to strengthening the flow of information to the Security Council on women, peace and security issues, and **the leadership of Member States like Uruguay is critical to these efforts.**

Through its eight resolutions on women, peace and security, the Security Council has recognized that women's rights are **central to the maintenance of international peace and security.** The Security Council has also underlined the strong synergies between the 8 WPS resolutions and the CEDAW General Recommendation 30 on Women in conflict prevention, conflict and post conflict situations, as follows:

- In resolutions 2122 and 2242, the Council reaffirmed the role of the CEDAW Convention as a framework for protecting and promoting women's rights in conflict-affected settings.

- And in resolution 2242, the Council specifically noted General Recommendation 30, which clarifies State and non-State obligations to implement the Convention before, during and after conflict and political crises.

Significantly, both UNSCR 2122 and CR30 were adopted on the same day: October 18th, 2013. **Building on these recognized synergies, today's meeting provides a critical starting point to strengthen the linkages between the Security Council and the CEDAW Committee.**

I would like to propose three ways that the Security Council members could work collaboratively with the CEDAW Committee to reinforce women's rights in countries on its agenda.

1. **First, the Security Council members should fully leverage information from the CEDAW Committee to inform their decision-making.** The CEDAW Convention includes a periodic reporting and review process, which requires all States parties to report to the Committee every four years on measures they have adopted to give effect to provisions in the Convention. These reports, and the Concluding Observations from the CEDAW Committee, contain valuable information about the situation of human rights in countries on the Council's agenda. For example, Mali reported to the CEDAW Committee in July. The Committee noted with concern that women were underrepresented in the negotiation of the country's peace agreement, and recommended that the State party avail itself of the technical assistance provided by the UN Mission in Mali, to ensure the meaningful involvement of women, going forward. This is exactly the type of information that should be put at the disposal of the Security Council, and followed upon during debates and missions. The

Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security regularly includes material from the CEDAW Committee, and is one example of the ways in which this information can flow to Council members.

2. Second, the Security Council members should include information on women, peace and security in their reports to the CEDAW Committee. General recommendation 30 makes clear that States parties are responsible for all their actions affecting human rights, regardless of whether the affected persons are in their territory. For example, States supplying peacekeepers, sending humanitarian assistance, or which have national corporations operating in conflict and post-conflict countries have an obligation to ensure that their actions abroad do not violate the rights contained in the CEDAW Convention. Members of the Security Council should set an example for all States parties, and demonstrate through their reporting to CEDAW that the women, peace and security agenda applies universally – as does respect for women’s human rights. UN Women’s guidebook on General Recommendation 30 includes a checklist of questions for States Parties reporting to CEDAW, which we hope will serve as a useful tool as you prepare your reports.

3. Third, the Security Council should continue to invite briefings from United Nations’ human rights experts – whether through Arria meetings such as this one, or during Council sessions. Members of the CEDAW Committee, as well as the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, have incredibly valuable knowledge to share; they simply need an invitation to do so. These personal exchanges reinforce the synergies between the

often-siloed pieces of the UN, and are mutually beneficial to both the Security Council and the human rights mechanism.

I look forward to hearing the exchanges this morning; and hope that today's meeting is only the first many. UN Women would be delighted to support Council members in making this a regular occurrence. We also hope to see you all at the next meeting of the Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security.

Thank you.