

## **Notes from the UN Security Council Arria Formula Meeting on the Synergies between SC Resolutions on Women Peace and Security and CEDAW**

**December 5, 2016; UN Conference Room 1, UN HQ New York**

The Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN in collaboration with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN and with support from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) Directorate for International Law organized the Arria Formula Meeting on the “Synergies between SC Resolutions on Women Peace and Security and CEDAW” on December 5, 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The meeting focused on the use of the CEDAW GR NO. 30 as a complementary accountability instrument to UNSCR 1325 and its supporting Women Peace and Security (WPS) resolutions.

The objectives of the meeting were:

1. To exchange views concerning the synergies between the Security Council Resolutions on WPS and CEDAW and how a congruent implementation could strengthen and reinforce each instruments' efficacy;
2. To enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council Framework on 1325 by reporting to CEDAW on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the supporting women and peace and security resolutions; and
3. To generate support for a more integrative approach to the implementation of international laws and policies across the UN system.

### **Notes from the Arria Formula Meeting<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Opening and Welcome Remarks: H.E. Mr. Elbio Rosselli, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN**

- The Arria Formula Meeting aims to exchange views on how to build an integrative approach to achieving international instruments.
- UNSCR 1325 was a turning point for WPS issues, as it recognized the huge impact that war has on women.
- Sixteen years after the UNSCR 1325 there is a need to question the progress of the resolution.
- Women and children still face many challenges such as sexual violence, slavery, hunger, siege, violations of human dignity. A great deal more has to be done.
- Civil society organizations have been playing a leading role in achieving Resolution 1325 and the seven other resolutions (UNSCR 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 and 2242), which make up the WPS agenda.
- For Uruguay, the protection of human rights is linked to peace and security.

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<sup>1</sup> The full presentations of the briefers are attached to this document.

- To tackle these problems, Uruguay is presenting these issues at the UN Security Council bearing in mind that CEDAW having been ratified by [189] Member States should be used in reporting on the implementation of Resolution 1325.
- Uruguay wants cooperation between bodies such as the Security Council and the Human Rights Council to strengthen synergies between the different international tools.

**Briefer #1 – Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme UN Women**

- 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.
- The Security Council has 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.
  - In resolution 2242, the Council specifically noted GR 30, which clarifies State and non-State obligations to implement the Convention before, during and after conflict and political crises.

The Arria Formula **meeting provides a critical starting point to strengthen the linkages between the Security Council and the CEDAW Committee.**

Three proposals that would enable the Security Council members to 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. 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 [or not.] 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.

**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.

UN Women will be delighted to support the Security Council members in making this a regular meeting to examine progress.

### **Briefer #2 – Ms. Pramila Patten, Chair of the CEDAW Task Force on GR 30**

CEDAW is the authoritative legal instrument on women’s human rights and a binding source of international law for its current 189 States Parties. GR 30 reaffirms that the Convention’s preamble and its 16 substantive provisions establish the requisite normative framework for the full protection of women’s human rights at all times, for advancing substantive gender equality before, during, and after conflict, and ensuring that women’s diverse experiences are fully integrated into all peacebuilding, peacemaking and reconstruction processes.

GR 30 clarifies the broad scope of application of the Convention and stressed that its application goes beyond “armed conflict” as narrowly defined under international law and that the Convention is also applicable to conflict prevention, international and non-international armed conflicts, situations of foreign occupation, as well as a diverse range of other situations of concern, such as internal disturbances, protracted and low-intensity civil strife, political strife, ethnic and communal violence, states of emergency and suppression of mass uprisings, war against terrorism and organized crime, in addition to the post-conflict phase.

#### ***Some of the important issues addressed in GR 30 include:***

- The territorial and extraterritorial application of the Convention;
- Application of the Convention to State and non-State actors;
- Complementarity of CEDAW and international humanitarian, refugee and criminal law;
- Displacement, refugees and asylum seekers;

- Security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and
- Constitutional and electoral reform.

### ***Synergy between CEDAW and UNSCRs on WPS***

GR 30 recognizes SCR 1325 and the WPS agenda as a “crucial political framework” for advancing advocacy regarding women, peace and security and reaffirms the need for a concerted and integrated approach that places the implementation of the Council’s WPS agenda into the broader framework of the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol.

GR 30 recommends that States Parties ensure that the implementation of Security Council commitments reflects a model of substantive equality and takes into account the impact of conflict and post-conflict contexts on all rights enshrined in the Convention, in addition to those violations concerning conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. It also specifically recommended that States ensure that national action plans and strategies to implement resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions are compliant with the Convention, and that adequate budgets are allocated for their implementation.

***Monitoring and Reporting*** - GR 20 makes some bold recommendations as to how its reporting procedure could be used effectively to consolidate the Convention and the Council’s agenda. In a specific section on “Monitoring and Reporting”, it recommends that States Parties:

- provide information on the implementation of the Security Council agenda on women, peace and security, in particular resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013), including by specifically reporting on compliance with any agreed United Nations benchmarks or indicators developed as part of that agenda; and
- report on the legal framework, policies and programmes that they have implemented to ensure the human rights of women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict.

Since the adoption of GR 30, the CEDAW Committee increasingly receiving information from States Parties on the implementation of the SC Agenda on WPS. Whenever the report is silent, issues of WPS are raised in the List of Issues and Questions sent to States Parties in advance of the examination of their report and information is finally provided in the Responses to the List of Issues and Questions. Similarly, shadow reports from NGOs and confidential UNCT reports are increasingly addressing issues of WPS.

***Concluding Observations since the adoption of GR 30-*** Since the adoption of GR 30, the Committee has examined the reports of no less than 25 States Parties that are in conflict or post conflict situations including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, Mali, Central African Republic to name a few.

The Committee is also now much more consistent in addressing issues of women peace and security in its List of Issues and Questions sent to States Parties before the examination of their reports; during its constructive dialogue with them and in its Concluding Observations to States Parties. Concluding observations regularly include specific paragraphs entitled:

- Women Peace and Security
  - Women in post-conflict situations
  - Gender-based violence against women in conflict-affected areas
  - Refugees, returnees and internally displaced women and girls
  - Participation of women in the peace process
  - Employment and economic opportunities for women affected by conflict
  - Transitional justice
- Disadvantaged groups of women such as widows, former women war combatants and women war victims amongst others.

### ***Concluding Observations- recommendations related to NAP ON SCR 1325***

The Committee is regularly urging States parties that do not yet have a NAP on SCR 1325 to establish a clear time frame to develop and adopt a national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in cooperation with representatives of women's organizations; to address all areas of concern in order to ensure durable peace in the State party; to take into consideration the full spectrum of the Security Council's agenda on women and peace and security; to "incorporates a model of substantive equality, in line with the Convention, that will have an impact not only on violence against women but also on all spheres of women's life and addresses the intersecting forms of discrimination to which women, including widows and internally displaced and refugee women, are subjected." [Iraq-2014]

The Committee also regularly scrutinizes NAPs which are to be renewed, highlighting gaps identified in the implementation of their previous national action plan, and recommending that new NAPs be allocated with sufficient resources; be elaborated with the participation of CSOs

***Future reports*** - The Committee systematically recommends that States Parties include in their next periodic report information on their legal framework, policies and programmes for ensuring the human rights of women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, and to provide additional information on its implementation of the Security Council's agenda on women and peace and security, in line with general recommendation No. 30.

***Reporting Procedure*** - CEDAW contains a sophisticated reporting procedure which represents an important accountability mechanism. States Parties are obliged to submit for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention a year after ratification and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

**Exceptional reports**-The Committee also request “exceptional reports” from States Parties under Article 18(1)(b) where there is a special cause for concern about actual or potential violations of women’s human rights. Since the early 1990’s, exceptional reports has been requested mainly to address violations of women’s human rights in conflict and post-conflict situations.

It is noteworthy that the Global Study on SCR 1325 has acknowledged the significance of the “exceptional reports” and has recommended that CEDAW examines one or two exceptional reports every year.

**Follow up procedure** - CEDAW contains a follow up procedure whereby it selects 2 most critical recommendations and request the State Party to submit information on their implementation within a year or two and this procedure has been regularly used to address issues relating to women, peace and security.

**Focus on sexual violence versus gender-based violence**- Although the significance of SCR 1820 should in no way, be underestimated as it was the very first resolution to bring sexual violence under the radar of national, regional and international security institutions and to position sexual violence as a self-standing security concern which calls for a security response, the new trends in the forms of gender-based violence being inflicted on women and girls- the increase in the number of kidnapping, abduction, selling off of women and girls to fighters as the spoils of war, forced marriage to combatants, forced labour and sexual slavery, forced impregnation, trafficking amongst others, it is clear that the focus can no longer be only on sexual violence especially rape. Unlike the Security Council, CEDAW addresses all forms of gender-based violence.

**CEDAW and intersectionality**- Whereas all resolutions of the Security Council on women, peace and security deals with the ‘general” situation of women in armed conflict and post conflict settings, GR 30 recognizes that particular groups of women may be subject to specific forms of discrimination based on both their sex and on other characteristics and requires States Parties to legally recognize and prohibit such intersecting forms of discrimination and their compounded negative impact on the women concerned. Accordingly, the Committee systematically addresses the situation of vulnerable groups of women such as refugees and IDPs, persons with disabilities, older women, widows, women in detention, religious and ethnic minorities, heads of household amongst others and requests States Parties for information on their specific situation.

**Optional protocol**- Under Article 8 of the Optional Protocol, the Committee can also conduct inquiries upon receipt of reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations of any of the rights set out in the Convention.

The call of the Security Council in its resolution 2122 (2013) for “consistent implementation” of resolution 1325 (2000), the expression of the need to monitor progress in implementation, to address challenges linked to the lack and quality of information and analysis on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and the

reaffirmation by the Security Council that sustainable peace requires an integrated approach based on coherence between political, security, development, human rights, including gender equality, rule of law and justice activities, is significant.

***Arria-formula meetings and open debates-*** A better use of Arria-formula meetings and open debates and briefings to raise women, peace and security concerns and solicit concrete recommendations could further be used to promote a flow of information from CEDAW to the Council. Such events could bring together the CEDAW Committee, other treaty bodies and Special mandate holders to provide gender analysis of the situation of women in conflict and post-conflict situations based on examination of States parties' reports, country missions, commissions of inquiry and Fact-Finding missions.

### ***From CEDAW to the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict***

Given the important work of the CEDAW Committee in addressing all forms of gender based violence against women and girls and the work of the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict which focus on sexual violence, it is regrettable that up to now, both entities have worked in a completely isolated fashion. The need for a systematic linkage between the two is not only desirable but has become a necessity. A mechanism, albeit a less formal one could be designed to ensure a regular exchange of information between the CEDAW Committee and the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

### **Briefer #3 – Ms. Maria Victoria (Mavic) Cabrera-Balleza, International Coordinator, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders**

The CEDAW, particularly GR 30 is important to our work in civil society in implementing the WPS resolutions because:

- CEDAW has a very established reporting and review process, which requires all the 189 States parties to report on measures they have adopted to implement the Convention in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. Civil society also present shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee, which are given as much value as the States parties' reports. The shadow reports inform the constructive dialogues that the CEDAW Committee holds with States parties.
- There is a very strong ownership of CEDAW among women civil society organizations. In many countries, there are civil society-led CEDAW Watch Groups and CEDAW Monitoring Committees. Therefore, civil society structures that conduct systematic monitoring of women's rights, gender equality, peace and security policies exist.

Specific provisions in GR 30 that strengthen and support civil society, [Member States and UN] efforts to implement the WPS resolutions:

- GR 30 includes non-State actors --although it cannot place obligations on them – GR 30 urges non-State actors to respect women’s rights in conflict and post-conflict situations and to prohibit all forms of gender-based violence– the Member States, the UN, private sector, including ourselves and most certainly the non-State armed actors. GR 30 is a strong instrument that highlights the necessity to gather and share information on abuses or violations of peace agreements committed by non-state armed groups. This is also in line with operational paragraph 11 of UNSCR 2106 that “Emphasizes the important role that can be played by women, civil society and women’s organizations and community leaders in exerting influence over parties to armed conflict with respect to addressing sexual violence.”
- GR 30 highlights the correlation between increased incidence of gender-based violence and discrimination and outbreak of conflict. Gender inequality is one of the drivers of conflict. For example, high 'bride price' fuels cattle raiding and conflict between tribes. It also encourages corruption, as politicians and public officials use public money to buy cattle they need for marriage. In certain places, women may be given to other families, tribes or communities to settle disputes or to compensate for a crime against the family.
- GR 30 draws attention to the role of conflict in exacerbating existing gender inequalities, which heightens the risk of gender-based violence for women and girls. It captures how women and girls experience sexual violence as a war tactic; and how such violence impacts on women’s participation in public life It recognizes the continuities between gender-based violence occurring before, during and after the conflict. This is critical for us in civil society as oftentimes, violence against women and girls continue even after the signing of peace agreements, even after the guns are silenced.
- GR 30 is also in line with UNSCR 2122 (2013) as they both highlight the importance of the Arms Trade Treaty and both noted the gendered impacts of the proliferation of arms (Swaine, A. & O’Rourke, C., 2015) as well as the contribution that the implementation of the Treaty can make in reducing violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- The issue of sexual exploitation and abuse which is addressed by the WPS resolutions particularly 1820, 1888, 1960, 2106, 2242 which provide accountability and zero tolerance for SEA by UN personnel. GR 30 extends the range of actors accountable on this issue to include not only peacekeeping forces but also national security forces, border police, immigration officials and humanitarian actors. This reinforces the accountability to the issue of SEA and makes the response more comprehensive.
- On the issue of participation in peace negotiations, peace operations, mediation and in political decision-making, GR 30 reaffirms the need to have a critical mass

of women and offers practical advice such as the use of quotas; and organizing leadership training for women to ensure their effective participation in political and peace processes.

- GR 30 also reinforces the provision for the full range of sexual and reproductive services elaborated in UNSCR 2122. This is important since it is during conflicts that infrastructures breakdown and health care services become unavailable.
- The CEDAW Committee has raised questions and made recommendations to States parties regarding the following:
  - Need to develop and implement National Action Plans including by providing adequate resources for the implementation; and establishing monitoring and evaluation systems;
  - Civil society's participation in national action planning processes is crucial;
  - Participation of women at all stages of the peace process in national reconciliation and all reconstruction initiatives, as well as in transitional justice processes, in particular at the decision-making level;
  - Inclusion of women from local communities, internally displaced and refugee populations;
  - Adoption strategies to prevent any setback for women's rights in the peace negotiations.

When used together, the WPS resolutions and CEDAW provide a more comprehensive understanding and response to conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence wherein the States take the necessary measures and the CEDAW Committee takes on the monitoring task.

There is a great need to enhance system-wide accountability, coordination and coherence in order to effectively accelerate implementation of the WPS agenda. To contribute to this, Member States should "ratify, remove reservations to, and fully implement CEDAW, and report on the implementation of obligations relating to women, peace and security as part of their regular reporting to the CEDAW Committee.

The Arrria Formula meeting and the subsequent efforts in implementing the WPS resolutions and CEDAW together is a response to the recommendation from the 2015 Global Study to pursue avenues to strengthen interaction and information flows across the entire [UN] system, and take efforts to limit the fragmentation and silos that can hamper effective response.

We sincerely hope that the Security Council will consider adopting a presidential statement or a resolution to encourage the use of CEDAW GR 30 by Member States to report on their implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the supporting resolutions.

### **Statements by Security Council Members**

#### **United Kingdom:**

- The UK is strongly committed to the issues of women rights and participation in implementing the WPS Agenda.
- There are lot of synergies looking at the two instruments that is CEDAW from the human rights prospective and UNSCR 1325 from a peace prospective.
- In the UK, there is a CEDAW committee which is ensuring that the government implements fully the provisions of the convention.
- CEDAW GR 30 provides a powerful tool for member states to engage with CSOs on how to integrate the WPS Agenda in promoting women's rights. It is not an encroachment.
- I like the idea on the resolution on [the use of CEDAW GR 30]. We need a UNSCR for this synergy and we hope the organizers can put forward a proposal to us on how to move this forward.

#### **Egypt:**

- There is need to fully clarify the synergy between CEDAW GR 30 and UNSCR 1325.
- GR 30 is not binding to Member States. There is need to make it binding to ensure implementation. *(Pramila responded to this by explaining that the purpose of the GRs is to clarify States parties' obligations under CEDAW and the international laws. The CEDAW under which the CEDAW GR 30 was developed, is legally binding.)*

#### **Malaysia:**

- Prior to Resolution 1325, CEDAW set the bench mark for eliminating discrimination against women and girls. However, this is far from reality as women and girls continue to experience violent conflicts.
- We emphasize that women's rights does not occur in a vacuum. We reiterate the need for these instruments to work together to ensure the upholding of women's rights.
- We appreciate the synergy between CEDAW and the WPS resolutions.
- These should be more awareness raising on the use of CEDAW GR 30 in reporting on the WPS Agenda.

#### **Spain:**

- CEDAW GR 30 is one of the most valuable tools for accountability. Its complementarity with the WPS Agenda should be reinforced to promote peace and security.
- I have 4 proposals:
  1. Member States should fully implement the Convention allow it to be implemented in its full potential;
  2. We must listen to CSOs more. For example, the Security Council meeting on the situation in Liberia on December 2<sup>nd</sup> featured a civil society briefer from Liberia; ( A good example is the Syria shadow report on CEDAW. This is very important.)
  3. The CEDAW Committee has to be more proactive [in engaging with the Security Council]; and
  4. Spain will be leaving the Security Council in December 2016 and will conduct a research on lessons learnt on issues of WPS. We will share this report with the CEDAW Committee.

#### **United States:**

- The Obama administration believes in women's rights and has interest in CEDAW. We hope that the congress will act in this regard.
- The US has been giving out funds to women organizations to implement the WPS Agenda. Progress has been made in Kenya, Uganda, Niger, Rwanda etc. Yet more still needs to be done.
- The office of SRSG Bangura and her team has been working to document violence done against women in Syria.
- The US is delighted that over 60 countries have adopted National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS. We are working with other partners and Member States to ensure that other member countries adopt NAPs.
- We must address the division within the UN system.

#### **New Zealand:**

- New Zealand has adopted a NAP and finalized its annual report. The report emphasizes the place of women in peacekeeping.
- CEDAW is an important apparatus in promoting accountability. The synergy between CEDAW GR 30 and the WPS resolutions is important to ensure the proper use of these tools.

#### **Japan:**

- The adoption of the eight resolutions on WPS reveals that gender equality and human rights are key issues.
- Women rights are violated by non –state actors and the Council is yet to find measures to addressing these abuses. CEDAW brings an added value in this regard.

- The linkage between CEDAW GR 30 and UNSCR 1325 will provide opportunity for Member States to work together to remain committed to the priority of women rights.

**Senegal:**

- The synergy between UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW GR 30 is necessary. These two instruments should not be transposed but to be properly implemented.
- Senegal has policies aimed at involving women in conflict prevention and economic structures to empower women in need.
- We seek to increase the number of women holding positions in the security sector.

**Ukraine:**

- CEDAW GR 30 serves as a strong complementary instrument to UNSCR 1325 one of the result of the interplay is an integrated reporting system.
- This is an important way to ensure that the reporting of States is not only on paper but implemented on the ground.

**Russia:**

- There is need to adhere to equal distribution of labor between UN organizations to avoid duplication of resources.
- There are many documents and conventions but the WPS Agenda cannot be substituted. Government should help women not just on the basis of the Security Council resolutions.

**Venezuela:**

- We recognize that these two instruments are very essential in ensuring the participation of women in conflict management and achieving lasting peace.
- On establishing synergy between CEDAW GR 30 and Resolution 1325, there is need to guaranty the effective success of the resolution and avoid duplication of efforts.

**Angola:**

- Globally there is a trend in the involvement of women in peace processes but their participation has remained low.
- CEDAW provides strategic guidance to Member States.
- GR 30 and Resolution 1325 calls for upholding women's rights. It is important to maximize the usefulness of these instruments in promoting gender equality.

**France:**

- This Arria Formula meeting demands a comprehensive approach and convergence. We support the recommendations made by Spain and UN Women.
- There is growing demand for CEDAW GR 30 and resolution 1325 to have a converge as put forward by the Global Study.
- It is in the interest of complementarity that France and Netherlands proposed a resolution on domestic violence that was adopted by the UN General Assembly on November 21.

***Statements by other Member States and the EU*****Switzerland:**

- The CEDAW Committee's added value is that it is composed of independent experts who bring different perspectives and who engage deeply with States parties.
- In 2013, the CEDAW Committee adopted a declaration on the role of women in political transition in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia calling for improved participation of women in political life.
- CEDAW has almost universal ratification.
- Human rights mechanisms, particularly the treaty bodies help improve State accountability in the implementation of the WPS Agenda.
- Switzerland hopes that this fruitful interaction between the CEDAW Committee and the Security Council will continue

**Sweden:**

- Implementation of WPS will be crucial during Sweden's Security Council membership in 2017.
- Sweden believes CEDAW GR 30 should be used as an instrument in reporting on women's rights.

**Philippines:**

- In the Philippines, experience has shown that implementing CEDAW GR 30 and WPS are mutually reinforcing.
- Synergies should be strengthened without unnecessary duplication in reporting.
- The Republic Act 9710 Magna Carta was adopted in 2009 by the government to institutionalize the WPS resolutions and CEDAW through national laws.
- The Magna Carta on Women also guarantees the availability of budget to address issues of WPS.
- The establishment of the Gender Desks in the police station to enable women to report [cases of violence against women and girls.]

**EU:**

- The effective implementation of CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action is an essential function for the implementation of the WPS resolutions.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that CEDAW GR 30 and WPS agenda are mutually reinforcing and support should be given for their implementation.

#### **Kazakhstan:**

- Kazakhstan is determined to implement CEDAW GR 30 and deploy more women in UN Peacekeeping to ensure the promotion of women's rights in conflict.
- There is need for universal ratification of CEDAW.
- Kazakhstan is committed to bring CEDAW GR 30 and Resolution 1325 to the forefront as a member of the Security Council next year.
- Kazakhstan will contribute to strengthening State accountability on the WPS resolutions while collaborating with UN Women. We will also promote the inclusion of more women in senior UN positions.

#### **Italy:**

- There is need to foster an integrative approach at the UN as resources should be provided to mainstream CEDAW GR 30 in NAP adopted by Member States.
- Italy remains committed to helping countries develop NAPs and it is with this approach that it will work in the Security Council in 2017.

#### **Estonia:**

- This year we sought to double the number of women in the Armed Forces and review our NAP to include more women's rights issues.
- There is need to improve system wide cooperation and implementation.
- Governments must be enlightened to work with CSOs who must be encouraged and financially supported to provide new insights and parallel data.

#### **Australia:**

- Information provided by CSOs should be used to reinforce these instruments.
- Austria supports the Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI) on WPS and Humanitarian Action and ensure that WPS Agenda is realized.
- We need to create meaningful opportunities for women to engage and participate in peace processes.

#### **Netherlands:**

- The realization of women rights lies in the implementation of CEDAW GR 30 and WPS Agenda.
- Netherlands aligns with the EU statement on the synergy between CEDAW and the WPS resolutions.

#### **Responses from Ms. Pramila Patten:**

- CEDAW IS a treaty body but a number of Member States still have reservations. Using it in complementarity with Resolution 1325 [make it more effective]. The Optional Protocol and its procedure is an important tool that reinforces the accountability mechanism of CEDAW.
- States parties have the right to investigate, punish and report any individual that impair the rights women.
- As part of the Due Diligence Act, we recommend that States parties engage with non-state actors to prevent SGBV in conflict.
- In order to regulate non-state actors, we require armed group to sign documents to uphold women's rights.
- We encourage States parties to engage with non-state actors.

#### **Closing Remarks from Mr. Yannick Glemarec:**

- The synergies are very important in ensuring the implementation of international instruments.
- Aside GR 30, UN- Women is presently reviewing GR 19 which focuses on Violence against women to enhance country reporting on the issue.

#### **Closing Remarks from Ms. Maria Victoria (Mavic) Cabrera-Balleza, International Coordinator, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders:**

- Thank you to all Security Council members for supporting this Arria Formula meeting.
- As we speak about implementation and civil society participation, this will not be possible without financial support for civil society to do their work –especially those who work in communities directly affected by conflicts Special thanks to Australia, Ireland, Lithuania Spain and UK and most recently Canada for supporting the GAI. The GAI will help sustain support for local CSOs to continue their work in implementing the WPS Agenda.
- I also want to call your attention to increasing political repression against civil society in a number of countries. Member States and the whole international community need to increase support to CSOs to enable them to continue their work in implementing the WPS agenda.

*Notes prepared by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders – December 26, 2016*