

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM (WILPF)

Index of statements made during the General Debate of the 70th session of the General Assembly (28 September – 3 October 2015)

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INTRODUCTION

The Gender Index includes all references to gender, women, females, girls, gender equality, violence against women, and women's participation made in statements delivered during the General Debate.

OVERVIEW

During the debate, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, President of the General Assembly Mogens Lykketoft, representatives from 191 Member States and three observer delegations put forth their concerns, positions and priorities under the theme “The UN at 70: The Road Ahead for Peace, Security, and Human Rights.”

The main topics during the General Debate included the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the refugee crisis in Europe, the threat of non-state terrorist like Daesh and Boko-Haram, and the conflict in Syria. Many states praised the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the General Assembly and spoke hopefully about the potential of the Global Goals to end poverty, reduce gender inequality, protect against climate change, and promote human rights.

However, several states also voiced concern that the Agenda does not adequately account for differences between states in capacity and circumstance. By far the most prevalent topic at the debate was the conflict in Syria and the ensuing refugee crisis. There was a general consensus that the global community must act to end the Syrian conflict, although there was dissension as to what form this action should take. Both the United States and France called for the removal of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad while Russia argued that Assad must be part of any solution to the conflict. Most states expressed concern over the current refugee crisis and called for the global community to do more, although few states made actual commitments to take in more refugees. The European Union referenced its plan to spread out 120,000 refugees across Europe, but states that absorb the majority of the burden in caring for refugees (Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Germany) urged European and North American states to drastically increase their quotas.

This year's General Debate was preceded by the United Nations Summit on the Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where states officially committed to the Global Goals. The United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris will follow the General Debate in December 2015.

GENDERED ANALYSIS

Summary

The 70th General Assembly General Debate was a slight improvement over last year's debate in terms of gender language. This was mostly due to the timing of the debate between two significant events that impacted women and gender. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda, with its standalone goal (Goal 5) on gender equality, immediately preceded the debate.

Immediately following the debate, the UN Security Council will be marking the 15th

Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. 2015 also marked the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Plan of Action for Women.

Overall, out of a total of 196 statements, 108 contained references on women and gender. Of these the majority (67) made general references to gender equality and/or the human rights of women and girls, particularly in connection with the 2030 Agenda. For example, Bulgaria stated, “Gender equality is an absolute necessity for the full realization of human rights and the functioning of democracy.”

Many speakers (37) encouraged participation of women at local, national, and international levels (Spain: “Spain therefore takes time encouraging participation and leadership of women in all aspects of community life.”) In light of the 15th Anniversary of 1325, many states made specific reference to the WPS agenda and the linkages between women’s participation and sustainable peace.

The Debate

In their statements, most speakers highlighted the prominence of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Iceland, Myanmar, Tuvalu, Canada, Zambia, Tonga, Costa Rica, Angola, Vanuatu, Mauritius, Denmark, Kenya, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Philippines all made specific references to the Agenda. Iceland, for example, remarked, “We are particularly pleased with the prominence of gender equality and the empowerment of women, which are key to sustainable development.” However, many states framed women as just another ‘vulnerable group’ in their statements, rather than a group that comprises half of the population and has the potential to be a dynamic catalyst for development (Trinidad and Tobago: “The 2030 Development Agenda would not be fully implemented if the most vulnerable members of our

societies, that is, women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples are not placed at the very centre of the development paradigm.”)

During the debate, many speakers called on states to prioritise women’s participation in decision-making processes, Mongolia acknowledged, “For societies to advance, we need more women in public service at all levels - local and global. If women hold more positions of power, we will have less suffering and conflict, and more harmony and civic engagement.” Many praised the positive progress made by their governments in this area, with Afghanistan stating, “During the 2014 election, voters comprised of 35% females” and Mauritius “I am proud to announce that for the first time in history, my country has three women in high positions, as President of the Republic, Vice President and Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius.” In addition to political participation Liberia, Costa Rica, Ireland, Finland, and Iceland called for a female to be elected as the next UN Secretary General (Ireland: “I hope SG Ban may be succeeded by a brilliant female Secretary General in due course - this would send a powerful message to women and men around the world that here at the UN, we are willing to remove the barriers that prevent women from fulfilling their potential.”)

Furthermore, Switzerland, Liberia, Monaco, Slovakia, and Ireland specifically mentioned women’s participation in peace processes. Switzerland stated, “The inclusion of women contributes to the sustainability of peace agreements by expanding the range of topics on the negotiations agenda and by strengthening public support and approval of the agreements ahead of their implementation.” This was part of a trend of specific references to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda due to the upcoming 15th Anniversary of the landmark UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and the 13 October Security Council Open Debate on WPS. Eighteen states voiced their support for the Resolution. Sweden said, “It is time to fully realise UN Security Council Resolution 1325, granting women their crucial role in peace and state building.” Norway praised the Resolution but criticised its implementation, “Fifteen

years ago, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. It was a landmark resolution, but its implementation is taking too long. In several war-ravaged towns in Syria, groups of women are calling for a ceasefire and evacuation. They do this at great personal risk. Their bravery should inspire us. We must intensify the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security.” As a whole, states that discussed the Resolution were supportive of the WPS agenda but stressed that more work must be done.

Female Speakers at the Podium

It should also be pointed out that the number of female speakers during the general debate was distressingly low. Out of 196 statements, twenty-two (22) –eleven more than last year – were delivered by female representatives (Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Dominica, Granada, Honduras, India, Kiribati, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, the Maldives, Niger, Norway, Republic of Korea, Suriname, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Vietnam.) Ten (10) of them referred to women or gender issues in general terms, and nine (9) specifically spoke about women in the context of peace and security. No member state spoke of women in connection to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), arms trade more generally, disarmament, or non-proliferation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Liechtenstein, represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs Aurelia Frick, gave by far the most comprehensive statement on Women, Peace, and Security at the debate, stating, “As we consider how we can sharpen our tools for conflict prevention and resolution, one conclusion is already foregone: We must get better at including women and their perspectives in these processes. The 15th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda (Security Council resolution 1325) is therefore a bittersweet moment. The agenda sets out a comprehensive

vision of how to include women in peaceful solutions, and how to protect them from the effects of armed conflict - in itself a remarkable achievement. Yet we have largely been unable to fulfil the promise made fifteen years ago. Girls born into a post 1325-world still suffer from abuse, sexual violence, forced recruitment and displacement. Let us take decisive steps forward when we meet later this month in the Security Council.”

Slovakia also spoke very extensively about the WPS Agenda’s successes and failures, saying, “It has been 15 years since the adoption of the landmark Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security... Yet, the impacts of conflicts on women and children are still inordinate and their engagement in peace processes is still insufficient. The presence of women negotiators in high-profile United Nations peace and mediation processes, role of women deployed by the United Nations to major conflict zones and high-stake inter-state negotiations, as well as in peacekeeping and peace-building in general, is irreplaceable and should continue to grow.”

TABLE: TYPE OF REFERENCE BY COUNTRY

General References to Women and Gender	Specific References to Women, Peace, and Security	No References
Afghanistan	Australia	Andorra
Albania	Croatia	Antigua and Barbuda
Algeria	El Salvador	Armenia
Argentina	Estonia	Austria
Azerbaijan	Iceland	Bahrain
Bahamas	Ireland	Barbados
Bangladesh	Japan	Belize
Belarus	Republic of Korea	Bhutan
Belgium	Liberia	Bolivia
Benin	Liechtenstein	Cambodia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Luxembourg	Cape Verde
Botswana	Monaco	Chad
Brazil	Montenegro	Colombia
Brunei Darussalam	Norway	Comoros
Bulgaria	Philippines	Cuba
Burkina Faso	Slovakia	Cyprus
Burundi	Slovenia	Czech Republic
Canada	Spain	DPKR
Central African Republic	Sweden	Dominican Republic
Chile	Switzerland	Ecuador

China		Egypt
Costa Rica		Ethiopia
Cote D'Ivoire		Equatorial Guinea
DRC		European Union
Denmark		Georgia
Djibouti		Germany
Eritrea		Granada
Fiji		Greece
Finland		Guatemala
France		Guyana
Gabon		Indonesia
Gambia		Iran
Ghana		Israel
Guinea		Jordan
Guinea Bissau		Kyrgyzstan
Haiti		Kazakhstan
Iraq		Laos
Italy		Latvia
Jamaica		Lebanon
Kenya		Lesotho
Kuwait		Libya
Madagascar		Malaysia
Malawi		Macedonia
Maldives		Mauritania
Mali		Mexico
Malta		Moldova
Marshall Islands		Morocco
Mauritius		New Zealand
Fed. States of Micronesia		Nicaragua
Mongolia		Palestine
Mozambique		Pakistan
Myanmar		Oman
Namibia		Qatar
Nauru		Romania
Nepal		Russia
Netherlands		Samoa
Niger		Sao Tome and Principe
Nigeria		Saudi Arabia
Palau		Senegal
Panama		Serbia
Papua New Guinea		Seychelles
Paraguay		Solomon Islands
Peru		South Sudan
Poland		St. Kitts and Nevis
Portugal		St. Lucia
Rwanda		St. Vincent and the Grenadines
San Marino		Syria
Sierra Leone		Tajikistan
Somalia		Timor Leste
South Africa		Turkmenistan
Sri Lanka		Uganda
Sudan		Ukraine
Suriname		United Kingdom
Thailand		United Republic of Tanzania
Togo		Venezuela
Tonga		Vietnam
Trinidad and Tobago		Yemen
Tunisia		
Turkey		
Tuvalu		

United Arab Emirates United States of America Uruguay Vanuatu Zambia Zimbabwe		
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EXTRACTS OF STATEMENTS*

United Nations

Speaker: H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th General Assembly

Date: 28 September 2015

Theme: General Women, Peace, and Security, Participation, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“We underline - more vigorously than ever- that equal rights and opportunities for girls and women are crucial preconditions for a sustainable future everywhere.”

“I will offer my strong support to new ideas on how to strengthen global peace and security; from the role of women...”

“I am sure that member states - building on our great 2030 Agenda - will increase efforts to make human rights a reality for all people without discrimination...the rights of women...”

United Nations

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General

Date: 28 September 2015

Theme: General Women, Peace, and Security

Extract of statement:

“We can draw strength from the empowerment of women -- but we still need to step it up for gender equality on the way to Planet 50/50.”

Country: Brazil

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Dilma Rousseff, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Theme: Protection, Gender Equality Goal

Extract of statement:

“Our INDC includes actions to increase the resilience of the environment and to reduce the risks associated with the negative effects of climate change on the poorest and most vulnerable populations, with an emphasis on gender issues, workers' rights, and indigenous, quilombola and traditional communities.”

“I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that Brazil welcomes citizens from around the world with open arms for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro. This will be a unique opportunity to promote sport as a key tool for peace, social inclusion and tolerance, and in the fight against racial, ethnic or gender discrimination.”

Country: Poland

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Andrzej Duda, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Theme: Human Rights, Displacement and Humanitarian Law, Protection

Extract of statement:

“And here comes one more social group which cannot be left out when we speak about human rights, about the aftermath of warfare and mass migrations. Whom I have in mind is women: mothers, wives and daughters in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, in Ukraine.”

“The tears of women distressed with war is the greatest charge against humanity in the 21st century. “

Country: Jordan

Speaker: H.M. King Abdullah II

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Russia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Republic of Korea

Speaker: H.E. Park Geun-hye, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Theme: Participation, Peacebuilding, Sexual/Gender- Based Violence, General Women, Peace and Security

Extract of statement:

“The UN's recent review of peace operations, peacebuilding as well as women, peace and security in line with a changing security environment, could not have come at a better time.”

“Last year, at this very podium, I stressed that sexual violence against women during armed conflicts, whenever or wherever it may have taken place, is unquestionably a violation of human rights and humanism.”

“This year marks the 15th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and the international community should do justice to the occasion by paying greater attention to sexual violence against women in conflict situations.”

Country: Iran

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Qatar

Speaker: H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Mozambique

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention

Extracts:

“Worth highlighting is the expansion of access to education, gender balance in the access to primary education...”

Country: Netherlands

Speaker: H.M. King Willem-Alexander

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Participation, Gender Equality Goal

Extracts:

“There is still not enough focus on the positive role that women can play. Even in the harshest and most hopeless circumstances, women often have the strength to go on.”

“Promoting equal rights and opportunities for women is actually sustainable development in action.”

Country: Kazakhstan

Speaker: H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Mexico

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Pena Nieto, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Portugal

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Aníbal António Cavaco Silva, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Extracts:

“Combatting violence against women takes on a clear priority in this context.”

Country: Denmark

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Prime Minister

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Participation, Human Rights

Extracts:

“That leads me to the next priority. Human rights and gender equality.”

“Women are key drivers to ensure sustainable development and to end poverty.”

“There is a dramatic increase in children – and in particular girls – attending schools.”

Country: Ethiopia

Speaker: H.E. Mro Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Uganda

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Chile

Speaker: H.E Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Gender Equality Goal

Extracts:

“This is an approach which we share and enthusiastically support. Equality within and among countries; between men and women; growth, industrialization...”

Country: Cuba

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Raúl Castro Ruz, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: South Africa

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Implementation

Extracts:

“A number of significant decisions on reform have successfully been implemented since that Summit. These include the following;

....

d. The mainstreaming of gender equality through the establishment of UN Women”

“You have identified human rights, governance, the rule of law and the gender aspects of the work of the UN as important areas of focus for the 70th session of the UNGA. We have to build upon the initial work undertaken in the development of the United Nations Bill of Rights in 1948 to enhance protection in areas such as racism, discrimination against women and the promotion of the rights of the child and the rights of people with disabilities.”

“The declaration also contains a specific goal on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This is more appropriate given that this year is the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 15th anniversary of UN resolution on women, peace and security.”

Country: Egypt

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Switzerland

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, General Women, Peace and Security, Implementation

Extracts:

“With regard to the review of the implementation of Resolution 1325, adopted by the UN Security Council 15 years ago, Switzerland will continue to play its part and keep up its efforts to promote women's participation in peace processes, as well as in the security sector. Indeed, the inclusion of women contributes to the sustainability of peace agreements by expanding the range of topics on the negotiation agenda and by strengthening public support and approval of the agreements ahead of their implementation.”

“Switzerland's priorities on human rights are the abolition of the death penalty, the enforcement of the prohibition of torture and the promotion of women's and children's rights as well as the protection of human rights defenders.”

Country: Zimbabwe

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Robert Mugabe, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention, Implementation

Extracts:

“The promotion of gender equality is critical for the realisation of the Post-Development Agenda. The African Union designated 2015 “ The year of the advancement of women empowerment and development towards Agenda 2063” in order to mobilise our individual and collective actions around this key issue. Gender equality and women empowerment is central to the achievement of human development, progress and the elimination of the scourge of poverty and deprivation. We must continue to build upon the achievements that have been realised since 1995 Fourth United Nations Conference on Women and the Beijing Declarations and its platform for Action.”

Country: Argentina

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Gender Equality

Extracts:

“Yesterday, we said, at the meeting of Gender Equality, promoted by President Xi Jinping, what gender equality we can talk in a world where the distribution of resources is so unfair; what gender equality we can talk in a world where people are expelled to their country because they cannot live and neither the receive where they want to be. We are facing a situation in which we must address the problems of the financial markets and the need to re-inject resources into the real economy to re- employment, to return production as large generators engines being of societies.”

Country: Belarus

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“Yes, there are certain shifts in reducing global levels of poverty, increasing protection and health of mothers and children, ensuring access to education. But, speaking about the achievements, we have to recognise that we did not achieve a qualitative breakthrough for the benefit of human civilisation. “

Country: Nigeria

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Muhammadu Bihari, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Protection

Extracts:

“Mr President, one of our major aims is to rescue the Chibok girls alive and unharmed. We are working round the clock to ensure their safety and eventual reunion with their families. Chibok girls are constantly on our minds and in our plans.”

“Mr. President, the world is now facing a big new challenge: human trafficking. This is an old evil taking an altogether new and dangerous dimension threatening to upset international relationships. We in Africa are grieved to see on international networks how hundreds of thousands of our able bodied men and women fleeing to Europe and in the process thousands dying in the desert or drowning in the Mediterranean.”

Country: Gabon

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“Together we fought for the rights of vulnerable people such as the disabled, the elderly, indigenous peoples, women and children, including widows and orphans. Noted in passing that the Assembly adopted in 2010, Gabon's initiative, the resolution establishing the International Day of widows.”

Country: Senegal

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mackey Sall, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Mali

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extracts:

“From 28 September 1960 to 28 September 2015, all governments who succeeds in Mali have no savings sacrifice for the advent of a better world, free of the spectrum of conflict and wars, whose main victims are women, children and old people.”

Country: Bolivia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Evo Morales Ayma, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Afghanistan

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Abdullah, C.E.O.

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Gender Equality, Participation

Extracts:

“Through the focus on gender equality, equity, and equal opportunity adapted by the Government, female political participation has also been strengthened. During the 2014

election, voters comprised of 35 percent females. Women now claim 11 percent of judgeships, with an additional 20 percent in training.”

Country: United States of America

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Barack Obama, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Protection

Extracts: “No woman should ever be abused with impunity, or a girl barred from going to school.”

Country: Kenya

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Peace Goal (SDG Goal 16), Reconstruction & Peacebuilding

Extracts:

“The continued grave security situation in Eastern Africa and further afield is of particular concern to Kenya. Kenya has continued to invest billions of shillings in the maintenance of regional peace and security, while many Kenyan lives have been lost in our quest for peace. Kenya therefore, implores the international community, in particular the United Nations Security Council to shoulder its responsibility in a manner that has a direct impact to the resolution of those conflicts. There is need to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels as stated in Goal 16 of the SDGs in order to realize sustainable peace all over the world.”

“Kenya is concerned about the emerging governance and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan in the aftermath of the political crisis since 2013. The crisis in South Sudan remains an issue of great concern not only to Kenya but to the IGAD region and the larger international community. Kenya welcomes the recently signed peace treaty and calls upon both parties to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict, and urges the international community, especially the United Nations to support IGAD Plus Peace Initiative's efforts geared towards the realization of comprehensive, just and sustainable peace in South Sudan through the enforcement of peace and security arrangements, support for institutions of governance and democracy, support for the de-militarization of South Sudan and response to the current humanitarian crisis. South Sudan, Mr. President needs to get to the path of peace, development and reconstruction, and to do so urgently.”

Country: Paraguay

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Horacio Manuel Cartes Jara, President

Date: 28 September 2015

Themes: Peace Processes, Human Rights

Extracts:

“Similarly, Paraguay reaffirms its commitment to supporting the peace process in the sister Republic of Colombia, initiated by President Juan Manuel Santos, and wishes that the conflict that has claimed thousands of innocent lives. We welcome the agreement reached this past September 23rd, in La Habana, which signals an important step to achieve the long awaited peace in that noble nation, linked to my country by honourable historical ties.”

“Among the priorities for moving towards a more balanced, fair and dignified world is the promotion of human rights. For us, rights to freedom, free assembly, human integrity and quality of life, are essential. While discriminations, either racial, religious, political or gender base, endure we shall continue to have a deficit in terms of human rights.”

Country: Guyana

Speaker: H.E. Brigadier David Granger, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Tunisia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Habib Essid, Head of Government

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Participation

Extracts:

“Throughout its consensual approach, Tunisia has managed to adopt a new constitution that embodies the foundations of democratic principles, human rights and principles of peaceful transfer of power. The constitution also guarantees rights and freedoms, enshrines tolerance and renounces violence. Additionally, the constitution ensures the leading role of women and supports the enforcement of law authority and sets strong foundations for a political democratic system that does not allow recurrence of tyranny and autocracy.”

Country: Ecuador

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Rafael Correa Delgado, President

Date: 28 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Namibia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hage Geingob, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Participation, Human Rights

Extracts:

“...one of the most impactful interventions we can make in the war against poverty is through empowering women, who although representing half of the world’s population, account for nearly 70% of the world’s poor”

“In Namibia, gender equality is not mere lip service. We have benefitted from the SWAPO Party’s internal reform of its party list system, to include, 50/50 representation of women.”

“Due to SWAPO’s victory at the electoral polls, female representation in Parliament has increased from 24% to 47%...I have also appointed a young female Prime Minister...as well as a female Deputy Prime Minister...I have appointed female ministers at the helm of our Basic and Higher Education Ministries as well as other strategic ministries.”

Country: Tajikistan

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Finland

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sauli Niinistö, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Participation, Peacekeeping

Extracts:

“I very much welcome the efforts to enhance the transparency and inclusiveness of the selection process of the next Secretary-General. As a nation that has throughout its 60 year UN membership championed gender equality, my country Finland expects to see many excellent female candidates for the position. It is high time that the other half of humankind took up this challenge”

“Since the beginning of its membership, Finland has contributed 50 000 men and women to UN peacekeeping operations”

Country: Mongolia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tsakhjagrn Elbegdorj, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Participation

Extracts:

“We believe in gender equality and women's empowerment. Mongolia is a strong supporter of the UN in this cause. For societies to advance, we need more women in public service at all levels - local and global. If women hold more positions of power, we will have less suffering and conflict, and more harmony and civic engagement.”

Country: Swaziland

Speaker: H.M. King Mswati III, Head of State

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Sierra Leone

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Extracts:

“Together, we have achieved a lot - getting millions out of poverty, getting millions into schools, and breaking many barriers to the empowerment of women. “

“...the challenges we still face is the equivalence of millions not going to school, millions not having healthcare; millions of women oppressed...”

“What we see all over the world - in the refugee crises... violence against women...”

“We need to integrate this insight into our decisions about other urgent matters - youth unemployment, insecurity, extreme hunger, violence against women, transnational organized crime and piracy.”

“My Government is keen on delivering results on several priority areas including infrastructural for development, commercialized agriculture, improved access to education and health care services, youth empowerment and employment, women's empowerment...”

Country: Colombia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, President
Date: 29 September 2015
No gender language

Country: Yemen
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, President
Date: 29 September 2015

Country: Ukraine
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Petro Poroshenko, President
Date: 29 September 2015
No gender language

Country: Cyprus
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, President
Date: 29 September 2015
No gender language

Country: Malawi
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President
Date: 29 September 2015
Themes: Implementation, Participation, Human Rights
Extracts:

“My government is committed to the He-for-She Campaign' to address gender inequalities, and end gender-based violence, promote women’s political participation and facilitate the economic empowerment of women. It has therefore been singled out as one of the core priority areas of our revised Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, a blueprint of Malawi's development.”

“In Malawi, and I believe, in almost all developing countries, the youth and women, constitute the majority of the populations. Therefore, it is only natural that they are adequately represented at all decision-making levels of society”

“...across the world, fall flat on their face, if countries ignore to educate its people, especially its youth, more so the girl child.”

Country: Kuwait
Speaker: H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister
Date: 29 September 2015
Themes: Human Rights
Extracts:

“in addition to political participation, gender equality, empowering youth and addressing environmental degradation.”

Country: Japan
Speaker: H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister
Date: 29 September 2015
Themes: Human Rights, Peacekeeping, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Participation, Rule of Law, Implementation, General Women, Peace, and Security

Extracts:

“...education and health and aiming to build up the strength of women of all ages in particular.”

“In Japan, women who discover they are pregnant receive this handbook, known as a "Maternal and Child Health Handbook."

“Taking advantage of various opportunities until now, I have urged the international community to make the 21st century an era in which women's human rights are not infringed upon.”

“JICA has been responsible for developing the training plan and executing it, and it has consistently been women who have been in charge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the Japanese side.”

“we place emphasis on policies and measures that impart safety, health, and peace of mind to women and uphold their human rights.”

“Protecting women and girls from violence”

“Japanese women are making splendid contributions towards the task of cultivating those who will uphold the Rule of Law.”

“Moreover, this year, for the second consecutive year, we held the World Assembly for Women: WAW! 2018, where meaningful discussions were held for the purpose of creating a society in which women shine,”

“Today I am pleased to be able to report that Japan too has decided upon its Action Plan Regarding the Participation and Protection of Women, based on UN. Security Council Resolution 1325.”

Country: Armenia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Serzh Sargsyan, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: United Republic of Tanzania

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Zambia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Implementation, Human Rights, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Extracts:

“My government looks forward to the versatile implementation of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, which fosters poverty eradication and creates employment for youths and women especially in rural communities.”

“Special attention should be paid to gender and women empowerment to the 2013 global review report indicates that 35% of women had been victims of gender based violence. Indeed, Zambia acknowledges that this problem extends to most Nations including our own. To this end, we are ready implementing important interventions to curb this scourge. Our approach to development will not be limited to the economy but continue to focus on all pillars of development.

I am humbled that our traditional leaders, the UN system, and the civil society have seamlessly worked with government in fighting for gender equality for our women and girls.”

“One of the important programs in which I have been engaged as a designated champion of the “He for She Campaign,” seeks to address issues of gender based violence. The ‘HE-FOR-SHE’ Project was initiated by UN Women in September last year to focus on addressing the incidences of gender-based violence. In a few days’ time, my government will again be launching the USAID-supported “Boy-To-Men” Project targeting the 15-21-year-old age group and aimed at encouraging the development of a non-violence generation. In our determination to bridge the gap between the sexes, a vigorous campaign is underway to consolidate the educational foundation of the girl-child by encouraging them to complete their education and to unlock their development to complete their education and to unlock their developmental potential, rather than being forced into child, early or forced marriage.”

Country: Estonia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace & Security, Implementation

Extracts:

“This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform of Action that have influenced how we address equality and women's rights today. We need to continuously stand for the rights of women and girls and to strive for the elimination of gender based violence. Women's rights, and the empowerment of women and girls should be promoted at all levels.

I welcome the Global Review of Security Council Resolution 1325 and hope that it will provide us with new impetus to move forward on these issues. We must advance global actions linked to the welfare of children by investing in their education and health as well as by keeping them away from armed conflicts.”

Country: Seychelles

Speaker: H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Tonga

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva, Prime Minister

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Gender Equality Goal, Conflict Prevention

Extracts:

“The 14 new priorities for Tonga for the next 15 years as set out in our final MDGs Report, we are pleased to note, are all included in the 17 goals of the Agenda for 2030 which are namely goals, 1 - No Poverty; 3 - Good Health and Well-Being; 4 - Quality Education; 5 - Gender Equality; 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; 10 - Reduced Inequalities; 15 - Life on Land; and 17 - Partnership for the Goals”

Country: Liberia

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace and Security, Participation, Gender Equality Goal, Human Rights, Peace Processes

Extracts:

“This year we have marked the twentieth anniversary of the historic Beijing Conference and its Plan of Action for Women's empowerment and gender equality. We are also marking the 15th anniversary of resolution 1325 on women's participation in peace processes. And while improvement has been made in the status of women, much more is still to be done. We must therefore all "step-up" and take further measures beyond moralizing gender equality to tangible actions.”

“At seventy, only three women have served as President of the General Assembly, one of them being our compatriot Mrs. Angie Brooks Randolph. Only a few women serve as special representative of the Secretary General and not a single woman has ever served .as Secretary General”

“It was this same vision, which, seventy years ago, motivated the founding of this global organization to promote peaceful coexistence, economic and social advancement of all peoples, respect for human dignity and equal rights of men and women...”

“In many countries of the world, women are still being treated as second-class citizens.”

“We commend the foresight, of the Secretary-General in directing a comprehensive review of peace operations, which is complemented by a review of the organization's peace-building architecture and a global study on the implementation of Resolution 1325 on women participation in peace processes.”

Country: Thailand

Speaker: H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“Aside from looking after our farmers, we must also empower other vulnerable groups such as women, children and the disabled, and those at risk of having their human rights violated and becoming victims of human trafficking, such as workers in the fisheries sector.”

Country: United Kingdom

Speaker: Hon Philip Hammond, MP Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Date: 29 September 2015

Country: Romania

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Rwanda

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Participation

Extracts:

“The creativity and dynamism of billions of people, is already transforming our world for the better. This is thanks to improved health and education, access to new technologies, and empowering women to take their rightful place.”

Country: Lithuania

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Protection

Extracts:

“In the 21st century, women and girls are sold on slave markets by the criminals of ISIS and abused in unspeakable ways.”

Country: Gambia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Aja Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice-President

Date: 29, September, 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Peacekeeping

Extracts:

“I remain firm in my constant recommendation for the whole world to stand together against the continued barbarism and brutality of indiscriminate terrorism against innocent men, women and children causing undue suffering and of course loses that often render the victims helpless homeless as well as hopeless.”

”Mr. President while we welcome the Iranian agreement to proliferation of nuclear weapons, the needs to address the perennial conflicts with high human cost on our youth, our women, and children and to diffuse persistently this situation with high potential of escalation of course of nuclear conflation, thus I call upon this global institution and other regional organizations as well charged with responsibility particularly of conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding in firm of our commitment to international peace and security.”

Country: Czech Republic

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Miloš Zeman, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: European Union

Speaker: Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Uruguay

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tabaré Vázquez, President

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.”

Country: Venezuela

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Dominican Republic

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Danilo Medina Sánchez, President

Date: 29 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Italy

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Matteo Renzi, Prime Minister

Date: 29 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Women, Peace and Security

Extracts:

“The human rights that are under attack today are for us a reference point at every level. I am thinking of the Security Council resolution “Women, Peace and Security.”

“Resolutions against forced and early marriage, against female genital mutilations. These are clear signs of the shared commitment of our community.”

“The promotion of sustainable agriculture – and here I wish to make a commitment, especially to the African Countries, we will never cease to work in this direction, strong with Italian know-how and the desire to work together. Guaranteeing access to food for all; fighting world hunger; changing consumption patterns; the condition of women as central stakeholders in agriculture; the defence of the rights of smallholder farms; but also the easing of tensions and conflicts caused by the degradation of arable land and the scarcity of water for irrigation.”

Country: Bulgaria

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Rosen Plevneliev, President

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Participation

Extracts:

“Women's participation in all aspects of social and political life still remains a major challenge in many parts of the world. Development would never be truly sustainable and lasting peace would never be achieved if half of the world's population is excluded. Gender

equality is an absolute necessity for the full realization of human rights and the functioning of democracy.”

“The recently adopted resolution 69/321 by the General Assembly stresses the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender and geographical balance while meeting the highest possible requirements, on the appointment of the Secretary-General. “

Country: Fiji

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Josia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“But we have had one year of the give and take of Parliamentary democracy based on a common and equal citizenry under a Constitution that values each Fijian equally, regardless of ethnicity, birth right, faith, gender, social condition or geography. “

Country: Central African Republic

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Samuel Rangba, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Protection

Extracts:

"But remember the thousands of children, women, old, infirm and other vulnerable people and despicably cowardly murdered, raped, humiliated or forced to leave their homes to seek refuge in squalid and inhumane places, in the rain without shelter, because few individuals have decided to realize their fatal design of destabilization of an entire people to quench their thirst for power. "

Country: Equatorial Guinea

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, Vice- President

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Spain

Speaker: H.E. Mr. José Manuel García Margallo, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, General WPS, Participation

Extracts:

“I am among those who believe that the twenty-first century will be the century of women. But will only be so if we do our part because, as the president of Chile, Michele Bachelet says "equality, by itself, does not occur." Spain therefore takes time encouraging participation and leadership of women in all aspects of community life. And for that, our Strategic Equal Opportunities 2014-2016, Plan is endowed with 3,100 million euros. We will bring our national commitment to equal our presidency Security Council. During the meeting, will take place on October 13 debate Open High-Level Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, to be chaired by the President of the Spanish Government. I invite you to participate at the highest level for the occasion merits. The main threat to the model just, prosperous, just and open society as we strive to build and the same peace and security of the international community is terrorism”

Country: Sri Lanka

Speaker: H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Gender Equality Goal

Extracts:

“Development should result in the empowerment of women and youth and assure security for children.”

“We should similarly launch a national programme to empower women and thereby enhance their contribution in development.”

Country: Monaco

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gilles Tonelli, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace, and Security

Extracts:

“In a month we will celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 of the Security Council on women, peace and security, uncovering the results of the global study on its implementation.

Unfortunately, we are sadly too familiar with devastating consequences for conflict women who are the first victims when they are not the instigators. With children, they also constitute the majority of refugees and displaced persons. Convinced of the importance of full participation of women in conditions of equality, prevention and resolution of conflicts and the building and maintenance of peace, we therefore call for the implementation of concrete measures.”

Country: Australia

Speaker: The Hon Julie Bishop, MP Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Participation, Gender Equality Goal, General Women, Peace & Security,

Extracts:

“We should similarly launch a national programme to empower women and thereby enhance their contribution in development.”

“We must step up the fight against the global scourge of violence against women and girls.”

“There is an inescapable truth - we cannot transform our world unless the place of women within it is transformed.”

“Similarly, our overseas aid program helps countries in our region in efforts to eliminate violence against women.”

“That is why Australia has worked with the US to produce the first military commanders' guide for implementing Women, Peace and Security in the field.”

“The UN Women, Peace and Security agenda has changed our collective thinking on the role of women in conflict.”

“Should we be elected, our focus would be on empowering women and girls, strengthening governance and democratic institutions, promoting freedom of expression, and advancing human rights for all”

Country: Mauritania

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hamadi Ould Meimou, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Croatia

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, General WPS, Human Rights

Extracts:

“In implementing the mandate of peace operations, we stress the importance of giving the highest priority to the protection of civilians and the prevention of atrocities - especially sexual and gender-based violence and the protection of children.”

“in addition, I would like to welcome efforts invested in other review processes, namely the review of the Peacebuilding Architecture and the Implementation of UNSCR 1325. I am truly confident that all expert recommendations will find a way to be implemented. “

“Too many armed conflicts persist, too many people are denied basic human rights, too many children go to sleep every night hungry, too many women and girls are left behind.”

“There we are confronted with unspeakable barbarism and terror with the most appalling forms of murder such as beheadings, sexual violence against women and girls and other most heinous crimes against humanity, culture, religion, dignity and against dearest of all - human life.”

“In implementing the mandate of peace operations, we stress the importance of giving the highest priority to the protection of civilians and the prevention of atrocities - especially sexual and gender-based violence and the protection of children.”

Country: Costa Rica

Speaker: H.E. Luis Rivera, President

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Participation, Implementation, Conflict Prevention, Protection, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Extracts:

“Costa Rica is proud to have included, in the resolution that was approved just a few weeks ago, an invitation to member States to present women candidates for the position of Secretary General. The time has come for the General Secretariat to be occupied by a woman. Let us acknowledge the great capacity, competence and commitment of women in all areas, and let us send an unequivocal political signal that, as we commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, this organization stands by what it preaches in terms of equality and empowerment of women and girls.”

“The promotion and defence of human rights cannot continue to be limited to rhetoric. On the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, gender equality and the empowerment of women must cease to be merely words in many regions of the world and become congruent and consistent commitments to said Declaration, incorporating national public policies that truly bring us closer to the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its mainstreamed gendered approach, that materializes considerations of women in each objective, goal and indicator.”

“The violations of the most elemental human rights, above all the right to life, perpetrated by terrorists and other so-called "non-State" actors, as well as the dreadful events that have taken place in areas affected by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) against women and girls and other vulnerable groups, pose a serious threat to international peace and security.”

“In the fight against terrorism, Costa Rica is concerned about the use of sexual violence as a terror tactic, and the link of violent extremism to the control over the autonomy of women and the impact on and restriction of their rights.”

Country: Benin

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Lionel Zinsou, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

Theme: Gender Equality

Extracts:

“The world could, rightly, congratulate itself for having revealed the extreme poverty over a billion people and have made remarkable progress in the fight against hunger and discrimination against girls.”

Country: Ghana

Speaker: H.E. Mr. John Mahama, President

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“It is not a secret that when it comes to gender equality, education is the key to change”

“We instituted the Girl Child Program which encourages parents to send girls to school, and at the primary level we have achieved gender parity between boys and girls.”

“Among those traditions are the ones that refuse individuals--particularly women and children--their basic rights and force them into situations that relegate them to a life of vulnerability to poverty, disease and other unbearable hardships. “

“Most of the world's poorest people are women. Currently we create programs and policies to address this imbalance, yet regardless of how successful they may be, they are not permanent solutions. They do not solve the ultimate problem, which is the vast inequality between men and women that so many traditions have inculcated. “

“But what happens beyond the primary level is another matter altogether. Young girls are often taken out of school and married off. Africa has the highest rates of child marriage in the world, following only Asia. It was the intention of the United Nations' 1964 Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum for Marriage and Registration of Marriages to abolish the practice of child marriage. Still, in West Africa, two out of five girls is married before the age of 18. These young girls are faced with increased maternal mortality rates and increased STD

rates; they are subject to the sort of poverty that is nearly insurmountable. However, research shows that 64% fewer girls would become child brides if they completed secondary school.”

Country: Palestine

Speaker: H.E. Mr Mahmoud Abbas, President

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Turkey

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extracts:

“We see a clear link between sustainable economic development and global stability. One way to ensure this, is through inclusive economic growth where no one, not least women or the vulnerable, in our societies is left behind.”

Country: Bangladesh

Speaker: H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Peacekeeping

Extracts:

“We have the distinction of having the highest number of female police officers in UN peacekeeping missions”

Country: Sweden

Speaker: H.E. Stefan Lofven, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, General WPS, Human Rights

Extracts:

“To solve this crisis, we also need to stop the horrors in Syria. Extrajudicial executions, sexual and gender-based violence, atrocities that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity cannot be tolerated by our international community.”

“This is a foundation for peace that is too precious to neglect. This is closely connected to the potential of gender equality. The barring of women from power and public debate, from work and education, from their human right to decide over themselves, including their bodies, reproduction and sexuality, is a global disgrace. It is time to once and for all get rid of structures that discriminate against and belittle people, on whatever grounds.”

“It is time to fully realise UN Security Council Resolution 1325, granting women their crucial role in peace and state building.” “It is time to see sexual violence as one of the most destructive weapons of all and to fight it with the full force of the international community.”

Country: Pakistan

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Muhammed Nuwaz Sharif, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Norway

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace & Security, Implementation,

Extracts:

“During the course of 2015, the UN has been carrying out three important reviews:

- of peace operations
- of the peacebuilding architecture
- of Security Council Resolution 1325”

“The UN has established many global standards. Fifteen years ago, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. It was a landmark resolution, but its implementation is taking too long. In several war-ravaged towns in Syria, groups of women are calling for a ceasefire and evacuation. They do this at great personal risk. Their bravery should inspire us. We must intensify the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security.”

Country: Malta

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Lebanon

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tammam Salam, President

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Latvia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Raimonds Vējonis, President

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Serbia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Laos

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Choummaly Sayasone, President

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Nauru

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Baron Waqua, President

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“Education, public health, gender equality, clean water, oceans, energy and more importantly, a strong family unit - these are some of the blocks on which our future must be built.”

Country: Libya

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Agila Saleh Essa Gwaider, Acting Head of State
Date: 30 September 2015
No gender language

Country: Marshall Islands
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Christopher J. Loeak, President
Date: 30 September 2015
No gender language

Country: Comoros
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ikililou Dhoinine, President
Date: 30 September 2015
No gender language

Country: Slovenia
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Miroslav Cerar, Prime Minister
Date: 30 September 2015
Themes: Human Rights, General WPS
Extracts:

“Just few days ago we have participated in the commemorating event and reaffirmed our commitment to gender equality, human rights and the empowerment of women.”

“In October we will mark the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the resolution 1325, the first resolution to stress the role of women in peace and security. While acknowledging progress that has been achieved, our quest for gender equality needs to go on”

Country: Vanuatu
Speaker: H.E. Eltek Sato Kilman Livtuvanu, Prime Minister
Date: 30 September 2015
Themes: Human Rights, Participation, Conflict Prevention

“I am delighted to see that the focus on gender remains an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. In my country, achieving gender equality continues to be a challenge given our tradition and cultural make up. However, the political will to further advance the interests of women remains steadfast. Notable progress has been made in terms of access to basic education and health services, women assuming leadership positions in Municipal Councils and that women today have better access to basic financial services than ever before.”

“As a leader of my country, I want to see more tangible progress in women and girls' advancement and their active participation in national leadership. This progress can be expedited if more financial resources are channelled to assist my Government to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.”

“The role of women in this area should be enhanced and preventive diplomacy is where most of our efforts should be focused.”

Country: Samoa
Speaker: H.E. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister
Date: 30 September 2015
No gender language

Country: Iraq

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Haider Al-Abdi, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Gender Equality, Human Rights

Extracts:

“We achieved in Iraq a remarkable progress in dropping rates of mortality, raising the percentages of education, reducing gender gap inequality, and improving the living standards”

Country: Moldova

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Valeriu Strelet, Prime Minister

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Morocco

Speaker: H.H. Crown Prince Moulay Rachid

Date: 30 September 2015

No gender language

Country: Azerbaijan

Speaker: H. E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Gender Equality

Extract:

“Over the past years, Azerbaijan has achieved impressive results on many MDG targets, especially on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring universal primary education and promoting gender equality”

Country: Brunei

Speaker: H.M. Sultan Hajj Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waduddaluh

Date: 30 September 2015

Theme: Implementation

Extracts:

“On that note, we commend the valuable work of the UN agencies such as IAEA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO to improve every aspect of people's lives around the world.”

Country: Togo

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President

Date: 30 September 2015

Theme: Human Rights

“Similarly, when we were looking for more appropriate mechanisms to fund the development of Africa, it would be regrettable if the cultural values underpinning the African societies are sacrifices to the risk of undermining the desired results. In this regard, pressure must not be exerted on our states to compel us to adopt programs and initiatives that cause cultural change. Indeed, as has been said by African bishops in their statement last June, we are concerned that certain orientations of Sustainable Development Goals related to sexual and reproductive health will eventually become conditionalities to the granting of resources while their ownership continues to be controversial.”

Country: Panama

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez, President

Date: 30 September 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“Boys in the world, women are the thousands suffer the effects of inequality, poverty, war, forced displacement by conflict, trafficking in human beings and inequity in opportunities, so the role that the Heads of State and the United Nations, we are called to play in the defence and promotion of the rights and freedoms of women, is paramount.”

“reiterate the call that we made during the reunion of leaders, to which we allocate resources to address femicide, trafficking and acts of violence against women.”

Country: Bosnia

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Dragan Covic, Chairman of the Presidency

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Implementation

Extracts:

“The degree of equality of women and girls in certain rights has been at a high level for decades in my country. The reason for that is that we have always believed a woman to be a pillar of the family, on the local level, as well as the carrier of development of a society, and today we are convinced that women are a major factor of reconciliation, in light of the events my country has been through. Therefore, we will even more vigorously invest efforts into further advancement of women, primarily as the best way to heal our society, mend what was broken, strengthen that pillar of the family, and provide for women's further development on the basis of full equality.”

“As a member of the UN Women Executive Board, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to invest efforts in promoting human rights on the international level, in particular strengthening the position of women, primarily guided by the Beijing Platform for Action and the objectives set in the 2030 Agenda.”

Country: Montenegro

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Filip Vujanović, President

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: General WPS, Implementation, Human Rights

Extracts:

“The inclusion of gender perspective in all aspects of the peace and security agenda, i.e. comprehensive implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 is of special importance. In particular, in the context of the upcoming review of its application 15 years since its adoption.”

“Marking 20 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action obliges us to intensify our efforts in the implementation of important documents in the area of exercise of all human rights for women and girls and their empowerment.”

Country: Angola

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Manuel Domingos Vicente, Vice-President

Date: 1 October 2015

Theme: Conflict Prevention, General WPS

Extracts:

“By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Member States reiterate as absolute priorities the eradication of poverty and hunger, the promotion of social and economic development, the protection of rights for all, as well as gender equality, women's empowerment, the environment, access to quality services, and special attention to vulnerable groups.”

“In the near future, the United Nations will also be involved in the review of three very important processes: Women, Peace and Security, Peacekeeping Operations, and the Peacebuilding Architecture”

Country: Cape Verde

Speaker: H. E. Mr. Jose Maria Pereira Neves, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Lesotho

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Pakalith Mosisili, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Georgia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Irakli Garibashvili, President

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Greece

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Israel

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Malaysia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Slovakia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Miroslav LAJČÁK, Deputy Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace & Security, Participation

Extracts:

“The number of major civil wars has almost tripled...The volumes of battle deaths have skyrocketed...The most worrisome fact is an increased number of civilian casualties, including women and children...”

“It has been 15 years since the adoption of the landmark Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security...Yet, the impacts of conflicts on women and children are still inordinate and their engagement in peace processes is still insufficient...Gender equality is a natural precondition for sustainable development, stability and peace...As Kofi Annan said: "When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life "...”

“The presence of women negotiators in high-profile United Nations peace and mediation processes, role of women deployed by the United Nations to major conflict zones and high-stake inter-state negotiations, as well as in peacekeeping and peace-building in general, is irreplaceable and should continue to grow.”

Country: Germany

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Saudi Arabia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Adel Ahmed Al-Jubeir, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: India

Speaker: The Hon. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

Theme: Peace Processes, Participation,

Extracts:

“Nowhere is such a goal more important than in the peacekeeping process. Under the blue flag, several men and women are constantly working to prevent conflict, protect civilians and sustain peace processes.”

“As a woman and an elected Member of Parliament, it has been my firm conviction that there is a shortcut to real social change - empowering the girl child. Our Government's policy of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Educate the Girl Child to empower her) was conceived with this vision.”

“Unlike the men and women who may have planted its seed, the banyan is still a young tree at 70.”

Country: Austria

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Ireland

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Charles Flanagan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Date: 1 October 2015

Theme: Participation, Protection, Gender Equality, General WPS, Peace Processes

Extracts:

“In particular, our own experience of conflict in Ireland has taught us that full and equal participation by women in decisions around peace and security are vital to building a sustainable peace.”

“I hope SG Ban may be succeeded by a brilliant female Secretary General in due course - this would send a powerful message to women and men around the world that here at the UN, we are willing to remove the barriers that prevent women from fulfilling their potential.”

“We will not be silent about the plight of women and children harmed by the very people responsible for their protection.”

“It looks inwards to the reconciliation activity on our island and offering relief and recovery to women and girls who sought shelter from violent conflict on Irish shores.”

“I wish to emphasise Ireland's grave concern for vulnerable women and girls in many parts of the world and our strong commitment to gender equality. On his visit to Ireland in May, Secretary General Ban spoke passionately of his personal commitment to gender equality and the UN's efforts to combat the emergence of appalling forms of sexual violence and enslavement. Mindful of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Conference, we must keep women's rights high on our agenda.”

“In the year 2000, just before our last membership of the Security Council, Ireland cosponsored UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, reflecting our strong national commitment to this agenda.”

“Ireland's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, adopted since I last addressed you, takes a holistic approach.”

Country: Botswana

Speaker: The Hon. Mokgweetsi Masisi, Vice-President

Date: 1 October 2015

Theme: Gender Equality

Extracts:

“Poverty eradication, gender equality, the empowerment of women, girls and the youth, job creation, as well as equal access to health and other social services remain high on our national agenda.”

“We continue to see multitudes, especially the poorest, vulnerable and marginalised in our societies, subjected to unacceptable living conditions. Social exclusions and inequalities still present a significant challenge in most countries, with women and girls; the youth bearing the heaviest weight of those circumstances.”

Country: South Sudan

Speaker: H.E. Mr. James Wani Igga, Vice-President

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Nicaragua

Speaker: H.E. Comandante Daniel Ortega, President

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Antigua and Barbuda

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: New Zealand

Speaker: H.E. Mr. John Key, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Timor Leste

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Rui Maria De Araújo, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Solomon Islands

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Cambodia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Namhong Hor, Deputy Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Bahrain

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

Country: Georgia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“I am also proud of the fact that last year we adopted Georgia's first comprehensive long-term Human Rights Strategy and enacted a new anti-discrimination law”

“I see a country where every young Georgian boy or girl has access to a quality education in order to give them the opportunity to develop their God-given talents.”

Country: Nepal

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Prakash Man Singh, Deputy Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: Participation

Extracts:

“The constitution opens up new avenues of empowerment, progress and wellbeing for all disadvantaged groups including women, Tharus, Madhesis, indigenous people, Muslims and

dalits with a resolve to create an egalitarian society by ending all discriminations. It guarantees 33% of women representation in the national parliament”

“The new constitution promulgated in the country guarantees the fundamental rights of the citizens. It has ambitiously broadened the rights of women, children, elderly and differently able persons as well as marginalized communities.”

Country: Burundi

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Joseph Butore, Vice-President

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: Participation, Peacekeeping, Human Rights

Extracts:

“On the socio-economic chapter, Burundi has made significant progress in recent years. The involvement of women and girls in the management of the country is now a reality. Indeed, the Constitution gives them a quota of at least 30% in the organs of decision making. They are 50% in the Senate, 36% in the National Assembly. The Government, women are at the head of important ministries such as Health, that of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Justice, Trade and Communal Development.”

“Regarding women and armed conflict, progress has been made in the recruitments in the defence and security forces, promoting their effective participation in peacekeeping missions. In the field of education, free tuition has enabled primary education to achieve its ambition of having more girls than boys equal. The policy introduced in 2005, by approaching community work, also involved the efforts of the people in the construction of school infrastructure, and it has achieved in 2014 a schooling rate of 96% against 59.5% in 2005.”

“At the health sector, free health care for children under 5 and women in labour has reduced the mortality rate of children under 5 years, from 119 deaths per 1,000 births in 2005 up to 94 deaths per 1,000 children in 2014; while child mortality at birth has been reduced from 910 deaths per 100,000 births to 740 deaths per 100,000 births during the same period.”

Country: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ri Su Yong, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Kyrgyzstan

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Erlan Abdyldayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Bahamas

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Frederick Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: Participation, General Women, Peace & Security

Extracts:

“There can be no economic and social development without the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The Bahamas is committed to this achievement and has actively participated in various meetings on gender equality and the advancement of women, regionally and here at the UN, and was represented at the recent

Global Leaders Meetings on Gender Equality and Women's empowerment by our minister for Gender Affairs, the Hon. Melanie Griffin, on 27th September. “

Country: Papua New Guinea

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Rimbink Pato, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extracts:

“Recognition of impacts of climate change on women and youth, the elderly, the disabled, and the indigenous people and other vulnerable and marginalized groups, and acknowledge their contributions to effective implementation of the Paris outcome”

Country: Chad

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Madagascar

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, President

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: Implementation

Extracts:

“Madagascar at the meeting in March 2015 in New York, has reaffirmed its commitment to promote the rights of women, renewing his promises held in Beijing.”

Country: Luxembourg

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister of External Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace, and Security

Extracts:

“At 70, the United Nations must be able to adapt to the height of task. We welcome in this regard the ongoing reviews to make the action more UN effective level of peace operations, peacebuilding or application of 1325 to recognize the indispensable role of women in peace and security. Luxembourg will continue to engage with Member States - and they are many - who wish to advance the reform of the UN. I think in particular of the reform of the Security Council to make it more effective, transparent and representative of world today.”

Country: Algeria

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 1 October 2015

Themes: General mentions, Peacekeeping

Extracts:

“Under the program of the President of the Republic, HE. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Algeria implemented a development policy based on approach and ambitious development plans whose purpose is the revival of pace of economic growth and social care needs of all citizens, while continuing to strengthen the rule of law, the independence of the justice, freedom of expression and equality of opportunity between men and woman.”

Country: Macedonia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Barbados

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister

Date: 1 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Jamaica

Speaker: The Hon. Senator Arnold J. Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights, General Women, Peace and Security, Protection

Extracts:

“It is unthinkable that we should tolerate the immense suffering of millions, including vulnerable women and children. Let us be our brothers’ keeper and reach out in the universal and timeless spirit of One love, so poignantly championed by Jamaica’s musical icon, the late Bob Marley.”

“Too many women continue to face gross violations of their human rights; too many are victims of trafficking, violence and discrimination; of unequal treatment before the law; of subjugation and domination.”

“I applaud UN Women's active efforts to realise women's human rights. Jamaica is proud of its longstanding social legislation and its record of championing the rights of women, even as we recognise that more remains to be done, in keeping with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.”

“Mr. President, in this seventieth year, let us reaffirm our commitment to the guiding principles of this Organisation and place them firmly at the core of our efforts to attain our shared goals and objectives: sovereign equality of states, great and small; observance of fundamental human rights; the equal rights of men and women.”

Country: Andorra

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Antoni Martí Petit, Head of Government _____

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Niger

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Aïchatou Boulama Kané, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

“In this regard, it pleases me to note that the Niger is the 17th contributor of troops and police worldwide with 1826 men and women in 2015 in the UN peace-keeping operations.”

Country: Iceland

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace & Security, Human Rights

Extracts:

“The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are achievements which we should be proud of. Iceland, together with many other member states, worked hard to achieve the

balanced result we see today. We are particularly pleased with the prominence of gender equality and the empowerment of women, which are key to sustainable development.”

“Iceland will continue to work with others for non-discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Human rights are for all men and all women, all girls and all boys, not just for some. "We the peoples" includes everyone.”

“Iceland will continue to be a champion of gender equality and empowerment of women, along with many other committed member states. At the beginning of this year I co-hosted, with my colleague from Suriname, a successful Barbershop conference, here at the UN. The aim was to join others in getting men more active on gender equality. I saw it as support for the He for She campaign run by UNWOMEN. In the light of this success, Iceland intends to host Barbershops in other international organizations that we are members of.”

“There is important work under way to revitalize the General Assembly. Iceland welcomes the resolution on this topic in relation to appointment of the Secretary General. And, after a succession of eight men in the position of Secretary General, it is high time for qualified female candidates to be seriously considered for this most important international position. The same applies for the position of the President of the General Assembly. The gender imbalance in high-level positions must be addressed to increase the credibility of the UN.”

Country: Liechtenstein

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Aurelia Frick, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace & Security, Conflict prevention

Extracts:

“The UN is the strongest symbol for human rights and the rule of law, for gender equality and the protection of vulnerable populations.”

“Preventing mass atrocities is so important because their effects are irreversible. They have no remedy. How can one possibly compensate the slaughter of civilians, the mass rape of women, the brutalizing of children? “

“As we consider how we can sharpen our tools for conflict prevention and resolution, one conclusion is already foregone: We must get better at including women and their perspectives in these processes. The 15th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda (Security Council resolution 1325) is therefore a bittersweet moment. The agenda sets out a comprehensive vision of how to include women in peaceful solutions, and how to protect them from the effects of armed conflict - in itself a remarkable achievement. Yet we have largely been unable to fulfil the promise made fifteen years ago. Girls born into a post 1325-world still suffer from abuse, sexual violence, forced recruitment and displacement. Let us take decisive steps forward when we meet later this month in the Security Council.”

Country: Belize

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Wilfred Elrington, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Granada

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Sao Tome and Principe

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Manuel Salvador Dos Ramos, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Sudan

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Ahman 'Abd al-Aziz Ghandour, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Participation, Human Rights

Extracts:

“Despite these difficulties, we have achieved reasonable success in the field of educational services, where enrolment rates have greatly increased at the levels of basic and secondary education, as well as the proportion of female students, reflecting a growing interest in female education as a result of incentive policies and awareness programs espoused by the state. In its turn, the growth in the proportion of female students, coupled with the gender policy adopted by the state, lead to a marked increase in the employment rates of women, perceivably exceeding men in some sectors.”

“As for ensuring the right of women to participate in the political life, the afore mentioned presidential and parliamentary elections stand witness to the inclusion of women was key partners in all stages, from the preparatory process to the polling activities, as both voters and candidates, scoring 30% of all parliamentary seats.”

Country: United Arab Emirates

Speaker: H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Protection, Displacement

Extracts:

“The Syrian and Libyan crises and their associated shocking violence have taken a heavy human and political toll. Almost daily, we see the suffering of innocent people, especially women and children, in their mass exodus as they search for safe havens and safe livelihoods, and the heavy price paid by refugees who have lost their lives in tragic conditions.”

Country: Indonesia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Philippines

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Albert Del Rosario, Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace and Security, Gender Equality Goal, Protection, Peacekeeping

Extracts:

“Today, the Philippines renews its steadfast commitment to the cause of peace and sustainable development through key priority areas and national positions ranging from

climate change and the rule of law, memberships in APEC and ASEAN, disarmament and non-proliferation; to women, peace and security, migration and human trafficking, peacekeeping and UN reform.”

“The international community must adopt a new legally-binding climate agreement that is universal and equitable, one that ensures a bright and low-carbon future for the next generation; and one that addresses the needs of vulnerable states and sectors particularly the poor, women, migrants and indigenous peoples.”

“The Philippines shall continue on its path to successfully implement the agenda of Women, Peace and Security by highlighting at this session the important contributions of women in peace negotiations and peace building, and their roles in shaping the narratives of peace. We will maintain our active roles in calling for the continued implementation of the CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals on women, particularly Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Taken together, these instruments are powerful mechanisms for realizing national and international commitments to advance women's roles as enablers of sustainable development.”

“The Philippines will also continue to play an active role on the issue of human trafficking, either as main or co-sponsor of resolutions that recognize the heightened vulnerability to trafficking of women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations and other emergency environments. The Philippines will work with other governments to intensify efforts for the speedy disposition of trafficking cases and strengthening of anti-trafficking mechanisms. The Philippines hopes that through its biennial resolution with Indonesia on Violence against Women Migrant Workers, the policies and programs of UN Member States will provide full protection of all migrant women's rights, particularly against discrimination, violence and all forms of sexual exploitation.”

“Since 1963, the Philippines has been a consistent troop-contributor to UN peacekeeping operations. We are committed to and have answered the call of the UN for the deployment of female peacekeepers: I am pleased to announce that there are now 15 Filipino women out of the 161 Filipino peacekeepers in the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti or MINUSTAH”

“These reforms include urging the Council to provide the General Assembly a plural number of candidates, especially women, for appointment to the post of Secretary-General, with due regard to regional rotation and gender equality.”

Country: Myanmar

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Wunna Maung Lwin, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: General Women, Peace and Security, Human Rights,

Extracts:

“There are also achievements in bringing better life for all. Lifting millions out of poverty, sending millions more children to schools, combating against deadly diseases, promoting gender equality and human rights are remarkable milestones in the UN's journey. The unanimous adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development last week has added to the long list of its achievements”

“Myanmar has made notable progress in poverty and hunger reduction, eliminating gender disparity in basic education, reduction of child mortality rate, improving maternal health, and advancing global partnership for development.”

Country: Tuvalu

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Taukelina Finikaso, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention

Extracts:

“Mr. President, in short there are still many “left behind”, and as we are fully aware, it is usually the aged, women, youth, disabled and little children that are deprived and robbed of their fundamental rights to be human in these dire situations. We must have a United Nations answer, and our Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development with its 17 goals and 169 targets, must deliver for the people”

Country: Trinidad and Tobago

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Denis Moses, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention, General Women, Peace and Security,

Extracts:

“The 2030 Development Agenda would not be fully implemented if the most vulnerable members of our societies, that is, women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples are not placed at the very centre of the development paradigm. Regrettably, in some parts of the world, women and children continue to be denied fundamental human rights and freedoms, receive less pay for equal work as men, and are systematically prevented from obtaining an education, all of which hinder their ability to participate in the sustainable development of their countries.”

“Since its independence in 1962, Trinidad and Tobago has enacted several laws and administrative and other measures to promote and strengthen the general well-being of women and girls in society. On the international plane, we have committed to the full and effective implementation of our obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Additionally, recognizing the progressive contribution of women to peace and development, Trinidad and Tobago has introduced and has been the main sponsor of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on 'Women, Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Arms Control' since 2010”

Country: Kiribati

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Makurita Baaro, Permanent Representative

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Participation, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, General Women, Peace and Security

Extracts:

“I would like to reiterate our deepest appreciation to you our Secretary General for your demonstrated commitment to and leadership in focusing UN and global attention to the plight of the neediest, to alleviate poverty, to address the Ebola epidemic, to raise the voice and

participation of youth and women in development, to end gender based violence, to peace and security and to climate change.”

“Let us bring in our youth, let us bring in our women, civil society, the private sector, churches, universities, our traditional institutions, indigenous populations and everyone on board.”

Country: Guinea-Bissau

Speaker: H.E. Mr. João Soares Da Gama, Permanent Representative

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Participation, Conflict Prevention, General Women, Peace and Security,

Extracts:

“We continue to believe that preventive diplomacy can prove to be more efficient in preventing and resolving conflicts. We believe that the best way to prevent conflicts would be to invest more in combating poverty, promoting gender equality, education, the struggle against social discrimination, and preserving the environment.”

Country: Holy See

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary of Relations with States

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Vietnam

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Nguyen Phuong Nga, Permanent Representative

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Peru

Speaker: H.E. Mr. João Soares Da Gama, Permanent Representative

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Participation

Extracts:

“10. To implement this agenda, the proper allocation of resources is essential. We need to continue increasing the budgets of programs related to social inclusion, particularly in the fields of health and education, prioritizing attention to our children, gender equality and empowerment of women.”

Country: Honduras

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Mary Flores, Permanent Representative

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“It contains the minutes of the Charter doctrine that inspires the existence of Nations United: The harmonious and respectful coexistence between brothers of the same family overall; all citizens, regardless of race, gender, creed or origin, of a Common Home”

Country: Mauritius

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister

Date: 2 October 2015

Themes: Gender Equality Goal

Extracts:

“Mauritius particularly welcomes Sustainable Development Goal 5 relating to women and girls’ empowerment. Mauritius has made steady progress on this agenda and continues to put in place appropriate strategies to further promote gender equality in all the spheres of development. I am proud to announce that for the first time in history, my country has three women in high positions, as President of the Republic, Vice President and Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius.”

Country: St. Kitts and Nevis

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Timothy Harris, Prime Minister

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Albania

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Syria

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Walid Al-Moualem, Deputy Prime Minister

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Bhutan

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Damcho Dorji

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: St. Lucia

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alva Romanus Baptiste, Minister for External Affairs, Minister of External Affairs

Date: 2 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Côte d’Ivoire

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Claude Stanislas Bouah-Kamon, Permanent Representative

Date: 3 October 2015

Themes: Implementation

Extracts:

“This role is also illustrated in the promotion of women's rights and it should be emphasize in this respect the holding of the historic conference on Women in Mexico in 1975 and the memorable meeting in Beijing in 1995, which helped define priority standards for the Women's Rights and Gender Equality”

Country: Eritrea

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Osman Mohammed Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 3 October 2015

Themes: Protection, Human Rights, Participation

Extracts:

“Maintaining focus on development, Eritrea is fighting human trafficking, stabilizing illegal migration and giving youth and women adequate opportunities to pursue a high quality of life and build their nation. Eritrea is also making its contribution to regional peace, stability and security in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.”

Country: Maldives

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Dunya Maumoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 3 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“Our faith in fundamental human rights is reaffirmed in principle; yet, the equal rights of men and women, and of nations, large and small, are ignored.”

“That is why President Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom's government has embarked on a national development programme that is based on the "empowerment of people": empowerment of youth, empowerment of children, and the empowerment of women...”

Country: Suriname

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Niermala Badrising, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 3 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“Gender equality and the empowerment of women, in particular increasing the political participation of women at all levels, remains an area of particular interest to the international community.”

Country: Canada

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Daniel Jean, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 3 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights

Extracts:

“Canada welcomes the inclusion of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in the 2030 Agenda as a means of following through on the 3 commitments made under the 2010 G8 Muskoka Initiative, the "Saving Every Woman, Every Child Summit" in Toronto in 2014, and the renewed "Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health".”

Country: San Marino

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Daniele Bodini, PR

Date: 3 October 2015

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Human Rights, General WPS

Extracts:

“Unfortunately, despite all our efforts and successes, the international community continues to face the same challenges: wars, poverty, inequalities, discrimination, violence against women and children and many more.”

“The Republic of San Marino has always paid special attention to the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly and the disabled.”

“Today, women are still the victims of discrimination and violence in many parts of the world, including in the most developed countries. Trafficking in women is far from being 5

solved. Women living in conflict and post-conflict situations are often subject to sexual violence, torture and summary executions”

Country: Oman

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 3 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Guatemala

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Carlos Raúl Morales, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 3 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Dominica

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Francine Baron, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 3 October 2015

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention

Extracts:

“Dominica is committed to answering the call to promote equity, including gender equality, women and girls’ empowerment, and social inclusion as an objective in our domestic policies. These policies are consistent with the goals my government has been promoting since the dawn of the century.”

Country: Hungary

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Date: 3 October 2015

No gender language

Country: El Salvador

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hugo Roger Martínez Bonilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: 3 October 2015

Themes: Participation, General WPS

Extracts:

“We also support all initiatives to ensure the participation of women in various contingents, according to the provisions of Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions of the Security Council.”

Country: Palau

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto, Permanent Representative

Date: 3 October 2015

No gender language

Country: Turkmenistan

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Aksoltan Ataeva, Permanent Representative

Date: 3 October 2015

No gender language

***See Peace Women Website for full Statements**
<http://peacewomen.org/node/92572>