

Gender-Militarism Index

**The General Debate of the 73rd Session of
the United Nations General Assembly**

25 September - 1 October 2018

(October 2018)



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

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October, 2018

Gender Index of Statements made during the General Debate of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly (25 September - 1 October 2018)

91 pages

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM [WILPF]

**Index of Statements made during the General Debate of the 73rd Session of the
General Assembly (25 September - 1 October 2018)**

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The Gender Index examines the statements delivered by the representatives of Member States and delegations with an observer status, as well as the President of the UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General, during the General Debate of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA73) from a feminist perspective based on human rights, disarmament and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. It includes all references made by the UNGA73 delegations to specific WILPF PeaceWomen themes¹, women's rights and experiences, as well as references to conflict prevention, transformation of the multilateral system and addressing structural barriers to women's engagement, including patriarchal gendered norms and economic inequality. It also provides a gender-specific assessment of the references to specific country situations in Colombia, Syria, Nigeria, Iraq, Palestine, Cameroon, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya and Bosnia and Herzegovina and determines the number of female speakers.

OVERVIEW

During the General Debate, country representatives from 197 Member States and observer delegations put forth their concerns, positions and priorities under the theme, "Making the United Nations Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies"². The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, the fourth woman as well as the first Latin American woman to become an UNGA President.

The participants discussed the current opportunities for building sustainable peace and just societies, strengthening an international response to the migration crisis, re-channeling funds in

¹ Peacewomen Themes, Available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/security-council/pw-themes>

² UNGA 73, 2018/2019. Available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/UN/general-assembly/GA73>

a way that prevents humanitarian crises around the world, and beyond. On the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the UNGA 73 conversations took place on the role of women in peace work, gendered strategies of terrorist groups and gender-sensitive implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

One of the prevalent topics of the discussions was the idea of reconsidering the role of the UN and its Security Council in order to better adjust to the current security situation. The representative of Suriname, in this regard, said, “the process to reform the Security Council must be comprehensive, inclusive, balanced and consensus-based, taking into account the interests of both developed and developing countries and further promoting, preserving and strengthening international peace and security”³. Many of the reforms discussed focused on making the Security Council more inclusive and representative of diverse global needs, including by rotating its permanent members, establishing a more equal power structure between the permanent members and the rest of the Security Council, adopting a “human security” vision based on conflict prevention and economic reforms rather than militarised approaches, as well as reforming veto power specifically in cases of sexual violence and crimes against humanity.

Reiterating the provisions of Security Council Resolution 2282 (2016)⁴, the discussion during the General Debate, as well as a variety of side-events, brought into light the widespread concern about the fragmentation of the UN system and the lack of policy coherence and institutional collaboration that hinders effective conflict prevention and perpetuates destructive conflicts. As pointed out by the representative of France at one of the side-events, human rights violations against minority groups often constitute crimes against humanity and genocide, while being completely ignored by the international security architecture. Similarly, Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, pointed out gendered strategies of terrorists⁵, with not a single case of sexual violence by terrorists in Iraq being prosecuted. Indeed, the speakers agreed that without accountability, international law is ineffective and enables the cycle of violence to continue. Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, summarised the discussions pointing that “fairness and dignity, justice and equality that bring peace and sustain development”.

³ Statement of H.E. Yldiz Pollack-Beigle, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Suriname, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/73/suriname>

⁴ Security Council Resolution 2282, 2016. Available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/resource/security-council-resolution-2282>

⁵ “How the Islamic State talked women into subjugation: New UN Women report analyzes the use of gendered messaging by ISIL,” 2018. Available: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/6/news-new-un-women-report-analyzes-the-use-of-gendered-messaging-by-isil>

The conversation on peace came about loud and clear at the 24 September 2018 Nelson Mandela Peace Summit⁶, which offered world leaders the opportunity to renew their commitment to global peace, conflict prevention, promotion and protection of human rights and long-term development initiatives. One of the most common Nelson Mandela quotes to be cited at the Summit was: “To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others”. This stood in stark contrast to the lack of representation and recognition of the rights and roles of women displayed in the statements delivered at the Summit. Although the political declaration recognises that women’s early and full engagement in peace processes increases awareness of, and responsiveness to, women’s rights and needs, Member States are yet far from matching their actions and words and ensuring that women are meaningfully represented in peace work.

The annual meeting of the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network⁷ presented recent analysis of Security Council implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and pointed positive steps by the Security Council on the inclusion of WPS considerations and gender analysis in its response to country-specific and regional crisis situations, including through increased partnership with civil society. The resolutions that have been adopted and reports considered on specific thematic issues, including small arms and light weapons (SALW)⁸, demonstrate inclusion of the WPS Agenda therein. The establishment of the Informal Experts Group on WPS in 2016 was also noted as an important step that enabled Security Council members to receive in-depth information on gender conflict analysis and has provided Security Council members with the information necessary to incorporate focused gender concerns into interventions in the Security Council. At the national level, 76 National Action Plans⁹ on Security Council Resolution 1325 and a number of feminist commitments¹⁰ are important identifiers of a Member State’s commitment to gender equality and justice. Several discussions have also raised an important role of women’s initiatives on the ground in Yemen, Afghanistan and beyond. These initiatives support conflict prevention, rebuild communities and create feminist peace.

Over the past decade, an unquestionable evidence base has emerged demonstrating that women’s participation in peace and security and humanitarian processes makes peace and humanitarian work more effective, strengthens the protection efforts of peacekeepers, prevents radicalisation and the spread of extremism, and accelerates economic recovery. Furthermore, evidence shows that women’s meaningful participation results in a more

⁶ Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, 2018. Available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/node/102746>

⁷ WPS National Focal Point Network, 2018. Available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/node/97093>

⁸ “Report of the Secretary-General on Small Arms and Light Weapons (S/2017/1025),” (2017). Available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/node/101068>

⁹ Member States. Available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/member-states>

¹⁰ “Sweden’s Handbook on Feminist Foreign Policy,” 2018. Available: <https://www.peacewomen.org/node/102698>

sustainable peace. Yet, the conversation during the UNGA73 confirmed that commitments to support women’s meaningful participation fall enormously short. Out of 1,187 peace agreements reached from 1990 – 2017, only 19 per cent references to women, and only 5 per cent referred to gender-based violence. Moreover, there is an enormous gap in resources to support women peacebuilders and responders as they make this transformative change. In 2015-2016, only 5 per cent of aid allocated to programmes in fragile and conflict-affected countries targeted gender equality as the primary objective¹¹.

In response to this situation, several opportunities have been discussed on the margins of the General Debate on how to flip the progress, including by providing the opportunity to direct resources through the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, which supports local women’s action in conflict, the Central Emergency Response Fund, which serves as a financial mechanism to respond to humanitarian crises, and the Secretary-General’s Strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda¹², which focuses on financial innovations, technologies and digitalisation to create equal access to finance. However, as rightly pointed out during the side-event, “Promoting Gender-Responsive Migration Governance through the Global Compact for Migration”, very much will depend on gender-sensitive implementation and the ability of the international community to manage funds in a way that does not support “economic colonisation”¹³ of marginalised groups and ensures sustainable peace and development for all.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were also at the core of the discussions at the UNGA73. On 25 September 2018, the world has celebrated the #Global Goals Day¹⁴, featuring the commitment of different stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To strategise ahead of the 2019 Review of SDG16 (on peace) and the four-year review of all SDGs and 2020 (the 75th Anniversary of the UN and the 20th Anniversary of the WPS Agenda), multiple events were held throughout the week featuring different sustainable development initiatives. This included an event on the Secretary-General’s launch of the “Youth 2030: Working With and Four Young People Strategy”¹⁵, aimed at restructuring and mainstreaming the involvement of youth in the UN system and in achieving all 17 SDGs.

¹¹ “Aid to gender equality and women’s empowerment,” (OECD) 2018. Available: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Aid-to-gender-overview-2018.pdf>

¹² “Secretary-General’s Financing Strategy,” 2018. Available: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SG-Financing-Strategy_Sep2018.pdf

¹³ Statement by H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C.M.P., Prime Minister of Barbados, 2018. Available: https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/73/bb_en.pdf

¹⁴ We#ActforSDGs, 2018. Available: <http://act4sdgs.org/>

¹⁵ “Youth2030: Working with and for young people,” 2018. Available: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf

Aiming to facilitate commitments, encourage reporting and allow Member States, civil society, the private sector and youth to share how they are taking steps on meeting SDG16, Pathfinders hosted a “Stand Up for SDG16+: Accelerating Progress for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies” event¹⁶. Similarly, the Action Platform for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions¹⁷ was launched by the UN Global Compact to facilitate the understanding, reporting and implementation of global business standards in the relevant areas as well as provide a platform for dialogue between the private and public sector. Launched initiatives vital to reaching SDG16 missed however to integrate a gender perspective and recognise the interconnectedness between SDG 5 (on gender equality) and SDG 16 (on peace). Although the SDGs are not always translated through a women’s rights framework, this shows that they can provide a foothold to mobilise behind activist demands gender-sensitive demands have not translated.

While sustainable development and building peaceful, just and inclusive institutions remain the key for effective conflict prevention and sustainable peace, the very needed conversation on disarmament was missing. With 19 States Parties and 67 signatories, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and disarmament action gains more and more recognition. As pointed out by Ray Acheson, WILPF’s Disarmament Programme Director, “abolishing nuclear weapons is about preventing violence and promoting peace. It is neither strategic nor stable to deploy thousands of nuclear weapons, risking total annihilation of us all. It is neither strategic nor stable to spend billions of dollars on nuclear weapons when billions of people suffer from our global inability to meet basic human needs for all”¹⁸ At the same time, the world’s military expenditure keeps growing. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, global military expenditure rose to \$1739 billion in 2017¹⁹. The statement by the United States President Donald J. Trump that announced the ongoing increase of country’s military spendings, along with numerous calls for military engagement in Venezuela and Iran, encouraged a military confrontation, building up military industrial complex and enhancing separation policies at the expense of partnership and cooperation.²⁰

In the era of growing militarised rhetoric, it is important to ensure that gender perspective and women’s leadership and participation is ensured in all stages of planning the peace around emerging world’s issues. On the Koreas, the UNGA73 saw a number of formal and informal

¹⁶ “Stand up for SDG16+: Accelerating Progress on SDG 16+,” 2018. Available: <https://ungaguide.com/listing/stand-up-for-sdg16-accelerating-progress-on-sdg-16/>

¹⁷ “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions,” 2018. Available: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/action-platforms/justice>

¹⁸ ICAN Statement to the UN High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, 2018. Available: <https://www.wagingpeace.org/ican-statement-to-the-un-high-level-meeting-on-nuclear-disarmament/>

¹⁹ SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, 2018. Available: <https://sipri.org/databases/milex>

²⁰ Statement by H.E. Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/united-states-america>

discussions some positive discussions on opportunities for peace. The signing of the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula was described by the President of the General Assembly, H.E Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés as “a historic milestone to a new era of peace and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula”. Peace activist and Co-Chair of the PyeongChang Appeal for Peace, a Forum aimed at focusing on the Korean peace process, emphasised “the Korean peace process is a people-centered movement with a fair involvement of youth and women.” Similarly, Women Cross DMZ has been calling for an end to the armistice agreement and the creation of a peace treaty with women’s meaningful participation and rights at the center that ends the almost 70-year-long Korean war²¹. At a time when the discussion on the use of sanctions and the strengthening of the UN command’s mandate is happening, it is important that women’s meaningful participation and rights are ensured, including through holistic gender analysis from women civil society.

Migration and displacement was a common thread among the statements made by world leaders. In general, these references were made without a gendered perspective. The importance of mainstreaming gender in all stages of migration has been seen in the recent adoption of the 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration²², which includes a gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approach. However, the representative of Mexico noted that the adoption is not the end of the road, claiming that “now, very much will depend on gender-sensitive implementation” every step of the way. During the side-event “Empowering Girls, Opening Futures: Evidence-Based Programming for Indigenous Girls in the Americas”, one of the speakers similarly mentioned that “we need to speak to indigenous communities and listen to what they are saying and include adolescent girls in these conversations to address and support their needs”, arguing that participatory implementation is the key. There are mass movements of refugees, displaced persons and migrants in all regions of the world and it is vital to include a gender perspective to fit the specific needs of women in these situations.

The WILPF April 2017 #ReclaimUN Convening in Geneva has demonstrated that in order to make the UN relevant for everyone, it has to reclaim its status as a peace organisation. At the core of the UN mandate is saving future generations from the scourge of war. It means that the UN should prioritise action on making the UN relevant to all people, reclaiming its role as a peace organisation through women’s meaningful participation, integrating the WPS Agenda

²¹ “Women Cross DMZ Statement of Congratulations on Historic Inter-Korean Summit,” 2018. Available: <https://www.womencrossdmz.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/WCDMZ-Statement-on-Summit-and-Panmunjeom-Declaration-1.pdf>

²² “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,” (2018). Available: https://www.un.org/pga/72/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2018/07/180713_Agreed-Outcome_Global-Compact-for-Migration.pdf

across all Agendas, support disarmament efforts and restructure funding for peace efforts and not militarised efforts. This means the UN should use information and insight from communities affected by conflict and local women so as to better understand the root causes of conflict, the possibilities for change, and the policies needed to achieve it. Finally, it means putting local women and women's groups at the centre of conflict prevention efforts because they have the analysis, the knowledge and the capacity to do so.

These experiences are rarely integrated in the major UN conventions, such as the UNGA73. As pointed out by Abigail Ruane, WILPF's Women, Peace and Security Programme Director, at the WPS Focal Point Network meeting, "Member States have an important role to play to accelerate implementation of the WPS Agenda across different thematic and geographical topics". She invited governments to commit to political rather than technical change. This includes addressing structural discrimination and obstacles to women's meaningful participation, rights and justice, supporting consistent gender conflict expertise and analysis, ensuring safety and justice for women human rights defenders who are the beating heart of the WPS Agenda and ensuring strong funding for WPS and gender equality. As the UN approaches the new milestone and planning to assess its performance in 2019 and 2020, it is important to put implementation of the WPS Agenda at the heart of the global action on peaceful societies.

GENDER ANALYSIS

Out of a total of 197 statements, 114 statements (57.86 per cent) contained specific and general references to women and gender. Many of these were generalised and vaguely asserted the importance of women's empowerment and gender equality, viewing women as victims rather than specific actions necessary to ensure gender equality, women's meaningful participation and respect for their rights. Most of the references to gender were simply countries expressing their congratulations to the President of the 73rd General Assembly, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, for being the fourth female and first Latin American woman to hold the position. However a few speakers stood out in their commitment to WPS. H.E. Mr. Mamadi Touré, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea was one such speaker, saying that "the creation of an inclusive society underpins the elimination of inequalities and social barriers which prevent the participation of young people and women in economic activities and politics"²³. 80 statements (50.7 per cent) addressed women and women's situation very generally, and only 34 speakers (17.2 per cent) discussed specific initiatives and provided policy recommendations.

²³ Statement of H.E. Mr. Mamadi Touré, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/guinea>

During the General Debate, only 5 per cent of speakers recognised the strong connection between the inclusion of women in peace processes and a more stable, longer-lasting peace (a 3 per cent increase from the 72nd Session). It affirmed that women's inclusion in peace processes gains more recognition and political support. The Prime Minister of Norway said, "as women rights and participation are crucial for lasting peace and stability, we will keep this issue high on our agenda"²⁴. The statement indicated that key challenges to implementation continue to be: political will, accountability and resources, as well as the existence of institutional and attitudinal barriers. Canada affirmed the importance of women's meaningful participation with the Elsie Initiative, a practical plan to double the number of women in peacekeeping operations. The President of Colombia announced that for the first time in its history, his cabinet has achieved full gender parity. The Parliament of Guinea-Bissau approved a law that guarantees a minimum representation quota of 36 per cent for women in positions of note, particularly in the National People's Assembly and in Government. The President of Spain said that over half of his Cabinet of Ministers is comprised of women.

Even though women are a formidable force for peace in every region of the world, they face entrenched and pernicious obstacles. The need for gender analysis of national and sub-national governance and peace and security efforts, essential for a comprehensive understanding of the needs and priorities of communities, was strongly supported by 47.3 per cent of speakers. The President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau claimed, "there can be no peace when a large portion, if not most, of the population, particularly women and youth, are not sufficiently valued"²⁵. Women and girls are targets of attacks against their physical and mental integrity, stripped of their dignity, and being used as shields of war in armed conflicts. Gender norms are part of the fabric of all societies, which play an important role in determining how men, women, boys and girls access services and rights, how much power they have over resources and how they can influence decision-making²⁶. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany said, "only just societies will remain peaceful in the long-term - societies in which men and women enjoy equal rights and in which women participate in all social decision-making. This is not only a matter of fairness and respect. It is simply about humanity and reason"²⁷.

The speakers also highlighted the way in which the history of armed conflicts and arms proliferation has had a different impact on women due to structural discrimination and

²⁴ Statement of H.E. Mrs. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister Kingdom of Norway, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/norway>

²⁵ Statement of H.E. Mr. José Mário Vaz, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/guinea-bissau>

²⁶ "Building Inclusive Peace: Gender at the Heart of Conflict Analysis," (Saferworld) 2017. Available: <https://wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/BuildingInclusivePeace-GenderHeartConflictAnalysis.pdf>

²⁷ Statement of Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/germany>

inequality, paired with gender-specific violence, such as torture, sexual and gender-based violence, among others. This was reiterated by 11.6 per cent of the Member States representatives. For example, Trinidad and Tobago, which supports the Arms Trade Treaty as a mechanism for reducing armed violence in the Caribbean region, has tabled the biennial resolution on Women, Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which encourages women's participation in disarmament decision-making processes since 2010. As a contributor to assisting in the development of peace and security to Afghanistan, Kazakhstan hosted the Regional Conference on Empowering Women in Afghanistan, which focused on how the presence of arms affects women's meaningful political participation.

Despite the benefits of investing in women, the failure to allocate sufficient resources and funds has not been discussed in depth. While Papua New Guinea and Norway spoke about financing women and girl's education, there was no other mention of initiatives or intentions to invest in the WPS Agenda. The President of Ecuador expressed concern over this, saying, "big powers invest in arms instead of investing in the development of peoples"²⁸. "We do not understand how those countries, that are developed and have achieved military superiority, that have experienced wars through their own children, that those countries invest in conflicts that do not concern them, without seeking to solve them, but to aggravate or even perpetuate them," he added.

Conditionalities linked to funding provided international financial institutions (IFIs), which contribute to the feminisation of poverty and the deepening of gender inequalities, were not discussed, while there is an increased rhetoric about the engagement of private sector and corporations in the implementation of SDGs. Such an approach also prevents the international community to fully succeed in understanding root causes of violence within communities and ensure conflict prevention, including around natural resource distribution. A number of violent conflicts have erupted, in part, over the abundance of resources. The President of Zimbabwe stated, "we should address the root causes of conflict which includes poverty, inequality, deprivation, disputes over land and resources, as well as struggles for self-determination"²⁹.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS

Many Member States acknowledged the devastating impact of conflict on people across the globe and the inability of the UN to appropriately respond to crises. The majority of countries

²⁸ Statement of H.E. Mr. Lenín Moreno Garces, President of the Republic of Ecuador, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/ecuador>

²⁹ H.E. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President Of The Republic Of Zimbabwe, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/73/zimbabwe>

referenced the situations in the MENA region, the Korean Peninsula and Africa, including the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and Nigeria and the fragile peace situation between the Koreas. Finally, the situation in Palestine and the conflict with Israel continued to be one of the prominent topics addressed in the debate, with various Member States reiterating their support for a two-state solution.

The need to respond to the needs and support the experiences of local groups on the ground in Syria, Yemen, Libya and elsewhere gained increased support. The President of Nigeria brought attention to the fact that the terrorist insurgencies in the Lake Chad Region are fueled by local factors and dynamics. In this regard, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh invited the international community to promote women's political empowerment at the grassroots in order to respond to the crisis effectively.

The importance of disarmament for peace in conflict countries was also highlighted during the General Debate. The President of France pointed out that "the military engagement of certain countries has allowed the regime in Syria to re-establish itself, resulting in crimes for which the perpetrators will one day be held accountable"³⁰. The President of Cyprus encouraged "the cooperation of all [...] and the peoples that are the victims, those suffering from phenomena such as: [...] investments and promotion of the military industry and infrastructure"³¹.

Differently from last year, very little attention has been brought to the peace process in Colombia. At the same time, the peace process in the Koreas and its fragility has been widely referenced by the leaders of Member States. While noting that the threat of nuclear weapons resonates much more often than anyone could have imagined in the past years, the President of Slovakia expressed his hopes that the current developments in North Korea will bring tangible results. Similarly, the President of South Korea suggested that denuclearisation should be the first step that will allow the parties to focus on economic development, putting nuclear disarmament at the core of the agenda.

WOMEN SPEAKERS

The number of women speakers has not significantly changed since last year. Regrettably, only 20 female leaders (10 percent) spoke at the General Debate compared to 19 last year. In addition the President of the General Assembly, these speakers represented the following

³⁰ Statement of H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/france>

³¹ Statement of H.E. Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, President of Cyprus, 2018. Available: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/cyprus>

countries: Marshall Islands, Estonia, Croatia, the UK, Norway, Lithuania, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Serbia, Liechtenstein, Denmark, Barbados, Australia, India, Suriname, Austria, Dominica, Timor Leste. Of these speakers, only 4 (from Croatia, the UK, Serbia,) did not mention women or gender at all, whereas 11 of them (President of the General Assembly and representatives from Marshall Islands, Estonia, Norway, Lithuania, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Liechtenstein, Norway, Barbados, Australia, India, Suriname, Austria, Dominica, Timor Leste), specifically referenced women. The remaining four (4) speakers used only general references to gender equality and women’s rights.

GENDER INDEX: TYPE OF REFERENCE BY COUNTRY

<i>Specific References (34)</i>	<i>General References (80)</i>	<i>No References (83)</i>
France	Brazil	United States
Peru	Ecuador	Mexico
Lebanon	Rwanda	Seychelles
Spain	Nigeria	Jordan
Republic of Korea	South Africa	Qatar
Costa Rica	Paraguay	Iran
Bangladesh	Argentina	Guatemala
Guinea-Bissau	Gambia	Sri Lanka
Mauritania	Marshall Islands	Slovenia
Tunisia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	DRC
Iraq	Mozambique	Kyrgyzstan
Denmark	Panama	Dominican Republic
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Zambia	Japan
Lesotho	Ghana	Armenia
Solomon Islands	Estonia	Morocco
Ireland	Yemen	Uruguay

Australia	Colombia	Tonga
Monaco	Liberia	Angola
Kazakhstan	United Kingdom	Mali
Azerbaijan	Afghanistan	Cuba
Chad	Cabo Verde	Croatia
Libya	Eswatini	Romania
Latvia	Kenya	Slovakia
Papua New Guinea	Portugal	Italy
Austria	El Salvador	Ukraine
Bahrain	Luxembourg	Honduras
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Norway	Kiribati
Senegal	Netherlands	Poland
Republic of Congo	Lithuania	Nauru
Burkina Faso	Cyprus	Bolivia
Holy See	Equatorial Guinea	Palau
Canada	Chile	Venezuela
Sweden	Sierra Leone	CAR
Thailand	Belgium	Kuwait
	Georgia	Botswana
	Viet Nam	Macedonia
	Jamaica	Haiti
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Palestine
	Comoros	European Union
	Madagascar	Israel

	Serbia	Malta
	Finland	Micronesia
	Malawi	Uganda
	Egypt	South Sudan
	Namibia	Germany
	Cameroon	Ethiopia
	New Zealand	Tuvalu
	Indonesia	Bhutan
	Côte d'Ivoire	Tanzania
	Nepal	Togo
	Liechtenstein	Albania
	Djibouti	South Sudan
	Guyana	Bulgaria
	Saint Lucia	Samoa
	Andorra	China
	Fiji	Vanuatu
	Montenegro	Malaysia
	Bahamas	Mauritius
	Antigua and Barbuda	Greece
	Barbados	Cambodia
	Iceland	Russia
	Guinea	Mongolia
	India	Moldova
	Syria	Mongolia
	Algeria	Saudi Arabia

	Suriname	Myanmar
	Singapore	Oman
	San Marino	DPRK
	Burundi	Philippines
	United Arab Emirates	Brunei Darussalam
	Trinidad and Tobago	Pakistan
	Turkmenistan	Belize
	Czech Republic	Eritrea
	Sao Tome and Principe	Niger
	Somalia	Dominica
	Nicaragua	Grenada
	Timor-Leste	Belarus
	Gabon	Tajikistan
	Benin	Sudan
	Zimbabwe	Somalia
		Maldives
		Turkey
		Hungary

EXTRACTS FROM STATEMENTS

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/secretary-general-united-nations>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Theme: Human Rights, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“The digital revolution is being used to discriminate against women and reinforce our male-dominated culture. Indeed, there is a deep gender gap in access to digital technologies, widening the digital divide. We must dismantle obstacles and create opportunities for women, ensure equality and change on-line and toxic corporate cultures.”

“The drive for gender equality is gaining ground, amid a growing awareness of pervasive discrimination against women and girls, from violence, harassment and exploitation to unequal pay and exclusion from decision-making. The United Nations must lead the way in pursuit of gender equality. For the first time in United Nations history, there is full parity in our Senior Management Group and among Resident Coordinators leading country teams around the world. We are firmly committed to equality and empowerment everywhere.”

Speaker: President of General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/president-general-assembly-opening>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Theme: Protection, Participation

Unfortunately, violence against women persists in all regions.

Girls and young women still suffer from lack of access to information and quality education, which would reduce inequalities.

Country: Brazil

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/brazil>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Michel Temer, President of Brazil

Theme: None

No relevant references.

Country: Republic of Ecuador

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/ecuador>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Lenín Moreno Garces, President of the Republic of Ecuador

Theme: Human Rights, Implementation

We exclude those that are different, the poor, the old, the young, we abuse the woman, the girl, the indigenous woman. There are so many forgotten and abandoned brothers and sisters! So many people pass us by of whose presence we are not even aware!

Maybe because we were idealist teenagers, and because we continue to be non-conforming adults, we do not understand how the big powers invest in arms instead of investing in the development of peoples. We do not understand how those countries, that are developed and have achieved military superiority, who have experienced wars through their own children, that those countries invest in conflicts that do not concern them, without seeking to solve them, but that aggravate or even perpetuate them.

Country: United States of America

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/united-states-america>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Donald J Trump, President of the United States of America

Theme: None

No relevant references.

Country: Turkey

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/turkey>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Turkey

Theme: None

No relevant references.

Country: the Republic of Rwanda

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/rwanda>)

Date: 9/25/18

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda

Theme: Human Rights

“In the years ahead we look forward to deepening this important partnership between Africa and the United Nations, to advance our shared agenda of peace and security, gender equality and women’s empowerment, environmental protection, and shared prosperity.”

Country: Mexico

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/mexico>)

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico

Date: 25 September 2018

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: France

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/france>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France

Theme: General Women, Peace and Security, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Implementation

“The military engagement of certain countries has allowed the regime [in Syria] to re-establish itself, resulting in crimes for which the perpetrators will one day be held accountable. The Syrian people have tragically paid the price, and there can be no victors in a Syria in ruins.”

“It is not up to us to decide for the Syrian people, but to develop the ways and means to implement this method that I have just described and therefore to develop a solution that is backed, not just by the guarantor states in the Astana process, but by other states in the region and the international community through the Small Group, under the coordination of the United Nations and the special representative of the Secretary-General, in order to resolve the humanitarian crisis on the one hand and, on the other hand, to build an inclusive, lasting political solution through constitutional reform and the holding of free elections. “

“In Libya, this new method should make it possible to bring about a lasting solution. The current status quo enables the militias, the traffickers to gain ground, destabilizing the entire region. We will not give the Libyan people the means to resolve the situation if we remain divided, if Libya becomes the battleground, as it still too often is, for confrontation between foreign influences.”

“In Paris, the Libyans pledged to swiftly hold elections, which will make it possible to reunify state institutions. These commitments must be fulfilled under the auspices of the United Nations, with close cooperation from the African Union.”

“Yesterday an important step was taken, one that I would like to applaud. It is in the Libyan people’s interest and in that of their neighbours, the Europeans and the international community, which must unite around these goals in order to move forward.”

“We must also fight passionately against gender-linked inequalities. I have made gender parity in France the great cause of my five-year term, and I issue an appeal here to make this a great global cause with you. Women and girls are the first to be affected by poverty, conflict, the consequences of global warming; they are the first victims of sexist and sexual violence, which too often prevents them from moving around freely, working or choosing what happens to their bodies. “

“Our responsibility in the 21st century is to end these kinds of violence, from harassment on the street to femicide. It’s time our world stopped making women victims and at last gave them their rightful place – the one where they are leaders too! We must guarantee them access everywhere to education, healthcare, jobs, and to taking economic and political decisions, and fight every kind of violence they are subjected to. “

“So France will propose to governments wishing to move forward with us the creation of a coalition for adopting new laws for gender equality. Fifty percent of our development aid will be devoted to projects to reduce gender inequalities.”

Country: Republic of Seychelles
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/seychelles>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Peru

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/peru>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Martin Vizcarra Cornejo, President of the Republic of Peru

Theme: Protection, Human Rights, Justice

We give special importance to end violence and discrimination against women.

Our objective is to overcome the structural inequalities that women and girls face in Peru, guarantee their human rights and empower them so they can free their full potential and development.

Our great biodiversity is the main natural resource with which our men and women rely on and for that reason, changes in temperature and extreme disasters such as droughts and heavy rains put them in a special situation of vulnerability.

We are also one of the few countries who have created a Plan of Action on Gender and Climate Change, since women are the most vulnerable among the vulnerable.

Country: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/jordan>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.H. Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Theme: None

“Jordan will continue to support all multilateral efforts to help Syria achieve a political solution, based on the Geneva process, and UN Security Council Resolution 2254, to safeguard the country's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and create the conditions for stability and rebuilding.”

Country: State of Qatar

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/qatar>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar

Theme: None

“We are facing a humanitarian, moral and legal catastrophe that obligates the international community to speed up reaching a political solution that stems the Syrian bloodshed, fulfils their aspirations for justice and freedom, maintains Syria’s unity and sovereignty and archives security and stability in Syria and the region in accordance with the Geneva-1 Communique and relevant Security Council resolution.”

“Regarding the Yemen issue, we confirm the firm position that the State of Qatar which is based on the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen. We call upon all the Yemeni parties to the national reconciliation to end the conflict on the basis of the Security Council Resolution 2215, the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and the outcomes of the national dialogue.”

“On this platform, I appeal to the active states in the international community to help the brotherly Yemeni people to overcome these conditions, which we hope would end soon and to work for taking all measures to address the grave humanitarian situation and to facilitate free access for humanitarian assistance to all areas of Yemen. On this occasion, I announce Qatar’s agreement with the United Nations to fight cholera in Yemen by supporting projects related to combating the causes of diseases and to halt its spread. We call upon other countries to join us in supporting this vital effort.”

“The political process, which began twenty-five years ago, presented an example of a departure from the United Nations terms of reference to frameworks outside the UN- some had perceived that as the best and fastest way in settling and finding solutions to it supported by the Arab states in line with respecting the Palestinian decision, but that has resulted in further stalemate and complexity. Now we are witnessing attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause though the liquidation of issues relating to the permanent solution such as Jerusalem, refugees, sovereignty and borders.”

“As for the Libyan crisis, which has recently witnessed developments that place the security of this country and its territorial integrity at stake, we look forward to restoring security and stability despite enormous challenges facing the Libyan brothers. We note that the foreign intervention in Libyan affairs further complicates the crisis and prevents reaching a national consistency sought by the Libyan brothers, and contradicts the Security Council's resolutions. We reiterate our support that the Skhirat agreement signed on December 2015 and all its outcomes. We call upon all Libyan brothers to uphold the national interest and abide by dialogue without excluding any of the components of the Libyan community, to reach a comprehensive settlement that preserves Libyan sovereignty and territorial integrity and realize the aspirations of its people for security and stability.”

Country: Islamic Republic of Iran
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/ecuador>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Theme: None

“Negligence or inefficacy of international institutions can endanger world peace. Those seeking dominance and hegemony are enemies of peace and the perpetrators of war.”

“From the very beginning of the crisis in Syria, we have warned against any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of this country and the use of unlawful means, including supporting extremist and terrorist groups in order to exert pressure on the government of Syria, and have consistently emphasized that the crisis can only be resolved through intra-Syrian dialogue. To this end, the presence of our military advisors in Syria has been at the request of the Syrian government and consistent with international law and has aimed at assisting the Syrian government in combating extremist terrorism. Iran, Russia, and Turkey, in cooperation with the government of Syria and other Syrian parties, have succeeded through the Astana Process, the third summit meeting of which took place in Tehran earlier this month, in playing a positive role in reducing tension in Syria, and in their last common effort have prevented escalation and bloodshed in the Idlib region.”

“We have witnessed a tragic humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen over the past three years which has caused the destruction of infrastructure, the killing and injury of hundreds of thousands, the displacement of millions of innocent people, and the occurrence of widespread famine and chronic diseases. These inhuman acts represent clear examples of crimes against humanity and war crimes. The crisis in Yemen can be resolved solely through intra-Yemeni talks and without foreign interference. And to this end, we are ready to assist in any possible way.”

“The most pressing crisis in the Middle East, however, is the question of Palestine. The passage of time cannot – and must not – justify occupation. The innumerable crimes of Israel against the Palestinians would not have been possible without the material and military assistance, and political and propaganda support of the United States. Israel, equipped with a nuclear arsenal and blatantly threatening others with nuclear annihilation, presents the most daunting threat to regional and global peace and stability.”

“The abhorrent U.S. decision to transfer its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and the recent enactment of the racist Jewish State law are violations of international law and norms, and unmistakable manifestations of apartheid.”

Country: Republic of Finland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/finland>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland

Theme: Participation, Peace Process, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“Peace and security, human rights and development are not sustainable without the participation of women and the youth. Female voices and young voices must be heard - and acted upon.”

“The needs of women, children and youth are still all too often marginalized in peace talks. Finland promotes the role of women's effective participation in peace processes through the Nordic network of women mediators. This and other similar networks provide a useful platform for advocacy and self-education.”

“As a HeForShe Impact Champion, I highly value these efforts.”

“In order for the United Nations to be credible, it has to practice what it preaches. For any organisation, every single case of sexual exploitation in its own ranks is a case too much. This is particularly true for an organisation stressing the importance of equality and human rights. I am proud to be a member of the Circle of Leadership and I welcome the efforts taken to prevent and combat all forms of abuse throughout the UN system.”

“Finland appeals to all Member States and the Secretary-General to consistently keep human rights, non-discrimination and gender equality on top of the agenda of the UN.”

Country: The Federal Republic of Nigeria
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/nigeria>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Human Rights

“I also salute our distinguished Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, who steered the affairs of the Secretariat with focused commitment to the collective United Nations pursuit of global peace and security, equality and justice, inclusiveness, women’s empowerment and human rights.”

“We commend the United Nations for staying focused on the situation of the Rohingya people, to bring their suffering to an end, and to hold to account the perpetrators of the atrocious crimes committed against innocent and vulnerable members of this community, including women, children and the old.”

“The carnage and the worsening humanitarian situations in Syria and Yemen continue unabated. But the international community cannot afford to give up on the Syrian and Yemeni people. We must pursue all efforts to find peaceful negotiated political solutions to these wars which cannot be won by force of arms alone. Regarding Syria, we hope that the UN sponsored Geneva process and the Sochi initiative, led by Russia, Iran, and Turkey advance this objective.”

“During the past year, the world saw some positive results and encouraging signs from the bilateral and multilateral efforts of the international community to address conflicts, crises and threats to world peace. We particularly commend the efforts of the leaders of the United States, North Korea, and South Korea, to realise our shared goal of a nuclear free Korean Peninsula.”

“In this connection, we acknowledge the commitment to peace shown by President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-Un by initiating a historic Summit. We urge that they continue this positive engagement.”

“The terrorist insurgencies we face, particularly in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, are partly fuelled by local factors and dynamics, but now increasingly by the international Jihadi Movement, runaway fighters from Iraq and Syria and arms from the disintegration of Libya.”

“The International community must keep up the pressure to encourage the parties to pursue the path of dialogue, negotiations and inclusiveness in resolving their sectarian divides and bringing to an end the immense human suffering in Syria as well as Yemen. We commend Turkey, Jordan, Greece, Germany, Italy and France for hosting the millions of the refugees fleeing these brutal conflicts.”

“Nigeria continues to call on the Israelis and the Palestinians to make the necessary compromises in the interest of justice, peace and security, in line with our numerous UN resolutions and applicable international laws.”

“Unilateral, arbitrary and insensitive actions only prolong the conflict and undermine world peace and security. The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza is an appalling result of unrestrained use of power. We urge both parties to re-engage in dialogue on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid Principles, the Quartet Roadmap and the Arab Peace Initiative, among others.”

“Nigeria reaffirms its unwavering support for a just two-state solution, negotiated without intimidation and with Israel and Palestine existing side-by-side in peace and security.”

“I assure you all that in this advocacy, I am only reflecting Nigeria’s deep and abiding commitment to our Organisation and its founding principles and goals. From the date we joined in 1960, we have contributed our quota to the fulfilment of the mandate of the UN. We have been active participants in many Security Council and African Union authorised Peacekeeping operations around the world, beginning with the Democratic Republic of Congo operations in 1960.”

Country: Republic of South Africa
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/south-africa>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa

Theme: Participation, Protection

“This places a responsibility on us, as leaders, not only to put the interests of young people at the centre of our efforts, but also to empower women and young people to be more prominent in directing the course of global affairs.”

“It is women who are bearing the brunt and hardships of the wars that continue to destroy their families and lives.”

“One of the greatest challenges to the achievement of global prosperity and development is the continued exclusion of millions of women and young people from meaningful economic participation.”

“The fact that the people of Palestine have endured occupation and suffering for nearly as long as the United Nations has existed, makes their plight no less pressing, nor their suffering any less acceptable.”

Country: Republic of Malawi
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/malawi>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi

Theme: Human Rights, Implementation, Protection

“We are proud of our efforts and achievements in maternal health; girl’s education; youth empowerment; and gender equality.”

“Power is not status. Power is responsibility. Leadership is not prestige. Leadership is responsibility.”

“Justice and effective institutions, let me announce that the 2019 High Level Forum on SDG 16 will convene in Malawi. I welcome the opportunity and honour to host this forum. I believe this event will be a significant catalyst in our resolve to achieve SDG 16.”

“We cannot be a proud humanity when out there - innocent children, voiceless men and vulnerable women are suffering and being killed. Every life is precious.”

“We are fighting against violence against women and girls. I believe no human society can meaningfully develop while marginalizing its women. Development must always be inclusive.”

“With support from the United Nations and other development partners, particularly the European Union (EU), Malawi will from 2019 implement the Spotlight Initiative in a bid to eliminate violence against women and girls.”

Country: Republic of Guatemala
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/guatemala>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jimmy Morales, President of the Republic of Guatemala

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Arab Republic of Egypt

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/egypt>

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Theme: Participation

“Major strides have been achieved in the field of women and youth empowerment. Women hold 25% of the ministerial posts and more than 15% of seats in parliament.”

“There can be no way out of the crisis in Syria and the plight of Yemen, except by restoring the nation state, preserving its sovereignty and state institutions, as well as realizing the legitimate aspirations of its people. Egypt fully supports a UN-led political solution in these two countries, and rejects any exploitation of these crises to create footholds for regional interventions, or enable an environment for terrorism, extremism and sectarianism.”

“We should not forget that a year has passed since the adoption of the United Nations action plan on Libya, which sought to comprehensively address the Libyan crisis, without achieving progress in its implementation. This requires us to renew our commitment to a comprehensive political solution, as set forth in the said United Nations Action Plan. If we are to halt the loss of life, the depletion of Libya's resources, and move towards the reconstruction phase, then there is no room for partial solutions neither in Libya nor in Syria or Yemen; crises of such magnitude require comprehensive and not partial solutions.”

“We cannot talk about the peaceful settlement of disputes as a founding principle of the United Nations and an indicator of its credibility, without citing the Palestinian cause. It stands as a perfect example of the failure of the international system to find a just solution to the conflict, based on international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions, that guarantees the establishment of a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

Country: Republic of Paraguay

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/paraguay>

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mario Abdo Benitez, President of the Republic of Paraguay

Theme: Participation, Human Rights

We are pleased that the most democratic and representative organ of this organization is led by a woman, who is also Latin American.

We work to promote women as actors of change for the country by generating conditions of equality, equity and empowerment.

Country: Republic of Argentina

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/argentina>

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mauricio Macri, President of the Republic of Argentina

Theme: Participation

I would like to congratulate the President for being elected to lead these debates. I am sure that your work will show the relevance of women's leadership.

Country: Switzerland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/switzerland>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alain Berset, President of The Swiss Confederation

Theme: None

“In Syria, the conflict has entered its eighth year with no real end in sight. The basic rules and principles of international humanitarian law and human rights are not respected. And in recent months the conflict has intensified further on various fronts. In Syria, over 13 million men, women and children are dependent on humanitarian aid. It is essential that we step up our efforts to find a political solution to this conflict. Only a negotiated solution which includes all sectors of Syrian society can guarantee lasting peace and sustainable reconstruction in Syria and the region.”

“In Geneva, Switzerland makes all the preparations needed so that discreet peace talks of the kind taken by the parties in Syria and Yemen can take place”

“In Yemen, too, the conflict has been going on for years. Millions of people are deprived of water, food and medical care because of the armed conflict. Switzerland calls on all parties to cease hostilities and come to the negotiating table to seek solutions to end this humanitarian crisis.”

Country: Sri Lanka

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/sri-lanka>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka

Theme: None

“When discussing international political issues, we must especially mention the issue of the Palestinian people. I believe that the United Nations and the world powers should approach this issue with greater understanding and attention. Successive governments in Sri Lanka have supported the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people. I believe that the United Nations and all Member States should adopt a more humane approach when advocating for the rights of the Palestinian people, and taking into account the inhumane conditions they face, approach this issue in a broader manner.”

Country: Slovenia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/slovenia>

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Borut Pahor, President of Slovenia

Theme: None

"ITF Enhancing Human Security, a humanitarian, non-profit organization established by the Slovenian Government two decades ago and its many activities around the globe from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Afghanistan and Colombia are concrete reflections of this support. "

Country: Republic of Zambia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/zambia>

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia

Theme: Participation, Protection

"Zambia is delighted that after a decade, (2007 to 2018), a woman has yet again taken up this important seat at the helm of global governance as the fourth woman President of the General Assembly since the establishment of this world body."

" Zambia has increased the number of women in peacekeeping operations as an added dimension to effective protection of women and children in conflict zones. We also join other Member States in saluting the gallant men and women in blue helmets for the sacrifices they are making."

"On gender equality and women's economic empowerment, I wish to reaffirm the commitment of my Government to eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. A conducive policy and legislative environment is further strengthened through the review and enactment of new legislation and policies that are gender responsive."

"Consequently, the implementation of 50-50 Enrollment Policy is making headways as schools are now compelled by law to enroll an equal number of girls and boys. Since last year, 2017, my Government commenced the distribution of free sanitary towels to girls in rural and urban areas in an effort to retain them in school. This is out of the realisation that the lack of proper sanitary towels, limits girls' access to education."

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/democratic-republic-congo>

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Kyrgyzstan

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/kyrgyzstan>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sooronbai Jeenbekov, President of Kyrgyzstan

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Gambia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/gambia-republic>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of the Gambia

Theme: Human Rights

“My delegation looks forward to a successful 73rd Session, and we hope that your election will solidify the platform to highlight the plight of rural women and girls during the Session.”

“My government proposes that we do better to protect the lives of not only innocent civilians but also the men and women who constitute the peacekeepers.”

Country: Republic of the Marshall Islands

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/marshall-islands>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Hilda Heine, President the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Theme: Participation

“As the first woman head of state or government in the independent Pacific islands region, it is vital that the UN accelerate efforts to ensure that all women- and especially our youngest generation- must see that they have a rightful role at all levels of decision making, including the highest levels of political leadership and economic development. As women- we are, after all half the world's population, and we are not yet fully reflected in the ranks of global leaders.”

Country: Dominican Republic

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/dominican-republic>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E Mr. Danilo Medina Sánchez, President of the Dominican Republic

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/bosnia-and-herzegovina>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Bakir Izetbegović, Chairman of the Presidency

Theme: Human Rights, Implementation

“Concerted efforts and the alliance of all the nations are necessary to contain the risks of nuclear confrontation and successfully address global issues, such as gender equality, climate change or prosecution of war criminals on the international level.”

“Strong leadership and engagement of the United Nations, and especially its Security Council, in line with the norms of international law, is indispensable in situations like Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and Libya, and in other crisis areas.”

“The conflict in Syria has entered its eight year, and we are nowhere close to bringing it to a resolution. Some of the most egregious and sustained violations of international humanitarian law in modern times, including indiscriminate use of chemical weapons, have gone unabated. Civilian casualties are constantly on the rise; the humanitarian situation keeps deteriorating.”

“Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to support multilateral efforts to find solutions that would bring sustained peace and stability to the Syrian people; that will meet the legitimate expectations of both the Israelis and Palestinians to have two democratic States, living side by side, within secure and recognized borders in line with international law. As much as finding such solutions is a political question, it is also a matter of our common humanity.”

“Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the vision and efforts of Secretary-General Guterres to mainstream conflict prevention and peacebuilding as priorities of the United Nations.”

“Agenda 2030 is the most powerful connector among the various pillars of the United Nations work. Its implementation is the most important pathway to global peace, security and prosperity. It will help our states and societies establish resilient institutions that are able to detect, manage and absorb tension, to address the drivers and root causes of conflicts and prevent their recurrence, and to create conditions for inclusive and sustainable development by reducing poverty, inequality and discrimination, ensuring respect for human rights and combating environmental degradation.”

Country: Republic of Mozambique
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/mozambique>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique

Theme: Implementation

“We believe that the solution to the Palestinian problem is based on the existence of two States, side by side, in the light of the principles of international Law, namely those related to good neighbourliness, peaceful co-existence, dialogue and tolerance.”

“Our Government has made efforts so that the implementation of its national agenda creates opportunities for its citizens and, particularly women and the youth, within the framework of the demographic dividend in our society.”

“Therefore, special attention must be paid to policies and strategies meant to protection and full enjoyment of persons’ rights, promotion of gender equality and equity, as well as the capacity building of women, the youth and other vulnerable people who are the majority of our peoples.”

“As alluded to, social justice, means continuous promotion of gender equality, a field where we have made significant strides at political, economic and corporate level.”

Country: Japan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/japan>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: the Republic of Armenia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/armenia>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

Theme: None

“We won without a single shot and without any victims only through the peaceful demonstrations. We succeeded against all expectations: even well-known experts and think-tanks were skeptical about our victory.”

Country: the Kingdom of Morocco

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/morocco>)

Date: 25 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Saad-Eddine El Othmani, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Panama

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/panama>)

Date: 26 September 2018

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

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: The Republic of Namibia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/namibia>

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hage Geingob President of the Republic of Namibia

Theme: Participation, Human Rights

“Let me emphasize that excluding women from certain spheres of life is to waste skills and expertise that can contribute to sustainable development.”

“The late Secretary-General Kofi Annan was right when he said, ‘Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance’. The world should do more to make gender equality a reality.”

“Let me emphasize that excluding women from certain spheres of life is to put to waste skills and expertise that can contribute to sustainable development. In this context, we applaud the Secretary General for exercising leadership and thus reaching gender parity amongst senior management and Resident Coordinators. Namibia is fully committed to implementing Gender Equality, which is evident in the important role women play in politics. Women are equally represented in our Executive and Legislature. The participation of women at the highest levels of governance has been consolidated when the ruling SWAPO Party took a principled decision at the 1997 Congress to increase the proportion of female delegates to the Party's congress up to 50 per cent. This was the genesis of the now constitutionally mandated SWAPO Party, Zebra style 50/50 policy, a key indicator of the importance we attach to Gender Equality. The late Secretary General Kofi Annan was right when he said, ‘Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance’. The world should do more to make gender equality a reality.”

“In the same vein, we reaffirm our support for the people of the Occupied Territory of Palestine, in their pursuit of self-determination, justice, freedom and independence, through political, diplomatic, peaceful and non-violent means.”

Country: Republic of Ghana

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/ghana>

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana

Theme: Participation

“Ghana salutes the historical significance of your election to preside over this 73rd session of the General Assembly as the first female Latin American, and congratulates you most heartily, Madam President. Your election reinforces our common preoccupation that gender equality must be a central feature of the global agenda.”

Country: Estonia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/estonia>

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid, President of Estonia

Theme: Human Rights

“I am deeply touched by the misery that war and conflict bring, whether it's talking with internally displaced women and children in occupied Eastern Ukraine.”

“Recent gender equality movements like HeForShe have come a long way to counter gender-based and sexual violence. Gender equality is at the very heart of human rights. This in mind, Estonia works actively in the Commission on the Status of Women. I have gladly accepted Secretary General Guterres' invitation to co-chair the High-Level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child for the next two years.”

Country: Lebanon

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/lebanon>

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Michel Aoun, President of Lebanon

Theme: General Women, Peace and Security, Participation, Displacement

“We are on the verge of finalizing a national action plan pertaining to the execution of the Security Council Resolution 1325 which called on the member States to set action plans to enable women to take part in decision-making process, negotiations and countering conflicts. The Lebanese action plan has indeed introduced the four axes of this Resolution, and it included the guarantee of women participation in decision-making at all levels, as well as the activation of their role in conflict prevention, adopting laws to ban discrimination against women, and to protect them from violence and abuse.”

“In contrast, we see that the General Assembly’s Resolution 181 of 1947, stipulating the division of Palestine, took a binding character although it is not binding, and it was imminently executed while resolution 194, also adopted by the General Assembly in 1948, calling for the return of the Palestinian Refugees to their home as soon as possible, remained as mere ink on paper for seventy years.”

“In this context, the right to veto or the right of objection, has undoubtedly many considerations and grounds at its origin, but its consequences affected adversely many countries and people, especially in our region, and deprived from fundamental rights.”

“Unfortunately, the international political approaches for the Middle East region still lack justice and use double standards, which makes our peoples question the concept of democracy in the states considered as pioneers in this respect. The Palestinian cause is the best reflection of this picture: for the absence of justice in addressing it triggered many wars in the Middle East and created a resistance that will only end by eliminating oppression and establishing justice.”

“As voted lately, at the Security Council and the General Assembly, against the proclamation of Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as the capital of Israeli. [...] Then the law ‘Jewish nation-State of Israel’ was adopted, this displacing law which relies on the rejection of the other, expressly undermines all endeavours for peace and the two state solution.”

“And to complete the landscape, there came the decision to withhold the assistance for the UNRWA which by definition stands for the ‘United Nations Relief and Works Agency of the Refugees of Palestine in the Near East, and in action ensuring assistance and protection for them pending a solution to their suffering’. Has their suffering ceased so that UNRWA’s role comes to an end? Or does the neutralization of its role pave the way to taking the status of refugee away from them and integrating them in the host countries to wipe away the Palestinian identity and impose settlement?”

Country: Republic of Yemen

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/yemen>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, President of the Republic of Yemen

Theme: Protection

Regarding the efforts of my government to protect civilians, especially women and children, I would like to underline here our commitments to do that, to act so as we do not target these civilians, their schools, hospitals or residential areas.

Country: Oriental Republic of Uruguay

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/uruguay>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tabaré Vázquez, President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Colombia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/colombia>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Iván Duque Márquez, President of the Republic of Colombia

Theme: Participation

We have made advances towards equality between men and women in our education and employment sectors. To recognise these advancements, I named the first cabinet with gender parity in the history of my country.

We offer those who have made a bet on the genuine reincorporation to the rule of law, subject to the principles of truth, justice, reparations and non-repetition the proper opportunities for progress and protection.

Country: Kingdom of Tonga

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/tonga>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.M. Mr. Tupou VI, Sovereign and Head of State of the Kingdom of Tonga

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Angola

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/angola>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Mali

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/mali>)

Date: 26 September 2018

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

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Cuba

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/cuba>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba

Theme: None

“We reiterate our unrestricted support to a comprehensive, just and lasting solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, on the basis of the creation of two States, allowing the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to have an independent and sovereign State based upon the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

“We support the search for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the situation imposed in Syria, without foreign interference and with full respect to their sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

Country: Croatia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/croatia>)

Date: 26 September 2018

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

Theme: None

“In Bosnia and Herzegovina,... we see a risk of legal uncertainty and political and institutional instability after the upcoming October elections, due to the failure to amend the electoral framework so that it fully respects the rights and equality of the three constituent peoples - Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs - in line with the Constitutional Court decision on the legitimate and proportionate representation of constituent peoples at all levels of government, including the Presidency.”

“The United Nations is a place where we must show our willingness to act together and play together as a team. Our adversaries are many: poverty, hunger, terrorism, extremism and instability, lack of education, gender inequality and exclusion of women in many societies, environmental hazards, endangered security and trampled human dignity.”

Country: Republic of Liberia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/liberia>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia

Theme: Participation, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“We further reiterate our commitment to the rule of law, the alleviation of poverty, gender equality, the elimination of gender-based violence, and the empowerment of women, girls and young people.”

Country: Slovak Republic

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/slovakia>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Andrej Kiska, President of the Slovak Republic

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Korea

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/republic-korea>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea

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

“The Republic of Korea is also increasing its assistance to people who are suffering from human rights violations and discrimination, particularly the most vulnerable groups, including children, youths, women and those with disabilities.”

“I am working to realize gender equality in a tangible way as an important part of our administrative agendas. All forms of discrimination and violence against women are being dealt with even more steeply.”

“Korea has a direct experience of suffering from the Japanese military's mobilization of comfort women. We will actively participate in discussions among the international community over women, peace and security. We will also work together with the international community on the efforts to eradicate sexual violence in conflict.”

Country: Romania

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/romania>)

Date: 26 September 2018

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

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/united-kingdom-great-britain-and-northern-ireland>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Theresa May, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“Through global campaigns we will help countries to end scourges such as modern slavery and sexual violence in conflict.”

Country: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/afghanistan>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Theme: Human Rights

“Our chairmanship of the Third Committee during the 73rd session comes at a crucial time as we have aimed to initiate and adopted several resolutions on shared themes that include victims of terrorism and threats of IEDs, in addition to refugee and migrant issues, rights of children, women's empowerment, human rights, social development, and other relevant Committee agenda items.”

Country: Italy

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/italy>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Giuseppe Conte, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy

Theme: None

“In the upcoming weeks Italy will host a Conference on Libya whose main goal is to support the shared political path and contribute to the political stabilization of the Country. This path will foster the broadest possible involvement of the Libyan stakeholders, who remain the master of their destiny.”

“The long conflict that for seven years has roiled Syria demonstrates all the limits of military solutions. We have the duty to support the action of the UN and of Special Envoy De Mistura.”

Country: Republic of Cabo Verde

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/cabo-verde>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos De Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde

Theme: Human Rights

“As the Director-General of UNESCO stated, and I quote: ‘Hundreds of millions of women and men are destitute, deprived of basic livelihoods and opportunities. Forced population movements are violating rights on unprecedented scale. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promises to leave no one behind – human rights must be the bedrock for all progress moving forward.’”

“We see this in our growing regional asymmetries, which are aggravated by the lack of territorial continuity of an island nation, the nefarious effects of drought and desertification and other climate changes, weak production capacity, youth unemployment, and social and gender inequalities, the excessive burden of external debt on the budget, the difficulties in internally connecting our country by air and by sea, which hampers the creation of a competitive and coherent market, which is essential to develop tourism.”

Country: Ukraine

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/ukraine>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine

Theme: None

“Russia punishes Ukraine for this decision. It kills. It ruins homes. It lies on industrial scale. It pretends that Ukraine, as well as Georgia attacked themselves.”

“It is due to the lack of relevant punishment that after Georgia came Ukraine, that after Lytvinenko came Skrypals, that after Aleppo came Idlib..”.

Country: Kingdom of Eswatini

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/swaziland>)

Date: 26 September 2018

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

Theme: Participation, Protection, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“We fully support the participation of women in political decision-making positions and have recently enacted the election of women members to the House of Assembly Act to ensure their representation in parliament.”

“As a country we have also successfully enacted the sexual offences and domestic violence act, a legal framework to protect women from domestic violence and sexual assault. This will give effect to relevant international legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), among others.”

Country: Honduras

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/honduras>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, President

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Kenya

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/kenya>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President Republic of Kenya

Theme: Participation

“First, sustainable peace requires the development of national institutions with the capacity to address the root causes of conflict. National ownership and inclusive leadership of such institutions are key to achieving success in efforts to prevent conflicts and sustain peace. In designing special political missions, including mediation, peacekeeping operations, peace building programmes and other preventative actions, strong coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and national authorities, based on mutual complementarity, are vital for success. The inclusive participation of youth and women in national institutions is also vital to sustaining peace.”

Country: Republic of Kiribati

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/kiribati>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Taneti Maamau, President of the Republic of Kiribati

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Zimbabwe

<https://gadebate.un.org/73/zimbabwe>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention

“The inclusion of the interests and views of women, the youth, children and vulnerable members of our societies should be integral and essential components in all our programmes.”

“The prevention of conflict must be a frontline strategy. My country remains committed to strengthening multilateralism and peaceful resolution of differences. In this regard, we should address the root causes of conflict which includes poverty, inequality, deprivation, disputes over land and resources, as well as struggles for self-determination.”

“It is most saddening that some of us continue to turn a blind eye to the suffering of the people of Palestine. It is high time the Security Council fulfilled its Charter obligations and duties by implementing all its Resolutions; including Resolution 181, 242, 338 and 2334.”

Country: Republic of Poland

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/poland>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Portuguese Republic

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/portugal>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic

Theme: Human Rights,

“Madam President, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, very special congratulations on your election... Because of the progress you represent in gender equality at the United Nations...Equal congratulation and continued support to all the priorities you have pursued... the reform of the United Nations System, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and the maintenance of peace, concern about migration and refugees, combating terrorism and international crime,... gender equality and support to young people.

“In Libya the international community must unite to assist with the humanitarian and security situation and the creation of a solid State.”

“Yemen remains the scene of one of the greatest humanitarian crises today, affecting especially the most vulnerable, women and children. Only negotiated political solutions, through the

mediation of the United Nations and respect for international humanitarian law, will be able to reverse this increasingly tragic situation.”

“Equally tragic is the humanitarian crisis in Syria, with one of the largest flows of refugees within and out of the region.”

“Common sense demands the resumption of a credible negotiation process, addressing all the final status issues, including the question of Jerusalem, and leading to a practicable two-state solution based on coexistence by Israel and Palestine in peace and security.”

Country: Republic of El Salvador
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/el-salvador>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Salvador Sánchez Cerén, President of the Republic of El Salvador

Theme: Human Rights, Implementation

National financing, even with all the efforts we make, will not be enough. It is imperative that the international community play its part in this commitment.

These contributions must contribute to a holistic, long-term perspective, to ensure inclusive economic growth and to lift millions of people out of poverty, who suffer from the worst consequences of climate change and the unjust distribution of wealth.

As part of the protection of women's rights, we developed a strategy for the prevention of femicide and sexual violence, which involves all government institutions so to empower women and to guarantee them a life free of violence.

This strategy has been strengthened with the “Spotlight initiative”, supported by the European Union and the United Nations, which seeks the eradication of social and institutional practices that damage women’s dignity. We have also strengthened the “Ciudad Mujer” program, which is internationally recognized and implemented in several countries.

“Ciudad Mujer” has supported more than 1.8 million users with health services, the defense of their rights, and capacity building for financing economic projects.

In the era of health, the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality, as well as the National Plan of Health Surveillance should be highlighted. Both have contributed to El Salvador’s continued reduction of its maternal mortality rate, which in 2017 was reduced to 31 out of 100 thousand births.

Country: Republic of Nauru
(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/nauru>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Plurinational State of Bolivia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/bolivia-plurinational-state>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Palau

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/palau>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/venezuela-bolivarian-republic>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Central African Republic

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/central-african-republic>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Faustin Archange Touadera, Head of State of the Central African Republic

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: State of Kuwait

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/kuwait>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister State of Kuwait

Theme: None

“This year marks the 70th anniversary of the issuance of resolution 56 in August 1948, being the first time the Council dealt with this protracted question. Although successive resolutions were

issued by the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, [...] Israel persists in its intransigence, rejecting and ignoring the resolutions of international legitimacy, and continues its expansionist policies through the establishment of illegal settlements on occupied Palestinian territories. This constitutes a gross defiance and blatant rejection to implement resolutions of international legitimacy, the latest of which was resolution 2334 (2016) which demanded the cessation of all Israeli illegal settlement practices.”

“The State of Kuwait has hosted 3 international conferences for donors supporting the humanitarian situation in Syria. Through these conferences, my country has offered voluntary contributions amounting to 1 billion and six hundred million dollars. Now here, we renew our principled and unwavering position regarding the Syrian crisis.”

“The sisterly state of Yemen, is going through sensitive historic challenges with serious implications on the political, humanitarian, and economic planes. These are the consequences of the coup perpetrated against the legitimate authority by the Houthi Group since September 2014. That group has continued to reject the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as international initiatives aiming at achieving a political settlement. That group has also continued its threats to the peace and stability of the region through the launching of ballistic missiles on the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.”

Country: Luxembourg

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/luxembourg>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Human Rights

We must also note a deterioration in the situation of human rights in the world. This is true when it comes to [...] generalised sexual violence, notably increasingly committed by non-state actors.

Human rights have different aspects: civil and political rights, economic and social rights, [...] but also [...] sexual and reproductive rights. We regret that the latter are too often undermined not only in their principles but also in their implementation including through the programs and projects of the United Nations so to offer women and girls control of their destiny and access to family planning.

In this context, my country has pledged financial support to programmes by UNDP and UN Women, as well as to the initiative “Girls not Brides”, with 600,000 and 400,000, respectively, as well as to a project by UNICEF/UNDP for the elimination of FGM.

The situation in the Middle East and as well as [...] in Libya is less cause for optimism. The stalemate of the peace process between Israel and Palestine remains total and the context has worsened since our last General Assembly meeting. We will not cease to remind that the principles of international law have to form the base of peace.

The explosive situation in Libya is the result of tensions that are specific to the tribal structure of Libya, but also the fact that the country serves as a breeding ground for the tensions of the Sahelian world and the Arab-Muslim world.

The war in Syria has caused an immense humanitarian crisis. It has cost countless lives.

The humanitarian drama in Yemen, made up of destruction, of displacement, of hunger and cholera.

Country: Kingdom of Norway
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/norway>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister Kingdom of Norway

Theme: Participation, Human Rights, Protection

“Progress on one SDG will stimulate progress on others. For example, child mortality rates fall when mothers have an education. However, there are still more boys than girls who get an education. We have to put girls at the centre of our education efforts. But just going to school is not enough. This is why Norway has focused on teaching quality and learning outcomes. [...] So far this year, we have allocated approximately 440 million dollars to local education. And we will now increase our support to education efforts targeting girls to nearly 40 million dollars for the period 2018 to 2019.”

“We will draw on our experience of peace and reconciliation processes. As women rights and participation are crucial for lasting peace and stability, we will keep this issue high on our agenda.”

“Many different actors are involved [in Syrian conflict], both state and non-state. Banned weapons of mass destruction have reappeared. Humanitarian access is obstructed. Respect for human rights and international law is undermined”

“On my own continent, Europe, fundamental rules and principles of international law are now in jeopardy. Ukraine’s sovereign and territorial integrity within internationally recognised borders must be restored.”

Country: Netherlands
(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/netherlands>)

Date: 26 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“Sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment committed by people working for UN missions and organisations is unacceptable. In every case and in every place. No exceptions.

This kind of misconduct undermines the core principles of the UN and - as the Secretary-General has rightly pointed out - zero tolerance is the only possible response. So we must put the new policies in place without hesitation, and act on them. We must make sure that victims feel heard and supported, and that whistle-blowers are protected. The UN is meant to save and improve lives, not destroy them. Here we must draw a clear line.”

Country: Lithuania

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/lithuania>)

Date: 27 September 2018

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

Theme: Human Rights

“In almost every major crisis of the last decade - from Syria to Ukraine, from Myanmar to Yemen - the UN Security Council was unable to play a meaningful role because of inability of states to rise above their national interests and obstructive use of veto.”

“Globalisation also has a dark side, which must be confronted by acting against exclusion, inequality and falling labour standards.”

“On all major challenges - terrorism, climate change and achieving women empowerment - there is simply no alternative to working together.”

Country: Botswana

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/botswana>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of Botswana

Theme: None

“Botswana remains deeply concerned about the protracted conflicts in Afghanistan, Mali, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. It is estimated that over the past decade, violent conflicts have led to forced displacement of over 68.5 million people.”

Country: Cyprus

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/cyprus>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, President of Cyprus

Theme: Human Rights

“An Organisation which emerged from the ashes of war for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security, underpinning the respect and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, irrespective of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief.”

“Bearing in mind the ongoing unstable situation and conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Nigeria, Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Sahel, the long-standing Israeli - Palestinian conflict and, of

course, the still unresolved problem of the forcible division of my country, we should attach particular importance to the peace and security pillar reform.”

Country: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/former-yugoslav-republic-macedonia>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, President of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Equatorial Guinea
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/equatorial-guinea>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic Equatorial Guinea

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Haiti
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/haiti>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jovenel Moïse, President of the Republic of Haiti

Theme: None

While it is fitting to congratulate ourselves on the easing of tensions in some hot spots of the world, it is clear that we are far from the era of generalized deterrence. On the contrary, new hotbeds of crisis are emerging and testifying to an alarming resurgence of the logic of war as a way of settling conflicts. The horrors of the civil war in Yemen are a tragic illustration of the logic of the confrontation prevailing in particular in the Arabian Gulf.

As far as the situation in the Middle East is concerned, the Republic of Haiti considers that the search for a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be at the forefront of the concerns. In this respect, we believe that UN is particularly well placed to help restore confidence, which unfortunately has continued to erode over the years, in order to allow a resumption of the peace process which may eventually lead to the creation of a viable Palestinian State, living in peace alongside the State of Israel, within secure, internationally recognized and guaranteed borders.

Peace, development and security go hand in hand - we keep saying that. They must be adequately supported by appropriate, long-term investments. In particular, they require the allocation of resources better suited to the real needs of beneficiary countries, taking into account their structural vulnerabilities, which is more flexible and less subject to

conditionalities that may ultimately undermine the viability of the system itself, and undermine some key development goals, including long-term stability.

Country: Republic of Chile

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/chile>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sebastián Piñera Echeñique, President of the Republic of Chile

Theme: Human Rights

“We must concern ourselves with creating a life and an international community built on the base of principles and values: protection of human dignity, full respect for human rights, gender equality, measures to combat climate change and to deal with new threats such as those concerning cybersecurity.”

“This comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable development, oblige us to implement measures to fully achieve gender equality, dignity and opportunities among women and men, as well as Zero Tolerance against violence or discrimination.”

“The real development of our countries can be measured by the way we treat our most vulnerable members: children, women, older persons, and those who need it most.”

Country: Republic of Sierra Leone

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/sierra-leone>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Theme: Human Rights

“At the domestic level, my Government has established priority areas including job creation; access to quality education; youth empowerment, empowerment of women and the disabled; combating graft and corruption and fostering a culture of accountability and transparency.”

Country: State of Palestine

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/palestine-state>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine

Theme: None

“This law discriminates against the Palestinian-Arab citizens in Israel, granting the right to self-determination exclusively to Jews in Israel and legislating discrimination against those Arab citizens, who constitute 20% of the population of Israel, in addition to other non-Jews who have immigrated to Israel. This law strips them of their rights as citizens.”

“Peace in our region cannot be realized without an independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and not some place in East Jerusalem as its capital, and with all of its holy sites. There is no peace otherwise. There is no peace with a state of temporary borders.”

Country: European Union

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/european-union>)

Date: 27 September 2018

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

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Israel

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/israel>)

Date: 27 September 2018

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

Theme: None

“And Israel will do whatever it must do to defend itself against Iran’s aggression. We will continue to act against you in Syria. We will act against you in Lebanon. We will act against you in Iraq. We will act against you whenever and wherever we must act to defend our state and defend our people.”

“Israel deeply values these new friendships, and I hope the day will soon arrive when Israel will be able to expand peace, a formal peace, beyond Egypt and Jordan to other Arab neighbors, including the Palestinians. I look forward to working with President Trump and his peace team to achieve that goal.”

“They stopped funding, President Trump and Ambassador Haley, they stopped funding an unreformed UNRWA, an organization that instead of solving the Palestinian refugee problem, perpetuates it.”

Country: Belgium

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/belgium>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, Prime Minister of Belgium

Themes: Human Rights, Displacement and Humanitarian Response, Implementation

In keeping with our commitments, we will focus our mandate from the Security Council on the protection of the most vulnerable in armed conflict. The protection of civilians, especially children, dignity and respect for women, the safety of schools and hospitals, the humanitarian corridors are, in our view, absolute and essential priorities.

The tragedies before our eyes in Syria, Libya and Yemen remind us of the extent of the road that remains to be traveled.

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals point the way for a better world. Everything is there: eradication of poverty, access to health and education, gender equality, fight against climate change.

Country: Republic of Malta

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/malta>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: Honourable Dr. Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta

Theme: Displacement and Humanitarian Response

“To mass migration and the effect of displacement on both migrants and host societies, where there are vulnerable people on both sides. I mention these examples because both hit us particularly hard in Malta and in the Mediterranean. The latter is visible to all. We are in the centre of the Mediterranean, in the middle of the route between North Africa, Libya and mainland Europe. The centre of a journey, thousands of persons have undertaken over past years.”

Country: Georgia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/georgia>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mamuka Bakhtadze, Prime Minister of Georgia

Theme: Participation, Implementation

“Suffice to say, the multiparty Georgian Parliament a century ago included five women, an achievement rarely found even among the established democracies of that time.”

“A small and flexible government is counterbalanced by strong public and institutional mechanisms of control and civil society, which perfectly reflects our commitments under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.”

Country: the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/viet-nam>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Theme: Protection

“The United Nations has also been vital in the work to address global issues: poverty reduction, protection of women and children, promotion of human rights, improvement of healthcare, culture and education, preservation of the environment, and response to climate change.”

Country: Jamaica

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/jamaica>

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica

Theme: Protection

“We will never lose sight of the responsibility to promote and protect the interests of the vulnerable. We are especially keen to ensure that our women, children, persons living with disabilities, elderly and young people can make meaningful contributions, and reap, the benefits of a safe and prosperous society.”

Country: New Zealand

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/new-zealand>

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister of New Zealand

Themes: Human Rights, Participation, Protection

“In an increasingly uncertain world it is more important than ever that we remember the core values on which the UN was built. That all people are equal. That everyone is entitled to have their dignity and human rights respected.”

“So many gains have been made, each worthy of celebration. In New Zealand we have just marked the 125 year since women were granted the right to vote. We were the first in the world to do so. As a girl I never ever grew up believing that my gender would stand in the way of me achieving whatever I wanted to in life. I am, after all, not the first, but the third female Prime Minister of New Zealand.”

“We still have a gender pay gap, an over representation of women in low paid work, and domestic violence.

“We have to recommit ourselves to gender equality, but we do. And I for one will never celebrate the gains we have made for women domestically. while internationally other women and girls experience a lack of the most basic of opportunity and dignity.”

Country: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/saint-vincent-and-grenadines>

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“Accordingly, we urge practical resolution of the pain and suffering of the Palestinians, the people of Yemen, and those afflicted by the evil of terrorism whether state sponsored or not.”

“Our international agenda for corrective action includes too: trafficking in persons; illegal drugs and small arms; refugees from ravaged lands; violence against women and children; the

growing scarcity of water and food in many nations; the war against chronic non-communicable diseases; the rising tide of religious intolerance in certain places; and the reunification of families arising from abductions of last year.”

Country: Federated States of Micronesia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/micronesia-federated-states>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Peter Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Guinea-Bissau

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/guinea-bissau>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. José Mário Vaz, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

Theme: Participation

“There can be no peace when a large portion, if not most, of the population, particularly women and youth, are not sufficiently valued, when their education is considered less important, when their contribution to the economic growth of our country is not recognized or fairly compensated, when women are not, in parity with men, in positions of influence, and are ignored as the pillar of society. In my country, we recently took significant steps toward ensuring equal representation for men and women. The Parliament of Guinea-Bissau approved a Law that guarantees a minimum representation quota of 36% for women in positions of note, particularly in the National People's Assembly and in Government. As President of the Republic and guarantor of national equity and unity, I am particularly pleased and grateful for these national advances.”

Country: Union of Comoros

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/comoros>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Azali Assoumani, President of the Union of Comoros

Theme: None

As the fourth woman to be elected as the head of this Assembly, it is one more step towards a better representation of women in our institution and, I am convinced that your solid experience will be beneficial for the progress of this work and will provide the necessary energy to improve progress towards our goals.

I am all the more delighted that my government has made the advancement of women one of its priorities.

The situation in the Middle East is extremely worrying. Yemen, Syria and Palestine need more than ever the strong support of our nations. I would like to express the deep concern of my Government with regard to the proliferation of random measures taken in recent months against the Palestinian people, of which the consequences not only significantly weaken the stability of the region but also the collective effort aimed at a two-state solution.

Country: Republic of Madagascar
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/madagascar>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Rivo Rakotovoao, President and interim of the Republic of Madagascar

Theme: Human Rights

Advocacy for women and girls cannot be left out. We cannot ignore the deplorable conditions in which many women live in the world, not to mention violence in all its forms, perpetrated in the name of gender. Girls and women remain the centrality of the future of humanity.

It is therefore necessary to collectively condemn injustices, modern slavery, trafficking of human beings and child labor which affect, inter alia, women and girls. Let us give ourselves the means to improve the whole of humanity by watching over our mothers, our sisters and daughters, to whom we must concede an equitable sharing of responsibilities.

Thus, since 2014 to date, we have built 24 CARMMA (or Center for Acceleration of the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality), [and] 315 Basic Health Centers.

Country: Republic of Indonesia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/indonesia>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia

Theme: Human Rights

“As Global leaders -young and old... women and men—we must work together... to encourage others... in achieving the goals and objectives of the United Nations.”

“The commitment and responsibility to peace must be replicated across all regions, including in the Middle East. Central to peace and stability in the Middle East is the long-standing question of Palestine. Our commitment to peace will be questioned if we cannot resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. [...] Indonesia will continue to stand with the people of Palestine... until the day Palestine is truly independent.”

Country: Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/côte-d'ivoire>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Vice-President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Theme: Human Rights

The human being should be more at the center of our concerns, illustrated with conferences that dealt with major issues such as child protection, the protection of women, population and development, human rights.

Country: Costa Rica

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/costa-rica>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Epsy Campbell Barr, Vice-President of Costa Rica

Theme: Participation, Human Rights

We thank the Secretary General for his demonstrated work in achieving gender parity in the United Nations and we reaffirm our efforts to keep supporting specific measures to make this possible.

Women's economic empowerment is also vital for exercising their autonomy and for their ability to make significant contributions into the labor market, as the evidence shows. Costa Rica is convinced that it is necessary to keep moving forward in this field and we have joined forces with the United Kingdom in the Group of Championing Women's Economic Empowerment to do so.

Costa Rica condemns terrorism and violent extremism. Women and girls suffer the greatest consequences, whose consequences in some cases are indelible.

My country welcomes the participation of Costa Rican women police officers as International Observers to the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia. We recognize the efforts of this mission to incorporate an approach of gender equality.

It is a generation that looks to the future without fear, which is manifested by a new world without weapons, without violence for the environment, for peace, for human rights, for sexual diversity, against any type of discrimination and in favor of a better world.

Country: Ethiopia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/ethiopia>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Workineh Gebeyehu Negewo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Nepal

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/nepal>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“Through dialogue and deliberations, through mutual respect and accommodation, we steered a uniquely successful home-grown, nationally led and owned peace process.”

“With this commitment we must ensure that the voice of the people struggling for their rights, liberty, freedom and justice in various parts of the world, including Syria, Yemen, Palestine, and many other places must be heard and addressed.”

“Ending the indignity of sexual exploitation and abuse is a must.”

Country: Tuvalu

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/tuvalu>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: People’s Republic of Bangladesh

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/bangladesh>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Theme: Human Rights

“Women’s empowerment and participation have been a major factor in Bangladesh’s outstanding development. We have promoted women’s empowerment through enhancing their education opportunities and facilitating their political and economic emancipation. We have created opportunities for girls to pursue their education free of cost till twelfth grade in public educational institutions. At secondary level, the ratio of girls and boys is 53:47. In early 2009, it was 35:65.”

“Bangladesh is perhaps the world’s only country, where in its National Parliament, the Speaker, the Leader of the House, the Deputy Leader of the House, and the Leader of the Opposition are all women. In the present Parliament, there are 72 elected female members. 33% seats are earmarked for women in local government bodies in order to promote women’s political empowerment at the grassroots.”

“Around 20 million women are employed in agriculture, service and industrial sectors. Women constitute 80% of 4.5 million workers engaged in the largest export earning garments sector. Women entrepreneurs are offered collateral free bank loans with 5% service charge. 10% of Small Entrepreneurs’ Fund and 10% of industrial plots are earmarked for women entrepreneurs.”

“The maternal mortality rate has decreased to 170 per 1000 and child mortality rate under the age of five has gone down to 28 per thousand.”

“We are shocked by the continued violation of the rights of the brotherly people of Palestine. This must come to an end. As the Chair of the QIC Council of Foreign Ministers, we shall continue to work with the international community for resolution of the Palestine question.”

“That Bangladesh the world knew as the land plagued by disasters, floods, droughts and hunger has done wonders in maintaining international peace, managing disasters, empowering women and consolidating development gains.”

Country: The Kingdom of Spain
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/spain>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain

Theme: Participation, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Peacekeeping

“I would like to begin by highlighting that this is the first time in history that a Latin American woman, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, is presiding over this Assembly. This is yet another reflection of the fact that in the twenty-first century, global governance is inconceivable without the leadership of women. I am a feminist politician. Now is the time for women.”

“Because without dignity, without equality between women and men, without respect for human rights, there will be no peace and no development.”

“We must develop a truly global roadmap to eradicate all forms of discrimination still suffered by women, whether it is gender-based violence, trafficking of women, or female genital mutilation. “

“The cabinet of Ministers I lead is made up of 60% women, because we aim to lead by example. I would like to congratulate the Secretary General on having reached full parity in his Senior Management for the first time in the history of the United Nations.”

“Spain will continue to promote the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. It is crucial that women participate as peace brokers in all phases of conflicts.”

“I have also joined the Circle of Leadership promoted by the Secretary General to combat sexual exploitation and abuse in UN operations.”

Country: Serbia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/serbia>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Ana Brnabić, Prime Minister of Serbia

Theme: Human Rights

“Having said that, I must also say that it is indeed a pleasure to see a fellow stateswoman presiding over this important institution.”

Country: Republic of Uganda
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/uganda>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Kingdom of Bhutan
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/bhutan>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk, Acting Head of Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Islamic Republic of Mauritania
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/mauritania>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ismael Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritania

Theme: Human Rights, Protection

Women occupy an important position in terms of candidature as well as the seats that have been gained, especially since the position of chairperson of the local council district of Nouakchott is female. These results show the progress that women have made in elections and this is because the national, political circles allow for the participation of women at all levels of decision-making so they can occupy political, military and judicial positions, as well as a quota that has been allocated to women in all elected seats and positions.

Human rights has a very important position in our national politics and is embodied in our continued efforts to achieve and to entrench human rights and improve the situation and condition of prisons and to protect prisoners of torture and to combat any harmful practices against women and children.

We call for an equitable solution that is a viable one and it is based on relevant Arab and international terms of reference and which would lead to the establishment of a state of Palestine with Alkoods Ashreef as the capital.

As for the situation in Syria, we like to confirm the need to seriously strive to arrive at a political solution through a comprehensive national dialogue that would maintain the unity of Syria as well as independence and dignity of the people and the right to live in peace and security.

As for sisterly Yemen, we call for putting an end to divisions and adopt and call for a peaceful solution based on the three terms of reference and support the United Nations efforts that aim to arrive at a political solution to this crisis.

Country: The Principality of Liechtenstein
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/liechtenstein>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Aurelia Frick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Theme: Human Rights

“It is a great joy and personal satisfaction to me to see a woman preside over this Assembly. It is the tenth time that I have the honor to speak in this historic hall. And it is the first time in all those years that a woman holds the highest office here at the United Nations. I salute your leadership - and we will support you. But it is also disappointing to see that the UN - which should be a trailblazer on the empowerment of women - so frequently misses opportunities to make appointments that resonate outside this building. All the more, I thank Secretary-General Guterres for his commitment to gender parity. His resolve has illustrated that this goal is achievable - and relatively quickly. We have yet to realize full gender equality in practice back home, in Liechtenstein. And we will continue looking at the UN for setting examples that guide us on our own path.”

“Seventy years ago, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we agreed that ‘No one shall be held in slavery or servitude’. Today, over 40 million people, predominantly women and girls, live in these conditions. This is unacceptable.”

“One such institution is the accountability mechanism for Syria. We were proud to lead the way to the creation of the IIIM two years ago. Born out of the frustration over the deadlock in the Security Council, it has quickly become a symbol of what this Assembly can achieve - and a beacon of hope for Syria. At this critical moment in the Syrian conflict, our resolve to ensure accountability for the crimes committed will shape the future of the country.”

Country: Republic of Cameroon
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/cameroon>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Lejeune Mbella Mbella, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon

Themes: Participation

Allow me, to begin by congratulating Madam President, I would like to congratulate you for being elected as President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly. This is a historic moment, as you are the fourth woman to preside over the Assembly, in the 73 years of the United Nations existence.

Country: United Republic of Tanzania

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/united-republic-tanzania>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Augustine Phillip Mahiga, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania

Theme: Displacement, Participation

“Currently, we are hosting more than 330,000 refugees, mainly from Burundi and DRC. Over the years, and decades of hosting refugees, Tanzania has provided local integration as a durable solution to many refugees than any other country in the world in excess of 150,000 refugees.”

“The people of DRC continue to face challenges of peace, security and stability. The country has continuously been destabilized by warring factions and war lords that have created havoc leading to political instability in some parts of the country. This situation has not only denied DRC the opportunity to develop its country and people, but has also undermined and threatened regional peace and security. [...] The stability in DRC does not only contribute to address the refugee problem, but also accelerates regional trade, investment, and economic prosperity opportunities.”

“In this regard, Tanzania encourages the international community to extend both logistical and financial support to DRC so that it can successfully complete the necessary preparations for, and holding of, the elections. To this end, it is necessary to continue with the UN stabilization mission under MONUSCO and FIB in the eastern part of the country until elections are concluded.”

“Tanzania reiterates its position in resolving the conflict between Israel and Palestine by supporting the two-state solution. We understand that Palestine has the right to enjoy its independence and peace as is Israel in accordance with the United Nations Charter. It is our belief that it is within the creative and resourceful ability of Israel and the determination of the Palestinian people to reach a peaceful solution that will permit Israel and Palestine to co-exist in peace and security.”

Country: Djibouti

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/djibouti>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti

Theme: Human Rights

Investments should be reoriented towards strengthening the collection of data on sustainable development and those related to statistics on gender, health, education, the environment, etc.

Country: Republic of Togo

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/togo>)

Date: 27 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Robert Dussey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration of the Republic of Togo

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Albania

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/albania>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ilir Meta, President of Albania

Theme: None

“Another issue of serious concern threatening peace and security, is the ongoing conflict in Syria. We support all the actions taken by the international actors to end the conflict and stop the use of chemical weapons.”

“We have supported the international community's efforts to develop an inclusive political dialogue between the parties on the future of Libya, as the only way to stopping the conflict and resolving the Libyan crisis, which is seriously threatening, not only direct neighbors.”

“The conflict between Israel and Palestine is still harming the peace and stability in the Middle East. A two-State solution will realistically allow both sides to fulfil their aspirations, put an end to the conflict, and achieve the just and lasting peace for Israelis and Palestinians.”

Country: Guyana

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/guyana>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Carl Greenidge, Vice-President of Guyana

Theme: Human Rights

“Guyana fully recognizes the necessary, nay critical, contribution of women and girls to its sustainable development. Women and girls constitute more than half the world's population and the underutilization of their potential represents a serious loss of resources in the global effort to promote human development. We are trying to ensure that the management of this development is undertaken with women and girls fully represented at the helm of decision-making. We applaud the steps taken by the Secretary-General to ensure parity in the appointment of senior managers of the Organization, including Resident Coordinators in the field.”

“We reiterate our call for a two-State solution to the generational conflict between the peoples of Palestine and Israel. These two peoples have much to gain by living side by side in peace. The people of Palestine, including the inhabitants of Gaza, like people everywhere have a right to life, to a dignified existence and to their own homeland.”

Country: South Sudan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/south-sudan>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Taban Deng Gai, First Vice President of South Sudan

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Bulgaria

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/bulgaria>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of Bulgaria

Theme: None

“Alongside these dire statistics, there is no real progress in implementing the Minsk agreement, which we think is the only way to find a peaceful and sustainable solution to the conflict. The existing differences in terms of deployment of international peacekeeping forces in Eastern Ukraine under the auspices of the UN have also not been overcome.”

“We support the launch of international initiatives to create conducive conditions for restarting the Middle-East Peace Process via bilateral talks. We think that this is the way to achieve a final agreement, based on the principle of two states, coexisting in peace and stability.”

“In terms of Libya, Bulgaria supports the UN Action Plan and the efforts of the Mission of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, whose primary task is stabilizing the country and reaching national conciliation in the context of political and institutional fragmentation. We support the agreements reached by the four key political leaders for conducting presidential and parliamentary elections.”

“The situation in Syria remains dramatic. In spite of the efforts of the international community, military activities in the country continue, leading to an increasing number of casualties among the civilian population, as well as to thousands of new emigrants. As a country that is geographically close to Syria, Bulgaria support efforts to prevent further escalation of the military conflict. Pursuant to this, we support the continuation of political dialogue and the intra-Syria negotiations with the aim of finding a permanent political solution to the Syrian crisis.”

Country: Independent State of Samoa

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/samoa>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: People's Republic of China

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/china>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Vanuatu

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/vanuatu>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Charlot Salwai Tabimasmass, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Saint Lucia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/saint-lucia>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Allen Michael Chastanet, Prime Minister Saint Lucia

Theme: Human Rights

“Allow me, to begin by congratulating you on your election to the presidency of the Seventy Third Session of the General Assembly. Your assumption of this important office contributes to our progress in breaking down the barriers of inequality - with you one of only four women to have held this position in seventy-three years.”

“As the first woman from our Latin America and Caribbean region to have been elected President of the General Assembly, we are especially proud of your achievement. Saint Lucia is a staunch advocate for gender equality evidenced by the large percentage of Saint Lucian women who hold senior positions in and out of government, including the four female Ministers in my cabinet. Rest assured that you have my delegation's full support in the upcoming session.”

Country: Malaysia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/malaysia>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister Malaysia

Theme: None

“It is the anger and frustration of the Palestinians and their sympathisers that cause them to resort to what we call terrorism. But it is important to acknowledge that any act which terrify people also constitute terrorism. And states dropping bombs or launching rockets which maim and kill innocent people also terrify people. These are also acts of terrorism.”

“There is something wrong with our way of thinking, with our value system. Kill one man, it is murder, kill a million and you become a hero. And so we still believe that conflict between nations can be resolved with war.”

Country: Andorra

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/andorra>

Date: 28 September

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Antoni Martí Petit, Head of Government of the Principality of Andorra

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“Even in established democracies, we increasingly hear the voices of people who have put up with discrimination in silence for many years: women, disabled people, victims of sexual abuse or of any kind, and so on.”

Country: Fiji

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/fiji>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji

Theme: Human Rights

“We have reinforced our democracy by passing laws to empower girls and women and protect them from violence.”

Country: Montenegro

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/montenegro>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Duško Marković, Prime Minister of Montenegro

Theme: Human Rights

“In the field of protection and promotion of human rights at the national level, significant progress has been made in the protection of women and girls, children, LGBTI population, and the integration of marginalized groups.”

"Montenegro's commitment to the issue of gender equality and the fight against violence against women is reaffirmed by our chairmanship of the Executive Board of the UN Women. We strongly advocate for the greater role of women as leaders and important decision-makers, stakeholders in conflict prevention, resolution and reconciliation."

Country: Republic of Mauritius

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/mauritius>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius

Theme: None

"Mauritius reiterates its call for renewed and genuine international efforts for negotiations towards an early realization of the two-state solution, with an independent and viable Palestine, existing side by side and at peace with the State of Israel. While we wait for this to happen, it is extremely important that the sufferings of the people, especially women and children, are alleviated through renewed and increased international support."

"We wholeheartedly welcome the reform process to make the United Nations fit for purpose, closer and in synchronization with the people that it serves and better equipped to service the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so that no one, irrespective of race and gender, is left behind."

Country: Greece

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/greece>)

Date: 28 September 2018

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

Theme: Human Rights

"As Greece has after all done: by granting citizenship to second generation immigrants born and raised in our country, by establishing the legal recognition of gender identity and the institutionalization of civil partnership and the deepening the rights of the Muslim minority."

Country: Kingdom of Cambodia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/cambodia>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Russian Federation

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/russian-federation>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Theme: Displacement

“The Syrian National Dialogue Congress, initiated by Russia, Iran, and Turkey this January, created conditions for political settlement on the basis of UN SC Resolution 2254. This is precisely the basis for the Inter-Syrian Constitutional Committee that is currently being established in Geneva. Its agenda includes restoration of destroyed infrastructure to facilitate the return of millions of refugees to their homes.”

“Russia will continue to do its utmost to facilitate this process, including within the Quartet on the Middle East and in cooperation with the League of Arab States and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Mutually acceptable arrangements must ensure peaceful and secure coexistence of the two states - Israel and Palestine.”

“We support the activities of the OSCE Mission in Ukraine and are ready to provide its observers with the UN protection. Yet, instead of implementing the Minsk agreements and instead of a dialogue with Donetsk and Lugansk, Kiev keeps cherishing the delusions that it might be able to bring occupying forces to Donbass with the support of the West and comes up with increasing threats to resort to military options. Those who patronize the present Kiev authorities must bring their charges to senses and make them lift the blockade of Donbass and stop the discrimination of ethnic minorities across Ukraine.”

Country: Federal Republic of Germany
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/germany>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany

Theme: Participation

“Nowhere is the crisis of multilateralism more painfully evident than in Syria. The civil war has long since turned into a widespread regional conflict, with further potential for escalation in an already ravaged region. [...] As the second-largest humanitarian donor, Germany is willing to provide UNHCR with a further 116 million euros - that is, half of the amount currently needed - to help Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. But others also need to step up. After all, the Charter talks about we the peoples.”

“Disruptive foreign-policy approaches have now also reached the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Many people are keen to make us believe that the negotiated two-state solution is obsolete. They want us to think it is now merely a term used in diplomacy and can no longer be achieved. But whatever way you twist it, there will only be lasting peace if people can lead self-determined lives in security and dignity on both sides of the 1967 Lines. That is precisely why, even 25 years after Oslo, working on a negotiated two-state solution is still the right thing to do.”

“The conflict in Ukraine will also continue to occupy us. Along with France, Russia and Ukraine, we are working hard to implement the Minsk agreements. The focus is on the measures agreed a long time ago with a view to stabilising the ceasefire. All efforts, including our discussion on a possible UN mission in eastern Ukraine, are aimed at achieving that.”

“Take Iraq, where the terrorists of Islamic State have for the most part been militarily defeated. Instead of leaving the Iraqi authorities to fend for themselves, we are training security forces, fostering administrative structures and providing civil support to promote stabilisation, reconciliation and inclusive reconstruction in the country.”

“After all, the success of UN missions hinges on member states political backing. This is particularly true for Libya right now. To tackle the Herculean task of advancing functioning state structures, the United Nations needs our political support.”

“Peace is more than guns falling silent. Only just societies will remain peaceful in the long term - societies in which men and women enjoy equal rights and in which women participate in all social decision-making. This is not only a matter of fairness and respect. It is simply about humanity and reason.”

Country: Tunisia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/tunisia>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Khemais Jhinaoui, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia

Theme: Participation, Human Rights

We hope to support the effectiveness of local programmes and along the same path of presidential and legislative election, these municipal elections showed a representation of the youth and women, something that reflects the awareness of the Tunisian society and its promotion of the interest of women and youth and the local and national levels.

H.E. the President of the Republic Albaj AlKhaleed made a new initiative to enhance equality and the status of women and a separate committee was established to consider the initiative. This initiative is the subject of comprehensive dialogue among different components of the Tunisian society, is a natural extension of the Tunisian pioneering experiment to reform in establishing a progressive society that respects individual and freedoms and collective freedoms and tries to achieve equality between men and women and achievements for women.

Achieving a just and comprehensive desired solution to the Palestinian question represents an urgent priority so we can restore peace and stability to the Middle East region which would enable our brotherly Palestinian people to restore and recover their legitimate rights and establish their state on their territories with East Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with the decisions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative on the basis of the two-state solution.

Country: Republic of Iraq
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/iraq>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Abdulkarim Al-Jafari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

Theme: Participation, Protection

ISIS ravaged women. It killed Shiite Turkmen women, it burned some of them alive. But we have full faith in our young people and our women because they rose up to defend their country.

We are focusing on young people and women, we are rolling out programmes to improve the plight and well-being of young people and women, to improve the living standards to put an end to levels of unemployment and to improve their skills base. This is all part of our efforts under the 2030 Agenda.

Country: Kingdom of Denmark
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/denmark>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation for the Kingdom of Denmark

Themes: Human Rights, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“Denmark is running for a seat on the Human Rights Council for the term 2019 to 2021. If elected, we will promote the rights and equal opportunities of women; continue our longstanding fight against torture; protect the rights of indigenous peoples; and encourage freedom of religion or belief. This has to be done without discrimination on any grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity.”

“In several parts of the world, gender equality is but a distant hope. Women’s rights are under increasing pressure. We cannot accept this. We must stand up and challenge this. Women must unfold their potential - without question - to the benefit of all. We must ensure that she decides. Gender equality and equal opportunities is not only a fundamental human right. It is a precondition. For development, peace and prosperity in any country, anywhere in the world.”

“Girls are at much greater risk of being victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, of early child marriage and childbirth. Just think, in parts of the world, girls as low as nine years old are being forced to marry adult men. This is just not acceptable. We must let girls be girls, not brides. Education is a beacon of hope for these girls. That is why Denmark is now the biggest contributor to Education Cannot Wait. That is why Denmark will spend almost 70 million US dollars next year on education in developing countries. Because Denmark will leave no girl behind.”

“The conflict in Syria continues in its 8th year. So many have already experienced unspeakable suffering, evil and atrocities. Three million people have been at the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe in Idlib. This tragedy in Syria cannot go on.”

Country: State of Mongolia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/mongolia>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, Prime Minister State of Mongolia

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Saint Kitts and Nevis

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/saint-kitts-and-nevis>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Timothy Harris, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Bahamas

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/bahamas>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hubert Alexander Minnis, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

Themes: General WPS, Human Rights

“The Bahamas remains committed to the protection and promotion of human rights and to gender equality.”

Country: Kingdom of Lesotho

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/lesotho>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho

Theme: Protection, Human Rights

“From feeding over 104 million people in over 80 countries every year, to assisting millions of refugees and protecting women and children, to fighting poverty, HIV and AIDS and to restoring calm through peacekeeping initiatives, the UN has undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of global citizens.”

“Peace and prosperity cannot be achieved when women and girls are marginalized and not given the opportunity to contribute to development. The role of women and other

disadvantaged sectors of our communities in advancing the global development agenda must be further enhanced.”

“While the Palestinian People’s plight continues to worsen, the hope for the resolution of the crises in Syria and Iraq continues to diminish. We cannot remain indifferent to the suffering of these innocent people. [...] A two state solution, with Palestine and Israel living side by side in peace and harmony, remains the only viable option for settlement of the Palestine Question. Attainment of peace is a process that requires engagement, accommodation and genuineness. Peace cannot be attained by war or oppression.”

Country: Antigua and Barbuda

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/antigua-and-barbuda>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gaston Alphonso Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Theme: Human Rights

“The fundamental undertaking by all nations set out in the Charter of this body, to 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 , contradicts the reality of refugees from Africa, from Latin America, from war-torn countries, who are forced to flee their homelands to the borders of the rich - some, literally, in cages.”

Country: Republic of Moldova

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/republic-moldova>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Pavel Filip, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Barbados

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/barbados>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

Themes: Participation

“Permit me, Madam President to observe that this United Nations must show leadership in recognizing the talents and contributions of women to human civilization and progress. Women have value and give much, whether they labor over smoking wood fires; whether generations of women are trapped in poverty because of a lack of opportunity; equality and respect; whether they lead countries; whether they stay at home to care for families; or whether they come to the UN, as you have, to preside over over outcome documents, robust negotiations, bracketed paragraphs, reform processes and global policy platforms, in the name of creating for all people everywhere, a life of dignity. ”

"Madam President, as a female leader [...], I commend you on your seven priority areas one of which is improving the quality of women and girls."

Country: Solomon Islands

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/solomon-islands>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ricky Nelson Houenipwela, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands

Themes: Participation, General WPS

"Solomon Islands also continues to call for peaceful settlement and supports the two state solution in the Israel and Palestinian conflict."

"Through the resources provided under the Peacebuilding Fund we have been able to facilitate dialogue involving a wide range of stakeholders on key issues including land reform, rural development, border issues, and youth and women's participation."

Country: State of Mongolia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/mongolia>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, Prime Minister State of Mongolia

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: The Republic of Ireland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/ireland>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Simon Coveney, Deputy Prime Minister The Republic of Ireland

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Protection, Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform

"Justice and accountability is always a better alternative to revenge, impunity or amnesty. And we have seen important developments in the area of gender-based and sexual violence, by enabling the prosecution of sexual violence as a war crime, a crime against humanity and genocide. [...] And I am pleased to report that earlier this month Ireland ratified the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the Crime of Aggression which were agreed in Kampala. Yesterday I lodged the instrument of ratification with the UN Secretary-General."

"More broadly, the scale of the humanitarian crises facing the international community cannot be overstated. Over 134 million people around the world are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, with conflict the single greatest driver of this need. As a country committed to humanitarian principles, we will continue contributing to international efforts to

ease the plight of civilians suffering the impact of conflicts in South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Syria, Yemen, Palestine and elsewhere.”

“Settlement construction underlines this, and is causing ever-greater damage to the prospects for peace. Ireland, like many, is very conscious of the threat to Khan al Ahmar and other strategically-located West Bank villages. What happens there will tell us much about whether we can count on a real commitment to negotiating a two-state solution.”

“Ireland will continue that assistance and has increased our contribution to €7m for this year, recognising the financial pressures. I greatly regret recent cuts to UNRWA s funding by the US and plead with those in power to reconsider the consequence of their decisions. Reform of UNRWA is needed, but in the context of a peace deal and a functioning Palestinian State. Shutting off funding now is simply adding to the turmoil of current pressures where UNRWA cuts are interpreted as a collective punishment, targeting women and children.”

Country: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/saudi-arabia>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Adel Ahmed Al-Jubeir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Theme: Displacement and Humanitarian response

The Palestinian question has been pivotal for my country as well as for the Islamic world. We base on ourselves the conviction that Palestinian people have the right to build an independent Palestinian State on the 1967 borders with Al-Koods Al-Shareef (East Jerusalem) as the capital based on the resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

We reiterate our commitment to a political settlement to the crisis in Yemen, on the basis of three references: the Gulf Initiative, the outcomes and conclusions of national Yemeni dialogue, as well as UN Security Council resolutions. [...] We shall continue to facilitate all humanitarian efforts to end the disaster plaguing the fraternal Yemeni peoples. We have sought to support the Yemeni economy, including recently with the establishment of a 2 billion dollar fund, based at the central bank of Yemen.

This eighth year of the Syrian crisis, we see a humanitarian landscape which requires us all to shoulder our responsibilities. My country has, from the very first day of the crisis, has sought to place Syrian individual at the heart of our efforts, we have endeavored to ensure that Syrian people can arrive at their ambitions to live on their own soil, for this reason, on the basis of our convictions, we reiterate the need to respect Security Council Resolution 2254 to arrive at a political settlement in line with the Geneva I Declaration principles.

Saudi Arabia is a country which supports legitimacy in Libya. We would recall the importance of upholding the Saharet agreement to solving the crisis plaguing Libya. We call for unity in Libya, for respect for its territorial integrity. My country was among the leading donors in terms of

humanitarian and development assistance, we have moved 3.7% of GDP, thereby surpassing thereby surpassing the quota called for by the United Nations.

Country: Hungary

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/hungary>)

Date: 28 September 2018

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

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Monaco

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/monaco>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gilles Tonelli, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Principality of Monaco

Themes: Participation, Peace Processes

When the Council is prevented from acting, civilians and especially women and children pay even a heavier price.

We strongly believe in the role of women in peace processes.

Country: Australia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/australia>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs Australia

Themes: General Women, Peace and Security, Participation, Peace Processes

“Mr President, Australia like the United Nations is committed to improving humanitarian assistance in fragile settings. I commend the Secretary General for establishing the United for Gender Parity initiative, and for declaring zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. Australia is also a robust and strong contributor to the UN’s Women Peace and Security agenda, first set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Australia was one of the first Member States to draw up a National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, and we are continuing work on our next five year National Action Plan.”

“Examples of our work on this issue include a benchmark of a minimum of 15 percent of female military members deployed on Australian peacekeeping mission teams, which I was proud to support and to work to see grow over the past three years in my previous role as Australia's Minister for Defence. Australia also has active training programs on Women Peace and Security in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Philippines, where our military is assisting partner forces to deal with counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency challenges. Australia firmly believes that it is only through the inclusion of women in all aspects of peace and security initiatives, including

negotiations, the design of peace processes, and the management and enforcement of peace programs, that lasting and resilient security can be achieved.”

Country: Republic of Kazakhstan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/kazakhstan>)

Date: September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Themes: Human Rights, Participation

“Millions of people live under a shadow of dreadful wars, such as in Syria, Yemen and many other corners of the Globe. Kazakhstan believes that war can never be a lasting solution to any problem. Based on this conviction and sharing the belief that the only viable solution to the current crisis in Syria is the inclusive and Syrian-led political process, we launched the Astana process towards strengthening confidence-building measures between the conflicting parties in Syria.”

“Besides, Kazakhstan for many years has been contributing significantly to peace and rehabilitation of this country [Afghanistan]. We believe that the revival of the country as a prosperous and peaceful neighbour will have a positive impact on overall security in our region. A special role in this process should be played by Afghan women. To increase international awareness and support for the needs of Afghan women and girls, we hosted the Regional Conference on Empowering Women in Afghanistan on September 5, 2018 in Astana. It was attended by female politicians, parliamentarians, entrepreneurs and civil sector members from Afghanistan and Central Asian nations. The event gave great impetus to strengthening the role of women not only in Afghanistan, but in the whole Central Asian region – helping to improve their lives and to influence their future.”

“Today, the ability to show global leadership and responsibility is challenged by the numerous threats – from spread of weapons – conventional and of mass destruction, as well as terrorism, extremism, organized crime, and all forms of trafficking, to food, water, energy and health insecurities. From violation of the human rights, particularly rights of women, youth and children, degrading human dignity to lack of respect and justice for all.”

Country: Republic of the Union of Myanmar

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/myanmar>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Iceland

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/iceland>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland

Themes: General WPS, Human Rights

“Iceland is a small country with high ambitions. A gender equal world is one of those. We have a solid record as one of the most gender equal countries in the world. This only happened through the hard work of women pioneers who changed our politics and our law to empower all women in Iceland. In good cooperation with a few good men, of course.”

“More needs to be done at home, but we stand ready to share our experience with other states. Gender equality is a master-key to unlocking sustainable development in all countries in line with the goals of Agenda 2030.”

“Our priorities also revolve around promoting women’s human rights and safeguarding our children’s rights and freedom from violence. We will work to advance the human rights of LGBTI individuals and, lastly, focus on the connection between climate change and human rights.”

“The issue of Western Sahara remains unresolved and the same applies to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The disregard for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and Georgia remain a wound in the European security architecture. [...] We must act and make full use of the tools available to hold those responsible to account, including before the International Criminal Court.”

“The Syrian war has left the country in ruins, over 400.000 people dead and almost half the population displaced. A political solution continues to be the only viable path towards winning the peace. In Yemen we are witnessing a conflict that is fast becoming the worst humanitarian crisis in the world and there seems to be no end in sight as regional powerhouses continue to fuel the fires of war.”

Country: Republic of Azerbaijan

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/azerbaijan>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Elmar Maharram oglu Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Themes: Participation

“Azerbaijan has been the first country in the Muslim world granting women the right to vote as early as in 1918. Azerbaijan strives to ensure gender equality and empower women in public and social life.”

Country: Chad

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/chad>

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E.Mr. Mahamat Zene Cherif, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration of the Republic of Chad

Themes: Participation, Protection

Chad reaffirms support for United Nations efforts aimed at promoting a political solution to the crisis, and urges the Yemeni actors concerned to privilege the dialogue and to conform to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

On Syria, Chad reiterates its support for the mediation efforts of the United Nations United Nations, and calls on the parties to the conflict to abolish the suffering they have been inflicting on their people for over 7 years by stopping the violence and resolutely engaging in dialogue and reconciliation. Chad urges belligerents to respect international law humanitarian assistance and to facilitate the delivery of aid to the civil.

With regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Chad reiterates its commitment to the two-state solution, living side-by-side in peace, stability and security in their borders before 07 June 1967 with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

Sem Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic, Head of State, instituted a law adopted May 22, 2018, which is a mandatory quota of 30% for women in all functions nominative and elective, with the ultimate objective of gradually achieving parity. This quota is already effective in its application.

In addition, specific measures to ensure the fulfillment of the women have been taken, including the promotion of the education of and the adoption of a law prohibiting their early marriage.

Country: Guinea

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/guinea>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mamadi Touré, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea

Themes: Participation, Implementation

Guinea has always expressed unambiguously its unconditional solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people.

The creation of an inclusive society underpins the elimination of inequalities and social barriers which prevent the participation of young people and women in economic activities and politics.

Gender equality, the promotion and empowerment of young people and women are fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development and must be taken into in development policies.

I would like to take advantage of this occasion and congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Since taking office he has achieved gender parity in appointments to higher positions in the United Nations.

Country: State of Libya

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/libya>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mohamed Siala, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Libya

Theme: Protection

When it comes to economic, social and cultural rights, we have been working tirelessly to improve the condition of women and to ensure gender equality, without overlooking the need to ensure education and free medical care for all, pursuant to Article 7 of the constitutional declaration.

The situation in the Middle East remains extremely difficult and peace will be difficult when the Palestinians are continuing to suffer and settlements continue to be built and the city of Jerusalem continues to suffer and international resolutions continue to be ignored. We stand side-by-side with the Palestinian people, rejecting the law on the the nation-state of the Jewish people. This is a dangerous escalation and an attempt to try to ignore the Palestinian issue, trying to deprive the Palestinian people of their land and this is unacceptable.

Furthermore, the people of Syria are experiencing disastrous humanitarian situations in some regions as a result of a conflict which has caused human and material damage on an enormous scale and the displacement of many innocent Syrians.

With regard to Yemen, we express our concern with regard to the humanitarian situation there and the disastrous consequences of that. This conflict is a threat to the security of the country and the region. We call for an end to the bloodbath in that country and to alleviate the suffering of this brotherly people.

Country: the Republic of Latvia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/latvia>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Edgars Rinkevics Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention

“Human rights, including women's rights and children's rights, are among the most fundamental values of the United Nations. The organization must be capable of defending these values in any situation: be it bombing of civilians in Syria [...] or other human rights violations wherever they occur.”

“Security and human rights go hand in hand. Security cannot be achieved without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

“Gender equality is vital for achieving sustainable development goals. It is an essential precondition for inclusive sustainable development as well as for economic growth and prosperity.”

“Hence, I once again urge Russia to release illegally detained Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov who enters day 139 of his hunger strike today...I also call on Russia to immediately release other 64 Ukrainian political prisoners it has detained including journalist Roman Sushchenko.”

“The Russian Federation must stop its aggression against Ukraine. Believe that one day international law and justice will prevail, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as of other European Union's eastern partners, will be restored.”

“The conflicts in Syria, and Ukraine and Yemen continue to take a heavy toll on civilians... The mere length of preventable conflicts undermines the credibility of international organizations, including the United Nations.”

Country: Papua New Guinea
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/papua-new-guinea>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Rimbink Pato, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Papua New Guinea

Themes: Protection, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“Many issues are on the table either formally or in informal meetings on the sidelines... And—very importantly, gender equality.”

“Our greatest challenges is to protect women and girls, to ensure they have full equality in our society [...] our long term advancement depends on great improvements in this one crucial area. We are working hard to do this via policies and laws, combating gender-based violence, providing business opportunities in the formal and informal sectors such as micro-credit schemes and investing in our girls and women's education at all levels of our education system. The 6 changes are noticeable as we have put in an additional one million more young people to schools, and in particular, girls.”

Country: Oman
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/oman>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E Mr. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs for Oman

Theme: None

“The Palestinian Cause is the central problem for the Middle East [...] It is convenient to create favorable conditions for positive discussions between the Palestinian and Israeli parties, to

reach a comprehensive settlement, based on the two-state solution, since not establishing a Palestinian State will perpetuate violence and terrorism. [...] For, achieving a peaceful environment between the Palestinian and Israeli parties is essential to establish peace in the region. We also call upon countries of the world, particularly, the United States [...] to consider the future of this cause from the perspective of supporting orientations in peace, facilitating the work of international organizations, and not sacrificing peace.”

“The suffering of the Republic of Yemen requires all of us to double our efforts to help Yemen. The international community has to adopt a humanitarian project that would enable access to humanitarian aid by the Yemeni people in different provinces [...]. Also, my country supports the efforts of the Special Envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths and calls on facilitating his mission in holding meetings and consultations with all Yemeni parties, and facilitating their transportation to participate in such meetings. We envision that the political solution should take into account, the Yemeni reality, and that all Yemeni parties and Political Forces, in Yemen and abroad, should be given a chance in determining a prosperous future of their country.”

“Violence is receding apparently in several Syrian areas.. Undoubtedly, the collaborative effort had a significant role in combating terrorism; and we hope that such efforts and joint cooperation continues in Syria and other conflict areas. We also laud the efforts achieved by the Special Envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura in helping the Syrian parties develop the constitutional foundation, and build on what has been accomplished in Geneva, Astana and Sochi to stop the war and reach a national reconciliation that ends the conflict.”

Country: India

(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/india>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India

Theme: Human Rights

“I want to stress that over 140 million Indians have taken Mudra loans. The most significant aspect of Mudra scheme is that 76% of the beneficiaries are women. The uplift of any nation is best achieved through the all-round empowerment of women. All the schemes that I have just spoken about have the welfare of women at their core... the Ujjawala scheme, in which I am happy to report 50 million free gas connections have been provided so far. Another such initiative is the Maternity Benefit Scheme, in which women get 26 weeks of paid leave to care for their newborn. In India, we have implemented what women across the world need.”

Country: Syrian Arab Republic

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/syrian-arab-republic>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Walid Al-Moualem Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of The Syrian Arab Republic

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Rule of Law and Peacebuilding, Humanitarian Assistance and Displacement

“These governments formed an illegitimate international coalition, led by the United States. The coalition destroyed the Syrian city of Raqqa completely; it destroyed infrastructure and public services in the areas it targeted; it committed massacres against civilians, including children and women, which amount to war crimes under international law.”

“The situation in Syria cannot be divorced from the battle raging between two camps on the world stage: one of the camps promotes peace, stability, and prosperity across the world, advocates dialogue and mutual understanding, respects international law, and upholds the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. The other camp tries to create chaos in international relations and employs colonization and hegemony as tools to further its narrow interests.”

“A special committee was recently established to coordinate the return of refugees to their places of origin in Syria and to help them regain their lives. However, some western countries are spreading irrational fears among refugees; they are politicizing what should be a purely humanitarian issue, using refugees as a bargaining chip to serve their political agenda”

“The international community must also help the Palestinian people establish its own independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, and facilitate the return of Palestine refugees to their land, pursuant to international resolutions. Any actions that undermine these rights are null and void and threaten regional peace and security.”

Country: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/democratic-peoples-republic-korea>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ri Yong Ho, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/algeria>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Theme: Human Rights

I would now like to conclude without underscoring the efforts made by national authorities with regard to the most recent constitutional reform, which benefits all sectors of the population, with regard to the rights of women and their empowerment and the integration of young people into the social and economic systems. These efforts have led to Algeria’s

recognition by the international community in regard to human rights as well as stability and security. We are honoured by this progress, and reassured on the global stage.

Algeria supports the irrevocable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. We desire a end to this conflict that has been tearing the middle east apart for 70 years.

Country: Suriname

(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/suriname>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Yldiz Pollack-Beigle, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Suriname

Themes: General WPS, Human Rights

“We honor his tireless efforts towards making the world more peaceful and humane by fighting against inequality and injustice, combating diseases and conflict with all the means at our disposal, and putting the United Nations at the center of multilateralism.”

“Suriname respects and protects all human rights, however, we strongly reject using human rights for political gains. All conflicts that arise, are a consequence of departing from these valued principles.”

“The process to reform the Security Council must be comprehensive, inclusive, balanced and consensus-based, taking into account the interests of both developed and developing countries and further promoting, preserving and strengthening international peace and security.”

Country: Singapore

(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/singapore>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore

Themes: Displacement and Humanitarian Response

“To truly address widening inequality and wage stagnation, we must address its root causes.”

“ASEAN Member States are also committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes through multilateral processes...The voluntary return of displaced persons to Myanmar in a safe, secure and dignified way should commence without undue delay. Ultimately, a political solution needs to be found, involving reconciliation, fairness, justice, and better prospects for all communities.”

Country: San Marino

(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/san-marino>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nicola Renzi, Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs and Justice of San Marino

Themes: Reconstruction and Peacebuilding, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Human Rights

“This year’s theme is inevitably linked to the UN reform process. This process is of fundamental importance for the future world balance, for guaranteeing international peace and security and must remain at the centre of all our efforts.”

“The United Nations has often been criticized in recent years for the inability of the Security Council to intervene adequately in Syria and other conflict situations. Unfortunately, this has undermined the credibility of our Organisation.”

“Only with the effective and full participation of women in decision-making processes that have a direct impact on their lives, will it be possible to build sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies.”

“The Republic of San Marino reaffirms its commitment to the fight against all forms of violence based on gender, all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. The objective of gender equality, emancipation of women and girls and full realization of their human rights must be achieved.”

Country: The Philippines

(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/philippines>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alan Peter Cayetano, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

Themes: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Austria

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/austria>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Karin Kneissl, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Humanitarian Response and Displacement

“Concerning the greatest tragedy in our time, I speak of Yemen, Austria is ready to increase its humanitarian commitment.”

“Multilateralism has failed several million women worldwide. So have individual States. However, gender equality is about more than legal provisions. It is about a daily practice in our countries and societies. This is why the fight against discrimination and improving the situation of women and girls worldwide has been a longstanding concern of the Austrian foreign and development policy. Our focus lies on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the political and economic empowerment of women, as well as the fight against gender based violence - with a particular focus on combating female genital mutilation.”

“More than 200 million women and girls worldwide are victims of female genital mutilation (FGM). Together we must stand up against this humiliation, this breach of human rights and the appalling violation of women’s physical integrity. In 2018, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has earmarked more than 1 Million Euro to help victims of FGM through surgical restoration. Here in New York, I had very constructive talks with the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF for the purpose of joining forces against the violation of basic rights and physical integrity of girls and women.”

Country: Kingdom of Bahrain

(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/bahrain>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Human Rights

“During the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women, nominations were invited for her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women’s Empowerment. This Award aims to highlight achievements in the field of equal opportunities between men and women.”

“The Kingdom of Bahrain’s ranking among Tier 1 countries in the 2018 US State Department Report on Trafficking in Persons, issued last June makes it the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to achieve this high status.”

“We reaffirm the need for a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis with effective participation and a strong Arab role.”

“The coalition is committed to restoring peace and security to Yemen and assisting the people of Yemen in all areas, most particularly the humanitarian aspects.”

“We need to exert further efforts to reach a just and comprehensive peace that offers the Palestinian people, like all other peoples, the right to a decent life and to an independent sovereign state...and guarantees the return of refugees.”

“We reiterate the Kingdom of Bahrain’s consistent position in support of all efforts towards reconstruction of the state and the unification of the military institution to enable it to protect Libya and confront all forms of terrorism.”

Country: Republic of Burundi

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/burundi>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ezéchiel Nibigira, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi

Theme: Participation

The national independent electoral commission under the new constitution has just been established this respects political, ethnic, regional and gender inclusivity.

The absence of a solution in the Israel-Palestine conflict fosters insecurity, instability and destabilization in the middle east. The international community should mobilize to end this conflict that has continued for more than 50 years. Burundi supports the proposal where two states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within safe and recognised borders within peace and mutual respect. In line with relevant security council resolutions. There is no alternative, this is the only solution.

Country: Brunei Darussalam

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/brunei-darussalam>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam

Theme: None

“On this note, we are particularly concerned with the unresolved question of Palestine. For more than half a century, Palestinians are denied peace, justice and freedom. In solidarity with the Palestinian people, we strongly condemn actions and measures that blatantly violate their rights and dignity. These violations are against international law, including the UN Charter. Like many countries, we have been alarmed by the developments in Jerusalem, and the continued violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We remain firm in supporting the call to protect the Palestinian population, as well as the creation of a fully independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital. [...] We are also encouraged by the State of Palestine’s assumption of the chairmanship of the Group of 77 next year, which is a significant milestone not only for its own history but for the Group as a whole.”

Country: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/pakistan>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Theme: Protection

“The Kashmiri wife who lost her husband; the Kashmiri school boy who lost his eyesight and his future to pellet gun Injuries; the Syrian father who saw his child drown, the Palestinian girl who suffocates under siege, the African migrant willing to risk all for a better life, continue to look to this, the United Nations for support and succor.”

Country: Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/trinidad-and-tobago>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Denis Moses, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based, Participation, Disarmament

“As we continue to pursue gender equality across all borders and spheres of endeavour, your assumption to the seat of the Presidency of the General Assembly is further impetus for global rethinking and acceptance of female leadership, and toward strengthening the global pursuit of gender parity, empowerment and equality.”

“The existential threat posed by unmitigated climate change and global temperature increase, the undeniable challenge of extreme poverty, violent extremism, gender-based violence, and the spread of new and infectious diseases is one that is best faced together, as Member States of the United Nations.”

“On the global level, Trinidad and Tobago fully subscribes to the object and purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty, which can be leveraged as a mechanism for reducing incidences of armed violence in the region. Thus, since 2010, Trinidad and Tobago has tabled the biennial resolution on Women, Disarmament, Non-proliferation and arms control, which encourages women’s participation in disarmament decision-making processes.”

Country: United Arab Emirates

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/united-arab-emirates>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates

Themes: Participation, Human Rights

At the core of the development dimension of our foreign policy is the strengthening of economic opportunities and the empowerment of women and youth in conflict-affected countries.

I would like to emphasize that empowering women and youth and investing in their unlimited skills contributes to building resilient and cohesive societies, and eventually stable and safe countries.

Country: Turkmenistan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/turkmenistan>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan

Theme: Human Rights

“Implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan has an especially prominent social orientation. By this we mean such important issues as [...] ensuring full gender equality by guaranteeing the

rights and opportunities for all women and girls, and creating the conditions for a comprehensive, equitable and high-quality education.”

Country: Czech Republic

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/czech-republic>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jan Hamáček, Deputy Prime Minister of Czech Republic

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention

“We face many challenges to dignity of individuals, global prosperity, and sustainable development, including gender inequality, youth unemployment, global health threats, climate change, violent extremism, terrorism, forced displacement, or uncontrolled migration.”

“The UN Security Council has been characterized by blocking tactics rather than cooperation. Its failure to act on the world's worst atrocities is tangible in several ongoing brutal conflicts, from Syria to Yemen.”

“The Czech Republic will continue to champion SDG 16, not only as a follow up of omi ECOSOC Presidency, but mainly as a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda. We consider peace, justice and functioning institutions our priority and a solid base on which a sustainable future for everyone can be built.”

“Apart from conflict prevention, special focus should be put on post-conflict stabilization. Those efforts should be visible in the field.”

“For crimes committed in Syria, we are supporting... the so called "Triple I Mechanism", a mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in Syria since March 2011. The accountability is not only a way to bring justice to those suffering in conflicts, it is also a path towards reconciliation and a crucial means to prevent atrocities from reoccurring.”

Country: Lao People’s Democratic Republic

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/lao-people%E2%80%99s-democratic-republic>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

“In our fight against human trafficking, the Government has spared no effort in combating this heinous and inhumane crime by adopting several laws, regulations and national action plans to combat trafficking in persons and becoming signatory to numerous regional Agreements and MOUs, including the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, that seek to prevent and combat human trafficking.”

“We all acknowledge that peace and security are prerequisites for socio-economic development of all nations. Therefore, we need to maintain and promote peace and security at all costs.”

“My delegation is of concern on the lack of progress on the Palestinian issue. We hope that this long overdue issue on Palestine will be resolved by peaceful means in order to achieve a two-state solution where Palestine and Israel can live side by side in peace, security and within internationally recognized borders as stipulated in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.”

Country: Belize

(<https://gadebate.un.org/73/belize>)

Date: 29 September 2018

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

Theme: None

“Belize is supportive of all initiatives to put an end to languishing conflicts across the globe, which conduce to senseless death, destruction and suffering. We echo the cry of Palestinians for an independent state, within its 1967 borders, and with all attendant rights.”

Country: Eritrea

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/eritrea>)

Date: 29 September 2018

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

Theme: Justice and Rule of Law

“The spiralling crises, instability, wars, and conflicts that have, and continue to rage, in various parts of the world are inevitable consequences of the absence of justice; the attendant outcomes of international power imbalance. When the rule of law is suppressed and supplanted by the logic of force; when global power balance is compromised, the inevitable outcomes are intractable crises and escalating wars.”

Country: Sao Tome and Principe

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/sao-tome-and-principe>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Urbino José Gonçalves Botelho, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sao Tome and Principe

Themes: General WPS, Human Rights

“We emphasize the fact that Your Excellency is only the fourth woman to undertake such a noble function and we hope this number to increase in the future in the name of a greater inclusion of women in positions of such importance in the Organization.”

“If we really want peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies, our efforts must continue to be conducted to mitigate the effects of the current armed conflicts existing throughout the world, and to prevent the emergence and escalation of regional tensions, we [need] to continue the dialogue aiming the peaceful resolution of tensions that are occurring all over the planet, areas of conflict that keep claiming thousands of innocent lives, in particular the conflict in Syria.”

“In the same way, we also salute the Democratic Republic of Congo by convening the general elections scheduled for December this year, and we formulate warm vows for them to be transparent and fair and conducted in a peaceful and harmonious environment.”

“We appeal for the dialogue and the continuation of negotiations to find a peaceful and negotiated solution in respecting to the right of the Palestinian people to conduct their own destiny, accordingly with the fundamental principles of international law.”

“Our Organization must indeed assume its global leadership role in the unceasing pursuit of peaceful solutions to the conflicts that continue to exist in the world, in reducing inequalities, in promoting gender equality and equity policies, and in the uncompromising defense of peace and human rights.”

Country: Senegal

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/senegal>)

Date: 28 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal

Theme: Implementation

My country attaches great priority to improving the lives of women and girls, this is why robust social programs are being implemented for the emerging Senegal 2035 plan. This plan’s goal is the emancipation and empowerment of girls.

We must ensure the right of the Palestinian people to a viable state with East Jerusalem as its capital alongside the state of Israel with secure and internationally recognised borders.

Country: Niger

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/niger>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Kalla Ankourao, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration of Niger

Theme: None

In the Middle East, our session is taking place in a context with international solidarity in regards to the Palestinian cause. The decline in terms of political and financial support, which translates to budgetary restrictions and the tendency to recognition, by some members of the International Community, Al Qods as the capital of Israel. Niger reaffirms its support for

aspirations of the Palestinian people to realize their right to establish their own independent and sovereign State within the borders of June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

With regard to Yemen, we express our attachment to the sovereignty of this country and its territorial integrity. Niger rejects interference in his internal affairs and supports him for peaceful solution to the conflict that is currently his efforts for a global and harmonious development.

Country: Dominica

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/dominica>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Francine Baron, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Dominica

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Republic of Congo

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/congo>)

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude Gakosso, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo

Themes: Implementation, Human Rights

The Republic of Congo encourages all initiatives that contribute the maintenance of peace in Libya. It supports the idea of holding general, inclusive and credible, free and transparent elections as soon as possible, while considering that it is essential to create a context of appeasement, in particular through the organization of a reconciliation conference, so that elections do cause further violence.

For the Republic of the Congo, realising the objectives of peace and development requires greater integration of women and young people in the processes of decisions and actions aimed at the eradication of poverty [...]. Our firm belief is that we cannot hope to build societies that are more just, more prosperous [...], as long as women who constitute half of humanity, and as long as the youth who are constructing tomorrow's world [...] are prevented from enjoying their rights.

That is why my country has never spared any effort to implement its international commitments, in particular by building confidence and by giving a positive precedence to these two categories of the population.

This year, by adopting its National Development Plan "PND 2018-2022" - the Government of my country has intended to put forward three major strategic pillars that include particularly women and young people, namely: in-depth training, the governance and diversification of the economy, with special emphasis on agriculture, livestock and fish farming.

Country: Grenada

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/grenada>

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Peter David, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Grenada

Theme: None

No relevant references

Country: Federal Republic of Somalia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/somalia>

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ahmed Awad Isse, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Theme: Participation

“While we-together with our partners- militarily take out and dismantle all terrorists hideouts, we are also engaging our religious leaders, elders, the youth, women and civil society groups to turn the tide against the twisted ideology of hate and religious intolerance. The silver lining is, young men and women are NOT joining Alshabab out of a desirable appeal. That ideology is no longer popular; Alshabab and Alqaeda DO NOT have a ready stream of new and volunteer recruits in Somalia. NOT ANYMORE.”

“It is also important to note that some within their ranks- mostly the young men and women- have headed our amnesty offer, denounced violence and peacefully surrendered.”

Country: Burkina Faso

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/burkina-faso>

Date: 29 September 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alpha Barry, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burkina Faso

Themes: Participation, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding, Implementation

The Special Program for the Creation of Jobs for Young People and Women (PSCE / IF) aims to promote access to jobs and the acquisition of vocational skills by young people and women, with a view to opening up opportunities for them and to ensure sustainable integration into the labor market. In addition, the Integrated Women's Empowerment Program aims to strengthen their productive capacities and their participation in Burkina Faso's economic and social development by 2020.

The consolidation and maintenance of peace is a primary responsibility of national governments, which must determine the necessary priorities and strategies by involving all groups of society. In order to consolidate peace, the root causes of conflict - poverty, exclusion, discrimination, the effects of climate change - must be addressed.

With regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to be of great concern, Burkina Faso remains convinced that its solution can only be a political, peaceful just and equitable one based on the existence of two States, living side by side, within safe and recognized borders.

Country: Holy See

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/holy-see>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Speaker: H.E. Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary of relations with States of the Holy See

Themes: Participation

“The Universal Declaration affirms the equal rights of men and women as flowing from their inherent dignity and worth. It is therefore necessary to adopt all measures to promote equality in rights and full and equal participation of women and men in society.”

“Beyond their professional competence and technical knowledge, women have, indeed, shown a special capacity for recognizing, affirming, nurturing and defending the inherent dignity of others, and to contribute greatly in the efforts to promote a peaceful, respectful and harmonious world. As Pope Francis affirms it: women look at life through their own eyes and men are not able to look at life in this way. The way of viewing a problem, of seeing anything, is different for a woman compared to a man. They must be complementary. The true progress in humanity that is dramatically needed in our challenged world, will also depend on the full participation of women on an equal and same footing with men, in the civil, political, social, economic or cultural fields. We note with great concern that women’s indispensable role is often undervalued and can even be a vehicle for the exploitation and violation of their dignity and fundamental rights. Still today, women face a variety of challenges and difficulties in various parts of the world. They experience discrimination in the workplace; they are often forced to choose between work and family; they disproportionately suffer in conflict situations. In poor and developing countries, women bear the heaviest burdens: it is they who travel many miles in search of water, who too often do not have access even to the most basic medical assistance that they need in childbirth, who are kidnapped for sexual exploitation or forced into marriage. At times, they are even denied the right to life simply for being female.”

“The authentic advancement of women entails, rather, absolute respect for their inherent dignity, while acknowledging their critical roles not only in the various spheres of society, but also in the family, as equal participants in marriage as spouses. It is therefore contradictory to seek to promote women's empowerment while suppressing their unique natural potentialities in the name of some particular interests or those of an ideological agenda. It is also incoherent when women's irreplaceable contribution to society through motherhood is stigmatized as an obstacle to their advancement and empowerment, instead of being acknowledged, supported and accompanied with measures aimed at alleviating the difficulties that they may encounter. The Holy See wishes to avail itself of this occasion to express grateful appreciation for all those women who, sometimes heroically, have raised and educated generations of responsible daughters and sons. The world owes them gratitude and esteem, support and solidarity.”

“In the Middle East, the multifaceted political and diplomatic pressures and violence, together with the various humanitarian situations, especially in Syria, must be adequately and urgently addressed by the international community. Furthermore, all interested parties must also demonstrate a unified will to strive for an end to violence and reach “a solution which can enable Palestinians and Israelis alike to live at last in peace within clearly established and internationally recognized borders, thus implementing the two state solution. There is a need to promote a genuine public awareness of certain ongoing situations of conflict with a view to reaching a negotiated and peaceful solution, especially in Ukraine, Libya and the Central African Republic, among others. The Holy See considers the recent political developments in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as between Ethiopia and Eritrea, as positive signs toward building peaceful and democratic societies based on the firm hope that agreements reached will be mutually respected.”

Country: Republic of Nicaragua
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/nicaragua>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Speaker: H.E Mr. Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua

Theme: Human Rights

"Nicaragua advocates for the conformation of the Two States, the State of Israel and the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, according to the 1967 borders, living in Peace and Harmony.”

"In the region, Nicaragua has a high recognition as a factor of regional stability, peace and security with important positive indicators in economic, political, social development, poverty reduction, gender equity and citizen security, being a barrier against international organized crime, Maras and Gangs, terrorism and narcoactivity, all state policies that we continue to develop."

Country: Canada
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/Canada>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard Chair of the Delegation of Canada

Themes: Participation, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

"Canada is spearheading the Elsie Initiative – a practical plan to act on our shared promise to double the number of women in peacekeeping operations. We set that as a goal, first and foremost, because of our shared belief in the fundamental equal rights of women.”

"We also know that having women in the ranks – and in charge –makes peacekeeping more effective and its results more durable.”

"As is the case everywhere, Canada's actions in Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela are guided by an unequivocal commitment to protecting and promoting human rights."

"If elected [to the Security Council], we will work with others to tackle climate change and violent extremism, and to promote economic security and the empowerment of women and girls."

Country: Republic of Sudan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/sudan>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Eldirdiri Mohamed Ahmed, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan

Theme: None

Sudan stresses its position vis-a-vis the Palestinian question- we condemn any form of aggression. We support the Arab Peace Initiative and the 1967 line, with the in East Jerusalem as its capital and the withdrawal of all occupied territories.

We are anxious to ensure the territorial integrity of Syria and we support all efforts made so we can surmount the crisis in Syria, which is turning more complex day after day.

We have long had a principled position supporting the people of Libya, striving with the international community to bringing peace and stability in Libya.

Country: Republic of Gabon

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/gabon>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Michel Xavier Biang, Chair of the Delegation of the Republic of Gabon

Theme: General WPS

The peoples of the world, young people and women in particular, are calling on us to accelerate the pace of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The goal is to move from a rent-based economy to a sustainable and diversified production model in order to return to sustained economic growth and promote, inter alia, youth employment, the fight against social inequality, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Country: Republic of Benin

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/benin>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude Felix Do Rego, Chair of the Delegation of the Republic of Benin

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Benin strongly supports the United Nations policy of zero tolerance in combating sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of peacekeeping operations and, as a contributor to these operations, is committed to play its full role in this respect.

I reaffirm Benin's support for the United Nations efforts to create a viable Palestinian State with full international sovereignty, living side by side and in full agreement with the State of Israel.

Country: Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/timor-leste>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Maria Helena Pires, Chair of the Delegation from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Theme: Human Rights

“Taking in to account that this is only the fourth time in the history of this organization that a woman leads this important body, I believe that the President will also be an important role model for women and girls worldwide. Madam President, I would like to assure you that you can count on Timor-Leste's support.”

“The continuing war in Syria is a tragedy that has been causing irreparable human damage and terrible suffering for the people living in that region. Timor-Leste urges that the international community develops all efforts to put an end to this war and to end the deaths and the destruction of this country.”

Country: Maldives
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/maldives>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ali Nasser Mohamed, Chair of the Delegation from Maldives

Theme: None

No relevant references

Speaker: President of General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/president-general-assembly-closing>)

Date: 1 October 2018

Theme: Human Rights

Quite rightly, they called for achieve gender equality as a once and for all condition for sustainable development and peace.