

**29th session of the Human Rights Council  
Item 8 – General Debate**

**Cross-regional statement on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSC resolution 1325**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, the Philippines, the State of Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe. (83)

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the adoption of UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security - a landmark resolution which focuses on the disproportionate impact of conflict on women, and stresses the importance of women's full and equal participation as active agents in conflict prevention, resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building . We deeply regret that 15 years on, the goals of the resolution are yet to be achieved, and violations and abuses of the human rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations wide-spread.

We are furthermore concerned about the increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse facing women and girls in conflict, including the practice of child, early and forced marriage, the displacement of women and girls, and sexual violence in conflict. Whether committed by States' forces or members of peacekeeping missions, sexual violence and exploitation are always unacceptable and we condemn it in the strongest terms. This is also true in relation to non-state armed groups. We recall the duty of all actors to respect international humanitarian law and human rights and call for the full application of the UN's zero tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping and peace-building efforts.

Mr. President,

The empowerment of women and girls and the achievement of gender equality are critical for maintaining international peace and security and advancing human rights. Concerted leadership for gender equality and gender mainstreaming at all levels of decision-making are required, including in peace-building and recovery processes and sectors, and as part of post-conflict governance and state-building efforts. Lasting peace and security will not be achieved without women's full and equal participation in all processes.

We welcome regional efforts and the work of the UN human rights mechanisms in this regard, in particular that of the Commission on the Status of Women, and of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, including through its General Recommendation no. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations.

We call on all States to fully comply with their obligations to promote, protect and fulfil the human rights of women and girls and to ensure effective remedies for any violations of these rights, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Furthermore, we wish to acknowledge the important contribution of civil society, including women's organizations and women human rights defenders, to promoting and protecting human rights during and after armed conflict, and to the ongoing development of the international framework on women, peace and security.

With respect to the latter, we look forward to the results of the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325, and to the outcome of the 2015 High Level Review. We urge States, regional organization and UN entities taking part in the review to work towards concrete and ambitious commitments and to redouble efforts to implement, effectively and expeditiously, the provisions of resolution 1325, including by adopting and fully implementing - in close collaboration with civil society - national action plans.

Thank you.