

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 24 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that Mozambique, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of March 2023, will hold a ministerial open debate on the theme “Women and peace and security: towards the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#)”, on 7 March 2023, at 10 a.m. Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dlhovo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, will chair.

In order to guide the discussions, Mozambique has prepared the concept note attached to the present letter (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pedro **Comissário**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Women and peace and security: towards the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000)”, 7 March 2023

I. Introduction

In March 2023, Mozambique will assume the presidency of the Security Council and will organize an open debate on the theme “Women and peace and security: towards the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000)”.

The open debate will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dlhovo.

The initiative of holding this open debate is justified by the fact that women continue to be, to this day, the segment of society most affected by armed conflicts around the world. Their rights continue to be seriously violated and they continue to be marginalized and excluded from decision-making in matters of peace and security, in spite of several Security Council resolutions adopted to address this situation and a growing body of research on women’s contribution to conflict prevention.

On the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the international community recommitted to implementing these resolutions and accelerating the pace of progress. Since then, on some key indicators, we are sliding backwards.

On the eve of International Women’s Day, and at the midpoint between the twentieth and the twenty-fifth anniversaries, we are convening an open debate in the Security Council to raise these issues once again and encourage Member States to step up their efforts.

II. Background

The Security Council has adopted 10 resolutions on women and peace and security, starting with resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2000. Before that, several resolutions already referred to the impact of conflict on women and girls, but resolution 1325 (2000) also affirmed the importance of women’s participation.

- In Security Council resolution 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, parties to armed conflicts were urged to take special measures to protect children, particularly girls, from rape and other forms of sexual abuse and violence based on gender in situations of armed conflict.
- Resolution 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999 highlighted the importance of including in the mandates of peace operations (peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding) protection and special assistance to groups that require particular attention, including women and children. In the resolution, the Security Council expressed concern about the suffering of civilians during armed conflicts, in the face of acts of violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups.
- Resolution 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 reaffirmed the concern about the harmful and generalized impact of armed conflicts on civilians, particularly women and children, reinforcing resolution 1265 (1999). Also under resolution

1296 (2000), parties to the conflict must make arrangements for the protection of and assistance to women, children and other vulnerable groups.

- In resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, States and parties to armed conflicts were urged to provide protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced people, the vast majority of whom were women and children. Most importantly, resolution 1325 (2000) affirmed the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peacebuilding and governance.

Since then, the Security Council has adopted nine more resolutions and has held more than two dozen meetings on this thematic agenda.

- In resolution 1820 (2008), sexual violence was recognized as a tactic of war and a matter of international peace and security.
- Resolution 1888 (2009) established a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and team of experts on the rule of law to address conflict-related sexual violence, and called for the deployment of women protection advisers.
- Resolution 1889 (2009) called attention to the importance of women's roles in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery and stressed the need for indicators to monitor the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).
- Resolution 1960 (2010) established a monitoring and reporting mechanism on conflict-related sexual violence.
- Resolution 2106 (2013) stressed accountability for perpetrators of conflict-related violence.
- Resolution 2122 (2013) positioned gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to international peace and security and called for consistent application of women and peace and security commitments across the Security Council's work.
- Resolution 2242 (2015) called for improved working methods in the Security Council and the establishment of an informal expert group on women and peace and security and focused on greater integration of women and peace and security in counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism.
- Resolution 2467 (2019) stressed the need for a survivor-centred approach in preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence and called for attention and support to children born of rape.
- Finally, resolution 2493 (2019) called for the full implementation of all previous resolutions and called for support and protection to women's civil society organizations. In the resolution, the United Nations was requested to develop context-specific approaches for women's participation in all United Nations-supported peace processes.

In addition to these, 60–70 per cent of all Security Council resolutions in the last five years have included language related to women and peace and security.

In spite of that, women are still routinely underrepresented, if not altogether excluded, from peace processes and political dialogues. Women's organizations and activists report increasing restrictions on their work, sexual violence continues to be used by conflict parties in violation of international humanitarian law, and a gender perspective is still neglected in conflict prevention, recovery and reconstruction. Last year, the annual report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security

signalled that progress had stalled, and in some cases regressed, across several areas of the women and peace and security agenda.

III. Objectives

The open debate will provide an opportunity to take stock of implementation efforts since the twentieth anniversary, reaffirm the importance of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and set goals in preparation for its twenty-fifth year, in 2025, particularly with regard to the implementation of some of its core commitments, namely:

- The full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes and decision-making in conflict situations and the systematic use of a gender perspective in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements
- Efforts to streamline gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations and advance women and peace and security in line with the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping agenda
- Respect for international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls by parties to armed conflict, including special measures to support survivors and end impunity
- Efforts to ensure that Security Council missions, deliberations and decisions take account of gender issues and women's rights, including consultation with local and international women's groups

More than two decades after the adoption of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), the presidency of Mozambique for the month of March will promote an opportunity to analyse the degree of compliance with it, with a view to reinforcing Security Council engagement in actions for the protection of women during armed conflicts, as well as their participation and inclusion in decision-making and leadership processes in the promotion of international peace and security.

IV. Guiding questions

- What goals have you set for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda by the twenty-fifth anniversary, and what flagship initiatives have you planned for the lead-up to it?
- How do you assess the current impact of armed conflict on women and girls and of women's participation and involvement in decision-making processes on conflict prevention and resolution and the promotion of peace and security (including participation in peacekeeping missions)?
- How effective are our current measures to protect women and girls during armed conflicts and ensure their full participation in peace and security matters?
- What role should the Security Council play in strengthening measures to protect women and girls, as well as in promoting more effective participation of women in decision-making on the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts?
- What other practical experiences can be shared to illustrate the scope of the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#)?

V. Briefers

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger

The Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security, Bineta Diop (to be confirmed)

The Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

Writer and activist Paulina Chiziane (to be confirmed)

VI. Results

The President will prepare a Chair's summary and share it with all participants.

Member States wishing to participate in person should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires a.i., requesting to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE.

In order to guarantee the participation of as many delegations as possible, statements should not exceed three minutes.
