



Security Council

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Letter dated 3 February 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of Ireland, Kenya and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

During our respective presidencies of the Security Council in September, October and November 2021, Ireland, Kenya and Mexico joined forces to form a Presidency Trio for Women, Peace and Security. It is our honour to transmit herewith a handover and summary report from this Presidency Trio (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Geraldine Byrne Nason**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

(Signed) **Martin Kimani**
Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

(Signed) **Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez**
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 3 February 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of Ireland, Kenya and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

A Security Council Presidency Trio for Women, Peace and Security Ireland, Kenya and Mexico September, October and November 2021

Handover and summary

During our respective presidencies of the Security Council in September, October and November 2021, Ireland, Kenya and Mexico joined forces to form a Presidency Trio for Women, Peace and Security. This innovative, cross-regional initiative aimed to advance the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and to help close the persistent gap between rhetoric and reality that has hampered the realization of its full potential, especially on the ground. All three elected members committed to making women and peace and security a top priority, in concrete and tangible ways, during their presidencies, and to this end agreed a set of shared actions, the results of which we detail here.

Commitments delivered during the Trio's presidencies included a significant improvement in the gender balance among briefers invited to the Council, including both United Nations system briefers and civil society. Over the course of the three-month period, 49 per cent of briefers were women. Notably, the women briefers not only brought a gender perspective but also shared their expertise on other ongoing issues on the ground with implications for peace and security within their respective contexts. For example, during the presidency of Kenya, the civil society brifer was a woman economist who briefed the Council from an economic development perspective during the meeting on Haiti; during the presidency of Ireland a woman civil society brifer in the meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty shared her expert knowledge as a geologist and geophysicist; and during the Mexican presidency a woman civil society brifer and disarmament activist at the open debate on the impact of the diversion and trafficking of arms on peace and security drew the attention of the Council to the need for more effective arms control for small arms and light weapons.

In particular, the Trio committed to a strong representation of diverse women civil society briefers in Council meetings. Across the three presidencies, 35 women civil society briefers participated in Council meetings, including a record-breaking 16 during the presidency of Ireland. These 35 women represented 49 per cent of all the women non-governmental organization and civil society briefers to brief the Council in 2021, representing the greatest number of civil society briefers ever invited by the Council in a single year, and an increase of 26 per cent on 2020. In the case of Mexico, all the civil society briefers invited during its presidency were women. The presidency of Kenya included for the first time in the Council's history an indigenous woman brifer from Colombia. The contributions of these women peacebuilders and human rights defenders added value and brought new perspectives to the conversation at the Security Council.

The members of the Trio encouraged United Nations briefers that they invited to the Council to include substantive gender analysis in their briefings. They also committed to integrating strong gender language in Security Council products that they drafted. The results can be seen for instance in resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#) on peacekeeping transitions, and in presidential statements on the United Nations-

African Union partnership (S/PRST/2021/21) and on exclusion and inequality (S/PRST/2021/22).

The signature presidency events of the Trio members incorporated substantive gender perspectives, including the open debate on climate and security in September; the open debate on “Diversity, State-building and the search for peace” in October; and the open debate on “Exclusion, inequality and conflict” in November. In general, throughout their Presidencies, the Trio members brought to the deliberations of the Council a broader perspective for inclusive peace and security, seeking to address longstanding drivers of instability and inequality that can lead to conflict and that disproportionately affect women and girls. In this regard, they strongly advocated for the meaningful participation of traditionally marginalized groups to deliver durable solutions to immediate and long-term challenges.

A high point of the three months was the hosting by the presidency of Kenya of the annual open debate on women and peace and security at the ministerial level. This debate was particularly significant because it was the first in-person open debate held by the Council since the onset of the pandemic that also opened up to the broader United Nations membership. The open debate also integrated and launched the travelling part of the world-renowned Photoville exhibition, “In their hands: women taking ownership of peace”, which will be exhibited in several peace operation mission settings in Africa.

In line with the goal of advancing women and peace and security on the ground in country-specific contexts, in September, the presidency of Ireland included a dedicated meeting on women, peace and security in Somalia, featuring a briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, following her visit to the country focused on women’s participation in elections.

Other key initiatives included the emphasis by Mexico on women and peace and security in the annual briefing on the police components of peacekeeping missions, featuring two women police commissioners. After the meeting, the permanent representatives of Ireland, Kenya and Mexico held a women and peace and security-focused press stakeout, as part of the Trio’s commitment to heighten the visibility and prominence of women and peace and security discussions at the Council. In addition, all Trio members highlighted the women and peace and security elements of their presidencies in their end-of-presidency wrap-up sessions.

At the outset of the Trio period, Ireland hosted a breakfast meeting for permanent representatives of Security Council members to review the contribution made by the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security in the five years of its operation.

Ireland, Kenya and Mexico used their shared platform to continue to call on the United Nations to lead by example in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes that it leads or co-leads, including in their meeting with the Secretary-General, António Guterres, to brief him on the Trio initiative.

Ireland, Kenya and Mexico are heartened and encouraged that four subsequent Security Council presidencies (the Niger, Norway, United Arab Emirates and Albania) have come together to build on and continue the women and peace and security presidency initiative. We congratulate them and look forward to working together with them and all Council members to embed these new, gender-transformative ways of working at the Security Council.

Drawing on our experience, we recommend to future Security Council presidencies to adopt the following six best practice principles on women and peace and security:

- (1) Pursue gender parity across briefers in each presidency month.
- (2) Invite women briefers to share their expertise on peace and security, including, but not confined to, the gender perspective.
- (3) Ensure strong representation of diverse women civil society briefers, taking care to ensure their safe participation and to prevent, mitigate and address reprisals, and commit to meaningfully advancing their recommendations.
- (4) Continue to advance substantive mainstreaming of women and peace and security across country-specific and thematic agenda items by integrating substantive women and peace and security language in Council products, encouraging the inclusion of gender analysis in briefings by United Nations entities and incorporating a gender perspective in signature events.
- (5) Continue the practice of hosting periodic geographic and thematic meetings focused on women and peace and security.
- (6) Identify opportunities to highlight the women and peace and security aspects of Security Council discussion in public diplomacy and engagement with the press, including through women and peace and security-focused stakeouts and emphasizing women and peace and security in presidency press conferences and wrap-up sessions.

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**
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