

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
15 October 2020

Original: English

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**Letter dated 14 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of October 2020, I have the honour to transmit herewith the concept note for the Security Council open debate (videoconference) entitled “Women and peace and security: twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) – focusing on better implementation” (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**



**Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Concept note for the open debate (videoconference) entitled “Women and peace and security: twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) – focusing on better implementation”, to be held on 29 October 2020**

**1. Objective**

During its presidency of the Security Council in October 2020, the Russian Federation will convene an open debate (videoconference) on women and peace and security to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the first Security Council resolution on this topic, resolution 1325 (2000), and to consider future steps to better implement the women and peace and security agenda.

The event will provide a platform for Member States to share their contributions to, and experience and best practices on, fulfilling the women and peace and security agenda. It will also provide an opportunity to consider how Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations can continue to promote the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and address the challenges that still persist or that have emerged in the 20 years since its adoption.

**2. Background**

Twenty-five years ago at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, Member States adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which inter alia framed the topic of women and armed conflict as one of the 12 critical areas of concern, and agreed to take strategic action on it among others. Five years later, in 2000, the Security Council adopted the landmark resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, which focused on the impact of armed conflict on women and their role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, as well as on the specific needs of women in peace processes, conflict prevention and resolution.

Over the past 20 years the Security Council has kept the women and peace and security topic high on its agenda, holding annual open debates and developing the respective normative basis. During this period of time nine resolutions were adopted on this topic: 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019) and 2493 (2019).

Even though there has been obvious progress in the participation of women in peace processes and addressing their specific needs in armed conflicts at the global, regional and national levels, as well as the increase in the number of women who are involved in peace talks and in training security sector personnel on the prevention and response to sexual and other forms of violence against women, there is a need for further concerted efforts and far greater implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in countries affected by conflict.

Women still do not have the same opportunities as men to participate and contribute at all stages of peace processes, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Very often while chasing quotas and balanced representation in order to report on progress, parties to armed conflict neglect the need to ensure meaningful participation of women in all processes, when they can contribute by being vocal instead of just present. A practice to include provisions that relate to the specific needs of women and girls should be further advanced.

### 3. Speakers and outcome

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, will deliver a statement at the beginning of the event, followed by briefings from the following speakers:

- (a) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka;
- (b) Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Danai Gurira;
- (c) Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Adviser, United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, Nataliia Emelianova;
- (d) Executive Director of the Women and Children Legal Research Foundation, Zarqa Yaftali.

We encourage members of the Security Council to deliver concise but strong and focused statements, reflecting the main achievements and existing challenges in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

Member States that are not members of the Security Council and observer States are invited to submit written statements of approximately 500 words to the Security Council Affairs Division ([dppa-scsb3@un.org](mailto:dppa-scsb3@un.org)) by close of business on 29 October, to be included in a compilation document.

An outcome document of the open debate is expected.

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