

WILPF ANALYSIS



Index of Statements made during the General
Debate of the 72nd Session of the General
Assembly (19-25 September 2017)

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM



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INTRODUCTION

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 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA72) from the Feminist Peace perspective based on transforming gendered power, stigmatising war and violence and strengthening political economies of peace. It includes all references to [specific WILPF PeaceWomen themes](#), women's rights and experiences, as well as references to conflict prevention, reform of the multilateral system and sustainable peace. It also provides a gender-specific assessment of the references to specific country situations and determines the number of female speakers.

OVERVIEW

During the General Debate, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, President of the UNGA72 Miroslav Lajcak, country representatives from 193 Member States, and three observer delegations put forth their concerns, positions and priorities under the theme, "[Focusing on people — striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet](#)". For the first time in 11 years, all UN Member States and observers addressed the UN General Assembly during the General Debate.

The participants delivered speeches outlining their visions for sustainable development and international cooperation, including around issues of peace and security. Many voiced their support for the Secretary-General's proposal prioritising sustainable peace and conflict prevention and discussed possibilities of other reforms within the UN system for strengthening its capacity to prevent and respond to conflicts. Other recurring themes in their statements include support for UN peacekeeping and respect for human rights and gender equality. The participants also highlighted their concerns about the potential of the use of nuclear weapons by the Democratic Republic of Korea, the protracted crises in Syria, Yemen, Libya and elsewhere, the spread of terrorism across the globe and the increase in the number of people affected by conflict and crisis.

On the margins of the General Debate, various initiatives and strategies were introduced, including as part of the Secretary-General's Reform Agenda that puts a renewed emphasis on conflict prevention. New strategies on [gender parity](#) and [conflict prevention](#) were launched in line with the Agenda outlined by the Secretary-General when he was elected in October 2016. The Secretary-

General also introduced a new position within the UN system, [Victims' Rights Advocate](#), which will be filled by Jane Connors. Her role is to strengthen the support that the UN provides to victims of SEA through adequate protection, appropriate assistance and reliable recourse to justice.

Several actions to ensure strengthening of women's role in peace processes have been introduced. First, the Italian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Benedetto Della Vedova, announced the launch of [Mediterranean Women Mediators Networks](#), one avenue of supporting meaningful participation and an example of gendered conflict early-warning systems. The second meeting of the [Focal Points Network on WPS](#) provided an opportunity for Member States to strengthen their commitment to WPS Agenda and to leverage this space to consolidate different perspective on the best practices to enhance women's participation in peace and security, particularly in the security sector.

Many discussions around the General Assembly supported the role of women in the military and security fields. For instance, Ireland stated that they are committed "to doubling the number of women in our Defence Forces, with the aim also of increasing female participation in peacekeeping." The [Focal Point Network](#) meeting also demonstrated a worrying shift from women's participation for peace to women's participation in the defense sector. Notably, this recurring theme highlights the necessity of applying the Feminist Peace framework while designing practices for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. However, including women in the security sector does not address the root causes of conflict embedded in the existing patriarchal institutions such as the military and the police force.

At the beginning of the two-day High-Level Meeting on on the Appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Member States adopted with a majority the "[Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons](#)". In the meeting, the gender dimension of trafficking was addressed through the discussion on the needs and rights of women. However, the meeting did not address demilitarisation and disarmament as a tool to prevent trafficking. Such approach that will challenge and deconstruct patriarchal institutions rather than include women in them will contribute to achieving sustainable peace. In fact, Feminist and Sustainable Peace will remain only a vision as long as the UN, a guarantor of peace and stability in the world, is unable to challenge patriarchal attitudes that often accompany violent conflict.

However, some progress on challenging patriarchal and militarised discourse was made. During the debates' week, [the world's first legally-binding treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons](#) was signed. 122 countries approved the treaty in July despite opposition from nuclear-armed countries and their allies such as France, the UK and the United States. 42 states signed the Nuclear Ban Treaty during the opening ceremony; the number of Member States that have signed it continues to grow. Three states have also ratified the Treaty: Guayana, Holy See and Thailand. There is a direct linkage between violent masculinities, [gender-based violence and the spread of these weapons](#). Reaching a Sustainable and Feminist Peace requires flipping the power relations of the world, currently based on the role of nuclear-power countries, and eliminating various weapon systems, including nuclear weapons.

During the UNGA72 General Debate, several meetings on the situation in Libya, Yemen, Syria and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region took place. On Syria, for example, the meeting hosted by the European Union discussed the humanitarian assistance and resilience and stabilisation efforts in the country, as well as support to neighbouring countries. The Secretary-

General and the World Bank also held a high-level meeting on the risk of famine in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria to discuss what can be done to prevent and respond to these impending famines. The newly appointed Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya, Ghassan Salamé, also presented his vision on the future of Libya, expressing his commitment to work closely with all Libyans on facilitating a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process. However, all these meetings lacked any attention to the experiences and knowledge of local women that are necessary to identify, design and implement practical strategies to overcome the challenges facing these countries and to achieve Sustainable and Feminist Peace.

GENDER ANALYSIS

While the main pillars of Feminist Peace include transforming gendered power, stigmatising war and violence and strengthening political economies of peace, there is a general lack of willingness on behalf of the Member States to act on them.

Out of a total of 198 statements, 128 statements (64.64 percent) contained specific and general references to women and gender. Many of these were generalised and focused on the importance of women's empowerment and gender equality rather than specific actions necessary to ensure gender equality, women's meaningful participation and respect for their rights. A recognition of the importance of women's meaningful participation for conflict prevention and Feminist Peace was missing. Only 26 statements (13.13 percent) addressed women's participation. Only 50 speakers (25.25 percent) provided more specific and policy-oriented statements. In this regard, the representative of Latvia stated, "In strengthening the capacities of our partner countries, we prioritise good governance and public sector reforms, combating corruption, and fostering inclusive economic growth, including by empowering women."

Similarly to last year, an in-depth discussion on the implementation of the WPS Agenda and Feminist Peace was missing (2.02 percent). Even though some countries, including Sweden, Finland and Iceland, have highlighted the necessity of including women in peace processes, their voices were in the minority. For instance, the representative of Iceland stated, "Iceland knows first-hand the massive potential resting in gender equality [...] and [will] continue to promote women's participation in the peace and security agenda." The speakers did not give sufficient attention to the principles of Feminist Peace embedded in the WPS Agenda. Only Sweden introduced feminist foreign policy as "an agenda for change aimed at increasing rights, representation and resources for all women and girls, based on the reality of their lives."

Transforming gendered power through the strengthening of meaningful participation of local women was also not sufficiently addressed. The participation of civil society in conflict prevention and the peace process was barely addressed and when it was mentioned, it did not talk about women civil society groups. The representative of Ireland stated, "African countries are particularly affected by global challenges [...], which can only be addressed in their African contexts in a spirit of effective global partnership. Such partnership requires understanding local perspectives anchored in local experience, in particular on how to tackle root causes." Women's meaningful participation is about having women engage from their experience to address root causes of conflict and violence and promote mobilisation and policy change for peace and gender justice.

The discussions on stigmatising war and violence by adopting demilitarisation and disarmament policies were marginal during the debates, with only 30 speakers (15.15 percent), including Brazil, Nigeria, Liberia and France, making references to the need for disarmament for peace. Gabon noted that "it is desirable to leverage the embargo on weapons [...] in order to restore security and

authority across [the DRC].” However, the discussion on disarmament lacked an analysis of the effect of militarism and the spread of weapons on gender violence.

Even though the importance of conflict prevention in the UN-led activities is currently growing, only 49 countries (24.75 percent) made references to conflict prevention. Switzerland, for example, reiterated that “the cost of a conflict is a multiple of what it costs to prevent one.” Countries like Finland and Ireland therefore touched on the importance of allocating adequate financial resources for conflict prevention. For instance, the representative of Ireland noted, “We all know that conflict prevention has the potential to save lives [...]. Of course, conflict prevention involves policy planning and engagement on the ground, all of which requires funding.” Other countries, including Jamaica and Angola, recognised extra-territorial obligations of Member States when it comes financing the implementation of SDGs. In this regard, the representative of Angola contended, “The economic and financial difficulties affecting most countries have had a negative impact on the mobilisation of financial resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially among the poorest, most vulnerable and with limited internal resources.” However, there is still a long way to realise the importance of conflict prevention from the lens of non-violence and disarmament as opposed to assessing it within the current militarised frameworks.

ANALYSIS OF FOCUS COUNTRIES

Many Member States acknowledged the devastating impact of conflict on people across the globe. The majority of countries referenced the situations in the MENA region and Africa, as well as the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and Nigeria, reiterating the prevalence of local-driven political solutions. The representative of Ghana called on the international community to support, not undermine, the efforts of regional and continental organisations in resolving the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The representative of Egypt similarly stated that “there would be no salvation for Syria except through a consensual political solution amongst all Syrians at the core of which is the preservation of the unity of the Syrian state, the maintenance of its institutions and the broadening of their political and social base.” The importance of disarmament for peace was also highlighted during the General Debate. The representative of Gabon touched on the need to “leverage the embargo on weapons, exclusively for the legal and legitimate government of the DRC, in order to restore security and authority across for the nation.” 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 peace agreement in Colombia was spotlighted in the statements as a “good practice” of peacebuilding and reconstruction work. The representative of Bolivia highlighted specifically the role that disarmament has played in conflict resolution. “By means of votes and awareness amongst peoples, it is possible to bring people together, not with bullets,” he stated. However, the role of women in this process seems to be fading. Only the representative of Norway highlighted that women's participation in the Colombian peace process contributed to the increased chances of sustainable peace. But the President of Colombia failed to mention gender perspective of the peace agreement, while the representative of Bosnia praised women for their contribution in Bosnia's post-conflict transition.

Female Speakers at the Podium

The number of female speakers has not significantly changed since last year. Regrettably, only 19 female leaders (9.6 percent) spoke at the General Debate compared to 18 last year. These speakers represented the following countries: the United Kingdom, Chile, Liechtenstein, Bangladesh, Lithuania, Liberia, Estonia, Argentina, Denmark, Australia, Kenya, Barbados, Sweden, India, Suri-

name, Jamaica, Turkmenistan, Timor-Leste, and Nicaragua. Of these speakers, only 4 (from Lithuania, India, Turkmenistan, and Nicaragua) did not mention women or gender at all, whereas 11 of them (from Liberia, Estonia, the United Kingdom, Chile, Bangladesh, Denmark, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Sweden, Jamaica, and Timor-Leste), specifically referenced women. The remaining four (4) speakers used only general references to gender equality and women’s rights.

HIGHLIGHTS

There are several statements that highlighted elements of Feminist Peace during the General Debate. These statements reflected on the need to strengthen equality, justice, demilitarised security and move from conflict response to conflict prevention through nonviolent inclusive social transformation.

The importance of transforming gendered power by increasing women’s participation for peace was highlighted in Sweden’s statement. H.E. Ms. Margot Wallström, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, stated, “Lasting peace requires the involvement of the entire population, meaning that the full, equal, and effective participation of women must be hardwired into all of our efforts towards sustaining peace.” “Sweden is working tirelessly to put the Women, Peace and Security agenda into action in all aspects of the Council’s work, from including gender reporting in mission mandates to adding listing criterion for sexual and gender-based violence in sanctions regimes”, she added. It is important to continue moving the leadership of Sweden on strengthening action on WPS and women’s meaningful participation, including in the UNSC.

Several statements were delivered in support of investing and strengthening the economies of peace by promoting demilitarisation and disarmament. Mr. Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe stated, “Yet, by some strange logic, we expect to reap peace when we invest and expend so much, in treasure and technology, in war... Those mega investments in ever more lethal weapons and more sophisticated war machinery have not resulted in greater peace or security”. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, addressed the increase of military expenditure instead of investing in eradicating poverty. He stated, “Military expenditures have increased to 1.7 trillion dollars. This reality belies those who claim that there are not enough resources to eradicate poverty.” The representative of the Solomon Islands, Manasseh Damukana Sogavare, said that violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights worldwide, including in his country. He also pointed out that violence against is an obstacle against achieving economic and social gender equality. Over time, Member States come to realise that militarism only enables the legitimisation and continuation of violence and that a change in thinking about priorities is necessary for sustainable and feminist peace.

GENDA INDEX: TYPE OF REFERENCE BY COUNTRY

<i>No References to WPS</i>	<i>General References</i>	<i>Specific References</i>
The United States	Guinea	Brazil
Slovakia	Zambia	Nigeria
The Czech Republic	Qatar	France
Lithuania	Mali	Liberia
Israel	Egypt	Colombia

Poland	Armenia	Turkey
Uzbekistan	Afghanistan	Monaco
Uganda	Mauritania	Costa Rica
Guatemala	Austria	Estonia
Gambia	Sri Lanka	Tajikistan
Honduras	Bolivia	Malawi
Switzerland	Latvia	Montenegro
Fiji	Namibia	Paraguay
Nauru	Portugal	Bosnia
Kuwait	Guyana	Finland
Myanmar	The Republic of Congo	Bulgaria
Romania	Madagascar	Rwanda
Netherlands	Argentina	Italy
Panama	Azerbaijan	Japan
Palestine	Côte d'ivoire	Chile
Iran	Senegal	Ecuador
Morocco	Cyprus	Kyrgyzstan
Swaziland	Burkina Faso	The United Kingdom
Libya	Botswana	Haiti
South Africa	Comoros	South Korea
Dominican Republic	Jordan	Gabon
Ukraine	Tuvalu	Canada
Ghana	Georgia	Samoa
Germany	Luxembourg	Croatia
Yemen	Togo	Slovenia
El Salvador	Seychelles	Mexico
Serbia	Central African Republic	Equatorial Guinea
Russia	Bhutan	Indonesia

Zimbabwe	Tunisia	Sao Tome and Principe
Antigua and Barbuda	Thailand	Spain
Pakistan	Andorra	Australia
Mauritius	Belize	Bangladesh
Lebanon	Barbados	Iceland
Palau	Brunei Darussalam	Solomon Islands
Belarus	Sierra Leone	Guinea-Bissau
Kazakhstan	Uruguay	Denmark
China	Mongolia	Cameroon
Saint Lucia	Algeria	Kiribati
Vietnam	South Sudan	Moldova
Cuba	Nepal	Albania
Hungary	Bahamas	Malta
Ethiopia	Singapore	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Greece	The Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Cabo Verde
Benin	Suriname	Kenya
Malaysia	Grenada	Tonga
Belgium	Tanzania	Macedonia
The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Lesotho
Syria	Bahrain	San Marino
Dominica	Laos	Liechtenstein
India	Mozambique	Sweden
Philippines		Venezuela
Eritrea		United Arab Emirates
The Marshall Islands		Ireland
Oman		Trinidad and Tobago
Saudi Arabia		Jamaica

Micronesia		Maldives
Cambodia		Somalia
Chad		Saint Vincent and Grenadines
Burundi		Niger
Djibouti		Papua New Guinea
Sudan		Norway
Iraq		Timor Leste
Holy Sea		Finland
Angola		
New Zealand		
Peru		
Turkmenistan		
Nicaragua		

EXTRACTS FROM STATEMENTS

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/secretary-general-united-nations>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Themes: Disarmament, Peacekeeping, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“We have launched a new victims-centered approach to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.”

“We have a roadmap to achieve gender parity at the United Nations – and we are already on our way.”

“I have seen in my country, and in my years at the United Nations, that it is possible to move from war to peace, and from dictatorship to democracy. Let us push ahead with a surge in diplomacy today and a leap in conflict prevention for tomorrow.”

“We must not let today’s stagnation in the peace process [in Israel/Palestine] lead to tomorrow’s escalation. We must restore the hopes of the people. The two-state solution remains the only way forward. It must be pursued urgently.”

“Civilians [around the world] are paying the highest price, with women and girls facing systematic violence and oppression.”

Half of our world is female. Another half of our world is under 25 years old. We can not achieve the objectives of sustainable development without taking advantage of women and rely on enormous energy of young people.

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, the President of the General Assembly
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/president-general-assembly-opening>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Human Rights, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“We must remember that we have a lot of work to do when it comes to gender equality. Women's leadership and participation should be a priority in settings of both conflict and peace.”

“We have rallied in support of peace agreements, such as that seen in Colombia.”

“The Sustaining Peace resolutions should be at the top of our toolbox. They challenge us to strengthen our response to crises before they result in the outbreak or recurrence of conflict. They call for a renewed focus on prevention.”

“Prevention must [...] be better integrated into our development and human rights work. When people can live decent lives - when rights are respected - when rule of law is present in everyday life - it is harder to turn societies to conflict.”

“I see the priority clusters of 1) peace and prevention, 2) people, and 3) planet and prosperity as three sides of a triangle.”

Country: Brazil

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/brazil>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

Themes: Disarmament, Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“As a friend of Palestinians and Israelis, Brazil continues to support the solution of two States living side by side in peace and security, within internationally recognised and mutually agreed borders.”

“Despite the de-escalation of recent months, the conflict [in Syria] still engenders dramatic humanitarian consequences. The solution we must pursue is essentially political - and can no longer be postponed.”

“Other wars cause intolerable suffering that goes beyond borders, such as in Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Mali and the Central African Republic.”

“Colombia is ending a more than fifty-year-long conflict. Brazil will continue to be a resolute partner in this effort.”

“Prevention is about diplomacy. It is about development.”

Country: the United States
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/united-states-america>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

“It has just been announced that we will be spending almost \$700 billion on our military and defense.”

“We have invested in better health and opportunity all over the world through programs like PEP-FAR, which funds AIDS relief; the President's Malaria Initiative; the Global Health Security Agenda; the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery; and the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, part of our commitment to empowering women all across the globe.”

“We must protect our nations, their interests, and their futures. We must reject threats to sovereignty, from the Ukraine to the South China Sea. We must uphold respect for law, respect for borders, and respect for culture, and the peaceful engagement these allow.”

“Rather than use its resources to improve Iranian lives, [Iranian] oil profits go to fund Hezbollah and other terrorists that kill innocent Muslims and attack their peaceful Arab and Israeli neighbors. This wealth, which rightly belongs to Iran's people, also goes to shore up Bashar al-Assad's dictatorship, fuel Yemen's civil war, and undermine peace throughout the entire Middle East.”

“We seek the de-escalation of the Syrian conflict, and a political solution that honors the will of the Syrian people. The actions of the criminal regime of Bashar al-Assad, including the use of chemical weapons against his own citizens -- even innocent children -- shock the conscience of every decent person. No society can be safe if banned chemical weapons are allowed to spread. That is why the United States carried out a missile strike on the airbase that launched the attack.”

“If we do not invest ourselves, our hearts, and our minds in our nations, if we will not build strong families, safe communities, and healthy societies for ourselves, no one can do it for us.”

Country: Guinea
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/guinea>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H. E. Mr. Alpha Conde, President of Guinea

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Extract of statement:

The African Union fully supports the approach of prevention, mediation, peaceful political solutions and peacebuilding as less costly than peacekeeping operations whose efficiency is questionable.

Country: Switzerland
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/switzerland>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Ms. Doris Leuthard, President of Switzerland
Themes: Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping

Extract of statement:

“Switzerland supports the Secretary-General’s focus on prevention. The reason is clear: the cost of a conflict is a multiple of what it costs to prevent one – in humanitarian, economic and financial terms. [...] Reinforcing mediation capacities also strengthens conflict prevention.”

“Switzerland [...] supports the commitment of the Secretary-General to fight any form of sexual exploitation or abuse by UN staff in the field. As part of its commitment, Switzerland will make a contribution to the UN Trust Fund for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.”

Country: Slovakia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/slovakia>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Andrej Kiska, President of Slovakia
Themes: Disarmament, Conflict Prevention, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“Recent findings about the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime in Syria against its own citizens have to alarm all of us as much as the atrocities in Rakka, in Mosul and many other places in the world.”

“We are witnesses of short-sighted interests built on spreading instability, undermining collective efforts to secure peace and security. The very core of the UN Charter for securing peaceful coexistence among nations is crippled in the name of the selfish pursue, egoism of the so-called spheres of influence. Which is a fancy phrase too often misused only to cover violations of international order and to justify disrespect for sovereignty.”

Country: Nigeria
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/nigeria>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of Nigeria
Themes: Disarmament, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“I must [...] commend the UN's role in helping to settle thousands of innocent civilians caught in the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.”

“We are now confronted by the desperate human rights and humanitarian situations in Yemen and most tragically in the Rakhine State of Myanmar.”

“In all these crises, the primary victims are the people, the most vulnerable being women and children.”

Country: the Czech Republic
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/czech-republic>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Miloš Zeman, President of the Czech Republic

No relevant references.

Country: Liberia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/liberia>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia
Themes: Disarmament, Implementation, Participation

Extract of statement:

“There is so much more to share about Liberia's post conflict transformation, how we have empowered ordinary citizens and a shared sense of citizenship, giving women, including market and rural women a voice and the rights to be heard.”

Country: France
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/france>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France
Themes: Disarmament, Conflict Prevention, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

Multilateralism is the most effective way of dealing with international challenges, as it is the concretisation of a vision of the world that protects us from a “survival of the fittest” mindset; it is the rule of law in act.

When the Security Council fails to take decisions, we need to question the behavior of its members rather than the institution itself. In this vein, France calls other permanent members to restraint from its right of veto when atrocities are committed.

Country: Colombia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/colombia>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Juan Manuel Santos, President of Colombia
Themes: Peace Process, Implementation, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Extract of statement:

“In a few days, operations in our country will begin a second Mission authorized last week by the Council of Security, which will accompany the reintegration of guerrillas into the civilian life, and will help us to verify the safety of ex-combatants and communities that have suffered the rigor of armed conflict.”

Country: Tajikistan
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/tajikistan>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan
Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“We call for a broad and equitable representation in the UN Security Council, particularly of the developing countries.”

“The success of our joint actions to prevent and resolve conflicts, to seek for peaceful ways of crises and disputes settlement, primarily depends on how effective we use the instruments of preventive diplomacy and mediation.”

Country: Zambia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/zambia>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of Zambia
Themes: Protection, Human Rights, Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“The commitment should not be limited to preventing conflict, but should go further to seek the protection of the victims of conflict, including the displaced persons. we all need to cooperate in providing for a conducive environment for them in respect of their human rights and their social development and wellbeing.”

“My government attaches great importance to the needs and welfare of all with a particular focus on women, children and youth.”

Country: Lithuania
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/lithuania>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania

No relevant references.

Country: Qatar
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/qatar>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of Qatar

No relevant references.

Country: Turkey
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/turkey>)
Date: 19 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Turkey
Themes: Disarmament, Implementation, Peace Process

Extract of statement:

“We have launched together with Russia and Iran the Astana meetings with the participation of all conflicting parties in order to establish a permanent ceasefire and peace in Syria.”

“Turkey would be supportive of every step towards the construction of a stable and prosperous Syria, based on the territorial integrity of the country and respect for the democratic demands of its people.”

“Iraq also needs the compromises to be reached on the basis of territorial integrity and the realization of the ideals to build a common future.”

“Besides Syria and Iraq, we are also closely following the regions such as Libya and Yemen where terrorist organizations are trying to establish influence.”

“International community's support to the legitimate government in Libya shall contribute significantly to the stability of the country. It should be kept in mind that if the mistakes made in Syria and Iraq are repeated in Libya, that will expose the whole world, particularly Europe, to much greater threats.”

“We want the Security Council to have a democratic, transparent, fair and effective structure. We propose that the Security Council consist of 20 members with the same rights and competencies to serve for two years and half of which are replaced every year.”

Country: Israel

Date: 19 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

“The World Health Organization adopted a Syrian-sponsored resolution that criticized Israel for health conditions on the Golan Heights. [...] Syria has barrel bombed, starved, gassed and murdered hundreds of thousands of its own citizens and wounded millions more, while Israel has provided lifesaving medical care to thousands of Syrian victims of that very same carnage.”

“Israel is committed to achieving peace with all our Arab neighbors, including the Palestinians.”

“Iran spreads this curtain of tyranny and terror over Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and elsewhere, and it pledges to extinguish the light of Israel.”

Country: Mali

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/mali>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

Themes: Protection, Displacement and Humanitarian Response

Extract of statement:

We must all collectively find ideal solutions to the humanitarian tragedies in the Mediterranean and in the deserts, where no conscious human can be indifferent to the thousands of deaths, including those of women and children.

We are preoccupied by the situation in Libya that negatively impacts the region of Sahel, and we call together the parties impacted that are involved to research peaceful solutions to the crisis.

Mali is equally attentive to the situation occurring in the Middle East, particularly the stop of the negotiations in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Country: Monaco

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/monaco>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Prince Albert II de Monaco, President of Monaco

Themes: Protection, Disarmament, Implementation, Human Rights, Peacekeeping

We must persevere resolutely in the fight against all forms of serious violence against human dignity and, in particular, to work for the improvement of the status of women, as discrimination and violence against women remain a reality.

Monaco welcomes the Secretary-General's courageous initiative, the Voluntary Pact between the United Nations and the Member States for the elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions, humanitarian assistance missions, and during missions which are meant to promote and protect human rights and, more broadly, during any activities where the UN contributes to strengthening Sustainable Development efforts.

Country: Poland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/poland>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Disarmament, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“Talking about human-focused policy, a policy concentrated on the human need to live in peace and in decent conditions, we must think, first and foremost, about the need to defend human life.”

“We fully identify ourselves with the priority treatment given to mediation and conflict prevention, as advocated by the Secretary-General. We are assisted in this respect by our conviction that preventive measures targeting the primary sources of problems, taken in the location concerned, shall produce the best, the quickest and the most tangible results.”

“For almost ten years in Georgia, and for the third year in Ukraine, have we been witnessing obvious violation of fundamental principles of UN Charter, including the principle of inviolability of borders, respect of sovereignty, renouncing the use of military force in resolution of disputes. In our view, absolute respect of international law lays down the foundation for a stable, foreseeable and peaceful setting of relations amongst states, and through it, the assurance of sustainable growth.”

Country: Egypt

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/egypt>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

Themes: Disarmament, Implementation, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“With regards to Syria, we believe that here would be no salvation for Syria except through a consensual political solution amongst all Syrians at the core of which is the preservation of the unity of the Syrian state, the maintenance of its institutions and the broadening of their political and social base to include all factions of the Syrian society, and to decisively counter terrorism until it is defeated.”

“We believe that a political settlement is the only viable solution to the ongoing crisis in Libya”.

“The closure of [the Israeli-Palestinian conflict] through a just settlement, based on established international norms and principles, establishing an independent Palestinian state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, is a necessary precondition for the entire region transit into a new phase of stability and development.”

Country: Uzbekistan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/uzbekistan>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan

Extract of statement:

“We have declared the year 2017 as the Year of Dialogue with People and Human Interests in our country. Our goal is to strengthen the mechanisms that make the people's power in the country not nominal, but real.”

“Uzbekistan stands for its gradual reform. We believe that, in accordance with the realities of the modern world, the Security Council needs to be expanded. We support the steps taken by the new leadership of the United Nations to improve the system of its management.”

Country: Armenia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/armenia>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Serzh Sargsyan, President of Armenia

Extract of statement:

“It is with great pain that we have been following the crisis in Syria and the humanitarian situation there, which has brought about suffering of the civilian population [...]. Within its means, Armenia strives to mitigate the suffering of the Syrian people by providing humanitarian assistance. We also express our willingness to engage into possible discussions on the peacemaking efforts in Syria under the UN auspices and with an appropriate mandate.”

Country: Costa Rica

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/costa-rica>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Luis Guillermo Solis Rivera, President of Costa Rica

Themes: Disarmament, Human Rights, Participation, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“Only a multidimensional vision of development [...] will allow us to understand the needs of populations, families and their members in terms of access to healthcare, social equality, gender equality, and address [...] other challenges of developing countries.”

“Gender equality [...] remains an objective of the greatest importance for all countries. [...] Literature is extensive and political declarations are decisive by stressing the sensible democratic deficit and prejudices in terms of development derived from persistent patriarchal structures forged in former times, but remained perpetuated today because of the lack of education on rights and respect for democratic coexistence. [...] It is imperative to take concrete actions and make more women our peers fully at these important premises.

“My country [...] embraces the proposals of the International Gender Champions which aim to reverse gender inequality within the United Nations and take specific actions in this 72nd Session to call upon these gender champions in order to promote gender balance within the delegations attending the General Debate during the high-level week of the General Assembly.”

“If I were to choose a single insulting and absurd example of [...] discrimination, the one that causes me the most indignation is that the average woman's salary is 25% lower the average man's for the same job.”

“Care is also an economic activity which contribution should be reflected in the country's productivity. Men should have a shared responsibility of fulfilling this labour and private companies as well as public institutions must facilitate it.”

“[The women of the world] are powerful enough to move ahead despite the rigid and rude patriarchal heritage that tends to not acknowledge your abilities and accomplishments and that fills with doubts and dangers your road towards your full autonomy. You are an example for others: your internal strength leads you to break the chains of oppression, rise above tearing migrations and forced displacement, free entire communities for unexpected forms of slavery. [...] You are masters of resilience, since you have learned how to deal with the wrong people and painful moments. [...] Today is a good day to look ourselves in the mirror, start to create truly equal relations, and take this long night to its end.”

“Sixty nine years ago Costa Rica decided to change weapons and soldiers for notebooks and teachers. 69 years ago Costa Rica decided to believe, strengthen, and promote International Law as the civilized way to resolve their differences with others and today, 69 years later, Costa Rica continues believing in this way.”

Country: Uganda

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/uganda>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda

No relevant references.

Country: Sri Lanka

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/sri-lanka>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President

Themes: Participation, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

The world has recognized the need to ensure the rights of women. However, there are still countries and societies, where women are not treated equally. In my country, more than 52% of the population are women. New changes in our Constitution protect the rights of women. New measures include the legislation that makes it mandatory that a minimum of 25% candidates at elections should be women.

Country: Estonia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/estonia>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Participation, Human Rights, General Women, Peace and Security, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Extract of statement:

“One of the most prominent guarantees for empathic inclusive development, for democracy and the rule of law is to mainstream gender equality into all areas of life. It is proven that equitable treatment of women and men has a multiplier effect in eradicating poverty. Estonian welfare development plan for 2016-2023 covers policy areas from employment and social inclusion to equal opportunities in applying one's talent in all walks of life. Our goal is balanced participation of women and men in all levels of decision-making and management - both in public and private sectors.”

“It is important not to forget about gender balance in conflict situations either. Engagement of women already in the early stages of prevention, resolving crises, and building peace reduces the probability of relapses to violent conflict. Therefore, we need to encourage women's participation in peace processes and acknowledge them as actors of change with great potential. And we must never tire in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions on women, peace and security on every level. The adoption of the Peace Building Commission's gender strategy last year is a worthy milestone on this road.”

“For women to fully enjoy their role in the society it is crucial to eliminate gender-based violence. We should ensure that survivors are treated with dignity and that the perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes. Estonia continues to support actions addressing gender based violence and reproductive health needs of most vulnerable women and adolescent girls, for example via UNFRA in Ukraine 2017, and by supporting #SheDecides initiative.”

“There are too many states in the world which suffer from unresolved conflicts. These are states which could take care of their own population and contribute at the global scene, if we were quick-er to manage the conflicts which are holding them back or, worse, threatening to tear them apart.”

“Estonia supports the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, established in December 2016, to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.”

“We cannot overlook the escalating sufferings of the people of Yemen or ignore the fate of the Rohingya people. We need to put more effort into humanitarian action to tackle hunger, diseases and epidemics looming in the country. Our common efforts in fighting famine and hunger are also crucial in South-Sudan, Somalia and Nigeria.”

“We welcome the emphasis on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, creating societies resilient to vulnerabilities.”

Country: Guatemala

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/guatemala>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

No relevant references.

Country: Afghanistan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/afghanistan>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan

Themes: Participation, Human Rights, Protection

Extract of statement:

“If the UN is to be more relevant to countries like mine, it must deliver as One UN. But this has not yet been fulfilled. The inherited model of the UN agencies as instruments of technical assistance and capacity building should be subjected to the market test, namely value for money and sustainability of results in comparison to government, private sector and non-governmental modes of delivery. Mutual accountability is a proven mechanism of consolidation and expansion of partnerships, and trust-building.”

“We are reaching out to those who had previously been excluded from society—young people, the poor, and women. Yet these people are our nations' source of resilience.”

“Through unimaginable hardship, women kept the fabric of our communities and societies together even as they fell to shreds. Yet women were relegated to the very bottom of society. This was unacceptable and our nation suffered for it. Today, there are more Afghan women in government, in the workforce, and active in civil society than ever before in Afghan history, yet we still have far to go. At the helm, we have 6 women ambassadors, and 4 women cabinet members. Simply put, women's empowerment is crucial to our future.”

Country: Gambia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/gambia-republic>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

No relevant references.

Country: Bolivia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/bolivia-plurinational-state>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

Themes: Disarmament, Human Rights, Implementation, Displacement and Humanitarian Response

Extract of statement:

8 people are as wealthy as half of the population of the planet. Inequality is immoral.

We propose the creation of a universal citizenship. This social and migratory crisis stems from the world order with domination, with measureless greed which generates violence, promotes inequality and destroys mother earth.

We welcome the peace process in Colombia and the consolidation of the ceasefire the giving up of the arms and the integration of the FARC into political life. By means of votes and awareness amongst peoples it is possible to bring people together, not with bullets.

We condemn the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. We condemn the construction of new settlements. We condemn the military aggression against the Palestinian people. We demand that the two state solution be implemented with a Palestinian state with the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as a capital.

Country: Honduras

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/honduras>)

Date: 19 September 2017

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

No relevant references.

Country: Austria

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/austria>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria

Extract of statement:

“Conflicts that result in terrible human suffering, such as in Syria, South Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen or Libya.”

“What we need to do is destroy these radical groups militarily where they operate, such as Iraq or Syria.”

Country: Mauritania

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/mauritania>)

Date: 19 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Isselkou Ould Ahmed Izid Bih, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritania

Themes: Human Rights, Participation

Extract of statement:

Mauritania succeeded in facilitating an open political debate between the majority and the opposition, in 2011, which resulted in key legislative and legislative reparation - among many - empowering women, alleviating the principles of citizenship, the general well, and eradicating the remnants of traditional social hierarchies

The government enhanced the private sector and opened the door for the participation of women and youth, and this had a positive impact on reducing the unemployment rates among the youth, and women received significant attention in these policies by adopting affirmative action for women, to pursue more justice between the sexes. The Mauritanian woman is present in all sectors and in sectors that were previously restricted for men as well as her leadership role in societal and political life.

The Mauritanian government is pursuing empowering women to access regional and international organizations by nominating them to fill vacant positions, and it achieved remarkable success in achieving membership in important committees affiliated with the United Nations.

The Palestinian issue has not been yet resolved, and Mauritania calls from this respectable podium on the United Nations to to establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital according to the Arab Initiative, Madrid principles, and relevant international agreements.

Mauritania is looking for resolving the Yemeni file, and it announces its support to constitutional legitimacy represented by President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, and is welcoming the efforts of the United Nations to finding a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

And in relations to the Libyan issue, we call for accelerating and moving forward with building state's institutions and support the efforts to combating armed groups to bring back stability to a united and safe Libya.

Country: Finland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/finland>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sauli Niinisto, President of Finland

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Participation, Protection, Peacekeeping

Extract of statement:

“Successful conflict prevention saves lives and financial resources. Finland continues to advocate the use of mediation in conflict resolution. Mediation efforts, when successful, prevent conflicts and decrease human suffering.”

“Those who are marginalized must be given a voice in peace processes. Women, children and adolescents often pay the highest price in conflicts but they can also help to pave a way out of the crisis.”

“Finland has contributed to the establishment of a Nordic network of women mediators. It aims at sustaining peace through the inclusive and meaningful participation of women in all phases of peace processes.”

“Finnish police officers, including a specialized team on sexual and gender based violence in UN-MISS, are now deployed in seven UN operations.”

Country: Kyrgyzstan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/kyrgyzstan>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Almazbek Atambaev, President of Kyrgyzstan

No relevant references.

Country: Azerbaijan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/azerbaijan>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan

Themes: Human Rights, Peace Process, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“On February 26, 1992 Armenia committed war crime killing 613 peaceful residents of Khojaly, among them 106 women and 63 children.”

“Azerbaijan is committed to peaceful resolution of the conflict but at the same time will defend its citizens in line with UN Charter if Armenian military provocations continue and if necessary will punish once again the aggressor as it was done in April, 2016.”

Country: Guyana

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/guyana>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Brigadier David Granger, President of Guyana

Themes: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“Women, in some places, are denied equal opportunities to enjoy a 'good life'. The gap between the world's rich and its poor remains unacceptably wide. Conflicts, within states, have spawned international refugee crises which have resulted in millions being displaced from their homelands.”

“We iterate our support for a two-state solution to the Palestine-Israeli conflict. We affirm the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland and to a dignified existence.”

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/bosnia-and-herzegovina>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Dragan Covic, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Themes: General Women, Peace and Security, Participation, Conflict Prevention, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Extract of statement:

“Whether I look back to our past or look into the present and the future, women in my country hold high positions, which rightfully and naturally belong to them. The role of women is vital for the development and prosperity of the family, as well as the society as a whole. In postconflict environments, women are always the first to extend the hand of reconciliation. In times of great challenges and risks, we need the strength and natural ability of women to pursue peaceful solutions more than ever. Although we are extremely proud of the significant progress we have made in implementing the provisions of the historic Security Council resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security), we are also aware of the areas where it is possible and needed to do considerably more. We will certainly continue to invest additional efforts to strengthen and empower Bosnian-Herzegovinian women and girls in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.”

“We appreciate the decisive role of women in all processes of recovery and rebuilding of societies destroyed by the wars, and we will especially promote and encourage the increase in their engagement.”

“We still witness, with unquestioning concern, the continued suffering of the Syrian people. [...] We [...] will continue to call for a peaceful and political solution through negotiations, in the process the ownership of which can only be in the hands of the Syrian people, based on the Geneva Communiqué and with the assistance of the international community and the United Nations, led by the Special Envoy for Syria, whose unselfish efforts to continue the negotiations in Geneva are highly appreciated.”

“The Israeli-Palestinian conflict represents the most serious unresolved problem in the Middle East, and current absence of any negotiations between the parties is disturbing. [...] It is necessary to firmly recall the ultimate goal, and that is the existence of the two states, Israel and Palestine, and their peaceful coexistence next to each other, in safety and within recognized borders. Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to believe that this goal can be achieved by both parties fulfilling their obligations, based on the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the Madrid Principles and the Arab Peace Initiative.”

“In Bosnia and Herzegovina, unfortunately, we know too much about the high price of wars. For us, preventive diplomacy is a tool that, when used at the right time, can help that wars are never repeated anywhere or to anyone. There are many reasons why, on a global level, the United Nations system must be at the heart of all activities using preventive measures to resolve the crises and prevent people from leaving their homes. Again, much of the responsibility for prevention lies with other levels. Within our communities, we must counter all the symptoms of trouble and conflicts. [...] I believe that prevention and mediation, as well as conflict management techniques and conflict resolution in divided societies should be applied first within the respective region, with regional actors who generally better understand the opposing sides, their reasoning and their different views of the problem.”

Country: Panama

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/panama>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

Today, I make a respectful call to the member countries of the Security Council to strengthen the measures and decisions that promote the definitive peace in places like Syria and Iraq and, at the same time, strongly condemn irresponsible leaderships, like the one in North Korea, that try to destabilize the peaceful coexistence of the world.

Country: Rwanda

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/rwanda>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Themes: Human Rights, Peacekeeping, Implementation, Displacement and Humanitarian Response

Extract of statement:

“Every year, the United Nations channels billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance. It also sets the global agenda on key policy issues, from development, to women’s rights, while providing a platform for major international agreements.”

“I would like to commend the Secretary-General, for the two important initiatives he championed this week, on United Nations reform, and response to sexual exploitation and abuse.”

“We also share the common objective, to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa’s Agenda 2063 targets, as well as continue to enhance women’s empowerment.”

Country: Paraguay

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/paraguay>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Horacio Cartes, President of Paraguay

No relevant references.

Country: Iran

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/iran-islamic-republic>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of Iran

No relevant references.

Country: Bulgaria

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/bulgaria>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev, President of Bulgaria

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Human Rights, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Extract of statement:

“Bulgaria supports the 'surge in diplomacy for peace' which places prevention as an overarching priority of the UN's work and sets the stage for the necessary reforms to sustain peace. Prevention and mediation are essential means of reducing human suffering, including in addressing the

root causes of forced displacements, bringing humanitarian, development and peace-building efforts together.”

“Bulgaria reaffirms its position that the ‘two-State solution’ formula is the realistic, just and lasting way to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

“Finding a political solution to the ongoing conflict in Syria and implementing a credible political transition in the country is essential for preserving the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian State.”

“Another source of deep concern for my country is the situation in Eastern Ukraine which, regrettably, remains highly precarious and volatile despite periodic ceasefire agreements. We reiterate our call for a swift and full implementation of the Minsk Agreements which have no viable alternative.”

“Bulgaria is deeply concerned by the unprecedented scale of organized looting of cultural property in Iraq, Syria, Libya and other countries in conflict or post-conflict situation.”

“In the last few decades the UN has made crucial steps to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. These efforts should be further strengthened in order to achieve tangible results for women and girls on the ground by eliminating all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination.”

“Ensuring equal rights for women and men should be an integral part of everyday policies in all spheres of life.”

Country: Côte d'Ivoire

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of Cote d'Ivoire

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

The greatest importance should be place on the prevention of conflicts in order to spare our countries the exorbitant human and material cost of wars.

Country: Ukraine

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/ukraine>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Themes: Peacekeeping, Peace Process, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“A comprehensive reform of the Security Council is long overdue. [...] The founding nations, among those was Ukraine as well, aimed at securing the world where the sovereign right of free choice to be respected. [...] That was the principle that happened to be so blatantly violated against my own country by one of the P5.”

“A three-year-long war with Russia has resulted in 10 thousand people killed, 7% of Ukrainian territory occupied, 20% of Ukrainian economy and industrial output is seized, destroyed or simply stolen. However, the most horrific thing in this situation is that the Kremlin has consciously chosen the tactics of increasing human sufferings. [...] We remain convinced that a full-fledged UN peace-keeping operation is the only viable solution to de-escalate, to protect people of Ukraine and to get us closer to a political solution.”

“Militaryization of Crimea is another security threat that affects the whole of Southern and Eastern Europe as well as North Africa and the Middle East. Ukraine strongly condemns numerous military exercises conducted in the occupied Crimea as well as close the borders of Ukraine, in particular ‘West-2017’.”

“We also express our deepest concern with the current situation in Syria. We believe that full implementation and adherence to the word and spirit of the 2012 Geneva communiqué and UNSC resolution 2254 are absolutely vital for the settlement of the conflict in that country. [...] What draws our special concern with regard to this bloody conflict is Russia’s use of the occupied Crimea as a military outpost for projecting power in Syria.”

Country: The State of Palestine

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/palestine-state>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Themes: Peace Process

Extract of statement:

“Instead of addressing the underlying issues and resolving the root causes of the conflict, [the Government of Israel] has tried to misdirect international attention to the secondary issues actually caused by its colonial policies. [...] We have explored every avenue and exerted far-reaching efforts to achieve peace with our Israeli neighbors, and together, with the Arab and Islamic States, have adopted an invaluable initiative - the Arab Peace Initiative - aimed at resolving the Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflict. According to this initiative, upon Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, the Arab and Islamic States would recognize Israel and normalize relations with it. [...] Indeed, there have been countless initiatives seeking to break the deadlock in the peace process and ensure the success of peace efforts.”

Speaker: Donald Tusk, President of the European Council

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/european-union>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Themes: Displacement and Humanitarian Response, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“I welcome that the International Criminal Court prosecutor is investigating the smugglers in Libya for crimes against humanity. We should treat them via a system of international sanctions just as harshly as those engaged in terrorism and piracy. The European Union calls on the international agencies to increase their presence on the ground in Libya immediately, so that we can work to improve the situation of those victimised by the smugglers.”

Country: the Netherlands

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/netherlands>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“Prevention of violence and conflict ties in with our [...] priority: sustainability. And with it, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. [...] They address the drivers and root causes of instability and conflict. Investing in human dignity, eradicating poverty, fostering climate resilience and promoting economic and social progress will reduce the incidence of conflict, instability and despair. Development and lasting peace - all in one package.”

Country: Japan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/japan>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

“I wanted to tell you why the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, or ‘We-Fi,’ is important to me personally as well as to the Government of Japan.”

Country: Portugal

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/portugal>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Antonio Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping

Extract of statement:

“Reforming the architecture of peace and security is an absolute priority. Consolidating a culture of conflict prevention requires action across the board and an integrated vision of the three pillars of the United Nations system - peace, human rights and sustainable development - as well as closer institutional cooperation between the organs of the Charter, namely the Security Council and the General Assembly.”

“The unity and firmness of the international community, embodied in the United Nations, in defense of the law and in the promotion of security and stability, is what enables us to move towards a fairer international order, and to find the best answers to the serious crises we face today, from North Korean threats to the situation in Syria, from the instability in Libya to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and so many other sources of confrontation, security risk or humanitarian drama.”

“We welcome the military successes achieved in Iraq over the past year.”

“I underline, in this context, the work of the Global Platform for Support to Syrian Students, an initiative of the former President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio. This is to guarantee the access to higher education for those young Syrians who, because of the conflict in their country, have been

deprived of this universal right. I invite all countries that have not yet done so to join the Platform and support the Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education.”

Country: the United Kingdom

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/united-kingdom-great-britain-and-northern-ireland>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Theresa May, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Theme: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Conflict Prevention, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Extract of statement:

“We will use our military to support peacekeeping and our diplomats will continue to work to tackle conflict and support peace building.”

“Benazir Bhutto was brutally murdered by people who actively rejected the values that all of us here in this United Nations stand for. [...] Murdered for standing up for democracy, murdered for espousing tolerance, and murdered for being a woman.”

“I ask the Secretary General to make this fight against terrorists and the ideologies that drive them a core part of his agenda, at the heart of our development, peace building, and conflict prevention work.”

“So when countries back groups like Hezbollah to increase instability and conflict across the Middle East, support so-called separatists in Ukraine to create instability on Europe’s eastern borders, or give tacit support to criminal groups launching cyber-attacks against our countries and institutions, they call into question the very rules and international systems that protect us.”

“Clearly responsibility for the chaos and tragedy that we see in Syria lies firmly at the door of Asaad.”

“One country in particular has used its veto as many times in the last five years as in the whole of the second half of the Cold War. And in so doing, they have prevented action against a despicable regime that has murdered its own people with chemical weapons. As a result, in Syria, the United Nations has been blocked.”

Country: Italy

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/italy>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Prime Minister of Italy

Themes: Implementation, Displacement and Humanitarian Response, Human Rights, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Extract of statement:

“Italy is convinced that building democratic, pluralistic, and inclusive societies open to diversity is not only an ethical imperative but also a guarantee of peace and stability and, as such, a fundamental piece of a broader commitment to promoting and guaranteeing effective protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of each individual.”

“The increasingly apparent loss of ground for Daesh in Iraq and Syria has demonstrated that together we can do it.”

“Italy is an active partner in the Global Coalition against Daesh, engaged on the ground in various activities: rehabilitating a fundamental infrastructure such as the Mosul Dike; and training thousands of members of the Iraqi special forces and Kurdish units, as well as federal and local police forces, who represent one of the keys to the future stabilization of liberated zones and to the safe reentry of thousands of IDPs to their homelands. We need to restore the future for the Iraqi people.”

“Libya is the key to restoring to the Central Mediterranean its historic role as a driver of civilization, peace and security. [...] There will be no stability in Libya until the value of a truly inclusive path to reconciliation has been embraced, a path that we as the international community must support with a single voice. [...] We believe it is essential to support Libya also because of its strategic role in the migratory route across the Central Mediterranean.”

“But there are still too many innocent children, women and men who have a limited or no access to humanitarian aid.”

“There can be no stability, peace and reconstruction, nor a lasting victory over terrorism, or the conditions for voluntary return of refugees in complete security, without an inclusive political transition that brings together the various components of Syrian society.”

“It is only through a cohesive commitment of the international community that we can arrive at a true political solution that preserves the unity, integrity and sovereignty of Syria.”

Country: Ecuador

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/ecuador>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Lenin Moreno Garces, President of Ecuador

Themes: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Disarmament

Extract of statement:

It is also urgent eradicate all forms of violence. Today, the whole of humanity has a moral and ethical duty: we will not allow thousands of women and be abused or killed. No more femicides!

We strongly support the peace talks that the sister government of the Republic of Colombia is carrying out with the National Liberation Army in our country.

We celebrate the Quito Agreement, announced a few days ago, for the ‘temporary bilateral ceasefire’ in Colombia. Thus, step-by-step, parties comply with the proclamation of the Community of Latin American States and Caribbean countries, CELAC, to be a region of peace.

Country: Argentina

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/argentina>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Gabriela Michetti, Vice-President of Argentina

No relevant references.

Country: the Republic of the Congo
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/congo>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo

Extract of statement:

The situation in Syria and Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian, the nuclear issue, the crisis in Africa and in other parts of the world that openly pose a moral requirement and urgency in regards to peace.

Each time the circumstances permit, the Congo is working to defend the ideals of peace and justice in Africa and the rest of the world.

I would like to highlight the determination of my country to continuously be in favour of peace in Libya.

Country: Chile
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/chile>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile

Themes: Peace Process

Extract of statement:

I want to highlight the participation of Chilean observers in the peace process in Colombia, who are ending their first special mission and are initiating the transition to the second. [...] Chile is already participating as a guarantor in the talks of the Colombian government with the ELN.

Country: Latvia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/latvia>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Raimonds Vejonis, President of Latvia

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Human Rights, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“Far too often the United Nations has been unable to prevent conflicts, stop atrocities, or build peace. Too often resources are spent on managing and responding to crises, instead of preventing them. [...] Conflict prevention must be at the core of UN action to keep situations of concern from spiraling out of control. Saving human lives and upholding human dignity must be our common priority.”

“The use of chemical weapons in Syria, which blatantly disregards Syria's obligations as a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, is a deplorable crime which must be fully investigated, and the perpetrators must be held accountable. Latvia has constantly called for accountability regarding these attacks, an accountability which is closely linked to the credibility of the whole international system. For this reason, Latvia has supported the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes committed in Syria.”

“The peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine and respecting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is a priority. Russia's continued aggression in Eastern Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol cannot become ‘business as usual’.”

“In strengthening the capacities of our partner countries, we prioritize good governance and public sector reforms, combating corruption, and fostering inclusive economic growth, including by empowering women.”

Country: South Africa

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/south-africa>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa

Themes: Disarmament

Extract of statement:

“We hope that soon, the sister people of Libya will be able to live in peace and harmony, in a united and democratic country. In 2011, the African Union called for dialogue to resolve the crisis in Libya. Unfortunately, some among us here opted for guns and bombs.”

“The war in Libya contributed a great deal to the destabilisation of the Sahel region and all the way to Central Africa, creating a corridor for illicit trafficking in arms as well as terrorist activities.”

“In fact, had our warning been heeded that the supply of arms to civilians in Libya and the arming of civilians in Syria would cause loss of life, great instability and mayhem, the world would be more peaceful today.”

“South Africa continues to call for an immediate end to the violence and for a Syrian-led political transition and a negotiated settlement reflecting the will of the Syrian people.”

“In both instances of Libya and Syria, we strongly cautioned against seeking to resolve internal challenges of sovereign states by imposing foreign solutions through military means.”

Country: Namibia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/namibia>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of Namibia

Themes: Reconstruction and Peacebuilding, Participation

Extract of statement:

“We, in Namibia, believe that gender equity is equally important for a stable and harmonious society. In this regard, a policy decision by the ruling party to introducing a 50-50 representation at all party levels has led to a significant improvement of the representation of females, to 48 percent in Namibia's National Assembly. This is the second highest level of representation on the continent and among the top five in the world. To give further meaning to this policy directive, women have also been appointed in key positions in the executive.”

“We also recognize the contribution of women in promoting global peace, both in peace negotiations and active participation in peace missions. Namibia supports efforts to increase the representation of women in peace missions around the world, especially in leadership capacities.”

Country: Montenegro

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/montenegro>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Protection, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Extract of statement:

“Montenegro is a part of the region whose experience has shown that dialogue and cooperation are possible and that they are the only way to overcome the differences and achieve peace and lasting solutions. Therefore, we will organize, early next year, a regional conference, in order to share our experience and help in defining new mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution.”

“We attach special attention to: strengthening the position and role of women in society and prevention of violence against women; child protection and development; fight against discrimination of LGBTI population and persons with disabilities. We especially appreciate the joint initiative of the European Union and the United Nations for eliminating of all forms of violence against women and girls as well as launching the Global Alliance to end trade in tools of torture and capital punishment.”

Country: Romania

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/romania>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Human Rights, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“Developing and sustaining peace require not only a swift and adequate response to crises, but also an understanding of the root causes of conflicts and insecurity, which are rarely emerging from one single source.”

“The UN agenda is not only about conflicts and crises, but also about sustainable development and promoting human rights. [...] We have to drive the implementation of the ambitious global Agenda for Development forward, including in relation with conflict prevention and sustaining peace, as well as its Sustainable Development Goals.”

Country: Malawi

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/malawi>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi

Themes: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“The inclusion and empowerment of women begin with a focus on the girl child. We need to do away with early marriages. Indeed, I am pleased to note a global drop of marriages from 36% to 26% over a period of two years since 2015. [...] By law, Malawi 4 provides an opportunity for girls to grow, mature and make informed choices about their education and future life. Girls are protected by law in this regard.”

Country: Madagascar

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/madagascar>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hery Martial Rajaonarimampianina Rakotoarimanana, President of Madagascar

No relevant references.

Country: Senegal

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/senegal>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of Senegal

Themes: Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“In the Middle East, Senegal reiterates the right of the Palestinian people to a viable state, coexisting in peace with the state of Israel, each within borders that are internationally recognized.”

“Peace today [...] is not only the absence of war. Peace is the preservation of our planet’s resources, whose loss accentuates the risk of internal crises and international conflicts [...]. Peace is equally equal and just international exchanges, which results in progress and prosperity for all. The world will not have peace as long as there an unequal system of exchanges, where those who have more always win more, and those who have less continuously lose. We must have mutually beneficial exchanges.”

Country: Swaziland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/swaziland>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.H. King Mswati III, Head of State of Swaziland

No relevant references.

Country: Libya

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/libya>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Faiez Mustafa Serraj, President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of Libya

Extract of statement:

“The issue of peace in the Middle East is considered one of the most critical issues, [...] we will spare no effort in supporting the Palestinian people and their right in establishing an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, we renew our support to finding a solution to the Palestinian

Cause, and from here we ask the international community, especially the major countries to stand before their responsibility to the Cause.”

“My country is calling for accelerating the efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the crisis in our sister countries, Syria and Yemen, to push them away from the risk of disintegration and division as a result of the devastating conflict.”

Country: Nauru

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/nauru>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

“To ignore the role of power in shaping our future, is to cede what little power you might have. If we are to achieve our ambitious goals for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable planet, then we will need to grapple with power as it actually exists in the world, including all of its inequities and perversities.”

Country: Myanmar

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/myanmar>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. U Henry Van Thio, President of Myanmar

No relevant references.

Country: Kuwait

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/kuwait>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

“This year marks the 50th anniversary of the occupation of the Palestinian territories. This the only Arab Cause that had been saturated with United Nations resolutions, international and regional initiatives, without ever being implemented, due to the intransigence of the Israeli occupying power, and its explicit and blatant refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.”

“It is regrettable that since the onset of the crisis in Syria, we have been facing horrifying facts and figures of the ongoing conflict [...]. The pace of the political track is still slow, and since the issuance of the Communique of the first Geneva Conference, [...] we have witnessed six rounds of Syrian talks in Geneva [...] without achieving any progress; which requires that we intensify the efforts to bring together the parties to the conflict, to hold direct talks aimed at finding a peaceful settlement, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 2254, leading to the creation of a political reality, which would maintain the unity, independence and sovereignty of Syria, as well as realizing the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people.”

“The sisterly Republic of Yemen has been experiencing a difficult phase in its history [...] We would like to reaffirm our full commitment to the unity of Yemen, and the respect of its sovereignty and independence, as well as rejecting any interference in its internal affairs, and asserting the support

and backing of the constitutional legitimacy, while stressing that the political solution in Yemen should be based on the three agreed upon references, i.e. the Outcomes of the National Dialogue, the Initiative of the GOO countries and its Implementation Mechanism, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly, resolution 2216. [...] We reiterate our readiness to host our Yemeni brethren to sign on a final accord reached among them, and renew our support of the efforts of the United Nations, and of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, to reach a peaceful settlement to this crisis, thus ending the suffering of the Yemeni people who face dire humanitarian and economic conditions. [...] Kuwait also participated actively in the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen, held in Geneva, on 25 April 2017, and pledged during that event to allocate the amount of \$100 million. However, we still believe that the optimal solution to address these humanitarian conditions requires the restoration of peace and stability in Yemen, in a manner that would preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

Country: Fiji

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/fiji>)

Date: 20 September 2017

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

No relevant references.

Country: Morocco

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/morocco>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco

Extract of statement:

“The Palestinian Cause is considered to be the first cause proposed to the United Nations since its foundation, but they haven’t found a solution yet, and there are no clear prospects around its future despite the strenuous efforts of the international community, especially the current American administration.”

“The Maghreb region is still living through difficult times due to the lack of political and economic cooperation and fragility of the security situation in the context of the escalation in the Libya crisis and the increase in security threats.”

Country: Dominican Republic

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/dominican-republic>)

Date: 20 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Miguel Vargas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Dominican Republic

No relevant references.

Country: Serbia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/serbia>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Aleksandar Vucic, President of Serbia

No relevant references.

Country: Haiti
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/haiti>)
Date: 21 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jovenel Moise, President of Haiti
Theme: Disarmament, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Extract of statement:

“In the Middle East, the Syrian crisis does not cease to challenge universal conscience. Here, as well, in this space, numerous resolutions have been voted for, calling to end this tragedy, with its train of evils and its inhumanity.”

“The status quo, that prevails the Israeli-Palestine conflict, punctuated intermittent violence, cannot be a solution.”

“The happy ending of the Colombian armed conflict by way of negotiation demonstrates that weapon confrontation and blind violence cannot always resolve disputes, therefore this effort to overtake, granted by the Colombian society, can serve as an example for all.”

“While thanking the United Nations with its commitment to Haiti, I would be negligent if I did not recall two very regrettable situations that are continue to be present in my country: firstly, the acts of odious exploitation and sexual violence committed by certain peace soldiers or other members of staff, and, secondly, the introduction of the cholera epidemic in Haiti.”

Country: Republic of Korea
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/republic-korea>)
Date: 21 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea
Themes: Disarmament, Participation, Peacekeeping

Extract of statement:

“On top of this, my Administration has met the goal of filling 30 percent of the Cabinet with female ministers, thereby spearheading the efforts to realize gender equality, one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

“I believe peace when chosen willingly becomes sound and sustainable.”

“We should all remind ourselves of what former U.S. President Ronald Reagan said: ‘Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means’.”

Country: Lebanon
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/lebanon>)
Date: 21 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Gen. Michel Aoun, President of Lebanon

No relevant references.

Country: Cyprus
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/cyprus>)

Date: 21 September 2017

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

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“The three pillars of reform [...] will [...] provide us with a changed narrative as to the ability to prevent crises before they erupt; reinforcing and enhancing peacekeeping and peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and long-term development and growth.”

Country: Burkina Faso

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/burkina-faso>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kabore, President of Burkina Faso

Themes: Protection

Extract of statement:

“We have successfully achieved operational success, but they are strengthened by an emergency investment program, which we have recently adopted in order to reduce the vulnerability of populations, especially children and women”.

“We must remain aware in order to bring a successful conclusion to the conflicts or to end the crisis in Libya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Somalia, South Sudan and Burundi.”

“The question of Palestine continues to be a major concern. I would like to thank the organisation, in January of 2017, of the Paris conferences, that reiterated a solution for the two states, Israel and Palestine, that live side by side in peace within safe and secure international borders.”

“The efforts of the international community in Iraq, Syria and Yemen must intensify, or else there is the risk that this part of the world will suffer in chaos.”

Country: Ghana

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/ghana>)

Date: 21 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

“The conflicts that continue to plague our continent in Libya, South Sudan, Congo DRC, and Mali, would be more effectively resolved if the international community was to support, not undermine, the efforts of our regional and continental organisations to deal with them.”

Country: Gabon

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/gabon>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba

Themes: Disarmament, Participation

Extract of statement:

“I have initiated a program for equal chances that allows all Gabonese to have the same means on the way of personal and collective achievement, as well as the empowerment of women in the government agenda.”

“It is desirable to leverage the embargo on weapons, exclusively for the legal and legitimate government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in order to restore security and authority across for the nation.”

“The question of Palestine, on the other hand, is a thorn in the foot of the international community.”

Country: Yemen

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/yemen>)

Date: 21 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

“The Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and settlement politics are the important reason causing tension in the region, so the people of the region are looking forward to your just solution that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people in establishing an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital and ending the occupation and stopping the settlements and ending the suffering of the Palestinian people.”

Country: Seychelles

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/seychelles>)

Date: 21 September 2017

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

No relevant references.

Country: Botswana

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/botswana>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, Vice President of Botswana

Themes: Justice and the Rule of Law, Protection

Extract of statement:

“Driven by our strong desire to build an inclusive, peaceful and prosperous society based on the respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, we accordingly adjusted our empowerment programmes in order to ensure that they cater for all vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our society, including all women and girls, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and children.”

“We also fully support referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in order that those responsible for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity can be held accountable for their actions.”

Country: Croatia
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/croatia>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“We put at disposal this unique know-how and extensive expertise as a useful complementary contribution to the international community's efforts in similar situations, such as with the implementation of the Minsk Agreements in Ukraine, where we can draw many parallels.”

“In addressing crises across the globe our focus should be on early-warning, prevention and diplomacy.”

“Croatia believes that when addressing conflicts and crises – be it in Syria, Libya, Iraq, Yemen or anywhere else in the world – it is important to have a global comprehensive approach based on solidarity and coordinated international effort under strong UN leadership.”

“Proper implementation of the constitutional equality of its three constituent peoples – Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats – is a prerequisite for ensuring the full functionality and stability of [Bosnia and Herzegovina] and its European integration process which we wholeheartedly support.”

Country: Canada
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/canada>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Themes: Human Rights, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“For far too many indigenous women, life in Canada includes threats of violence so frequent and severe that Amnesty International has called it ‘a human rights crisis’.”

“Our efforts also include a stronger focus – in indigenous communities, across Canada, and around the world – on SDG #5: combatting gender-based violence and giving women and girls equal opportunities to succeed.”

“We need women and girls to succeed because that’s how we grow stronger economies, and build stronger communities. [...] That is why our government will be moving forward shortly with legislation to ensure equal pay for work of equal value.”

“Canada’s engagement in reducing poverty and inequity, putting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the heart of our development efforts.”

Country: Samoa
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/samoa>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa

Themes: Human Rights, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“A first ever United Nations human rights council expert group at Samoa's invitation visited last month to carry out a fact-finding mission to assess the progress made towards eliminating discrimination against women and the protection and promotion of women's rights in the country.”

Country: Slovenia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/slovenia>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Miroslav Cerar, Prime Minister of Slovenia

Themes: Human Rights, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Protection, Peacekeeping, Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“Our main focus is given to the rights of children, to the support of gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to the rights of older persons and in this context also the importance of the intergenerational collaboration.”

“More must [...] be done to mitigate harm to civilians, especially in the context of armed conflicts, and to prevent all forms of sexual violence.”

“We [...] underline the need for a zero tolerance policy on all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.”

“Years and years of horrific war in Syria, conflicts in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Libya and Mali, and dire situations like those in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to name just a few, continue to represent particular sources of concern.”

“The UN can help to defuse latent conflicts. Whenever possible, we should opt for diplomacy, mediation and conflict prevention.”

Country: Germany

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/germany>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Vice Chancellor of Germany

Extract of statement:

“In Iraq, we have to quickly consolidate the successes which have been achieved there in the fight against the so-called Islamic State by initiating reconstruction and stabilisation measures in the liberated cities and regions.”

Country: Russia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/russian-federation>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia

Extract of statement:

“The West structured its policy according to the principle of ‘who's not with us is against us’, having chosen the path of reckless eastward NATO expansion and provoking instability in the post-Soviet space and encouraging anti-Russian sentiments. This policy is precisely the root cause of the protracted conflict in South-Eastern Ukraine.”

“Despite the fact that ISIL is pulling back in Syria and Iraq, considerable additional effort is required to stabilize the region. It should be recalled that it is necessary to fight not only ISIL, but also al-Nusra, the latter being tolerated for whatever reason by the U.S. coalition members.”

“The developments in Syria give grounds for cautious optimism. The 6th International Meeting on Syria in Astana, held on 14-15 September 2017, has finalized the work on the four de-escalation zones agreed upon with the participation of Russia, Iran, Turkey, the U.S., Jordan and the UN and supported by many other countries. These agreements have created conditions for further progress towards the implementation of Resolution 2254 on the basis of direct dialogue between the government and the opposition aimed at joining their efforts to eliminate as soon as possible the terrorist hotbed and restore peace all over the country, and its unity, and resolve acute humanitarian problems. [...] The most urgent task is to increase the supplies of humanitarian aid and demine the liberated territories.”

Country: China

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/china>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E Wang Yi , Foreign Minister of China

Themes: Disarmament, Conflict Prevention, Peace Process, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“Political solution is the fundamental answer to hotspot issues. While parties to any conflict must stay committed to the general direction of dialogue and negotiation, the international community should act in an objective and impartial way to facilitate dialogue and promote peace rather than stirring up trouble or making things more difficult. The UN should serve as the main channel of conflict prevention, fully leverage Chapter VI of its Charter, and step up political mediation efforts.”

“The Syrian crisis has seen the early light of a political settlement. We should make good use of the Geneva and Astana channels and push for direct substantive talks between the Syrian government and the opposition. In parallel with the talks, efforts must be made on cessation of hostilities, humanitarian assistance and post-war reconstruction in order to give the various parties greater faith in peace talks.”

“The international community owes the Palestinians a just solution that is long overdue. All settlement activities on the occupied territories and all violence against civilians must be stopped immediately. Efforts should be made to steadfastly advance political settlement based on the two-state solution and to restart peace talks as early as possible. We need to think out of the box to facilitate peace through development and help the people in the region to lay the groundwork for peace.”

Country: Mexico

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/mexico>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Luis Videgaray Caso, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Theme: Conflict Prevention, Human Rights, Protection

Extract of statement:

“In order for the United Nations to be more effective in this work, it’s necessary to strengthen its capacity for prevention, centered on the person, with promotion of development, and with respect to human rights.”

“Women and girls suffer from sexual violence, exile, marginalization, discrimination, and, in extreme cases, abominable femicides. Mexico recognizes its obligation to redouble efforts to combat these practices and punish these crimes.”

“A solidarity state is committed to the empowerment of women and girls. Gender equality is a prerequisite for achieving a world in which peace and development are truly sustainable, inclusive and lasting.”

Country: El Salvador

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/el-salvador>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Salvador Sanchez Ceren, President of El Salvador

No relevant references.

Country: Comoros

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/comoros>)

Date: 22 September 2017

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

Themes: Human Rights, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“We condemn without reserve the atrocities suffered by minorities, yesterday in Bosnia-Herzegovina and today in Burma against the Rohingyas, as well as all other minorities everywhere else. [...] I hope our organisation will defend the most basic rights of the oppressed, independent of considerations of origins, race, sex and faith.”

“To succeed and achieve the 17 objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, we need to count firsts on ourselves and our resources. However, we need international solidarity, including industrialists, bankers and international investors.”

“The lack of a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the status quo favors the insecurity and destabilisation of the Middle East. [...] The two-state solution would confer on the Palestinian people its right to full sovereignty with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

Country: Palau

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/palau>)

Date: 21 September 2017

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

Theme: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“Clear determination to focus future efforts on conflict prevention, peace, migration and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet is certainly timely and well attuned to the realities of our generation. In fact, your attention to these very different, yet related issues, demonstrates a clear understanding of the complex times in which we live and the need to connect the dots, the causes and the effects of the interrelated challenges that we face.”

Country: Equatorial Guinea

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/equatorial-guinea>)

Date: 21 September 2017

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

Themes: Participation

Extract of statement:

“We want a world where there’s a spirit of equal participation so much for women like for men; for the small countries like for the large countries.”

Country: Sao Tome and Principe

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/sao-tome-and-principe>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Evaristo do Espirito Santo Carvalho, President of Sao Tome and Principe

Themes: Implementation, Disarmament

Extract of statement:

“I cannot fail to mention the Sustainable Development Goals, whose priorities go directly to the core of what we have been expressing. Eradication of poverty and hunger; the promotion of social and economic development; the protection of the rights of all, gender equality and the empowerment of women; combating climate change; access to quality services and special attention to vulnerable groups. If achieved, as we believe, then we will be able to see a positive evolution of the living conditions of our nations, so let us all work to that end.”

“It is also necessary for weapons to cease in Syria, where people live permanently under the threat of bombs that have destroyed the country and torn its social fabric, while claiming so many innocent lives.”

“We underline the atrocities committed by Boko Haram group, among others, in our neighboring and sister country, Nigeria, which has been leading to instability in the whole region and a severe slow-down to the implementation of sustainable development policies.”

Country: Zimbabwe

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/zimbabwe>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe

Extract of statement:

“The continued denial of the right to self-determination to the peoples of Western Sahara and of Palestine who are living under colonial and foreign occupation, is immoral and an urgent issue for those seeking peace and security in our time.”

Country: Indonesia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/indonesia>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia

Themes: Peacekeeping, Conflict Prevention, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“In the last 60 years, we have contributed more than 38,000 personnel [...], including increasing number of female peacekeepers.”

“We underline, that ensuring sustainable peace at global level, requires a global ‘culture of prevention’.”

Country: Jordan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/jordan>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.H. Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, Crown Prince of Jordan

Themes: Displacement and Humanitarian Response, Peace Process

Extract of statement:

“Over the years, there have been wars in Gaza, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen and worsening prospects for peace in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.”

“My country—a resource-poor nation in a conflict-rich region—is host to 1.3 million Syrian refugees. Add to that millions of Palestinian refugees and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, as well as others from Libya and Yemen: Jordan, today, is one of the largest hosts of refugees in the world.”

“We have remained steadfast in our commitment to a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the two-state solution, despite prevailing skepticism.”

Country: Tuvalu

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/tuvalu>)

Date: 21 September 2017

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

No relevant references.

Country: Georgia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/georgia>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Giorgi Kvirikashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia

No relevant references.

Country: Antigua and Barbuda
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/antigua-and-barbuda>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Corporate Governance of Antigua and Barbuda

No relevant references.

Country: Pakistan
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/pakistan>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Prime Minister of Pakistan

No relevant references.

Country: Mauritius
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/mauritius>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius

Extract of statement:

“The situation in the Middle East and plight of the Palestinian people continue to be issues of great concern. We call on all sides to sincerely start talks for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue. Mauritius has always supported the two-states solution with Palestine and Israel living peacefully side by side. An independent and viable Palestine is more likely to provide security both to Israel and the region.”

Country: Bangladesh
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/bangladesh>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H. E. Mr. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister Government of Bangladesh

Themes: Peacekeeping, Implementation

Extract of statement: _

“We maintain a 'zero tolerance' approach to any allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse. As an endorser of the 'Voluntary Compact' on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, I have committed myself to the Secretary General's 'Circle of Leadership' to combat this scourge. I am also pleased to announce a token contribution of USD 100,000 to the Victim Support Fund established for this purpose.”

“We reaffirm the call for resuming the Middle East Peace Process, and for ending all forms of hostilities and discriminations against the brotherly Palestinian people.”

“Even before the adoption of the SDGs, we have initiated unique social programmes that reflect the themes of the SDGs, such as Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar (One Household One Farm); Community

Clinic; Ashrayan (Shelter project); Digital Bangladesh; Education Support; Women Empowerment; Education for All; Social Safety Net; Environment Protection and Investment and Development.”

Country: Vanuatu

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/vanuatu>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Charlot Salwai Tabimasmal, Prime Minister of Vanuatu

Themes: Human Rights, Protection

Extract of statement:

“Vanuatu notes with deep concern the irrefutable link between the global migration crisis and the failure to respect the principles of responsibility for the protection and prevention of mass atrocity crimes in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and South Sudan, to only cite a few.”

“Vanuatu is convinced that to end poverty, we must offer opportunities to all, notably women, offer access to education, nutrition and health. My government is committed to eliminate barriers that affect vulnerable groups disproportionately.”

“We have successfully launched a national political plan on gender equality and protection of children in November 2016. Both take into account violence and discrimination against women and girls, as well as negligence, exploitation, abuse and violence towards children.”

“I return to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations to reaffirm the belief in the fundamental rights of human beings, in the dignity and value of humans and in the equal rights of women and men, and nations, large and small.”

Country: Guinea-Bissau

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/guinea-bissau>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau

Theme: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“With respect to the health care that we provide to our populations, particularly children and women in reproductive age - we have made progress in my country.”

“The policy of Gender Equality, more specifically of equal opportunity for girls and women in Guinea-Bissau is undoubtedly a test for democracy in my country.”

“I hope that all the political, economic, and social actors in my country will continue to converge on the legitimate advocacy for women's rights and, in general, for the promotion of human rights in Guinea-Bissau.”

“We also support the hopes of the Palestinian People for the establishment of their own State co-existing side by side with the State of Israel, based on Trust, Peace, and Security.”

Country: Togo

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/togo>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Komi Selom Klassou, Prime Minister of Togo

Themes: Peacekeeping

Extract of statement:

“We welcome the initiative of the Secretary-General on the draft pact between the United Nations and its member states concerning the elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse during peace-keeping operations. We hope that all States will adhere to this mechanism to put an end to this phenomenon.”

Country: Belarus

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/belarus>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Vladimir Makei, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus

Extract of statement:

“The Republic of Belarus, for its part, stands ready to serve as a convening place. We are willing to carry out such a task with the same high degree of responsibility that marked our efforts aimed at settling the conflict in Ukraine over the past few years. Minsk stands prepared to become a bridge that would link the old with the yet unborn.”

Country: Kazakhstan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/kazakhstan>)

Date: 21 September 2017

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

Theme: Peace Process, Disarmament

Extract of statement:

“Kazakhstan is hosting the Astana process on Syria to contribute to the peaceful settlement in Syria and promote UN-led negotiations in Geneva. We believe that the Astana Process [...] has brought obvious positive results aimed at strengthening the ceasefire regime, creation of the de-escalation zones and developing monitoring mechanism.”

“Kazakhstan has a clear and consistent position on the Middle East Peace Process, based on the two-state solution approach: a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side in peace with Israel.”

“Earlier this year, I presented President Nazarbayev's Policy Address to the Security Council. The seven priorities of this document called to ensure humanity's survival through a world free of nuclear weapons by 2045; the prevention and end to military confrontations at regional and global levels; generating a model for a regional zone of peace, security, cooperation and development in Central Asia.”

Country: Spain

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/spain>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alfonso Dastis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

Themes: Reconstruction and Peacebuilding, Peace Process, Disarmament

Extract of statement:

“For seven years now we have been mentioning the conflict in Syria from this dais. We are comforted by the decline in hostilities and by the victories against Daesh, but we are still greatly concerned that individual interests are being placed before a political solution which, thanks to a UN’s mediation, may lead to a genuine transition.”

“Spain supports Iraq’s reconstruction and reconciliation among its citizens, and rejects political ventures that detract efforts from the priority of consolidating a free, democratic and united Iraq.”

“In Libya, the SG’s new Special Representative has Spain’s full support to contribute to a political solution for a united country on the basis of the Political Agreement.”

“We are concerned by the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We call for respect for the constitutional provisions and for the dialogue in order to seek solutions and to lay the foundations for peaceful coexistence.”

“Spain welcomed with satisfaction the peace agreement reached in Colombia. We would like to actively contribute to peacebuilding. We have taken part in the UN Mission to supervise the abandonment of weapons, we are heartened by the positive development of this process and we are open to participating in the new Mission that will verify the 9 reintegration of FARC guerrillas, beginning on 26 September.”

“We are also concerned by the persistence of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Its solution requires compliance with the Minsk agreements. The OSCE monitoring mission deserves all our support.”

Country: Luxembourg

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/luxembourg>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Luxembourg

Themes: Implementation, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a central concern. The total absence of credible solution could lead to a new eruption of violence, and nourishes fertile soil for hatred and terrorism. By continuing the extension of settlement in the West Bank and East Jerusalem East, the Israeli government is directly endangering the two-state solution, which is the only fair solution and which allows for a lasting settlement of the Palestinian Israeli conflict.”

“In Syria, all actors must realize that peace can not be overcome without the implementation of comprehensive, genuine and inclusive political transition.”

“A united, stable and democratic Iraq should guarantee the interest of all citizens. The differences that still exist between the federal government and the Kurdish regional government must be resolved by a peaceful and constructive dialogue leading to an agreed solution within the framework of the Iraqi Constitution.”

“The right to human dignity is also reflected in the respect for the physical integrity of girls and women. For the last decades, we have succeeded in reducing maternal mortality by half, but the access of girls and women to sexual and reproductive rights and health is now being challenged in some parts of the world.”

Country: Denmark

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/denmark>)

Date: 21 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark

Themes: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“Denmark welcomes the Secretary-General's strong commitment to gender equality in our reform efforts. Women and girls all over the world must be empowered to contribute to stronger communities and societies. Ensuring women equal opportunities is crucial for reaching the SDGs. [...] In the Danish Government's view, gender equality is first and foremost a question of dignity and ensuring the human rights of all women and girls, including safeguarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. This is fundamentally about the right to decide over one's own body.”

“As one of the founding members of the SheDecides movement, Denmark is committed to continuing to push for progress and to protect the rights of all women and girls.”

Country: Cameroon

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/cameroon>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Paul Biya, President of Cameroon

Extract of statement:

“Peace is our most precious asset. Without peace, we cannot take any sustainable and effective initiative in the interest of our youth and our peoples.”

Country: Kiribati

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/kiribati>)

Date: 22 September 2017

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

No relevant references.

Country: the Central African Republic

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/central-african-republic>)

Date: 22 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

“Hotspots of tension are rampant in the Pool region of the Republic of the Congo and to the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with [the] harmful repercussions on our neighbouring countries.”

Country: Moldova
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/republic-moldova>)
Date: 22 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Pavel Filip, Prime Minister of Moldova
Themes: Conflict Prevention, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“Secretary-General Guterres' agenda of reforms that puts a renewed emphasis on the conflict prevention, on the repositioning of the development and reforming the UN's internal management in order to effectively address the major challenges the world is confronted with.”

“We have also undertaken to reform the public administration and the public services, while ensuring gender equality and the promotion of youth.”

“I take this opportunity to express the Republic of Moldova's deep concern regarding the ongoing armed conflict in the eastern part of Ukraine, a conflict that endangers the peace and security in our region. Let me reiterate again our full support to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.”

Country: Belgium
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/belgium>)
Date: 22 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, Prime Minister of Belgium
Themes: Disarmament

Extract of statement:

“The most sustainable and mutually beneficial solutions are always political and diplomatic, not military.”

“In Colombia, for example, the concerted action of a courageous state, the region and the international community ended the one of the oldest conflicts in the world.”

“In the case of Syria, an outcome to this interminable conflict will be possible only when the international community as a whole will have political will and will develop a common strategy.”

“The fight against impunity and the strengthening of international justice are at the heart of Belgium's concern. This year we have a revised amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. These amendments aim to prohibit the use of four types of weapons that cause immense suffering and kill indiscriminately.”

Country: Kingdom of Bhutan
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/bhutan>)
Date: 22 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan

No relevant references.

Country: Albania
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/albania>)
Date: 22 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania
Themes: Human Rights, Participation

Extract of statement:

“Albania is fully committed to protect and promote all human rights, in particular, women rights, which is another major battle for change that my Government is leading. I am proud to announce that for the first time in the Albanian history half of the members of my government are women. They bring leadership skills, strength of character, commitment to our European values, and special devotion in serving the Albanian people. Furthermore, women count for around 30% of the members of the Parliament and 45% in the public administration. These may sound just mere statistics; instead they are the reflection of a platform to ensure that the role of women to development and change is recognized, their rightful place in the society is secured and their voice is heard.”

“It is my deep belief that empowerment of women serves as a powerful drive for overall economic development and national prosperity.”

Country: Malta
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/malta>)
Date: 22 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta
Themes: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“We have put human rights, equality and the empowerment at the forefront of our political agenda, and in particular on the priority issues of LGBTIQ rights and gender equality.”

“The economic and political empowerment of our citizens, regardless of their gender is a priority for us. We have been gradually introducing measures to help reconcile work and familial responsibilities. We are proud to be the only European country to provide universal free childcare to all working people, an initiative which has liberated the potential of so many women in our society. We want to ensure more gender-balanced political representation coupled with recent initiatives to increase youth participation by lowering voting age in general and European elections from 18 to 16, after already lowered voting age in local elections.”

Country: Cabo Verde
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/cabo-verde>)
Date: 22 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jose Ulisses De Pina Correia E Silva, Prime Minister of Cabo Verde
Themes: Human Rights, Peacekeeping

Extract of statement:

“[The damages to global peace] cause human suffering, claim lives and instigate other humanitarian tragedies, such as the unprecedented increase in the number of refugees, hunger, and forms of violence against women and children.”

“I would like to emphasize the Secretary-General’s initiative to establish a Pact with Member States, as well as a Circle of Leadership, on the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in all UN operations and, above all, in the context of peacekeeping and humanitarian actions. That initiative will give greater dignity to the most vulnerable people, especially women and girls, and will promote their rights.”

Country: Viet Nam

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/viet-nam>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Phạm Bình Minh, Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“We need to take concrete actions, in accordance with international law and the UN Charter, to prevent conflicts, build confidence and peacefully settle conflicts and disputes, including those in the Middle East, Africa and call for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

Country: Saint Lucia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/saint-lucia>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Allen M. Chastenet, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia

No relevant references.

Country: Cuba

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/cuba>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba

Themes: Implementation, Disarmament

Extract of statement:

“Military expenditures have increased to 1.7 trillion dollars. That reality belies those who claim that there are not enough resources to eradicate poverty.”

“The attempt to resort to military threats and force to stop the irreversible world trend to multi-polarization and polycentrism will seriously jeopardize international peace and security, which should be defended and preserved through international mobilization.”

“The urgent search for a just and lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East is based on the exercise of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the existence of a free and independent State within the pre-1967 borders, with Eastern Jerusalem as its capital.”

“Cuba reaffirms its support to the search for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the war in Syria without any foreign interference and with full respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

Country: Tunisia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/tunisia>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia

Themes: Human Rights, Peace Process

Extract of statement: __

I would like to emphasize that Tunisia made major strides since 2011 towards its transition to democracy and establishing the state's laws and institutions. One of the most prominent steps was adopting a constitution that dedicates universal values to democracy and human rights principles and women's rights and the position of the youth.

Because the security and stability of the Arab region is essential for the security of the world, we are calling for finding an urgent political resolution to the issues in the region, including the Palestinian Cause, which needs a comprehensive and just solution fair to the Palestinian people, which puts a stop to their suffering and enables them to get back their historic and legitimate rights, especially by establishing a state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I renew Tunisia's commitment to stand by our Libyan brothers to push them to overcome their disagreements and accelerate finding a political and comprehensive resolution to the crisis in their country.

We also emphasize the importance of reaching a comprehensive and urgent resolution to the situation in Syria by pressing the various stakeholders to prioritize the interests of their country and move towards a decision that all parties agree on, which preserves the unity of Syria and its leadership and its end the tragic human suffering that Syrians are experiencing and limit the dangerous implications of the crisis on the regional and international levels.

As it relates to Iraq, we are applauding their recent achievement with cooperation with the International Coalition Against Daesh in important advancements in the field in their war against terrorism. And we are reiterating Tunisia's full solidarity with Iraq in its fight against this dangerous phenomenon.

Country: Thailand

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/thailand>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Themes: Implementation, Human Rights, Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement: __

“We must empower the most vulnerable in our societies - those suffering in poverty, women, children, persons with disabilities - and leave no one behind. Their rights and dignity must be respect-

ed. They must be protected by law and have equal access to justice. Only then, can we realize a truly inclusive society with sustainable peace and development.”

“We also wish to hear about innovative resource mobilization and enhanced partnerships with all stakeholders, especially the private sector, academia, and civil society.”

“The United Nations must also address the root cause of each problem, especially by addressing structural gaps and working more on prevention, rather than only curing the symptoms.”

Country: Australia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/australia>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia

Themes: Participation Protection, Human Rights

Extract of statement: __

“There must be more women in senior positions.”

“Empowering women and girls to reach their full potential lifts a country's productivity and underpins stability. “

“The number of journalists and human rights defenders detained, abused or killed each year should be of grave concern to us all.”

Country: Hungary

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/hungary>)

Date: 22 September 2017

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

No relevant references.

Country: Algeria

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/algeria>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Human Rights

Extract of statement: __

It is imperative that we finally consent to reform our organisation, to put it in a position to assume the missions it was created for, whether that is conflict prevention, promotion of peace, respecting human rights, or the application of the right to self-determination.

Algeria is faithful to the cardinal principles of its foreign policy and which are the same as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations: respect for the independence and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the right to self-determination. Algeria intends to continue to actively assume its role on the basis of these principles and has always privileged political solutions in Syria and Yemen, as well as Mali and Libya.

My country can only deplore , the inability of the international community to put an end to the occupation of Arab lands by Israel and to reiterate its full support for the Palestinian people for the realization of its inalienable rights and the creation of an independent state with El Qods (East Jerusalem) as its capital.

I would also like to emphasize [...] that my country has vigorously engaged in the promotion of women's rights and empowerment. The Algerian Constitution was amended in 2016, and its effects are already notable concerning the promotion of women and their empowerment, from rural areas, to local assemblies, to the two chambers of the Parliament and up to the highest level of responsibility of the State. This led Algeria to receive the 2016 Prize awarded by the African Union within the framework of the 'decade on Human Rights', in particular the Rights of Women, and again in 2017, an award for the promotion of women's rights.

Country: Kenya

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/kenya>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Amina C. Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya

Themes: Human Rights, Implementation, Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement: __

“I am encouraged, Mr. Secretary General, by your commitment to empower the world’s women and girls because, as you said ‘parity at the UN will improve performance at the UN’. [...] We intend to target to cover health care services for women, children and adolescents.”

“Confirming this commitment two years ago, President Uhuru Kenyatta said, and I quote: “I pledge to take the needed sustainable actions to end all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents within a generation and ensure their well-being; we hold ourselves accountable for our collective progress towards this goal.”

“Further, we strongly believe that the support of the reconstruction process, including by enabling the government to provide basic services, will improve confidence and help prevent conflict in the future.”

Country: Iceland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/iceland>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gudlaugur Thor Thordarsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland

Themes: Human Rights, Participation, Peacekeeping

Extract of statement: __

“Complex internal conflicts have led to displacement and suffering on a massive scale, with famine looming in many areas, including Yemen.”

“Iceland knows first-hand the massive potential resting in gender equality. With UN Women as a key partner, Iceland is a dedicated proponent of women’s human rights (...) and continue to promote women’s participation in the peace and security agenda.”

“I commend the Secretary-General for his commitment to gender equality within the UN and his determination in addressing the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and UN staff – a betrayal of the civilians under their care, and of the values of the UN.”

Country: Sweden

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/sweden>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Margot Wallström, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Participation, General Women, Peace and Security, Implementation, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Extract of statement: __

“Sweden has made conflict prevention a central pillar of our Council membership. We have underscored the need for the Council to recognise the primacy of politics in peacekeeping mandates, and the need for long term political strategies that aim to prevent conflict and sustain peace by addressing root causes.”

“In Syria, prevention [...] failed. The price paid by the country and its citizens has been unimaginable and horrific.”

“Lasting peace requires the involvement of the entire population, meaning that the full, equal, and effective participation of women must be hardwired into all of our efforts towards sustaining peace.”

“Sweden is working tirelessly to put the Women, Peace and Security agenda into action in all aspects of the Council’s work, from including gender reporting in mission mandates to adding listing criterion for sexual and gender-based violence in sanctions regimes.”

“Sweden's feminist foreign policy is an agenda for change aimed at increasing rights, representation and resources for all women and girls, based on the reality of their lives.”

Country: Tonga

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/tonga>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.M. King Tupou VI, the Head of the State of Tonga

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement: __

“The 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) enabled the review of 7 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in particular: Goals 3, on Good health and well-being; 5, on Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and 14, on the Ocean and its resources.”

Country: Solomon Islands

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/solomon-islands>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands_____

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

Extract of statement: __

“Sadly, the majority of these displaced people are women and children.”

“Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights worldwide - my country and region included. Violence against women is an obstacle to gender equality in economic opportunities and livelihoods.”

“We have made big strides in not just counting women but more importantly in making women count.”

Country: Macedonia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/former-yugoslav-republic-macedonia>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Zoran Zaev, President of Macedonia

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“We must be vigilant and sustained, but also provide innovative and adaptable conflict prevention, sustainable development and management reform mechanisms, while building on the foundations enshrined in the UN Charter and other core documents.”

Country: Ethiopia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/ethiopia>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

“Only two years ago, three major peace and security reviews were conducted which provided valuable recommendations and which, if implemented, could help the United Nations to keep pace with the changing global security dynamics and effectively respond to new and emerging peace and security challenges in a comprehensive, systematic and coordinated manner.”

Country: Andorra

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/andorra>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Antoni Martí Petit, Prime Minister of Andorra

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

“The White Paper will give a way to an Equality Law, which should be the key to eradicating the discriminatory situations that still persist in our society. All of this work is aligned in a clear way with objective number 5 (gender equality) and number 10 (the reduction of inequalities).”

“Andorra will continue to support the initiatives that look to limit veto power of the permanent members of the Security Council in cases of genocide or other serious human rights violations.”

Country: Somalia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/somalia>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E Mr. Hassan Ali Khaire, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Themes: Participation, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“From Syria to the Central African Republic, from the Rohingya people of Myanmar to the people of Libya, the number of protracted and new conflicts remains unacceptably high.”

“Women are crucial in decision making and investment in society. In spite of our many challenges, Somalia has made significant steps in this regard. During the 2016 election, the number of women in our bi-cameral Parliament increased from 14 percent to 24 percent. Although we missed our 30 percent target, we did improve markedly from a few years ago. Six months ago, when I was forming my Council of Ministers, I appointed six women to my Cabinet. They hold some of the most important portfolios in our nation, including trade and industry, health, youth and sports, women and human rights and humanitarian affairs.”

“Vital legislations on human rights such as the soon to be approved Sexual Offences Bill, provide the tools to fight impunity of sexual perpetrators.”

Country: Lesotho

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/lesotho>)

Date: 22 September 2017

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

Themes: Human Rights, Participation

Extract of statement:

“Women and children, in particular, face the worst brutal forms of abuses in this world, especially in conflict-ridden countries.”

“We are relentlessly committed to combatting crime and corruption at all levels of our society, in accordance with Goal 16 of the SDGs, which recognizes that corruption undermines efforts to combat poverty and gender equality.”

“Empowerment of women is a focal point of our development policy; and we believe that the elevation of women to positions of leadership, both in the private and public sectors, will lead to a more equitable and prosperous society in Lesotho.”

“The Palestinians deserve to enjoy the right to peace, development and sanctity of life.”

Country: Saint Vincent and Grenadines

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/saint-vincent-and-grenadines>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Louis Straker, Deputy Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and Grenadines

Themes: Disarmament, Implementation, Peace Processes

“The human suffering in Syria, Yemen and Myanmar demands greater international attention and action. Similarly, the potential threats to international peace and security posed by tensions on the Korean peninsula, among the Gulf States and in the State of Palestine require persistent and prioritised diplomacy”.

“Diplomacy, though difficult, is always preferable to the alternative. This United Nations was founded and continues to exist on that fundamental premise. Frustration with the pace of negotiation and mediation cannot give way to the intemperate urge to impose quick military fixes on inherently political problems. Nor can it lead to an illogical interpretation of sovereign self-interest that justifies the trampling on the sovereignty of other states”.

“The litmus test for any serious talk of UN reform is the reform of the Security Council. Those who pay lip service to reform while ignoring the need for a reformed Council [...] are simply engaging in an exercise of attempting to reduce their financial responsibilities while maintaining an unjustifiable grip on disproportionate and outmoded power arrangements”.

Country: Cambodia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/cambodia>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia

No relevant references.

Country: Belize

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/belize>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Wilfred Elrington, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belize

Themes: Implementation, Disarmament, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

“Belize proudly hosted the launch of the CARICOM First Ladies and Spouses of Prime Ministers Network in support of the Implementation of SDG 5 and the Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child Initiative.”

“We have long supported [the UN] endeavors to forge new partnerships for development, to advance global health policies, to bring justice to victims of crimes against humanity, to protect the most vulnerable, and to control the spread of weapons of mass destruction, including small arms and light weapons.”

“We see injustice continuing to shadow the people of Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Western Sahara, South Sudan, and North Korea.”

Country: San Marino

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/san-marino>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nicola Renzi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of San Marino

Themes: Human Rights, Protection, Peacekeeping, Participation

Extract of statement:

“The relationship between peace, security and respect for human rights is undeniable: the measures for the protection and promotion of human rights are essential to prevent conflicts and to support peace.”

“The Republic of San Marino has always paid special attention to the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly and the disabled.”

“Gender equality must be the goal of the international community. Unfortunately, women are still the victims of discrimination and violence in many parts of the world, also in the most developed countries.”

“In support of the initiatives promoted by the Secretary-General, San Marino signed the Compact to combat and prevent sexual abuse and exploitation in the context of United Nations peacekeeping missions.”

“San Marino supports the Secretary-General in his initiative aimed at strengthening prevention activities and conflict mediation.”

“My country will participate in the Italian initiative for the creation of a network of women mediators in the Mediterranean area, whose purpose is to contribute to peace processes through prevention and mediation.”

Country: Liechtenstein

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/liechtenstein>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E Ms. Aurelia Frick, Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Implementation, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“The people of Syria in particular have suffered unspeakable violence. [...] Accountability for the worst crimes imaginable, committed in Syria but also elsewhere, is essential.”

“Prevention is the only effective form of protection.”

“As is the case so often, women and girls are disproportionately affected.”

“The numbers on gender pay gaps are still shocking. [...] Many of our common goals will only become achievable if we indeed achieve gender equality.”

Country: Greece

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/greece>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Nikos Kotzias, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece

Extract of statement:

“The Syrian war has taken a great toll in human lives, and millions have been displaced. [...] We fully support an inclusive political dialogue in Geneva under the UN auspices.”

“On Libya, Greece attaches particular importance to the international efforts to stabilize the country. Greece strongly believes that there is no military solution to the Libyan crisis.”

Country: Barbados

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/barbados>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados

Themes: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“We pay special attention to the rights of the vulnerable, including children, women, and persons with disabilities.”

Country: the United Arab Emirates

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/united-arab-emirates>)

Date: 22 September 2017

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

Themes: Displacement and Humanitarian Response, Peace Process, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“[In Libya, Syria, Yemen and Somalia], comprehensive political solutions can be achieved. Stability can be restored. But this will only be possible if we put a stop to outside interference in the Arab affairs, and prevent any form of support from being given to extremist and terrorist groups.”

“Our international efforts to achieve peace in the region will not be successful without ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories which has lasted over seven decades.”

“[The obstinate rejection by the Houthi rebels in Yemen of a political settlement to the Yemeni crisis and of humanitarian initiatives there] disrupts and delays numerous relief efforts and initiatives aimed at responding effectively to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen.”

“We will strive to address the humanitarian and development needs of the Yemeni people, especially women and children.”

“My country has ensured the provision of a safe environment to enable women and youth to fulfill their dreams and ambitions, and engage in the development of their country.”

Country: Mongolia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/mongolia>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Munkh-Orgil Tsend, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

“Sustainable social development is a prominent part of the SDG Vision 2030 of Mongolia. It sets out goals to ensure gender equality, improve the quality of and access to healthcare services, [etc.]”

Country: Benin

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/benin>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Aurélien Agbenonci, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Benin

Extract of statement:

The establishment of the Palestinian State, as a full member of the United Nations and in agreement with Israel will undoubtedly create the momentum for peace in this region.

Country: Brunei Darussalam

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/brunei-darussalam>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Seal Setia Lira Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“Peace, freedom, justice and self-determination are Palestine's fundamental rights. As the legitimate and truly representative organisation on the planet, the UN has a moral and legal obligation to enforce these rights and ensure accountability for actions that contravene international law. We continue to count on the UN as well as all relevant parties concerned to find a comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the region. We have to press on with all efforts in translating the growing international recognition of the State of Palestine into positive changes on the ground, so that the Palestinians can pursue sustainable development in their own homeland.”

“We support our Secretary-General's ideas to reform the UN and re-position our organisation to focus more on conflict prevention measures, including mediation. We believe such endeavour will greatly help the UN optimise its work and resources, and above all, save lives, safeguard people's dignity, and promote peace and security around the world.”

Country: Sierra Leone

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/sierra-leone>)

Date: 22 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Dr. Samura M.W. Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Sierra Leone

Themes: Disarmament, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“The effective utilization of Chapter VI of the Charter therefore remains the best option for this Organization in the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes.”

“Furthermore, the role of regional organizations in partnership with the United Nations must be further strengthened to ensure greater response at the regional level in implementing preventive measures such as early warning mechanisms.”

“The role of the Peacebuilding Commission has been exemplary and the experience, expertise and knowledge that exist within its work in preventing countries from relapse should be tapped to prevent conflict from escalating into violence or war. In this regard, we encourage the sharing of the experiences gained and lessons learned by PBC country configurations.”

“We have learned from experience that for mediation efforts to be fruitful, they must embrace such measures as the timely cessation of hostilities, credible cease-fire agreements and the timely deployment of peacekeeping and/or observer missions to undertake and supervise disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.”

“My Government has recorded significant milestones in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment [...]. We have established a more stable and regulatory environment for investment and wealth generation, which in the medium and long term will create employment opportunities for inclusive socio economic development of the youth, the disabled, and women.”

Country: the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/sierra-leone>)

Date: 23 September 2017

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

Themes: Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Justice and the Rule of Law

Extract of statement:

With regard to the fight against sexual violence, I applaud the remarkable progress achieved by the Congolese Justice, which has issued hundreds of decisions condemnation for rape, sparing no author of these crimes by virtue of his social position or in the hierarchy military, proof of the end of impunity in this area.

Country: South Sudan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/south-sudan>)

Date: 23 September 2017

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

Themes: Implementation, Participation, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Extract of statement:

“Realization of peace is greatly impeded with insufficient resources.”

“We strongly believe that 'peace is not a one day affair or event'. [...] Realisation of peace takes time. [...] It requires our collective efforts. [...] I wish also to highlight the important role that South Sudanese women continue to play as peace builders and custodians of these inter-communal peace initiatives.”

“It is an urgent task to realize the reforms of the United Nations Security Council, since the current composition and function of the Security Council does not reflect the realities of the international community in the 21st century.”

Country: Micronesia

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/micronesia-federated-states>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Yosiwo George, Vice President of Micronesia

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“As the United Nations undertakes efforts to reorient around the priorities of peace and prevention, the UN system will have to adapt.”

Country: Nepal

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/nepal>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal

Themes: Implementation, Peacekeeping, Participation

Extract of statement:

“While there are some notable achievements in poverty reduction, school enrollment, gender equality and combating communicable diseases, it is not without multiple and complex challenges.”

“On sexual exploitation and abuse, we must move from zero tolerance to zero case scenario. It is in this spirit that Nepal endorsed the Kigali Principles in its entirety, and signed the Secretary-General's Voluntary Compact on the Elimination of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.”

“The Security Council's reform is long overdue. Under-representation of developing countries must be addressed in recognition of their growing contributions in shaping global agenda. [...] Reforms must be inclusive and representative in structure, transparent and efficient in procedure, and accountable and effective in delivery.”

“Recent local level elections [in Nepal] have firmly established women's role in politics and development. The Constitution guarantees 40% women representation at the local level and one third in the federal and provincial parliaments.”

Country: Papua New Guinea

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/papua-new-guinea>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

No relevant references

Country: Syria

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/syrian-arab-republic>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Walid Al-Moualem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Syria
Themes: Peace Process, Protection

Extract of statement:

“No people has suffered at the hands of terrorism more than the Syrian people, who, for six years now, has fought against terrorists pouring from all over the world, supported by parties from the region and beyond.”

“The success of local reconciliations would not have been possible without the leadership's political support and the numerous amnesty decrees issued by President Bashar Al-Assad, which allowed everyone who had taken up arms to lay them down and resume their normal life. [...] Syria is determined to scale up reconciliation efforts, whenever possible, because it is the best means to alleviate the suffering of Syrians and restore stability and normalcy.”

“We are encouraged by the Astana process and the resulting 'de-escalation zones' and hope that it will help us reach an actual cessation of hostilities and separate terrorist groups, such as ISIL, Al-Nusra and others, from those groups that have agreed to join the Astana process.”

“For decades, Israel has continued its unscrupulous thuggish actions with full impunity. This usurper entity has occupied Arab territories in Palestine and the Golan for more than seventy years and has committed horrific crimes against innocent civilians. [...] Israel has provided all forms of support to Takfirist terrorist gangs, including funds, weapons, materiel, and communication equipment.”

“The so-called 'International Coalition' led by the US, which was created three years ago to allegedly fight terrorist groups such as ISIL, has killed much more innocent Syrians, mostly women and children, than terrorists and has destroyed vital infrastructure that Syrians have worked for years to build.”

Country: Dominica
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/dominica>)
Date: 23 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Mr. Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica

No relevant references.

Country: India
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/india>)
Date: 23 September 2017
Speaker: H.E. Ms. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India
Themes: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“Women, victims of historic discrimination, are demanding what they must get: gender empowerment. [...] Our 'Save the girl, Educate the girl' campaign is reducing gender inequality.”

Country: Djibouti

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/djibouti>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti

No relevant references.

Country: Saudi Arabia

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/saudi-arabia>)

Date: 23 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

The Israeli-Arab conflict is still one of the longest conflicts that the region has witnessed in its recent history, with all its tragedies, pain, and human suffering. We do not see a reason for the continuation of this conflict, especially when there is an international consensus on a two-state solution that is based on international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The military operation in Yemen was not a choice, and it was not a spur of the moment, but it came after extensive political efforts that aim to protect the security and stability of Yemen, its national unity and its regional safety.

The Syrian crisis is entering its sixth year, and the conflict is still ongoing, leaving hundreds of thousands of victims, and millions of displaced people and refugees. We see that the only way to end the crisis is through a political resolution based on Geneva 1 declaration and the UNSC Resolution 2254.

Country: Bahamas

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/bahamas>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mr. Darren Allen Henfield, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahamas

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

“We stand on the threshold of advancing a new agenda, as demanded by our people; one that has, at its core, the protection and promotion of the rights, interests and welfare of all Bahamians – women, men, young people and children.”

Country: The Philippines

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/philippines>)

Date: 23 September 2017

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

Theme: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“The Philippines integrates the human rights agenda in its development initiatives for the purpose of protecting everyone, especially the most vulnerable, from lawlessness, violence, and anarchy;

particularly families, women and children, the poor, indigenous people, migrant workers, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.”

Country: Singapore

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/singapore>)

Date: 23 September 2017

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

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

“Our policies on women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, are designed to protect and uplift the most vulnerable.”

Country: Bahrain

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/bahrain>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, Foreign Minister of Bahrain

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

Bahrain has recently issued a family unification law that sets up an important legislative tool that enhances the stability of the family and preserves all its rights without exploitation or abuse, based on the teachings of our tolerant Islamic religion. [...] This law demonstrates the commitment of the Kingdom of Bahrain to international law relating to family and women, especially CEDAW.

Last March, the international award for women’s empowerment of her Highness Sabikeh bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, the King’s wife, President of the Supreme Council for Women, was launched, which is consistent with the objectives of the United Nations goal to strengthen the role of women in the process of development and progress, and reflects the pioneering and influential experience of Bahraini women on the national and international levels.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and [...] its support for its terrorist organizations, including the terrorist Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria, the coup militias in Yemen, terrorist groups and cells in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq, and other countries [...] reveal clearly the dangerous nature of its regime.

The Republic of Iraq struggled, and is still struggling, from foreign interference that turns it into a conflict zone.

On Yemen, we are reinstating our continued support for the legitimate government with the leadership of his excellency President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen, through our participation in the Arab Coalition for supporting the legitimacy in Yemen, and supporting the measures it is taking to expand its control of the coup militias supported from abroad, and reaching a comprehensive solution based on international agreements, which has been agreed upon and they are: the Gulf Initiative and its operational mechanisms and the outputs of the national dialogue and UNSCR 2216.

On Syria, we are urging the international community to accelerate their efforts to protect civilians, stop the bloodshed. We also reiterate that all parties have to abide by the ceasefire, determine areas of conflict mitigations, guarantee the entrance of humanitarian assistance to besieged areas, and increase the support for countries that are hosting a big number of our Syrian refugees, primarily the Kingdom of Jordan.

On Libya, we applaud the liberation of a number of major cities from the grip of terrorist groups, and we reiterate our complete support for all the efforts aiming to achieve reconciliation between all parties to the conflict in Libya.

The Palestinian issue is of a high priority for the foreign policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which stands with and supports the Palestinian people's legitimate right to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital within the borders of 1967 in line with the relevant international agreements and the Arab Initiative.

Country: Laos

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/lao-people%E2%80%99s-democratic-republic>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos

Themes: Implementation

Extract of statement:

"The Lao PDR [...] hopes that the Palestinian issue [...] will be solved by peaceful means with a view to creating two independent states of Palestine & Israel living side by side in peace, security and within internationally recognized borders, as stipulated in the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council."

"My delegation firmly believes that development remains an integral part and a top priority for ensuring international peace, security and human rights, all of which are closely linked."

Country: Ireland

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/ireland>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Denis Naughton, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment of Ireland

Themes: Participation, Peacekeeping, General Women, Peace and Security, Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

"The Security Council does not reflect the world that has evolved since the UN was established in 1945. [...] The need to increase the size of the Council is clear to see. [...] While the use or threat of the veto remains in place, the work of the Council is impeded and the UN can be paralysed in its response to the gravest crises facing the international community."

"I am pleased to note that Ireland is committed to doubling the number of women in our Defence Forces, with the aim also of increasing female participation in peacekeeping. As the Secretary General said at the Security Council this week, and as we know from the Women, Peace and Security agenda, increased female participation leads to better decision making, improved situational

awareness, a better focus on protection of civilians, and enhanced reporting of and accountability for sexual exploitation and abuse.”

“The Women Peace and Security agenda has had a hugely positive impact globally with the realisation that we can create more durable and sustainable peace by working to ensure that women play their rightful role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Ireland will play our part, including as chair of the Commission on the Status of Women during the next two years.”

“We all know that conflict prevention has the potential to save lives and to protect hard-won development gains - and that it comes at a lower financial cost than peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peacebuilding. We strongly support the Secretary-General's efforts to re-orient the international community's thinking toward crisis and conflict prevention. Flowing from our painstaking conflict resolution efforts on the island of Ireland, we seek to share our national experience in our work on conflict prevention, mediation and state-building. [...] Of course, conflict prevention involves policy planning and engagement on the ground, all of which requires funding. We have very recently seen some reductions in peacekeeping operations and their associated costs. We might reasonably ask if a small part of these savings could be used to provide stable funding for the UN's conflict prevention work.”

“The Sustainable Development Goals remind us, we live in an interconnected world, each challenge affecting the other. African countries are particularly affected by global challenges, such as climate change, conflict and food insecurity, which can only be addressed in their African contexts in a spirit of effective global partnership. Such partnership requires understanding local perspectives anchored in local experience, in particular on how to tackle root causes.”

“The conflicts in Syria and Yemen have caused untold suffering. Ireland has responded generously to these crises with almost €100 million in humanitarian aid but what the people of Syria and Yemen need most now is peace, to enable them to rebuild their lives. I urge all sides to the two conflicts to work for an end to violence, to engage in the search for peaceful political solutions under UN auspices and for accountability for crimes committed.”

“The scale and severity of humanitarian crises is one of the greatest challenges facing the international community. Ireland is committed to providing humanitarian assistance and contributing to international efforts to ease the plight of civilians caught in conflicts in South Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Iraq to name but a few. As these large-scale crises dominate the headlines, Ireland is conscious of the many 'forgotten' and underfunded crises and the need to maintain a focus on ensuring that human suffering, wherever in the world it occurs, is not ignored.”

“Ireland is committed to constructive and principled diplomatic action on the Middle East Peace Process. [...] Palestinians need an end to occupation, and Israelis need security. Continued construction of settlements unduly undermines the prospects for both. [...] Ireland is prepared to give all the support we can to achieving a Two State Solution.”

Country: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)
(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/democratic-peoples-republic-korea>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ri Yong Ho, Minister for Foreign Affairs of DPRK

Themes: Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“The day will certainly come in near future when we settle all damages inflicted to our peaceful economic development and improvement of the people's livelihood and all the sufferings imposed on our innocent women, children and elderly by the heinous and barbaric sanctions against our Republic.”

“The unjust and contemptible acts such as turning a blind eye to the heinous acts of Israel while condemning in every manner only the Syrian government fighting to protect its national sovereignty and security should not be tolerated any longer.”

Country: Iraq

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/iraq>)

Date: 23 September 2017

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

Extract of statement:

Peace in the region can only be achieved through the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. [...] Iraq also supports a political solution to settle all problems and disputes in the Middle East, especially in Yemen and Libya.

With regard to the situation in Syria, the position of Iraq is clear since the outbreak of the first spark of the crisis in 2011. We call for a political solution instead of a military one, and Iraq adopts a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Iraq supports efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully to prevent the bloodshed of the Syrian people, and the preservation of its unity and territorial integrity.

Country: Eritrea

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/eritrea>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh Mohammed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

No relevant references.

Country: Suriname

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/suriname>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Yldiz Pollack-Beighle, Minister of Public Affairs of Suriname

Themes: Participation

Extract of statement:

“It is through political will that more women in our society can excel to the highest echelons of political decision making.”

Country: Sudan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/sudan>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Ahman 'Abd al-Aziz Ghandour, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan

Extract of statement:

“Sudan reiterates its steadfast position on the Palestinian issue and condemns all forms of attacks on religious sanctities in Palestine, particularly the Temple Mount. It also affirms that the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East is through the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the two-state solution and the Arab peace initiative and the borders of the fourth of June 1967.”

“My delegation also reiterates its firm, supportive and pro-constitutional stance in Yemen and calls on various political components to engage in the political process and renounce fighting and distance themselves from the option of violence and return to legitimacy.”

“My delegation also reiterates its keenness to preserve the unity of the Syrian territory and supports all efforts to overcome the Syrian crisis and to emphasize the importance of a political solution in Syria and respect for the will of its people.”

“As for the situation in Libya, Sudan's position has always been consistent in the pursuit of the international community to ensure the success of all initiatives in order to achieve security and stability, especially the Skhirat Agreement, which is the cornerstone of the political solution in Libya.”

Country: the Marshall Islands

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/marshall-islands>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. John Silk, Minister of Public Affairs and Trade of the Marshall Islands

No relevant references.

Country: Oman

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/oman>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of Oman

No relevant references.

Country: Trinidad and Tobago

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/trinidad-and-tobago>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago

Themes: Implementation, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“Our Government accords high priority to achieving gender equality, the empowerment and advancement of women which are pivotal to the achievement of the SDGs.”

“In the words of UN Secretary General, ‘women's rights are human rights’. One cannot overstate the importance of protecting the rights of women and ensuring their full participation on an equal basis with men.”

“In placing women at the forefront of our development, it should be noted that a Trinidad and Tobago national is one of two women who sit on the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), which comprise 20 members.”

Country: Chad

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/chad>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chad

Extract of statement:

With regard to the situation in Libya, Chad gives its full support to the United Nations and the African Union in the search for reconciliation between the different Libyan parties. However, the solution of the crisis is in the hands of the Libyan politicians who have the respond to the expectations of the population.

The Palestinian question remains a fundamental issue, its impact on other crises is evident. For this reason, a fair and acceptable solution must be one which involves the peaceful cohabitation of two states, Israel and Palestine.

Country: Jamaica

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/jamaica>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Implementation, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“We [...] fully support the focus placed by the Secretary-General on sustaining peace across the continuum: from prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping, to peace-building and long-term development.”

“Through the Group of Friends on Financing the SDGs, which our countries co-chair, we have been promoting the establishment of partnerships with the private sector, philanthropic organisations and academic institutions. We are exploring innovative financial mechanisms that can spur the investments needed to accelerate implementation of the SDGs.”

“Jamaica is committed to the empowerment of women and girls, as well as young people. [...] We are strengthening our legislative and policy frameworks to address violence against women and girls and to foster economic opportunities.”

“We continue to believe that the best solution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis rests in a negotiated political settlement based on a just, lasting and comprehensive agreement that guarantees the security of Israel and provides for a Palestinian State within internationally recognised borders.”

Country: Maldives

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/maldives>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mohamed Asim, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives
Themes: Human Rights, Displacement and Humanitarian Response, Protection

Extract of statement:

“No man, no woman, and certainly no child, must suffer due to conflict.”

“An independent, sovereign State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, established along the 1967 borders, is the only solution, the only way. [...] The shameful occupation by Israel continues, without consequence. Violence, economic deprivation, fear, hunger and hopelessness – this is what a child in Palestine is born into.”

“In Syria, over a quarter of a million people have lost their lives, with many millions displaced and many more millions made refugees.”

“The Gender Equality Act has guaranteed in law, what Maldivians have been practising for decades - equality for women at home, at work, in decision-making, and in our society.”

“Policies aiming at greater representation of women in leadership positions are showing results. Laws, policies, and regulations have created a framework where every man, every woman, every Maldivian can be a champion for gender equality.”

Country: Burundi

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/burundi>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alain Aimé Nyamitwe, Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of Burundi

No relevant references.

Country: Niger

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/niger>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Yacouba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Niger

Themes: Disarmament

Extract of statement:

Due to the uncontrolled circulation of weapons of all calibers, armed groups are becoming direct threats to both the Libyan people and for neighboring countries. As long as Libya does not stabilize, there is no guarantee that the Sahelo-Saharan space will not continue to experience violent jolts.

Niger is united with the struggle of the Palestinian people for the liberty and independence. Our position invariably remains that the just resolution of the conflict lies in the guaranteeing of the creation of Palestine with Jerusalem East as the capital.

Country: Grenada

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/grenada>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Elvin Nimrod, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Grenada

Themes: Protection

Extract of statement:

“Grenada advocates for special attention to be paid to our women, children, elderly and disabled.”

Country: Tanzania

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/united-republic-tanzania>)

Date: 23 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Augustine P. Mahinga, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of Tanzania

Themes: Implementation, Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping

Extract of statement:

“We need to invest more on conflict prevention, resolution and mediation efforts by addressing the root causes, precipitating and triggering factors to conflicts.”

“We commend our men and women in blue helmets who are sacrificing their lives to serve the heroic cause of peacekeeping.”

“This growth can be achieved by, among other things, increasing employment in both rural and urban areas; providing financial support through soft loans to youth and women; strengthening small and medium enterprises; securing fair taxation and fiscal regimes from business entities as well as restoring discipline and accountability while addressing corruption and controlling public spending.”

“We urge the United Nations Security Council to continue strengthening operational capability of FIB in MONUSCO in order to be able to effectively deal with negative forces and asymmetrical warfare in the Eastern DRC. [...] We urge the international community to extend both logistical and financial support to DRC to complete the registration of voters register and carry out expeditiously the planned elections.”

“On Palestine, we support the two-state solution living side by side in peaceful co-existence. To that end, the elements of a viable State of Palestine must be ensured and respected.”

Country: Saint Kitts and Nevis

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/saint-kitts-and-nevis>)

Date: 23 September 2017

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

Themes: Implementation, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“Whilst the budgets alone of some Governments will be inadequate to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, others are using multiple times these budgets on developing nuclear war-heads.”

“Whilst some governments are allocating large sums to secure a future for their women and youth, others are investing in the tools of war.”

Country: Uruguay

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/uruguay>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay

Themes: Protection, Peacekeeping

Extract of statement:

History has shown us that regardless of the region or religion, there is a constant pattern in the conflicts that take place in the world: women and girls suffer the most from them.

We are highly committed to the 'zero tolerance' policy and reiterate our support for it, working hard to prevent further cases of abuse and sexual exploitation in peace operations, under the understanding of that 'a single case of sexual exploitation is too much.'

Country: the Holy See

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/holy-see>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary of relations with States of the Holy See

Themes: Disarmament, Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

"The duty to prevent wars and violent conflicts is an essential component of the Responsibility to Protect. Thus, the Holy See appreciates the Secretary General's explicit and strong emphasis on preventive diplomacy and concurs with his assessment that the 'most serious shortcoming' of 'the entire international community is the frequent inability to prevent crises.' Prevention requires, first of all, restoring faith in the capacity of humankind for dialogue. [...] All countries should take a decisive and urgent step back from the present escalation of military preparations. The largest countries and those who have a stronger tradition of respecting human rights should be the first to perform generous actions of pacification. All the diplomatic and political means of mediation should be engaged to avoid the unspeakable."

"The war in Yemen is causing a humanitarian catastrophe of apocalyptic proportions. The tragedy from the war in Syria continues to grow every day. Involved players should sit at the UN negotiating table with the sole pre-condition of respecting human rights law and principles and allowing humanitarian access and assistance. At the same time, States, especially those who at some time in recent history have been directly or indirectly involved in the conflict, must undertake all means to reach a ceasefire, a first step towards peace."

"All must 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'."

"The ongoing violence and intense political tension in the Democratic Republic of the Congo necessitate an urgent and efficient commitment from all parties to find a solution to the constitutional crisis."

“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, South Sudan and Central African Republic, among others.”

Country: Mozambique

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/mozambique>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Antonio Gumende, Chair of the Mozambique Delegation

Themes: Human Rights, Conflict Prevention, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“Our focus on people also envisages not to leave anyone behind, one of the guiding precepts of our universal agenda. [...] Particular attention is given to policies and strategies aimed at the protection and the full enjoyment of human rights, the promotion of gender equality and equity as well as the empowerment of women and youth who constitute the majority of our people.”

“The principle of self-determination and right of freedom should also be a reality for the Palestinian people. [...] We believe that the solution relies in the two states principle, Palestine and Israel co-existing side by side, in peace and security.”

Country: Angola

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/angola>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ismael A. Gaspar Martins, Chair of the Delegation of Angola

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Implementation. Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“We appreciate the relevance of the four axes defined in the Agenda of this Session, namely: Prevention and Mediation of Conflicts to achieve sustained Peace; Promotion of Human Rights; Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the Paris Climate Agreement.”

“The economic and financial difficulties affecting most countries have had a negative impact on the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially among the poorest, most vulnerable and with limited internal resources. International efforts aimed at securing the critical financial resources should be guided by the Addis Ababa Agenda on Financing adopted in 2015.”

“In the Middle East, we are concerned with the impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Angola argues that the solution lies in the existence of two States, living side by side in peace and security.”

Country: New Zealand

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/new-zealand>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Craig Hawke, Chair of the Delegation of New Zealand

Themes: Conflict Prevention, Implementation, Human Rights

Extract of statement:

“Given significant ongoing challenges to international peace and security, the UN’s role in preventing and resolving conflict is as relevant now as ever. [...] The United Nations needs to invest a much greater proportion of its resources and effort in preventing conflict, rather than focusing primarily on the consequences of conflict.”

“On the Security Council, New Zealand made determined efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in Syria. Alongside Spain, Jordan and Egypt, we managed to renew and improve cross border access arrangements.”

“In Iraq, New Zealand Defence Force personnel are working to strengthen the capacity of Iraqi forces in their battle against Daesh. [...] It will be important for Iraqi forces to consolidate the gains they have made, and for the international community to support Iraq in stabilising and rebuilding areas that have been recaptured. We must prevent any resurgence in violent extremism.”

“We are exploring alternative sources of development financing including working with the private sector, tapping into diaspora as a source of skills and investment, maximising the value of remittances, and increasing temporary labour market access.”

“New Zealand continues to support Security Council reform to make the Council more representative, as well as to improve its working methods, which was a high priority during our Council term.”

Country: Turkmenistan

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/turkmenistan>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Aksoltan Ataeva, Chair of the Delegation of Turkmenistan

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“Noting the role of diplomacy in preventing conflicts, eliminating root cause of conflict, creating atmosphere of mutual trust, forming conditions for effective social, economic, political and other partnerships between countries, Turkmenistan places great emphasis on the role of the UN regional office for preventive diplomacy in Central Asia for fulfilling these objectives.”

Country: Peru

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/peru>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Permanent Representative of Peru

Themes: Conflict Prevention

Extract of statement:

“We will provide special attention to consolidating sustainable peace and the prevention of conflicts and humanitarian crises.”

Country: Venezuela

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/venezuela-bolivarian-republic>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jorge Arreaza Montserrat, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela

Themes: Human Rights, Peace Process

Extract of statement:

The USA is one of seven countries of the world that has not ratified the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; paid maternity leave in the United States is not compulsory. [...] One in three indigenous women [in the U.S.] is raped in her life.

Induced and bloody wars like the pre-fabricated wars against Syria and Libya, leaving only desolation in its wake. Fortunately, the heroic people and government of Syria, with the support of just international allies, is everyday closer to a definitive victory over the terrorist groups.

Venezuela encourages the restart of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, whose process must lead to the achievement of a firm and lasting peace between the two States, recognizing the borders of Palestine as existing in 1967, in accordance with international law, and to the establishment of East Jerusalem as its capital.

We congratulate the implementation of the peace accords between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, to which lots of energy and effort went into by both Commander Chavez and President Nicolas Maduro. Likewise, we will continue to accompany and facilitate discussions between the Colombian government and the ELN, which is developing in the Republic of Ecuador.

Country: Norway

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/norway>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Tore Hattrem, Chair of the Delegation of Norway

Themes: Participation, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights, Implementation

Extract of statement:

“Preventing and addressing war, conflict and humanitarian crises is crucial for sustainability. Norway strongly supports UN Secretary-General Guterres' vision for the UN. Every tool and institution within the UN system must be realigned to improve our ability to prevent conflict and to make and sustain peace. [...] Investments in human rights today will prevent what would have been tomorrow's conflicts.”

“The point I want to make is that the Colombian success story is propelling sustainable development both within and outside the nation's borders. The agreement struck by the parties also addresses issues of common interest globally - such as fighting illicit drug trafficking and deforestation in former conflict areas. The Colombian process was the most inclusive peace process in history. Ensuring inclusivity in conflict resolution is both the right and the smart thing to do. Experience shows that women's participation in peace processes tends to increase the chances of sustainable peace.”

“Development assistance should play a more catalytic role in our common, global campaign for sustainable development.”

“Norway has disbursed half a billion US dollars to the Syria crisis since 2016. This means that we are on track to fulfil the pledge we made at the London conference.”

“Investing in education, particularly for girls, is the most effective way of promoting sustainable development.”

Country: Timor Leste

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/timor-leste>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. Maria Helena Pires, Chair of the Delegation of Timor Leste

Themes: Human Rights, Implementation, Participation, Protection

Extract of statement:

“The state of Timor Leste, with the support of the civil society and the development partners, has been implementing initiatives to promote the participation and the contribution of women in the process of social and economic development, including legal provisions against discrimination.”

“There are many Timorese women in positions of high responsibility within the government, the justice system, and other public or civil society institutions. One third of the members of the Timor-Leste National Parliament are women. Nevertheless, the protection of women against exploitation and the advancement of their role in society still require the development of policies that promote equality.”

Country: Nicaragua

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/nicaragua>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Speaker: H.E. Ms. María Rubiales de Chamorro, Chair of the Delegation of Nicaragua

Themes: Disarmament

Extract of statement

“We express our best wishes for the implementation of Peace Accords in Colombia. President Daniel Ortega signaled, ‘Colombia is proving that there is no military solution’.”

“Nicaragua reiterates its commitment to the establishment of the Two States, the state of Israel and the State of Palestine.”

“We emphasize the need for a political and negotiated solution between Syrians and the end of foreign intervention.”

Speaker: H.E. Miroslav Lajcak, the President of the General Assembly

(<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/president-general-assembly-closing>)

Date: 25 September 2017

Themes: Peacekeeping, Protection, Conflict Prevention, Implementation

Extract of statement

“First, I heard overwhelming support for the proposal to prioritize peace and prevention. Many of you reiterated the call of the Secretary-General for a surge in diplomacy to stop today’s conflicts.”

And you called for the UN to do more to prevent conflicts from breaking out. We must draw from national, regional and international experiences of mediation and conflict prevention. We must re-align our approach to emphasize the peace in what we now call peace and security.”

“Second, you talked about the needs of people all over the world. You expressed a vision in which human rights, gender equality, and the rule of law are norms. Today they often unfortunately remain the exceptions. So, we have more work to do in realizing this vision.”

“We must remember that differences in unilateral positions do not prevent multilateral agreement. They might give us more work to do. Our negotiations might be more difficult. But they can also make the outcome stronger. So, I want to embrace both the consensus and contention that came as part of this year’s General Debate.”

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a worldwide non-governmental organisation (NGO) with national sections covering every continent, an International Secretariat based in Geneva, and an office in New York focused on the work of the United Nations (UN).

Since our establishment, we have brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace. Our approach is always non-violent, and we use existing international legal and political frameworks to achieve fundamental change in the way states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security.

WILPF Geneva
Rue de Varembé 1
Case Postale 28
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
T: +41 (0)22 919 70 80
E: inforequest@wilpf.ch

WILPF New York
777 UN Plaza, New
York
NY 10017 USA
T: +1 212 682 1265

