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Declaration

Women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding

We, the members of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, have assembled at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2013, under the chairmanship of Her Excellency Vesna Pusić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, to reaffirm the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as outlined in Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security; and to affirm our commitment to promote the economic empowerment of women for peacebuilding. To that end, we:

1. Reaffirm the primary responsibility of national authorities in identifying their priorities and strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding, and in this regard stress that national ownership, responsibility and political will, as well as concerted efforts of national Governments and the international community, are critical in building sustainable peace, including by means of supporting the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding;
2. Emphasize the importance of sustaining political momentum behind ongoing peacebuilding processes, promoting gender equality and promoting and protecting the human rights of women;
3. Underline the critical role of women in preventing conflicts and supporting, participating in and carrying out peacebuilding initiatives and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as actively working towards post-conflict economic recovery;
4. Recognize that the economic empowerment of women greatly contributes to the effectiveness of post-conflict economic activities and economic growth, and leads to improving the quality and social outcomes of economic recovery measures and policies as well as to sustainable development; and underscore the importance of integrating, as appropriate, a gender perspective when undertaking post-conflict economic activities;



5. Emphasize that inequalities and discrimination against women and girls in social and economic opportunities can constitute obstacles to effective peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery. In that regard, we recognize the particular needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations, including, inter alia, physical security, health services, including sexual and reproductive health, land and property rights, nutrition and education;

6. Note with concern that sexual violence in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations disproportionately affects women and girls; and emphasize that acts of sexual violence in such situations not only severely impede the critical contributions of women to society, but also encumber durable peace and security, as well as sustainable development;

7. Affirm the need for United Nations-supported post-conflict recovery initiatives and programmes, including those led by the Peacebuilding Commission, to promote the economic empowerment of women and their equal engagement alongside men in post-conflict economic recovery. We also stress that the relevant United Nations entities must, in accordance with their respective mandates, accelerate efforts to mainstream gender perspectives into their relevant activities. We recognize the role and the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard, and we reaffirm the important role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. We also stress the importance of enhancing the mobilization of resources for initiatives that address women's peacebuilding needs, advance gender equality and empower women in peacebuilding contexts, and encourage Member States and other partners to render their support;

8. Urge Member States and international and regional organizations to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, including by enhancing their engagement in political and economic decision-making at early stages of recovery processes, by, inter alia, promoting women's leadership and capacity to engage in aid management and planning, supporting women's organizations and countering negative societal attitudes about women's capacity to participate equally;

9. Emphasize the need to support the capacity-building of Governments in designing and carrying out national peacebuilding strategies that respond to women's economic needs and priorities in post-conflict situations; and recognize in this regard the contribution of civil society to national efforts that protect women's rights and facilitate their access to legal services in post-conflict societies, as well as women's entrepreneurship opportunities;

10. Call upon Member States to take measures to promote sustainable livelihoods for households led by women, especially widows, in post-conflict societies, including through financial support and access to productive resources and sustainable income-generating activities. In this regard, we stress the importance of assisting post-conflict countries in creating favourable conditions that can generate decent jobs for women, nurture their business skills, encourage them to join the workforce, and deliver the financial services that these women need, both in the formal and informal sectors;

11. Recognize the importance of raising financial awareness among women in post-conflict situations in rural areas, including through financial literacy programmes for women in rural areas in national peacebuilding strategies, so as to enable the effective implementation of women's economic empowerment programmes and the appropriate utilization of available financial resources. We further stress the need to provide particular support to women in rural areas in post-conflict situations, including, inter alia, through vocational training, training on income-generating activities, access to land, long- and short-term credit facilities, productive resources and other business support services, including agricultural extension services;

12. Call upon the relevant United Nations entities and concerned Member States to strengthen communication and cooperation on activities related to women and peacebuilding so as to maximize their effectiveness and complementarity;

13. Invite Member States to continue to promote and give due consideration to women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding.
