

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security**  
**November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mr. Seger Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations.*

Switzerland thanks the Guatemalan presidency for proposing this discussion, as well as the Indian presidency, which took it up again after Hurricane Sandy. We would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary- General for having presented the report (S/2012/732) on the implementation of the strategic framework for the promotion of women and peace and security. The report shows, in our view, the usefulness of the global indicators in measuring progress — or sometimes the lack of progress — in a systematic, transparent, honest and critical way.

Let me first address the main topic of today's open debate, the inclusion of women's civil society networks in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and peacebuilding. I will concentrate on three main issues that we believe to be crucial.

First, on mediation, the Secretary-General's report provides us with important facts and figures. Unfortunately, it comes to the conclusion that progress remains limited with regard to the inclusion of women in peace talks and the inclusion of women's issues in peace agreements. Our challenge today is to identify opportunities for their participation and to offer them such opportunities at all levels. There is no shortage of capable and well-trained women, as a number of mediation training events for women and women's networks have taken place all over the world.

In the framework of our programme dedicated to dealing with the past, we have attached great importance to a gender-sensitive implementation of the transitional justice mechanisms. Women's perspectives and needs must be an essential component of all four principles of the fight against impunity: the search for truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence.

On security sector reform, gender-based violence can be rooted in traditional values and norms, stereotypes and structures that are transmitted through education and perpetuated by civil society. These stereotypes, values and norms are mirrored in the security sector, which is also one of the key areas to focus on in the fight against discrimination and gender-based violence. If the security sector is to be effective in fighting impunity for crimes committed against women, it must be reformed, taking into account sexist clichés and patterns of deep-rooted discrimination against women, and by including women's networks in the process.

Allow me to conclude with a quick advertisement. The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security has prepared a report parallel to the work of the Security Council entitled "Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the UN Security Council: 2011-2012". We recently launched the report with Liechtenstein, and we warmly encourage all Council members and the entire United Nations membership to read it and to take into account its recommendations in their daily work.

Finally, I have the pleasure today to announce the launch of another important publication supported by Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the *Handbook on Women, Peace and Security*, by the NGO Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. It is the second edition of the *Handbook* and examines the degree to which the Security Council has incorporated women, peace and security into its geographical work over the past 12 years, specifically in the Council's country-specific resolutions. The *Handbook* also contains important recommendations and is available electronically as a smartphone application so that all can have access at any point to language involving women, peace and security. We encourage all Council members to use the *Handbook* to better strengthen the links between geographical and thematic work.

If I may, I would like to distribute a copy of the *Handbook* to each member of the Council. I know it is lunchtime and I would very much have preferred to provide members with more material sustenance, but I do hope that this intellectual nourishment will also be of interest to the Council.