

**Statement by the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security
UNSC Open Debate on the Role of Regional Organizations in Implementing Women,
Peace and Security**

15 June 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace, and Security, an informal network of 66 Member States, representing all five regional groups of the UN, and the European Union¹.

We wish to thank Albania for convening this important debate. The Group of Friends wishes to emphasize three points:

First, we must take swift and concerted action to fully implement Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Otherwise, women and girls, in diverse situations and conditions, will continue to be sidelined from political and peace processes, live in fear for their safety, face reprisals for raising their voices, and be subjected to all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence.

While Member States are expected to implement Women, Peace and Security resolutions, regional and sub-regional organizations play an important role. In conflicts and crises, including in contexts of seizures of power by force, regional organizations and regional networks provide support in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution. We urge them to promote women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects and at all levels of peace and security processes.

Second, we are encouraged that a number of regional organizations, including those represented here today, have Women, Peace and Security action plans to translate global goals into action. We commend initiatives taken by a number of regional organizations to strengthen collaboration -- including with the UN -- to improve data disaggregation and gender analyses, share best practices and coordinate gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches to ensure the meaningful inclusion of women, in particular those from traditionally marginalized groups, in political and peace and security processes. We believe that the UN Peacebuilding Commission's advisory and convening role can play a role in supporting these efforts.

¹ Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, United States of America, Zambia.

Third, it is critical that regional partners support safe and enabling environments for women peacebuilders, human rights defenders, activists, and gender equality advocates. We call on regional partners to join us in providing rapid, flexible funding to women and women-led organizations at the front lines of peace and security.

To close the gap between commitment and reality, we need all partners to rally in support of the Women, Peace and Security agenda with all of the energy and resources that we can collectively muster.