POST-2015 WOMEN'S COALITION
A coalition of feminist, women's rights, women's development, grassroots and social justice organizations working to challenge and reframe the global development agenda.

ORAL STATEMENT

Thematic Debate of the General Assembly: Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies
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Statement by Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, FemLINKPACIFIC and Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict on behalf of the Post 2015 Women's Coalition, for Panel 2: *Strengthening national institutions towards achieving sustainable development*

Chairperson,

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the Thematic Debate as a representative of the Post-2015 Women's Coalition and GPPAC

Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies

We welcome the articulation on Peaceful and non-violent Societies, and Capable Institutions in the latest draft of the Open Working Group's Focus Areas document.

It is vital that the Post-2015 SDG agenda addresses the root causes of violence and conflict and builds on existing commitments to promote sustainable development and peace and to bring people to the centre of policy processes and outcomes.

This requires a 'Just' Governance approach which mainstreams deliberate and accountable governance through transparent, inclusive, responsive, participatory, and gender equitable mechanisms and institutions which address the specific disadvantages and injustices confronting children, youth, women, LGBTQI community, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and other minorities.

Recognizing that gender equality, development, and peace are mutually interconnected parts of sustainable development, we call on member states to support an integrated approach that puts people over profit and those at the bottom rungs of society at the center.

Peace requires changing business as usual including a clear mandate and mechanisms for civil society participation within the Post-2015 agenda. Peace requires development that respects and protects human rights while tackling the intersecting and structural drivers of inequalities and multiple forms of discrimination.

Peace requires a transformation of global financial priorities and practice so that macroeconomic policies enable gender equitable social development.

Conflict prevention and development also require the strengthening of democratic participation in decision-making at all levels.

In the context of this debate, it is critical to ensure the post-2015 agenda enables national infrastructures for peace which are established on a permanent basis not only in times of crisis.

This requires formal and informal spaces and capabilities for interaction, dialogue and cooperation across different sectors and involves the creation of fair, transparent and accountable justice institutions, including policing, that reach the most marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Resources must be made available for the creation of civil-society-led platforms for dialogue and the peaceful resolutions of tensions at local and national levels.

Strengthening the accountability of state and non-state actors for ensuring gender equality and women's human rights, is vital. This includes accountability for gender budgeting, the full and equal participation of women in all forms of decision-making, governance and peace negotiations, and the scaling-up of women-led civil society.

In this light, the extraterritorial obligations elaborated in the Maastricht Principles should be used as the foundation for facilitating good governance in the context of the new global partnerships.

We call on the international community to support national processes which reaffirm the link between development and peace, values such as good governance, transparency and accountability.

There can be no development without disarmament and the full and equal participation of women.

We call on the international community to prioritize and resource nationally-owned processes and institutions for development including national implementation mechanisms such as National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security which can be possible by redirecting military spending toward equitable social development and developing gender equality-strengthening macroeconomic policies and debt workout mechanisms.

We also ask the international community to enhance national participation and accountability – through the availability of publicly accessible, regular and disaggregated data and ensuring that mechanisms and infrastructures are in place to promote independent media, freedom of speech, and the public access to information from both government and private sector.

Tackling external stressors are essential to ensure stability and peace are not undermined and we reiterate civil society participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of all institutional measures to reduce national and international stresses that drive conflict and violence, including trade in arms and conflict commodities, human and drugs trafficking, and climate change.

We ask governments to integrate commitments and good practice from the Women, Peace and Security agenda addressing participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery into sustainable development efforts.

Conclusion:

Chairperson – Through women's eyes, there is a broader notion of security – one that is defined in human, rather than in military, terms - one where peace is possible because all citizens have faith in and are able to freely participate in the democratic process of institution and state building.

When women feel secure enough to organize for peace – expressed through arts, public demonstrations, political leadership and the use of a free and inclusive media – peace is on its way.

Which is why the principles of gender equitable conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the post-215 development framework through the establishment of a standalone goal in this Focus Area, as well as the mainstreaming of relevant targets in other Sustainable Development Goals.