



## Arria-formula meeting ‘Leveraging the synergies between the CEDAW and the Women, Peace and Security Framework’, 12 March 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt,  
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Chair

Thank you for convening this timely meeting, particularly as we are meeting for CSW this week. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women creates binding legal obligations for countries to always protect women’s human rights, including before, during, and after conflicts.

It also aims to ensure that women’s diverse experiences are fully integrated into all peacebuilding, peace-making, and reconstruction processes.



With 189 States parties, CEDAW defines what constitutes discrimination against women, and sets up an agenda for action by States to end such discrimination. It also includes countries on the Council's agenda. The obligations arising from it apply to them, and the rights it enhances extend to women and girls in these countries.

The CEDAW Committee states that the Taliban's systematic and institutionalised discrimination against women and girls may amount to gender persecution. UN experts have also characterised this as gender apartheid.

Chair

The Committee's General Recommendation 30 provides a broad accountability framework for women's rights in conflict situations. These are also applicable to situations of foreign occupation, internal disturbances, states of emergency, and in contexts of terrorism and organised crime. Its recommendations to non-conflict countries regarding their extra territorial obligations under the Convention and their involvement as third parties in peace negotiation processes can also inform the Council's work.



Malta welcomes the CEDAW Committee's active engagement in these situations. Weeks ago, it issued a second appeal for a total cessation of the war in Gaza and appealed to the Council to do the same. It drew attention to the plight of more than one million Palestinian women and girls that have been forcibly displaced multiple times. It also emphasised the primacy of equal representation of women in humanitarian operations and in all peace efforts. This is a fundamental element to ensure gender-transformative humanitarian aid that includes a focus women's and girls' special needs.

Malta believes that the Security Council's Women, Peace, and Security Agenda is complementary to and reinforces CEDAW's human rights-based approach. In the area of conflict-related sexual violence, the CEDAW committee can enhance the Council's understanding about all forms of gender-based violence in conflicts. We also welcome the Committee's engagement on the gendered impact of international transfers of arms, especially small and illicit arms.



CEDAW reporting can further help address gaps in information and analysis on the impact of armed conflict on women. Through GR30, the CEDAW Committee has provided authoritative guidance to States on legislative, policy and other appropriate measures to ensure full compliance with their obligations to women's rights in conflict prevention, conflict, and post-conflict situations. This guidance can also inform Council actions to ensure women's full, equal, meaningful, and safe political participation, through temporary special measures and constitutional and electoral reform processes.

## Chair

When Member States implement Security Council WPS resolutions, they are also complying with their CEDAW obligations. Civil society and NGO engagement with States Parties and CEDAW on women, peace and security are key factors shaping the positive outcomes of the Committee's engagement in advancing the WPS agenda.



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As a Council, we must also seek to strengthen these synergies and better utilise the Committees information in addressing gross violations of women's rights in situations on our agenda.

I thank you.