

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of External Affairs**  
**(United Nations Political Division)**  
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**No. U.II/551/39/2017**  
**MOEAF/R/2017/01676**

**Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017**

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To,

Sh. Umesh Chandra  
B5/146 First Floor,  
Safderjung Enclave,  
New Delhi, 110029

Sir,

Please refer to your RTI application received in this Division on 18.10.2017. The response to your RTI application is as follows:

2. The Information sought by you in query no. 1 regarding India's stance on UNSCR 1820 on Women, Peace and Security is replied with the enclosed documents carrying copy of resolution along with the copies of statement by our Permanent Representatives in UN on Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security.

3. If you are aggrieved with this reply, you may file an appeal with Shri V.P. Nair, Director(UNP) and Appellate Authority, UNP Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Room No. 2018, 'A' Wing, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, 23-D, Janpath, New Delhi-110011, Ph.: 011-49018413 within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

(Basir Ahmed)  
Under Secretary to Govt. of India  
Room No. 2029, 'A' Wing,  
Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan,  
23-D, Janpath, New Delhi-110011.  
Ph.: 011-49018411

**CC to:**

1. Under Secretary (RTI), MEA, New Delhi

1664/2017

क्र. सं. 4190  
 By No. /RTI Cell 2013  
 दिनांक/Dated 17/10/17

To,

Date: 13/10/2017

Ministry of External Affairs (UN section)  
 Central Public Information Officer  
 Room No. 2021, 'A' Wing, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan,  
 23-D, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 011.

**Subject: Request for information under RTI Act, 2005**

Dear Sir and Madam,

I, Umesh Chandra, Son of Shri Puran Lal, resident of B5/146 First Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi- 110029, Mobile no +91 8800120041 wish to seek information under the RTI Act, 2005

I wish to seek information about following questions:

1. What is the Government of India's stance on Security Council Resolution 1820 → UNP
2. What are the Government of India's obligation to implement International Convention on Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) - UNES
3. India signed UN Convention on Ending Racial Discrimination in 1967, what are the steps taken to make it into a Law? - UNES

I have deposited the required RTI fee amount of Rs 10/- (Rupees Ten Only) toward the application fee through Indian Postal Order favoring, Accounts Officer, the instrument bearing No 39F239607 Dated 10/10/2017. Further I undertake to pay any additional fee/charges (if applicable) as prescribed under the RTI Act.

**Declaration:**

- (i) I am a bona fide citizen of India and I owe allegiance to the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India and have not voluntarily acquired the citizenship of another country.
- (ii) The information given by me in this form is true and I am solely responsible for its accuracy.

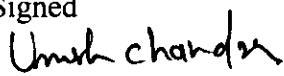
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for Vign.

Kindly provide the information as soon as possible and within the time framework as stipulated under the RTI Act, 2005

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 13/10/2017

Signed  
  
**Umesh Chandra**  
B5/146 First Floor,  
Safdarjung Enclave  
New Delhi- 110029  
Mobile: 8800120041  
[umeshchandra.cafi@gmail.com](mailto:umeshchandra.cafi@gmail.com)

**Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women and Peace and Security, New York on February 23, 2012**

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank SRSB Margot Wallstrom for her comprehensive and valuable briefing and also for the report of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict. We welcome the SRSB's efforts and share the principles and objectives outlined by her. I would also like to thank the USG for DPKO and the representative of the NGO Working Group on Women and Peace and Security for their statements. We think that the deliberations today will promote our common interest in the subject.

Mr. President,

India has been actively participating in the debates of the Council on the agenda item 'Women and Peace and Security'. This is a cross-cutting issue having multi-sectoral dimension, and requires the active participation of all Member States. I would, therefore, like to thank you, Mr President, and the delegation of Togo for organizing this open debate that affords an opportunity to Member States to discuss the progress made in the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1960 and contribute to our ongoing consideration of the subject.

Mr President,

Today, it is estimated that close to 90% of current casualties in wars and situations of armed conflict are civilians, with the majority being women and children. Obviously, women bear a disproportionately large share of the burden of conflict, but have a marginal say in matters of war and peace. This is perhaps a function of the gender imbalance in our societies, reflected in positions of power and influence.

Despite this, women should not be viewed solely as victims of war. They also have to assume the key role of ensuring family livelihoods in the midst of chaos and destruction, and are particularly active in the peace movements at the grassroots level and cultivating peace within their communities. Therefore, the absence of women at the peace negotiating table is unconscionable.

Mr. President,

Some of the aspects highlighted by the landmark UNSC resolution 1325, in particular, the greater participation of women in areas of conflict prevention, peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction, are central to the issue.

Some solutions would need to emerge from the conflict affected societies themselves. Others are more long term and structural. They involve, *inter alia*, the encouragement of democratic ideals and practices, effective improvements in the economic and social conditions, and expansion of opportunities for education and productive employment.

Situations of conflict vary. Each has its own causes and consequences. Clearly, there cannot be off-the-shelf remedies or panaceas. We need to take practical and effective steps to mitigate the impact of conflict on women and to enhance their ability to restore and preserve peace.

Mr. President,

It is a matter of deep regret that the international community has to repeatedly debate the issue of sexual and other forms of violence against women and girls in situations of armed conflict.

This abhorrent behavior has to be unequivocally, unambiguously and resolutely condemned, whether perpetrated by the parties to the armed conflict or others.

There should be no tolerance for gender-based violence. All such cases must be investigated and perpetrators prosecuted.

Some argue that human rights law and international humanitarian law do not offer enough protection to women and children. Such postulation is a bit extreme. Women's rights and needs have received the attention they deserve in the codification of international law.

The challenge is their effective implementation, and availability of adequate resources for capacity building wherever required. This alone will ensure the real impact of our efforts on the ground.

Mr. President,

By definition, it is States that are parties to the treaty-based system of international law. By and large, they respect them, and when they do not, penalties arise through the provisions of the relevant treaties.

The most egregious crimes against women in times of conflict, however, have been and are committed by non-state actors, often warring against governments; they obey no laws and are, as experience has shown throughout the last decade, immune to coercive and punitive measures.

This Council, therefore, needs to consider, in practical terms, how the non-state actors, which are responsible for the bulk of the crimes that continue to be committed against women, can be effectively tackled.

Mr. President,

On the UN side, there has been modest progress in areas such as gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations and training of peacekeeping personnel on gender perspectives. In this context, we commend SRSG Wallstrom for having brought a new synergy in addressing the issue of sexual violence in the situations of armed conflict.

My country has taken a lead in this process and been conscious of the need to incorporate essential elements of the gender mainstreaming policy in the pre-deployment training of its peacekeepers. India's formed police unit of 100 personnel in Liberia was the first of its kind among UN peacekeeping operations. As the largest troop contributing country in UN history, we are proud of the exemplary record of our peacekeepers. I might add that we are willing to increase our contribution of Female FPU's.

Mr. President,

The Secretary General has, in his report, referred to efforts to establish a framework of early warning indicators with specific reference to sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

The UN has also come up with a set of indicators as global markers of progress in the implementation of Resolution 1325. We have taken note of these efforts.

The development of such indicators, benchmarks and guidelines should involve a process of broad inter-governmental scrutiny and approval before their eventual adoption.

In this connection, one has to be cognizant of the difficulty in obtaining credible and verifiable data from conflict situations.

Mr. President,

India will continue to contribute positively to UN efforts in protecting vulnerable sections, particularly women and children, in conflict and post-conflict societies.

I would also like to emphasize that the international community needs to enhance cooperation by providing new and additional financial resources, sharing of experiences, and capacity building in the areas of justice and the rule of law.

Mr. President,

The women and children in our lives assure our future. They must live in security. While there is much talk of the need to safeguard the interests of women and

children, there is less talk of cooperative effort to ensure sustained economic growth which alone can eradicate the poverty and deprivation that cause their exclusion.

Several studies point out that most of the global poor are women. Globalization has affected both men and women, but women bear the double burden of inequality and marginalization.

Empowering them is, therefore, both crucial and urgent. In considering the role of women in peace and security, this Council, I am certain, will bear in mind this wider perspective of women empowerment, development and peace.

I thank you.

**BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL**

Statement by Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative, at the Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security at the UN Security Council, on October 13, 2015

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, we thank you for organizing the open debate on this important and pertinent issue and the informative concept note. We also thank the Secretary General for his annual report on the Agenda including the select findings of the global study on implementation of resolution 1325, as well as the briefers on their constructive remarks.



The report is being considered at a historic moment, when we have just adopted Agenda 2030, and commemorated the 40th anniversary of the historic first UN Women's Conference held in Mexico, and the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action.

The annual report underscores that armed conflict has escalated to unprecedented levels, dramatically reversing progress made, including in the area of women, peace and security. About 60 million people have been forcibly displaced, there is blatant violation of human rights, increasing gender based sexual violence, and growing involvement of non-state actors.

**Mr. President,**

Mainstreaming the gender perspective in the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda is a sine qua non for lasting peace and security. To sustain solutions to conflict situations, we must synergize the WPS Agenda with the relevant Agenda 2030 goals for sustainable development. Unless the members of the Security Council are able to



reflect this perspective into their deliberations while drawing up mandates for peace operations, we will not succeed in doing so. Developing countries must have a greater presence in the permanent membership of this Council. This is why the existing structure of the Security Council needs early reforms, as decided by all our leaders at the 2005 World Summit.

Due to this major shortcoming, the elaborate normative framework and the Secretary General's 7-Point Action Plan on gender-responsive peacebuilding, has not been achieved. The United Nations must encourage the full and meaningful participation and leadership of women in the decision making processes of conflict prevention, conflict-resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. In this context, our pioneering role in Liberia, where India became the first UN member state to send an all-female peacekeeping unit, illustrates what we are calling for.

High priority must be accorded to effectively tackling the problem of increasing emergence of non-state actors in conflict situations, who are immune to coercive and punitive measures. The Council should take the lead in investigating and prosecuting such non-state actors, and not be atrophied by the opaque procedures in its sanctions regimes, which have been further distorted by hidden vetoes, called technical holds or blocks, cast by some permanent members without accountability.

National governments have to be encouraged and assisted in developing and implementing national strategies in the context of Resolution 1325. The key to national capacity building is not the temporary location of external humanitarian experts, but the actual process of transfer of experience in human resource development and building national institutions by member states which are willing and able to share their experiences. Our recent commitment at the Leaders' Summit on UN Peacekeeping to ramp up our contribution of enablers and skilled female personnel from our armed forces, especially our police forces, is an illustration of how India proposes to address this issue. It goes without saying that such assistance must be with the consent of the host government, so that the United Nations can actually contribute to the objectives of peacebuilding. It is logical for us to highlight to the Council that such an approach, based on our experience as a Troop Contributing

Country to UN peace operations, requires the Council to implement in letter and spirit the provisions of Article 44 of the Charter, which allows troop contributing countries like us, not represented in the Council, to sit face to face with members of the Council while drawing up the mandates of UN peace operations.

**Mr. President,**

Resolution 1325 highlighted the impact of armed conflict on women, peace and security and the need for effective institutional arrangements to guarantee full protection and participation of women in peace processes. Any diversion from this objective towards other thematic issues, including human rights, violent extremism and countering terrorism would endanger and dilute the work being done separately in the UNGA and the Council, and put undue strain on already stretched resources of the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, I reiterate that India is committed to partner with all member states and the United Nations, civil society and local communities, to positively contribute to international efforts in the effective implementation of the agenda of women and peace and security.

**Thank you.**

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BHAGWANT BISHNOI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY, ON OCTOBER 28, 2014

Madam President,

We thank you for organizing this debate on matter of considerable importance. We also thank the Secretary General for his opening remarks and the Executive Director of UN Women, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the representatives of Civil Society for the briefing.

Madam President,

It is a fact that women bear a disproportionately higher share of the burden of conflict, but have a marginal say on matters of war and peace. This is a function of the gender imbalance in our societies reflected in positions of power and influence. It is, therefore, important to underline that equal participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts is essential for maintenance and promotion of peace and security. To put it simply, women should occupy positions of influence. Looking at you, Madam President, we feel satisfaction that there is some progress in this direction.

Madam President,

In its resolution 1325 (2000), The Security Council set out a visionary agenda for achieving gender equality as a prerequisite for peaceful, inclusive and just societies. As the Secretary General has noted, considerable progress has been made at the normative level. The challenge lies in implementation and in sustaining progress. Of particular concern is extremism and targeted violence and human rights violations linked to terrorism committed against women and girls.

There is a need to specifically address the situation relating to displaced women and girls. As the concept note circulated by the Presidency indicates, every single day in 2013, some 32,000 people were displaced from their homes by violent conflicts. Three quarters of the refugees and IDP population are women and children. We support the recommendation that a gender perspective be integrated in policies relating to refugees and IDP.

Madam President,

We do not subscribe to the view that women should form part of the military component of peace keeping missions. No useful purpose would be served if women become a part of military culture and glorified it. That said, we do feel that women can play an important role in police functions. Research has repeatedly shown that women perform better than men in certain specific police duties. We are, therefore, happy to contribute an all Female Form Police Unit for UNMIL in Liberia. I will also take this opportunity to mention the lady Indian Inspector Shakti Devi, who has been deployed in the UN Mission in Afghanistan. She was recently awarded the International Female Police Peacekeepers Award. Devi, was given the award for exceptional achievements in the establishment of Women Police Councils in several parts of Afghanistan. Her consistent engagement in improving services for victims of sexually and gender based violence has led to a number of cases of successful investigation and prosecution. We are proud that the work of this Indian lady police officer in an UN peacekeeping mission inspires others to follow her example in the quest to redress the disproportionate burden that women bear in times of war and conflict.



Madam President,

There is a point which we have made in the Council before. By definition, it is states that are parties to the treaty-based system of international law. By and large, they respect them, and when they do not, penalties arise through the provisions of the treaties. When their actions gravely threaten peace and security, sanctions can be brought against them by action in this Council. The most egregious crimes against women in times of conflict, however, have been and are committed by irregular forces, often warring against governments. They obey no laws and are, as experience has shown, much more immune to sanctions than governments are. The Council needs to focus its attention on these forces which are responsible for the bulk of the crimes that are committed against women.

Situations of conflict vary. Each has its own causes and consequences. Clearly, there cannot be off-the-shelf remedies or panaceas. We need to take practical and effective steps to mitigate the impact of conflict on women and to enhance their ability to restore and preserve peace.

This will be our last statement in the Security Council under your Presidency. We would, therefore, like to place on record our very warm appreciation for the work of your delegation in the Council and for the maturity and understanding your country has brought to issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

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**INDIA**  
**भारत**

UN SECURITY COUNCIL  
OPEN DEBATE  
WOMEN AND PEACE & SECURITY

**Responding to human trafficking in  
Situations of conflict-related violence**

INDIA STATEMENT  
Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin  
Permanent Representative

02 June 2016

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Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations  
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Mr. President,

We thank you for convening this Open Debate on an issue that is of serious concern for the international community. I also thank all the briefers.

Mr. President,

2. In the last two decades, there has been a considerable strengthening of the normative framework around the various aspects relating to Women, Peace and Security, at the Security Council and the wider UN system.
3. Despite this, the scourge of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict has yet to abate. This is partly on account of the proliferation of armed conflicts and their evolving nature involving various non state actors and the spread of terrorism in such situations across large parts of the world. The more vulnerable sections, especially women suffer ever more in such violent conflicts.
4. The rapidly expanding trans-boundary nature of terrorist financing, supply of arms, recruitment and training of foreign fighters, has led to a situation where whole regions are impacted and no country is in a position to effectively counter this menace alone. Many parts of the world are experiencing large scale refugee crises emanating from situations of armed conflict and terrorism. Large trafficking networks run by transnational criminal groups compound the misery of vulnerable communities, especially women.
5. Tackling such complex challenges demands closely coordinated and collaborative efforts among nations. Sadly, we remain far from being able to come together to overcome such challenges collectively. One glaring example is the lack of progress on the issue of finalizing a Comprehensive Convention to Counter International Terrorism that can strengthen the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.
6. While the evolving normative framework suggests a number of short term measures, only a comprehensive approach facilitated by a supportive international environment can help sustain peace and security and build prosperous societies.

Mr. President,

7. As we have pointed out on earlier occasions and at other fora, the issue of Women Peace and Security has also to be seen in the wider societal context involving gender and development issues, dealt with outside the Council.
8. In view of the cross border dynamics of armed conflicts, it is in our collective interest to help the implementation of the sustainable development agenda that would greatly help prevent conflict situations. Gender equality and empowerment, access to healthcare, education and employment and strengthening of democratic institutions and processes are all important aspects of a holistic approach to prevent conflict. The normative work done in this regard outside the Council is as important as the need for the Council to do more.
9. The normative work done in this regard at the Commission of Status of Women, the Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, UN Women and other agencies such as UNODC is of relevance in helping member states build capacities.
10. While the General Assembly focuses on broader development issues that can help build peaceful and prosperous societies, the Council should push for greater cooperation on countering terrorism that threatens immediate peace and security.
11. Over a shorter term, the need to institutionalize the involvement of women in conflict prevention and resolution is well recognized. However, such involvement will be more effective only when it emerges from local initiatives and national efforts. Their effectiveness, when imposed from outside, will remain limited. The international community has a role to assist and facilitate such efforts across regions. This requires not only normative advice but capacity building and institution building at the grass root level of governance.

Mr. President,

12. As pointed out Secretary General's latest Report on the subject, 'prosecution is essential to prevention because it can deter potential perpetrators and contribute to restoring faith in the rule of law'. The absence, obstruction or protracted pace of justice is unhelpful. The international community has an important role in helping build adequate resources and capacities for criminal

investigation, prosecution, justice delivery system, protection of victims and witnesses and legislative reform to improve accountability across countries. Also, the Sanctions Committees of the Security Council need to address the issue of proactively listing terrorist individuals and entities involved in situations of conflict related sexual violence.

Mr. President,

13. India takes pride in its longstanding contribution to the issues of women peace and security. Our extensive record in UN Peacekeeping, including through the first ever Female Formed Police Unit is well recognized. India has partnered UN Women recently toward a capacity building initiative where the New Delhi-based Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUPNK) conducted the 3rd UN Female Military Officers Course for 40 Women military officers from 26 countries.

Mr. President,

14. India is strongly committed to Zero Tolerance Policy on sexual violence and abuse and provides adequate pre-deployment training and gender sensitization to its peacekeeping forces. The deployment of Indian Female Police Peacekeepers in Liberia provided a role model to the local women to participate in policing and the relevant rule of law frameworks. Such participation enables improved intelligence about conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking.

15. As part of our continuing efforts to strengthen the relevant legal frameworks within India, earlier this week, India has unveiled a comprehensive draft legislation aimed at Prevention and Protection of Trafficking of Persons and the Rehabilitation of Trafficked persons. The draft legislation aims to unify our existing anti-trafficking laws, prioritise the needs of and protect the victims. India continues to work closely with UN agencies including UN Women and UNODC on related issues.

Mr. President,

16. India stands ready to engage with our partners to work towards addressing the issue of sexual violence in armed conflicts and to help build sustainable peace.

Thank you.



**INDIA**  
**भारत**

Statement by  
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal  
Deputy Permanent Representative

UN Security Council  
Open Debate on  
Women and Peace and Security

15 May 2017

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Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations  
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Mr. President,

1. We thank the Uruguay Presidency for organizing this open debate. We have carefully noted the issues raised in the Concept Paper and the Report of the Secretary General. We appreciate the useful remarks by the Deputy Secretary General and the other briefers on this issue.



2. We also take this opportunity to welcome the appointment by the Secretary General of Ms. Pramila Patten as his Special Representative on Sexual Violence and Conflict and assure her of our delegation's support in the conduct of her tasks. We commend the work done by Ms. Zeinab Bangura.

Mr. President,

3. Despite the increased focus on the Women Peace and Security agenda, and the evolving normative framework during the last decade and a half, women and girls continue to be major victims despite being non-combatants.

4. The heinous crimes against humanity perpetrated by the terror networks such as the ISIS in west Asia or Boko Haram in parts of west Africa or Al Shabaab in east Africa, especially against women and girl children, are stark reminders of the serious challenges that need to be overcome by the international community.

5. We also agree that there is a need to increase and institutionalize the involvement of women in conflict prevention and resolution. This requires not only normative advice but capacity building and institution building at the ground level.

6. Therefore, the issue of Women Peace and Security cannot be seen in isolation from the wider societal context involving gender and development issues.

Mr. President,

7. The Commission on the Status of Women and the work done by the Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women continue to make significant progress in pushing the gender empowerment agenda that in itself has a transformative impact on societies leading to more sustainable development and prosperity. The Agenda 2030 also highlights the importance of sustainable development for ensuring peace and security.

Mr. President,

8. India has been an active participant in the comprehensive deliberations on women related issues at the various UN bodies. India is also among the major contributors towards the UN Women since its inception five years back.

9. In the specific context of UN Peacekeeping, India has been the lead troop contributor with participation in nearly 50 of the 71 peacekeeping Missions, and 10 of the current 16 Missions.

10. While there has been only a marginal increase in the overall number of women peacekeepers, almost a decade ago in 2007 India created history by deploying the first ever all-women formed police unit for peacekeeping with the UNMIL Mission in Liberia. This unit served there until last year. The Liberian President underlined the contribution of the force in 'inspiring Liberian women, imparting in them the spirit of professionalism and encouraging them to join operations that protect the nation'. The percentage of Liberian women in the country's security sector has increased three times since 2007.

11. India has also taken the lead in hosting specialized training courses for peacekeepers on sexual violence in armed conflict situations. These have focused, among other issues, on the role of women in the context of post conflict situations. Last month India hosted the third such specialized course for female military officers organized by the Centre for UN Peacekeeping in New Delhi in partnership with UN Women. Over 40 women officers from nearly 30 countries attended the course. Such courses provide the participants not only an opportunity to train to be ready for deployment but also to network and share experiences and best practices.

12. India was the first country to contribute to the Secretary-General's Trust Fund for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

13. Prime Minister Modi has committed to a higher representation of Indian female peacekeepers in police units to UN peacekeeping missions. India is committed to fulfilling the pledge to have 15% of military observers as women by the end of this year. India has also committed to provide another all-female formed police unit.

Mr. President,

14. Prosecution is essential for prevention. The international community has an important role in helping build adequate resources and capacities in this regard. In this context, recently, India has contributed to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Special Court was among the landmark tribunals that tried and convicted persons for crimes that included the use of child soldiers and forced marriages.

Mr. President,

15. India remains ready to contribute further internationally both to the normative and the practical aspects on issues relating to Women Peace and Security.

Thank you.

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