

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 1 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that the United Arab Emirates, in its capacity as president of the Security Council for the month of March 2022, intends to hold a ministerial open debate on the subject “Advancing the women, peace and security agenda through partnerships: women’s economic inclusion and participation as a key to building peace” on Tuesday, 8 March 2022, at 9 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, the United Arab Emirates has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Lana **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council ministerial open debate on the subject “Advancing the women, peace and security agenda through partnerships: women’s economic inclusion and participation as a key to building peace”

Background

The women and peace and security agenda follows a holistic approach to peace and security based on the four pillars of prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery. The attention that the Security Council has devoted to the pillars has varied ever since its adoption of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). Accelerating the efficient implementation of the agenda to ensure and strengthen the roles of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and conflict resolution requires a focus on all four pillars and consideration of the interplay among them. The relief and recovery pillar is considered to have “transformative potential to connect both short-term and long-term goals to achieve sustainable peace and resilience”,¹ while also promoting women’s participation and economic inclusion. In that regard, engaging with relevant partners from different sectors of society can be particularly valuable for advancing women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

Objectives

Twenty-one years after the inception of the women and peace and security agenda, there still appears to be a lack of understanding of the ways in which promoting women’s economic inclusion and participation in conflict-affected settings strengthens their decision-making and leadership roles and capacities and enables them to participate fully, equally and meaningfully on all levels in all sectors of their societies. The aim of the briefing is to contribute substantively to an area of the women and peace and security agenda that has thus far remained underdeveloped. It will highlight the relevance of women’s economic inclusion and participation for the prevention of conflict and the recovery from crises, and draw attention to the ways in which international partners and public-private partnerships can promote progress towards peace and support women in conflict-affected areas.

The Security Council has also noted that partnerships are a critical element in its efforts to maintain international peace and security. In its resolution [2331 \(2016\)](#), the Council encouraged Member States to build strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society, including local women’s organizations. Moreover, in his annual report on women and peace and security of 2020 ([S/2020/946](#)), the Secretary-General suggested that the indicators to measure progress on the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) should be updated in order to incorporate trends occurring in the current peace and security context, such as the growing power of private corporations.

The foregoing once again highlights the importance of economic stability and growth for fragile and conflict-affected states as a key method for conflict prevention

¹ Sara E. Davies and Jaqui True, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Women, Peace, and Security* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2019).

and post-conflict reconstruction.² Women are critical to recovery and relief efforts, yet their inclusion remains undervalued and under-resourced owing to widespread discrimination in the distribution of assets and in access to opportunities, resources and markets. Women must not only benefit from sustainable post-conflict reconstruction but also engage fully, equally and meaningfully as planners, decision-makers, and implementers in all sectors of society.

Another question to be discussed at the debate is how international partners and public-private partnerships can play a positive role in conflict settings and create conditions for sustainable peace and security. By shining a light on the role of international partners and private sector entities in this conversation, the meeting can develop diverse and unique perspectives and, most importantly, mobilize wider and tangible support for the women and peace and security agenda.

It will also build on existing initiatives, such as the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action of the Generation Equality Forum. Multi-stakeholder platforms support holistic approaches to achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction.

Questions

Proposed questions to guide the discussion:

1. How can the United Nations and the Security Council specifically, better contribute to the positive effects of women's economic inclusion and participation in conflict-affected areas?
2. What necessary steps should the Security Council, regional organizations, Member States and the private sector take to support gender-responsive, community-driven approaches in a sustainable manner, in particular to promote women's empowerment and inclusion?
3. What tangible actions can international partners – public and private – take to support the economic inclusion and empowerment of women in local and regional crisis settings?
4. How can the Security Council further take into account women's economic inclusion and participation when considering its responses to conflicts, as well as in the mandates of United Nations peace missions?

Briefers and format

Briefings will be given by the following speakers:

1. Sima Bahous, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
2. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund
3. Civil society representative (to be confirmed)

The ministerial open debate will be chaired by Mariam Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates.

Member States wishing to be represented in person should add their participant's name to the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of eDelegate. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent

² Karla Drpić, "How the private sector can advance UNSCR 1325 in the 2020s", *Women in International Security Policy Brief* (7 July 2020).

Representative or the Chargé d'affaires a.i. and containing a request to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of eDelegate. Registration will open on Thursday, 3 March 2022, at 9.30 a.m. Please note that for in-person speakers, delegations should not submit a written statement via eDelegate as the statement will be included in the provisional verbatim record of the meeting as delivered.

The list of speakers will be determined by the order in which requests are received. Delegations are kindly requested to limit their statements to four minutes. Delegations are kindly requested to limit their participation to one representative in the Chamber.

Furthermore, delegations wishing to submit written statements instead of having a speaker participating in the meeting in person may do so through the same eSpeakers module of eDelegate by uploading their statements in Microsoft Word format, together with a cover letter duly signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires a.i. and addressed to the President of the Security Council, no later than the date of the meeting, Tuesday, 8 March 2022. The statements will be published as part of an official compilation document containing the statements submitted in connection with the open debate.

Delegates wishing to be granted access to the eSpeakers module on the eDelegate platform are invited to contact their Mission's access focal points. For technical support related to user logins and passwords, please contact the help desk of the Office of Information and Communications Technology at 212 963 3333, or by email at missions-support@un.int. For other questions related to the open debate, please contact the Security Council Affairs Division at dppa-scsb3@un.org.

The presidency would welcome the use of joint statements, where appropriate, as a means of improving focus and interactivity during the open debate. In accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 30 August 2017 ([S/2017/507](#)), all participants and members of the Security Council are encouraged to deliver succinct statements focused on specific examples, commitments, achievements, challenges, identification of gaps and solution-oriented recommendations.
