



Mission permanente de la France
auprès des Nations unies



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN ARRIA MEETING ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

CONCEPT NOTE

Wednesday, 13 March 2019 (3 pm – 6 pm)

ECOSOC (UNHQ)

France and Germany will be organizing a Security Council Arria-Formula meeting on the inequalities between women and men when it comes to participating to political processes.

This meeting will address the implementation of the “Women, Peace and Security” Agenda in order to identify obstacles and to highlight the good practices amongst member States, regional and sub regional organizations, United Nations entities and members of civil society. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss the initiatives that need to be undertaken in order to encourage the participation of women in political processes, such as a mechanism that would make the evaluation of the “national and regional processes” possible, according to the report of the Secretary General.

In light of the anniversary of resolution 1325 of 31 October 2000, the mobilization of the United Nations system to support the leadership of women and their participation in political processes, including peace processes, conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction, as well as relief and recovery must continue. To that end, the implementation of the “Women, Peace and Security” Agenda must speed up, so that women are engaged as agents of peace and security, at all levels and stages of peace processes and the needs for women and girls are analysed and taken into account in peace and security policy, economic empowerment and humanitarian assistance. It has to be taken into consideration in every sector: military, civil, political and economic.

The Security Council Arria meeting will be an opportunity to support the participation of women in political processes in the Sahel region. The Security Council has included more and more provisions on the rights and the participation of women, now found in more than 70% of resolutions. Nevertheless, their implementation is still insufficient.

Also, regional initiatives promote the contribution of women in peace and security in the Sahel, such as the G5 Sahel Women’s Platform, which contributes to the involvement of women in the fight against violent extremism. The African Union’s initiative to create the African Women Leaders Network also promotes the ability of women to get involved in political processes.

As an example, the Sahel faces many challenges: the population is exposed to extreme poverty, terrorist threats, famine and climate risk. In this context, as elsewhere, women are particularly vulnerable. They suffer from limited access to education, property, employment, appropriate financial

structures and health services and they are often victims of sexual violence, now more than ever used as a tactic of war, including by terrorist groups.

However, women often remain excluded from mediation and decision-making processes, no matter the negotiation stage, or restricted to discussions which perpetuate stereotypes on their role in society. During the last twenty-five years, only 2% of mediators and 8% of negotiators were women. Regarding the fight against terrorism, they struggle to make their voices heard.

The participation of women and equality between women and men not only represent moral and political imperatives, but also constitute a sustainable peace-promoting factor, as well as a key instrument to prevent conflict, the efficiency of which has been demonstrated. We must adopt a holistic approach on this issue, taking into account the participation of women in political processes as well as the prevention and elimination of violence, particularly sexual violence. In that regard, Mali just signed a joint communiqué with the UN, particularly with Ms. Pramila Patten, on the fight against sexual violence related to conflicts.

Panel:

- Ms. Asa Regner, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women
- Ms. Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the SG on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Ms. Fatima Maïga, *Coalition des femmes maliennes pour l'agenda Femmes, Paix et Sécurité* TBC
- Ms. Halima Adan, *Save Somali Women and Children* TBC