

**United Nations Security Council
Open Debate on
Women, Peace and Security**

**INDIA STATEMENT
By Paulomi Tripathi, First Secretary**

4 November 2019

Madam President,

We thank South Africa for convening this Open Debate and the United Kingdom for continuing it.

We also thank the Secretary General for his report and all briefers for sharing their insights.

Women's participation is critical to the success of all efforts to build sustainable peace. This is not just about realization of women's rights, but about building peaceful societies.

There is enough evidence establishing that peace processes are more likely to succeed when women are fully engaged.

Yet, nearly after two decades of the formalization of WPS agenda, women continue to face exclusion and their concerns are neglected, in peace processes.

It is time to walk the talk.

Regional initiatives, such as African Women Leaders' Network, are ensuring that women are at the forefront in building peaceful societies. Afghan women's valiant leadership in bringing peace to their communities and to the country needs to be supported.

We also need to address the challenges to the implementation of gender provisions in peace agreements.

Violence against women and girls perpetrated by terrorists remain rampant and subjugation of women in public and in private spheres continue across situations that are on the agenda of the Council.

It is important that the Council strives to effectively integrate women, peace and security considerations into sanctions regimes, including by listing terrorist entities involved in violence against women in armed conflicts.

Madam President,

As everyone today focuses on collective action, one delegation rhetorically regurgitates about women's rights in my country.

This delegation represents a system that has been exporting terrorism and regressive extremist ideologies, and stifling women's voices for narrow political gains.

This has devastated lives of generations of women and their families, in our region and beyond.

Habitually making baseless allegations, without any relevance to the agenda under consideration, has become a staple for this delegation.

This has happened not just earlier during this debate on October 29 at the meeting 8649, but also during the Open Debate on the 'Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question' on October 28 at the meeting 8648 of the Council.

We firmly reject these baseless allegations.

The Council has not paid attention to such deceitful narratives in the past, and we are confident that the Council will continue to do so, to ensure that its agenda is not used as a ploy for furthering territorial ambitions.

Madam President,

The positive impacts of greater participation of women in UN peacekeeping is well recognized in the WPS agenda.

Through the A4P initiative the Member States are committed to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda by increasing the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping. This has been complemented by the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy.

Yet, women make up only 4.2% of military personnel in UN peacekeeping missions.

We ought to encourage participation of all women units to achieve the set targets in this regard.

However, we notice that to accommodate those who cannot fulfill the commitments of providing all women units, mixed units are being given preference by diluting the policy frameworks. If this continues, we possibly cannot achieve the set targets.

India remains committed to increasing the number of women peacekeepers and has deployed a Female Engagement Team in MONUSCO earlier this year.

We will continue work for meaningful participation of women in peace and security issues. The normative work done outside the Council and India's experience of

mainstreaming women's leadership and political participation will continue to inspire our actions.

I thank you.