



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Kenya to the United Nations
Security Council Elected Member - 2021-2022

**STATEMENT BY AMB. MICHAEL KIBOINO, DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING- *CALL TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE: ENSURING THE
FULL, EQUAL & MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN UN-LED PEACE
PROCESSES***

MONDAY, 8 March 2021 (3-6PM)

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Wishing you all a Happy International Women's Day!

- 1)** On the occasion to mark the 20th anniversary of UN resolution 1325, H.E Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, Africa's first elected female Head of State, and Nobel Peace Laureate observed that it is important for women to participate in peace processes because, *"Experience shows very clearly that when women are involved, the durability of peace can be secured."*
- 2)** It is a great honor for Kenya to co-sponsor this event, calling for leadership by example in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in *a//* UN-led mediation teams, political transitions, peace processes and peace agreements.

- 3)** I join others in thanking Ireland and Mexico for spearheading this, and our fellow co-sponsors for championing it.
- 4)** The briefers have aptly demonstrated that there is no singular template in assessing what constitutes the success of UN-led or UN-supported peace processes, including their implementation, monitoring and verification.
- 5)** Peace processes come in different structures, formats and settings. However, what is consistent is that a comprehensive and sustainable peace requires women not only to be at the negotiation table, but also as an integral part including at leadership level, of the entire process from formulation to implementation.
- 6)** We saw the positive shifts following the inclusion and wider participation of women in the 2003 Liberia Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the 2018 South Sudan Revitalized Agreement processes. Tangible benefits have also been visible in among others: the formation of the Sub-Commission on Gender in the Colombian peace process; the mediation role of Afghanistan women's working groups; and, the contribution of the women participating in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum.
- 7)** The UN is currently leading or supporting a number of these active peace processes globally. The good thing is that this Call for Action comes at a time when key foundational elements are already in place.

8) The question is how do we make them stick? Of course, ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in UN-led Peace Processes is the right thing to do. But we must also do it the right way. In this regard allow me to highlight four points:

- i) First, we need to Focus on what is working:** We need to acknowledge the fact that although much more needs to be done, there has been progress in the participation of women in peace processes in fragile and conflict-affected regions, where women's participation was only considered an aspiration, with no guarantees, just a few years ago. We are also seeing young women and women from marginalized groups increasingly becoming the voice of peace. These case studies need to be analyzed, publicized and supported by the international community including the UN.

- ii) Second - UN-led peace processes should work in synergy and not as parallel tracks to local mediation peace processes:** The overriding trend is for UN efforts to focus on national-level peace agreements. As we continue advocating for women's full participation at the formal negotiation table, women's intra- and inter community leadership will always remain a good mirror of broader socio-economic development and environmental issues that interlink with national peacebuilding and security.

- iii) Third - we need to interrogate the Council's peace operation mandates further:** On the one hand, peacekeeping mission mandates are increasingly becoming multidimensional through

incorporating language pertaining to women representation and participation in political and peace processes. The Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) Declaration of Shared Commitments also enjoins its members to fulfill this call.

But the question remains - Why do we still have women comprising only 6% of mediators, 6% of signatories of peace agreements, and 13% of negotiators of all peace processes including those led by the UN to date? What are the actual building blocks needed to actualize this Call including, but beyond numbers and quotas?

9) Lastly, as we call for the political will of national stakeholders, we at the UN should intentionally **incorporate cultural knowledge and sensitivity into our multinational peace engagements**, including by exploring how , and what is achievable particularly in contexts that call our attention to specific cultural, gender and social dynamics.

I thank you.