



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations

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Explanation of position on the Political Declaration on the occasion of the twenty – fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 9 March 2020, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia to the UN

Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes the adoption of this Political declaration, and would like to thank you Mr. Chair, the co-facilitators and all delegations for their tireless work during the negotiation process.

Having just celebrated International Women’s Day yesterday, we are reminded with urgency about our collective responsibility to ensure participation of women in all layers of governance and economic activity as a symbol of freedom and equality in society. There is no question that women’s agency, voice, and capacities are critical to local dialogues, better policies and more equitable peace deals.

The Government of Namibia believes that 1325 is much more than a number or a resolution. UNSCR 1325 is a historic watershed political framework that shows how women and a gender perspective are relevant to negotiating peace agreements, peacekeeping operations and reconstructing war-torn societies for sustainable peace

In this regard, my delegation is disappointed that member states were not able to reach consensus on this very important issue which resulted in it not being addressed in the Political Declaration.

As the body responsible for maintenance of international peace and security, the United Nations Security Council has an obligation to implement and fulfil the WPS Agenda, however, the WPS Agenda is one that has transcended the Security Council and forms an integral part of the work of the organisation and finds its place in the work of the various UN bodies, and its reflection in this Political Declaration, should not have been a contentious one.

All United Nations entities must act to uphold the Women Peace and Security Agenda. Whether through commitments to gender equality and women’s rights, disarmament, peace and security, sustainable development, or otherwise.