

Chair,

The integration of a gender perspective in the work of the First Committee and across the Disarmament Machinery should continue to be strengthened.

As the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament explicitly recognizes, a gender perspective makes for more effective arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. We are also encouraged by commitment 5 of the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda to 'put women and girls at the centre of security policy'.

Gender perspectives provide key insights into how women, men, girls and boys can be differentially impacted by armed conflict, and weapons. It is a cross-cutting issue with direct relevance to the implementation of broader peace and security efforts and contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the related Beijing +25 process.

The differential gendered impacts of armed conflict on women, men, boys and girls is a critical consideration. For example, while men make up most direct casualties from the use of small arms and light weapons, such weapons are often used to facilitate acts of gender-based violence against women and girls, resulting in long-term physical, psychological and socio-economic impacts. Applying a gender lens to our work allows us to devise more sustainable, comprehensive and targeted policy solutions, which are inclusive and impactful.

Pursuit of a gender perspective in our work strengthens diverse, effective and meaningful participation by women and men in all aspects of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

UNIDIR's continued research into these issues highlights that women continue to be underrepresented in arms control and disarmament fora, particularly in leadership roles. We strongly encourage specific, targeted actions so that women and men are equally represented in our work and decision making in order to help achieve effective and sustainable outcomes. Diverse perspectives can bring new insights and improve the functioning of our disarmament machinery and we urge States to improve gender balance in their delegations.

We welcome the significant work that has been done in recent years to advance these issues within the broader disarmament machinery including:

- The increase in First Committee resolutions that consider a gender perspective;
- Efforts to achieve gender balance in the bureaux of disarmament and non-proliferation conferences;
- Efforts to implement the decisions taken on gender and gender-based violence within the context of the Arms Trade Treaty, and the outcome of the Biennial Meetings of States on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;
- The focus on gender considerations at the Review Conferences of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
- The “Women in Cyber” Fellowship and the increased engagement of women diplomats in the Open Ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security in international security;
- Efforts to achieve gender parity in the selection of Group of Governmental Experts participants;
- The work of the Geneva-based International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group, including the publication of a gender resource pack for multilateral practitioners.

There is no doubt that civil society has played a pivotal role in raising awareness on a gender perspective in disarmament. Civil society provides advice and ideas that spur us on to meaningful action. We are thankful for their commitment and look forward to continued collaboration.

In conclusion, we urge States to collectively incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts within disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Such engagement can only improve the functioning of the disarmament machinery and strengthen international peace and security.