



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár

**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

**Open debate of the Security Council
on**

**Women and Peace and Security: Strengthening women's resilience and
leadership as a path to peace in regions plagued by armed groups**

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-Check against delivery-

Mr. President,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

I would like to start by thanking you for organizing this important debate on Women, Peace and Security with focus on strengthening women's resilience and leadership. We consider important to increase our joint efforts to ensure gender equality as a path to sustainable peace, though current challenges indicate that we are moving in the opposite direction. It is crucial that the Security Council continues to address various aspects of conflicts within the framework of thematic debates. Today's debate also contributes to a systematic advancement of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the work and decision-making of the Security Council.

I wish to thank the Deputy Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN Women for their insightful presentations.

Mr. President,

Slovakia reiterates its appreciation for the resolution 2594 on UN peacekeeping missions' transitions unanimously adopted in September 2021 that underlines the need to include engagement with the local community and civil society with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Slovakia considers prevention to be the cornerstone of the UN efforts aimed at peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The WPS agenda, together with the goals of inclusivity and gender equality, definitely fits into the broader prevention agenda of the Secretary-General. Women, Peace and Security is also instrumental in the achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG 5 and SDG 16 that recognize gender equality, as well as peace, justice and strong institutions as global development priorities.

As the Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform (SSR), Slovakia wishes to recall UNSC Resolution 2151 on SSR which underscored the importance of women's equal, meaningful and effective participation and full involvement in the security sector in order to build inclusive, accountable and legitimate institutions that more effectively protect populations and promote lasting peace and sustainable development. Gender-sensitive security sector reform is key to developing security sector institutions that are non-discriminatory, representative of the population and capable of effectively responding to the specific security needs of diverse groups and so playing a crucial role in prevention.

Advocating for women leaders in conflict is crucial to adequately address the complexity and diversity of crises and to the peace and security agenda in general. In this regard, Slovakia continues in its effort to grow numbers of deployed women in UN missions such as UNFICYP, where we reached 13% of deployed women, which is more than the target of 9% set for 2022.

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his recent report and commend his commitment and leadership related not only to the WPS Agenda. While taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the report, which must be duly reflected in our future action, we would expect more focus on situation in Ukraine due to the Russian ongoing unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine. The war resulted in unprecedented suffering for women and girls as they are largely displaced and thus are facing risks of human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence.

Attacks on education and military use of schools are serious impediments to girls' and women's education, which ultimately curtails their participation in social, political, and economic life. We seize this opportunity to express our support for the Safe Schools Declaration and encourage all states to endorse it to make a clear link between the protection of schools from attacks and military use and women's security and participation in all forms of decision-making processes.

In this regard, we are deeply concerned over the deterioration of human rights situation in Afghanistan as pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General. The situation of Afghan women and girls is particularly alarming, their right to education and work are now at stake and overall they are facing very uncertain future.

I thank you.