

8 October 2026

2026 Letter to the Security Council in advance of the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security

Dear Ambassadors,

On behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, we write to urge current and incoming members of the Security Council to urgently step up efforts to safeguard and uphold the principles and norms of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda ahead of this year's annual open debate on WPS.

Today, we are confronting an intensifying global backlash against gender justice and women's rights.¹ Some Member States are systematically dismantling human rights protections,² removing women's rights from policy and multilateral decisions³ and defunding institutions and positions that promote gender equality.⁴

Further, we are deeply concerned that several members of the Security Council are not only violating the UN Charter themselves,⁵ but also constraining the ability of this Council to fulfill its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. This failure is starkly illustrated by the Council's paralysis on multiple situations directly under its purview. Despite UN experts warning of genocide in Gaza⁶ and Sudan,⁷ the Council has done little to stop the violence. The Council has been similarly deadlocked in effectively addressing Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine⁸ and the continued conflict in Myanmar,⁹ among others.

As we face record levels of armed conflict¹⁰ and runaway military spending,¹¹ authoritarian assaults on democracy,¹² and efforts to weaken the UN and the multilateral system,¹³ it is clear that disregard for international law, including its specific protections for women and girls, means no accountability, no peace and a breakdown of the international system designed to protect those most marginalized.

At this critical moment for women, girls and marginalized groups, the Security Council must uphold international law and its obligations on WPS.

We therefore urge you as current and incoming members of the Security Council to defend the principles of the WPS agenda across the Council's work, by prioritizing the following actions:

- **Resist attempts to undermine the core tenets of the WPS agenda in Security Council decisions, and ensure women's rights remain front and center in the Council's consideration of all conflicts and crises.** Women's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as enshrined in international law¹⁴ and Security Council resolutions,¹⁵ are the foundation of the WPS agenda. Yet, in 2025, only 46% of Council decisions contained any language related to WPS, the lowest since 2008.¹⁶ Despite the escalation of conflicts and crises and their devastating impact on the rights of women and girls,¹⁷ well-established international norms on gender equality, preventing sexual and gender-based violence, women's participation and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), among other issues, were repeatedly contested and actively removed from Council decisions.¹⁸ In other decisions, women's rights were barely considered at all: for instance, none of the Council's recent resolutions on Iran,¹⁹ Lebanon²⁰ or Ukraine²¹ had any references to women, as did only three of the nearly 200 decisions by the Security Council on the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) since 1948.²² This trend, which has continued into 2026, weakens the UN's ability to effectively protect the rights of all women and girls. We urge you to ensure that all relevant bodies and activities mandated by the Security Council, including all UN peace operations, are required to address women's rights, and have fully resourced positions such as Women Protection

Advisers and Gender Advisers to implement their critical gender functions. Similarly, the Council should take into account systematic violations of women's human rights, including sexual, reproductive and gender-based violence; reprisals against women human rights defenders (WHRDs); and the targeting of politically active women when establishing or renewing the mandates of sanctions regimes, including establishing designation criteria for imposing or lifting sanctions. Council members must resist attempts to remove or water down WPS language in Council decisions, which not only undermine the normative framework we have collectively built over 25 years but can result in direct and lasting harm for women, girls and marginalized groups. The Security Council must center the rights of diverse women and girls in all peace and security discussions, processes and decisions; take coordinated action to counter gender backlash; and reject any outcomes that undermine or violate these rights in all conflicts and crises under consideration.

- **Ensure women civil society representatives regularly brief the Security Council.** The Security Council must not make monumental decisions affecting the lives of millions of women and girls without considering their crucial perspectives. Yet, in 2025, the Security Council heard only 31 briefings by women civil society,²³ the lowest yearly total since 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The decreasing trend in briefings by women civil society since 2025, which has been exacerbated by the impact of travel restrictions to the United States,²⁴ increased risks in particular conflict contexts and difficult political dynamics in the Security Council, reflects a concerning deprioritization of gender equality and civil society voices at a time when both should be amplified, not silenced. Now, more than ever, we strongly urge you to ensure that women civil society representatives brief the Council during all relevant discussions, including country-specific meetings, in line with Resolution 2242 (2015);²⁵ enable their safe participation; and act upon their recommendations.
- **Center gender justice and women's rights in all Security Council discussions.** Every conflict has a gender dimension. Yet out of 185 country-specific briefings to the Security Council by UN officials in 2025, only 26% mentioned women's participation, 22% included gender-sensitive conflict analysis, 8% referred to SRHR, and just 3% mentioned women activists, leaders or peacebuilders.²⁶ The Security Council is less likely to effectively address the rights of women and girls if it fails to receive analysis of how their rights are impacted in the conflicts and crises on the Council's agenda. We urge you to request relevant UN entities to brief the Council on the gender dimensions of all conflict situations under its consideration, including both barriers to and opportunities for women's participation in all relevant peace processes.
- **Demand women's participation in all peace and political processes under the Security Council's purview.** Women have the right to full and equal representation.²⁷ Yet, today, women's exclusion has become the norm.²⁸ The Security Council must not endorse or support peace or political processes where women are excluded. We urge you to demand the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation and leadership of diverse women²⁹ at all levels and stages of decision-making, with the target of 50%.³⁰ Further, although the UN leads or co-leads just three peace processes,³¹ it is involved in mediation or peacebuilding in at least 45 situations³² on which it reports directly to the Security Council. This is an opportunity for the Council to insist that the equal, direct and influential participation of women is a standard requirement across all UN-supported peace processes and convenings.³³ We urge you to be specific,³⁴ persistent and vocal in your demands that women must be equal participants in all discussions related to peace and security.
- **Ensure accountability for violations of international criminal, humanitarian and human rights law, including violations targeting women, girls, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people and WHRDs.** All violations of women's human rights, including all forms of gender-based violence, such as conflict-related sexual violence and

reproductive violence, violations of SRHR and attacks against WHRDs, must be publicly condemned, thoroughly and swiftly investigated, and perpetrators held accountable. We also urge you to pursue accountability strategies that center gender, including by supporting codification of gender apartheid³⁵ and taking other steps to integrate a gender justice approach in the new Crimes Against Humanity Treaty under negotiation, supporting prosecutions of gender persecution at the International Criminal Court (ICC), pursuing accountability through the use of universal jurisdiction and ensuring accountability for violations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).³⁶ All justice and accountability efforts, including reparations processes, must be rights-based, trauma-informed and survivor-centered in order to avoid replicating harm, promote recovery and address root causes of violations, such as discrimination and inequality.

- **Refrain from voting against resolutions aimed at prevention of atrocity crimes.** As the primary international body responsible for peace and security, the Security Council must take decisive action to protect civilians, and prevent, suppress and punish genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Member States should publicly pledge not to vote against a credible draft resolution before the Security Council aimed at halting or preventing such crimes, in line with the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group's Code of Conduct.³⁷ Further, permanent members of the Security Council must refrain from using the veto on resolutions aimed at stopping mass atrocities.³⁸ In addition, any Council member that is a party to a dispute must not vote in substantive Council decisions regarding the peaceful settlement of disputes, as per Article 27(3) of the UN Charter.³⁹ Finally, we urge you to commit to Security Council reform in order to build a more representative, transparent, democratic and accountable multilateral system that can effectively deliver on the UN Charter's promise of peace.
- **Stop arming violence against civilians.** Disarmament is a necessary condition for gender justice and sustainable peace. We are especially alarmed at the risks to global peace and security posed by the prospect of a renewed nuclear arms race,⁴⁰ the use of lethal autonomous weapons systems⁴¹ and military application of artificial intelligence.⁴² We reiterate that respect for international law by all Member States and preventive diplomacy are the best pathway to peace. Member States must stop arms transfers when there is a risk that they may be used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women, or if they risk being used to commit genocide, crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, attacks directed against civilians or civilian objects or other war crimes, in line with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).⁴³ Further, States have a legal obligation to comply with arms embargoes imposed by the Security Council, and violations of this Council's own decisions should be publicly condemned and violators should be held accountable. We urge you to cut military spending and increase funding for gender equality and global humanitarian responses to ensure no needs go unmet.⁴⁴
- **Appoint a champion of human rights and gender equality as the next Secretary-General.** Now — as the globe is roiled by conflict, militarization, inequality and climate disaster, and the multilateral system appears more fragile than ever — is the time for principled leadership of the UN. As Council members decide on the appointment of a new Secretary-General to lead the UN, we urge you, through a fair and transparent process,⁴⁵ to appoint an individual with a strong, consistent and public track record on human rights and gender equality; who is willing to speak up for the rights of women and LGBTIQ people and ensure their participation in all peace and security decision-making; and who is committed to preserving and resourcing institutions that promote gender equality.⁴⁶ We urge you to support an individual who is an unimpeachable steward of the UN Charter, and who has both the courage and the independence to hold all States to account, without selectivity or double standards. We need a leader who can meet this moment.

26 years ago, this Council recognized that there can be no lasting peace or security without upholding the human rights of diverse women and girls. While the political cost of holding the line on these issues may be great, the cost of dismantling the norms we have collectively built will be far greater.

Sincerely,

NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security

1. Kaavya Asoka, Executive Director, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG)
2. Dr. Agnès Callamard, Secretary General, Amnesty International (AI)
3. Dr. Carol Cohn, Founding Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights (CGSHR)
4. Elise Keppler, Executive Director, Global Justice Center (GJC)
5. Dr. Jasmin Nario-Galace, CEO, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)
6. Philippe Boloipon, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch (HRW)
7. Nic Hailey, Executive Director, International Alert (IA)
8. Maria Antonieta Alcalde Castro, Director General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
9. DeLisha Tapscott and Lauren Dasse, Co-Executive Directors, MADRE
10. Maria Butler, Executive Director, Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI)
11. Maria Sjödin, Executive Director, Outright International
12. Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, Oxfam International
13. Maryangel Garcia-Ramos Guadiana, Executive Director, Women Enabled International (WEI)
14. Nunu Ntshingila, CEO, Women for Women International (WfWI)
15. Dr. Amrita Kapur, Secretary-General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
16. Dr. Xanthe Scharff, President and CEO, Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)

¹ See UN Gender Snapshot 2026, 17 September 2026, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2026-09/the-gender-snapshot-2026-en.pdf>; Jerker Edstrom, Tessa Lewin, Sohela Nazneen and Chloe Skinner, "Countering Backlash: Reclaiming Gender Justice. Synthesis Report of Research Over 16 Years," Institute of Development Studies, 18 March 2026, <https://www.ids.ac.uk/publications/countering-backlash-reclaiming-gender-justice-synthesis-report-of-research-over-six-years/>; UN Women, "Understanding Backlash Against Gender Equality: Evidence, Trends and Policy Responses," September 2025, <https://knowledge.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/09/understanding-backlash-against-gender-equality-evidence-trends-and-policy-responses>; Civicus, "2025 State of Civil Society Report - Gender Rights: Backlash, Resistance and Persistence," March 2025, <https://publications.civicus.org/publications/2025-state-of-civil-society-report/gender-rights-backlash-resistance-and-persistence/>.

² See Macarena Sáez, "As Women's Rights Are Dismantled, So is Democracy," Global Cause, 6 March 2026, <https://www.globalcause.co.uk/empowering-women-girls/as-womens-rights-are-dismantled-so-is-democracy/>.

³ NGO Working Group on WPS, "Analysis of Women, Peace and Security References in Security Council Resolutions, 1 January-31 December 2025," forthcoming; Simon Petitjean and Matteo Polizzi, "Keeping Gender on the Agenda: Navigating Resistance to WPS in Multilateral Fora," Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, 9 July 2026, <https://www.dcaf.ch/keeping-gender-agenda-navigating-resistance-wps-multilateral-fora>.

⁴ UN Gender Snapshot 2026, p. 8, 17 September 2026, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2026-09/the-gender-snapshot-2026-en.pdf>.

⁵ See, for instance: Secretary-General's address to the Opening of the General Debate of the 81st Session of the General Assembly, 22 September 2026, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statements/2026-09-22/secretary-generals-address-the-opening-of-the-general-debate-of-the-81st-session-of-the-general-assembly> [noting that Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is a "blatant violation of the Charter"]; OHCHR, "Statement by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding Israeli-U.S. airstrikes against Iran," 4 March 2026, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/03/statement-independent-international-fact-finding-mission-islamic-republic>; OHCHR, "UN experts condemn US aggression against Venezuela," 7 January 2026, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/01/un-experts-condemn-us-aggression-against-venezuela>.

- ⁶ Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, “Legal analysis of the conduct of Israel in Gaza pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,” 16 September 2025, A/HRC/60/CRP.3, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-crp-3.pdf>.
- ⁷ Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, “Sudan: hallmarks of genocide in El Fasher,” 10 March 2026, A/HRC/61/77, <https://docs.un.org/A/HRC/61/77>.
- ⁸ See, for instance, vetoes by the Russian Federation on draft resolutions concerning its invasion of Ukraine, [S/PV.9143](#), 30 September 2022 (vote on draft resolution [S/2022/720](#)); [S/PV.8979](#), 25 February 2022 (vote on draft resolution [S/2022/155](#)).
- ⁹ Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, “From impunity to justice: accountability for grave human rights violations in Myanmar,” ¶105-106, 27 April 2026, A/HRC/61/CRP.9, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session61/a-hrc-61-crp-9-en.pdf>; Akshaya Kumar, “The UN Security Council’s Astonishing Silence on Myanmar Atrocities,” PassBlue, 5 September 2024, <https://passblue.com/2024/08/26/the-un-security-councils-astonishing-silence-on-myanmar-atrocities/>.
- ¹⁰ Uppsala University, “UCDP: record number of conflicts between states,” 9 June 2026, <https://www.uu.se/en/press/press-releases/2026/2026-06-09-ucdp-record-number-of-conflicts-between-states>.
- ¹¹ World military expenditure increased by 2.9% in 2025, totaling \$2.88 trillion. Xiao Liang et. al., “Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2025,” SIPRI, April 2026, https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2026-04/2604_milex_2025.pdf.
- ¹² Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, ¶9, 22, S/2026/758, 25 September 2026; Human Rights Watch, “World Report 2026,” pp. 1-9, February 2026, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2026/01/WR2026%20web_2.pdf.
- ¹³ See Comfort Ero, “The UN’s decline is a choice,” El País, 24 September 2026, <https://english.elpais.com/opinion/2026-09-24/the-uns-decline-is-a-choice.html>; Richard Gowan, “The Twilight of International Peacemaking Institutions?” International Crisis Group, 24 July 2025, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/cmt/global/twilight-international-peacemaking-institutions>.
- ¹⁴ Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action, 15 September 1995, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 18 December 1979, UNTS 1249, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>.
- ¹⁵ Security Council Resolutions [1325](#) (2000), [1820](#) (2008), [1888](#) (2009), [1889](#) (2009), [1960](#) (2010), [2106](#) (2013), [2122](#) (2013), [2242](#) (2015), [2467](#) (2019) and [2493](#) (2019).
- ¹⁶ NGO Working Group on WPS, “Analysis of Women, Peace and Security References in Security Council Resolutions, 1 January-31 December 2025,” forthcoming.
- ¹⁷ Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, S/2026/758, 25 September 2026.
- ¹⁸ NGO Working Group on WPS, “Analysis of Women, Peace and Security References in Security Council Resolutions, 1 January-31 December 2025,” forthcoming.
- ¹⁹ The Security Council’s only decision related to the Iran conflict, [Resolution 2817](#) (2026), did not contain any WPS-related terms. This was the first Council product related to Iran since [Resolution 2231](#) (2015), which also did not contain any WPS-related language.
- ²⁰ Neither of the two Security Council decisions on Lebanon in 2025, [S/PRST/2025/1](#) and [Resolution 2790](#) (2025), mentioned women or WPS in any capacity. Similarly, the Council’s only decision on Lebanon in 2024, [Resolution 2749](#) (2024), also did not mention women or WPS.
- ²¹ The Security Council’s only decision on Ukraine since the 2022 full-scale invasion by Russia, [Resolution 2774](#) (2025), did not use any WPS-related terms.
- ²² Resolutions [2720](#) (2023), [2735](#) (2024) and [2803](#) (2025).
- ²³ NGO Working Group on WPS, “Women civil society at the UN Security Council (September-December 2025), 2 March 2026, <https://www.womenpeacesecurity.org/women-civil-society-security-council-september-december-2025/>.
- ²⁴ As of January 2026, the Trump administration has imposed a [full suspension](#) on entry to the United States for nationals from a number of countries on the Security Council’s agenda, including Afghanistan, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, as well as Palestinian passport holders.
- ²⁵ Resolution 2242 (2015), OP 5(c), [undocs.org/s/res/2242\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/s/res/2242(2015)).
- ²⁶ NGO Working Group on WPS, “Analysis of Women, Peace and Security References in Country-Specific Briefings by Senior UN Officials (1 January - 31 December 2025),” 5 March 2026, <https://www.womenpeacesecurity.org/wps-senior-official-briefings-2025/>.
- ²⁷ Under the equality provisions of international human rights law, women have the right to full and equal representation, and States have a duty to guarantee that women fully exercise their human rights on an equal footing with men, free from discrimination. The binding principles of equality and nondiscrimination form the backbone of the international human rights protection system, and are enshrined in the [UN Charter](#) Art. 1(3), [UDHR](#) Art. 2, [ICCPR](#) Arts. 2, 3, 25, [ICESCR](#) Arts. 2, 3, [CEDAW](#) Arts. 7, 8, Human Rights Committee [General Comment 28](#), and CEDAW Committee General Recommendations [23](#), [25](#), [28](#), [30](#) and [40](#), in addition to Security Council Resolutions [1325](#) (2000), [1820](#) (2008), [1889](#) (2009), [2106](#) (2013), [2122](#) (2013), [2242](#) (2015), [2467](#) (2019) and [2493](#) (2019).

²⁸ UN Gender Snapshot 2026, 17 September 2026, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2026-09/the-gender-snapshot-2026-en.pdf>; UN Women, “Facts and figures: Women’s leadership and political participation,” 15 September 2026, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-womens-leadership-and-political-participation>.

²⁹ “Diverse women” includes women from minority, ethnic and religious groups, LGBTIQ women, young women, displaced and migrant women, women with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. CEDAW General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations ¶6, 36, 1 November 2013, undocs.org/CEDAW/C/GC/30.

³⁰ See NGO Working Group on WPS, “2023 Open Letter to Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in advance of the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security,” 16 October 2023, <https://www.womenpeacesecurity.org/resource/open-letter-un-wps-2023/>.

³¹ In 2025, the UN led or co-led three peace processes: the [Geneva International Discussions on the conflict in Georgia](#), [Libya](#) and [Yemen](#).

³² There are currently at least 45 countries or situations where UN peacekeeping operations, special political missions and/or special envoys are involved in mediation or peacebuilding: Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iran, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Rwanda, São Tome & Príncipe, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Western Sahara and Yemen.

³³ This includes, for instance, the [participation of Afghan women in the Doha process](#); [at least 30% Syrian women’s participation](#) in the country’s transitional processes; implementation of South Sudan’s [minimum 35% quota mandated by the 2018 Revitalized Agreement](#); meaningful participation of Ukrainian women in peace negotiations; Sudanese women’s direct participation in all official peace negotiations; Congolese women’s participation in the Luanda, Nairobi, Doha and Washington processes; and Yemeni women’s meaningful participation in line with the 30% quota established by the [2014 National Dialogue Conference](#).

³⁴ Temporary special measures, such as quotas for women’s participation in peace processes, elections and/or government, are crucial and effective tools for achieving measurable targets for women’s representation and advancing gender equality.

³⁵ OHCHR, “High Commissioner Türk: Afghanistan must end persecution of women and girls,” 26 February 2026, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2026/02/high-commissioner-turk-afghanistan-must-end-persecution-women-and>.

³⁶ Open Society Justice Initiative, “Q&A: Bringing a Case Before the International Court of Justice for the Rights of Afghan Women and Girls,” November 2024, <https://www.justiceinitiative.org/publications/q-and-a-bringing-a-case-before-the-international-court-of-justice-for-the-rights-of-afghan-women-and-girls>.

³⁷ Letter dated 14 December 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General, A/70/621-S/2015/978, <https://docs.un.org/A/70/621>.

³⁸ Political Declaration on Suspension of Veto Powers in Cases of Mass Atrocities, 1 August 2015, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/political-declaration-on-suspension-of-veto-powers-in-cases-of-mass-atrocities/>.

³⁹ “...in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.” Charter of the United Nations, “Article 27,” Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs, accessed 28 September 2026, <https://legal.un.org/repertory/art27.shtml>.

⁴⁰ Mark Landler, “U.S.-Saudi Deal Prompts Fears of a Global Nuclear Arms Race,” The New York Times, 23 July 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/23/world/europe/us-saudi-deal-nuclear-hedging.html>.

⁴¹ “Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace,” p. 27, July 2023, <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-new-agenda-for-peace-en.pdf>.

⁴² “Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace,” p. 28, July 2023, <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-new-agenda-for-peace-en.pdf>.

⁴³ The Arms Trade Treaty, Arts. 6(3) and 7(4), 3013 UNTS 269, https://old.theoremstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/ATT_English/ATT_English.pdf?templateId=137253.

⁴⁴ See also Charter of the United Nations, “Article 26,” Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs, accessed 11 September 2026, <https://legal.un.org/repertory/art26.shtml>.

⁴⁵ Statement delivered by New Zealand on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group at the Security Council Open Debate on Implementation of Note S/2024/507, 19 August 2026, <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/united-nations-security-council-open-debate-on-implementation-of-note-s2024507>.

⁴⁶ IPPF, “IPPF’s response to the UNFPA-UN Women merger assessment,” 30 April 2026, <https://www.ippf.org/news/ippfs-response-unfpa-un-women-merger-assessment>; Damilola Banjo, “Merging of UN Gender Entities Moves Ahead Despite Doubts and Risks,” PassBlue, 8 April 2026, <https://passblue.com/2026/04/08/merging-of-un-gender-entities-moves-ahead-despite-doubts-and-risks/>; Fos Feminista, “Getting UN80 Right: Protecting Mandates While Improving Coordination,” 26 January 2026, <https://fosfeminista.org/news-and-stories/getting-un80-right-protecting-mandates-while-improving-coordination/>.