

Mr Deputy Prime Minister,

Madame Under Secretary - General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

I would like to warmly thank the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for organizing this timely event.

(a) Twenty five years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as

(b) twenty years from the adoption of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security,

there is still a lot to be done in order to enhance the women's role in building and sustaining peace.

It is a widely acknowledged truth that gender-equal participation contributes to longer and lasting peace.

Still, women peace-builders remain largely invisible in formal peace processes.

And this is because, in many parts of the world, many women and girls continue to experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, social inequalities and human rights violations.

Added to that, the COVID-19 pandemic, a real threat multiplier, has a negative cumulative effect on human security, especially for women and girls.

Greece remains committed to advancing the beneficial role of women in building and sustaining peace, by implementing a consolidated national legal and institutional framework.

A gender perspective is, therefore, mainstreamed, by law¹, across the whole range of national policies, according to two coherent policy documents:

- **the National Action Plan on Gender Equality**, which is currently being renewed for the period 2021-2025² and
- **the first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2020-2024)**, which is currently being finalized.

There is no doubt that global, urgent and coordinated action is needed to advance gender-responsive peace-building as well as to accelerate gender-equal participation thereto.

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda provides us with the appropriate tools to achieve this:

Firstly, by systematically mainstreaming an intersectional gender perspective at all levels.

Secondly, by applying a human security approach.

Thirdly, by implementing a human rights approach.

¹Law No. 4604/2019 on "Promoting Substantive Gender Equality, Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence".

² (in order to address, inter alia, the gender dimension of the COVID-19 pandemic),

And last but not least, gender-responsive peace-building requires:

- the necessary resources and
- local ownership and meaningful engagement of women's organizations and women from the grassroots in peace talks.

As a final note, please allow me to stress that there can be no sustainable peace and security, without gender-equal representation, participation and leadership in peace efforts.

Therefore, if we want a peaceful and resilient world, we must invest in the pacifist potential and transformational work of women, as mediators, negotiators, peace-builders and peace-keepers. **Thank you.**