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Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming, Thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Joint statement

Speaker: *Amrita Kapur, WILPF's Secretary General, via pre-recorded video*

This statement delivered by WILPF is supported by 23 other organisations.

Today, as we commemorate thirty years of advancing women's rights and peace since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, we must also acknowledge the imminent threat to this progress posed by rising global militarism and the erosion of rule of law.

In 1995, world leaders made commitments in the Beijing Declaration to redirect resources from military-related industries towards human rights, peace and development. The Declaration recognised that military spending, disarmament, foreign occupation and self-determination are all women's rights issues. It recognised the long-term inevitable destructive impact of armed conflict, excessive military expenditures, and the arms trade.

Yet, the reality today is a stark betrayal of all those commitments. Put simply, thirty years of progress is unravelling.

Increasing militarism and securitization has contributed to the Women Peace and Security Agenda's disproportionate focus toward women in the military and peacekeeping operations at the expense of a holistic and integrated approach capable of preventing conflict. Prioritizing security over women and peace perpetuates the very systems of violence the Women Peace and Security Agenda seeks to address.

Unchecked corporate greed in military sectors in the absence of effective rule of law has fuelled an arms trade that enables the commission of international human rights violations and international crimes. And yet, in contrast, **ineffective or selective domestic and international accountability** emboldens rights perpetrators and undermine norms of respect and protection for fundamental human rights. This includes deliberated and targeted attacks against sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender apartheid.

Militarism has not made women safer, but instead exacerbates gender inequalities, accelerates environmental destruction, and perpetuates cycles of conflict and violence, which are compounded by the absence of robust accountability mechanisms.

We cannot afford to wait to challenge militarism's threat to gender equality, environmental sustainability and peace.

We call on all States to build on the expertise, visions and strategies of feminist peace movements to strategically and collectively challenge militaristic trends.

We urge States to uphold their Beijing commitments and invest in human rights, dignity, equity, care, justice, and sustainability.

Statement supported by

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2. American Association of Jurists
3. Anapakina Africa
4. Association du Développement et de la Promotion de Droits de l'Homme
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6. Coalition nationale des organisations Feministes pour la Génération Égalité au Gabon
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