

Joint EoV after the Vote

“Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly”

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this explanation of vote on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and my own country, Switzerland.

We wish to express our strong support for this resolution and thank the facilitator for his efforts in fostering an inclusive negotiation process and in reaching a balanced text. We also commend UN Women for their invaluable work regarding UN system-wide initiatives that aim to advance gender equality, women's and girls' human rights and their empowerment.

As we mark the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action we reaffirm its pivotal importance as a critical tool for achieving women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights.

In this regard, we would like to express three main concerns:

First, sexual and gender-based violence remains a pervasive violation of human rights, transcending borders and affecting all nations and societies. The killings of women and girls represent the most extreme manifestation of this continuum of violence. Gender-based violence constitutes a form of discrimination and engages all obligations under CEDAW. States must prevent and eliminate it, protect and support victims as well as ensure their access to justice.

Second, we wish to recall the interdependence between sustainable development and women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation in all spheres of society - civic, cultural, political, economic, and social. The international community must work together to remove structural barriers, discriminatory stereotypes and negative social norms that are the root causes of gender inequality. In this regard, we welcome the resolution's recognition of the critical importance of engaging men and boys as key partners in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

Third, at a time of heightened instability and escalating armed conflicts, the participation and leadership of women in all stages of peace and security efforts has never been more critical. Twenty-five years after its adoption, the Women, Peace and Security agenda still requires our collective and resolute commitment. We welcome this resolution's reaffirmation of the important role of all women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding efforts, and the need for their full, equal and meaningful participation therein, including at decision-making levels.

To conclude, in the current context of a cross-regional rollback of gender equality norms, that have been agreed for 30 years or more, and a shrinking civic space, it is more essential than ever for the international community to move from words to action, by accelerating its efforts and implementing decisive institutional measures to advance the human rights of all women and girl and to achieve gender equality.

Therefore, we have voted yes on this resolution and strongly hope that next time it will pass by consensus.

We thank you.