



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

**Statement
by**

H.E. Marie Chatardová

at the

**Security Council Open Debate
on
Women, Peace and Security**

**“ Promoting the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and
Sustaining Peace through Women’s Political and Economic Empowerment”**

New York

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(check against delivery)

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security and with the statement of the European Union.

Mr. President,

It is clear that there is a well-established link between peace and women's political and economic empowerment. Since its launch nearly 20 years ago, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda has broadened - it does not include only women's physical security anymore. Increasingly, the necessity for women's participation in public and economic affairs have become a frequent topic of discussions on both national and international level.

Despite all the progress, ensuring meaningful participation of a greater number of women requires human resources, sufficient funds, recognition of the value that women's involvement brings as well as political will to push against stereotypes and negative social norms. We, the member states, have to take up the initiative and assert effective, swift and thorough implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in all our endeavors, as well as to hold the UN accountable to include the WPS in all its activities.

We are proud to state that the Czech Republic has made some concrete steps towards the afore mentioned goals. We are currently implementing our first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for the years 2017 to 2020. The plan contains specific measurable tasks and sets out concrete steps. These include increasing the number of women in decision-making positions in politics and security forces, achieving work-life balance and ending all forms of discrimination of women, girls, men and boys as a violation of human rights.

We believe in a participative approach to our National Action Plan. Therefore, we are in close cooperation with academics on reviewing our current Plan to provide for a creation of an even more effective document for the next period. Among the recommendations, we have received so far, are: including clearer definitions of target groups and appropriate language, or incorporating reproductive rights.

In this context, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage countries which have not yet done so to adopt a National Action Plan, a uniquely effective tool in implementing the WPS agenda on a national and international level.

Mr. President,

The right to participate in public affairs is a key human right that enables the enjoyment of a number of other rights. Its effective implementation is also crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goals by all countries. Hence, the Czech Republic selected Goal no. 16 which contains the target “*to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels*” as the priority theme of the ECOSOC presidency we held in 2017-2018. My country also puts practical action behind our words. The Czech Republic actively addresses root causes of inequalities by implementing projects aimed at the economic empowerment and equal participation of women. Such projects are implemented in Georgia, Zambia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We are also a lead nation of the Jordan III Trust Fund - a capacity building project to support service women in Jordanian Armed Forces.

Mr. President,

At the outset of our recent successful campaign to the Human Rights Council, we pledged to continue challenging stereotypes in the society and creating equal opportunities for women and men. Let me assure you, Mr. President, that the Czech Republic remains committed to those pledges in all its activities and will support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda across the UN initiatives.

Thank you, Mr. President.