**The cause of peace is the cause of women**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) unequivocally condemns the escalating violence in the Middle East that has killed thousands of civilians, including women and children.

The Committee urgently calls for the initiation of inclusive peace talks and upholds the truth that the lived realities of Israelis and Palestinians are deeply intertwined, a fact that requires constructive dialogue with the aim of achieving sustainable peace. The Committee stands by the initiatives for peace by Israeli and Palestinian women. It calls on the international community to do everything in its power to contribute to the cessation of the war and to a sustainable peace process.

The Committee calls for the immediate and full respect of international human rights law, including all the rights under the CEDAW Convention, and for the gender-responsive implementation of international human and humanitarian law at all times. The Committee stresses the urgently needed humanitarian corridor to be sustained. The protection of civilians is the bedrock of modern international humanitarian and human rights law.

The Committee calls upon all parties to systematically address the gender dimension of conflict. It is deeply concerned that the gendered dimensions of conflict will be significantly exacerbated for women who are internally displaced.

The Committee recalls the international norms and standards confirmed by CEDAW General Recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the subsequent resolutions[[1]](#footnote-1) forming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. It similarly recalls Human Rights Council resolution 45/28 (2020) on promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and urges their full implementation by all actors for inclusive and sustainable peace.

In line with these instruments, the Committee emphasizes the primacy of the equal representation of Israeli and Palestinian women in humanitarian operations and in all peace efforts, bearing in mind that it is a fundamental human right of women to equally participate in the design of their future, and that experience has proven that women’s constructive engagement in peace negotiations, leads to a more durable peace. Women are proven mediators that need to always be at the peace negotiation table on an equal footing, as women are the path to peace.

1. 1327 (2000), 1366 (2001), 1408 (2002), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2272 (2016), 2331 (2016), 2467(2019), 2493 (2019) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)