

Statement

Thank you, madam chair, thank you to the panel, and thank you also to all those involved with orchestrating today's thematic panel. The UK is also pleased to join the Joint Statement led by Belgium on gender and hope many other States Parties will consider joining.

In the 25th anniversary year of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325, this panel comes at a critical juncture for the Women Peace and Security agenda. Globally, women's and girls' rights continue to be attacked at local, national, regional and multilateral levels.

The UK recognises the critical importance of integrating the WPS agenda into our collective efforts to implement the Convention. The intersection of mine action and gender equality is not merely a matter of policy but a necessity for achieving sustainable peace and security. Consequently, the UK has had the honour to be the Gender Focal Point for the Article 5 Committee during the 2025 period and as we noted yesterday, we are pleased to see so many states setting out a gendered approach in their extension requests. We have welcomed the collaboration of the Gender & Diversity Working Group which brought together Gender Focal Points across the APMBC and CCM in March, sharing best practice and ways of working. What is more, the UK has ensured half of our delegations at the APMBC and CCM over the past few years have been represented by women.

The UK's Global Mine Action Programme is committed to ensuring that women and girls have a voice and are empowered to meaningfully and safely participate in matters that affect them directly. To this end, we require all of our programme implementing partners to have a gender and inclusion strategy and action plan, and to report on progress in this regard, each quarter. Additionally, during the Financial Years 2024 & 2025, GMAP3 reached 26,581 women and 38,960 girls as direct beneficiaries, meaning that women and girls made up 51% of GMAP's 126,000 direct beneficiaries.

Just as we are integrating the WPS agenda into our efforts towards our implementation of the Convention, so too are we incorporating the Convention and disarmament more generally into our WPS agenda. This year, the UK is undertaking a refresh of our WPS

National Action Plan, thereby aligning our goals in both areas. Moreover, on the 8th of March this year, the UK appointed Baroness Harriet Harman as Special Envoy for Women and Girls, ensuring advocacy for women's and girls' rights, empowerment, safety, education, and equal opportunities, throughout all multilateral fora. Just last week, the UK hosted a cross-regional group of leaders to Wilton Park to regroup, reevaluate and respond to the current backsliding to women's rights. It was here that the Baroness set out the UK's commitment to standing with, and alongside women and girls as part of the ongoing struggle for women's rights. There must be meaningful and safe participation by women and girls in all aspects of peace and security, and beyond.

In conclusion, the UK urges all States Parties to take concrete actions to integrate the WPS agenda into their mine action efforts. This includes adopting gender-responsive policies, supporting women's meaningful and safe participation in mine action, and ensuring that the specific needs of women and girls are addressed in victim assistance programmes. Together, we can build a mine-free world that is inclusive, equitable, and secure for all. Let us reaffirm our commitment to these principles and work collaboratively to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you.

Thematic Panel - Strengthening synergies between the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Women Peace and Security agenda through concrete action – UK Statement from the floor

Background

The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan recognizes that the implementation of the Convention contributes significantly to advancing other international framework and commitments such as those enshrined in the Women Peace and Security agenda (UNSC 1325).

One of the priorities of the President of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties is to explore, together with States Parties and stakeholders, concrete approaches and initiatives to further enhance the synergies between the Convention's implementation and the WPS agenda.

The Panel will explore the links between the WPS agenda and the Convention as well as ways to strengthen synergies.