



WILPF STATEMENT
WILPF
Geneva, Switzerland
26 September 2018

Statement to UN Human Rights Council 39th session (10 September 2018 to 28 September 2018)

Interactive dialogue on Libya

Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity building

This statement draws from WILPF [written statement on Libya](#) to this session¹ and is supported by the Libyan organisation [Together We Build It](#).

Limited efforts have been made to include women in the peace process, resulting in their absence from many of the meetings mediated and facilitated by the UN or by States. With the lack of a gender quota, the international community's emphasis on political participation based on tribal, geographical or ethnic affiliation has penalised women.

We welcome the UN Action Plan for Libya. However, its consultative phase failed to meaningfully include women. We would have liked to ask Mr. Ghassan Salamé, the UN Special Envoy for Libya,² what actions will be taken to ensure that gender is effectively mainstreamed across all future actions emanating from this Plan?

Mr. President,

In the context of the 'war on ISIS', the focus on militarised strategies is posing a serious threat to the continuation of the arms embargo. Women activists strongly support calls on States to prevent the transfer of arms and related materials to Libya. As Mr. Salamé stated earlier this year, "a country with 20 million pieces of arms does not need a single piece more." Efforts for stabilisation and security must be combined with serious and immediate plans for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration, which should address emerging online markets for arms.

We urge States to work closely with the UN Special Envoy for Libya to, *inter alia*,

- Create an inclusive grassroots foundation for peace by consulting Libyan women civil society activists in and outside Libya on all matters related to peace and security. This in

¹ UN index : A/HRC/39/NGO/148

https://wilpf.org/wilpf_statements/wilpf-written-statement-to-hrc39-on-libya/

² The UN Special Envoy for Libya could not participate in person and sent video a message.



order to send a clear message to Libyan decision-makers that women have a fundamental role to play in peacebuilding.

- Strengthen women's role in the political sphere by urging the Libyan government and international actors to reaffirm their commitment to ensure full inclusion of women in the peace process under the Libyan Political Agreement, and by supporting a gender quota.
- Lay the foundation for an effective and coordinated gender-sensitive strategic approach for Security Sector Reform and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration to support long-term stabilisation.