

Committee: UN Security Council

Delegation: The French Republic



Topic: Marking the 25th anniversary of the landmark United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security

"All oppression creates a state of war; this is no exception."¹ These were the words uttered by Simone de Beauvoir, one of the most prominent figures of feminist activism in France. She referred to the oppression of women and the lack of gender equality in the 20th century. Although this was said decades ago in a different context, it is very relevant to today's events. Because of this, the French Republic is one of the strongest supporters of the WPS agenda. We believe that it is crucial for both human-rights as well as security globally. The involvement of women in preventing conflicts, peacekeeping during conflicts as well as peace negotiations is vital to ensure the most effective and efficient handling of such matters.²

France has increased its attention on gender in armed forces both within and outside its borders. Gender training has been implemented for peacekeepers besides the integration of gender advisors into missions.³ Furthermore, the WPS agenda is largely present in French diplomacy and their domestic actions of policy implementations and laws make their international statements credible and reliable. These initiatives have received strong praise from French civilians and they affect the mission planning, recruitment and defence strategies of the French government largely. The most prominent action the French Republic has taken domestically, is the implementation of several NAPs. The current one highlights our four main goals: prevention, protection, participation and the promotion of the agenda. Additionally, we aim to engage civilians as much as possible to help the effect of the framework and agenda. We also invest large amounts of money in training women officers and gender advisors.⁴ We reaffirm our commitment to the WPS agenda in our Permanent Mission and during UNSC debates.⁵ The French Presidency also often links gender equality to conflict resolution. However, while the French Republic ranks high on the EU Gender Equality Index,⁶ women remain underrepresented in the military, especially in senior positions. We are making slow progress, but implementation gaps persist despite the NAPs and the large funding. France has seen improved mission effectiveness, better protection for women in conflicts as well as more women leadership which showcases our dedication to the agenda and to the security of our civilians through our domestic actions.

Internationally, France is fully committed to UNSCR 1325 and the resolutions following it up. We have also adopted our International Strategy for Feminist Foreign Policy which has led to gender equality and along with it the WPS agenda one of the key parts in our international diplomacy.⁷ We also support the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

¹ Staff, G. (2014, January 9). Simone de Beauvoir: 10 key quotes. *The Guardian*.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/jan/09/simone-de-beauvoir-google-doodle-quotes>

² *National Action Plan for France*. (n.d.). Retrieved November 18, 2025, from

https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/TMG/pdf/Women_Peace_and_Security.pdf

³ *EUROMIL SURVEY - GENDER EQUALITY/ WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES 2023*. (2023).

https://euromil.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2306_Survey-Gender-Equality-in-the-Armed-Forces.pdf

⁴ *France | National Action Plan (NAP) | SecurityWomen*. (2021). Securitywomen.org.

<https://www.securitywomen.org/uns-1325-and-national-action-plans-nap/france>

⁵ *Women, Peace and Security*. France ONU. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/women-s-peace-and-security-stake-out>

⁶ European Institute for Gender Equality. (2024, December 10). *Gender Equality Index | 2024 | European Institute for Gender Equality*. European Institute for Gender Equality. <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2024>

⁷ *Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères France's International Strategy for a Feminist Foreign Policy (2025-2030)*. France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs; France Diplomacy.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/feminist-diplomacy/france-s-international-strategy-for-a-feminist-foreign-policy-2025-2030/>

(WPHF) to help women fighting against conflict.⁸ With the same goal, we co-manage the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund into which we have invested over 108 million Euros.⁹ In addition, France financially supports gender-training programs. Besides this, we support UN Women initiatives, CEDAW and EU gender-frameworks which all underpin our WPS policies.

The French republic proposes stronger NAP implementations which would be ensured through more monitoring. The creation of a \$500 million WPS Implementation Fund is also necessary, administered by UN Women in order to ensure that developing nations have no issues with implementing WPS agenda through National Action Plans. This however also requires strong monitoring to make sure funds are used accordingly. We believe that due to the difference in goals within the committee, annual peer review conducted by rotating groups of Member States would be the best way to monitor these initiatives. Additionally, France encourages the larger involvement of gender-advisors in conflict zones to ensure that gender is prioritised in peacekeeping mandates and mission planning. The protection of women and the prevention of sexual exploitation through strengthened prosecutorial mechanisms should also be at the forefront of the committee's agenda. This can be done by creating independent organisations to report cases and monitor the situation. Moreover, the increase of female voices in conflict resolution should also be emphasized to work towards the 5th UN Sustainable Development Goal while also allowing faster conflict resolution. France's objective in the committee is to include our ideas in the resolution and make them more detailed through conversation and debate with other Member States. Our main focus is not the frameworks themselves, but the implementation of them seeing as almost all Member States share similar views on the topic, namely, that action is needed. Implementation gaps however remain a pressing issue in all nations. This is first of all due to the lack of monitoring, but the lack of funding also poses a challenge for some nations. Due to this, France advocates for monitoring systems and the development of a secure fund. We strive to create a world where all genders are equal, and implementing these ideas would be a meaningful step towards achieving that world. The French Republic has many allies in the Security Council, thanks to its position in NATO as well as the EU. All nations in the SC have similar views regarding this topic which will allow us to debate more about the implementation strategies rather than the policies themselves. Disagreement is most likely to arise during the discussion of monitoring techniques. While we support independent organisations, countries such as the PRC and the Russian Federation along with Pakistan will likely advocate for government-led ones. Despite this, we are open to compromise to ensure that monitoring systems get included into the resolution because all women deserve to have equal opportunities and equal security especially after being oppressed and exploited for so many centuries.

⁸ Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères. *International Women's Day – France launches its international strategy for a feminist foreign policy* (7 Mar. 2025). France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs; France Diplomacy. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/feminist-diplomacy/news/article/international-women-s-day-france-launches-its-international-strategy-for-a>

⁹ *Minka: a fund for peace and resilience*. AFD - Agence Française de Développement. <https://www.afd.fr/en/minka-fund-peace-and-resilience>

Committee; UN Security Council

Delegation: The French Republic

Topic: Addressing the disproportionate effects of armed conflicts on children



Children are the future. Without them, humanity would not persist. They are the most treasured members of society, yet they are the ones who are stuck in the most tragic and appalling situations. The French government has been working hard for a long time to change this. Within the protection of children, we emphasise the protection of children in conflict zones of which the number is currently over 230 million.¹⁰ Kids are affected at a larger scale by the indirect effects of war such as malnutrition, destroyed infrastructure and lack of medical care. Conflicts also interrupt the education of children with over 27 million kids being subject to this currently.¹¹ The interruption of education along with the other disadvantages children face leads to many of them having worse lives than they would otherwise have. France aims to limit these effects as much as possible to provide each child with the security and life they deserve to the largest feasible extent. Especially in the Sahel region, French military operations encounter situations where children are victims of trauma, displacement and even recruitment. As a result, child-protection measures have to be implemented into mission planning and humanitarian assistance. The high number of child victims has placed pressure on France to which we created funds and advocated for accountability mechanisms but situations are worsening fast which is why discussing this matter is highly important.¹²

“The protection of children in armed conflict is an absolute priority for France.”¹³ This is stated in the French Permanent Mission to the UN. It is reflected in the national actions of France which include its legal commitment by implementing new laws protecting children. Furthermore, we have co-sponsored various conferences and promoted the Paris Principles, taking up a leadership position in diplomatic advocacy in this matter. Humanitarian funding has also been a large part of our initiatives trying to limit the effect of conflict on children. We have placed the largest focus within that pillar onto emergency education with France committing 40 million Euros to Education Cannot Wait.¹⁴ Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and psychological services were also at the forefront. The last part of French national action is peacekeeping along with peace operations. These projects included the deployment of child-protection advisors and the constant insistence of the protection of facilities of high importance such as hospitals and schools.¹⁵ Altogether, France has provided funding to ECW, UNICEF humanitarian programmes and child-protection projects while also providing operational support and hosting conferences. We have also consistently advocated in UNSC debates in favor of the matter. These actions have saved lives and improved living conditions slightly for children in conflict zones. Sadly, funding remains insufficient and access to the children is constrained which is why discussing this matter is crucial.

¹⁰ *Children and armed conflicts*. (n.d.). France ONU. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Children-and-armed-conflicts-10458>

¹¹ *27 million children out of school in conflict zones – UNICEF*. (2017, September 18). [www.unicef.org](https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/27-million-children-out-school-conflict-zones). <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/27-million-children-out-school-conflict-zones>

¹² Ahmed, K. (2025, June 20). *Children suffered record levels of violence in conflict zones in 2024, UN report shows*. The Guardian; The Guardian.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jun/20/violence-against-children-conflict-zones-un-report>

¹³ *The conflict in Gaza has been particularly deadly for Palestinian children*. (2025). France ONU.

<https://onu.delegfrance.org/the-conflict-in-gaza-has-been-particularly-deadly-for-palestinian-children>

¹⁴ *France Announces 40 Million Euros in New, Additional Funding to Education Cannot Wait at Global Citizen Festival | Education Cannot Wait*. (2023). Education Cannot Wait.

<https://www.educationcannotwait.org/news-stories/press-releases/france-announces-40-million-euros-in-new-additional-funding-education>

¹⁵ Ohchr.org. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=62&Lang=en&utm_source

France's support of the CRC is one of its most significant international commitments. We also ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in conflict in support of the prohibition of child use and recruitment in hostilities. The Paris Principles and Paris Commitments are most notably some of the largest effects we have had on the matter since we co-hosted the 2007 conference where these were produced.¹⁶ These also connect to the topic of prohibiting child recruitment. UNSC Resolution 1612 and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRM) are largely supported by the French Republic.¹⁷ Besides the funding of international projects such as ones led by ECW and UNICEF, we support the Rome Statute framework and the efforts to prosecute perpetrators of grave violations either through the ICC or other international mechanisms. This all showcases the dedication of the French Republic to protect children at all costs.

The Republic of France proposes strengthening MRM and the reporting of grave violations. This would be done by more detailed reporting and required follow-up action plans to ensure the violations do not persist. Second of all, similar to France's 40 million Euro donation, we propose the creation of a \$300 million annual funding mechanism for DDR, emergency education, and psychosocial services. This can be achieved with the help of organisations such as ECW and UNICEF with whom collaboration would ensure that funds go to the proper place in the proper manner. One of the most important of our solutions would be a call on the parties in conflict to guarantee access for child-protection actors and to designate schools and hospitals as demilitarised zones. Last of all, we propose the creation of accountability mechanisms through mandatory cooperation with the ICC and other judicial mechanisms in order to discourage parties from committing grave violations. For all of these proposals to work, a system similar to the above-mentioned monitoring one needs to be established. Our objective in the committee is to share our approaches and combine them with further ideas other delegates may have. The funding system, humanitarian corridors and demilitarised zones are our main focus since they are the most feasible as well as most important. We also aim to highlight the importance of children for society and get each Member State on board with taking serious action and implementing everything properly. Once again, national sovereignty will be the main issue when it comes to agreeing on policies and projects, but we want to highlight that action is needed and that it is needed now so any action even if it is government-led is important. In summary, France emphasises the need for action and the implementation of policies and projects to protect children from atrocities as much as possible. The majority of nations in the current SC have aligned views with ours but some nations who also have veto power, thanks to which they play a large role in dictating the debate and the resolution, do not tend to agree on such matters. Therefore, we will put a large focus on mediating the debate between the two main halves and highlighting the higher importance future actions have than past ones. The French Republic calls for cooperation in such issues due to its significance and gruesome effects. Malala Yousafzai's words describe the situation perfectly: "When the world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."¹⁸ The world is waiting for action to protect children and women. We in the Security Council have the power to unite all voices into one reality: a world where children can thrive, not merely survive.

¹⁶ *PARIS PRINCIPLES OPERATIONAL HANDBOOK A PARIS PRINCIPLES OPERATIONAL HANDBOOK PARIS PRINCIPLES STEERING GROUP.* (n.d.).

<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Paris-Principles-Handbook.pdf>

¹⁷ S.C. Res. 1612, U.N. Doc. S/RES/1612 (July 26, 2005).

¹⁸ Husain, Z. (2015, August 13). *9 Inspiring Malala Quotes.* Unfoundation.org.
<https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/9-inspiring-malala-quotes/>