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Ambassadorial-level Peacebuilding Commission  
Virtual Meeting

**Women, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace  
'Enhancing the Leading Role of Women in Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Efforts'**

New York, le 13 octobre 2021

Déclaration de la Suisse

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Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished briefers and colleagues,

Let me add Switzerland's voice of gratitude for the briefers. We also welcome the initial findings on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan. As chair of the Burundi country configuration, I have made the experience that the Action Plan and its monitoring are useful tools to hold us accountable to our commitments. As the Swiss photographer and writer, Annemarie Schwarzenbach, said: «*the Grace of this earth is abundant, if only we speak up*» – We have begun to hear many more women speak up, also in this commission, but too many are still being over- or misheard, despite the invaluable contribution they make to peace. Let me make three points on advancing the WPS agenda within the PBC and on making full use of its unique advisory role to other UN bodies, IFIs and regional organizations.

First, a sound gender analysis needs to be the basis of all our work. Gender-disaggregated data is necessary to understand the realities of any society and work towards solutions that are gender-sensitive. As the Review mentions, for the PBC, a good part of that analysis is based on information from women peacebuilders themselves. Had they not briefed the PBC, this valuable information would not have been available to us. Their voices must be heard more often – including in this commission.

Second, we all stand to benefit from the gender expertise available in the PBSO. We are convinced that for the UN having enough dedicated gender experts here in New York but particularly in the field is crucial to close the gap between rhetoric and reality and achieve concrete results on the ground.

Third, the Peacebuilding Fund's ability to track gender-focused allocations has proven to be very effective. We therefore consider this a good practice, which the PBC could highlight in its input to the *high-level meeting on financing for peacebuilding* of the General Assembly.

Finally, let me say that Switzerland will stand by all that will want to continue to speak up: This is why in the coming days we will, together with WILFP, relaunch the Women, Peace and Security App, which was originally created ten years ago also with the support of Liechtenstein. We are convinced that peacebuilders – women, men and youth – in the field as well as here in New York will benefit from this tool.

I would like to close with a reflection. We have many tools, such as the *App*, and monitoring instruments, such as the *Action Plan*. Could we accelerate their impact by increasing the friendly peer pressure among ourselves with public commitments? Such as the likes Kenya, Ireland and Mexico have recently made for their presidencies of the Security Council.

Thank you