



**Réunion ministérielle virtuelle sur la Responsabilité de protéger (R2P)  
“The Responsibility to Protect and the Role of Women and Girls in Atrocity Prevention”**

**Intervention de S.E. M. Jean Asselborn,  
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Dear friends,

- I thank the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect for organising this year’s session, as well as my colleagues from Costa Rica, Croatia, and Denmark, for their opening statements. Thank you to Special Adviser Alice Nderitu and Ms Wai Wai Nu for your keynote statements and your lived experiences of atrocity prevention. Ms Wai Wai Nu, I have a lot of respect for your personal ordeal.
- When we last met, COVID-19 had been holding humanity in its grip for half a year. The Secretary-General’s Global Ceasefire Call had gone broadly unanswered. I raised the situations of the Rohingya in Myanmar, the Yazidi in Iraq and Syria, and the Uyghur in China, all of them victims of ongoing genocidal campaigns. Their situations have hardly improved. Instead, political contexts almost everywhere have worsened in the last 12 months.
- In Afghanistan, two decades’ worth of stabilisation policies and counter-terrorism strategies seem to have failed. More than 200.000 lives have been lost. Over a trillion dollars in aid have been invested; some believe in vain. What is left? A generation of women and girls who have been empowered for twenty years and had a hope of achieving gender equality.
- Who is opposing the Taliban in the streets now? These same women and girls. Their struggle plays out also on the streets from Belarus to Myanmar: it is the struggle of women who have had enough of being marginalised. This is where the R2P and the Women and Peace and Security agendas intersect: **a feminist peace**.
- The women and girls of Afghanistan, Belarus, Myanmar, Syria, Yemen, or Xinjiang speak for themselves, but we owe it to them that we place the tools of multilateral system at the service of a feminist peace.
- In Afghanistan, UNAMA must continue to fulfil its important mandate with a strong human rights component. In addition, we encourage the Human Rights Council at its current session to create an independent mandate that can both monitor the human rights situation, especially the rights of women and girls, as well as of vulnerable groups, and make recommendations for its improvement. In our view the International Criminal Court has also a role to play.
- Feminist peace recognises that there can be no peace without justice. That even if you seize power by force, you can’t turn back the clock. Feminist peace opposes all forms of the patriarchal violence that is at the heart of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It can be the glue that holds together the normative frameworks of R2P and Women and Peace and Security.

Thank you for your attention.