

## **EU joint reply to UNGA Resolution 79/57**

### ***“Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”***

1. The EU has long recognised that the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda provides an important framework for advancing inclusive peace, security and societal resilience, including through addressing the rights, needs and experiences of women and girls in all their diversity.
2. The European Union has consistently supported UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent WPS resolutions. Gender equality and gender-responsive approaches are important cross-cutting priorities of the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy, including in non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control.
3. The EU recognises that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and security decision-making is essential to sustainable peace and security. In this regard, the EU supports implementation of the UN Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament, including actions aimed at strengthening women’s participation and leadership in disarmament and arms-control processes.
4. Although EU CFSP Council Decisions adopted in 2024–2025 do not explicitly reference UNGA Resolution 79/57 on “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control” of December 2024, the majority of instruments adopted after December 2024 substantively implement its objectives through gender-responsive arms control, WPS integration and inclusive participation measures, including:

#### **Council Decisions**

5. Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/3006, adopted on 25 November 2024, supporting SEESAC disarmament and arms-control activities in South-East Europe, advances WPS-related objectives through support for gender-sensitive SALW governance, community security and inclusive approaches to violence prevention.
6. Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/3097, adopted on 28 November 2024, supporting efforts to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of SALW and conventional ammunition in South-Eastern Europe, reflects an advanced integration of gender mainstreaming into regional SALW governance through gender-sensitive data collection and inclusive policy development.
7. Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/208, adopted on 30 January 2025, on the promotion of effective arms export controls, contributes to the WPS agenda through support for responsible arms-transfer controls linked to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), including risk assessments concerning gender-based violence.
8. Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/779, adopted on 14 April 2025, amends the EU Common Position defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment that contains, inter alia, eight criteria for denial of export licenses. Within the Criterion “Respect for human rights in the country of final destination as well as respect by that country of international humanitarian law”, the notion of “internal repression” was broadened to include also gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children.
9. Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/1451, adopted on 18 July 2025, supporting efforts to combat illicit SALW trafficking and ammunition proliferation in the Americas, incorporates gender-sensitive approaches to armed violence prevention, community security and

weapons governance, while supporting inclusive approaches involving local communities and civil society.

10. Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/2322, adopted on 20 November 2025, on strengthening state capacities to protect civilians from conventional and emerging weapons technologies, reflects WPS-related principles through its focus on civilian protection, human security and prevention-oriented approaches to armed violence.
11. Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/2367, adopted on 27 November 2025, supporting implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), advances gender-responsive arms-control principles through strengthening ATT implementation and outreach activities. In particular, Article 7(4) of the ATT requires states parties to assess the risk that exported arms could facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or violence against women and children.
12. Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/2565, adopted on 15 December 2025, supporting the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the Global Framework on Ammunition, contains one of the clearest integrations of gender-responsive disarmament within EU CFSP practice. It explicitly supports gender-responsive SALW control and ammunition management, recognises the differentiated impacts of illicit arms proliferation on women, men, girls and boys, and promotes the participation of women and youth in arms-control processes.
13. Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/2587, adopted on 15 December 2025, supporting SEESAC and implementation of the Western Balkans Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking, incorporates important WPS and gender-responsive arms-control dimensions, including women's participation in community-security initiatives and links between disarmament, civilian protection and inclusive governance.
14. Council Decision (CFSP) 2026/584, adopted on 16 March 2026, supporting the building of African capacities towards a mine-free Africa, explicitly integrates gender-responsive humanitarian disarmament principles through support for "gender-responsive national capacity-building assistance" and recognition of the "gendered impacts" of anti-personnel landmines on women, men, girls and boys.

### **Council Conclusions**

15. The Council Conclusions on strengthening the ban against anti-personnel mines, adopted in November 2024, support victim-centred and gender-sensitive mine action and recognise the differentiated impacts of anti-personnel mines on women, men, girls and boys. They promote inclusive participation in mine action and post-conflict recovery processes.
16. The Council Conclusions on Arms Export Control, adopted on 14 April 2025, reinforce the integration of human rights and international humanitarian law considerations into export-control assessments, including risks related to gender-based violence and violence against women and children. The Conclusions support implementation of Article 7(4) of the ATT and strengthen gender-sensitive export-control practices.
17. The Council Conclusions adopted on 15 December 2025 in view of the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) underline that "gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls" are "an important cross-cutting priority for the EU", and recall "the importance of integrating a gender perspective into discussions across all pillars".
18. Following the adoption cycle of UNGA Resolution 79/57, EU notices an increasingly visible integration of gender-responsive disarmament and WPS-related principles, particularly in SALW control, humanitarian disarmament, ammunition management and responsible arms-transfer governance and, through its CFSP, actively contributes to it.

However, beyond the EU such an integration remains uneven across the broader field of non-proliferation and arms control, where traditional WMD and strategic weapons frameworks show a more limited engagement with WPS considerations.