It is a pleasure to address this audience. Let me again express my thanks to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law, and the Women’s UN Report Network for the invitation to speak on this important topic on **Women and the Human Right to Peace**.

**Human Right to Peace**

- Indeed the Right to Peace is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as fundamental to human existence and is articulated in civil and political rights on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights on the other.

- However, despite the existence of these rights, the right to peace and respect for human rights continue to be the biggest challenges for humanity. And in particular, respect for women's human rights.

- In the African context, the mechanisms that protect the right to peace for women can be found in legal instruments such as the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)**. Article 10 on the **Right To Peace** states that...
“Women have the right to a peaceful existence and the right to participate in the promotion and maintenance of peace.”

There have been other landmark instruments, such as the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, which pushes for parity as a means of getting women's human rights issues to the forefront.

- The right to peace exists in general but has not been articulated or fleshed out as the Right to food, the Right to development, the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, etc.

- United Nations Security Council 1325 uses a rights-based approach to connect the right to peace to women's human rights.

- In the implementation of 1325, prevention will help reinforce the rights to women. The best way to protect is to prevent. The best way to protect is to participate. Yesterday, my organization, Femmes Africa Solidarité, launched a book that highlights different mechanisms of prevention, early warning and human rights in Africa, and how women can effectively utilise these mechanisms to foster their protection.

- We would like to commend the efforts of the International Congress on the Human Right to Peace on the Santiago Declaration on the human right to peace and on the establishment of an International Observatory on the Human Right to Peace. As a result, we are one step closer to an articulated universal framework on the right to peace.

- Peace as a human right can help:
  - Prevent wars;
  - Address the roots of conflict (inequalities and lack of effective justice mechanisms);
  - Monitor those who create conflict; and
  - Bring perpetrators to justice.

Thank you.