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CLOSING REMARKS

EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY SYMPOSIUM

OTTAWA, 28 APRIL 2016

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and thank you, Ambassador Coninx, for the invitation. I knew from the time I first met you at the reception hosted by Global Affairs Canada in December, that we would continue the legacy of strong partnership and strengthening relations between Canada and the EU. In particular, championing the role that women play in achieving greater international security and stability is a goal we share. I am very pleased to be here today, and to contribute from a Foreign Affairs perspective.

I am new to Ottawa, and to the role of parliamentary secretary. In thinking about my comments today, two things immediately came to mind: one was my third year honours political science paper – something I wrote about 35 years ago if you must know. The other is the role that women must play in achieving common security. My paper was curiously about Britain's debate leading up to joining the European Economic Union. Setting aside the contemporary question

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that the UK faces today, I found myself thinking about this paper because of what it taught me about the challenging nature of maintaining **identity** while pursuing **interdependence**, and how getting this right can be the foundation for economic prosperity. Put simply, good foreign policy supports trade and trade supports good foreign policy.

The Canada-EU relationship is of fundamental importance to Canada. The EU is Canada's second largest trade and investment partner, and central to global issues of concern to Canada. Our trade relationship is a testament to strong partnerships, a long friendship and our future potential. Our greatest security in the face of global economic risk is that we know one another well, and we can count on one another.

Indeed, Canada was one of the first countries to enter into an international agreement with what would become the EU. In 1959, Canada accredited its first Ambassador to the European Economic Community, and we signed a treaty on the peaceful uses of atomic energy with the European Atomic Energy Community. From this starting point, our cooperation has continued to grow.

This year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the landmark 1976 Canada - Europe Framework for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, as well as the establishment of the EU's diplomatic mission in Ottawa.

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What better way to celebrate than the February 29th announcement this year when Canada and the EU announced the final text of our legally reviewed trade agreement, marking an important step in bringing the Canada - EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, also known as CETA, into being. CETA creates vast new opportunities across the EU and Canada, opening new markets for our exporters and forging closer links between our economies. Canada's Minister of International Trade Chrystia Freeland is a powerful advocate for this agreement.

CETA contemplates and encompasses a comprehensive range of factors that shape trade in the 21st century global economy: liberalization in the trade of goods and services, comprehensive and balanced protection for intellectual property, access to procurement opportunities at all levels of government, cooperation on regulations and product standards and support for sustainable development, for example. As a result, CETA sets **the** new, gold standard for trade agreements of the 21st century.

At this time of deep geopolitical shifts and continuing uncertainty in the global economy, CETA and the Canada-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement offer the promise of strengthened economies and strengthened ties between societies. We agree on the importance of inclusive and accountable governance,

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peaceful pluralism, and respect for diversity and human rights, including the rights of women and refugees.

The cooperation mechanisms we have put in place will deepen and broaden the scope of our foreign policy and security cooperation on a wide range of issues, from international security, crisis management, environment and climate change, and development cooperation, to the promotion of human rights and nuclear non-proliferation. The Agreement also advances our ability to provide timely consular services to our nationals.

Today's symposium is an occasion to reflect on some of the most pressing threats to international peace and security including Russia/Ukraine, ISIL/Syria/Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Iran. It is important that Canada and the EU continue to discuss these issues bilaterally and in all relevant multilateral fora. Canada's current contribution of civilian police to EU missions in the Palestinian Territories and Ukraine, and the scope for further cooperation in the future are very important to us.

It is not long ago that we worked together on similar issues in Kosovo. On April 8th, I had the honour of representing Canada at the Inauguration of the President of the Republic of Kosovo. The ceremony took place outdoors in the very square in Pristina, where protests took place against Slobodan Milosovic –

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protests led by the man who is now the President of Kosovo, President Thaci. A remarkable reminder of what cooperation and integration means for our common security and economic prosperity.

Multilaterally, our new government is committed to re-engaging in peace support operations at the UN, where Prime Minister Trudeau has recently announced Canada's intention to seek a Security Council seat in 2021-2022. In April, Canada was awarded a seat on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Our Minister for the Status of Women Patty Hajdu stated that "serving as a member will allow Canada to play a more vigorous role protecting and promoting the human rights of women and girls around the world. Our participation in the commission is an important part of our renewed commitment to advance gender equality both at home and abroad."

Which brings me to the second thought I had, about women, peace and security. Canada and the EU have demonstrated long-standing support for the human rights and well-being of women and girls in situations of conflict and state fragility. However, according to September 2015 report of the UN Security Council's Report of the Secretary General on women, peace and security: I would like to quote,

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“recent reviews of the high level independent panel on peace operations and by the advisory group of experts on the 2015 review of the UN peacebuilding architecture paint a **stark picture** of the current peace and security context, characterized by:

- blatant violations of human rights and humanitarian law;
- complex drivers of conflict;
- involvement of a growing number of non-state armed actors;
- new technologies;
- and transnational connections that are changing the nature of warfare.

These challenges underline the need for a stronger focus on prevention, more holistic and consistent approaches that place human rights at the core of security protection, political, humanitarian, peacebuilding and socioeconomic development work.” End of quote.

Knowing that **all** the evidence shows that inclusion of women leads to more sustainable peace and enhanced prevention efforts, our record of unpredictable and insufficient funding, the lack of systematic gender responsive analysis, attitudinal obstacles, and insufficient mapping of needs in planning and budgeting all need **dramatic** improvement. The evidence is **clear**. When proper funding, **committed** and visible leadership, **inclusive** rights based and gender

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responsive processes and **strong** gender equality architecture are in place, tangible results for security and stability are achieved.

A survey of forty peace processes showed that the ability of women to influence negotiations increased the chances of agreements being reached and succeeding. There was not a single case where organized women's groups had a negative impact on a peace process. In particular, one of the most repeated effects was the ability of women to push for the commencement, resumption or finalization of negotiations when momentum had stalled or talks had faltered.

However, the participation of women in formal peace processes remains contested. Inclusion is still mostly initiated and attained through concerted pressure by women's organizations rather than by the parties to the conflict, the mediators or the organizers of the negotiations.

Canada **was** a leader in supporting resolution 1325 in 2000, but we can do better than our recent track record. Our Prime Minister has created a cabinet which is equally men and women, as are the appointments to parliamentary secretary positions. The intent is not only to demonstrate inclusion and equality, but it is to improve outcomes and drive positive change. The Secretary

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General's report found that "very few of the examined peace agreements reflect comprehensive gender equality or women, peace and security provisions." There are two good examples of success however: Guatemala in the mid 1990's and Colombia in 2014. Yet even where some of the agreements have the clearest gender specific language, huge challenges remain in actual implementation.

It is true that over the past fifteen years, increased awareness of the gender-related dynamics with the security sector has resulted in more attention but the realm is still dominated by men. Once again, the potential of improving peace and security by including women seems elusive.

The foreign affairs committee is currently hosting witnesses on the issue of women, peace and security. Two weeks ago, the presentation by General Jonathan Vance, Chief of the Defence Staff, was inspiring. He spoke of what he saw in Afghanistan, and the war's effect on women and girls. And he said "it was also in Afghanistan that (he) saw how having women within our ranks could dramatically improve the operational effectiveness of the Canadian Armed Forces....having women in our ranks opened doors for us." He stated that "ensuring that the Canadian Armed Forces fully implement the UN security council resolutions on women, peace and security is a priority." I am proud of

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General Vance and his commitment to fully integrate these requirements into Canadian Armed Forces planning, operations, and the wider institution.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our European Union partners for your active participation today. We are truly strategic partners, as demonstrated by the leading edge Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, and through our shared commitment to the role of women in improving peace and security outcomes. At the first meeting of the Foreign Affairs committee earlier this year, we heard from Diana Sarosi of the Nobel Women's Initiative. One of the male members of parliament asked Diana what it would take to get more women involved in peace and security negotiations. She said "invite us."

Thank you for my invitation today. Canada is entirely committed to our common security.

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