

ROLE SHEET

China

CONTEXT:

China's history and stance on women's issues and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda are marked by significant progress in some areas, yet considerable challenges in others. The country has shown a commitment to international declarations on women's rights, such as signing the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women's Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, which pledged to fight for gender equality and empower women. However, the implementation of these commitments within China has been criticized by other countries. The state of women's rights in China is often described by outside actors as problematic, with some restrictions on the freedom of action for women activists and human rights defenders.¹

In terms of the WPS agenda, China acknowledges the vulnerability of women in conflict situations and the need for their special attention. It supports the participation of women in conflict resolution and prevention, emphasizing the importance of respecting national ownership in conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. However, China also insists on adhering to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, advocating for a respect of specific national conditions and historical and cultural differences.

While China has not developed its own national action plan for UNSCR 1325, at present, women account for more than 40% of the workforce in China, about 45.8% of scientific and technological workers nationwide, and 55% of the entrepreneurs in the internet field. In recent years, China has helped developing countries implement 100 maternal and child health projects and worked with UNICEF to improve maternal and newborn health in relevant African countries.²

IN SUPPORT OF:

As China enters negotiations, there are items that they would like to discuss and are willing to push to include in the Regional Action Plan. These include:

¹ [Impiombato, Daria. \(2020\). "Women's rights in China and the legacy of the Feminist Five". The Strategist](#)

² [Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN. \(2023\). "Remarks by Lin Yi, Vice Chairperson of the National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council of China, at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security"](#)

1. Incorporate WPS agenda throughout all phases of foreign aid policy and international development cooperation to countries experiencing direct conflict.
2. Receive apologies and reparations for victims of Japanese Imperial soldiers wartime sexual slavery ("comfort women") from Japan.
3. Ensure the principle of non-interference in internal affairs is upheld. While protecting the rights and freedoms of women and enhancing their role in peace and security, specific national conditions, history, and cultural differences must be fully taken into account, rather than a blanket universal standard ³
4. Increase women's participation and leadership in scientific and technological fields, such as regional exchanges between women in the STEM fields
5. Relax some sanctions against North Korea that are in violation of international law, and impact the livelihood of women.⁴

OPPOSED TO:

There are also items which China would prefer not to include in the Regional Action Plan, but is willing to compromise on if an adequate trade off is met Remember that you don't have to offer these right away in a negotiation. These include:

1. Use of "universal" rights based on "international" standards as a guise for outside actors to interfere with China's internal matters. China views this as a modern approach to Western imperialism.
2. Use the WPS agenda to promote U.S. presence in the region, particularly in the defense and security sectors. China views this as a threat to its security.
3. Calls from external actors to repeal the sponsorship requirement and other official registration measures for NGOs in China. China sees these regulations as protections for social stability and good governance.
4. Any policy that puts too much pressure on North Korea. China won't let North Korea collapse, or be pulled too close to the U.S. China likes North Korea on its border as a buffer between U.S. soldiers in South Korea.
5. Pressure to address domestic WPS issues, including gender-based violence, feminist issues, or the gendered impact of militarization. WPS is seen primarily as an international initiative for humanitarian assistance

³ [Li, Baodong. \(2011\). "Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security". Security Council Chamber.](#)

⁴ [Korea Peace Now. \(2019\). "The Human Costs And Gendered Impact Of Sanctions On North Korea".](#)