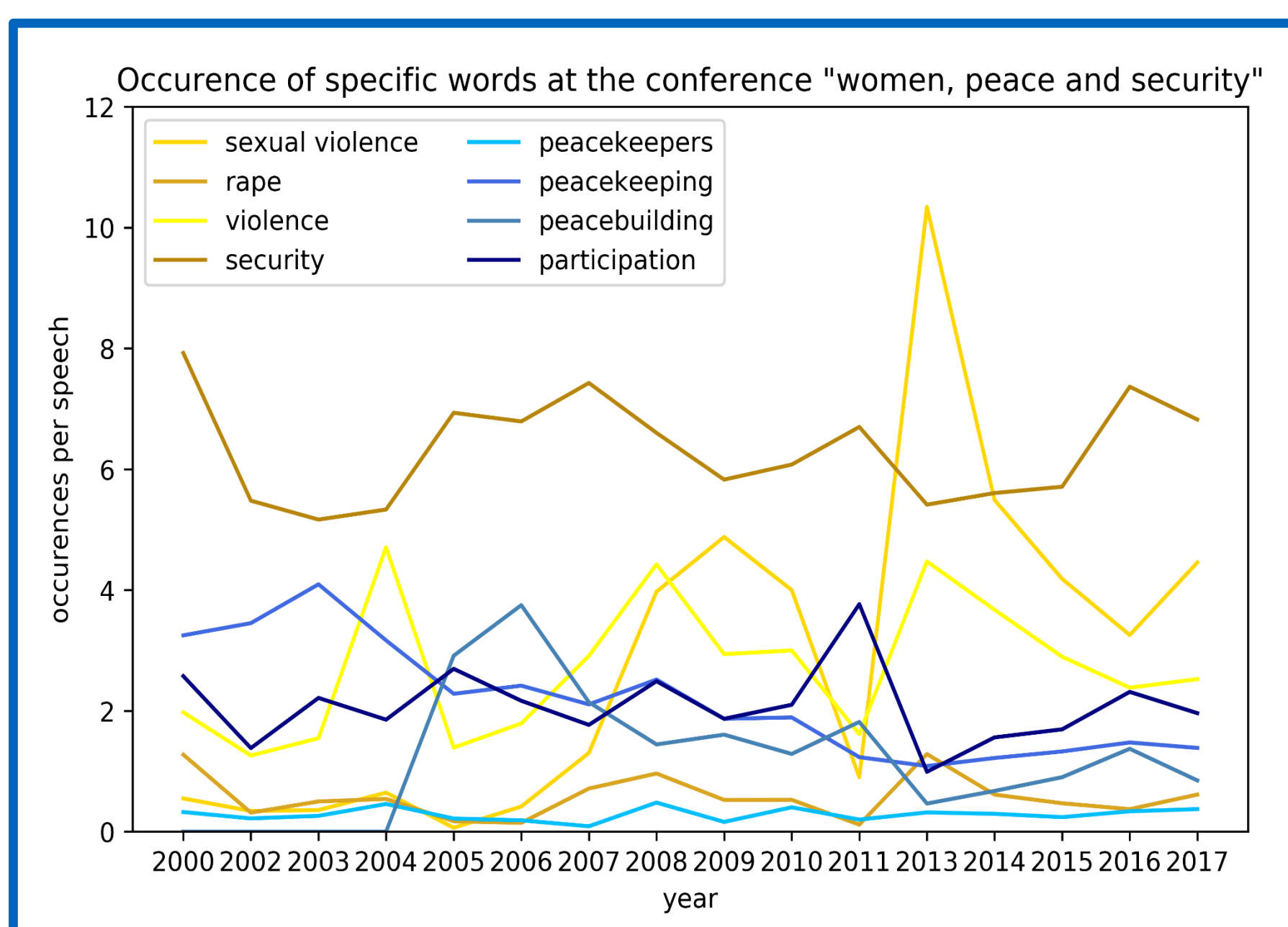


Women in the UN-Security Council

Comparison of commitment and reality using the example of Russia, Nigeria and Pakistan

Shannon Reitmeir, David Vadasz, Marie-Luisa Geschwandtner & Albiona Dzemaili

More information
and our sources:



Data

- We had access to all speeches of the UN Security Council from 2000 to 2017 → **61.890** text files

Motivation

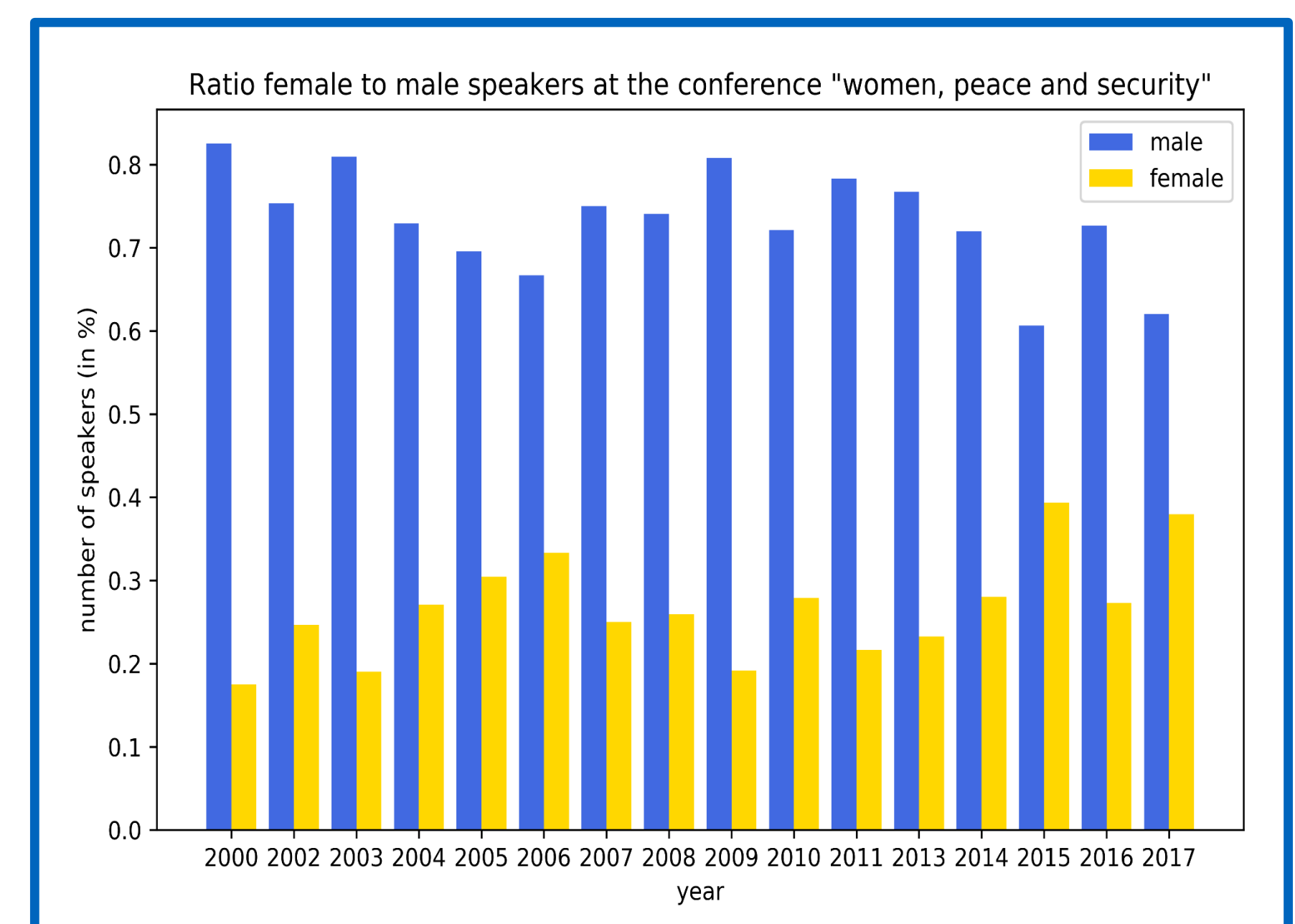
- We found out, that every country has a **positive opinion** about the women issue and we wanted to know, whether that coincide with the political reality

Analysis

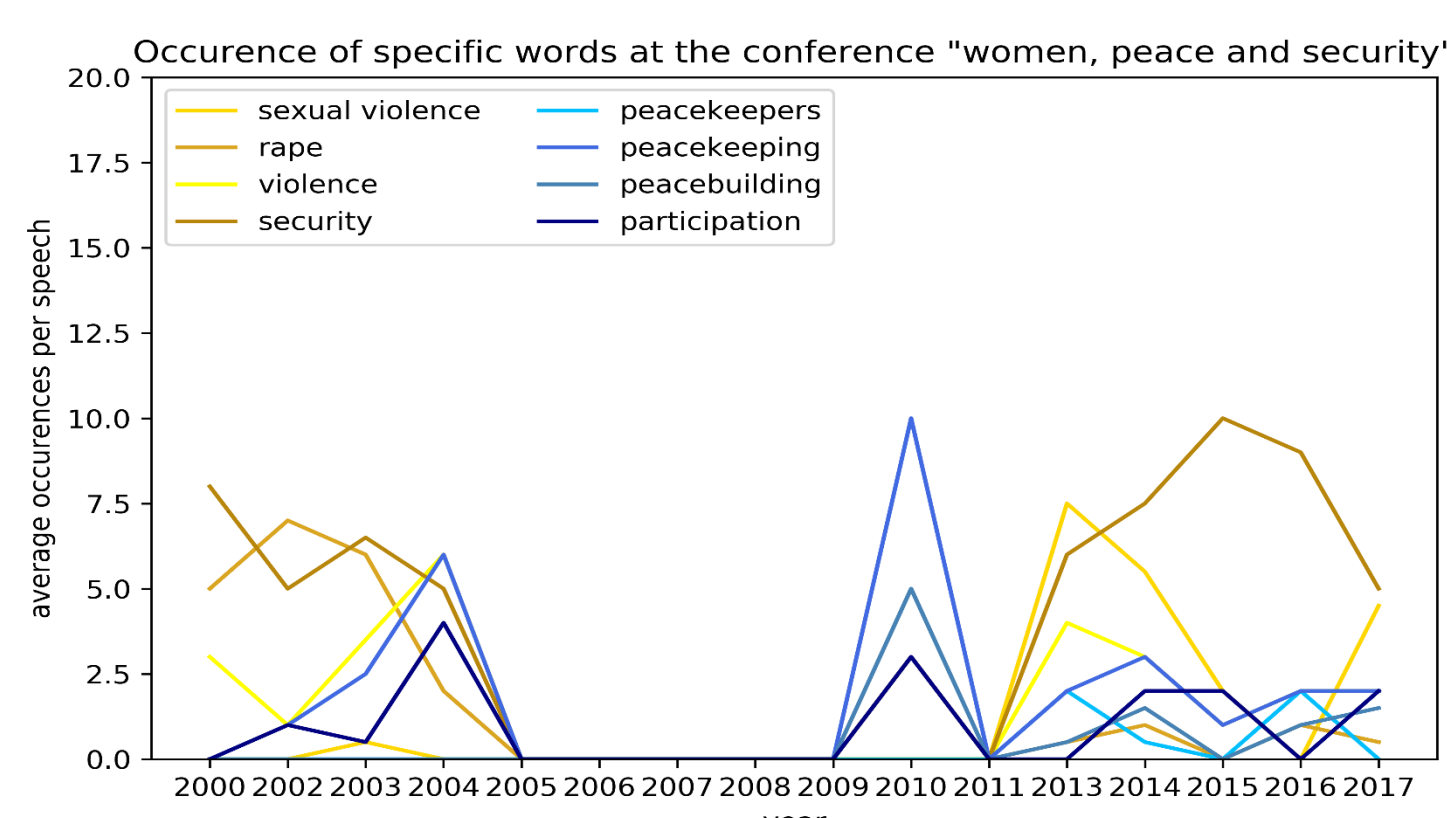
- We used a search engine library called **Recoll** to review, what kind of issues came up with the word „women“ and made an Excel list so we could have an overview.
- There is **one special conference** in the UNSC dedicated to the subject of *women, peace and security*.
- We used **Python** and **R** to search those **22** sessions and visualize the content.
- We then chose 3 frequently engaged countries for our case study: **Pakistan, Nigeria and Russia**.

Hypothesis

How do the contributions of countries concerning women rights in the UNSC differ from the local situation of women?



Pakistan



PAKISTAN IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL:

“Lastly, I need not elaborate on the role of women in my country. We have produced women heads of Government, women leaders of opposition parties, women elected leaders, women doctors, professors, academics, scholars, newspaper editors and diplomats. In order to see this reality, one need only look right here.”

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION POLL:

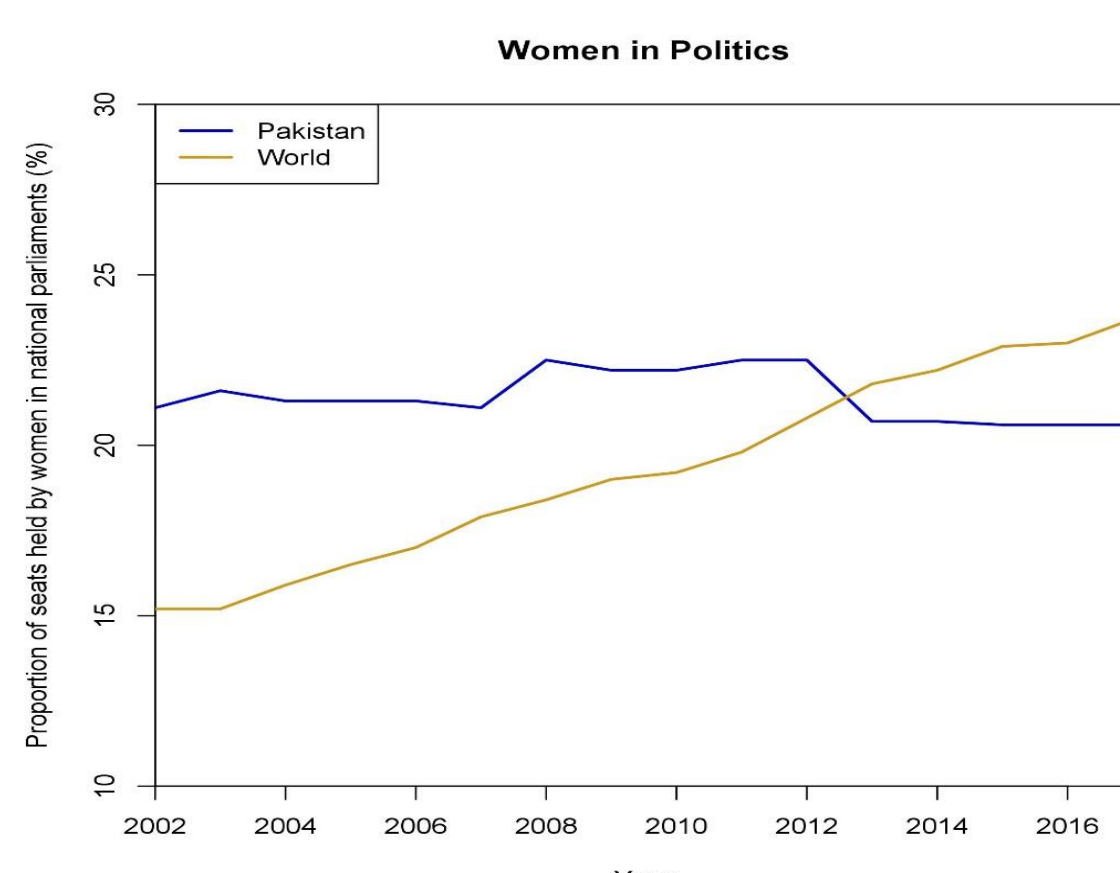
“Pakistan ranked as the sixth most dangerous country for women after coming third in the 2011 poll. Pakistan was named as the fourth worst nation when it came to [...] discrimination in the workplace and regarding land, and also regarding the risks women faced from cultural, religious and traditional practice including so-called “honor” killings. Pakistan ranked fifth when it came to non-sexual violence including domestic abuse, and joint seventh regarding sexual violence and harassment.”

FACTS:

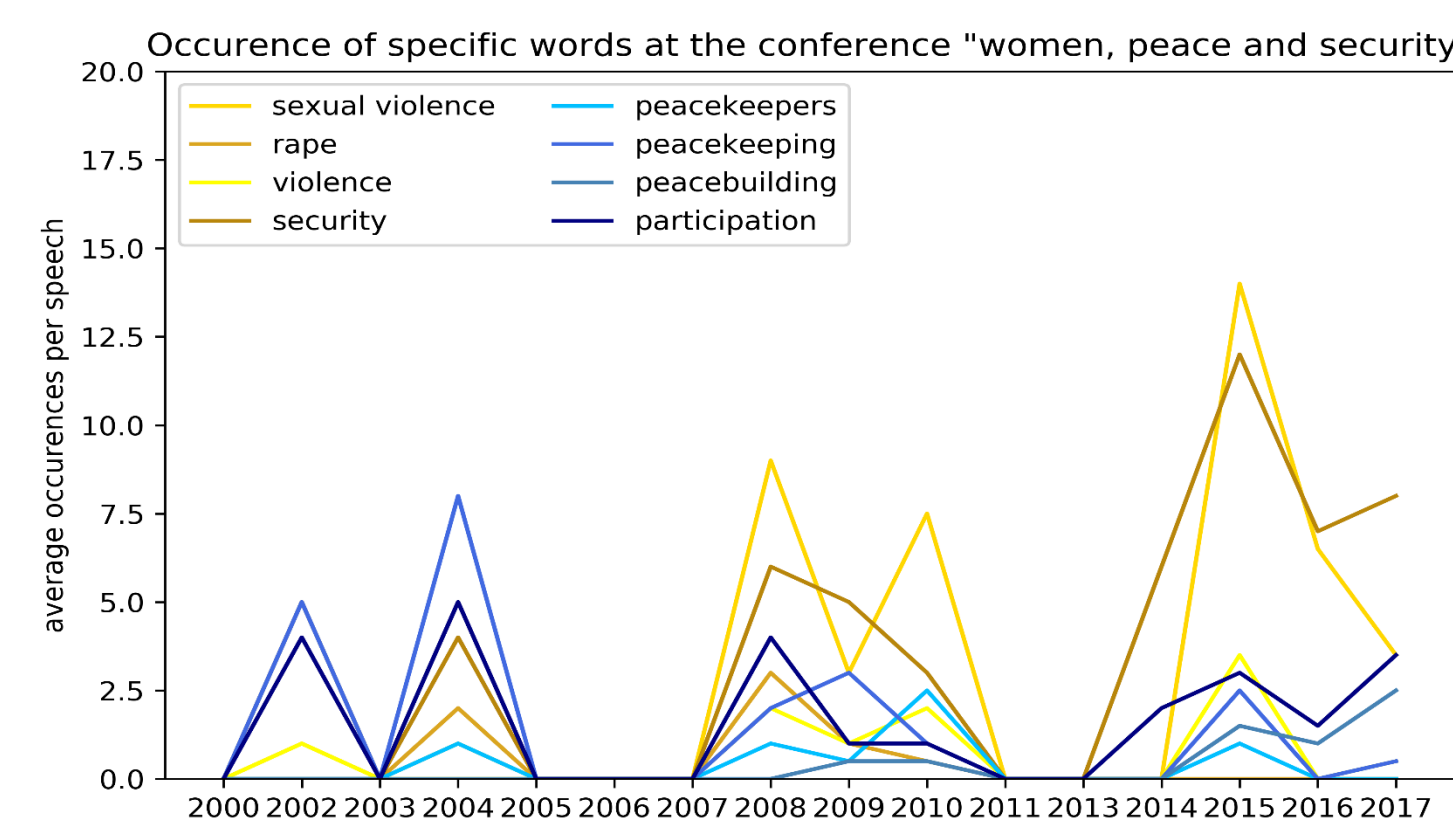
- Pakistan currently ranks **150th place on the Gender Equality Index**.
- Pakistan ranks **last** in the world for female participation in elections: female voter turnout was **less than 10%** in 2013.
- Only **70 out of 342** members of the National Assembly were women, only **9** of those were elected, the rest were appointed under a quota system.
- The situation of women in Pakistan is **ambivalent**: while there are some success stories, the vast majority of Pakistani women live in danger and suppression.
- Economic success and political influence largely depend on **family background** and **income**.

PAKISTAN IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL – CREDIBLE COMMITMENTS?

While Pakistan engages actively in the Security Council's debates on how the worldwide situation of women can be improved, reports on their domestic efforts regarding gender equality seem to whitewash the facts. Even though progress has been made, a lot remains to be done for Pakistan in order to live up to the standard the country claims to meet.



Nigeria



NIGERIA IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL:

“Despite the significant achievements, significant gaps and challenges remain: Those include the leadership and political participation of women in decision-making, women's involvement in peace efforts to prevent and resolve conflict, insufficient resources and funds, lack of disaggregated data, forced displacement exacerbated by persistent armed conflict, and continuing unprecedented levels of sexual violence and assault. Meeting those challenges is critical to making progress in the women and peace and security agenda.”

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION POLL:

According to an expert poll by the Thomas Reuters Foundation Nigeria is the 9th dangerous country for women worldwide. “Africa's most populous country was named as the sixth worst nation regards the risks women face from cultural and traditional practices and tied 10th when respondents were asked about the risks of sexual violence. But Nigeria was named as the fourth most dangerous country along with Russia when it came to human trafficking. Studies have shown that tens of thousands of Nigerian women have been trafficking into Europe for sexual exploitation.”

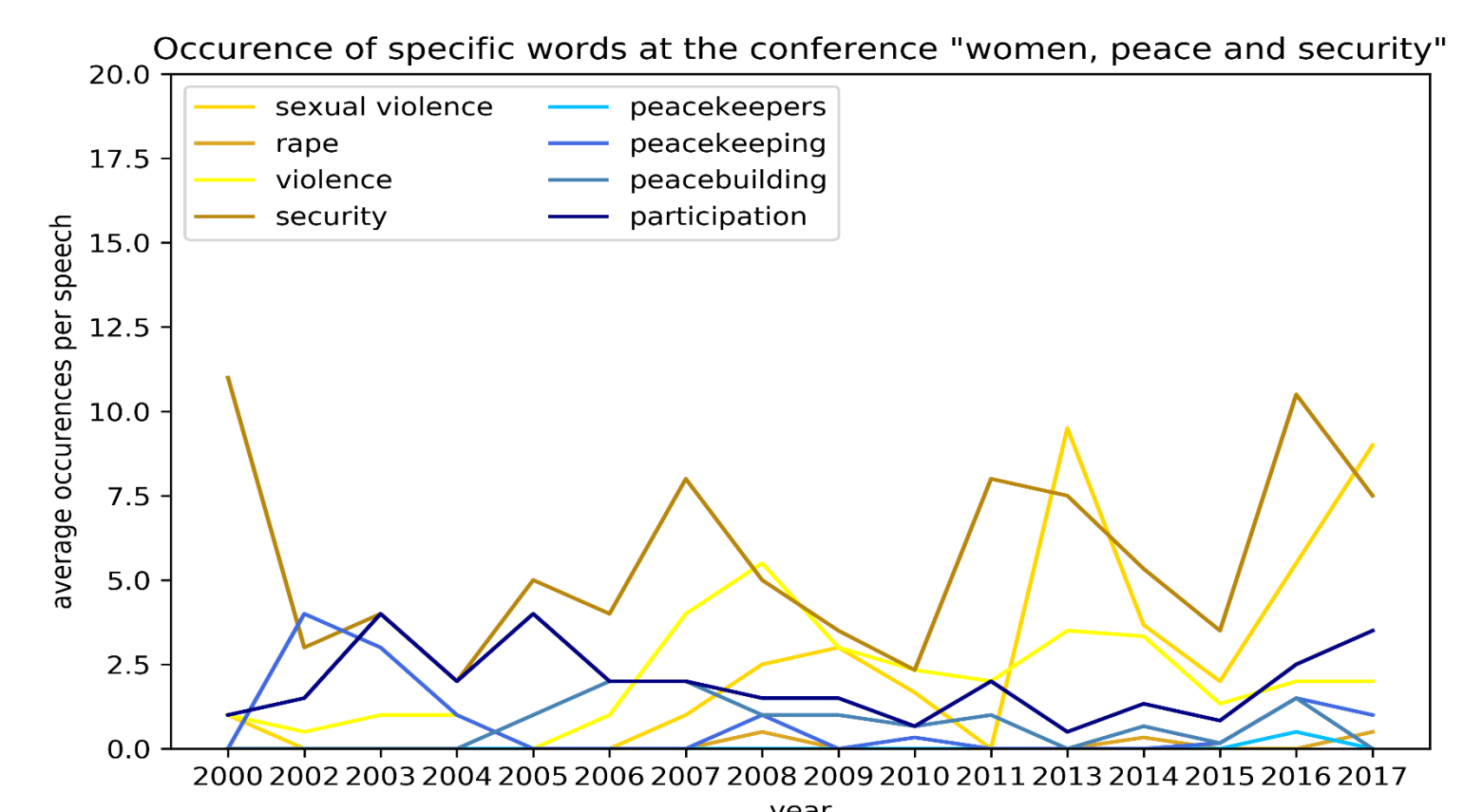
FACTS:

- Women's representation in the government and official institutions:
 - 8 female ministers (out of 36)**
 - 280 female judges** → 3 on the Supreme Court
 - Highest** ranking Police Officer is a woman
- Nigeria ranks **157th place on the Gender Equality Index**.
- The percentage of girls out of school in Nigeria can be estimated at as **low as 20%**. **Two thirds** of Northern Nigerian girls aged 15-19 are unable to read a single sentence.

NIGERIA IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL – CREDIBLE COMMITMENTS?

The Nigerian government does make an effort to improve the local situation and rights of women. However, due to non-state actors like Boko Haram and religious influence, Nigeria still has a long way to go when it comes to gender equality. The ambassadors in the UNSC are aware of the progress but also of the problems.

Russian Federation



RUSSIA IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL:

“Violence takes many different forms, and we believe that due attention must be paid to all categories of violence.”

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH 2018:

“Russian authorities often fail to protect women from domestic violence [...]. Serious gaps in Russia's laws, the lack of protection orders, and inadequate police and judicial responses leave women who face even severe physical violence with little or no protection.”

FACTS:

- In 2018, more than **600** Russian women were **killed** at home per month.
- Up to **36.000** Russian women are being abused every day.
- The Russian jurisdiction and society typically treat violence against women as a **“private matter”**.
- The **wealthier** the region, the **lower** the number of women in the regional parliament.
- In 2017, **47%** of senior business roles were held by women. Still, the average female salary was only **60%** of the average male salary.

RUSSIA IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL – CREDIBLE COMMITMENTS?

Even though Russia talks about more participation, more punishment when it comes to violence against women and that women should be protected, it is obvious that the situation in Russia shows the exact opposite. It is true that Russia holds up the leading role in women's participation in senior business positions, but there are a lot of other aspects which illustrate that Russia fails to uphold the assurances they make in the UNSC.

