



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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# **SECURITY COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT**

**By**

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AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**OPEN DEBATE ON  
WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY**

**NEW YORK, 5 OCTOBER, 2009**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I would like to commend the Vietnamese presidency of the Security Council for initiating this important meeting on the landmark resolution 1325, which was adopted unanimously by the Council, nine years ago. Nigeria welcomes the depth of the analysis and efforts made by the Secretary General in his report to translate resolution 1325 into practical reality for women and girls all over the world. We appreciate the Deputy Secretary General for her statement. We also commend the contributions of Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Ms. Ines Alberdi, and Ms. Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, for their briefings.

Mr. President,

2. As Resolution 1325 affirms, the needs of women and girls transcend the traditional socio-economic, political, and cultural considerations, but also include the need to guarantee their security, access, and an enabling environment that ensures their meaningful participation in society. This meeting therefore, affords us the opportunity to assess the actions we have taken or lack of, in fulfilment of our collective obligations under Resolution 1325. Without a doubt, we need new strategies to accelerate the fulfilment of these obligations.

3. It is heartening that some Member States have demonstrated the effectiveness of mainstreaming gender as a viable strategy for the implementation of the resolution. This is borne out by the good example of the Indian Government in deploying an all female peacekeeping troop in Liberia, an act that has not only encouraged Liberian women's participation in their country's security forces, but also emboldened them to report cases of abuse against women. Another commendable example is the programme for the treatment and care of rape victims by the Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE).

4. Commendable as these actions are, more needs to be done to develop national action plans for the implementation of the resolution by Member-States. Indeed, the Secretary General's report indicates that only fifteen (15) Member-States have developed national action plans. This is an issue that requires our urgent attention.

Mr. President,

5. The effective implementation of Resolution 1325 would require an integrated approach. It would require us to change our mind-sets so that women and girls are no longer depicted as 'mere victims of war.' It would also require us to acknowledge and highlight the roles and positive contributions of women and girls to society. In addition, issues of gender justice, accountability and rehabilitation must form part of intervention programmes to assist women and girls.

6. With regard to the protection of women and girls from sexual violence, Nigeria reiterates its firm support for Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and the 'Zero Tolerance Policy' on sexual violence against women and girls. It is in this context that we commend UNAMID in Sudan for providing police and military escorts for women and girls to enable them undertake their tasks. In addition, we reiterate our support for conflict prevention measures in order to avoid threats to women and girls.

Mr. President,

7. We urge Member-States to respond to the needs of women and girls guided by the tenets of human security. As the 2003 Commission on Human Security noted, *'Human security means protecting vital freedoms. It means protecting people from critical and pervasive threats and situations, building on their strengths and aspirations. It also means creating systems that give people the building blocks of survival, dignity and livelihood'*. Indeed, Resolution 1325 created obligations that we unanimously accepted nine years ago. We must join hands to fulfil these obligations. My government stands ready to work with you and other Member States in the discharge of these commitments.

8. I thank you.