

ISRAEL

SECURITY COUNCIL

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

Ambassador Haim Waxman
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

Debate on
"Women and Peace and Security"

United Nations, New York
26 October 2010

PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
800 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212-499-5510
Fax: 212-499-5515
info-un@newyork.mfa.gov.il
<http://israel-un.mfa.gov.il>

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for convening this important meeting. I would also like to thank Under-Secretaries-General Michelle Bachelet and Alain Le Roy, ECOSOC President Hamidon Ali, and Ms. Thelma Awori, for their presentations, and to recognize the presence of many ministers and government officials who have travelled great distances to this meeting. The statement from afar by the Secretary-General is testament to his commitment to this issue.

Mr. President,

This Council's adoption of resolution 1325, ten years ago, was a watershed in the protection of women and girls in conflict. The international community was – and should remain – proud of this accomplishment. The resolution helped galvanize Member States' resolve to tackle this issue. In recent years, the Council has adopted several additional resolutions also focused on the intersection of gender and conflict – namely, resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) – and the UN has issued a number of reports and studies on the issue. Now, the inclusion of a gender-based perspective is becoming commonplace in peacekeeping missions and their mandates, peace-building efforts, and UN country teams. In this regard, efforts to increase the number of women in missions' senior leadership and deployed as mission personnel are notable.

However, recent events, such as the violations that took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Guinea, starkly highlight the wide gap that remains between the noble aspirations and the level of protection some women receive on the ground.

Israel welcomes the development this year of indicators for progress in implementing resolution 1325. The wide-ranging measurements are the most significant step forward to-date in our attempt to determine where the international community and States have been successful, and where we fall short. If these indicators are to be truly useful, however, the information they generate must be used to address shortcomings in a concerted and candid manner in order to ensure that the goals of the resolution are met.

The UN has a number of effective tools at its disposal to help push forward this objective. The Security Council, for example, could designate consistent leadership within the Council on this issue and consider methods to maintain its engagement in a more comprehensive manner. In addition, the Secretary-General could, in appropriate situations, make greater use of the team of experts to deploy to areas of concern, as allowed for in the Council's resolution 1888 (2009). These experts could assist States in strengthening the rule of law, including building judicial capacity and security sector reform. Such efforts would go a long way toward achieving justice for victims and discouraging future abuse.

Mr. President,

To ensure the meaningful inclusion of women in peacemaking processes and post-conflict reconstruction, some societies will have to experience a seismic shift in gender attitudes on the ground. Although 1325 and its related resolutions concern gender-based violence and the transition to a post-conflict society, these issues are inextricably linked to the situation of women's rights as a whole. States that ignore this simple fact may be disappointed with the long-term results of their efforts. But if States accept this reality and strive to address it, they are likely to enhance their stability and even economic recovery in the aftermath of conflict.

Mr. President,

Member States bear a large part of the responsibility for implementing the provisions of 1325. In the spirit of the resolution, Israel has amended its Women's Equal Rights Law to mandate the inclusion of women in any group appointed to peacebuilding negotiations or working towards conflict resolution. Israel also seeks to assist other countries in their implementation of 1325. Through its international cooperation agency, MASHAV, my Government organizes programmes in women's leadership and capacity-building for women's non-governmental organizations. We believe that the skills learned in these programmes can make a real difference on the ground in post-conflict recovery.

Mr. President,

Resolution 1325 is a milestone on the long road to the protection of women in conflict. We should, collectively, renew our commitment to its provisions. Israel, for its part, rededicates itself to ensuring that it upholds this landmark achievement at home, and stands ready to join hands with any nation, anywhere, to help realize this goal.

Thank you, Mr. President.