

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador Sylvie Luca, Luxembourg's ambassador to the United Nations and president of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Luxembourg commends the Ugandan presidency of the Council for having organized this open debate to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) — the first resolution of the Council specifically to address the impact of war on women and their role in peacemaking.

Women and girls are often the first victims of conflict, and they have specific needs after conflict ends that must be taken into account if the conflict is to be brought to a lasting end. It is also critical that women be more involved from the outset in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts at all levels in order to ensure their better participation in development efforts and to increase the likelihood that peace will last.

The seven-point action plan presented by the Secretary-General in his recent report on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466) is an excellent tool in that respect. If implemented, it will serve as a valuable contribution to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The important debate of 13 October on post-conflict peacebuilding (see S/PV.6396) afforded the Security Council an opportunity to consider that report for the first time, and we hope that it will rapidly result in concrete follow-up to the proposed plan of action.

As the representative of the European Union will underscore in his statement, with which Luxembourg fully associates itself, 10 years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) we regret to note that the progress achieved in its implementation and in the implementation of its follow-up resolution remains unsatisfactory. I should like to commend the very candid analysis contained in the Secretary-General's most recent report, in which he concludes that one of the main obstacles to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is the lack of a harmonized and coordinated approach in the context of a clear framework with concrete and specific objectives and a set of results indicators. We encourage the Secretary-General to pursue his intention to reforge the systemwide plan of action as a strategic planning tool. A significant role in that task must fall to the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Luxembourg supports the recommendations elaborated by the Secretary-General in his report. Increased efforts are necessary at all levels, including the national level, to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Within the framework of its national gender equality plan, Luxembourg is committed to systematic support for initiatives aimed at incorporating the gender perspective into the work of international and regional organizations, and to ensuring that it is taken into account in conflict and post-conflict situations. My country also strives to ensure the systematic taking into account of the gender perspective in its cooperation projects and humanitarian action to better achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We fully support the peace initiatives undertaken by local women's groups and the work of non-governmental organizations to ensure the equal participation of men and women in post-conflict situations.

Our national plan of action also provides for an increase in the percentage of women and men, be they civilian or military, who are specifically trained in gender issues to participate in peacekeeping operations. Allow me to cite a specific example of our support. The "Women and war" project, an initiative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has enabled us to elaborate guidelines for a multidisciplinary approach to the prevention of and fight against sexual violence.

Ten years ago, resolution 1325 (2000) requested all parties to armed conflict to take specific steps to protect women and girls against acts of gender-based violence, especially rape and other forms of sexual abuse. It also emphasized that all States bear the responsibility to put an end to impunity and to bring to justice those who have been accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including all forms of sexual and other violence against women and girls. The acts of mass rape that were committed this summer in North Kivu demonstrated in the most brutal way that we are very far from having put an end to the use of sexual violence as a tool of war.

In September, my Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs told the General Assembly (see A/65/PV.14) that such brazen violations of human rights must be tolerated no longer. Impunity must end, and

the fight against impunity cannot remain an abstract objective, but must become an effective and concrete reality whose success we must all work towards together.

I would like to encourage the Security Council to step up its efforts in the fight against impunity and to impose targeted sanctions against all parties responsible for grave violations of human rights and women rights, including perpetrators of sexual violence.

My delegation warmly welcomes the Council's decision to recommend the use of the indicators drafted by the Secretary-General, and encourages all stakeholders to operationalize them as rapidly as possible. Such a clear, ongoing and comprehensive follow-up mechanism will assist Member States, the United Nations system and the Security Council to assess the progress achieved and to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

However, on a note of slight disappointment, we would have liked to see the Council at the same time set up a working group to evaluate progress achieved based on the annual reports of the Secretary-General and to formulate recommendations for the Council on the best possible way to fill the gaps and to meet the challenges in order to accelerate such implementation.

Before I conclude, allow me to pay tribute to the essential role played by both civil society and women's organizations in the creation and implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Without their commitment and contributions, the issue of women, peace and security would never have enjoyed the attention it merits and must without question continue to enjoy in the future.