

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

Statement by Mr. Lotfi Bouchaara, Counselor, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations

Allow me at the outset to express my gratitude to you, Mr. President, for having organized this open debate on a subject to which Morocco attaches particular significance and which directly concerns our continent of Africa. My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement and his report (S/2010/498). My thanks also go to Ms. Bachelet for her contribution to this debate. I would take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Bachelet, on behalf of my country, on her appointment as the head of UN Women, and we wish her every success in the fulfilment of her mandate. I also thank the President of the Economic and Social Council and Mr. Alain Le Roy, as well as Ms. Thelma Awori speaking on behalf of civil society, for their important contributions to this debate.

Our debate today provides us with the opportunity to take stock of the commitments that have been honoured and the goals that have been met, as well as the further efforts that remain to be carried out to implement resolution 1325 (2000). In this respect, we can be proud of the fact that the momentum created by the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) has paved the way for a strengthening of the judicial and institutional arsenal at the national and international levels for promoting and protecting women's rights and their empowerment in conflict and post-conflict situations, in particular through the adoption in several countries, including in Africa, of specific national action plans.

Furthermore, significant progress has been recorded in terms of women's participation in peacekeeping operations and decision-making processes, and we welcome that progress. However, we must note that, despite those efforts, the situation of women and girls in several regions around the world remains difficult and sometimes even intolerable. This is particularly true in situations involving fresh outbreaks in armed violence, violations of international humanitarian law by military or paramilitary groups, the use of child soldiers, in particular young girls, extreme poverty, pandemics and sexual violence.

My delegation would like to commend the efforts undertaken by the Security Council to ensure regular reviews of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in particular through the inclusion of the gender perspective in the resolution of conflicts and peacekeeping within the various organs and institutions of the United Nations, and the importance of the role of women in general in matters concerning peace and security.

In terms of establishing quantifiable indicators in the follow-up to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), as requested by the Security Council, we should note, as was indeed highlighted by the Secretary-General, that these indicators must be further enhanced. The debate organized a few weeks ago by the Security Council on post-conflict peacebuilding (*see S/PV.6396*) allowed us, among other things, to highlight the substantial contribution of women to peacebuilding processes. The success and durability of peacebuilding processes after conflict often depend on the full participation of women in such processes. In that regard, lasting solutions must be proposed for women, in particular women refugees, who are often the first victims in conflict and post-conflict situations.

It is clear that the Secretariat has undertaken substantial efforts to promote the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We therefore believe that the creation of UN Women will contribute to improving coordination between the various United Nations entities involved. This will have a positive impact on United Nations system support to the various national and regional stakeholders involved in implementing resolution 1325 (2000).

Furthermore, we must commend the central role played by civil society organizations in the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and in its implementation these past ten years. Since that adoption, they have carried out substantial work in terms of collective awareness-raising and have enhanced the mobilization of efforts to achieve the objectives of resolution 1325 (2000).

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Morocco believes that the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) will require better representation for women in national, regional and international institutions, in

particular in conflict prevention and management processes, as well as full respect by the parties involved for the resolution's provisions, better coordination between the various national and international stakeholders, and more sustained support by the United Nations in terms of cooperation and technical assistance.