

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

Statement by H.E. Amrit Rai, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations

My delegation wishes to express its sincere appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing this important open debate on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. Resolution 1325 (2000) was a landmark in the efforts to inject the perspectives of women and gender into every aspect of the peace process, peacekeeping operations, rehabilitation and reintegration, and governance structures in the aftermath of conflict. The resolution has been vital not only for promoting gender equality within United Nations activities while addressing issues related to conflict, peace and security, but also to efforts to encourage Member States to mainstream a gender perspective in the areas of peace, security and the post-conflict reconstruction of nations.

As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), it is quite pertinent to take stock of our achievements, identify shortcomings and exchange views and experiences relevant to our future courses of action on the effective implementation of the resolution. This debate could serve as an opportunity to gather pragmatic input, experiences and policy suggestions.

We are appreciative of the various notable efforts in a broad range of areas that the United Nations system, Member States, civil society and other actors have made towards implementing resolution 1325 (2000). But there are many areas in which our concerted efforts are still much needed. My delegation wishes to see an increased number of women in high-ranking positions in the United Nations system, as well as peacekeepers in the field.

My Government attaches great importance to resolution 1325 (2000), and we are in the final stage of preparing our national action plan for the effective implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). As a nation emerging from conflict and moving towards lasting peace, stability and prosperity, Nepal is fully aware of the benefits of effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Our national action plan is structured around five pillars: participation, protection and prevention, promotion, relief and recovery, and monitoring and evaluation.

As enshrined in its interim Constitution, Nepal is committed to setting aside 33 per cent of seats in Parliament for women. We are also committed to continuing an affirmative action policy in our civil service with a view to bringing women into the decision-making levels of the public sector. We are also committed to increasing women's participation in our army and police forces.

The Government of Nepal has adopted various measures to fight gender-related violence, establishing a toll-free hotline in the Office of the Prime Minister, a gender violence prevention fund, and gender violence control committees in every district in the country. We have also set up local peace committees in every district — empowered to address conflict at the local level and to mediate between conflicting parties — with at least 33 per cent participation by women. We are committed to establishing women's and children's service centres in police stations across the country for the expeditious investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-related violence cases.

Women cannot be the silent bearers of the pain and sorrows of conflict, with all of the psychosocial trauma and stigmatization that implies. They are peacemakers and the very foundation of social cohesion and integration. They are an inherent part of the reconstruction and rebuilding of our country. The time has come to consolidate and redouble our efforts to enhance women's involvement in peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding by putting resolution 1325 (2000) into practice.