

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Sefue, Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations

Let me begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to the delegation of Uganda for organizing this open debate. The tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) provides us with an opportunity to further reaffirm the indispensable role of women in conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Namibia on behalf of States members of the Southern African Development Community and by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/498). The set of indicators annexed to the report provides a good and objective basis for monitoring the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). It is our hope that the Council will endorse those indicators.

As an equal component of any society, women should have equal and active participation in formulating political, economic and social policies. Equally, as victims of exclusion, as vulnerable targets in conflicts and as mothers and breadwinners, women have high stakes in conflict prevention and resolution, and in all issues related to peace and security. Yet, in the name of tradition, in the name of culture and sometimes even in the name of security, women have continued to be excluded, and too often they have been set aside while men brokered peace agreements. We are encouraged, therefore, that more and more women are challenging this viewpoint and are increasingly demanding involvement as stakeholders in their communities. Their potential as peacebuilders must now be harnessed.

We have to make concerted efforts to support and strengthen the capacities of women and their networks to actively participate in all processes of conflict prevention and management, as well as in peacebuilding and peace consolidation. In this regard, we commend the efforts that have been undertaken by various stakeholders, in particular the United Nations system, civil society and various national political leaders, in promoting the participation of women in peacebuilding and peace consolidation processes.

The adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) was an important milestone in empowering women in the critical areas of peace and security, where women have often been deliberate targets and silent victims of violent conflicts. The effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is therefore a necessity. In this regard we wish to emphasize the following points.

First, there is a need to create more awareness and to provide technical support for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, such as 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), specifically in national gender machineries, foreign affairs ministries, the judiciary and the army.

Secondly, women's participation in peace processes and post-conflict planning should be routine, predictable and mandatory. Such participation must now be the norm, not tokenism.

Thirdly, women's political and economic empowerment and the promotion and protection of women's and girls' rights are critical for promoting women's participation in conflict prevention, post-conflict activities and gender mainstreaming in post-conflict strategies. More funds should now be provided in this regard, including to ensure that women have access to quality education, to capacity-building through entrepreneurship and to economic opportunity.

Fourthly, support for post-conflict countries should include reform of their justice systems and security sectors to ensure that there is a credible and supportive environment for the participation and protection of women.

Fifthly, impunity for all those who abuse women and girls and violate their human rights, as well as for those who commission such acts, must cease forthwith. These persons must be speedily brought to justice.

Sixthly, we must support UN Women, which is well placed to coordinate the various actors within the United

Nations system and bring coherence to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Allow me to conclude by encouraging the Security Council to continue to be seized of this matter.