

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Kyslytsya, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

I would like to begin by commending the presidency of Uganda for convening this thematic debate to give the Council and Member States an opportunity to have a broad exchange of views and proposals on such an important issue.

Today's debate presents yet another important opportunity to promote the effective, coherent and systematic implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which gave much-needed and welcome visibility to the question of women's empowerment, their role as peacebuilders and their vulnerable position as victims of war.

As a non-permanent member of the Council in 2000, Ukraine was one of the 15 countries that voted for resolution 1325 (2000). That decision by the Council has been a milestone document on the empowerment of women. We welcome the latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution (S/2010/498) and support its recommendations. Ukraine welcomes the development of a set of indicators for use at the global level to track the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We urge Member States to begin to use the proposed indicators for which data already exist.

We believe that the empowerment of women is important for the realization of the human rights of women, as well as for economic and political development. It is equally important for durable peace, security, early recovery and reconciliation.

Ukraine stands fully committed to the implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009). However, there must be a coherent strategy to cover all aspects of the protection of women and women's rights. In that regard, Ukraine welcomes the establishment of the United Nations composite entity, UN Women. We hope it will bring about much-needed improvements in the work of the United Nations on gender equality, including in the area of international peace and security.

Despite all international efforts, women continue to be the most vulnerable victims of armed conflict and to be targeted with the most brutal forms of sexual violence. In addition to that, women also experience the trauma of losing relatives and friends in armed conflict, as well as having to take responsibility for the care of surviving family members. They also constitute the majority of refugees and displaced persons. My country is greatly concerned about that situation and strongly condemns the targeting of women and girls in situations of armed conflict. We welcome Security Council efforts to pay special attention to the particular needs of women affected by armed conflict when considering action aimed at promoting peace and security.

We believe that the Security Council has a special responsibility to support women's participation in peace processes by ensuring a gender balance in United Nations peacekeeping missions. We welcome the fact that the Council has already recognized the important role of women in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

In line with the position of the European Union, Ukraine considers gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women not only as important objectives but also as the means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and as an essential part of the development agenda.

As an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping efforts, Ukraine has for years contributed women civilian police and military observers to the Organization's peacekeeping missions. We believe that the presence of women in United Nations missions can foster confidence and trust among local populations, which are critical elements in any peacekeeping mission. In performing their tasks, women are perceived to be compassionate, unwilling to opt for force over reconciliation and ready to listen and learn. They are also widely seen as contributors to an environment of stability and morality that fosters the progress of peace.

At the same time, women are still underrepresented in decision-making with regard to conflict resolution. Their initiatives and visions for peace and security are rarely heard during peace negotiations. In that regard, I would like to stress that the international community should use the potential of women as agents of preventive

diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

In conclusion, Ukraine reiterates its readiness to continue to work constructively with other Member States in order to ensure the protection of women in armed conflict and women's participation in peace processes.