

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 28, 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Nazarian, Representative of Armenia

First, Madam President, allow me to thank you for having convened this debate on a topic that my delegation is particularly glad to see addressed. Armenia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered this morning, and I would like to make some brief observations in my national capacity.

We join previous speakers in thanking the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet and the President of the Economic and Social Council for their contributions. We also welcome the Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security (S/2011/598*), which includes guidance for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and for the use of the set of indicators for monitoring progress and implementing the framework, and we take note of the recommendations contained in the report.

In regard to its resolution 1325 (2000), over the past decade the Security Council has put in place a normative framework on women's participation in peace processes, the protection and promotion of women's human rights, the mainstreaming of gender equality, and perspectives in the context of armed conflict, peacebuilding and reconstruction. As the Secretary-General notes, many peace processes now regularly include consultations with many women's peace groups. In many post-conflict countries, the number of women in the Government has increased dramatically and they have used their public decision-making roles to advance women's rights.

Despite this progress, however, much still needs to be addressed and accomplished, as the female voice is not always heard. It is a matter of concern that progress in addressing the many constraints on women's capacity to participate in sufficient numbers is still slow. In this regard, the most important agenda item is increasing the presence of women in decision-making processes. Women remain largely excluded, especially from efforts to find workable solutions to conflicts, and we should further promote their participation. The inclusion of women in all stages of the peace process guarantees a more lasting and representative settlement. That being the case, we should further promote their participation and recognize the important contributions that women have made to achieving transparent and accountable Governments in many countries.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express the importance of women's political participation in times of peace and conflict alike, and at all stages of peaceful settlements. We have experienced this first-hand in our region. Representatives of Armenian and Azerbaijani women's non-governmental organizations have discussed ways of finding peaceful solutions to the Nagorno Karabakh issue. These peace dialogues have also been oriented towards implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). More meetings of both sides are expected to take place.

We believe that there are a number of ways to increase women's political participation through more gender-sensitive electoral laws and processes and the implementation of specific quotas and capacity-building programmes for female candidates, as well as awareness-raising among political parties and the general public. Meaningful policy changes can also be achieved through such means as technical assistance, as well as support for civil society and the media in monitoring and evaluating national actions taken in these areas. We will work closely with the United Nations and other institutions and

organizations concerned to expand and implement the resolution 1325 (2000) agenda towards bettering the situation of women around the world, including those affected by armed conflict.