

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Nazarian Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations.

Allow me first to express my thanks to you, Sir, for convening this debate on a topic that my delegation is particularly pleased to see addressed. We join previous speakers in thanking the Deputy Secretary-General and Under-Secretaries-General Bachelet and Ladsous and Ms. Bineta Diop for their statements.

All of the United Nations world conferences on women have recognized the linkages among gender equality, development and peace. Today, it is heartening to observe how much the issue has gained in terms of visibility and traction. It is now taken up in various intergovernmental bodies, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission. Member States and civil society organizations at the national and global levels are demonstrating their commitment to tackle the challenge through concrete action.

Despite the measures taken to prevent and address violence against women, previous debates in the Council and reports from the field have made it clear that it persists. Efforts to address violence against women are often neither comprehensive, consistent nor sustained, and insufficient coordination persists among relevant actors.

Knowledge regarding the scope, prevalence, impact and cost of violence against women remains inadequate. Greater efforts are needed to collect more information and data of better quality on such violence. That would support policymakers in their efforts to design effective legislative and policy reforms, ensure the adequate provision of targeted and effective services, monitor trends and progress in addressing and eliminating violence against women, and assess the impact of the measures taken.

In its presidential statement of last month (S/PRST/2012/23), the Council underlined the primary role of Governments in enhancing women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflict in areas affected by armed conflict. As noted by the Secretary-General, many peace processes now regularly include consultations with women's peace groups, and in many post-conflict countries, the number of women in Government has increased.

However, women have, by and large, remained excluded, especially in efforts to find workable solutions to conflict. In that regard, one of the most important tasks should be to increase the presence of women in decision-making processes. The inclusion of women at all stages of the peace process will ensure a more lasting and representative settlement. As such, we should further promote their participation and recognize the important contributions that women have made in that regard.

This open debate serves as an opportunity to address the importance of women's political participation, especially in regions and countries affected by conflict. In that context, the efforts of the European Union (EU) to launch the second phase of its civil society programme, entitled "European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh", may also prove useful in promoting a dynamic dialogue among a broad range of policymakers, media and civil society on all sides of the conflict. It also supports the wider participation of conflict-affected people, including women, in peace processes.

As a newly elected member of the International Organization of la Francophonie, we would also like to welcome the May 2012 agreement between UN-Women and the International Organization of la Francophonie, which will further strengthen and reinforce gender-responsive policies and actions among Member States.

In conclusion, let me mention that Armenia recognizes and welcomes the key role and critical efforts of the Security Council in preventing violence and combating impunity in conflict and post-conflict situations. We will work closely with the United Nations, civil society and the international organizations and institutions concerned to expand and implement the agenda of resolution 1325 (2000) to better the situation of women around the world.