



# **BANGLADESH**

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**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury  
Ambassador & Permanent Representative  
of Bangladesh to the United Nations**

**at**

**Open Debate at the Security Council**

**on**

**Women, Peace and Security**

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Mr. President,  
For Bangladesh, the subject of today's deliberation is of topical importance. We, therefore, thank you for convening this meeting, as we do others Under-Secretary-General Guehenno, High Commissioner Arbour, Executive Director Obaid and Ms. Rwankuba for their informed presentations.

Appreciation is owed to the Secretary General for the document at hand.

It is true entire community suffer the consequences of armed conflict. But the worst sufferers are often women and girls. This information is derived from simple empirical observation.

Bangladesh's cultural matrix provides for high priority to women's issues. This tradition has pervaded throughout most of our contemporary history. It has now found fruition in many innovative ideas that help empower women. Two examples are micro-credit and non-formal education. We have learnt that mainstreaming gender helps marginalize extremist thought and action. It encourages societal behavioural pattern that is more value-laden rather than violent. That is perhaps one explanation as to why there have been no cases connects to international terrorism out of Bangladeshi soil.

We have incorporated this value into a foreign policy principle. We are always pleased to share our experiences with other milieu. That is why Bangladesh was so closely associated with evolution and adoption of landmark resolution 1325. It was the Bangladesh Presidency that issued a statement on 'Women and Peace', for the first time in the Council, on International Women's Day in March 2000. It contained a simple thesis. It was that women's participation is an essential ingredient for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

We believe that resolution 1325 is a vital one that has set critical norms. We see this as a landmark event.

Mr. President,

You are aware that acting in partnership with the UK delegation, Bangladesh sponsored another resolution at the CSW. It was on "Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into all policies and programmes of the UN system". True, while Bangladesh and the UK share many things in common-including a love for your favourite sport cricket - still in terms of development their levels are very different. Yet we collaborated on this to make a point. It was that gender mainstreaming is a universal value and is as much a concern of the developing country, as of the developed. Our action flowed from this belief.

Bangladesh believes, it is indeed quite palpable in our society that our investment in women has enormously contributed to creating standards of pluralism, democracy and human rights. These ideals are essential components of sustainable peace. Our peace keepers and we are one of the

consistently largest contributors, carry these ideals with them in conflict-ridden places and distant parts. Our main reward lies in the universal appreciation of this global service.

Mr. President,

Significant developments have been achieved at the UN with regard to the implementation of resolution 1325. Still much remains to be done. We need to develop guidelines to ensure that all peace related programmes include and support the rule of law and promote gender equality. Also, thus protect women's human rights. Systematic use of the CEDAW Convention in post conflict countries as a guiding framework would be desirable. Secretary General's Action II Programme on Human Rights that was launched yesterday should empower UN country teams to build positive capabilities in the field.

The promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in armed conflict is a pressing challenge. The situation of women in conflict situations across the world remains a matter of grave concern for us. Particularly the situation of those under foreign occupation, such as in occupied Palestinian territories.

There is need to maintain sustained commitment to this at all times to gender-justice and women's empowerment. There must be zero tolerance towards crimes against women and girls in conflict situations. Much more sustained commitment and efforts are required to stop the violence, to end impunity and to bring perpetrators of crimes to justice. Men and boys should be involved in the process.

Mr. President,

We must uphold the promises we made in 1325. Consistent and concerted action, together with political will, is required to realize the goals that were set in the resolution. Our aims can be achieved through partnerships across the broadest possible spectrum. Thus we could and should move forward from mere rhetoric to action and from advocacy to implementation.

I thank you, Mr. President.