



BELARUS

United Nations Security Council
"Women and peace and security"
Open debate

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Key points
of the address

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- A traditional approach to the problem of women in the context of peace and security confines the discussion to the protection of women as potential victims. We invite a broader consideration of the subject.
- The **role of women in administrative decision-making and governance** has to be strengthened.
- Women are most vulnerable to the consequences of violent conflicts and, therefore, should be **an object of special protection**.
- Of key importance is the understanding of **the causes** which, on the one hand, make women prone to violence but, on the other, contain an opportunity for them to become a full-fledged subject of efforts to manage and prevent conflicts.
- Only by engaging in a **comprehensive collective effort** to deal with these three issues **simultaneously** we can achieve a progress in this sphere.
- **Gender equality** today means **the absolute uniformity not only in rights but also in opportunities**, as well as a **universal perception of this uniformity as a natural phenomenon**.
- It is insufficient to proclaim an active role of women in a political system. **Strong traditions of non-decorative, non-ostentatious participation of women in state decision-making** have to be established.
- The development of humankind is characterised by a mix of **two contrasting tendencies of progress and degradation**. How else could one explain that that in a world where people manage to subdue nature they allow trafficking in women and girls and sexual violence flourish?
- In modern politics violence against women, including sexual violence, is transforming into **one of the methods of war**. If mankind shies away from this problem, degradation will overtake other spheres of life of the society.

- It is for this reason that for a number of years the Republic of Belarus has been promoting the idea of **elaboration of a comprehensive plan of action of the United Nations to fight human trafficking.**
- Belarus supports the proposal of the Secretary-General to institute **a monitoring and reporting mechanism on violence against women and girls during armed conflicts** similar to a mechanism created by the Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict. Violent crimes against women and girls should not be concealed or go unpunished.
- Any perpetrator of violence against women, regardless of its forms or circumstances – whether in the course of military conflict or not, - should be made answerable for his crime in the strictest manner.
- In this regard it is expedient **to review at the national level the eligibility of these criminals for amnesty and other leniency instruments.**
- The world community should not delude itself by dealing just with the consequences of the social ills it intends to remedy. **The root causes** have to be addressed first. These are the circumstances that give rise to military conflicts, dictate and exploitation -- poverty, illiteracy, social inequality, national vilification and prejudice.
- Practical steps to encourage and broaden participation of women in government, intergovernmental coordination, peace building will undoubtedly influence the effectiveness of efforts of the international community to prevent the violation of rights of women and girls.
- Last but not least, it would seem more appropriate and pointed to formulate the name of the today's debate in the following way:

Women ARE Peace and Security