



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STATEMENT

by

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Bosnia and Herzegovina
Security Council Meeting**

Open Debate: Women and Peace and Security

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

At the outset, let me commend you, Mr. President for organizing this open debate on such an important issue as women and peace and security.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement already delivered by Slovenia on behalf of European Union. At the same time, I would like to add some points reflecting our own national activities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina recognizes the importance of the Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and will continue to work toward the full implementation of the Resolution. Since the historical adoption of the Resolution eight years ago we welcome the advances that have been made in these areas by the UN system and member states. Generally, we can clearly see from the Secretary General's reports that the United Nations has supported the systematization and institutionalization of efforts in order to strengthen action in solving gender problem. But the work is still far from done. We have to ensure that the provisions of the Resolution 1325 are implemented completely and that women can fully participate in all levels of decision-making and to strengthen the status of women in all fields.

We are very much concerned that systematic sexual violence against women and girls in armed conflicts has been and still is used as war strategy and remains a direct threat to international peace and security. Speaking from our own experience from the '90s, Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly condemns all acts of aggression and violence against women and girls in armed conflicts and post conflict situations. Therefore, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the beginning, supported and has been one of the cosponsors of the Resolution 62/134 "Eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations", adopted by the General Assembly on 7 February 2008. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the Secretary General's initiative to launch a multi-year global campaign that has a goal to bring together the UN, governments and civil society to end violence against women.

There have been two years since the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted Five Year Gender Action Plan. This Plan incorporates the main provisions of the Resolution 1325. Much has been achieved in the field of adopting the appropriate legislation on protection of civil victims of war. This law gives women victims a status of civil victims of war, and

helps them on their path to full recovery into the community, giving them a chance for professional improvement, monthly allowances as well as medical and psychosocial assistance.

According to the Plan certain expert teams have been formed, providing analyses and legal assistance to the victims, conducting workshops on the basis "lessons learned and shared" etc.

Besides the Government's activities, non-governmental sector is being successfully involved in improving the situation regarding the issue. One of the very good examples is the project conducted by non-governmental sector which has established the data base of women victims in my country. Despite the traditional attitude of the society towards the women victims, already 3000 women have been inscribed in this data base, which remains open. The privacy is guaranteed and all women were granted the long term financial aid.

Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly believes that women should be more involved in prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building in post conflict situations and promotion of sustainable peace.

However, women still need considerable support and capacity building to be effective in today's society that has been traditionally dominated by men.

In the conclusion, I would like to assure you of Bosnia and Herzegovina's full commitment to close cooperation with the Member states of the United Nations in the comprehensive implementation of the Resolution 1325.

I thank you Mr. President.