

Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Resolution 1888
Wednesday, 30 September, 2009

Statement by H.E. Mr. Bedouma Alain Yoda, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso to the United Nations

My delegation is grateful to the Security Council presidency for the convening of this important meeting of the Council, at which the Council adopted resolution 1888 (2009) to follow up the implementation of resolution 1820 (2008), on sexual violence in areas of armed conflict.

We greatly appreciate the presence among us of the Secretary-General and his participation in this important discussion, as well as the valuable and unequivocal message he has sent on this topic. The special attention that the Security Council has devoted to the fate of women and girls living in areas of armed conflict reflects the international community's awareness of the harmful consequences of sexual violence against women and girls in conflict areas.

The momentum generated by the adoption of resolution 1820 (2008) has sounded the alarm about this scourge against the dignity of women, which undermines their ability to contribute to the maintenance of peace and social stability. The situation is grave: especially in conflict areas in Africa, in particular the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, acts of sexual violence against women and girls in areas of armed conflict are taking on a worrisome magnitude, which the international community can no longer tolerate.

Such acts of violence against women fuel hatred among the warring parties and prevent the full participation of women in the process of post-conflict reconstruction.

The resolution the Council has just adopted under your leadership, Madam President, will enable us to equip the international community and the protagonists in armed conflict to better understand the consequences of this human tragedy and to shoulder their responsibility to protect human rights during times of conflict.

Burkina Faso has always endorsed all initiatives aimed at ensuring respect for human dignity, in particular the dignity of women, and at establishing a peaceful society free of all serious violations of human rights. In accordance with the ideals of peace and freedom set out in the Charter of the United Nations, Burkina Faso unreservedly supports the content of the resolution we have just adopted and reaffirms its thanks to the delegation of the United States and other delegations for their effort to achieve a balanced consensus text which can contribute to eradicating sexual violence in armed conflict.