

China

Mr. Zhang Yesui (China) (*spoke in Chinese*):

First of all, I wish to thank the Vietnamese Government for initiating this open debate of the Security Council and Your Excellency, Mr. President, for presiding over this meeting in person. Nine years ago, the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000), a milestone document that has laid the groundwork for international cooperation in the area of women and peace and security. Since then, the Council has taken a number of follow-up actions under the resolution, and relevant Member States have also taken vigorous measures in that regard.

Women are shouldering an increasing share of the responsibility to maintain world peace and are playing a significant role in peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding throughout the world. As the Chinese saying goes, women can hold up half of the sky. Nevertheless, owing to the changed nature of conflicts and a combination of complex factors, the international community still has a long way to go in fully and effectively implementing resolution 1325 (2000).

The relevant United Nations organs and organizations should engage in cooperation while at the same time carrying out their respective mandates, so as to make use of the synergy to achieve the best results. In that connection, I would like to underscore the two following points.

First, responding to the needs of women in postconflict reconstruction and enabling them to play their full role form an important link in the comprehensive and full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Respect for and protection of women and girls are manifestations of social progress and civilization and are an indispensable element of a mature social system. Respect for and protection of women's rights and interests should be incorporated in the entire peace process. The special needs and concerns of women and girls should be accommodated. Women should have greater access to participation and decision-making, and their right in that regard should be institutionalized. Peace in postconflict countries is often fragile. Without the effective participation of women, there cannot be lasting peace and long-term social stability. Women should fully enjoy the right of decision-making and participation in the post-conflict peacebuilding and development of their countries. They can provide staunch support for hard-earned peace.

Secondly, the countries concerned should shoulder the primary responsibility for addressing the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations and comprehensively implement resolution 1325(2000). Armed conflicts in different parts of the world vary in cause and nature. The Governments and people

of the countries concerned have the best understanding of the needs of local women and girls.

Post-conflict countries are often faced with numerous tasks and difficulties. The international community should provide them with generous financial and technical support and should help them to enhance capacity-building. While providing external support, the international community and donors should respect the will of recipient countries, rely on local governments, fully put to use the enthusiasm of local women and girls and encourage them to engage in the peacebuilding process as owners of their countries.

The Security Council has just adopted resolution 1889 (2009). I appreciate the efforts made by the Vietnamese delegation in drafting the resolution and during the consultations on it. Resolution 1889 (2009) requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council two reports in 2010, one on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and the other on the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations.

A few days ago, the Council adopted resolution 1888 (2009), which requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit annual reports on combating sexual violence in armed conflict. We hope that the Secretariat will strengthen internal coordination, heed the requests of the two resolutions, avoid duplication of work and waste of resources and make full use of the relevant information, in particular to provide high-quality reports to the Council.