

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)**

Statement by H.E. Mr. Christian, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations

Ghana is pleased to join others in congratulating the delegation of Uganda on assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of October and for convening this debate on resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

We thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2010/498) and his statement here this morning. We equally thank the newly appointed head of UN Women, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, for her briefing to the Council. My delegation is confident that, with her appointment, this key position is in capable hands.

Resolution 1325 (2000) is indeed important and unique, as it was the first of its kind to link women's experiences in conflict to the international peace and security agenda, focusing attention on the impact of conflict on women and girls and calling for women's engagement in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Ghana welcomes the findings of the Secretary-General's report, which acknowledges the growing participation of women in decision-making and in peacekeeping operations, as well as the key role played by civil society in keeping critical issues on the development agenda and supporting women peacemakers in conflict areas. It also recognizes the key role played by the United Nations Development Fund for Women in the implementation of the resolution and notes that gender has become a more prominent feature of mission planning. In spite of these achievements, the report indicates that methods for monitoring the impact of the resolution are dismal.

Although the 2008-2009 System-wide Action Plan was credible in terms of strengthening results based management, it had design and development weaknesses that will require extensive consultations and redesigning. Tools for measuring progress, such as the comprehensive set of indicators on resolution 1325 (2000), have been designed to ascertain the impact of international efforts on women's issues in order to address the substantive gaps that remain between policies and their implementation. These indicators should also monitor success in the implementation of national action plans. However, 10 years on, most Member States have yet to implement national action plans, with only 20 countries having adopted them.

We hold the view that the slow progress of Member States in fully implementing resolution 1325 (2000) is the result of poor monitoring, lack of awareness at the national, regional and international levels, lack of capacity to operationalize the resolution, compartmentalization of issues raised by the resolution, poor coordination among various security sectors, and poor funding and stereotyping of the resolution as a women-only tool.

It is our belief that resolution 1325 (2000) will further enhance our country's strong traditions on issues of peace and security, as exemplified through our support of peace missions and the activities of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre. In this context, Ghana, in partnership with the Women Peace and Security Network Africa and the Canadian Government, has taken steps to realize the final stages of establishing Ghana's national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000).

Despite the intensified efforts made in the past decade, there remain major analytical gaps, and globally women account for only 2 per cent of military peacekeeping personnel. Another question is on how processed information can be compared among different country situations. We should also bear in mind that the structure and resourcing capabilities of UN Women will come into effect only on 1 January 2011. Consequently, continued attention and support are required to ensure the meaningful participation of women at all stages of the peace process. The Council could endorse a single comprehensive framework to guide implementation of the resolution, or it could endorse the set of indicators while urging Member States to adopt national action plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We further encourage the Secretary-General to take steps to reiterate his commitment to the resolution and to expedite the process towards the full implementation of all 26 indicators.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of this landmark resolution. As we review the progress made so far, let us resolve to work harder to ensure its fuller implementation. There is therefore a need to share experiences and good practices across the board. We all have a duty to exhibit the political will to ensure that the next decade is

one of action. The United Nations system will need to intensify its efforts to support Member States in accelerating the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).