

Indonesia

Mr. Natalegawa (Indonesia): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on Viet Nam's assumption of the presidency of the Council for the present month and to express my appreciation to you for convening this open debate. I also wish to extend our congratulations to the United States delegation on the successful deliberations during its presidency last month.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing us with a progress report (S/2009/465) on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and for the recommendations contained therein. Ahead of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2010, we have an opportunity today in this open debate to advance women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution and in peacebuilding.

Armed conflict is devastating to any human being. However, it has disproportionate effects on women and girls. Their voices are silenced in conflict and their basic rights lost in the political and social deterioration that accompanies conflict. They become disempowered. A few days ago, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1888 (2009). That was another commendable endeavour to further strengthen the efforts of the international community to combat sexual violence in armed conflicts. There is still, however, much action that can be taken by the international community to address the challenges faced by women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. We should continue to promote at all levels awareness of the Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of civilians. The international community should continue to devise strategies to ease the bleak and harsh reality faced every day, particularly by women and girls living in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Nonetheless, our strategies ultimately must not merely treat women and girls as victims; they should also be a central part of peace agreements. Women are key partners in the post-conflict transformation process. Women should be enabled and empowered to play an active role in the many spheres of post-conflict life beyond earning livelihoods by also participating in political and peacebuilding processes. That should be promoted in a systematic way.

The role of women in post-conflict situations is paramount. Women serve as one of the main building blocks and instruments of peace. Yet, due to continuing violence during conflict, women face physical, mental and social barriers in post-conflict situations that undermine their role in peace. The international community must recognize and address that challenge effectively. Towards that

end, international support should meet the multidimensional needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations. That objective needs to be met with adequate funding.

During our deliberations on this issue last year, Indonesia recognized the need to facilitate the full and effective participation of women in all stages of peace processes and peacebuilding. Indonesia supports more women playing key roles in peacekeeping missions, including as military and police personnel. For its part, Indonesia has sent female personnel as military observers, staff officers and members of our contingents in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We should also ensure that peacekeepers have adequate capacity to carry out provisions related to gender issues. Moreover, it is important that provisions on sexual violence within the mandates of peacekeeping missions be in line with other provisions, such as protection of civilians; they should be developed with a clear and comprehensive concept. Mandatory training for all peacekeeping personnel on addressing sexual violence should be continued and supported.

The international community must help to restore peace in conflict areas with the participation of women. We commend the continued effort to incorporate a gender perspective in all policies and programmes of the United Nations system, facilitated by a strong gender entity within the United Nations. However, we note that gender-targeted projects in post-conflict areas remain limited. The United Nations should promote gender role modelling, taking into consideration the perspective of developing countries in post-conflict situations.

The Security Council, in accordance with its mandate should continue to address the root cause of violence against women in armed conflict. At the same time, the role of women should continue to be promoted in sustaining peace following conflict. For those reasons, Indonesia very much welcomes the Council's adoption of resolution 1889 (2009) earlier today.