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Women and Peace and Security

*Open Debate
Security Council*

**Statement
by
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New York, 27 October 2005

Mr. President,

At the outset, Israel would like to thank you for convening this open debate on Women, Peace and Security as we mark the the fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325.

Mr. President,

Whether it be on issues having to do with economy, politics, diplomacy, security, or any other aspect of our society, Israel firmly believes that women must play an equal role. We have no doubt that the progress and advancement of women will translate into nothing less than the progress and advancement for all. To that end, Israel remains committed to the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as the principles outlined in the Outcome Document recently adopted by our leaders at the Summit. The document appropriately reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to the full and effective implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.

Mr. President,

As in all other areas, Israel is convinced that women must play a key role in questions on peace and security. We believe that an increased role of women – on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides of the negotiating table – will positively reshape the outcome of peace negotiations.

The Israeli parliament continues to devote considerable attention to bolstering the part that women play in this area. For example, the Israeli Women's Equal Rights law was recently amended, in the spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and mandates that the Israeli government must include women in any group appointed to peace-building negotiations and conflict resolution. This legislation deals specifically with adequate representation of women in shaping national policy with the explicit goal of integrating women in all governmental boards and bodies established for the purpose of designating public national policy in foreign and interior affairs, including resolution of an international conflict, inter alia, through negotiations over peace treaties.

Mr. President,

Because Israel believes so strongly in the contributions of women to peace-building, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sponsored a series of Seminars carried out at the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) in Haifa, on the theme of women's voice in "conflict resolution and peace building." The goal of these seminars is to open dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian women and further education towards peace. Of the 300 participants thus far, 50 percent are Palestinian women.

These efforts are augmented by the work of numerous Israeli, and specifically Women, NGOs which represent a wide spectrum of Israeli society and politics. Their active contributions and involvement in influencing Israel's agenda on peace issues, among others, has been widely felt.

Mr. President,

For Israel, the topic of peace and security is fundamental. Israel has endured a seemingly endless barrage of terror attacks in recent years. Just yesterday, Israel sustained yet another suicide bombing, which, like so many of its predecessors, claimed the lives of innocent civilians.

Yesterday's attack comes at time when there is a new momentum for peace generated by Israel's unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. Israel hopes that all parties will capitalize upon this momentum. We firmly believe that women should play a unique role helping the region to take advantage of this new era of hope.

Mr. President,

Israel is committed to further advancing the role of women because it is right.

Israel is resolved in its determination that women will play an increasingly active role in peace negotiations because we recognize the unparalleled value of their contribution.

And Israel stands here today full of hope that an enhanced role for women in peace negotiations will build bridges of understanding in Israel and with our neighbors

Thank you, Mr. President