



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT
by
H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the Security Council Open Debate
on agenda item “Women and peace and security”

26 October 2010, New York

**Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,**

2010 marks the Tenth Anniversary of Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which is a landmark legal and political framework that acknowledges the importance of women's participation and gender perspectives as an integral part of peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. The successful launch of the Open Days for Women and Peace, under the auspices of the United Nations, in June 2010 in several countries, later reinforced by the Global Open Day at the United Nations last week, as well as numerous other forums, events and activities, have brought to light and carried forward in a dramatic way our many accomplishments, but also the need to go from resolution to action. This is the moment for critical assessment, as well as, for delineating a road map of action hereafter.

My delegation is committed to the vision of SCR 1325 and the subsequent resolutions to support it, and commends the United Nations, Member States and civil society, and specially the women themselves, for being the driving force for a gender perspective on peace and security issues, and working as partners with the United Nations.

Mr. President,

While individual success stories are inspiring, women on the whole, remain marginalized in mediation roundtables with their needs and voices unheard. UNIFEM reports that in 24 peace processes over the past two decades, women formed less than 8% of negotiating teams, and were only 3% of signatories to peace agreements - a very small ratio considering that women constitute 50% of the world's population.

Kazakhstan fully endorses the Report of the Secretary-General, "Women's participation in peacebuilding", with its steadfast commitment to accelerate progress toward increasing the number of women in peace negotiations. We wholeheartedly support his recommendation to ensure that at least 15 per cent of United Nations funds for peace-building be dedicated to projects that address the specific needs of women and girls, advance gender equality and empower women. We call not just for adequate financing but also judicious fiscal management to ensure resources for gender training and support for NGOs and local groups. These are vital to work with us on issues of food security, nutrition, health and HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, education, rehabilitation, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration with regard to women affected by the war.

Mr. President,

A major concern challenging us is the very high incidence of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict reconstruction phases. Of the 300 peace agreements signed since the end of the Cold War, only 18 of them included a mention of sexual and gender violence. My delegation therefore strongly supports the request of Ms. Margot Wallström, the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, for establishing new posts and allocating additional funding towards that end. This would result in bridging the gap in

collecting data on sexual violence during the chaos of war, and the subsequent development of systematic and rigorous response strategies. Funds for activities for women and peace should also be built into the Official Donor Assistance (ODA) budgets.

Kazakhstan also welcomes the drafting of a comprehensive set of indicators aimed at tracking implementation of SCR 1325, and underscores with appreciation the intensive work of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms. Rachel Mayanja, and her office to develop a more methodical monitoring system, and to especially condemn rape as a tactic of terror and war.

My country has great expectations of the future contribution of UN Women – a newly established entity of the United Nations family, which can take the lead in revitalizing ongoing efforts to implement SCR 1325, bring about a UN system wide coherence and a greater interrelatedness of key UN and regional human rights instruments, especially focusing on women and children, which have a direct bearing on Res 1325. My delegation recommends strengthening the mandate of UN Women to serve as the lead agency in implementing efforts for resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. It will have to collaborate with humanitarian, development, human rights, aid-to-development agencies, and the Defence Forces of concerned countries. It will also have to engage the participation of women activists, war victims and other groups of women refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants to shape programmes and services at all levels.

Kazakhstan also pays great attention to measures recommended by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) aimed at increasing the proportion of women sent by troop contributing countries, and deploying more police officers in peacekeeping operations to 20 % by 2014. My delegation endorses setting concrete benchmarks by DPKO for the participation of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities from highest decision making level to on-the-ground field operations and in communities through far reaching awareness raising campaigns on women's rights.

My delegation welcomes the development of National Action Plans (NAP) of several Member States, as proposed by the Secretary General, to include women in peace and security measures, and expresses concern at the lack of such plans by countries most affected by war, and urges Member States to formulate their own NAP and to develop them from best practices and lessons learned from other countries.

Mr. President,

To conclude, as we go forward, let us work in a determined way to strengthen women's participation and influence in conflict prevention, social justice, coexistence, and peacebuilding efforts, in situations of closed political space and conflict-affected states. UNSCR 1350 is structured on the three main pillars of participation, protection and prevention, and is a most powerful tool for women's organizing, mobilization and action.

Thank you for your kind attention.