



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

**By H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations
at an open debate of the Security Council
on agenda item «Women and Peace and Security»**

19 June 2008, New York

Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to thank you for organizing this thematic debate on the agenda item "Women, peace and security: sexual violence in situations of armed conflict". We believe that today's discussions as previous debate on 23 October 2007 will be useful contribution to the efforts to focus on the main issues contained in the resolution 1325 (2000).

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the resolution 1325 that draws attention of the international community to crucial issue of the detrimental impact of armed conflict on women and girls and importance of incorporation of gender perspective in peacekeeping operations. Once more, my delegation confirms the commitment of "zero tolerance" policy towards sexual violence against women and girls as a tool of warfare.

Mr. President,

Since the adoption of the resolution, Security Council organizes regular review to assess its implementation, which despite of some progress is still slow and uneven.

As it was already indicated by other delegations, we do agree that women's involvement in decision-making on security issues and peace building process has a positive effect on peaceful resolution of conflicts and post-conflict rehabilitation. Having said this, my delegation fully commends the efforts aimed at increase of women's involvement in the decision making process in area of peacekeeping and peace building.

However, being the most vulnerable group of civilians due to their gender and social status, women and girls still remain the main victims of indecent assault during the conflicts. The situation is more exacerbating because of the latent and hidden nature of gross violations against women and girl in armed conflict zones. Due to the fact that victims that are stigmatized by local communities, they usually tend to disguise information about abuses because of fear for their life and family. Therefore, there are no enough evidences to make the case against perpetrators.

In this regard, we would like to underscore the importance of the development of the victim's protection system, similar to the existing programmes of witnesses' protection, tightening legislation on perpetrators' responsibility for crimes against women and girls in conflict zones and work with local communities to disseminate information on abhorrent crimes, including sexual violence in armed conflict zones to increase awareness and knowledge of locals about legal consequences of crimes.

Mr. President,

Notwithstanding, we have to recognize that due to that resolution 1325, understanding of the magnitude of the problem of security and protection of women and girls in conflict zones has been growing.

In this regard, we would like to appreciate the Secretary-General's report "Women and peace and security" and efforts of the United Nations system to implement the resolution at all levels. Addressing of sex violation in armed conflict is not a requirement of certain country or region, but the humanitarian imperative for every stakeholder. The side of conflict, which encourages the violence, must be strongly condemned.

In conclusion I would like to express hope that full and successful implementation of resolution by all Member States would help to significantly increase the protection of women's and girls' rights and dignity in armed conflict zones, as well as to eliminate such crime, including sexual abuses.

I thank you, Mr. President.