

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 28 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Kim Sook, Representative of the Republic of Korea

Allow me to express my sincere appreciation to you, Madam President, for the convening of this open debate. My appreciation also goes to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN-Women; Mr. Lazarous Kapambwe, President of the Economic and Social Council; and Ms. Orzala Ashraf Nemat, of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

The tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security last year provided us with a valuable opportunity to look back upon our achievements. Substantial progress has been made, but wide gaps as well as challenges remain. Women and girls are still the most seriously affected in conflicts. We welcome the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/598*), which equips us with a tool for reviewing the current situation with regard to implementing resolution 1325 (2000). We also note with appreciation the Secretary-General's proposal for a strategic framework as guidance for United Nations implementation of the resolution. The measures and targets set out in that framework should be closely monitored and regularly reviewed. With regard to the four priority areas and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), my delegation would like to highlight the following points.

First, eliminating impunity is critical to preventing gender-based crimes. We commend the Council's continued efforts to fight impunity and uphold accountability for serious crimes against women and girls. The fight against impunity for crimes against women and girls has been strengthened through the work of international tribunals, including the International Criminal Court. In that regard, we believe that the ratification of the Rome Statute should be further encouraged. However, without parallel efforts at the national level, that will fall short of making tangible changes on the ground. States need to further strengthen their justice systems to prosecute gender based crimes and improve systems for the protection of victims and witnesses.

Secondly, women's participation at all stages of the peace process needs to be enhanced. The exclusion of women and the lack of gender expertise in negotiations may lead to irreversible setbacks for women's rights, leaving crucial issues such women's engagement in post-conflict governance neglected in peace accords. Efforts to increase women's participation in decision-making bodies need to be sustained. In that regard, my Government expresses its full support to the timely initiative by the United States Government on the draft resolution on women and political participation at the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

Thirdly, we need to pay greater attention to the vulnerability of displaced women and girls, given their particular risk of sexual and gender-based violence. My delegation welcomes the target set out in the strategic results framework on the special measures to increase the security of female refugees and persons internally displaced by armed conflict, as well as to ensure multi-sectoral prevention and response mechanisms for sexual and gender-based violence in camp and non-camp settings alike.

My Government believes that the newly established UN-Women has a central role to play in coordinating the activities of the United Nations and in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). The Republic of Korea has been committed to supporting UN-Women, in particular its activities in the field of women and peace and security. To that end, the Korean Government has significantly increased its financial contribution to UN-Women, and, in particular, contributed to the building back better project on women's participation in peacebuilding.

The momentum generated by the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) last year should not be lost. I believe that the strategic framework, together with the focused commitment shown by many delegations today, will guide us to advance our endeavours for women and peace and security. The Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to implementing resolution 1325 (2000) in cooperation with the international community.