

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict- Affected Situations, October 18th 2013, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mr. Laassel, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations*

Allow me at the outset to convey to you, Sir, on behalf of the Moroccan delegation, our gratitude for the convening of this debate. I thank for their briefings Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon; Ms. Navanethem Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights; and Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women. I welcome Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka's appointment and assure her of our full cooperation and support as she discharges her mission. We also thank Ms. Brigitte Balipou, Chair of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, for her constructive contribution.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary- General on women, peace and security (S/2013/525) and the adoption of resolution 2122 (2013) on the issue. The report takes stock of the actions and initiatives of Member States in the framework of implementation of the resolution, especially in strengthening women's participation in decision-making, integrating gender- specific issues in peacekeeping operations and training staff who participate in those operations. The report confirms that much work remains, despite the significant progress of women's participation in peacekeeping operations and their representation in the decision-making process.

The signing of peace agreements and ceasefire agreements and the implementation of national action plans and programmes for the protection of women in conflict-affected countries have made it possible to identify, in a more appropriate way, the ways and means likely to promote women's rights and to strengthen their participation in efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts and in post-conflict reconstruction.

My delegation supports the initiatives of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict to assist States in strengthening the rule of law, transitional justice and security sector reform. My delegation also supports the elaboration by the Standing Committee on Women, Peace and Security of the strategic framework intended to assist Member States in achieving their interim objectives, in preparation for the meeting planned for 2015 on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at national, regional and international levels.

Effective and optimal empowerment of women in the context of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction involves the collective and coordinated action of the international community and the United Nations system, through strengthening protection and prevention measures adapted to specific contexts that will facilitate the implementation of the resolution.

The establishment of genuine peace requires the establishment of inclusive and durable political, economic and social structures. Within that framework, local women's entities are a driving force in empowering women and strengthening good governance. My delegation welcomes the work carried out in the framework of the United Nations system to strengthen women's capacities and involvement in mediation and peacebuilding processes. Similarly, it supports the implementation of the Secretary-General's seven-point action plan (see S/2010/466), which enables greater consideration of gender issues in peacebuilding operations.

As for protection, my delegation notes with concern that refugee or displaced women continue to suffer most from generalized insecurity, difficult living conditions and limited access to humanitarian assistance. The same is true for refugee women who lack documents and often face gender-based discrimination, especially in accessing basic social services. In that connection, it is essential that Member States — especially the States parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees — comply with their obligations and register refugees in their territory. Registration and identification programmes can have a positive impact in empowering women refugees.

My delegation welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the protection of women in armed conflict and the consideration of gender-specific issues in the framework of the maintenance of peace. We stress that it is important that DPKO strengthen its work on the ground, in coordination with the relevant parties.

While the responsibility to put an end to the tragic consequences of armed conflict for women and children lies with States, coordinated and sustained action among the various national and United Nations actors involved in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is necessary to strengthen existing initiatives.

Firm political will and full commitment of Member States to the measures in resolution 1325 (2000) will guarantee the active participation of women in national, regional and international institutions for the prevention, protection and management of conflict situations.