



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador PARK Hee-kwon
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Security Council Open Debate

**Women, Peace and Security: Towards a Coherent and Effective Implementation of
Security Council Resolution 1325**

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Mr. President,

1. Over the seven years since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325, on women, peace and security, much has been achieved in terms of implementation by Member States, civil society and the United Nations system. The Secretary-General's report S/2007/567 is a compilation of the reports on progress by each entity. It notes, for example, the adoption by five entities of action plans for gender mainstreaming in their work on conflict prevention, the implementation of early warning mechanisms by seven entities, and the appointment of gender advisers in 11 peacekeeping missions.

2. Unfortunately, however, these efforts were rather fragmented and incoherent. So far, the implementation of Resolution 1325 is far from sufficient. Women continue to be excluded from or marginalized in peacemaking and peacebuilding processes. There has been some integration of gender perspectives, but this has not been systematic, nor has it adequately encompassed all phases of the process, from conflict prevention and early warning, to peacekeeping operations and humanitarian responses, to post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation.

3. Most disturbing to the Republic of Korea is that sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict is growing in many places. My delegation is particularly appalled by occurrences of systematic rape and sexual violence.

4. In Article 10 of the Resolution, "The Security Council calls upon all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict." Article 11 emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls.

5. The brutal facts of sexual violence against women and girls in many armed conflicts make it horribly clear that the implementation of Resolution 1325 has fallen far short of its intended aims.

Mr. President,

6. My delegation believes that this poor implementation is not the fault of the Secretary-General or the UN entities; rather, it is the Security Council's lack of accountability and the lack of implementation.

7. The Secretary-General's report also identifies as key challenges fragmentation and insufficient institutional capacity for oversight and accountability for system performance. The report explains that the current Action Plan was not established as a tool for monitoring, evaluation and accountability, and its revised Action Plan attempts to fill that gap. While we appreciate this effort to improve reporting, we do not believe it is the solution to the greater problem.

8. What we most urgently need is a dedicated and effective Security Council mechanism for overall integration and implementation of the Resolution in the Council's work. This mechanism would bear the responsibility to provide directives and to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation. Secondly, the Security Council urgently needs to address the serious situation of the sexual violation of women and girls.

9. It is the view of the Republic of Korea that in implementing the Resolution, we may consider regional approaches, including the utilization of existing regional arrangements. Effective regional entities could provide added value through their established networks, solidarity, communication and accessibility. However, we must keep in mind that the ultimate accountability lies with the Security Council, not with regional entities; therefore regional entities should play a complementary role, not act as substitutes. Nevertheless, as long as the participation of regional entities is making a substantial contribution to implementation, the regional approach will remain a valid one.

Mr. President,

10. My delegation looks forward to a concrete outcome from today's discussion. Based on the substantive improvement in the implementation mechanism and the strong will of the Security Council to end grave sexual violence in armed conflict, we can make real progress in implementation and reconfirm the accountability of the Security Council. The Republic of Korea is fully committed to ensuring the realization of the United Nations' promise to women in armed conflicts.

Thank you.