



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Ambassador KIM Bong-hyun

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Mr. President,

Allow me to open my statement by thanking the Presidency for the concept paper distributed for this open debate of the Security Council. My appreciation also goes to the Secretary-General's excellent report which provides a comprehensive outlook on the implementation of Resolution 1325 as well as sound suggestions for specific actions to take.

Mr. President,

As the Secretary-General's report states, there has been progress in some areas of implementation of the Resolution over the past year. For example, major strides have been made in developing national action plans. The cooperation and collaboration among various partners, including the United Nations entities such as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNFPA, UNDP, OSAGI, INSTRAW, and UNIFEM, in developing national action plans in various post-conflict areas is commendable. Some best practice examples such as the Liberian case can guide the development of future action plans.

This is certainly a positive, but the report also illustrates a number of persisting difficulties in the implementation of the Resolution. Among others, let me focus on three key points. The first is sexual violence. We are all aware how serious the situation is and how difficult it can be to reverse the extent and impact of sexual violence. In this regard, my delegation welcomes Resolution 1888, adopted just 5 days ago, which identifies specific steps that the United Nations and Member States should take to prevent and respond to sexual violence. We expect that the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the rapid deployment of an expert team will make significant contributions to our efforts to end sexual violence.

The second point is the persistent lack of women's full participation throughout the peace process, which is a core element of Resolution 1320. As the Secretary General's report expresses, a persistent cause of concern is that women continue to be virtually absent from the peace table and to be severely underrepresented as third-party mediators in most conflict-affected countries. It should be duly noted that since 1992, only 2.4 per cent of signatories to peace agreement were women and that no woman has ever been appointed as chief mediators.

The Republic of Korea urges Member States and the United Nations to take more vigorous initiatives to ensure that women are engaged in all levels of decision-making. In this regard, we commend Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's response to the call in Resolution 1325 to increase the number of women in senior positions within the United Nations, especially in peacekeeping operations. It is encouraging to see three women Heads of Mission, six Deputies in the fields, and five female USG and ASGs in DPKO. We encourage the Secretary-General to further strengthen this positive trend and hope his efforts be emulated in the peace negotiations and reconstruction processes at country level by ensuring full participation of women. We have discussed this issue for many years without tangible progress. What we need now is not the confirmation of the need for participation of women, but the concrete mechanisms, with appropriate funding, to make it a reality.

The third point is a deficit in post-conflict funding for women's needs. As stated in the concept paper, UNIFEM's review of almost 17,000 projects in consolidated and flash appeals for 23 post-conflict countries over the three years indicates that less than 3 per cent of projects submitted for funding explicitly target gender issues. Additionally, only 8 per cent of proposed budgets in post-conflict situations need assessments included specific elements addressing women's needs. As a way to address this gap, my delegation urges the United Nations system to further integrate gender perspective in designing and implementing assistance program.

One area the UN entities can immediately do more is utilizing Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). These are intended to meet urgent community needs in post-conflict areas but are generally under-implemented in many Mission stationing fields, not to mention the fact that even those projects under implementation are rarely gender perspective integrated. Since one of the main features of QIPs is to encourage a gender and age-focused approach, the UN Missions and UNDP has the potential to fully activate QIPs to meet the urgent needs of women.

Mr. President,

My delegation believes that the effective implementation of Resolution 1325 largely depends on the overall capacity of the UN system to pursue gender equality and women's empowerment. In this vain, strengthening Gender Architecture is a key element. We are very much looking forward to the early establishment of a Composite Entity, which will be a driving force in creating an environment for the effective implementation of 1325 in support of the efforts of the Security Council.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea also shares the anticipation of the upcoming tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Resolution in 2010. We expect the anniversary will provide a new opportunity for all stakeholders to strengthen efforts to fully implement 1325 to achieve real and lasting changes in the lives of women and girls.

Thank you.