

**Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Resolution 1888**  
**Wednesday, 30 September, 2009**

*Statement by H.E Mr. Churkin, Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations*

I thank you, Madam, welcome you to the Security Council. Because this is the last meeting of the September presidency of the United States, I should like to express appreciation to the Permanent Representative of the United States, Ambassador Susan Rice, and the entire American delegation for their effective leadership of the Council and for having brought a number of important and relevant issues before the Council. The Russian Federation has actively worked to contribute to the success of this undertaking.

The Russian Federation welcomes the adoption of resolution 1888 (2009) by the Security Council. This document, we believe, completes and complements previously adopted resolutions on the subject of women and peace and security, resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

We see sexual violence as an appalling crime that requires decisive condemnation and harsh punishment. Of particular concern are situations in which this phenomenon is widespread and systematic. We are convinced that we must not lower our attention to other forms of violations of the rights of women and violence against them in situations of armed conflict.

In this connection, Russia is in favour of a comprehensive approach to addressing these problems. The diverse nature of violence requires due attention to be given to all categories of violence. This is in the spirit of resolution 1325 (2000), which remains the foremost guideline for protecting women and ensuring their rights in conflict. We are convinced that these issues should be looked at in the context of all issues related to gender equality.

We should recall that an important prerequisite for overcoming violence against women is the full participation of women themselves in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction. In this context, the Russian Federation welcomes Viet Nam's initiative to hold an open meeting of the Security Council on 5 October on the subject of the comprehensive implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), with a focus on the role of women in post-conflict reconstruction.

In conclusion, we express our conviction that, working together, we will be able not only to lower the incidence of sexual violence in armed conflict, but also to make significant progress in ensuring gender equality and improving the situation for women in the spirit of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.