

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security – 23 October 2007
Extract Meeting Transcript / English S/PV.5766

RUSSIA

Mr. Rogachev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Resolution 1325 (2000) remains significant as a guideline in determining the role of women in the prevention and settlement of conflicts, in post-conflict reconstruction and in assessing the situation regarding the protection of women's rights in conflicts. It is important that the work of the Security Council for its implementation should focus on tasks relating to the Council's mandate, and not duplicate the activities of other United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women.

An artificial connection between gender questions and the whole gamut of questions under the exclusive purview of the Security Council would lead to imbalance in terms of system-wide coherence and would impede the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). On the other hand, the Council cannot focus on sexual violence only when it occurs during armed conflict. We must make efforts to find a balanced approach to this problem within the Security Council, bearing in mind its tasks and competence under the Charter of the United Nations. That has to do, also, with the fact that we see in this problem and other topics an attempt to promote the concept of responsibility to protect within the Security Council, an issue which under the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document is something that first requires discussion within the General Assembly.

In terms of its goals under the Charter, the focus of the Council should be primarily on the most acute and major armed conflicts, and obviously not just in Africa. We believe that the United Nations as a whole should give priority to responding to massive and systematic violence against women. That goal will be promoted by strengthening the gender component in reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dealing with specific situations, and that could be a new specific step in the Council's work furthering this objective.

We also should not, we believe, reduce the scope of this important resolution to the problem of sexual violence while ignoring other forms of violence against women, not even referring to other issues such as equal participation by women in peace processes, incorporating gender aspects in United Nations programmes and strategies, and so on. We believe that, as in the work on children and armed conflict, we should pay equal attention to all serious cases of violence against women and children, including murder and mutilation. Such crimes — including those resulting from acts of terrorism, indiscriminate or excessive use of force or unlawful actions by armed forces, including private defence contractors — require consistent attention from the international community.

The System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) for 2005- 2007 has facilitated the implementation of the United Nations strategy on women and peace and security. Its implementation has contributed to enhancing national potential, that being a key condition for protecting the rights of women and encouraging their equal participation in peacebuilding. We agree with the conclusions of the Secretary-General contained in his report (S/2007/567) on the need to overcome the shortcomings in the implementation of this plan.

At the same time, we cannot agree with the recommendations on creating specialized machinery within the Security Council to monitor the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on a national level. We believe that that would simply exacerbate the problem of duplication and lack of coherence. Experience in similar plans has shown that it would not lead to real improvements in the field. What is needed is to enhance the effectiveness of existing machinery and not establish new bureaucratic structures, particularly at a time when the issue of the new gender architecture of the United Nations has not yet been resolved.

In this context, we are bewildered by the public statements made on the eve of this Security Council meeting by the Secretariat prejudging the Council's conclusions with respect to creating a monitoring mechanism. Generally speaking, we support the extension of the plan for 2008-2009, in order to further develop constructive coordination between the United Nations and interested States.