

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Mangaral, Permanent Mission of Chad to the United Nations.

I thank the delegation of Argentina, Madam President, for organizing this thematic debate marking the fourteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and gives us an opportunity to assess our commitment to the post-2015 agenda. I would like to thank Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women; Mr. Edmond Mulet, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; and Mr. Chaloka Beyani, Special Rapporteur on human rights and internally displaced persons, for their briefings. I would also like to welcome and thank Ms. Suaad Allami for her commitment and courage. Finally, I would like to thank the United Kingdom delegation for having successfully conducted negotiations on the presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/21) we have just adopted.

When peace and security are threatened, one of the first indicators is the movement of people. At the beginning of the millennium, numerous natural disasters and various armed conflicts, terrorism or simply economic constraints are visible through a significant rise in the number of refugees and asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), at the end of 2013 the world had a record 51.2 million displaced persons, three quarters of those people were women and children, among them women and girls represented half. Africa is the primary theatre of the movement of refugees and displaced persons. The war in Mali, re-occurring conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic and South Sudan are just a few examples that have forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes our countries. Currently in Africa, there are more than 2.8 million refugees. The principal host countries are Kenya, Ethiopia, Chad and Uganda. There are also 7 million IDPs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2.2 million in the Sudan and roughly 3 million in other countries.

Allow me to now focus on the experience in my country, Chad, which hosts a significant number of refugees coming from three neighbouring countries — the Sudan, the Central African Republic and Nigeria.

The conflict in the Central African Republic, terrorist violence in Nigeria and intercommunal violence in the Sudan have stretched the capacities of my country to host refugees. Respecting the principle of not turning anybody back, between 1 January and 14 September 2014 we have hosted more than 19,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, 1,000 from Nigeria and more than 30,000 from Darfur. According to UNHCR, there are a total of roughly 50,000 refugees hosted by my country coming from those respective three countries. More than half of them were women and children. Among those from the Central African Republic, about 1,000 children were unaccompanied minors.

As the Council is aware, the impact of armed conflicts adversely impacts men and women, boys and girls very differently. There are also various sexist traditions against women and girls, which bars their access to resources, education, employment, sexual and reproductive health and excludes their decision-making. For that reason, in times of conflict and in post-conflict situations, women and girls confront major challenges that make them more vulnerable. In the majority of cases, these women, separated or having lost their spouses during war, are alone with their children and find themselves as heads of their families. Without the protection of their families or communities, displaced and refugee women and girls continue to be victims of sexual and gender-based violence, rape, domestic violence, forced prostitution and human trafficking. All of those are daily realities.

In Chad from January to June, there were 668 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence against refugees and displaced persons, according to data from UNHCR and its partners. The response and protection were immediate, and that allowed 100 per cent of known victims to benefit from medical assistance. Psychological support was provided for 95 per cent of the survivors, while another 26 per cent of the victims were in need of follow up and security services. Of the recorded cases, only 8.1 per cent of them were brought before tribunals. In spite of that low rate, this was an increase over 2013, when only 4 per cent of the cases were the subject of judicial proceedings.

Beyond the various challenges of managing refugee and IDP flows, the protection of women and children has its own difficulties, such as identification. More than 80 per cent of refugee and IDP populations, in particular women and children, have no identity documents. More than 75 per cent of the victims of sexual violence are under 18 years old. We also face the stigmatization linked to rape and the culture of silence regarding sexual violence, which hamper the filing of complaints. There are also various issues pertaining to security in camps, as well as a lack of capacity on the police and the army to conduct investigations regarding sexual violence. Lastly, there is lack of judiciary capacity to prosecute perpetrators.

Chadian officials, through a national commission on the hosting, reintegration and repatriation of refugees, along with the relevant ministries, working in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and other national and international partners, promptly responded to those challenges by implementing a guiding mechanism with a multisectoral approach to prevent incidents of sexual violence and gender-based violence. That allowed survivors to receive care, psychological support, legal assistance and security protection.

In a more general way, Chad has announced its strategy for refugees so as to ensure independence and reduce refugee dependence on humanitarian aid in the long term. That strategy targets a majority of the Sudanese refugee population in the 12 eastern camps, as well as the Central African Republic refugees in five southern camps. Moreover, Chad is working to strengthen national laws, and efforts are being aimed at the ratification of international instruments regarding international human rights, IDP and refugee laws as well

as international humanitarian law, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the African Union Kampala Convention on the Protection and the Assistance of Displaced Persons in Africa, among others.

In conclusion, Chad reiterates its commitment to developing effective mechanisms to protect women and girls who are refugees or displaced. That also goes for institutions to guarantee their protection and participation in peace processes. Chad endorses the principles of resolution 1325 (2000), and in particular the principles set out in resolution 1822 (2008) and resolution 1889 (2009), covering the challenges facing women and children who are refugees or displaced. In the 14 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we are all aware that international peace and security can be possible only with the participation of women.

Finally, we welcome the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) to be launched in 2015.