

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

Statement by Mr. Khan, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations

Indonesia associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Viet Nam on behalf of the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian nations.

Allow me to convey our highest appreciation to you, Madam President, for convening this open debate on an issue that is of high importance to Indonesia. Allow me also to thank today's briefers for their informative briefings made this morning.

As I speak before the Council today, Indonesia continues to encourage the implementation on the ground of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security.

Indonesia takes positive note of the Secretary-General's latest report on women and peace and security (S/2014/693), which provides valuable insights on how we can further improve the United Nations presence and performance in armed conflicts, including in peacekeeping operations, to the benefit of women and girls, particularly the survivors of the horrors of conflict and those displaced by armed conflict.

Indonesia has supported various initiatives that are complementary to Security Council resolutions that protect and empower women and girls in armed conflict situations, including by being one of the countries to champion the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has stated that women and girls make up half of the refugees and internally displaced persons in the world. They face certain risks and vulnerabilities, particularly a heightened risk of discrimination and violence. Therefore, the theme of today's discussion — the situation of displaced women and girls — should be guided by the principles set out in international humanitarian law.

There is ample evidence that conflict may serve as an opportunity for women to assume leadership in the community when men are either in combat or are recruited into war. Nonetheless, when peace gradually emerges, so does the return of the gender status quo. Hence, it is imperative to ensure that women and girls can continue to enjoy full and effective participation and leadership at all levels, including during humanitarian emergencies.

Allow us to share our view on how United Nations missions can deliver on their mandates in armed conflict situations, specifically with regard to internally displaced women and girls in times of war and during the post conflict period. Allow me draw the Council's attention to three aspects: prevention, specific assistance and protection, and women's empowerment.

First, with regard to prevention, integrating the gender perspective for a more effective and equitable humanitarian and development assistance response to displacement and early recovery is important. We should also continue to promote gender mainstreaming among peacekeeping contingents. In that regard, sensitization about gender, humanitarian law and human rights should form a coherent part of predeployment training.

Secondly, recognizing that women and girls have distinct needs, specific assistance and protection should be arranged. That includes ensuring that women and girls have equal access to all forms of humanitarian assistance, providing specific basic services such as reproductive health and protection from gender-based violence, and ensuring women's participation in the administration of shelter and in the formulation and implementation of assistance programmes.

Thirdly, to effectively ensure that women and girls can thrive as survivors and leaders in time of emergency situations, we have to empower them. In that regard, we need to ensure their access to educational service, in particular for children and girls in particular. We need to help improve their effective livelihoods. We also need to increase strategic educational programmes that can support women's capacities and skills so as to benefit them in the post-conflict phase.

Despite the myriad challenges, displacement can enable women to take on new roles and bring about positive change in the family and community, provided they obtain the right and adequate support. We therefore need to continue building women's resilience and strength to support their empowerment, strengthen their protection and promote their meaningful participation in all decisions affecting their lives.

With your able leadership, Madam President, I am certain and hopeful that this debate will generate further significant momentum on the issue of women and peace and security.