

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

*Statement by Mrs. Sealy-Monteith, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations*

Madam President, I am delighted to see you in the Chair leading this very important debate. I am honoured to address the Security Council and to participate in this discussion on women and peace and security, in recognition of the historic adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) in 2000 and to mark the fourteenth anniversary since that action was taken. Resolution 1325 (2000) holds much significance for Jamaica, as it was adopted during our tenure on the Council from 2000 to 2001 and under the presidency of our sister African country, Namibia. We are pleased that you, Madam President, have continued that tradition. We commend Namibia for its initiative in placing that important issue on our agenda — an issue that since 2000 has garnered the attention of, and action by, the international community.

Resolution 1325 (2000) sought to promote a gender perspective for peace and security issues by highlighting the special needs of women and girls, the significant role played by women in the prevention of armed conflicts and women's contribution to the peace process, as well as the full involvement of women in the decision-making process for their development.

As we meet on the fourteenth anniversary of its adoption to review the progress that has been made in realizing its objectives, it is indeed timely and fitting that we focus our attention on the situation of refugees, internally displaced and stateless women and girls. In the past year alone, we have witnessed an increase in violence, mass displacement flows and related humanitarian catastrophes. We note with grave concern that incidences of sexual violence, abhorrent crimes, human rights violations, and the forcible displacement of women and girls from their families and communities have escalated to unprecedented levels. We must come to grips with the dangerous emerging violence and conflicts associated with the proliferation of militias and armed groups and with the cases of violent extremism, where innocent civilians, particularly women and girls suffer the greatest harm.

Against that background, it is important to highlight the responsibility of the international community, and, indeed, of each State, to develop and implement measures to protect women and to ensure access to justice and redress for victims of exploitation. Furthermore, women need to be included in decision-making processes that would incorporate a gender perspective and analysis in the broader political process, and in efforts to prevent, respond to and resolve conflict, displacement and the effects of violent extremism.

My delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security (S/2014/693), which identifies the areas of progress — limited in some instances, commendable in others — made over the reporting period, even as it underlines quite frankly the remaining challenges and, simultaneously, the opportunities for all of us to make good on our commitments. In keeping with that resolution on women and peace and security and the principle of gender equality, over the years Jamaica has deployed a total of 26 female officers who have served with

distinction in United Nations peacekeeping operations, thereby enhancing their awareness and sensitivity to those situations.

Jamaica believes that the empowerment of women and their increased participation in decision-making are effective strategies that complement other mechanisms in the maintenance of peace and security. We cannot but commend the resilience of many of the women who experience war and conflict. We salute those who have tackled their situations under difficult circumstances and have survived, and those who act on their behalf. In their name, we must move beyond the rhetoric of support and take actions to implement measures in areas where progress is possible and achievable.

At national and international levels, it is particularly important that there be adequate funding for the sustainability of programmes to effectively enhance the full participation of women in peace and security initiatives. That can be greatly facilitated by the more deliberate involvement of the United Nations system, Member States and other actors.

Looking ahead to a redoubling of our efforts, Jamaica welcomes the high-level review to assess the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) to be held in 2015, and the prospects for incorporating and integrating the commitments made under that and successor resolutions aimed at prioritizing and giving greater meaning to women's issues on the peace and security agenda.