

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

*Statement by Mr. Abdrakhmanov, Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations*

We thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting on the escalation of conflicts and violations of international law that result in unprecedented massive flows of refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons (IDPs), the vast majority of whom are women and children. Their situation is further aggravated by meaningless death, the outbreak of diseases, food, water and energy crises, poverty and heightened vulnerability due to the breakdown of entire societies.

Hence, in accordance with the landmark resolution 1325 (2000), and resolutions that have followed, the role for women in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery is an important consideration for rehabilitation and recovery processes, ultimately leading to reconstruction and development. Women often tend to be marginalized and alienated from those processes, and therefore must be involved in shaping their own destinies. That is especially the case when it comes to the provision of basic survival needs, medical care, primary and secondary education and opportunities for economic self-reliance. Therefore, the elimination of gender-based discrimination, violence and impunity remains critical to promote the economic and social empowerment of women. We welcome its becoming a focus in many recently established comprehensive and multidimensional peacekeeping and hybrid operations.

At present, at least 3 out of 10 United Nations peace agreements include provisions on women's political participation and protection. Mechanisms and structures must be provided in every peacekeeping operation so that women can serve as equal partners in field missions and in all United Nations mediation support teams. The minimum of 15 per cent set by the Secretary-General's seven-point action plan on gender-responsive peacebuilding is a target that we must strive for.

We note that more women are being appointed as heads of missions, including as force commanders, special envoys and chiefs of police contingents. More than 90 per cent of the mandates calling for police components in peacekeeping operations address women's security. The implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) stipulates gender-specific provisions in all mission mandates, placing gender experts in the substantive sections of United Nations peace operations, deploying women protection advisers to monitor and report on sexual violence and providing training accordingly. International commissions of inquiry currently and routinely include gender crime investigators. Women must therefore be engaged at every stage to reassert the rule of law and rebuild society through transitional justice.

The Security Council must consider the full range of violations of women's rights during conflict, and peacekeeping mandates should support national prosecution for serious international crimes against women.

The Council should focus on its women and peace and security mandates during at least one of the periodic field visits in the coming years. Commissions of inquiry related to various war-torn zones and UN-Women must provide regular briefings to the Council.

My country, Kazakhstan, is increasingly engaged in peacekeeping — starting in 2003 in Iraq and Nepal and currently in Western Sahara — with further deployments planned to other missions in the future. The protection, special treatment and care of women and girls, together with women's empowerment and gender-sensitive approaches, are always given due attention and encouraged by Kazakh peacekeepers.

Over the last decade, my country has witnessed increased and complex flows of asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and victims of trafficking, which also pose a considerable risk to the Governments of the region. Kazakhstan is both a transit and destination country and works closely with the relevant United Nations agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). We have adopted a law on refugees based on the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. The UNHCR Regional Office, in close cooperation with my Government, contributes to strengthening regional and international efforts.

Kazakhstan is committed to joining the global efforts to achieve international peace and security, including through promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls — among whom the most vulnerable are refugees and IDPs. We wish further success to UN-Women and other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.