

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

Statement by Mr. Radomski, Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations

I would like first to thank you, Madam President, and your team for choosing the important issue of displaced women and girls for the subject of today's debate. Let me also commend all the briefers, who contributed so significantly to our debate today.

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union. I would like to present a few remarks from our national perspective.

We remain deeply concerned about the spread of conflicts, which has made refugee and forced displacement figures soar to levels not recorded since the Second World War. It is worrisome that, according to estimates of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 86 per cent of refugees are from the developing world. We fully agree with the Secretary-General's report (S/2014/693) that effective responses to the threats affecting women and girls in conflict settings must include mobilizing attention and resources on prevention, mitigation and the strengthening of national infrastructure for peace. Building on good practices that have delivered results, often in cooperation with civil society, helps to tackle risks and obstacles.

Consistent with the Peacebuilding Commission's declaration on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding, we also reaffirm the significance of concerted efforts in carrying out peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. It is important to recognize that women's economic empowerment creates conditions for their political and social leadership and for counteracting inequalities and discrimination.

For the last two years Poland has been an active partner in implementing programmes and projects supporting women's and girls' economic needs in Nigeria, the Sudan, Zambia and Kenya, as well as in Palestine, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Georgia, Bolivia and Cuba. Since 2012 we have continued our assistance to the Syrian people by channelling resources via the UNHCR field office that takes care of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and by the implementation of non-governmental organization projects for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

In Poland we have introduced improved asylum procedures. Polish national authorities exercise the UNHCR's recommendations on the suspension of return regarding foreigners coming from countries affected by conflicts. Specific health services are being provided in the process of granting protection to female asylum-seekers. If a medical or psychological examination confirms that a woman has been subjected to violence, her hearing is held in the presence of a psychologist or doctor.

We have welcomed the recent launch of a global study to review the progress achieved and challenges remaining since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). By mid-2015 we hope to receive guidance not only on how to translate good practices into standard practices, but also how to utilize synergies between the commitments and priorities set by the United Nations within agendas dealing with issues of women and peace and security. Such advice would be extremely useful in the context of current global security challenges, including the escalation of terrorist and extremist threats.

Finally, mindful of the dramatic situation of female survivors from conflict-affected areas and the rising demand on humanitarian assistance, we call on the Security Council to use its mandate to pursue accountability for any substantiated case of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse.