

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

Statement by Mr. Zagaynov, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

Allow me to thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the briefers for their detailed statements on this important topic. Resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted 15 years ago and has lost none of its relevance. It provides guidance on increasing the role of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, in post-conflict reconstruction and even in the protection of women during conflict.

We read carefully the Secretary-General's report prepared for this meeting (S/2014/693). We share the concern regarding new trends of growing numbers of acts of violence against women and violations of their rights, including those related to terrorism, violent extremism and transnational organized crime. Women are usually victims of violence during armed conflict. The killing and wounding of women and children, including through indiscriminate or excessive use of force against civilians, is a serious concern. Today that also happens in Europe. It is inadmissible to ignore such crimes or justify them as inevitable collateral damage.

One guarantee of the effectiveness of Council action on resolution 1325 (2000) is its work in the context of specific mandates and its consideration of women's issues in the context of the maintenance of peace and security and with respect to those situations included on the Council's agenda. The issue of violence against women comes under the authority not only of the Security Council but also of the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women. The efforts of those various bodies will obtain the best results insofar as they respond to the principle of the division of labour and the non-duplication of authority. We therefore continue to doubt the advisability of including in the report appraisals of situations of women that are not directly linked to issues of international peace and security.

Regarding the idea of drafting national plans of action for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), we think such plans should be prepared on a voluntary basis, first of all by those States that are in a situation of armed conflict or in post-conflict peacebuilding. We call for an approach to that issue that takes into account the specificities of the situation in each particular country.

The rise in the numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, the majority of whom are women and children, means there is a need to take effective measures to protect those individuals. We express our satisfaction that the presidential statement adopted today (S/PRST/2014/21) pays due attention to that very issue. We are convinced that there is a strong advantage offered by the participation of women, refugees and internally displaced persons in various aspects of resolving armed conflict and post-conflict rebuilding. Their active participation is a means of preventing and overcoming violence against women and girls.

A year ago, the Russian Federation was faced with the task of providing massive assistance

to refugees from south-eastern Ukraine. Currently, approximately 830,000 Ukrainian citizens are hosted on Russian territory, 450,000 of whom have requested official status, which would allow their extended stay in Russia and grant them the status of refugees or temporary refugees. The overwhelming majority of them are women and children. Given the continuing shelling of residential areas in south-east Ukraine, the numbers that I have cited could increase.

Refugees are hosted in 66 Russian regions. Specialized emergency-service personnel work with them and provide medical and psychological aid. Free meals are organized, and one-time allowances are paid. Employment specialists help newcomers to find jobs. Spaces are made for children in kindergartens, schools and institutions of higher learning. Necessary medical assistance is provided to children and pregnant women, among others. There are 24-hour hotlines. According to representatives in Russia of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Russian Government is fulfilling 100 per cent of the refugees' needs. Volunteers and non-governmental organization are lending a hand as well.

It is encouraging that preparations for next year's celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Security Council's adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) have now started to take shape. We hope that the Council's request in resolution 2122 (2013) for a global high-level review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) will galvanize States' efforts to fill gaps and identify priorities for further action in ensuring the equitable and full participation of women in the prevention and settlement of armed conflicts. For that process to be effective, all States must participate actively. Taking into account the position of all States, and not just of Security Council members, can ensure that further measures regarding women and peace and security are genuinely effective. We call for a transparent and open process of preparation for the review, in close cooperation and consultation with States. We await with interest the results of the review, which the Secretary-General is to present during his yearly thematic report to the Council.