



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations**

**STATEMENT BY
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THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE
ON AGENDA ITEM
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to address the Security Council today on the Agenda Item: Women, Peace and Security under the theme: "Women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance of peace and security."

I would also like to thank all the various speakers for their informative and thought-provoking briefings to the Council under this agenda item.

We further thank the Secretary-General for his Report contained in document S/2008/622 and we take note of its references to and assessment of implementation measures of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008).

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Mr. President,

This year marks the eighth anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 which examines issues of women, peace and security in peace negotiations, decision making, refugee camps, mine clearance and sanctions. One of the main objectives of Security Council Resolution 1325 is gender mainstreaming in all aspects of peace and security. It advocates for major changes in procedure, delivery, attitudes and habits of the international community that are necessary to integrate women's issues into disarmament, demobilization and re-integration (DDR).

This Resolution has played a key role in changing approaches and attitudes towards women. The critical role of Member States in the full and effective implementation of this resolution therefore, cannot be over-emphasized.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Swaziland embraces a vision of harmonizing the transition between development, peace and security. In the same spirit, we recognize the importance of ensuring the respect for equal rights of women in the security sector of our country and the sub-region. We attach great importance to the participation of women in peace processes and decision-making.

We are a signatory to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development of 2008. This Protocol is the beginning of the road to ensuring that States Parties put in place measures to ensure that women have equal representation and participation in key decision-making positions in conflict resolution and peace-building processes by 2015.

We have also established the Royal Swaziland Police Gender Network which was launched on 10 April, 2008. This Network is in line with the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Council Organization (SARPCCO) Women's Network Committee. The main objective of this network is to promote and implement SADC and other international instruments related to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

This Network Committee will enhance the efforts of our Gender Co-ordinating Unit and other relevant stakeholders.

It is also my governments desire to train a womens' service corps which will be able to participate in regional peace support initiatives.

In relation to this, we urge our development partners to assist us in realizing this objective within our security sector.

Mr. President,

Despite notable progress made towards the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, regrettably violence against women persists in conflict zones throughout the world. Women and girls are still targets in deplorable acts such as rape and other forms of sexual violence. Unfortunately, these acts beget severe consequences such as early and unwanted pregnancies, contraction of HIV and AIDS, psychological trauma and an increase in displaced persons, especially women and children.

To this end it is our firm belief that no effort should be spared to prevent conflict. More resources should also be devoted to education and to integrating women into all levels of society, including in decision-making. If all efforts fail to stop a conflict, international actors must be armed with the requisite information to address cases of sexual violence and abuse against women, in order to end the impunity of perpetrators of such acts.

We therefore look forward to the implementation of Resolution 1820 (2008) which noted that "women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence" and stresses that "such violence could significantly exacerbate conflicts and impede peace processes."

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Swaziland supports the role of the Security Council in the prevention of conflicts, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. The participation of women in each stage of the peace process should be enhanced and more attention should be given to their status and role. We further reiterate our respect for the protection of women's rights and gender mainstreaming throughout any peace process. It is important to recognize that women and girls are essential pillars of all societies and that their active empowerment and participation in all areas of political, social, cultural and economic life remains crucial.

I thank you.