



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY H.E MR. ERTUĞRUL APAKAN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE OPEN DEBATE ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN,
PEACE AND SECURITY, 5 OCTOBER 2009

Mr. President

Let me add my voice to the previous speakers in congratulating you for the assumption of the Presidency of the Council in October. I wish you every success.

I also wish to express our sincere appreciation to Ambassador Rice and the US Mission for their excellent stewardship of the Council during the month of September.

Mr. President,

I would like to commend the Viet Nam's presidency for organizing this open debate on "Responding to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations for sustainable peace and security" and for your leading efforts in the preparation of the resolution we have before us today.

Given the adoption of Resolution 1888 only a week ago, this meeting has particular significance in demonstrating to the world at large the continued commitment of the Council to the empowerment of women in all its aspects.

I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report and the Deputy Secretary General for her briefing, both of which include valuable assessments and recommendations on how to improve the UN system pertaining to the security of women.

Finally, in this long round of thanks, I would be remiss if I do not commend the various UN entities' efforts, as well as those of the NGOs and women's organizations that are working selflessly to achieve the goals of Resolutions 1325 and 1820.

Mr. President,

Since the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000, there has been much progress across a broad range of issues for the protection and promotion of women's rights in conflict-affected situations, particularly in terms of raising awareness for the challenges they face.

www.un.int/turkey

Thanks to the efforts of the international community, a strong understanding of the need for gender equality and women's empowerment, as a prerequisite for international peace and security, is slowly taking hold.

As mentioned in the Secretary General's reports, there are many ongoing projects and programs with a view to protecting women against the gender-based violence and other forms of threats and challenges, which have inevitable consequences of on the economic and social security of the entire society.

In this regard, it is indeed encouraging to see the results of these gender-sensitive projects and programs bearing their fruits not only in improving the general conditions prevailing in those conflict-affected societies, but also in transforming women's views about their role in peace processes. In this context, it is worth-noting that 64 per cent of Afghan women now believe that they should contribute to post-conflict reconstruction of their society.

However, despite the progress achieved so far, we cannot fail to note that much remains to be done. As today's debate and the report of the Secretary General have shown us, many structural and institutional impediments remain which we should overcome in order to meet the challenges before us.

We believe that more effective actions must be taken to protect and empower women. Addressing the particular needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations, with a particular emphasis on those issues related to their physical security, mental and reproductive health, employment, education and access to social services and justice, is a priority issue that we should tackle from the very beginning of the peace building process.

Likewise, equally strong measures are needed to increase the participation of women in post-conflict recovery efforts and peace processes since that will increase the effectiveness of these efforts. Indeed, we should not forget that women in post-conflict countries are not merely victims of war, but also agents of change towards modernization and transformation, with immense contributions to sustain peace and prosperity.

In the peace building context, the clearest entry points to support women's participation in decision-making are through the political processes and the security sector reform.

This is why Turkey has given its strong support to projects aimed at ensuring increased participation of women in the post-conflict political processes, in particular peacebuilding and reconciliation. For instance, in Afghanistan alone, we continue to support various programs dedicated to empower women in politics and governance, while undertaking many other projects with a view to providing equal and modern education opportunities to girls.

Mr. President,

We believe that while tackling the issue of women's security, which is inextricable from the international peace and security, we should move from "ad hoc" approaches towards a "systematic" one. To this end, the calls of resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and the resolution we

hope to adopt today should all become a regular part of the work of this Council in guiding the activities of the UN and member states.

We also believe that the establishment of a set of indicators, such as the gender checklist as foreseen in the resolution we have before us, might serve as a useful means through which we can monitor and track the implementation of measures at the global level.

As such, the new Gender Entity recently agreed by the General Assembly, would certainly strengthen our work towards women's empowerment by helping the UN pursue its efforts in a more systemized and coordinated manner in the areas of women, peace and security.

Mr. President,

Today, we are voicing our commitment to revitalize our common efforts towards the implementation of Resolution 1325 and demonstrate our commitment to a more efficient use of the existing mechanisms for the security and empowerment of women in conflict-ridden regions.

The months ahead of us in the run up to the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325 next year provides ample opportunity to translate these words into deeds in order to ensure the basic and human rights of women all around the world.

As Turkey, we are committed to this goal and thus we will continue our support for the implementation of all the resolutions on women, peace and security.

Thank you Mr. President.