

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)**

Statement by H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Apakan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

At the outset, Mr. President let me thank you for organizing this high-level open debate. I commend the efforts of the Ugandan delegation in the preparation of the presidential statement we adopted earlier today. We also welcome the presence of ministers from Austria, the United States and Japan, as well as of other ministers and high officials and representatives of civil society organizations. I wish also to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2010/498), which contains valuable recommendations on addressing the challenges regarding women and peace and security.

I take this opportunity to welcome Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet and to assure her of my country's full support and cooperation. As we mark the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), Turkey is strongly committed to the full implementation of that resolution and three subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security.

Since the adoption of the landmark resolution 1325 (2000), there has been progress across a broad range of issues with regard to the protection and promotion of women's and girls' rights in conflict affected situations. 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 taking hold. In that context, I should like to commend the efforts by various United Nations entities and those of non-governmental organizations and women's organizations that are working selflessly to achieve the goals of resolution 1325 (2000).

However, despite the progress achieved so far, we cannot fail to note that much remains to be done, particularly in the area of implementation. 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 urgent action is needed to protect and empower women. Likewise, equally strong measures are needed to increase the participation of women in the work of peace, including post-conflict recovery efforts, as that will increase the effectiveness of such efforts. Indeed, we should not forget that women in post-conflict countries are not merely victims of war. As underlined by the Secretary-General today, they are also agents of change towards modernization and transformation.

We have to redouble our efforts in the fight against impunity. Targeted and graduated measures should be imposed against the perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence and rape. We believe that in tackling the issue of women's security, we should move from ad hoc approaches towards a systematic one. To that end, the calls of resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) should all become a regular part of the work of the Council. The comprehensive set of indicators set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General is extremely useful in helping the United Nations and Member States to assess the status of implementation and determine the actions needed to overcome implementation challenges.

We are confident that the newly established UN Women will further strengthen our work by helping the United Nations pursue its efforts in a more systemized and coordinated manner in areas related to women, peace and security.

We believe that gender equality and the empowerment of women should be at the core of our efforts. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular Goal 3 — promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women — will no doubt reinforce the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The international community should regularly review the implementation of MDG3, including its commitments in that regard.

In our opinion, the United Nations should develop and adopt a comprehensive framework that includes agreed goals and time-bound targets and guidelines for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

I wish to conclude by underlining my country's commitment to the human rights of women all around the world. We wish to see women take their rightful place in the economic, social and political life of their societies. In Turkey we are committed to that goal. We will therefore continue our support for the implementation of the resolutions on women and peace and security.