

**Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Council, April 2014, Security Council Chamber**  
*Statement by Mr. Cevic, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations.*

I should like to thank the Secretary General and his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Bangura, for their insightful briefings, and commend the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict for their valuable work.

We welcome the increased attention being paid to the issue of women and peace and security in conflict and post-conflict situations by the Security Council and beyond. However, stronger efforts are needed to address the ongoing systematic and widespread violations. Women and girls continue to be specifically targeted in conflicts and sexual violence is often used as a tactic of war. Women and girls are also vulnerable in post-conflict situations, especially in contested political processes, ceasefires and the early days of the implementation of peace agreements.

Sadly, the tragedy unfolding every day right across our border in Syria constitutes a vivid example of the urgency of the issue, as mentioned in the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2014/181). It is high time to focus on the ways and means of implementation by sharing best practices and talking about specific measures. Needless to say, the elimination of the root cause of conflicts is the best way to prevent sexual violence and address impunity.

Secondly, every conflict resolution effort or peace and mediation process has a gender dimension. As such, ensuring and increasing women's participation in all aspects of decision-making and policy processes related to the protection of international peace and security is necessary. The importance of ensuring women's effective participation in peace processes and conflict resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, recovery and mediation efforts was emphasized recently by the Commission on the Status of Women. We hope that this call will be reflected in other relevant texts as well.

Further emphasizing the particular vulnerabilities and addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the protection of civilians framework is a third way forward. Three sets of efforts are of particular, practical importance, namely: disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts; security sector reform; and capacity-building in the judicial sector. We applaud the strong will expressed by the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In fact, all international and regional operations should prioritize this issue.

The Secretary-General's report emphasizes violence against women and girls, particularly sexual violence, as a driving factor of displacement and the need to put into place effective measures of protection regarding displaced persons. Let me take this opportunity to touch upon some measures and best practices that Turkey has employed in the camps established for the Syrians fleeing this crisis, as relevant to the women and peace and security agenda.

Information sessions are provided to Syrian families and women in the camps on issues such as maternal health, child mortality, the human rights of women and girls, and domestic violence. In addition, measures to discourage early and family-forced marriages are undertaken. Turkish personnel employed at the camps are regularly trained on the legal framework of international protection and gender-related issues, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Practical training is also given on the prevention of gender-based violence to camp staff at all levels, as well as to security personnel attached to camp settings, including soldiers, police and gendarmerie.

To prevent assaults within camps and to protect vulnerable groups, public areas are continuously lighted and under closed-circuit television surveillance. Special security units are present. In order to facilitate access to

justice for survivors, law enforcement facilities are located in the camp areas to deal with potential complaints and protection requests. Outside the camps, Turkey has established violence monitoring and prevention centres in 14 provinces where significant populations of Syrians live. We have more than 90 shelter houses, with a capacity of more than 2,400 beds that may house Syrian women fleeing domestic or sexual violence. Also, women security personnel are deployed to respond to potential specific needs of women.

In situations of displacement, although primary health care is usually available, the capacity and resources to provide reproductive health and psychosocial support services are often lacking. We have prioritized these services for victims who were targeted before and during their flight. Finding solutions in displacement contexts is a broad issue that requires holistic solutions. Women must be better integrated into decision-making structures, society and the economy.

In that respect, we prioritize women's participation in camps, with their inclusion in decision-making and camp administration. Vocational training is available in order to foster the economic empowerment of women. Finally, the enrolment and continuation of girls in school is prioritized as the best way to ensure long-term gender equality.

I am surprised by the baseless accusations of the regime's representative on organ transplant operations in Turkey. Turkey is a democratic country and an open society. What we do for the brotherly Syrian people in Turkey does not need further explanation. It takes place before the eyes of the international community and in close cooperation with international organizations, including the United Nations agencies. I therefore entrust the evaluation of the remarks spoken before the Council to the members of the Security Council and the wider international community.

In conclusion, I thank the Nigerian presidency, Member States and all relevant United Nations bodies, in addition to the stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels that prioritize the issue of violence against women in conflict. Our special thanks go to Special Representative Bangura, whose dedication to fight against sexual violence in conflicts we strongly support.