

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Ms. Cevik Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations.

Allow me to congratulate India for its successful presidency during the month of November and to thank you, Sir, for organizing today's open debate.

I wish to express our thanks to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2012/732). We appreciate presidential statement S/PRST/2012/23, which was adopted at the end of October. I take this opportunity to also thank Under-Secretary-General Bachelet and to assure her of my country's full support and cooperation.

Since the adoption of the landmark resolution 1325 (2000), thanks to the efforts of the international community, including non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, progress has been made across a broad range of issues concerning the protection and promotion of women's and girl's rights in conflict-affected situations. However, as today's debate has shown, many obstacles remain.

We agree with the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, which guide us towards particular areas requiring increased and improved effort. In that context, I would like to highlight three aspects in my intervention today.

The first is the valuable role that women can play in mediation efforts. As a co-chair of the Group of Friends of Mediation, Turkey, together with Finland, endeavoured to ensure that the very first United Nations resolution on mediation (resolution 65/283), of 2011, reflected the main elements of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security.

Secondly, there is conflict-related violence against women. As a way of tackling that problem, we believe that the Security Council should, as appropriate, ensure that ceasefire agreements include sexual violence in their definitions. On this occasion, we would like to welcome the publication of the Guidance for Effective Mediation, which is contained in the Secretary-General's report entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution" (A/66/811, annex I), which addresses conflict-related sexual violence in ceasefire and peace agreements, and we encourage its increased utilization.

Thirdly, there is the interface between security and development and the role women can play in that respect. As we embark upon a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals for post-2015, we believe that gender equality and the empowerment of women should be at the centre of all our solutions and commitments. That would also help further the agenda on women and peace and security.

Before concluding, I would like to underline the valuable contribution of UN-Women in pursuing United Nations gender-related efforts in a more systematic and coordinated manner. That is evident also in the women and peace and security agenda. In that respect, we welcome the joint strategy on gender and mediation launched by UN-Women and the Department of Political Affairs. We also commend the seven-point action plan for gender-responsive peacebuilding, spearheaded by UN-Women and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

I wish to conclude by underlining my country's commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and the four subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security, namely, resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), and 1960 (2010).