



**UGANDA**

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**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR FRANCIS K. BUTAGIRA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE OPEN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON  
WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY**

*New York, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008*

*Please check Against Delivery*

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you upon your Presidency for the month of October and for the able manner in which you have steered the work of the Council thus far.

Mr. President,

Uganda is committed to implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). We take note of the Report of the Secretary-General, and would like to highlight what Uganda has done. Women's participation in Uganda's political life goes beyond elective office and has extended to other spheres including peace building and reconciliation efforts as stipulated by UN resolution 1325 (2000). Uganda has a very advanced, articulate and organized women's peace movement. Even before the adoption of resolution 1325, my Government had previously supported the efforts of women leaders like Ms. Betty Bigombe who initially headed the peace talks (1994/2004) with the Lords' Resistance Army (LRA) to end the conflict in Northern Uganda.

The Uganda Government has also made some provisions for women's participation in the on-going Peace Talks in Juba. In addition to the two women directly on the peace team, Uganda has facilitated women's attendance at meetings.

The Uganda Government efforts have been backed by Civil Society Organization initiatives such as the *Civil Society Women's Peace Coalition* which has played an instrumental role in bringing women's voices and issues to the table through its peace campaigns and capacity building programmes for women leaders/organisations at the community level. These activities are in recognition of women's crucial role in sustenance of the community during the conflict and in rebuilding the society thereafter.

Mr. President,

The Uganda Government in collaboration with its development partners is currently working on different recovery programmes to resettle and rehabilitate the displaced communities in the conflict affected regions. Special provisions are being made for the most vulnerable groups that include women under the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda. The National Machinery has initiated the process of engendering this document so as to ensure that the women equally enjoy the opportunities and benefit from the planned interventions.

Ugandan women are engaged in Peacekeeping Missions. There are currently 16 women police officers serving in Peacekeeping Missions in East Timor, Liberia and the Sudan, and also under AMISOM in Somalia.

Redress for victims of human rights violations is being addressed. Besides the usual judicial system there are proposals to include the use of traditional justice systems (mato put) to resolve and settle grievances without condoning impunity.

Mr. President,

All these achievements have not been made without encountering challenges. One of the Government's major hurdles is that women's participation includes a limited understanding of Resolution 1325 at all levels. More workshops and seminars to sensitize women are crucial.

Some of these challenges are being addressed by Civil Society Organization-led initiatives that have facilitated skills training for women leaders, cross learning visits and consultative meetings at community level in a bid to put resolution 1325 into practice.

In this regard, Mr. President, the Uganda Government welcomes the support and cooperation exhibited by the United Nations and the International community for Uganda's efforts at implementing the resolution, in particular the 2-year programme entitled "*Supporting Women's Engagement in Peace-Building & Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict: Community-Led Approach*" launched by UNIFEM in Uganda in 2007 with the support of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).

The Programme, has focused on supporting women's access to justice, and participation in peacebuilding processes. It places special emphasis on Gulu, Kitgum and Lira Districts by supporting women's engagement in the Juba Peace process and by working with the UN Department of Political Affairs to provide a Gender Advisor to the UN Special Envoy as well as working to ensure that women's priorities are addressed in the peace process;

The programme has also supported the launch of a campaign to increase the presence of women in northern Uganda's police force to a minimum of 30%. At the policy level, the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) has undertaken the gender sensitization of fellow Parliamentarians on both the Domestic Relations and the Domestic Violence Bills are under discussions by competent organs This programme will also work with local government institutions to adopt gender-responsive bylaws in the aforementioned priority districts.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Uganda's commitment to continue building capacity to implement resolution 1325 (2000).

I thank you.