

**Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Resolution 1888**  
**Wednesday, 30 September, 2009**

*Statement by H.E Mr. Lê Luong Minh, Representative of Vietnam to the United Nations*

I thank you, Madam, and Ambassador Susan Rice personally, as well as the United States delegation for your efforts to strengthen the Council's commitment to combating sexual violence in armed conflict. The implementation of resolution 1820 (2008) since its adoption last year has achieved meaningful progress, most visibly in the markedly improved awareness of sexual violence across the United Nations system and the international community and in many conflict areas. The international community is increasingly recognizing the need to work together to effectively put an end to one of the most vicious and inhumane types of violence.

However, my delegation believes that formidable challenges remain, especially in implementing the resolution on the ground. This requires concerted efforts by United Nations bodies, Member States and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive approach to the issue of sexual violence, including, inter alia, its incorporation into the earliest stages of the peace process. In this connection, the strengthening of the United Nations coordination role is essential. We look forward to working with United Nations bodies, other stakeholders and other Member States towards this objective.

Having voted in favour of the resolution, my delegation confirms once again Viet Nam's strong commitment to ending sexual violence wherever it occurs. At the same time, we believe that resolution 1820 (2008) and resolution 1888 (2009), just adopted by the Council, should be implemented in close coordination with the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Since women's empowerment is among the most effective tools for their protection, women's participation in peace, conflict resolution and post-conflict processes should be promoted to ensure that their weak voice is heard, their rights are respected and their urgent needs met. Measures to protect women and girls from sexual violence in conflict situations should also be designed as part of a broader comprehensive and strategic framework which covers social, economic and development issues. United Nations bodies and donors should be encouraged and helped to assist national Governments in building gender-related capacity and developing gender-sensitive programmes to help survivors of sexual violence with services ranging from access to justice and relief from stigma and ostracism, to provision of mental and psychological health care.

It is equally important that women's physical security be supported by economic and social security through income-generation activities, education and involvement in decision-making. Toward this objective and in furtherance of the efforts the Council is taking today under the guidance of the President, Viet Nam, as the upcoming President of the Council, will convene an open debate on Monday, 5 October, on the theme "Responding to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations for sustainable peace and security". We look forward to active participation, meaningful discussions and a substantive outcome that will make the international community's efforts to protect the better half of humankind more complete.