

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security- 23 October 2007**  
**Extract Verbatim Transcript / English S/PV.5766**

**CONGO**

**Mr. Biabaroh-Iboro** (Congo) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, I wish to begin by expressing to you the regrets of your brother and fellow Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Basile Ikouebe, who, because of his schedule was unable to travel to New York. My delegation also wishes to express its pleasure in seeing you presiding over this annual debate of the Security Council to review — now, seven years after its adoption — the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security.

This year's report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/567) provides useful information on progress made since the first follow-up on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of that historic resolution. It will be recalled that the first report (S/2006/770) made it possible to see what progress had been made and what shortcomings needed to be corrected, thus allowing for the updating of the System-wide Action Plan for 2008-2009. In that connection, my delegation wishes to thank all of those involved in that difficult task, including the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, experts from throughout the system, United Nations bodies and civil society organizations. The quality of their work deserves our appreciation.

In the light of the report of the Secretary-General, my delegation has a number of observations to make. Numerous obstacles impede the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in particular serious cases of discrimination and sexual violence against women and girls. They are the ones who pay a particularly high price in conflict situations. The frequency of acts of violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations is increasingly widely recognized and documented. Everybody today agrees that such violence must be condemned, along with the climate of impunity in which such acts continue to be perpetrated, as those are the main obstacles to peacebuilding.

My Government understands the need to eliminate all obstacles to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and we remain convinced that success more than ever requires close cooperation between Member States and the United Nations system. Only then can our objectives be achieved. For its part, Congo is working to mainstream the gender perspective in many sectors of public life and to involve women in all stages of the peacebuilding process, in particular the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, on the basis of the Beijing Platform for Action and resolution 1325 (2000).

At the regional level, Congolese women are involved in the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region and are actively participating in the work of the thematic groups and in meetings of the preparatory committees. In that framework, they participated in the meeting of women from the Great Lakes region on peace and security held last year in Kinshasa.

With respect to the role played by women in building the life of the nation and in the light of the recommendations of the first report of the Peacebuilding Commission (S/2007/458), my Government supports any mechanism designed to ensure the full participation of women in the postconflict phase. Along the same lines, the Congo is in favour of improving the representation of women in peacekeeping operations and appreciates the successful efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in that area.

We believe, however, that additional efforts need to be made at all levels in order to appoint women officials to high-ranking posts within the United Nations system, including as special representatives or envoys of the Secretary-General. In that connection, we welcome the appointment of Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia. Her ability and her dynamism have already convinced us that she will be equal to the task conferred on her by the Secretary-General. Moreover, the Congo is convinced that it is necessary to establish a subsidiary body on women and peace and security whose mandate would be, inter alia, to ensure the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Indeed, such a mechanism would help not only to strengthen the actions of the Security Council by speeding up the implementation of that resolution but would also help to perpetuate the positive changes in the situation and the role of women, in particular in the case of countries in a conflict or post-conflict situation, as well as enhancing coherence in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at various levels. However, as we focus our attention on all forms of violence against women and young girls in countries on the agenda of the Security Council, the fact nonetheless remains that the seriousness of these acts in most countries in conflict cannot fail to awaken our collective conscience.

My delegation is ready to support any action designed to speed up the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In that regard, we fully support the draft presidential statement prepared by the delegation of Ghana, which we warmly thank for this important initiative and which we congratulate once again on the outstanding manner in which it has presided over the Council.

In conclusion, my delegation hopes to see this debate contribute to enhancing the now recognized role of women in the maintenance of peace and security, and in peacebuilding.