

THE REPUBLIC OF  
**KOREA**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement**

**by**

**Ambassador Sun Joun-yung  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea  
to the United Nations**

**at**

**the Public Meeting of the Security Council  
on Woman and Peace and Security**

**25 July 2002  
New York**

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes today's debate as a timely opportunity to review developments since the adoption of the Security Council's landmark resolution 1325 of October 31, 2000. On this occasion, we renew our commitment to the important roles women can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, as well as to mainstreaming a gender perspective into all United Nations activities in this area.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to Ms. Angela King, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, for her tireless contributions on this subject. In particular, we applaud her efforts in leading the study on women, peace and security, as mandated by the resolution. We look forward to the publication of the Secretary-General's report on the issue, which will be based on the study. We hope that it will contain concrete recommendations for expanding the role of women in conflict resolution as well as their participation in peacekeeping missions.

Mr. President,

In many situations of armed conflict, women are the most vulnerable and adversely affected. They are also survivors, with a resourcefulness that enables them to overcome enormous odds. A clear understanding of their needs and their participation as key stakeholders in conflict resolution and peace-building should greatly increase the chances for long-term, sustainable peace settlements. The starting point is to see women as active agents of change, not merely victims or vulnerable segments of society. Indeed, recent experiences of conflict resolution in Afghanistan and Sierra Leone provide evidence that the peace effort is greatly strengthened by the active participation of women in key roles.

My delegation believes that greater efforts need to be directed towards gender mainstreaming in all activities of the United Nations in the field of conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Women should be involved in far greater numbers in the ongoing endeavors to promote peace, including through their appointments as Special Representatives, Special Envoys and Representatives of the Secretary-General. Indeed, their serving in such high-level UN positions would have a positive impact on the role of women in conflict situations.

We support the strengthening of women's capacities to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations as well as in decision-making at all levels. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of gender units in the peacekeeping missions, the most prominent example being the case of East Timor. We also support the proposed establishment of gender posts in the UNDPKO. If we are committed to making gender mainstreaming an indispensable part of the peace efforts in the field, it is only appropriate that such efforts be backed-up and coordinated by full-time staff here at headquarters.

Mr. President,

In a conflict situation where gender-based violence is often utilized as a tool of intimidation and war, the full force of international humanitarian and human rights laws should be brought to bear down upon the perpetrators. Past experience has taught us that without the accounting of criminal responsibility, the grounds of a durable and lasting peace remain shaky. Thus, my delegation applauds the ongoing efforts to bring an end to the culture of impunity, such as the listing of the crime of rape in the Statutes of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the International Criminal Court, as establishing important legal precedents. In this way, the international community is sending a clear and powerful message that gender-based violence will be prosecuted to the fullest extent provided under the law.

In the same vein, there is a need to establish an adequate system of reporting on gender-based violence, exploitation and trafficking of women and girls, along with enforcement, disciplinary and monitoring mechanisms for peacekeeping missions. In this regard, my delegation supports gender and peacekeeping training in the field.

Finally, my delegation expresses its strong hope that the Security Council will continue to provide further momentum to according women equal and full representation in matters of sustainable peace, security and harmony around the world.

Thank you.