

NEW ZEALAND MISSION to the UNITED NATIONS

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA 25TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10017-3515 USA
TELEPHONE (212) 826 1960 FACSIMILE (212) 758 0827 HOMEPAGE: missions.un.int/newzealand EMAIL: nz@un.int

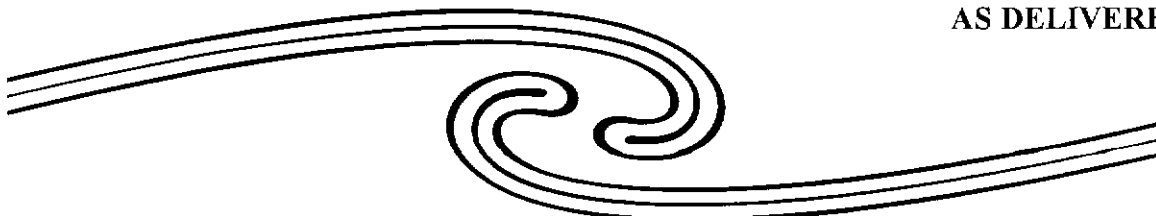
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY

**STATEMENT BY THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF NEW ZEALAND,
MR TIM MCIVOR**

THURSDAY 25 JULY 2002

AS DELIVERED



Mr President

New Zealand commends the United Nations for its recognition of the linkages between gender equity and the realisation of peace and security.

The UN Security Council debate almost two years ago, resulting in Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, was a milestone. This resolution expressed concern about the particularly adverse impact of armed conflict on women and girls, as civilians, refugees and internally displaced persons. The resolution promoted the role of women in preventing conflicts and in peace-making, and advocated that a gender perspective be mainstreamed into UN peace-keeping operation and that there should be greater involvement of women in such operations.

New Zealand was pleased to contribute to the funding of the Secretary-General's study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls that resulted from this resolution. New Zealand has participated in the "Friends of Resolution 1325" group and also an expert group meeting hosted by Canada to consider the best means to implement the resolution.

In our region, we are particularly aware of the impact of armed conflict on women and the very constructive role that women can play in the peace process and the rebuilding of society. Women were instrumental in bringing the secessionist crisis from 1989-1998 in Bougainville to an end. In the Solomon Islands, women's groups helped to develop a momentum towards peace.

We were impressed by the UN Transitional Authority in East Timor's commitment to implementing Resolution 1325 in East Timor. Not only did UNTAET make sure that its staff integrated gender issues into its work, it actively collected data and information about the situation of East Timorese women, and ensured that East Timorese women had a say on

issues of importance to them. The UNTAET's report notes, however, that it is important for the implementation of Resolution 1325 that member states increase the number of women in their military and civilian police forces serving in peacekeeping operations. We are pleased to note that 461 women (more than ten percent of the total) have played an active role as part of the NZ peace-keeping force in East Timor.

Mr President

I welcome the opportunity of this debate to underline the fundamental importance to the maintenance of peace and security of achieving gender equity and enabling women to participate in the decision-making process.