

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by Mr. Wang Min, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing. Today's open Security Council debate on women and peace and security has special significance.

Resolution 1325 (2000) focused the international community's attention on women in conflict and provides the basis for the international community to cooperate in helping countries in post-conflict situations to protect women's rights and interests. The international community has much to do for the comprehensive implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Here, I wish to emphasize the following four points.

First, to ensure that women are protected from harm in armed conflict, efforts must be made to remove the root causes of conflict. Enabling women to play a full role in the peace and security sphere will make a positive contribution to the prevention and reduction of conflicts. Also, preventing the outbreak of conflicts and protecting the rights and interests of women depend on efforts by the international community to engage in preventive diplomacy and peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and consultation and through the elimination of the root causes of conflict.

Secondly, Governments in conflict or post-conflict situations bear primary responsibility for the protection of women in their own countries. The international community should provide assistance to the countries concerned and obtain their understanding and cooperation in order to help them in capacity-building, including promotion of security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law and improving judicial and relief mechanisms. China supports the Secretary-General appointing more women as special representatives to provide good offices and political mediation.

China condemns the use of sexual violence as a means of war. The international community shares a common responsibility to prevent sexual violence in conflicts. China supports the relevant United Nations agencies in their active efforts to provide the needed support to the victims of sexual violence.

Thirdly, ensuring women's participation in political processes, recovery and reconstruction is an important part of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The effective participation of women in political processes, national reconstruction and national reconciliation will contribute to the maintenance of social stability and the consolidation of peace in post-conflict countries. In the process of post-conflict reconstruction, women should be given a greater voice and a larger role in decision-making. Their special needs and concerns should be taken care of and employment should be provided to ensure a livelihood for them.

Fourthly, there should be a division of labour among the relevant United Nations organs; they should work together on the basis of their respective mandates to address the question of women and peace and security. While the Security Council should be concerned with situations that constitute a threat to international peace and security, other United Nations entities, such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council and UN Women, should all have a full role to play so as to achieve synergy.