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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
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Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Maged ABDELAZIZ

**Permanent Representative
of
the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations**

**Before the Security Council
on
Women, Peace and Security**

Mr. President,

I would like to start by expressing our appreciation to the secretary General for his report on women, peace and security. I would, as well, like to thank the special adviser of the secretary General on Gender issues and advancement of women for her comprehensive report before the Security Council today.

As we review today the first progress report on the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), we get some mixed feelings of achievement coupled with a feeling of confusion.

The Questionnaire that was addressed to 39 United Nations entities on the status of implementation of the resolution and the action plan got responses from 29 entities only. The report does not indicate whether the rest of the entities refused to cooperate with the study, or just neglected the subject all together, we need further clarification in this regard.

In the meantime, it was surprising to my delegation to read in para. 38 of the report a clear acknowledgment that the System-Wide action plan is not established as a United Nation System-Wide Strategy but rather as a compilation of activities planned by the UN entities or ongoing, in those areas for action where expertise and resources are available. This serious statement clearly indicate that member states of the United Nations are not leading the process of advancement of women, through defining specific mandates that the Secretariat of the organization must implement to the best of its ability, particularly in areas of women, peace and security.

The two focus group discussions that took place in the process leading to the preparation of the report limited its scope to only members of the Security Council and the so called "Friends of Resolution 1325" on one hand, and to the NGO working group on women, peace and security. It did not include the wider membership of the General Assembly. This subject is interlinked to the original mandate of the General Assembly and to the treaty bodies established to monitor such important issue on top of which is the CEDAW, and those principal and treaty bodies should have a say in formulating such strategy, furthermore, classifying member states as friend of 1325 and non friend of the resolution is an artificial divide that leads to

misunderstanding and should be deleted. We all support enhancing the role of Women in Peace and security.

The report addressed a wide range of activities that are being dealt with By United Nations, revealing many gaps and challenges, but the underlying theme which we fully support is that efforts exerted to enhance the relation between women, peace and security should be done at the national level and that the role of the United Nations is to support these efforts, thus codifying the national ownership of such efforts according to the capacity of the Country concerned and taking into consideration the specificities of each country in conflict or in the peace building process.

In addressing the institutional gaps and challenges we have to admit that the spread of uncoordinated activities through 39 entities in the United Nations system and beyond, coupled with weak system of accountability and lack of resources from the regular budget, and almost full dependence on voluntary contributions that are earmarked to certain countries, all these are recipes for failure. We have to admit that the main Question under consideration should be whether women advancement and Gender equality efforts should be dealt with in all entities of the secretariat with a closely coordinated mechanism that ensure achieving results, or should be centralized in certain sections of the secretariat. The report of the Secretary General's high level panel or system wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment will be crucial in focusing our discussions on whether we centralize or de-centralize dealings with the women issues in the organization.

Mr. President,

Our efforts at this stage should concentrate on widening the scope of consultations to include all member states of the organization as well as new organs, in particular the peace building commission. This will provide the solid base for redrafting the system-wide action plan to reflect what member states of the organization would like to see done and to allocate the necessary funds from the regular budget, not only concentrate on what the United Nations Secretariat is doing without resources or coordination or accountability. We believe that the action plan should became a complete United Nations strategy with a clearly defined objectives that the secretariat must insure its implementation.

Thank you Mr. President