

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict- Affected Situations, October 18th 2013, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Mahmoud, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations

The Council's semi-annual open debate to review the implementation of Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, is a good opportunity to review the progress made over the past year, share good practices and identify the persistent barriers to the full implementation of the resolution.

Egypt has considered with interest the Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security (S/2013/525). We would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made in the drafting of the report, which highlights the progress made, including the significant policy and operational focus on the monitoring, prevention and prosecution of violence against women in conflicts. In that context, I would like to make the following remarks.

First, Egypt reaffirms the pivotal role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as outlined in the resolution 1325 (2000). We also stress the importance of promoting the education and economic empowerment of women as effective tools to achieving sustainable peace and security.

Secondly, Egypt is deeply concerned about the increasing rates and patterns of violence against women and girls around the world, particularly sexual violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations. We stress the indispensable role of transitional justice and the rule of the law for the protection of women's rights and for ensuring accountability and non-impunity for perpetrators, as a key element of conflict-prevention, peacekeeping, conflict-resolution and peacebuilding. Transitional justice measures must address the full range of violations and abuses of women's human rights, including crimes committed by United Nations peacekeeping forces and personnel.

In that context, we highlight the significance of the initiative taken in April by the Group of Eight on preventing sexual violence in conflict, assisting victims of sexual violence in war and preventing further attacks and holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes. Last month, Egypt joined the international declaration of commitment to end sexual violence in conflict that was launched during the high-level segment of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

Thirdly, we support the inclusion of the theme of women and peace and security as a crosscutting issue in the post-2015 development agenda.

Fourthly, the Security Council will hold a high-level meeting in 2015 to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). It will assess progress in implementing that resolution, renew commitments and address obstacles and constraints. In that regard, there is a need to address the existing gap related to quality data collection and analysis in conflict settings. Egypt supports conducting a global study to highlight good practices, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action. The outcome of that study should be available to all Member States.

The practices of the Israeli occupation in the Arab occupied territories are a clear manifestation of violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Arab women and girls under foreign occupation. Egypt stresses the responsibility of the United Nations system, as well as all international organizations concerned with women's issues, towards women under foreign occupation. There is definitely a need to pay greater attention to their suffering in order to ensure their full rights, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law. We request all senior officials and field-based entities responsible for reporting to the Council, particularly UN Women and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, to systematically include information on the situation of women and girls in Arab-occupied territories in their reports and briefings.

Egypt reiterates its commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in line with its international obligations, as well as its conviction of the critical and indispensable role that could be played by women in resolving armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations.