

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security- 23 October 2007
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GUINEA

Mr. Sow (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of my delegation, I would like to warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, for the vigour, effectiveness and dedication that you have shown at the head of the Security Council.

The Republic of Guinea is pleased once again to contribute to the collective and multilateral thinking on the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Identifying and assessing progress made in that area in terms of follow-up and empowerment, both nationally and internationally, are at the heart of our concerns.

I must begin by emphasizing that it is at the initiative of the First Lady, the president of the foundation bearing her name, Maman Henriette Conté, that for the first time a national educational campaign was launched on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in Guinea. In fact, on 26 October 2006, the First Lady of the Republic, supported by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, whom I welcome here, decided to jointly organize, with the Minister for Social Affairs and the Promotion of Women and Children of Guinea, a commemorative day to celebrate, in Conakry, the sixth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) by the Council.

The ceremony had many participants, including members of Government, representatives of national institutions, the Chief of Staff of the army, members of the diplomatic consular corps, representatives of international institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society. The themes presented and conveyed by public and private media were focused on the content of resolution 1325 (2000) and on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls — women, as victims of conflict and parties who prevent and manage conflict, and in their capacity as protagonists for peacebuilding in Guinea and in the region.

The same day, meetings to sensitize and familiarize political, administrative and religious authorities, the public and concerned partners on issues surrounding the resolution were organized in the five communities of the capital and in the national languages. That political commitment for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) stems from the high degree of responsibility that has always been shown by Guinean women.

Their responsibility was illustrated once again during the tragic events that took place in Guinea in January and February 2007, after the general strike called to put an end to bad governance and poverty. Guinea and all of Africa did not fail, at that time, to welcome the efforts made by women, in particular by the First Lady, to promote dialogue and cooperation among social stakeholders and to take up the serious challenges of peace, security and stability in the country.

Guinea is pleased to have once again found peace, the restoration of the rule of law and improved national cohesion, thanks primarily to the determination of, and sacrifices made by, women. In that context, we were pleased to receive the second report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We support its major recommendations, in

particular those concerning the 2008-2009 Action Plan, conceived as a results-based instrument for programming, follow-up and information. The concentration of future action in the five thematic areas identified in the report cannot fail to ensure the successful establishment of an integrated, coherent strategy for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) by all parties involved at the national, regional and international levels.

In conclusion, I wish to renew the commitment of the Government and the women of Guinea to play a leading role in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). I appeal to the international community to provide effective and sustained support to the actions and initiatives undertaken by all concerned in order to increase the mobilization of women and attain their full participation in processes of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the building of stability in our country and in our subregion.