



Check against delivery

**Security Council
Debate
6005th Meeting**

**Statement by
H.E. DR. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations**

**Agenda Item:
"Women, Peace, and Security"**

New York, 29 October 2008

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

325 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

www.indonesiamission-ny.org

email: ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org

Mr. President,

Let me begin by joining the previous speakers in thanking Ms. Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and Mr. Alain Le Roy, USG for DPKO for their respective briefings and also for the report of the Secretary General. We would also wish to express our appreciation for the statement of Ms. Alberdi, Executive Director of UNIFEM, and Ms. Taylor of NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security. Let me also express my appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this debate on Women, Peace, and Security.

Mr. President,

Armed conflict is the single and most crucial factor in exacerbating the security of women.

In an age where international cooperation is closely wedded with humanitarian international law, it is unacceptable that widespread grave violence against women in armed conflicts continues to be perpetrated.

This must be put to an end

The international community has the obligation to protect and assist women in armed conflicts.

Not least, **Mr. President**, the international community has every interest to ensure the full involvement of women in all stages of peace process and peace-building.

Women as peace-makers. Women as peace-builders.

In an era where opportunities and knowledge are abundant; we find that women's potential contribution to conflict resolution processes have not been adequately harnessed. Women's perspectives and contribution have been grossly under-utilized.

An enormous deficit for our common efforts.

To exclude or omit women's participation from conflict resolution process deprives the effort of representation of major stakeholders and a sustainable peace based on inclusion of all perspectives.

Thus, widening opportunity for women to participate in various stages of peace and conflict resolution process demands support.

While providing such space of opportunity is desirable and important, it is also vital to provide *beforehand* an ample *space for women to make their own choices*.

A space, in which, women can feel secure and free from the harms of violence and reprisal. A space, in which, women can enjoy the freedom and liberty to make informed decisions for their own life.

A space for each and every woman in armed conflict situations, where her basic need for personal safety is met.

In other words, our approach should not only to view *women as a group*, but also *as an individual* with her own aspirations.

Mr. President,

A woman can make a fundamental difference in peace process if she has the necessary negotiating tools at her disposal; if she has the necessary space to participate and use these tools; and if she has the support system of her own constituents.

It is from this perspective that Indonesia views the strengthened participation of women in peace processes. Capacity building is the core component to ensure that women's participation will bear the fruit of success.

There are at least three aspects in *strengthening* women's participation in peace process.

First, it is imperative to promote gender balance and equity in the process of assembling negotiating team, as well as to highlight the concerns of women in the negotiating agenda.

Second, while negotiations at the highest level are central, and indeed critical, attention must be paid to the situation on the ground. Women's participation need to be structured at a grassroots level to advocate for a sustainable peace. Women can advocate for the pursuit of formal peace processes, as well as cultivating community support for these efforts and their implementation.

And third, women's participation can also be fostered by efforts that take the form of a "campaign" model based on democratic political campaigning; and canvassing designed to increase participation by willing parties.

Before concluding my remark, let me stress that *enhancing* women's participation in peace process requires sustained and long-term efforts. Indeed, eight years since the adoption of resolution 1325, there is certainly no shortage of action plans. It is timely, we believe to proceed beyond plan of actions. Indonesia for its part will redouble its efforts at the national level and within the UN in pursuit of this objective.

In conclusion, let me express our support for the adoption of the draft Presidential Statement, which we are hopeful, could, at its own merit, contribute to the enhancement of women's participation in peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. President