

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 28, 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Khan, Representative of Indonesia

Let me join previous speakers by first congratulating you, Madam President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council, and by expressing my appreciation to you for convening this open debate. I also thank the Secretary-General for providing us with the report on women and peace and security (S/2011/598*), as well as the other speakers today for the important briefings on the issue that we are debating.

The adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) was hailed as a landmark and groundbreaking resolution. For the first time, the importance of women's full participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding at all levels was recognized. Since then, the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and its sister resolutions have paved the way for the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in United Nations peacekeeping operations and missions worldwide. In a similar vein, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which also addresses women and armed conflict, should continue to be implemented. Those various international frameworks on women are complementary and mutually reinforce our efforts to protect the rights of women in conflict situations.

Our annual debate on women and peace and security is built upon various premises, among them, first, that women in conflict are often victims and shoulder multiple consequences of conflict, and secondly, that despite being vulnerable, in many instances women in conflict have continued to demonstrate their transformative role and their potential for creating sustainable peace. Indonesia shares the common view that through the promotion of women's role as agents of peace, their plight as victims of conflict can be overcome. Embedded in that common view is the paramount importance of conflict prevention.

In this context, our efforts in waging peace should nurture an environment that accommodates the contribution of women to conflict prevention. That would mean, among other things, enhancing women's participation in decision-making processes, building a culture of peace that respects life, and promoting a way of life that values non-violence and dialogue and is characterized by cooperation and social responsibility.

In a peaceful atmosphere, women can fulfil their role as transmitters of values, as economic resource managers and as solidarity supporters and networkers. If they have the space to build networks, women can encourage social and political groups to take preventive measures before conflicts break out. Given their unique perspectives and insights on women in conflict, the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) would benefit by the presence of more women in formal institutions of conflict prevention and resolution, including in preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts.

Women's potential as agents of change, skilfully reshaping and rebuilding communities affected by conflict, is an important resource to tap into. However, it is not always the case that they can be readily available for such a huge task. In post-conflict situations, the deficit in experience, skills, understanding

and knowledge on women and peace issues is often a hindrance to enlisting a greater involvement of women. Overcoming the trauma they have had to endure can also be a factor working against women becoming active peacebuilding actors.

Taking those challenges into account, an important aspect of realizing the aims of resolution 1325 (2000) is fostering capacity-building for grass-roots movements and organizations established in conflict and post-conflict times. Recognizing that post-conflict capacity-building is not an overnight endeavour, the scope and time frame for developing women's capacity should be long-term.

To conclude, let me reiterate that the responsibility to implement relevant Security Council resolutions on enhancing women's participation in peace processes, including the protection of women, rests primarily with individual Governments. Through this debate, we can once again reaffirm our readiness to promote the participation of women in peace processes, including within the framework of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

We hope and expect that the adoption of a set of global indicators to track implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) (see S/2010/498, annex) at the conclusion of the tenth anniversary debate last year (S/PV.6411), will help the Council to re-energize and strategize its efforts in an effective manner. We hope that that the set of indicators can help to resolve the bottlenecks that have contributed to the delays in implementation of the activities that the indicators are designed to measure.