

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (Sexual Violence)**

23rd February 2012, Security Council Chamber

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Khan, Representative of the Indonesian Permanent Mission to the UN.*

Mr. Khan (Indonesia): At the outset, I would like to extend my appreciation to you, Sir, for convening this open debate on women and peace and security. The focus of this debate on the implementation of resolution 1960 (2010) is both necessary and important. It is also a clear demonstration of the general commitment to protecting women from sexual violence in armed conflict. I also would like to join others in thanking all the speakers today for their respective briefings. We appreciate the information provided by the Secretary-General's report (S/2012/33), which has been helpful in indicating to us the extent of the problem. That information will help to guide and enhance the fruitfulness of our debate.

Indonesia strongly deplores all forms of violence, including sexual violence in armed conflict, committed against women. Women must be free to live their lives without having to face the threat of violence, sexual or otherwise. We note with deep concern the fact that while the Security Council resolutions related to women and peace and security have served to highlight the problem and force action aimed at its elimination, the violations persist. We have every reason to speedily implement resolution 1960 (2010). But this must be done in keeping within the spirit of resolution 1325 (2000), which addresses all aspects of women in conflict and post-conflict situations in a more comprehensive manner.

We are informed by the Secretary-General's report that over the past year, there have been several new and ongoing armed conflicts in which sexual violence has been widespread, with civilian populations being systematically targeted. What is even more disturbing is the fact that most perpetrators remain at large. Indonesia finds this unfortunate situation unacceptable. All action must therefore be directed at eliminating the conditions that give rise to and sustain such behaviour.

The need for determined action is clear. It would be to our benefit if we were to deal not only with the consequences of this violence, but — as recommended, inter alia, by the Beijing Platform for Action — also with its causes. Certainly, that would take us off the field of battle and into the wider society. Those attitudes, values and traditions that sanction such behaviour must be consistently confronted and discouraged.

Activities specific to combating sexual violence in armed conflict are taking place on two fronts — international and national. At the international level, the emergence of a universal working definition to facilitate data collection should advocate timely, reliable and verified information and proper analysis of data on the occurrence of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. Such a definition will help stakeholders in delivering survivor and victim-focused responses. Overcoming the trauma they have had to endure is an important factor in helping women to become active peacebuilding actors in the future. In addition, such a definition will also considerably refine the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements recommended by resolution 1960 (2010).

Apart from greater clarity about the problem, we also take note that technical infrastructure to combat sexual violence in armed conflict has been under careful construction, inter alia, through the establishment of a technical-level working group as part of the United Nations response and placing a women's protection adviser in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The responsibility to implement relevant Security Council resolutions with a view to enhancing women's participation in peace processes, including the protection of women from all forms of sexual violence, rests primarily with their respective Governments. At the national level, stress has been placed on national ownership of the peacebuilding process. Indonesia fully agrees with this. In effect, this means that any external support provided for the process must be demand-driven.

It is also important that the role of women not be minimized in any way at this level. Their inputs are integral to enhancing civilian capacity, especially in the most affected developing countries. Indonesia believes that dialogue, partnership and cooperation within the framework of the global South are of critical importance to the peacebuilding capacities of developing countries.

We also appreciate the work done by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support on the guidelines for integrating a gender perspective into the work of the United Nations military in peacekeeping operations. Predeployment gender-related training for peacekeepers is also significant in contributing to a more enhanced understanding of the protection of women and children by United Nations peacekeepers. The gender training workshop for peacekeepers that will be held in Indonesia next April is part of such efforts.

Equally important is the enhancement of the capacity of national institutions dealing with security and judicial matters so that they can be safeguarded against impunity. Every effort must be made to stamp out sexual violence as a method or tactic of warfare.