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## SECURITY COUNCIL

**Statement by:**  
**Ambassador Dan Gillerman**  
**Permanent Representative**

During open debate on  
Women and Peace and Security:  
Towards a Coherent and Effective Implementation of  
Security Council Resolution 1325

New York, United Nations  
23 October 2007

Check Against Delivery

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your able stewardship of the Council this month, and thank you for convening this open debate on “Women and Peace and Security,” as we mark the seventh anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). I wish to also thank the Secretary-General and Ms. Rachel Mayanja for their informative statements.

Next year, the international community will reach another milestone, when it celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration, universally recognized as an international instrument of the highest importance, is of increasing significance as a unifying factor among all peoples and cultures. It remains a living document that continues to inform and inspire the struggle for rights and freedoms of all people around the world. In this regard, the spirit of resolution 1325 lives and breathes within the Declaration.

My delegation would like to commend the efforts of the various entities within the UN, among them, DAW, UNIFEM, and INSTRAW for their efforts in promoting resolution 1325, and for all that they do to make the voices of women heard.

Mr. President,

Israel believes women must play an equal role in all aspects of state and civil society. We have no doubt that the advancement and progress of women will translate into nothing less than the advancement and progress for all. As such, Israel remains committed to the principles and goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the principles outlined in the Outcome Document adopted by our leaders at the 2005 Summit.

The deliberate acts of violence against women and the girl child, especially in situations of armed conflict, are particularly alarming. Women – and children for that matter – are severely affected by the consequences of armed conflict. We have even seen – and are continuing to see – the heinous crime of rape used as a political weapon. The severity of such graphic exploitation, abuse, and violation of human rights cannot be overstated, and the perpetrators of these crimes must be brought to justice.

Mr. President,

Israel welcomes the Secretary-General’s report on women and peace and security, S/2007/567, and its system-wide action review and update. Similarly, we are pleased with efforts by the Secretary-General to identify women as candidates for senior level positions within the UN system, with particular attention to Special Representatives. We hope to hear in the future of new appointments of women in senior roles. With this in mind, we commend the appointment of Ambassador Laj as the new SRSG for Liberia.

Nevertheless, a great deal remains to be done. National mechanisms and machineries for the advancement of women need to be strengthened to ensure women’s active participation in public policy formulation on matters of peace and security.

Mr. President,

The mainstreaming of gender into all policies and programmes at the international and national level plays a crucial factor in the prevention of sexual discrimination, exploitation, and abuse. If women are ever to truly see their needs recognized and interests represented in peace accords, they must have access to peace negotiations from the earliest possible stages. In this regard, Israel has been working, through government and non-governmental channels, to increase awareness and amplify the voice of women in peace negotiations and conflict resolution.

In Israel, implementation of resolution 1325 continues on a variety of levels, including, but not limited to: distributing Hebrew translations of the resolution; distributing and disseminating information on the resolution to national, regional, and NGO bodies; campaigning to raise awareness through public relations work and media coverage; and monitoring and documenting the impact of conflict on women and girls.

Similarly, the Israeli Women's Equal Rights law was amended in past years, in the spirit of resolution 1325, mandating that the Israeli government include women in any group appointed to peace-building negotiations and conflict resolution.

I wish to note, Mr. President, that this commitment is not merely in theory – but also in practice. My Minister, Ms. Tzipi Livni, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, was appointed just last week to lead negotiations with the Palestinians.

Due to the important choices being made on the ground, namely the existence of a Palestinian government that accepts the Quartet principles and is committed to a dialogue and process with Israel, a sense of renewed hope and optimism can be felt on the ground. As Israeli and Palestinian leaders continue to meet, our goal is to reach an understanding on the widest possible common ground in order to enable progress on the way forward toward the realization of the two-state vision. This is for the benefit of all citizens of the region – men and women alike.

Similarly, there is a movement of Israeli and Palestinian women working together, from across civil society and the political spectrum, to advocate for peace. The recognition and effectiveness of such advocacy organizations and NGOs is a testament to the vibrancy of Israeli democracy and pluralism. And Israel takes great pride in their leadership.

Mr. President,

Spinoza, the famed 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, once said: "Peace is not the absence of war; it is a virtue; a state of mind; a disposition for benevolence; confidence; and justice."

Indeed, peace is a holistic state of existence. To truly achieve it one half of the population cannot go ignored. Only with full participation of women in all aspects of conflict resolution, peacemaking, and security will be there a viable, social, economic, and political subsoil for democratization, sustainable development, and peace to grow.

Israel, for its part, is determined for women to play an increasingly active role in peace negotiations, and committed to advancing the role of women in all aspects of society. Israel is hopeful that an enhanced role for women in peace negotiations will build lasting bridges of understanding with our neighbors, and usher in a dawn of harmony and prosperity for all.

Thank you, Mr. President.