

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Nishida, Representative of Japan

I thank the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UN-Women and the President of the Economic and Social Council for their insightful briefings. We also welcome the representative of civil society, and thank her for her statement.

Japan welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/598*), which demonstrates his clear commitment on this issue. We are encouraged that UN-Women, under the strong leadership of Ms. Bachelet, has been resolutely promoting the agenda of women and peace and security as one of its priorities.

Japan applauds the recent decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ms. Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, and Ms. Tawakkul Karman of Yemen, who are champions of women's participation in peacebuilding processes. It is groundbreaking that the announcement of the Prize clearly mentions resolution 1325 (2000).

As a member of the group of Friends of Mediation, Japan has consistently advocated the importance of mediation and conflict prevention. We welcome the fact that the General Assembly's very first resolution on mediation, which was adopted this June, underlined the importance of the participation of women and the provision of gender expertise in mediation (see General Assembly resolution 65/283).

In order to prevent the recurrence of conflict and sustain long-standing peace, the needs of women and girls must be fully addressed in post-conflict peacebuilding. To that end, it is essential that women's full and effective participation be ensured from the very beginning of conflict prevention and mediation processes. Japan expects UN-Women, in cooperation with other partners including the Department of Political Affairs, to coordinate and strengthen the efforts of the United Nations system in this area and provide guidance to regional organizations and Member States in their efforts in mediation.

The important role of regional organizations, such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, in conflict prevention has been widely recognized. In that regard, it is encouraging, as shown by the Organization of American States ministerial meeting for the advancement of women to be held next week in El Salvador, that regional organizations have taken steps towards the consistent inclusion of women and women's rights in their conflict prevention efforts.

The promotion of women's participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding is key to the protection and empowerment of women. The strengthening of gender expertise and perspectives in peacekeeping activities and increasing the number of female peacekeepers remain a challenge. In that regard, Japan deployed a female military liaison officer to the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste this year. We also provide gender training to Japanese personnel before they are deployed to peacekeeping operations. This year, through the United Nations Development Programme, Japan is supporting a project to promote the employment of female police officers and their training in Afghanistan, which

so far has resulted in the employment of more than 1,200 Afghan women in local police forces.

There remain large implementation gaps with regard to resolution 1325 (2000) in all areas, including prevention, participation, protection and recovery and relief. The indicators and strategic framework in the reports of the Secretary-General contribute to identifying the gaps and addressing those limitations in a more systematic manner. Japan, for its part, will continue to do its utmost to close the implementation gaps before the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), in cooperation with our partners and, in particular, with women's organizations and civil society.