

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Yamazaki Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

I thank the Deputy Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UN-Women and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for their informative briefings. We also thank the representative from civil society and welcome her participation here today.

Japan welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/732), which demonstrates the clear commitment of the Secretary-General to the issue being discussed today. We are very much aware that the Secretary-General announced “Working with and for women and young people” as one of the five priority agenda items for his second term.

We are very encouraged that, under the strong leadership of Ms. Bachelet, UN-Women has been resolutely promoting the agenda of women and peace and security as one of its priorities. It is with great satisfaction that we note that, during her recent visit to Japan, Ms. Bachelet had an opportunity to meet and exchange views with members of Japanese civil society, political leaders, including the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister for Gender Issues, and leaders of the private sector, the press and youth groups.

The security of women and girls is an indicator of peace and stability. In that regard, we note that the Secretary-General’s report refers to the fact that Afghan women’s groups have voiced concerns over the potential for a peace deal to be made at the cost of women’s hard-fought rights. On that point, we would like to mention that, in July, Japan hosted the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, which reaffirmed and further consolidated the international community’s partnership with the Afghan Government in the Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan from Transition to the Transformation Decade (2015-2024). Thirty Afghans from civil society, half of whom were women, were invited to the Conference. It should be noted that, the Tokyo declaration which resulted from the Conference, stressed the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and women’s groups in support of the peace process and the culture of peace and human rights in Afghan society, in particular in the light of resolution 1325 (2000).

Relief and recovery initiatives for women in conflict or post-conflict situations are also key when conflict prevention efforts unfortunately fail. As an example, in close collaboration and consultation with a wide range of women’s civil society organizations in the Sudan, Japan supported finding employment for women in poverty, including widows, women in rural places and women with disabilities.

As to refugees and persons displaced as a result of conflicts, Japan supported the efforts to prevent sexual violence in Ivorian refugee camps located in Liberia by providing lighting and electricity in common areas of the camps, as well as vocational training that included awareness-raising activities. That effort also included our support to establish a relief and recovery system, including legal support and mental care to victims of sexual violence. In the Republic of Uganda, Japan implemented awareness-raising activities for sexual violence prevention in communities of refugees from neighbouring countries, and over 10,000 people participated.

As we move towards the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the resolution, Japan, for its part, will continue to exert its utmost efforts towards the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in cooperation with our partners, and in particular with women’s civil society organizations.