

Statement
by
H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN
at an open debate of the Security Council on agenda item
“Women and Peace and Security”
23 October 2007, New York

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset allow me to congratulate the newly elected members of the Security Council and express our belief that your valuable participation in the work of the Security Council will contribute significantly to the promotion of the World Peace.

I would like also to thank Ghanaian Presidency for organizing this debate as well as Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and Ad Interim Executive Director of UNIFEM for their insightful statements.

Mr. President,

In 2000 Security Council adopted a milestone resolution which recognized the vital role of women in the prevention of conflicts and peacebuilding and drew attention of the international community to the crucial issues of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and importance of incorporation of gender perspective in peacekeeping operations, negotiation process and in Security Council Missions.

Ever since Security Council has been arranging annual discussions to review the implementation of the resolution. It has been repeatedly indicated by delegations that women's involvement in decision making on security issues and in peace processes had a very positive effect on peaceful resolution of conflicts and post-conflict peacebuilding. We are pleased to note that since the adoption of the resolution the understanding of role of women in peacemaking, peacekeeping and not less important in peacebuilding has been growing in the recent years. Enhancing of the role of women in the area of peacebuilding and security and ending violence against women and girls is a priority for UNIFEM and other related bodies of the United Nations.

Therefore our delegation takes note with appreciation the Report of the Secretary-General entitled “Women and peace and security” and efforts made by the United Nations system to implement the resolution at all levels.

Kazakhstan welcomes continuation of the activities of the United Nations in this area through elaboration of the new Plan of Action for the years of 2008-2009

and five indicated areas of work. Yet we would be pleased to see, besides monitoring and accountability, more emphasis on effectiveness of the realization of the Plan, participation of civil society, capacity building in order to sustain positive changes in the situation and role of women in conflict and post conflict countries.

Our delegation believes that there is a need to expand exchange of best practices, knowledge and experience of women who had been involved in peacebuilding and peace negotiations with those who wish to join the peace process in conflict areas.

We are also in a view that inclusion of promotion of culture of peace and tolerance into “the prevention thematic area” will contribute significantly to the effectiveness of the UN activities on conflict prevention at the field level.

Mr. President,

Traditionally in Kazakh culture the role of women in the society and politics has been critical. They equally participated in decision-making process on issues of war and peace and no crucial decision was taken without their approval. Women had a power to stop wars and armed conflicts. They were promoters of peace and accord in the country.

Therefore our country is notable for its multi-ethnic and multi-faith nature. The house called Kazakhstan is home to some 130 nationalities and ethnic groups and over 40 faiths, that live there as one big family. Indeed, the internal policy and international initiatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan are truly based on the principles of trust and dialogue. Kazakhstan was the initiator of such unique international forums as the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA).

In this regard, we believe that valuable experience of Kazakhstan in ensuring and strengthening accord and harmony in relations among the various ethnic and religious groups of our country might be of interest to world public.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, reiterating our strong commitment to the goals of Beijing Declaration, Cairo Programme of Action and MDGs and attaching great importance to the resolution of the Security Council 1325, allow me to stress yet again that stronger commitments should be made and more actions should be undertaken by Member States and the United Nations system to expedite attainment of the goals and task outlined in the resolution.

I thank you, Mr. President