

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

Statement by Mr. Rakhmetullin Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations.

I thank you, Sir, for having convened this open debate on women and peace and security, which enables the Security Council to focus on the paramount role of women and their civil society organizations in contributing to the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts, as well as to peacebuilding. Today's deliberations provide a valuable opportunity to assess the extent of the real, positive and lasting change that we can make in the lives of women affected by armed conflicts.

Promoting the rights of women is at the core of the human rights policy of my country, and Kazakhstan, as a member of the Executive Board of UN-Women, wholeheartedly supports the multilateral effort in that direction. At the same time, we need to assess and overcome the factors facing women's organizations, such as the lack of security, resources and access to information, to ensure their effective involvement in the peace and security agenda. Those and many other obstacles can be overcome by including women's groups in strategies for the prevention, resolution and recovery from conflict. It is therefore critical to strengthen women's interventions not just at the international but also the national and regional levels.

We believe that the fourth ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to be held in Jakarta this December, will reaffirm such a strong commitment to implementing resolution 1325 (2000) as an integral part of the development agenda. My delegation also appreciates the efforts made by the United Nations system to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on regional initiatives. We propose encouraging Member States to report on their commitments and actions plans related to women and peace and security.

My country is of the conviction that gender mainstreaming is an absolute necessity and a prerequisite for ensuring a place for women on the peace and security agenda. Gender mainstreaming should be an inalienable component of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and not an add-on or secondary concern. We have seen a positive trend of women themselves being the driving force for bringing the gender perspective to conflict and post-conflict situations. In this regard, Kazakhstan welcomes the increasing number of national action plans that are being designed and implemented worldwide, as well as the broad inclusion of indicators to assess women's participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding in these national plans.

It is noteworthy that half of the field missions managed by the Department of Political Affairs have gender advisers. We fully support the process of including women's participation in field missions to ensure that programmes focus on the specific needs of girls and women as a means to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

As we assess progress, there is also an acknowledgement of the reality that much more needs to be done so that resolution 1325 (2000) is no longer merely a statement of aspirations, with little action to record since 2000. We have to be conscious of the voices of women around the world who feel unrepresented in international and regional peace processes.

In designing peacebuilding strategies, we need to be more sensitive and take into consideration the knowledge and insights of local women at the grass-roots level. It is also important to gather information about the incidence of sexual violence, insecurity and human rights violations as perceived by women, and for women to be represented at all levels. Local women's networks and grass-roots organizations therefore need to be consulted in the process of designing our gender-responsible policies and programmes. We also need to draw on traditional and indigenous methods of conflict resolution used by local women's groups and avail ourselves of the wisdom of elder women.

Advisers on gender issues must also consistently take account of and utilize the information gathered by local women's organizations. Every effort must be made to ensure that their perspectives are heard and considered by the highest decision-making entities and structures. It is equally important that women be fully represented in those bodies in field missions and all other platforms. Wherever necessary, training, capacity-building and assistance need to be provided for women's full participation in the areas of non-governmental organization leadership skills, advocacy, management, administration, communication and dealing with the media, for only then will true empowerment be possible. We can benefit from best-practice models, lessons learned and exchanges of information between missions and United Nations

country teams.

My delegation would therefore also propose United Nations system-wide coherence on gender empowerment in conflict resolution through closer coordination between United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Furthermore, the best results will be achieved if all stakeholders, together with Member States, the private sector, academia and the media form a strong partnership to achieve our common objective.

In conclusion, we commend the Security Council's continuing attention to the urgent and critical issue of further promoting the full realization of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, and at the same time we call for greater efforts on our part to include women in our deliberations.