



Information Section, Kenya Mission to the United Nations, 866 U.N. Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017—Tel. 421-4740, Fax (212) 486-1985

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. PROF. JUDITH MBULA BAHEMUKA
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

“WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY”

IN THE

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thursday, October 27, 2005
United Nations, New York

Thank you, Mr. President.

In his statement at the General Assembly on September 17, 2005, His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, strategically placed women in the centre of all development activities. Today, with the steady, and sure evolution in the establishment of a Peace-Building Commission, the role of women in initiating, nurturing and entrenching post-conflict peace-building, is a given. In our own remarks during recent informal consultations, Kenya stressed the need to incorporate early, this important element within formal architecture of the Peace-Building Commission, as well as deepen the role of women in implementation of programmes to empower women in post-conflict areas.

Mr. President,

I thank the Secretary-General and his staff for a very useful report - S/2005/636 dated October 10, 2005 on "Women, Peace and Security".

The road map envisages areas dear to my delegation. These are *inter alia*: mainstreaming gender in peacekeeping and political affairs; monitoring compliance with international law; expanding gender-sensitive programming in disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, mine-clearance, reconstruction and HIV/AIDS prevention; institutionalizing women's contributions in participation and decision-making; prevent and fight gender-based violence including sexual exploitation and abuse.

On enhancing local women's capacity for peace making and peace-building, I would only urge for greater synergy and energetic interface with local women's groups. This co-ordination will build on local best practices and obviate the need to reinvent the wheel.

Mr. President,

At the inter-governmental level, I would appeal for closer co-ordination. The idea of working through the High-Level Committee on Programmes with participation of all concerned organizations and components of the UN Secretariat, is a good one. Our experience in using a system of lead agencies to ensure dialogue as envisaged in the report, has to be very carefully implemented. Institutional jealousies arise that can hamper long-term gain for women.

The same can be said for co-ordination within the United Nations itself. Appointing a group of focal points instead of one focal point may diminish the institutional rivalry that so frequently manifests itself in our work.

Mr. President,

Kenya supports the recommendations by the Secretariat to biennialize reporting on implementation of the Action Plan. This can be interspersed with thematic reports which we agree will balance the implementation and policy-making cycles and make for a more rigorous implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me highly commend the many women who toil daily in the fields of the United Nations system, for their dedication, hard work and commitment to the cause of this organization. I encourage them to continue without fear and pause, because the final objective is beneficial to all mankind.

Thank you, Mr. President.