



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. MR. Z.D. MUBURI-MUITA**

**AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

**AT**

**THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

**DURING THE OPEN DEBATE**

**ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

**TUESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

**Please check against delivery**

**Mr. President,**

Let me join other delegations that have spoken before me, in commending you for convening today's debate on Women, Peace and Security and also the excellent leadership in the work of the Security Council for this month of October.

**Mr. President,**

We are cognizant that women are critical agents of change in development and that investment in them creates a multiplier effect that enriches and accelerates the improvement of their status in society. Kenya affirms the centrality of gender equality in all spheres of life including governance and decision-making and recognizes the critical role that women must play in development. As part of Kenya's effort to fully implement this objective, the government has adopted a national policy on gender development and established the national commission on gender and development. The aim is to integrate women in decision making through legal, regulatory and institutional reforms.

**Mr. President,**

We must emphasize the centrality of mainstreaming gender and in particular by including women at all levels of decision making while addressing peace and security issues and especially during conflict prevention and resolution process and post conflict peace building. Women's perceptions and concerns must form an integral part of any peace process. Women must participate at the negotiating tables. It is therefore gratifying to note that the UN has over the years, and more particularly since the adoption of resolution 1325, made significant progress in mainstreaming gender perspectives into peace initiatives. We further encourage this decision and call for further involvement of local women in all processes.

**Mr. President,**

We acknowledge that since the adoption of resolution 1325, significant progress in its implementation has been achieved by member states, the UN system and civil society. This year's Report of the Secretary General further demonstrates this encouraging advancement. The progress is however slow and more needs to be done to tackle institutional and organizational gaps in the implementation. These include the need for capacity to understand and implement gender mainstreaming programmes; leadership and commitment in implementing the resolution; adequate accountability mechanisms; resources and interagency co-ordination. In view of this, we welcome the recommendations in the Secretary General's report aimed at strengthening the implementation of the resolution.

**Mr. President,**

Kenya appreciates that the Department of Peacekeeping Operation (DPKO) has made strides in promoting gender equality in peacekeeping operations and incorporation of gender expertise in peacekeeping missions. These have been useful steps but we still need to ensure sustained efforts in gender mainstreaming at all levels of peacekeeping operations. Currently, Kenya has women deployed in most of the peacekeeping missions where we have troops and we are determined to increase the numbers.

**Mr. President,**

Resolution 1325 emphasized the need to incorporate gender perspectives in post conflict reconstruction and peace building. We are grateful to note that there has been increased attention on the role of women in post conflict rebuilding process, especially in the judicial, legislative and electoral sectors as well as in the restoration of the rule of law and transitional justice. Women still need considerable support and capacity building to be effective in new democratic and legal structures that have traditionally been dominated by men.

**Mr. President,**

We commend UNIFEM and UNFPA for their pivotal role in the implementation of resolution 1325. Over the past decade, UNIFEM and UNFPA have been at the forefront in promoting the role of women in peace-building and post conflict situations, especially in Africa. However, limitations in funding and resources threaten to undermine this effort. We urge member states to explore strategies that will ensure the alignment of resources with priorities and ensure adequate and regular funding for activities related to the implementation of resolution 1325.

**Mr. President,**

It is our sincere hope that the accountability, monitoring and reporting system would be strengthened to ensure enhanced coordination and implementation of resolution 1325.

**Thank you.**