

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (Sexual Violence)

23rd February 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Shin Dong Ik, Representative of the Korean Permanent Mission to the UN.

Mr. Shin Dong Ik (Republic of Korea): At the outset, Mr. President, let me express my sincere appreciation to you for convening this open debate. My appreciation also goes to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström; Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hervé Ladsous; and Ms. Amina Megheirbi of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security for her insightful presentation.

Over the past three years, the Security Council has made significant progress in highlighting the egregious phenomenon of conflict-related sexual violence, including through its adoption of resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010). A series of mechanisms established by those resolutions has contributed to identifying and preventing conflict-S/PV.6722 (Resumption 1)12-23937 15 related sexual violence. However, it is deeply disturbing that we are still witnessing widespread and systematic sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

In that regard, my delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's report (S/2012/33). It provides us with useful information for today's debate, including incidents of sexual violence in many conflict areas and progress on United Nations initiatives. In particular, we commend the tireless efforts of the Special Representative to address the issue effectively.

Noting with appreciation the series of recommendations in the report of the SecretaryGeneral, my delegation would like to highlight the following points.

First, my delegation would like to underline the significance of ensuring accountability by eliminating impunity for sexual violence. That is key to fighting conflict-related sexual violence by showing the perpetrators that their acts are not cost-free. We welcome the fact that the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, established under resolution 1888 (2009), has been fully operational since May 2011. We would like to encourage the Team, in close collaboration with other United Nations entities, to further enhance its assistance to Governments in strengthening the capacity of their civilian and military justice systems and institutional safeguards against impunity.

Secondly, we need to pay greater attention to sexual violence in post-conflict settings. While many incidents of sexual violence have been reported after the end of conflict, it is regrettable that few ceasefire or peace agreements include provisions for conflictrelated sexual violence. As the report of the SecretaryGeneral rightly points out, the inclusion of such provisions can increase the durability of peace by mitigating security fears, as well as addressing the sexual violence itself. In that regard, we welcome the publication by the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Guidance for Mediators on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ceasefire and Peace Agreement. We encourage United Nations envoys and mediators to ensure that conflictrelated sexual violence is properly addressed in preventive diplomacy efforts, mediation and peace processes, based upon the Guidance.

Thirdly, more attention needs to be given to the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence. Sexual violence is not a corollary of conflict, but it can be prevented. In that regard, we note with

appreciation a series of recent United Nations initiatives to that end, including the development of scenario-based predeployment training modules on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence in peacekeeping operations. In addition, we welcome the development of a framework of early warning signs that are specific to conflict-related sexual violence. We believe that Member States, donors and regional organizations, for their part, need to enhance their efforts to strengthen national and regional prevention mechanisms, drawing upon, as appropriate, the United Nations early-warning system and training courses.

As a member of the Group of Friends of resolution 1325 (2000), the Republic of Korea has actively engaged in the international cooperation for the prevention of sexual violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. In the firm belief that proper training for peacekeepers is indispensable to preventing and responding to sexual violence in conflict situations, the Korean Government has been bolstering its predeployment gender training for military and police personnel deploying to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Korean Government has also strengthened its efforts to enable those personnel to have a better understanding of gender and cultural differences in the traditional and historical context of the host communities by carrying out cultural-awareness and sensitivity training.

In conclusion, the momentum generated over the past three years by the adoption of a series of resolutions to address conflict-related sexual violence should not be lost. We need to ensure that the implementation of mechanisms shows tangible results on the ground. The Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to implementing all the resolutions to eradicate conflict-related sexual violence, in cooperation with the international community.