

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security – 29 October 2008
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MOROCCO

Mr. Chabar (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having chosen the very important issue of women and peace and security as the subject of this month's open debate of the Security Council. This year, as we commemorate the eighth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we should assess the implementation of the resolution and its impact on the situation of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict countries.

National measures are needed to ensure that vulnerable societies emerging from conflict eliminate those inhuman practices and reinforce the security and justice sectors through the launching of reconstruction processes in which men and women should take part without any discrimination. In that respect, peacekeeping operations should support local peace initiatives launched by women and the participation of women's groups in all activities related to the peace process and the settlement of conflicts.

It is important to stress that the role of the Peacebuilding Commission, which was set up following the 2005 World Summit, is decisive for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The Peacebuilding Commission has all the necessary tools to renew and enhance the role of women so that they can take part in reconstruction and peacebuilding activities in countries affected by the work of the Commission. The mainstreaming of gender equality in the Commission's Integrated Peacebuilding Strategies in Burundi, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau are success stories that need to be reproduced elsewhere.

My country therefore supports the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 61/143 and 62/133 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and resolution 62/134 on the elimination of rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations. Those are effective instruments for promoting and protecting the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations and in all situations of violence.

It is clear that the active participation of women in peace processes, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and their empowerment are two vital ingredients for the sustainability of peace. To that end, the most recent report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2008/622) of 25 September 2008 assesses the progress achieved in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) by the Security Council and intergovernmental and regional organizations, and recounts the measures taken by Member States, United Nations entities and civil society.

However, while progress has been achieved in integrating the gender perspective in national policies and global strategies aimed at improving the situation of women, shortcomings and weaknesses persist in the actual implementation of those policies.

My country, which attaches considerable importance to resolution 1325 (2000), considers that its implementation must be carried out in the framework of a global and integrated approach that mobilizes the efforts of all Governments, civil society and international organizations in a coordinated and harmonized manner. In that respect, we are ready to cooperate bilaterally and provide direct technical assistance — to African countries in particular, when they have requested

it — or to cooperate trilaterally, with the involvement of other partners, in order to ensure the implementation of that resolution.

For its part, Morocco has responded positively to the international movement that has been launched to combat violence against women. That response has been effected at many levels, in particular through the establishment of a national strategy for counteracting violence against women and the implementation of a plan of action to implement that strategy by strengthening neighbourhood institutions, legal services for women who are victims of violence, and legal, institutional, economic and social reforms.

Morocco has made considerable efforts, which have been broadly welcomed, to promote gender equality. In fact, my country considers such measures to be key to achieving good governance and the agreed development goals. Gender equality is an intrinsic part of the policies of my Government, which are part of a comprehensive process based on promoting economic solidarity, economic and social development and equal opportunity for all.

Morocco, which is aware that sustainable human development must include integrated gender policies, has for several years been taking proactive measures to promote economic and political participation by women. Our concrete action includes the integration of the gender dimension in the drafting and analysis of the national budget. We are one of the first countries to have done so. I take this opportunity to express our full support for the many actions of the United Nations Development Fund for Women regional office in Morocco. Those actions reflect the growing interest in the issue of violence against women and in economic governance, as evidenced in efforts to integrate the gender dimension in development policies.

I do not want to dwell on the activities of my country with regard to gender equality and the promotion of women's rights in general in the context of the consolidation of the rule of law and democracy, but I would like to reiterate my country's support for the Secretary-General's vision in that regard. His position is that the United Nations system has a role to play in enhancing national capacities, particularly at the highest level, in the definition of policies, the adoption of measures and the establishment of multilateral partnerships. That support must be coupled with financial resources and technical assistance in implementing those policies and putting an end to the atrocities committed against women in conflict situations.

To that end, my country believes that our efforts should be based on four major activities. First, the fate of women in conflict situations who are recruited against their will by armed groups and forced to carry weapons must be taken into account in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. Secondly, the gender-specific dimension of the justice sector must be strengthened in order to prevent impunity for those responsible for such violence. Thirdly, the role of women in political, economic and social life must be enhanced. Fourthly, gender equality must be ensured in the various sectors of public life.

In conclusion, my delegation harbours the hope that this debate will contribute to enhancing the now recognized role of women in the maintenance of peace and security and in peacebuilding.