

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

Statement by Mr. Loulichki, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations.

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this open debate. You could not have chosen a better topic to close the successful presidency of your friendly country, India, of the Council this month. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Eliasson for his clear and concise presentation of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/732), as well as Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN-Women; Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; and Ms. Bineta Diop, President and Founder of Femmes Africa Solidarité, for their respective contributions.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2012/732) and the adoption in October of the presidential statement on that issue (S/PRST/2012/23). The statement sent a strong message of the firm and ongoing commitment of the international community to helping women to become independent and to protecting their rights. Today's debate will allow us to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in particular with respect to strengthening women's involvement in decision-making processes and to mainstreaming gender into peacekeeping operations and training programmes for peacekeeping personnel.

The Council adopted resolution 1889 (2009) in the context of the initiative to strengthen the existing legal arsenal in promoting and protecting women's rights and participation in efforts to prevent and resolve conflict and in post-conflict reconstruction. The resolution allowed us to make significant progress towards the independence of women in conflict situations through the drafting of national action plans, with quantifiable indicators, allowing for the establishment of an effective mechanism to follow up the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The Secretary-General's report also notes the important progress towards women's participation in peacekeeping operations and their representation in decision-making processes.

The establishment of specific post-conflict strategies is imperative and must go hand in hand with the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In that respect, particular attention must be focused on the participation of African women in peace negotiations, mediation efforts, electoral processes, constitutional commissions and truth and reconciliation entities.

Because women are the most vulnerable and most targeted members of a population in conflict situations, they have an undeniable and precious contribution to make and value to add to peace negotiations and peacebuilding. Members of the Council will note that experience in West Africa and Haiti has shown that when women are associated with peace processes, they have been able to make a difference by bringing their sensitivity, creativity and commitment to bear not only on peace processes, but also on national reconciliation and socioeconomic reintegration.

The establishment of genuine peace requires sound and inclusive political, economic and social structures. Local women's organizations are engines for promoting women's independence and their effective participation in political, economic and social life. My delegation endorses the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report, in particular those that encourage Member States to work with women's organizations effectively to implement resolution 1325 (2000).

My delegation also welcomes the action undertaken in the context of the on Joint Strategy on Gender and Mediation launched by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and UN-Women to enhance the competence of mediators in promoting women's involvement in mediation and peacebuilding processes. We further welcome the measures undertaken by the DPKO to protect women in armed conflict and to mainstream gender issues into peacekeeping. These initiatives of the DPKO and the Department of Political Affairs highlight the gender policy implemented by the Secretary-General since he took office, which has promoted undeniable progress to date. We commend the Secretary-General's determination to consolidate and pursue that policy.

With respect to the protection aspect, the Secretary-General's report emphasizes that women and girl refugees continue to fall victim to violations of international humanitarian law and refugee rights, in particular with regard to access to humanitarian assistance. Regional dialogues with women refugees, regularly organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees show that undocumented women and girls continue to suffer worst from acts of gender-based discrimination, especially in terms of access to health services, education and other social services. According to the report, programmes for emergency registration could have a positive effect on making women and girls more independent. We fully endorse that approach and recognize the need to act to make it feasible.

In conclusion, the success of the international community in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) will depend on the political will to translate its provisions into reality and to ensure their implementation. The noble cause of women's independence and effective involvement in establishing and building peace is a longterm task. It is a vital and salutary mission, particularly in countries in or emerging from conflict, especially in Africa. It must be pursued and undertaken with resolve and success. The role played by Ms. Bachelet at the head of UN-Women is critical to that end, and we support her efforts in that area.