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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, before the Security Council on “Women and peace and security”, 26 October 2010:**  
***Check Against Delivery***

Mr. President,

Security Council resolution 1325, unanimously adopted on 31 October 2000, is considered the most significant legal and political document towards the advancement of the role of women in peace and security fields. It was welcomed by women worldwide, particularly women in situations of armed conflict and living under foreign occupation, as it was viewed as an essential tool for their protection and empowerment.

Indeed, resolution 1325 not only provides tools to strengthen women's capacity and promote gender equality, but also addresses the impact of armed conflict and war on women, calling for measures to be taken by the international community, including by the Security Council, to protect them in times of conflict, post conflict and peace situations. It is also important to recall that the Council expressed concern that civilians, mainly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict; and reaffirmed the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law for protection of the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts.

Mr. President,

The importance of resolution 1325 for Palestinian women stems from its content and direct applicability to their unique situation. On one hand, it provides a framework for their protection from the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, while on the other recommending the means to strengthen their role in decision-making process, including in terms of conflict resolution and peace-building.

Regrettably, however, women's hopes for more tangible improvements in their daily lives have not been realized. Review of indicators regarding the implementation of resolution 1325 show little progress has been achieved and major gaps remain between the objectives of the resolution and their attainment.

In this context, we share the assessment made by the Secretary-General, in his report, in which he stated: *“Despite an apparent firm foundation and promise, 10 years after the adoption of resolution 1325, significant achievements are difficult to identify or quantify. The conditions that women and girls face in situations of armed conflict continue to be abhorrent and effective methods for monitoring their impact are lacking.”*

Mr. President,

This regrettable fact is extremely tragic in the case of Palestinian women. Their situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, remains one of a dire humanitarian crisis that has impacted all aspects of their daily lives, causing extensive suffering, misery and loss. Indeed, the vast toll of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian women cannot be overemphasized, nor can the impact of Israel's systematic human rights violations against Palestinian women and their families.

This now 43-year Israeli military occupation has caused innumerable hardships and challenges for Palestinian women, which require the international community, in line with resolution 1325 and other relevant resolutions, to exert greater efforts to finally bring an end to this deplorable situation. Moreover, in the context of today's debate, we believe it is appropriate to call once again upon the international community to hold Israel accountable for all the crimes committed against the Palestinian women and to end its impunity.

A recent, tragic example, where the international community, mainly the Security Council, failed to protect Palestinian women was during and after the latest Israeli war of aggression against the Gaza Strip, with its traumatizing impact on women and children. This shows the extent to which resolution 1325 has been totally ignored and breached by the occupying Power without any accountability. In this regard, we continue to witness unbearable human suffering in the Gaza Strip as a result of this aggression where more than 1,400 civilians were brutally killed, including hundreds of innocent women and children, and 5,500 other civilians were injured. This, along with the widespread destruction of Palestinian

infrastructure and property, and gross violations of human rights committed against the Palestinian civilian population by the occupying Power has compounded the dire consequences that the illegal, inhumane Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip has had on the population, with severe poverty, unemployment and hardship rampant gravely impacting the socio-economic as well as psychological conditions of Palestinian women.

At the same time, living conditions in the West Bank remain intolerable, particularly as a result of Israel's ongoing seizure and colonization of Palestinian land, particularly in and around East Jerusalem, for the construction and expansion of illegal settlements and the apartheid annexation Wall; as well as ongoing home demolitions and evictions resulting in the continued dispossession and displacement of Palestinian women and their families; obstruction of freedom of movement; and acts of terror and violence by Israeli settlers against innocent Palestinian civilians. These and countless other Israeli violations and constant humiliation of the Palestinian population continued to have vicious consequences on the advancement and empowerment of Palestinian women.

Mr. President,

As we observe the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of resolution 1325, let us renew our commitment to action and to shoulder our responsibility to take more effective measures to fully implement this important legislation by the Security Council. Let us move forward on our commitment to end all types of violence against women, protect them from the scourge of war and advance their participation at the highest level, for these are surely key components of peace and security in our world.

Thank you, Mr. President.