

**Philippine Statement on Security Council Resolution 1325**  
**by Ambassador Lauro L. Baja, Permanent Representative**

Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting on Security Council Resolution 1325.

From reports and discussions, there are a number of points of consensus insofar as the item Women, Peace and Security is concerned which need to be recognized and enhanced.

First, women play an important role in building sustainable peace and security.

Second, there is a need to ensure the full participation of women and the incorporation of a gender perspective in all conflict prevention and peace-building missions.

Third, women have vital role in reconstruction processes.

Fourth, there is a need to address urgently gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict.

Fifth, civil society contribute significantly to the implementation of resolution 1325.

Mr. President,

Security Council resolution 1325 means a lot of things to a lot of people, especially women. It has been hailed as a landmark resolution because of the breadth of issues it addresses and the depth of political and operational challenge for its implementation.

Thus the first question and challenge is to find out whether the expectations of women that have risen since its adoption in 2000, have been met, partially met or not met at all in some cases.

Whatever the answer may be, our delegation believes that the strategy for further implementation of 1325 must take into consideration several factors

First, to strengthen the UN's response to gender-based violence in conflict / post conflict situation – our particular theme today – a comprehensive system – wide strategy and action plan for gender mainstreaming in the Organization's work on peace is necessary. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's intention towards this end, particularly in the strategy to mainstream a gender perspective in all peacekeeping activities and operations, and interface this strategy with that of the policies and plans made by the General Assembly, especially when it adopted commitments concerning women and armed conflict during its twenty-third special session and also with those of

the ECOSOC, when it decided to mainstream a gender perspective in all policies and programs in the UN system, including in political decision-making and conflict prevention and resolution.

Second, there should be a conscious effort to ensure that gender sensitivity at the headquarters level is translated into gender-sensitivity at the field. I have been informed that only 15.6 per cent of Security Council resolution adopted from January 2000 to June 2004 have been gender-sensitive. It may even be more disappointing if we find out exactly how much of this number is actually implemented on the ground. It will therefore be essential to put in place a system of monitoring and reporting on the progress of UN field presence in implementing gender concerns.

The Philippine government strategies to implement 1325 are mainly carried out in the context of the peace processes in the Southern region of the country. Women have been involved in dialogues and workshops that integrate their perspectives in settling hostilities in their communities. As an example, two of the major initiatives being undertaken to promote peace in the Southern region of Mindanao are the Muslim Women's Peace Conference and the Women and Culture Peace Program. The Mindanao Commission on Women had just conducted consultations to formulate a Mindanao Women Position Paper on the Government-MILF Peace Agreements which is taken into account in the peace talks. The Government's peace panels include women negotiators. Our National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process are in constant coordination on how to enhance strategies to enable more women to systematically participate in conflict prevention, management, resolution, as well as in the rehabilitation of their communities.

At the regional level, the Philippines signed in June 2004, together with its neighbors, a *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region* which emphasized that gender-based violence is as an obstacle to peace and development in the region.

In this connection, we are interested to know whether there is an inventory of existing UN resources available for implementation of 1325. Its implementation depends on Member States action plans, the effectiveness of which in turn depends its capacity to do so. There is therefore a need to ensure that sufficient information flows to member states and national action plans migrate to the field.

Third, The UN may not be able to bear the full burden of implementing 1325. Governments have the primary responsibility of keeping the peace in their territories. The UN must use its unique and important position to enable governments to make full use of 1325 in leading the peace efforts in their countries. One of the sad realities is that, while governments may be willing to use 1325 as a tool for peace, for reasons of poverty, lack of good governance, constructive engagement and other reasons, they may not have the necessary capacity and means to make effective use of 1325. The UN could be the fulcrum to rally the support of the international community, civil society and international organizations to cooperate with governments in increasing the focus on

gender concerns. International cooperation needs to be enhanced in order to increase the success of 1325 in every conflict area.

Effective coordination and partnerships with members of civil society and non-government groups, especially those at the sites of conflict, will be a crucial factor for success. In most instances, members of these groups interact with the affected communities and are able to directly reach out to people, especially the women. Coordination among civil society groups will ensure greater impact of this assistance at ground level. We believe that Member states and the UN system should establish systematic coordination with civil society groups and together, implement innovative approaches and best practices in resolving conflicts and focusing attention to the gender dimensions of all peace efforts.

Thank you.