

**(Check Against Delivery)**

**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Sun Joun-yung  
Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Korea  
to the United Nations**

**at**

**the Security Council**

**on**

**Women and Peace and Security**

**24 October 2000  
New York**

---

Mr. President,

Despite the progress that has been made so far, much remains to be done to ensure gender-sensitive justice, to address specific needs of women affected by armed conflicts, and to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping, peace-building and reconciliation processes. The relative absence of women in decision-making process in regard to armed conflicts is also a cause for concern. My delegation shares the view of the Security Council that peace is inextricably linked with the equality between women and men, and that women should play an equal part in maintaining peace and security. We urge the Security Council to continue to expand its involvement in this issue.

Having said that, Mr. President, allow me to make a few points, which in our view deserve the urgent attention and action of the international community:

First of all, we must ensure, without further delay, the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building. We encourage gender balance in peace negotiations, and in the appointment of special envoys and representatives on behalf of the Secretary-General. We also encourage States participating in peace negotiations to include women representatives, in order to reflect the special needs of women and girls.

Secondly, my delegation believes that United Nations peacekeeping operations (PKOs) should pay more attention to gender-mainstreaming in its work. With the expansion of the work of PKOs in political affairs, public information, humanitarian assistance and refugee return, among others, the role of peacekeeping personnel in meeting women and girls' specific needs is also being enlarged. To ensure the effective work of protecting and promoting women's needs and rights, specialized gender training should be provided to all PKO personnel. In this respect, my delegation welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to provide Member States with gender awareness guidelines and materials. In addition, the number of women PKO personnel, in particular, addressing women's special needs should be increased. The Republic of Korea, for its part, included women officers in its PKO mission and plans to expand the number in the future.

Thirdly, considering that women are more likely than men to be placed in refugee camps, we believe women refugees and displaced women should be more involved in the design and management of humanitarian activities so that they can equally benefit from these activities as men do. For this purpose, we ask United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other relevant United Nations agencies to provide all women and girls in refugee camps with appropriate health care, education and safety.

Mr. President,

Without full gender equality and advancement of women, we cannot achieve the world envisioned in the Charter of the United Nations. All Members should make the utmost effort and fully cooperate with the relevant UN agencies to effectively protect women and girls in armed conflicts, redress the violations of their human rights, and empower women as equal partners in every step of the process to achieve peace and security. My delegation wishes to reaffirm the strong commitment of the Republic of Korea to contribute to the efforts of the international community to this end.

Thank you.