

【Check against deliverly】

**Statement by Amb. Joun-yung Sun Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Korea to the UN at the Security Council open debate
on Women, Peace and Security**

October 28, 2002

Mr. President,

It has been two years since a momentous development for women was marked with the adoption of the Security Council resolution 1325. Today, as much of the attention here at the United Nations evolves around a potential conflict with far-reaching implications for the world, it is all the more appropriate that we should take this day, though delayed, to explore how peace may be strengthened, specifically by reaffirming our resolve to turning the goals of the historic resolution into reality, and thus incorporating women into all matters and efforts relating to peace and security.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General's report is comprehensive in its analysis and suggestions for action. I would like to applaud the dedication of the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues, Ms. Angela King, for spearheading the two-year study on women, peace and security, upon which report is based.

Many of the suggested actions contained in the report open up new vistas for integrating gender perspectives and increasing the participation of women in peace processes, peacekeeping, humanitarian operation, reconstruction and rehabilitation, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The concreteness of the

suggestions is most welcome. In particular, I believe that the collection of data related to peace operations disaggregated by gender and age, as suggested in the report, should be a priority action if other actions are to find relevance to the reality on the ground. Furthermore, the increased profile for women and girls both as beneficiaries and participants in the initial stages of humanitarian operations, as suggested in action 14, would prevent women and girls falling victim to later abuses and violences that pry upon their particular vulnerabilities in crisis situations.

Indeed, prevention is a key aspect of any lasting problem-solving effort. In this regard, I would like to point out the relative lack of attention given to the role women can play in preventing disruption of peace and conflict. In peace-time diplomacy, women already have a significant presence, as our able female colleagues here attest to. However, in conflict prevention or crisis-management processes, the contributions of women are rarely discussed.

If women have significant contributions to make in building and strengthening a new peace, they would also be effective facilitators and negotiators for preserving the peace that is. In this regard, reiterating a point in the historic resolution, I would like to urge the Secretary General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys on his behalf, and for qualified women to offer their names for inclusion in the centralized roster.

Women's role in prevention may also be expanded at the local level. Training programs for women and women's groups on peace processes should include on conflict prevention as well. By now, there is enough evidence to show that the communication style of women tend to be more flexible and consensus-oriented than men's. Not carrying the generalization too far, I do believe that the greater the input of women, the greater the likelihood for conflict to be averted as well as resolved.

In closing, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate the strong commitment of my Government to the historic resolution, and look forward to seeing the SG's recommendations turn into concrete action.

Thank you.