

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security – 5 October 2009
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Russian Federation

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, at the outset, allow me to welcome you as the President of the Security Council and to extend my gratitude to the delegation of VietNam for today's initiative of convening an open debate of the Council to discuss the status of implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for her presentation of the thematic report on this topic (S/2009/465).

Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we have been able to accomplish a great deal to improve the situation of women in armed conflicts. We note with satisfaction that the range of issues discussed today enjoys the growing attention not only of the Security Council, but also of other competent United Nations entities, including the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, including the Commission on the Status of Women. That having been said, the successes achieved are insufficient to improve the struggle on the ground against violations of women's rights.

Resolution 1325 (2000) remains the effective reference for enhancing women's roles in preventing and settling armed conflicts, in post-conflict reconstruction and in the protection of women's rights in conflict situations. There is a need in practice to exploit the resolution's provisions in the process of creating equal opportunities for the participation of women in all peacebuilding and security efforts, as well as in bolstering their role in decision-making.

The basis for this approach is to ensure genuine gender equality. Women can stand to make a more substantial contribution to all aspects of preventing and settling conflict. Moreover, there is a need to devote greater attention to mainstreaming the gender component into the poverty reduction and equality work of the United Nations, poverty and inequality being the main sources of conflict. In particular, we can refer here to the expanded participation by women in decision-making on socio-economic issues and the elaboration of national frameworks to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We welcome resolution 1888 (2009), adopted on 30 September, on sexual violence during armed conflicts. However, sexual violence is far from being the only problem with respect to violations of women's rights. We must bear in mind that women and children continue to fall victim to premeditated attacks, including terrorist acts, indiscriminate or excessive use of force, as well as other violations of international humanitarian law.

The varied nature of violence should lead us to devote due attention to all its categories. In that connection, we view resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) as complementing resolution 1325 (2000), which sets out the general parameters for the protection of women in armed conflicts.

Next year, we will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). In that regard, the Russian Federation welcomes the idea of organizing a set of events in 2009 and 2010 at the national, regional and global levels in order to spread awareness of that document. We cherish the hope that such events will be used not only to report successes achieved in implementing the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000), but also to consider and gain an understanding of outstanding problems and of further

steps to bolster the regime for the protection of women in armed conflicts.