

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)**

Statement by Mr. Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

We are grateful to all those who opened today's debate for their assessments and information. In particular, we would like to welcome Ms. Michelle Bachelet in her new post as Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Executive Director of UN Women. We anticipate that the activities of that entity will help to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations on gender issues.

In the 10 years since the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000), that instrument has become an effective reference for protecting women in conflict and enhancing the role of women in the prevention and settlement of conflict and in post-conflict recovery.

Regrettably, women and children continue to be victims of deliberate attacks, including terrorist acts and other violations of international humanitarian law. Recent developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have demonstrated how tragic the problem of sexual violence continues to be.

At the same time, the diverse nature of violence means that due attention must be paid to all its categories. The theme of women and peace and security should not be reduced to individual manifestations alone. Just such a balanced approach formed the basis for resolution 1325 (2000).

We are gravely concerned at the killing or wounding of women and children, including through the indiscriminate and excessive use of force. Frequently, such crimes go unpunished. We believe that the Council should without question review such cases.

The manifold crisis situations in which women suffer require that they be addressed not only by the Security Council, but also by the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, within their respective mandates. We believe in this context that it is important to avoid duplication and to seek complementarity among the relevant functions of those bodies. Given their range, limiting gender issues exclusively to the Security Council would create imbalances from the standpoint of system-wide coherence and would undermine the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

We are grateful to the Secretary-General for preparing the report before the Council (S/2010/498). At the same time, we believe that the indicators that it sets out still need to be verified against the realities and practice in terms of their effectiveness vis-à-vis full realization of the potential of resolution 1325 (2000). The effectiveness of the indicators should be considered again after they have been validated by the United Nations system and following the relevant report of the Secretary-General. While they are being validated, the indicators should be used in a measured way and only in situations relating to the implementation of 1325 (2000), as provided for by the presidential statement adopted today (S/PRST/2010/22).

In commemorating today 10 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we should emphasize that much still needs to be done. Our partners in the Council and the relevant agencies and mechanisms of the United Nations system should give greater attention to how to involve women in implementation by enhancing gender equality when establishing peacekeeping contingents and in other relevant issues in mission mandates. Clearly, such issues will need to be approached on the basis of the characteristics of each specific situation.

We are convinced that clear efforts by the Security Council, within its mandate, to implement resolution 1325 (2000) will ensure that the resolution's effectiveness is preserved and enhanced in coming decades. Russia intends to actively contribute to that.