

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Karev, Permanent Mission of Russia to the United Nations.

First of all, we would like to thank the Indian presidency and the delegation of Guatemala for organizing today's meeting. We are grateful to all who have spoken for their assessments and useful information.

Much has changed in the 12 years since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). The major principles enshrined in the resolution to enhance the role of women in the prevention and settlement of conflicts and in post-conflict reconstruction, as well as the protection of women in conflict situations, have become a type of road map for the implementation and practice of a comprehensive approach regarding the issues of women and peace and security.

Unfortunately, in spite of the multiple efforts undertaken, the number of women who are victims of various forms of violence in armed conflict is not declining. That is why we believe that equal attention should be paid to all categories of violence, including instances of killing and wounding women and children as a result of the indiscriminate or excessive use of force. That problem is not only theoretical; it exists currently.

The international community is expecting results in the investigation of the cases of deaths of the civilian population, including women and children, as a result of the NATO operations in Libya. Specific information with regard to the facts in this case has been published by independent media on many occasions. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has indicated, speaking also with regard to the Council, that it is necessary to make sure that the investigation is completed. As we know, during today's debate we will hear a representative of NATO speak. We would like to hope that she will take this opportunity as adviser to inform us about the status of the results of the investigation. We are also seriously concerned by statistics concerning the so-called collateral damage as a result of the use of new types of weapons, such as drones.

Women are not only victims of armed conflicts; they make a significant contribution to preventing and settling them. The direct involvement of women in conflict prevention and settlement is, in our view, an important precondition for overcoming violence against them. In that regard, we welcome the fact that this year priority attention in the presidential statement was given to issues of the role of women's organizations in civil society in the prevention and settlement of armed conflict and in peacebuilding (see S/PRST/2012/23). Although a critical role in protecting women at all stages of armed conflict belongs to national Governments, measures undertaken both by civil society and by United Nations system bodies support and complement the efforts of States.

Women particularly suffer during various crisis situations, not only during armed conflicts that are a threat to international peace and security. We welcome the use of background information provided by the Council on questions of violence against women by the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women within their mandates. It is important, however, to adhere to the existing division of labour in the Organization and not duplicate efforts or intrude upon one another's area's of authority. The problems of family violence, women's health, education and many others are being successfully dealt with by other United Nations bodies. The Council must, under resolution 1325

(2000), consider women's issues solely as they relate to the theme of maintaining peace and security and strictly with regard to those situations that are included on its agenda.

We have attentively studied the report of the Secretary-General prepared for today's meeting (S/2012/732). With regard to its contents, collected on the basis of the first third of the assessment indicators for implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), we would like to underscore that the appropriateness and relevance of individual indicators, as well as their scope and application, still raise questions. The information in the report given under the indicators is, for the most part, dry statistics. There has been no serious analysis of the information gathered. It has therefore not been possible to understand the significance of the data, to assess its value added or to draw specific conclusions about the status of women from the information.

We believe that work on the indicators, which is now at the review stage, must be more transparent and open, that is to say, with the participation of all United Nations Member States. With regard to using the so-called national action plans on implementing resolution 1325 (2000) as a tool to assess a country's policy in improving the status of women, States in situations of armed conflict should prepare such plans on a voluntary basis. If other countries wish to draw up similar national plans, they have the right, not the obligation, to do so.

Russia is convinced that there exists a significant and positive potential for women to participate in various aspects of armed conflict settlement and postconflict recovery. The Council and relevant agencies and mechanisms of the United Nations system must pay more attention to ways to involve women in such processes, as required under resolution 1325 (2000). We also support the proposals on considering gender-based issues when establishing peacekeeping contingents. We also note the importance of including such issues in the mandates of those missions. At the same time, we must deal with such matters not with a standard model but by taking into account the specific characteristics of each situation.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our belief that ensuring the rights of women and their protection in armed conflict will be possible only through the joint efforts of all interested parties, including civil society. The guideline for us all on this issue continues to be implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).