

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Minami, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

I thank you very much, Madam President, for your initiative to convene this open debate on such a timely issue.

At the outset, I should like to emphasize that the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe, places great importance on the promotion and protection of women's rights and women's participation. We aim for a society in which women shine, not only domestically but also globally, including in conflict-affected and post-disaster situations.

In order to effectively empower women, we must undertake holistic interventions, which include improving education, enhancing livelihoods, increasing access to reproductive health care and reducing gender-based violence. In September, Japan hosted the symposium of the World Assembly for Women (WAW! Tokyo 2014). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women, and Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, for their participation and contributions. The Chair of the conference drafted a summary of the opinions expressed during the symposium and issued a set of 12 concrete proposals.

Turning to today's agenda item, Japan, in cooperation with United Nations agencies such as UN-Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as various non-governmental organizations, has been supporting numerous projects around the globe related to the main theme of today's discussion. I would like to showcase some of our efforts.

First, I would like to highlight the story of Hamidah Hassan, who was introduced in our Prime Minister's address to the General Assembly in September (see A/69/PV.9). She is a girl of 10 years living in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mogadishu. Japan provided the camps with solar lanterns made by a Japanese company, Panasonic, which banks electrical energy generated from sunlight during the day and converts it to lamplight at night. A lighted tent not only acts as a deterrent to sexual violence, but also under that light, she is now able to work and study later into the evening and dreams that one day that she will become a doctor.

Secondly, economic independence is critically important to the advancement of the status of women and to decreasing violence against them, especially in displaced settings. Faced with the grave humanitarian crisis in and around Syria, Japan has supported UN-Women activities aimed at economic empowerment, such as vocational training and cash-for-work programmes for female Syrian refugees and IDPs.

Japan has also supported the activities of the Government of Jordan to assist Palestinian female refugees in the country. That project has provided instruction for refugees in such skills as

dressmaking, using donated kimonos, which is a traditional Japanese dress, as instructive materials. It has also provided marketing lectures to educate women in the tailoring business. Those two examples are just indicative, but represent two important aspects, protection and empowerment. In today's discussion, I think those two aspects have been mentioned by many delegates. Protection and empowerment are the main pillars of human security, which Japan has been advocating for more than 10 years.

I would now like to mention the follow-up to the landmark resolution 1325 (2000). In the World Assembly for Women symposium in September, we recognized that high-level political leadership and commitment are essential for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Japan and civil society have been earnestly developing a national action plan, which we expect to be able to launch before the end of the year. Japan also wishes to support the development and the implementation of the national action plans of developing countries.

Finally, in July, our Permanent Mission to the United Nations held a panel discussion in collaboration with a civil society organization, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. We hope the summary of the discussion, together with the recommendations of the World Assembly symposium and, most importantly, the implementation of our national action plan, which includes more than 100 indicators, will serve as inputs to the global assessment of resolution 1325 (2000). Through such efforts, Japan commits itself to contributing to furthering the momentum towards the high-level review in October 2015.