

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

*Statement by Ms. Lucas Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations.*

I thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, for her briefing and for conveying the message of the Secretary-General. I also thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Edmond Mulet, for his briefing. I welcome the presence of Mr. Chaloka Beyani, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and of Ms. Suaad Allami, whose briefings inspire us to redouble the Council's efforts.

I commend the Argentine presidency of the Security Council for its choice of topic for this open debate, at a time when the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide has reached a level not seen since the Second World War. I thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for facilitating the negotiations on presidential statement S/PRST/2014/21, just adopted by the Council. Luxembourg fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Today's open debate marks the beginning of a period that it is hoped will be decisive in the advancement of women worldwide. The year 2015 will indeed mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and allow us to take stock of the situation of women with respect to peace and security. The review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary, will allow us to examine the progress made and the challenges to the full promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Finally, the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals should guarantee that women, as agents of change, will play their deserved role in human development.

Conflicts do not create new situations of discrimination. They merely highlight and accentuate those existing in peacetime. In that context, there is no better illustration than the situation of refugee and internally displaced women. Day after day, the news coming from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and South Sudan — the latter two visited by the Security Council in August — illustrates the sad state of affairs. For my part, I cannot forget the poignant testimony of Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, who went for the first time to South Sudan early this month and last week provided an account to the Council of the tragic situation of internally displaced women in the Bentiu camp (see S/PV.7282).

Refugee and internally displaced women are among the most vulnerable populations; their rights to security, sexual and reproductive health and education are systematically trampled. Sexual violence in and around IDP camps is endemic. Responsible for providing for their

families, women must often brave several checkpoints in search of water and food. Left to their own fate, they lack any means to defend themselves against attackers. Fear of sexual violence can also promote early marriage, as is the case for example in Somalia. Those arrangements are supposed to protect young girls, but have harmful consequences in terms of health and access to education.

Refugee and displaced women face not only sexual violence; access to education, justice and health services represents some of the challenges contained in the concept note of the Argentine presidency (S/2014/731, annex). There can be no simple answer to this complex situation; a holistic approach is needed. The joint commitment of Member States, the United Nations system and civil society is required.

I will address four areas that I consider priority. We must put an end to impunity for perpetrators of violence against women and girls. Without credible judicial and security systems, the perpetrators of those crimes will pursue their malfesance. The international community must support the capacity-building of Member States in the short and long term. Innovative initiatives exist and must be supported. I am thinking primarily of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Justice Rapid Response initiative. Luxembourg actively supports those two initiatives. I also reaffirm my country's full support for the International Criminal Court — an institution that strengthens the fight against impunity and plays a very important role.

Condemning the perpetrators of crimes is only one aspect of justice; ensuring that victims receive genuine compensation for the harm they have suffered is equally essential. In that context, we welcome the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence that was published in June by UN-Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Thirdly, women's participation in all discussions related to their specific rights and needs must be guaranteed in the decision-making structures of refugee and IDP camps, in the development of humanitarian programmes and in peace negotiations. Women's participation is a necessary condition to guarantee the success of any measure taken. To that end, we must strengthen and support the role of civil society and of women defenders of human rights.

My fourth point is to recall the role that the Security Council must continue to play in this area, including during its field visits. Our recent visit to South Sudan and Somalia allowed the Council to meet with women's civil society organizations. During its visit to the Great Lakes region in October 2013, the Security Council also met with internally displaced women in the Mugunga III camp, near the city of Goma. That practice should be maintained.

As I said earlier, the year 2015 will be an important one for women throughout the world. We eagerly await the results of the global review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) that the Security Council requested in resolution 2122 (2013) and that Luxembourg

supports through an important programme implemented by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

We sincerely hope that we can collectively live up to the expectations to which promised to respond almost 15 years ago. Let us ensure that this fifteenth anniversary does not become an opportunity for complacency, but that it encourages us to redouble our efforts to end discrimination against women in conflict and to thereby guarantee more lasting peace and security.