

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

*Statement by Ms. Al-Thani, Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations*

I would like to congratulate you, Madam, on your successful presidency of the Council. I would like to thank you also for providing us with an opportunity to participate in this important session. I would like to thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and Ms. Suaad Allami from the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security for their valuable contributions and briefings.

The attention focused on the women and peace and security agenda by the Security Council and the international community since the adoption of the historic resolution 1325 (2000) has contributed to shedding light on the impact of conflicts on women and girls and on women's important role in resolving conflicts, building consensus and facilitating stability, democracy, prosperity, conciliation and post-conflict peacebuilding. Hence, we look forward to the high-level review on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) to be held in 2015. We believe that review will provide an opportunity to focus on best practices and deal with existing challenges and concerns, particularly that women and girls, including female refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), are still the ones most affected by armed conflicts.

Since women and children represent the greatest proportion of IDPs and refugees due to the terrorism and conflicts that continue to prevail in the world, not only do they face enormous difficulties, but they also suffer from discrimination, violence and human rights violations. That would not happen if more attention were paid to the strict enforcement of international laws to protect women during armed conflicts, and which call upon all warring parties to take measures to protect women and girls from violence, including gender-based violence, in a cases of armed conflicts.

Since sexual violence in armed conflict is an urgent humanitarian issue, we would like to commend the joint UN-Women/Justice Rapid Response training, roster management, and deployment mechanism on sexual and gender-based violence. That mechanism provides support to the international community in the achievement of justice and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence in cases of conflict. We share the Secretary-General's concern over the emerging and continued patterns of violence against women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

We regret that in many parts of the world, particularly in our Arab region, the problem of displacement is a major problem due to conflict and terrorism. That is clear in the figures included in the relevant reports. There were 51.2 million victims of forced displacement at the end of 2013, representing an increase of 6 million over the figure reported in 2012. Qatar has provided humanitarian assistance commensurate with the immense humanitarian impact of that crisis, especially on women and children.

In conclusion, we would like to highlight the need for humanitarian agencies to have access to those affected and for the provisions of international law and relevant Security Council resolutions on humanitarian issues to be implemented and to hold the perpetrators of serious violations accountable.