

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security**  
**October 28 2011, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Osman, Representative of Sudan*

As we deliberate the issue of women and peace and security today, it is my pleasure to see 11 women at the head of their countries' delegations in the Security Council. This in itself is proof that the role of women in the world has been strengthened.

I should like to reiterate my congratulations to you, Madam, as you crown your presidency of the Security Council by devoting this open debate to the issue of women and peace and security 11 years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), on the basis of which the United Nations has adopted a strategic framework and standard indicators to assess the implementation of the resolution and its time frame at the regional and international levels, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/598\*) before us.

On this occasion, we evoke the need to push forward in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) in the coming decade by adopting comprehensive and cohesive regional action plans. In that respect, we note the importance of strengthening the capacities of countries emerging from conflict, especially given the fact that the issue of women and peace and security has become one of the most prominent items on the Council's agenda over the past decade.

With respect to women's issues, I can state with pride that the Sudan has long-standing, pioneering initiatives in this respect. Sudanese women have been real partners in political life and in decision-making. They participated in the election of the first Sudanese Parliament in 1954, prior to the declaration of independence; that success was followed by the election of a woman to Parliament in 1964, after independence. My country has applied the principle of equal pay for equal work since 1967. Legislation and laws concerning women have been developed, especially in 2003, when a law was passed equalizing the age of retirement for men and women.

With respect to the promotion of the rights of Sudanese women in the area of political participation, there has been a qualitative development in the form of the electoral law of 2008, which increased the percentage of participation by women to 25 per cent in the federal and State Parliaments and was fully implemented during the elections held in the country last year. Thus women constitute one quarter of the membership of the Sudanese Parliament, while the report before the Council (S/2011/598\*) states in paragraph 23 that women make up 19 per cent of parliamentarians globally.

Regarding the level of participation of Sudanese women in the civil service, which has reached 66 per cent, I wish to note by way of example that in the judiciary alone, there are 79 women judges. Many such judges eventually become Supreme Court judges. Sudanese women have held high diplomatic posts, and many of them serve as ambassadors to various countries. A large number of women are doctors and specialize in various fields of medicine. In addition, they have assumed leading posts in the armed forces, the police and the security forces.

Concerning the issue of violence against women, the Government of the Sudan in 2007 adopted a national strategy elaborated at both the official and the popular levels. The strategy includes six principles on strengthening and revitalizing the participation of women in the maintenance of peace, and on their right to participate in terms of decision-making, economic development, education, health, the environment and the settlement of disputes. The strategy has been implemented at both the federal and the state level. In that respect, the priorities included in paragraph 3 of the report of the Security Council are almost identical to the criteria included in our national strategy.

The Government of the Sudan has also established several specialized centres at the federal and state levels for the coordination of women's efforts in the areas of peace and development, and for providing guidelines and advice on the principle of equality between men and women and on the gender perspective.

Our national programmes on resettlement, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration have given priority to the situation of women, in close coordination with the relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). In that respect, we commend the relationship of cooperation with UNIFEM in connection with women's issues and its role in the implementation of the aforementioned plan of action. We hope that the Fund, through the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), will take on a more important and active role in enhancing national capacities and efforts aimed at advancing the situation of women in the country.

We would like to highlight the sections of the report of the Secretary-General that relate to the role of women in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Supporting the capacities of developing countries so as to enable them to attain those objectives is the best way to ensure the advancement of women. The provisions of the Beijing Platform for Action must be taken into consideration, especially given the strong interlinkage between the Platform for Action and the realization of the MDGs, as well as the impact of such realization on the empowerment and advancement of women.

Last year, the Government of the Sudan celebrated the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. In our capital, Khartoum, a broad-based workshop was organized and a special day held to celebrate that anniversary, in coordination with the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the country offices of the United Nations agencies in the country, notably UNIFEM. That celebration was an excellent opportunity to disseminate the policies of the Government of the Sudan aimed at enhancing the status of women and putting an end to all forms of violence against women, within the context of the national plan to combat gender-based violence. The implementation of that plan began in 2005 through specialized entities in the context of the Human Rights Consultative Council, the Sudan Police Administration, the Ministry of the Interior, and the department for the combat of violence against women, within the Ministry of Justice.

The situation of women in armed conflict is closely linked to the integrated efforts to deal with the root causes of conflicts. We therefore agree with what is stated in the report as regards the plan of action, which is based on the principle of dealing with the root causes of conflict, including poverty, lack of development, climate change, and given the fact that in

the end, war is war. Wherever war occurs, its negative consequences affect vulnerable sectors of society, including women and children. My country therefore once again stresses the fact that a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement to conflict is central to addressing the issue of women in conflict situations.

My delegation also reaffirms the need to base the Council's measures on country reports submitted by States and on accurate information contained in the Secretary-General's periodic reports on the issue, not on information contained in reports by non-governmental organizations and media sources. My country also encourages the United Nations and its bodies to directly organize workshops and seminars with countries that are affected by conflict, in order to share expertise on the situation of women affected by armed conflict.

In conclusion, my country looks forward to today's deliberations leading to the development of an integrated approach to deal with the important issue of women, peace and security. Women make up half of society — indeed, women are the foundation of society.