



Statement
by H.E. Ms. Oľga Algayerová
State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
in the open debate of the United Nations Security Council
on Women and Peace and Security

**„TOWARDS A COHERENT AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 (2000)“**

New York, 23 October 2007

(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to express my delegation's gratitude to briefers for their presentations and to the Ghanaian Presidency for organizing this important debate on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement to be delivered later by the Representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

Slovakia strongly supports full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) that represents a concrete and effective tool for promotion and protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Active and equal participation of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, including in peace and reconciliation efforts, represents the best way how to eliminate gender based violence, sexual abuse and all other forms of violence against women in conflict situations. Women's empowerment plays a critical role in peace and security processes.

In this respect, we welcome the second follow-up report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/567) on the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for 2005-2007 as well as the proposed further actions for the period 2008-2009. We are pleased with the reported progress in implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the truly system-wide scale. However, we are very well conscious that there is still much to be done.

Mainstreaming of the gender perspective in conflict prevention, including the development of gender-sensitive early warning mechanisms, increased women participation in peacekeeping operations and decision-making and gender training for all staff, have been promoted by Action Plans and other important initiatives within UN entities such as the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNEP and WFP.

An appropriate presence of women and gender training in armed forces, including peacekeeping forces, has a clear positive effect on the behaviour and actual conduct of duty of the troops; therefore, the provisions of resolution 1325 are fully relevant for any security sector reform plan (SSR). In this context, we welcome the activities linked with the promotion of women's

participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding and development of specific action plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) by the field missions by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. We also very much appreciate the work of UNICEF, which has provided gender training for 500 staff of the international organizations based in the Sudan and in cooperation with Save the Children provided gender training for 3,300 military observers, protection forces and civilian police officers in Darfur. I would also mention the training provided by the OHCHR to military and police personnel deployed in peacekeeping operations, activities of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in this area are also commendable.

Gender perspective has been also mainstreamed in some humanitarian assistance programmes and in the area of the post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation, where, for example, the World Food Programme assisted states in gender mainstreaming into food security programmes or the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda provided gender training for investigators and legal personnel and established gender sensitive policies and mechanisms to coordinate rehabilitation of witnesses.

Special needs of women and girls have been reflected in the majority of DDR programmes. In Liberia, for example, 22,370 women and 2,440 girls of some 100,000 ex-combatants were disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated in the community and the efforts of UNICEF and NGOs led to the release of over thousand women and girls from armed forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and over eight hundred girls in Sri Lanka.

Despite the tangible progress achieved in implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the level of the UN system, we remain extremely concerned about the actual situation of women and girls in conflict situations where they continue to face all possible forms of violence. I will not go into the horrible details and remind us of the stories of women and girls which the Council heard during the recent Arria meeting organized by France. Our particular concerns are linked with enormous scale rapes and other forms of sexual violence, which are often systematically used as a tool of war.

Slovakia strongly condemns such crimes and supports use of all available means to put an end to impunity of perpetrators. In this respect, we also reiterate our full support to the zero tolerance policy in respect to crimes committed by UN personnel. We believe that national authorities and the whole international community must respond more effectively to widespread sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and their responses need to be based on reliable information. Slovakia therefore fully supports the idea of establishing a comprehensive and effective monitoring and reporting mechanism that will help to identify the victims, patterns, real scale and the perpetrators of sexual violence in the context of armed conflicts. We firmly believe that more detailed and focused monitoring could lead to more effective measures by Governments, UN system, civil societies and all other actors working on the ground.

I thank you, Mr. President.