

Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict
16th-17th December 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by H.E. Fazlı Çorman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

I would like to start by thanking the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2010/604) and briefing, which contain valuable recommendations for addressing challenges regarding women and peace and security. The report is indeed most useful for understanding the conflict-related sexual violence in many parts of the world and assessing the progress of the implementation of the resolutions on this topic.

I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Wallström and the Military Adviser, General Gaye, for their insightful briefings. I would like to express once again that we welcome the appointment of Ms. Wallström as the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict as a concrete step in the implementation of resolution 1888 (2009) and that we fully support her efforts. Last but not least, let me thank the United States delegation and you personally, Madame President, for your commitment to the cause of women around the globe and for your most commendable efforts in once again mobilizing the Council and enabling the adoption of another important resolution on this issue today.

Today, with this follow-up resolution, 1960 (2010), we are sending yet another strong message to the world that sexual violence, especially against women and children and particularly in situations of armed conflict, is not acceptable and that such acts will not be tolerated. As shown in the report of the Secretary-General, sexual violence is not a by-product or a side issue; it is deeply interconnected with the root causes of conflict, is used widely as a tactic of war and, sadly, continues even after the conflict has ended.

Thus the fight against sexual violence is not only a matter of human rights but is, and should be, at the heart of our efforts to stop and resolve conflicts. For that reason, we completely share the Secretary-General's assessment that sexual violence should be a priority consideration not only for humanitarian actors but also for peacemakers, peacekeepers and peacebuilders.

Despite some small progress achieved so far, we cannot fail to note that much remains to be done. Many structural and institutional impediments remain, which we should overcome in order to meet the challenges before us. Likewise, equally strong measures are needed to increase the participation of women in the work of peace, including post-conflict recovery efforts and peace processes, since that will help overcome the negative consequences of sexual violence, such as shame and stigma.

We have to redouble our efforts in the fight against impunity, and targeted measures should be imposed against the perpetrators of sexual violence and rape. In that regard, the most significant added value of the resolution we have just adopted derives from its action-oriented nature. It not only condemns those who perpetrate acts of violence against women but also calls for action against them. In that vein, we believe that when it comes to tackling conflicts and promoting peace and security, resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) should all become a regular part of the work of this Council.

We are also confident that the newly established UN Women will further strengthen our work by helping the United Nations pursue its efforts in a more systematic and coordinated manner in areas related to women and peace and security.

I wish to conclude by underlining that Turkey is fully committed to exerting every effort to ensure the effective implementation of resolution 1960 (2010), as well as all the other resolutions on women and peace and security.