



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. DR. AUGUSTINE MAHIGA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

IN

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

**AT THE OPEN MEETING ON
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003

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Mr. President,

My delegation is pleased to participate in this open meeting on the third anniversary of the historic Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation to Under Secretary General Jean Marie Guehenno for his opening remarks which we find useful and very helpful to this debate. Similarly, we greatly appreciate the presence of Ms. Amy Smythe, Senior Gender Adviser to the Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo amongst us. The first hand information that she has provided about her experiences and challenges in the field, merit our careful and serious consideration. The demonstrated catalytic role of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, under the leadership of Ms. Angela King, is also highly appreciated and we encourage her to persevere on this path.

Mr. President,

The adoption of resolution 1325 was an acknowledgement of the importance of the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict and in peace building. It was a further acknowledgment of the fact that women are not only disproportionate victims in conflicts, but also do assume a variety of roles during and after conflict, including as civilian combatants, peace activists and participants in reconstruction efforts. It was an admission of the need to involve women fully in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and to make that role concrete and visible.

Resolution 1325 prescribes a role for all players. Three years after the passage of that resolution, it is evident that there is a gap between resolve and reality. It is obvious that for 1325 to become a reality, Member States have to take commensurate action to operationalize the provisions of the resolution.

This leads me to pose a few questions: Have we been able to give meaning to the resolution by incorporating a gender perspective into all peacekeeping operations? Have we been able to allocate adequate resources, including human resources to permit gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations? Have we made any provisions for the required training of staff consistent with the Resolution?

At this juncture, it is important to acknowledge the appointment of an interim Gender Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). This is certainly a welcome development which my delegation believes signifies the relevance and importance of Resolution 1325. While we express the hope that the Gender Adviser will champion the incorporation of a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations, it is important to ensure that her office has the necessary support and cooperation from the United Nations system, as well as from Member States. We appreciate the fact that the position of a Senior Gender Adviser is being earmarked for the peacekeeping Mission in Liberia. We hope that in future this will be standard practice.

Mr. President,

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to share with the Council efforts that we have taken in the East and Southern Africa region to give meaning to Resolution 1325. Conflict situations have amply demonstrated the abilities of women to take active and leading roles in resolving conflicts. Women in the region are progressively taking a keen interest in issues related to peace and security. Political and military establishments and armed groups are increasingly becoming aware of the role and potential of women in these areas. Women, on their own, are also increasingly becoming a powerful constituency in advancing their role in peace and security issues and have proved to be

essential in that area. The involvement of women in the Burundi peace process is a case in point.

In the broader context of gender mainstreaming, we within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), have set for ourselves the goal of reaching a minimum target of 30% women's representation in politics and decision-making structures by 2005. The overall regional situation indicates that Member States are making progress in this regard. At least two Member States have provided for women's representation in their constitutional amendments. The combat experiences of women and their civilian roles in the liberation movements of many of these countries proved valuable and have paved the way for the logical involvement of women in post-conflict governance, reconciliation and nation-building.

There is a deliberate gradual increase in the proportion of women's representation in various structures in most Member States. As most Member States in the region are expected to hold general elections in 2004 and 2005, it is expected that they will use the opportunities of these forthcoming elections and other measures to advance and achieve the immediate minimum target of 30%. The process of empowerment of women will continue thereafter. The imperative is not to give token attention to women's participation, but to acknowledge the fact that the foundation for durable peace, development, good governance, human rights and justice lies in having women play a full part as equal partners in all peace processes and the maintenance of peace.

My country, Tanzania, is working closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure the security of refugees, including that of women and girls, as well as the humanitarian and civilian character of refugee camps and settlements.

Mr. President,

As we in the Great Lakes region prepare for the International Conference on Peace, Security and Development in the Great Lakes region in June 2004, we are gratified to note that women have carved a

niche for themselves as important participants in the preparatory process leading to the Conference.

Mr. President,

While we take note of the few positive steps towards the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325, it should be a matter of concern to all of us that women are still a small part of those who participate in the peace and security negotiations. They continue to be marginalized in most post conflict planning. My delegation believes that Resolution 1325 is a powerful instrument in our hands. Our challenge is to put that instrument to work to achieve the results it is intended to accomplish. This can only happen if we harness the political will to allocate the necessary funding, identify the required staffing, and provide the necessary training that is required to make Resolution 1325 a way of our political life. This debate today is a valuable contribution in sustaining the momentum for change in that direction. The trend to empower women has generated its own dynamic which cannot be ignored nor reversed.

I thank you for your kind attention.