



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

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

IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

AT THE OPEN DEBATE

ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER, 2005

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Mr. President,

Let me at the onset acknowledge our sincere appreciation to the delegation of Romania for organizing this open debate. This debate is coming at an opportune time after the World Leaders' adoption of the Outcome Document which reaffirmed gender equality and the promotion, protection and full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as essential in advancing and complementing development, peace and security. Today, on the 5th anniversary of Resolution 1325 (2000), we celebrate and further reaffirm the indispensable role of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding.

My delegation associates itself with the statement to be made by Namibia on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States.

Mr. President,

The close inter-linkages between security, development and human rights have revealed the imperative of an integrated approach to peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We have underscored, over the past five years, what should be the central role of women in conflict prevention, peace advocacy, negotiations and implementation of peace and security agreements. The proposed Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission will be crucial for the promotion and protection of the rights of women. The ongoing discussion on the formation of these new organs present us with an entry point to anchor the involvement of women as participants and beneficiaries of the mandates of the two organs to ensure gender justice and gender equality.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly have called for women's equal participation with men and their full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. The adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 on October 28th, 2000 marked a turning point for the protection of women in conflict situations, as well as ensuring their right to participate fully in peace processes. As

an equal component of any society, women should have an equal and active participation in formulating political, economic and social policies. Equally, as victims of exclusion, vulnerable targets in conflicts, mothers and breadwinners, women have high stakes in conflict prevention, resolution, and all issues related to peace and security in society.

However, we note with concern the absence of women across the board, not only in peace operations, but also in most spheres of decision-making. The absence of women is further noted in the reports of both the Secretary General and the Security Council. There is thus a need to increase the efforts in gender training at all levels of peacekeeping operations. Gender training at all levels and for all stakeholders should not be taken as ad hoc measures, but ought to be mainstreamed affirmatively. This shift requires change in attitudes and mindsets towards the status and capabilities of women. We need to put on "gender glasses" and actively seek ways to include women at all levels of decision-making and leadership roles.

Mr. President,

Resolution 1325 adopted by this Council in 2000 was path breaking in empowering women in the critical areas of war, peace and security where women have often been deliberate targets and silent victims of violent conflicts. The effective implementation of Resolution 1325 is therefore a necessity. We are encouraged by the adoption of a system-wide action plan on the implementation of the resolution. The action plan presents us with an implementation framework that will allow for co-ordination and collaboration amongst various UN bodies. It will also provide us with a monitoring framework upon which to measure the results. Requisite resources, both financial and human, need to be made available for the successful implementation of the action plan.

Mr. President,

While we recognize the positive role of peacekeeping personnel, we are appalled by the few elements that are still tarnishing the good and overall credibility of the United Nations. Sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel is a violation of trust of those who entrusted them and should be condemned by all of us. We commend the Secretary General on his zero-tolerance policy towards acts of sexual harassment and abuse. To prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, all allegations should be investigated and reported. More robust measures should be taken by the Security Council and troop contributing countries.

We also believe that the spirit and letter of Resolution 1325 should apply in peacekeeping missions by more involvement and participation of women at all levels. The participation of women will inject more gender sensitivity in peacekeeping mandates and in implementing strategies for the protection of civilians in conflict and post conflict situations.

In the envisaged Peacebuilding Commission, the role of women should be central from the very beginning at all levels and in particular at the country level configuration with visible participation of civil society. This is a unique opportunity to incorporate gender issues as integral components of the transition from peacekeeping through peacebuilding to sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. President.