



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

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**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR BEGUM K. TAJ,
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA**

**DURING THE OPEN DEBATE IN THE SECURITY
COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND PEACE AND
SECURITY**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I thank the delegation of Vietnam on behalf of the Tanzanian government, for organizing this debate on the theme of "Women and peace and security: responding to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations for sustainable peace and security". The debate today further attests to the need of the Security Council to continue to be seized with the challenges of protecting women and girls in conflict situations. .

We also thank the Secretary General for his report on Women Peace and security contained in document S/2009/465. We welcome the recommendations contained in the report and call for their implementation. We also support his recommendation for a high level ministerial event to commemorate the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325, though we would have preferred the event to be at a much higher level.

Let me also at this juncture thank the various actors in particular OSAGI, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO and the various NGOs for their efforts in implementing resolution 1325.

Mr. President,

We are concerned that despite several measures that are being undertaken in response to resolution 1325, progress in its implementation is still limited and women and girls continue to suffer the brunt of war in particular the devastating effects of sexual and gender based violence. It is our expectation that the appointment of the special representative of the Secretary General as provided for in Security Council 1888 will add impetus to the United Nations work in fighting these horrendous acts of sexual and gender based violence committed against women and girls as well as against boys. It is our expectation too that the appointment of the special representative will not shift resources from the holistic approach to women,

peace and security; that of participation, protection and prevention. We deeply deplore the use of sex as a weapon of war and call for our concerted efforts to end impunity.

Mr. President,

We need to ensure the promotion and enjoyment of human rights to people and in particular women and girls living in situations of conflict. Access to education, health and other humanitarian assistance are basic human rights, we thus strongly condemn those parties to conflict that destroy schools, health facilities, humanitarian supplies and those that prevent girls and women's access to education. The Security Council has to consider taking actions including targeted sanctions to such parties and has to impress on unhindered access to humanitarian personnel and humanitarian assistance.

Further as part of conflict resolution and peace building process the Security Council and the Peace building Commission have to ensure that resources are provided to restore the rule of law and to strength the judiciary and law enforcement systems. Mechanisms have also to be in place to take to task all those persons that were involved in the violations of human rights.

Mr. President,

Women's involvement is necessary to ensure the legitimacy of the decision-making process, to encourage a broad base of participation, to make sustainable peace and development possible and to protect women and girls. Implementations of SCR 1325 as well as subsequent resolutions on peace and women and security are necessary tools for the involvement of women. We wish also to underscore that a positive impact on the lives of women and children will be realized by complimenting the implementation of these resolutions along side the Beijing Platform for Action and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The United Nations has to show an example in its advocacy for women participation by the appointment of more women to senior United Nations

leadership positions including in areas dealing with conflict resolutions and peace building.

At grassroot level we need to address the causes of non participation of women in peace processes. There is also a need to empower women groups socially, politically and economically. We further recommend that the Security Council members should meet with the local women's groups during all missions that the Council takes.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reiterating the commitment of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania in addressing the challenges faced by women and children in conflict situation and in promoting and protecting their human rights.

I thank you Mr. President.