



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

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**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR DAUDI N. MWAKAWAGO,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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

TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER, 2000

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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR DAUDI N. MWAKAWAGO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON "WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY" IN A OPEN DEBATE IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2000

Mr. President,

It gives my delegation particular pleasure to see you, Hon. Theo Ben Gurirab, presiding over this open debate on women and peace and security. My delegation warmly welcomes the convening of this meeting and hopes that the outcome of this historic debate will contribute to a better understanding of the gender dimension of peace processes.

Mr. President,

It is significant that in recognition of the importance that your country attaches to this issue, the seminar on "Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations" was held in Windhoek from 29-31 May, 2000. In this regard my delegation supports the Namibia Plan of Action and the call made to the Secretary General to ensure that appropriate follow up measures are undertaken to implement it.

Mr. President,

This debate on Women, peace and security is an important reminder to us all of the need to resolve conflicts, particularly those in Africa and elsewhere which are of grave concern to us all. Due to these conflicts, about six million Africans are refugees and over 15 million people are displaced of whom between 60 to 80 percent are women and children.

Mr. President,

The Machel Review 1996/2000 points out that, "...during armed conflict, women and girls are continually threatened by rape, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking, sexual humiliation and mutilation". They are at risk in all settings - be it at home, in flight or in camps. In some cases, systematic rape and terror are used as weapons of war. After having been subjected to such atrocities, they are left with scars that take longer to heal. There is no denying that it is women who shoulder the responsibility of supporting their families and communities; it is women who serve alongside their male counterparts in times of war; and it is also women who serve at the forefront of peace movements. Under these circumstances, it is evident that we cannot continue excluding women from conflict resolution processes. Expanding the role of women in this area is imperative, not

only to address inequities, but also to ensure that our societies benefit from their approaches to preventing conflicts, solving conflicts and to building peace.

Mr. President,

Being direct victims of violence and discrimination, women have gained a greater understanding of the need to address peace comprehensively. It is encouraging to note that given the prevalence of conflicts, particularly in Africa today, women have taken some initiatives to promote peaceful resolution of conflicts and generate a culture of peace. In this context, the role of Burundi women in the peace process in their country, and the recognition of that role by President Nelson Mandela, the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process, should serve as an example and as a source of inspiration to the international community. It is the hope of my delegation that the Council would adopt a resolution that would give due weight to the role that women can play in peace negotiations and accord them due recognition. The international community needs therefore to agree on a framework that guarantees women that right.

Mr. President,

Both the outcome of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly entitled, "Women 2000: Development and Peace in the 21st Century" and the Millennium Summit Declaration place emphasis on shared responsibility to maintain international peace and security. On the occasion of the International Women's Day, the then President of the Security Council, Ambassador Chowdhury, observed as follows: *"Members of the Council note that although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace building, they are still under-represented in decision making in regard to conflict. If women are to play an equal part in security and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented adequately at all levels of decision making, both at the pre-conflict stage and during hostilities as well as at the point of peacekeeping, peace building, reconciliation and reconstruction"*.

In reiterating this position, we call on the international community and governments to intensify efforts aimed at the realization of the objective stated above, including the enhancement of the role of women in various phases of the transition to peace and post conflict reconstruction.

I thank you Mr. President.