

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security- 23 October 2007
Extract Verbatim Transcript / English S/PV.5766

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mr. Al-Jarman (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the United Arab Emirates, I have the honour of thanking you, Sir, for your delegation's fine efforts in the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October, including the initiative to organize today's open debate on the role of women and peace and security.

Seven years have passed since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which established an approach and a clear Action Plan designed to protect of women during armed conflict and to promote of their participation in conflict prevention. However, we are far from achieving the desired objectives in this area, particularly at a time when the reports and statistics from conflict areas are unanimous in the view that women and children are still the principal victims in these conflicts. In most cases, they are the main target of combatants and armed factions and are deliberately subjected to different forms of attack, ethnic cleansing and forced displacement, among other human rights violations.

The United Arab Emirates is following with satisfaction the United Nations Action Plan covering the period 2005-2007 on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), including the achievements in the areas of monitoring, evaluation and accountability. We reiterate that this Plan still needs more evaluation and development in order to address shortcomings, in particular those created by insufficient funding for gender-related projects. Another shortcoming is weak institutional capacity in monitoring and accountability and the universalization of gender perspective.

We strongly condemn the prevalence of all acts of aggression and violence against women and girls in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations. We underscore the need for cooperation between the entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission, for which the United Arab Emirates has provided support. We have contributed to the budget of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as to those of several organizations, civil society and institutions, relevant governmental and regional non-governmental working groups in order to achieve full implementation of the provisions of this resolution, including the full empowerment of women in the fields of peacekeeping and peacebuilding and the implementation of development and humanitarian operations.

If these goals can be achieved, countries will be helped more effectively to strengthen their respective legislation and training activities aimed at the prevention of gender-based violence in armed conflict, as well as improving the institutional environment for accountability, monitoring and reporting on the situation of women and for ensuring their full and effective participation in political, security and social areas of activity.

We support the efforts made so far to rethink the United Nations Action Plan for the period covering 2008-2009 and transform it from a mere instrument for programming, monitoring and preparing reports to an effective tool that will promote the role of women in the five main thematic areas of prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery and the normative sphere. Nonetheless, we wish to stress the following points.

First, there is a need to fully involve Governments and civil society in the

implementation of the Action Plan. This is in addition to giving continuous support and development assistance to countries emerging from conflict so as to help them finance their gender-related and human rights projects and to design and implement comprehensive national plans involving women, thus empowering them fully and effectively, particularly in the fields of peace and security, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000).

Secondly, we need to adopt the gender perspective in all peacekeeping operations and other relevant activities, including women's increased involvement in decision-making processes so as to mitigate the negative impact of illegal activities perpetrated against them, including acts committed by individuals participating in such activities. We must find innovative ways of training and application in order to facilitate women's participation in elections, government and post-conflict reconstruction efforts, such as those adopted by the World Food Programme.

Thirdly, there is a need to improve mechanisms for the immediate reporting of violations of the human rights of women in areas of armed conflict, including rape and other forms of sexual violence.

Fourthly, we must strengthen national, regional and international legislation to end impunity for those who commit sexual violence against women. We must also endeavour to establish independent and neutral commissions and tribunals to prosecute and punish perpetrators of war crimes and those who commit rape during wartime.

Fifthly, a comprehensive international system must be established to provide information to all Member States and facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned with regard to strengthening the role of women in the area of peace and security.

Sixthly, comprehensive public information and awareness programmes must be developed, especially for countries in conflict or emerging from conflict, in order to promote the full implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law protecting the human rights of women and girls during armed conflict.

The United Arab Emirates has made great strides in empowering women and integrating them in all areas of our society, including in the political, economic and social spheres, as well as in human services and civil defence. We have also endeavoured to participate in peacekeeping operations in many areas of armed conflict, so as to alleviate the suffering of injured and displaced people, the majority of whom are women and children.

The United Arab Emirates would like to express its continuing concern about the dismal situation of victimized women throughout Palestine as a result of the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and its repressive practices against women and their families. A similar situation prevails in Iraq as a result of acts of violence and terrorist bombings. Such acts constitute some of the gravest violations of international humanitarian norms and laws, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, of 1949. We therefore reiterate our call on the international community to shoulder its responsibility in the implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions. We would also like to underscore that, without the necessary political will, those regions will continue to live in insecurity and instability, which serve to fuel violence against women.

In conclusion, we hope that our debate on this item will lead to the adoption of an

integrated international, institutional approach to the issue of women and peace and security in order to make a positive contribution to improving the status of women in today's world.