

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, (Conflict Related Sexual Violence)  
23 February 2012, Security Council Chamber

*Statement by H.E Mr. Li Hoai Trung, representative of Vietnam*

Let me start by expressing our appreciation to you, Sir, for convening this open debate on women and peace and security. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his comprehensive report (S/2012/33), and his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, for briefing us on this important issue.

War has always impacted men and women differently, but probably never more so than in modern armed conflicts. In recent armed conflicts, women and girls have been disproportionately targeted and constituted the majority of victims. They are also more vulnerable to all forms of violence, in particular sexual violence and exploitation. The report of the Secretary-General has shown the dire plight of many women and girls and what can be done to alleviate some of these injustices. Viet Nam supports many of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report, as well as many views expressed during this debate. As a country that has experience in dealing with the consequences of wars and as the main sponsor of resolution 1889 (2009), on women, peace and security, Viet Nam would like to underline the following.

First, although the international efforts in promoting the implementation of the women, peace and security resolutions 1325 (2000) 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010) have achieved meaningful progress, challenges still remain. Viet Nam is of the view that the diverse nature of violence against women and girls requires a comprehensive approach. The United Nations therefore plays an important role in coordinating with Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, especially UN-Women, civil society and other stakeholders, in promoting the recognition and integration of women in the area of peace and security and in intensifying international efforts to end sexual violence against women and girls in a coherent manner and with gender sensitivity.

Secondly, stopping sexual violence against women in armed conflict is closely linked with women's empowerment and gender equality. Only when women can play a full and equal part in peace, conflict resolution and post-conflict processes can we build the foundation for international peace and security. Measures to protect women and girls from sexual violence in conflict situations should be designed as part of a broader comprehensive framework that covers social, economic and development issues. It is important that gender equality should be incorporated into all levels and stages of policymaking, reconciliation, negotiation, the management of humanitarian aid and post-conflict planning. Responding to the needs of women and girls with regard to physical security, health services, ways to ensure their livelihoods, land and property rights and employment will create favourable preconditions for the coherent and long-term implementation of necessary measures.

Thirdly, we believe that United Nations bodies and donors should work in a coordinated and coherent manner to assist national Governments in building gender-related capacity in addressing the security, recovery and development needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations. The international community should also enhance its assistance to poor countries and countries affected by conflicts to accelerate economic and social development and improve people's livelihoods, which can help to prevent conflicts at the source and lay the foundation for enduring peace and security.

On this occasion, Viet Nam would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to working with the international community to effectively end sexual violence and promote the rights of women and girls.