

**OPEN DEBATE OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL:**

**WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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to the United Nations**

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At the outset, let me join others in commending you, Mr. President, for organizing this open debate on the occasion of the anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000). We warmly welcome the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/498) and the recommendations contained therein as an important step in moving the women, peace and security agenda from rhetoric to action. We also align ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

When the Security Council adopted the landmark resolution 1325 (2000) on 31 October 2000, it acknowledged the negative impact of armed conflict on women and highlighted their decisive role in conflict prevention and in consolidating peace. Ten years later, however, the plight of women and girls in armed conflicts continues unabated. The implementation of the women, peace and security agenda remains slow and uneven at best. Recent incidents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo confirmed once again that sexual violence is used as a method of warfare to achieve military and strategic ends. Women are still excluded from decision-making processes in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction.

Women continue to be seriously underrepresented as special representatives of the Secretary-General. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's action plan for women's participation in peacebuilding. We do regret, however, that the Council was not able to expressly welcome that forward-looking report (S/2010/466). It is our firm belief that the advancement of the women and peace and security agenda is intrinsically linked to the way the Security Council receives and analyses information on implementation. Of course, it also depends on the commitment of Member States to take concrete action. We therefore commend the Council for endorsing the 26 indicators against which the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) will be measured. We believe that information collected through the indicators should, where appropriate, also be disaggregated by disability in order to address the lack of data in that respect.

We reiterate our support for the call to action of the ministerial event of 25 September 2010, which encouraged Member States to commit themselves to concrete, time-bound and measurable actions. To underscore this commitment, we have contributed to the financing of the monthly action points of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. These points highlight how the Security Council can integrate relevant content of resolution 1325 (2000) in its daily work, in particular on country-specific issues. We hope that this can make a small contribution to the more general goal of effectively integrating the substance of the Council's thematic work in its operational decisions. In addition, we have partnered with Switzerland to support the PeaceWomen project to publish the Women, Peace and Security Handbook. The handbook provides language derived from best practices and is meant to assist the Security Council in incorporating relevant substance of resolution 1325 (2000) when designing mandates for missions on the ground.

Furthermore, we will continue our financial support for the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which adopts a gender-based perspective across all programming and has a specific focus on victims of sexual and gender violence. We hope that the Fund will get more support from States as a result of their national efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000). Resolution 1325 (2000) and its follow-up resolution 1820 (2008) call for decisive action against sexual violence in times of armed conflict. The explicit

inclusion of sexual violence in the provisions dealing with war crimes and crimes against humanity was one most significant advances in international law reflected in the Rome Statute of the ICC. Today, the Court is dealing with a number of situations where sexual violence is rampant, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Court therefore has jurisdiction over any crimes within the remit of its Statute committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1 July 2002. In fact, the Court will soon begin trying Callixte Mbarushimana, a Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda militia leader arrested on 11 October this year, who is indicted on charges of sexual violence, among other things. The work of the Court is therefore of direct relevance to the 1325 agenda, as the Security Council anticipated when referencing the Rome Statute in resolution 1325 (2000) ten years ago. It is therefore astonishing that the role of international criminal justice in general and the ICC in particular are entirely absent from the latest report on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). This is not the report's only defect, but is perhaps the most serious one. Fighting impunity is clearly a central part of our efforts to eradicate sexual violence. It must therefore be an integral part of any future efforts in this body and of the reports submitted for its consideration.

I thank you.