

**OPEN DEBATE OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL:**

WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President,

We thank you for organizing this open debate and for preparing a concept paper that outlines the main challenges that persist in regard to the effective implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 in post-conflict situations. My delegation has supported resolution 1325 and 1820 ever since their adoption. We agree with the assessment of the concept paper that much has been achieved but enormous challenges remain. Nine years after the adoption of resolution 1325 the participation of women in conflict resolution, in particular in formal peace processes, is still little more than rhetoric and their protection from violent crimes still elusive.

Mr. President,

Since the beginning of 2009 we have witnessed an alarming increase in sexual violence in various conflicts around the world. Victims are often children. The cessation of hostilities does not guarantee an end to the perpetration of sexual violence - quite the opposite. The influx of returning refugees and displaced persons, the presence of large numbers of demobilized ex-combatants, the widespread lack of economic opportunity and general breakdown in social norms all contribute to increased levels of sexual violence in post-conflict settings. The gender-based violence that women experience is often exacerbated by the absence of effective judicial institutions and impunity as a result thereof. Both resolution 1325 and 1820 emphasize the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for war crimes including acts of gender violence. However, formal justice systems often lack the required resources. Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms are often applied in a discriminatory manner leaving women with limited access to justice thereby exacerbating a climate of impunity. We therefore welcome the call of Resolution 1888 on the Secretary-General to offer upon request expertise that can be deployed rapidly to assist national authorities to strengthen the rule of law. This is fully in keeping with the principle of complementarity, one of the main pillars of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court whose jurisdiction only kicks in when States are unable or unwilling to prosecute at the national level. Today, the ICC is addressing sexual violence in several situations and thus contributes to the fight against impunity.

Mr. President,

Resolution 1325 calls for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes. According to available data, only 2.4 cent of signatories to peace agreements are women and no woman has ever been appointed as a chief mediator. Your paper as well as the report submitted by the Secretary-General makes it clear that we must considerably strengthen our efforts to guarantee the full and equal participation of women. We hope that the input given during this debate will lead, nine years after the adoption of SCR 1325, to significant improvements. A few years ago Liechtenstein headed a group of like-minded Ambassadors aiming at increasing the presence of women in positions such as Special Envoys and Special Representatives. The success of this cooperation with the Secretary-General was rather modest, despite repeated expressions of good intentions from all sides. Member States and the relevant intergovernmental bodies must pursue strategies to ensure an increase in women's participation in peace negotiations and mediation as well as in post-conflict reconstruction. This would strengthen the perception that women are stakeholders – as opposed to mere victims or aid recipients. We welcome the efforts of the Secretary-General to appoint more women to senior positions, particular at field missions.

Mr. President,

In preparation of the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325, we need concrete action. Hence, we welcome the establishment of a United Nations Steering Committee to enhance the visibility and strengthen coordination within the United Nations system regarding the preparations for the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325. Liechtenstein for its part will, in close cooperation with others, support a project by the NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security that will produce a by the 10th anniversary of 1325 a report that provides a substantive overview on the work of the Council. The report will demonstrate both its achievements and the remaining gaps and challenges.

I thank you