

Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict
16th-17th December 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Wang Min, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). It is highly significant for the Council to hold this open debate on sexual violence in armed conflict.

China condemns all acts of violence against women in armed conflict, including sexual violence. It urges parties to conflicts to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law.

We call on the relevant national Governments to investigate crimes and bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against women in armed conflict. We urge the States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as soon as possible.

To protect women from sexual violence in armed conflict, there is much that the international community can do. In that connection, I wish to emphasize the following four points.

First, the protection of women from sexual violence needs to be tackled at its source. Only when armed conflict is effectively prevented can there be real protection for women and their rights and interests. In that context, the international community should be committed to preventive diplomacy to settle disputes through dialogue, consultation and other peaceful means.

Secondly, national Governments bear the primary responsibility for combating crimes of sexual violence. The international community should focus on providing affected countries with assistance, seek their understanding and cooperation, help strengthen their capacity-building, make progress in security sector reform and improve mechanisms in the areas of the rule of law, judicial assistance and compensation.

Thirdly, in addressing issues relating to women and peace and security, there is a need for various United Nations bodies and agencies to operate with a synergetic division of labour, in accordance with their respective mandates.

The Council needs to pay close attention to situations that pose threats to international peace and security and to make full use of existing mechanisms, such as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UN Women, to create synergy.

Fourthly, China supports resolution 1960 (2010), which was just adopted. We hope that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Margot Wallström, will perform her responsibilities strictly in line with the mandate formulated by the Council to play a constructive role in addressing sexual violence in armed conflict.