

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security – 5 October 2009
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Federated States of Micronesia

Mr. Lippwe (Federated States of Micronesia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States represented at the United Nations, namely, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu and my own country, the Federated States of Micronesia. I wish to start by thanking the Viet Nam presidency of the Security Council for convening this important event. We acknowledge and welcome the progress that has been made in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) as outlined in the Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security (S/2009/465). In particular, we note that there has been progress in developing the capacity of both Member States and United Nations bodies to implement the resolution. Awareness of the issue of women and peace and security and the capacity to address that issue on the ground are of course critical to successful implementation, and we encourage the focus on this matter.

However, as the Secretary-General's report notes and as the distinguished speakers before me have also remarked today, much work remains to be done to achieve implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We note with concern that significant progress is still needed to ensure the equal and substantive participation of women at all levels in peace and security decision-making, particularly in negotiations in post-conflict situations. And we are deeply concerned that peace agreement negotiations and planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration continue to take place with little consideration of resolution 1325 (2000).

In overcoming the obstacles to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), the Pacific small island developing States strongly support the need identified in the Secretary-General's report to establish effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms for implementation at the global, regional and national levels and for the Security Council to establish these mechanisms as a matter of urgency. Without such mechanisms we consider it difficult to make further substantive progress. This should be part of an overall strengthened effort, with increased funding, on the part of the Security Council, as well as all United Nations bodies and Member States, to implement resolution 1325 (2000). Also, in order to provide a more coordinated approach to the work on women and peace and security, we support the appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative for this area.

In discussing the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations under the general topic of implementing resolution 1325 (2000), it is critical to consider prevention of conflict situations, particularly in relation to the security implications of climate change. Unabated climate change risks increased violent conflict in many parts of the world, with its consequent impact on women and girls, potentially beyond the capacity of the international community to adequately respond.

The Pacific small island developing States raised the issue of the link between climate change and security last year at the open debate on women and peace and security convened by the Security Council under the presidency of the People's Republic of

China. Since then, we have seen the unanimous adoption of General Assembly resolution 63/281 relating to the possible security implications of climate change. This was the first time that the international community recognized an explicit connection between climate change and international peace and security.

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Secretary-General will prepare a report on this matter, and we thank him sincerely for his work on this important issue. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Governments of Finland and Liberia for organizing the successful High-Level Event on peace and security through women's leadership held in New York last month.

Climate change has adverse effects on the distribution and quality of natural resources such as fresh water, arable land, coastal territory and marine resources. Such changes can increase competition for available resources, weaken Government institutions and lead to internal and international migration. Furthermore, such adverse effects can create obstacles that substantially interfere with the ability of nations to maintain territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. These effects of climate change create a severe risk of increased violent conflict in many parts of the world, and along with it the consequent impact on women and girls, both during and after conflict. We consider that climate change severely jeopardizes implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Our understanding of the directions taken by the Secretary-General in his forthcoming report on the possible security implications of climate change is that he emphasizes the need to focus on ways to prevent such security issues, and we fully support that approach. By adequately responding to the climate crisis, the international community could prevent likely conflict situations triggered by climate change, thus protecting the rights of women and children. This is an opportunity that we must seize. In addition, we reiterate our call for climate change and security to be an annual item on the United Nations agenda and for a focal point to be established within the Organization to monitor and respond to the growing security implications of climate change. If the United Nations responds to the threat of climate change, it has the potential to truly prevent conflict and thereby reduce violence against women.

The Pacific small island developing States confirm their commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and with the support of all Member States, we are hopeful of further advancement as we move towards the resolution's tenth anniversary.