



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

S T A T E M E N T
BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

OCTOBER 28, 2002

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

My delegation commends you for facilitating our continuing discussions on the present issue " Women, Peace and Security", which was previously brought before this Council on July 25, this year under the Presidency of the United Kingdom. This no doubt speaks to the importance, which the Security Council attaches to the gender dimensions of conflict, an aspect which for years has been overlooked.

It has been two years since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, a landmark in the recognition of women's contribution to the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, addressing their specific concerns particularly in the context of conflict. My delegation is therefore gratified to receive the recently completed study on women, peace and security and expresses its appreciation to the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Miss Angela King for her role as coordinator, as well as the Inter Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. We also look forward to the Assessment Report which will be produced by the United Nations Fund For Women (UNIFEM) on 31 October which will complement the Study before us. We also welcome the Report of the Secretary General S/2002/1154, which contains very useful recommendations.

Mr. President,

At the second anniversary of the adoption of SC 1325, it is an opportune moment for a critical analysis of how far we have come in implementing its goals. SC Resolution 1325 is a yardstick which holds the Security Council accountable to the international community at large that it will effect change and its effectiveness is integrally related to the extent to which it is being operationalised.

I will elaborate on a few aspects of the report, which my delegation deems to be of particular importance.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The international legal framework for women's human rights is crucial in ensuring their protection especially in relation to crimes against women and girls during armed conflict. The Report illustrates that over the past decade the international legal framework has expanded to address some of the particular crimes experienced by women in armed conflict. It is heartening to see that the statutes of the two ad hoc international Tribunals in Yugoslavia and Rwanda as well as that of Sierra Leone all include gender based violence such as rape and have issued indictments related to sexual violence. My delegation supports the recommendations made, and supports the view that future ad hoc tribunals created by the Security Council should include provisions, which builds on existing statutes and include judges and advisers with legal expertise on specific issues such as violation of the rights of women and girls, including gender based and sexual violence.

INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE PROCESSES

We fully support the view that the participation of women and girls and the inclusion of gender perspective in peace processes are critical to ensuring that political, social and economic institutions facilitate the achievement of gender equality between men and women. Nowhere is this more important than in the post conflict peace building. As past experience has shown, women can make a significant contribution in promoting peace, particularly in preserving social order and educating for peace.

We are pleased to note that there has been some progress in this area in terms of increased awareness. The instrumental role of womens' groups in brokering peace in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, and Sierra Leone, and East Timor are positive examples of how effective women can be in the peace process. Despite these achievements, there is still more to be done in integrating women in all stages of peace consolidation. We should even aim a step further in ensuring that there are more formal mechanisms which facilitate women's groups in political decision- making. As the Report clearly highlights, efforts are needed to achieve greater representation in formal peace negotiations. Women's capacities as participants and leaders need to be further enhanced. We fully support the ongoing United Nations cooperation with women's groups in the field especially through increased training, and anticipate further recording of these achievements in subsequent reports.

GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS

Mr. President,

The incorporation of a gender perspective in UN Peacekeeping Operations was an important objective of SC Resolution 1325. We commend the Security Council in its efforts at supporting informal peace initiatives of women's groups and networks including the holding of Arria Formula meetings with women representatives. While it is a welcome step that peacekeeping mandates now entail a gender dimension, we remain concerned that the institutional support at Headquarters is inadequate to meet the needs in the field. The sterling contribution of gender advisers in Kosovo, East Timor (Timor Leste), Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) do provide vivid examples of the effectiveness of gender units, which can serve as models for the replication of such units elsewhere. My delegation therefore

continues to advocate the need for adequate capacity at Headquarters to support gender advisers in the field to ensure the necessary sharing of policy advice and also that peacekeeping mandates incorporate a gender perspective prior to their formulation.

Finally Mr. President,

While encouraged by the positive steps taken in implementing Security Council Resolution 1325, we believe that more needs to be done in making gender mainstreaming in Peace operations a reality. The Security Council in implementing its own resolution should take the lead in practicing what it preaches. The Council should ensure in its Mission to regions of conflict that it makes contact with women's groups and that their concerns be fully taken on board when considering peacekeeping mandates.