



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

**By H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations
at an open debate of the Security Council
«Women and Peace and Security»**

29 October 2008, New York

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,**

Allow me to commence my statement by expressing gratitude to the President for holding this session of the UN Security Council on the topic of *Women and Peace and Security*. I am convinced that your skillful leadership and mellow experience in the field will ensure new approaches to the issue of women's engagement in peace and security processes. Let me also express gratitude to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women Ms. Rachel Mayanja, the UNIFEM Executive Director Ines Alberdi and the representative of the NGO Working Group on the issue of women, peace and security for their informative statements.

Kazakhstan welcomes an open nature of these deliberations and an enlarged list of participants to this debate. We express hope that contribution of states not affected by any armed conflicts might be somehow useful at adoption of this session's outcome document.

Mr. President,

Eight years have passed since the Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) laid a corner stone for a stronger decision-making role for women in peace processes. Periodic reports of the Secretary General demonstrate the obvious progress achieved in the increased women's involvement in the UN peace-building operations and mitigation of the negative influence of armed conflicts on them. However, despite of the undoubted importance of women's active participation in the peace negotiation and decision-making processes, achievements in all-rounded participation of women in peace do not yet meet expectations.

Kazakhstan believes that it is necessary to develop concrete strategies that ensure gender equality even in the armed conflict situations. We propose furthermore focusing UN efforts on promotion of women in the fields in which they initially have comparative advantage. To such one may refer women's involvement in the humanitarian actions, refugees and displaced persons camps operations, reintegration and rehabilitation of the civilian population and children combatants. It is possible to increase women's participation in the peace-keeping operations by attracting them as civil humanitarian staff. However, this improvement measure should not negatively influence the number of women participating in the peace-related official negotiations and at political decision-making on such issues.

In this regard my delegation deems useful attracting more world-renowned female leaders to the matters of peace-keeping and peace-building. The international authority and rich experience of such women can be duly applied at the settlement of such critical issues during armed conflicts.

It could also be useful to integrate the practice of setting up temporary councils from the most respected women living in communities affected by

armed conflicts. If applied at the outset of an armed conflict such measures could add to the effective prevention of conflicts. With the knowledge of traditions and customs of their peoples, with strong ties to the local population, representatives in such temporary councils could be instrumental in the development of alternative ways and means to conflicts resolution. Their viewpoints based on wisdom and life-long experience can considerably differ from that of politicians and diplomats. It is this precondition that can trigger new ideas for the peaceful resolution of conflict situations.

Kazakhstan highly assesses the UN achievements in ensuring women's equal participation in conflict resolution at the political level. We are pleased to note that women hold the key posts at the UN Secretariat and the UN specialized agencies dealing with women and children, including in conditions of armed conflicts. This trend shall be maintained for the successful implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. At the same time one cannot disagree that it is easier for a female leader to recognize the special needs and wants of women and children affected by armed conflicts. Such understanding can positively affect the effective provision of the humanitarian aid, which will be more in demand of the affected population.

Kazakhstan welcomes the development of the Roster of female candidates to the UN vacancies at all levels. We believe that this step is a real confirmation of effective implementation of the strategy on the advancement of women.

Besides promoting women's rights in the capacity of official representatives of states and the United Nations Organization, further active work with engaging politically active women, as well as NGO leaders could be beneficial. Such interested parties could act as alternative sources of information in the process of decisions and outcome documents elaboration.

We believe that efforts of all women in the peace processes deserve recognition, establishing some acknowledgement under the UN auspices of women's considerable contributions to the course of peace and security could inspire others to take a path and excel in this field.

Since assignment of women to any leading positions in the field requires the relevant professional training, promotion of education in the field of peace processes should become the integral part of the global education tradition.

Mr. President,

In the conclusion, let me emphasize the positive change in the perception of women, not only as victims of armed conflicts but also the driving forces behind peace-building. This is a true meaning of gender equality providing women with extensive possibilities to play a stronger role in preventing and settling armed conflicts and building peace.

I thank you for your attention.