



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador PARK In-kook
Permanent Representative
Security Council Open Debate
Women, Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict**

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Thank you, Madam President Secretary Rice,

1. At the outset, let me recall the previous open debate of the Security Council on the same subject of “women, peace and security” from last October where many member states expressed serious concern about the very disturbing and destructive phenomenon of systematic sexual violence in armed conflicts, urging immediate measures from the Security Council to end such grave sexual violence in armed conflict, particularly through the establishment of the implementation mechanism of Resolution 1325. We also recall that the Security Council adopted the Presidential Statement condemning such violations, while confirming that the Security Council will remain actively involved with this matter. In fact, the Security Council has made some efforts in addressing sexual violence in specific conflict situations. In particular, MONUC, based on the December 2007 resolution, was a clearer and better-framed mandate for addressing sexual violence.

2. However, as stated in the concept paper prepared for open debate, recent reporting indicates that brutal and systematic rapes are becoming increasingly commonplace in some conflict and post-conflict situations. In fact, sexual violence in situations of armed conflict has occurred throughout history, including sexual slavery during World War II. It is our firm belief that the adoption of the noble charter of the United Nations is a clear manifestation of our strong commitment that such brutal and categorical denial of the human rights of women would not reoccur. Contrary to our call for consciousness and commitment, we have witnessed the horrifying intensity and severity of sexual violence in armed conflict, which has been exercised as a weapon of war, particularly in DRC and Darfur.

Madam President,

3. My delegation would like to make clear its position on key issues for today's deliberation. Firstly, with respect to the link between sexual violence and peace and security, the Republic of Korea fully recognizes that sexual violence is a security issue as well as a fundamental human rights issue. Given this connection, the Republic of Korea supports every effort to end sexual violence in armed conflict not only for the sake of human rights but also for sustainable peace and security.

4. Secondly, based on the recognition of the direct link between sexual violence and peace and security, mandates concerning sexual violence issued by peacekeeping operations should be further strengthened and clarified. At the same time, the delegation of the Republic of Korea believes that efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations should be intensified.

5. Thirdly, on the reporting mechanism, our delegation is of the view that the Security Council needs to institutionalize and systematize its consideration process of sexual violence in armed conflict. For this purpose, an action plan of the Secretary-General is recommended with priority to establish a mechanism to collect information and to report periodically to the Council on such situations.

6. Last but not least is the issue of impunity. My delegation reaffirms its support of any efforts to end impunity, recognizing that accountability is a crucial component of ending the cycle of systematic sexual violence against women. We believe that referring to the ICC or tribunals will send a strong and effective message to the perpetrators, while keeping in mind that ending impunity is one element of a comprehensive approach to seeking sustainable peace, justice, truth and national reconciliation. We are also of the view that, in addition to ensuring individual's responsibility through ending impunity, state responsibility for the situation and for the protection of victims should be further enhanced as well.

7. Before concluding my statement, I'd like to draw the Security Council's attention to the issue of children in armed conflict. Large numbers of victims of sexual violence in armed conflict are children. Taking this opportunity, we would like to recall that the Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement on children in armed conflict, expressing its readiness to review the relevant provisions of the Resolution 1612 with a view to further increasing the efficiency of its action for the protection of children against sexual violence in armed conflict. We look forward to substantive progress in this regard.

Madam President,

8. My delegation looks forward to a concrete outcome from today's discussion to end grave sexual violence in armed conflict. The Republic of Korea is fully committed to ensuring the realization of the United Nation's promise to women in armed conflicts. Thank you.