

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 28 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Wenaweser, Representative of Liechtenstein

It is a pleasure to see you, Madam President, preside over this meeting. I would like to thank you for convening it. We welcome the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/598*), which for the first time measures the progress of implementing resolution 1325 (2000) against specific indicators. We also further welcome its recommendations as an important step towards moving the women, peace and security agenda further from rhetoric to action.

As outlined in the concept note (S/2011/654, annex) circulated for this debate, the participation of women in decision-making forums related to conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and post conflict recovery is a central goal of the women, peace and security agenda. Research has shown that the exclusion of women and the lack of gender expertise in peace negotiations lead to irreversible setbacks for women's rights. Peace accords often neglect to ensure the engagement of women in post-conflict governance and their access to economic opportunities, justice and reparations.

It is unfortunate that, 11 years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the contribution of women to conflict management is still severely undervalued and underutilized. The Council must increase its efforts to incorporate a gender perspective in relevant country specific resolutions, with a view to increasing women's participation in peace negotiations and mediation and in meeting the specific concerns of women during post-conflict reconstruction. The Council must also, hand in hand with the General Assembly, address the lack of women as lead peace mediators by encouraging the Secretary-General to appoint women to such positions and to ensure that adequate gender expertise is provided for all United Nations-led peace processes. We therefore welcome the adoption of today's presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/20), which will help to further strengthen the perception of women as stakeholders, as opposed to victims or aid recipients.

Liechtenstein honours its commitments to implementing resolution 1325 (2000), as pledged at the commitment conference "A call to action" on 25 September 2010. We continue to support international efforts to end impunity for the most serious crimes, including those committed against women during armed conflict. That commitment includes continued financial support to the Trust Fund for Victims established by the International Criminal Court (ICC), which adopts a gender-based perspective across all programming and specifically targets victims of all forms of sexual and gender violence. Most important, the Trust Fund provides direct assistance to victims, and thus has an immediate impact on the ground. The Rome Statute of the ICC has significantly advanced international law by including sexual violence in the definition of crimes, in particular as a crime against humanity. The ICC therefore represents an important mechanism in the fight against sexual violence, which should be better integrated in the Security Council work on the issue.

Research by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security reveals that the Council does not consistently apply the principles of the women, peace and security agenda in its country-specific work. In an attempt to make that complex agenda more accessible, and thereby contribute to a better mainstreaming, we have developed an iPhone application

on women and peace and security, in close partnership with Switzerland, Peacewomen and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, now available in an updated version that includes monthly action points. Those action points contain concrete recommendations that provide guidance on how the Council can systematically meet its obligations to women in armed conflict.