

Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Council, April 2014, Security Council Chamber
Statement by Mr. Haniff, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations.

I wish to congratulate Nigeria on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. Malaysia welcomes its initiative in convening an open debate on this important issue.

Malaysia also wishes to align itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Violence against women is one of the most widespread violations of human rights and most broadly discussed topics. It is utterly deplorable that one in three women and girls experiences violence in her lifetime. Violence against women, especially sexual violence, has massive repercussions. The incidence of sexual violence in conflict, in particular, often has grave consequences for the security of women and girls during peacetime. Malaysia joins other Member States in strongly condemning sexual violence against women and girls, men and boys. My delegation remains concerned that sexual violence is almost universally under-reported. We must reverse this trend. We need to urgently address the factors and underlying reasons for the continued acts of sexual violence committed against women and girls and the emerging incidence of sexual violence perpetrated against men and boys.

Ending impunity is crucial to our quest to put an end to sexual violence in conflict. We must move urgently to replace the prevailing culture of impunity with one that promotes the rule of law, justice and accountability. We welcome the ongoing work of the United Nations and other stakeholders, including the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, which focuses its efforts on strengthening the capacity of national rule of law and justice actors. We agree with the Secretary-General's recommendation and call on countries to draw upon the expertise of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, as we believe that its engagement with relevant Governments would strengthen the latter's institutional safeguards against impunity for conflict-related sexual violence.

Underlining the importance of ending sexual violence, Malaysia joined many others in endorsing the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which makes clear the collective view on the need for greater action to address the issue. Malaysia also welcomes the recent adoption of the Agreed Conclusion of the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, strongly condemning all forms of violence against women and girls. It is crucial that we now focus our collective efforts on converting those political commitments into concrete actions. My delegation supports the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in all peacekeeping operations. We believe that it is fundamental to ensuring that the rights and dignity of women are safeguarded.

Malaysia, in this regard, welcomes the delivery of scenario-based training for peacekeepers in several training centres to improve their operational readiness to react swiftly to sexual violence. We commend the work of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict in rolling out a framework of early-warning indicators to help enhance prevention capabilities in mission settings. My delegation believes that this issue requires continued vigilance on the part of the Security Council.

We are therefore pleased to note the progress made in the implementation of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements as mandated by resolution 1960 (2010) to promote increased and timely action to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

We have made strides in addressing sexual violence in conflict, but we can and must do more to put an end to this scourge. Malaysia therefore reaffirms its strong commitment to efforts to address sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. We will continue to work with others to advance the agenda and ensure the participation of women is mainstreamed in activities towards securing peace and security.