

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by H.E. Mrs. Picco, Representative of Monaco to the United Nations

The Principality of Monaco attaches the greatest importance to the protection of innocent civilian victims of conflict. Among them, women and children are clearly the most vulnerable. The fact that, over the past decade, women and children have become the targets of unspeakable violence is unacceptable. Thus, the Security Council's recognition of this scourge when it adopted resolution 1325 (2000), on 31 October 2000, was a major turning point in mobilizing the international community.

We underscore the essential contribution of civil society, which has made possible significant progress and helped us to define women's participation as an essential element of peacebuilding processes and recovery efforts in affected countries.

Although the role of women in development no longer needs to be proven, it is equally crucial to ensuring lasting peace, social cohesion and political legitimacy. Women's contributions are not an end in themselves; they are also crucial elements in achieving peacebuilding priorities. In that regard, in order to ensure the rule of law, there must be support for the establishment and strengthening of national institutions.

Resolution 1325 (2000) also underscores the need to scrupulously respect the provisions of international humanitarian law and human rights instruments. It is imperative that atrocities not go unpunished, especially those in which rape is used as a weapon of war.

We note with interest the establishment of a comprehensive framework dedicated to the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and to holding all parties concerned accountable. Taking into account the indicators included in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/498) should allow us to measure progress and highlight areas deserving of our attention. In that regard, we welcome the efforts and initiatives of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in particular in the areas of training and increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and police forces.

My delegation unreservedly supports the determination and commends the courage and resolve of Ms. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and of Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in coordinating our efforts on behalf of women. We hope that the political will we have generated will continue to assert itself.