

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict- Affected Situations, October 18th, 2013, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Oh Joon, Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea to the United Nations

I would like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing today as well as for his tireless efforts to promote the women, peace and security agenda. My delegation also thanks the Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, and Ms. Brigitte Bapilou for their informative and inspiring presentations today.

While there has been significant progress in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) over the years, persistent gaps and challenges remain. For far too many women in conflict-affected societies, the mere protection of a woman's basic rights, let alone gender equality, remains a daunting challenge. In Syria, women account for the majority of the casualties and the displaced population. In the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, women continue to be victimized in the conflict. Given this shared concern, I would like to highlight the following four points.

First, the Council must continue to integrate women, peace and security issues into its work in a substantive way. As the Secretary-General's report (S/2013/525) elaborates, the Council increasingly incorporates gender perspectives into its resolutions, in particular through the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping missions. That is a welcome development. However, it must be done in a more systematic way if it is to be truly effective.

We also support the Secretary-General's call on the Council to include women, peace and security aspects in all thematic debates. If the Council's efforts in those areas are to be successful, they must be supported by the timely delivery of information. We would welcome more regular updates and briefings on the status of women and girls in armed conflict from all United Nations field missions. We also look forward to a high-level global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in preparation for the high-level review in 2015.

Secondly, greater attention should be paid to promoting women's representation in post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding processes. Women's experiences in conflict are fundamentally different from those of men. As such, women's needs and priorities should be reflected in peace and justice deliberations. Transitional justice mechanisms need to be more gender-sensitive. Women's efforts to recover from their experiences in conflict have often been hampered by a lack of fundamental rights, such as the right to citizenship. Such structural inequality should be addressed by transitional justice.

Thirdly, all cases of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations must be adequately addressed. The suffering of women and girls, who often fall victim to sexual violence in times of war, has frequently gone unreported or unacknowledged. Transitional justice is therefore important in bringing perpetrators to account and ending impunity. We also recognize the important role of the International Criminal Court in ensuring accountability and justice for such crimes.

Fourthly, we would like to underline the crucial role played by women's civil society organizations in conflict-resolution and peacebuilding. In that regard, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the interactions between the Security Council and women's organizations. It is encouraging that the Council's recent field visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes included interactive meetings with local women's organizations.

Finally, we welcome the unanimous adoption today of resolution 2122 (2013). We believe that this seventh resolution on women, peace and security will be another milestone on the road towards gender equality.