

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF QATAR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

BEFORE  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

AT  
OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

NEW YORK, 23 OCTOBER 2007

**Your Excellency,**

Allow me at the outset to express to you Your Excellency and to the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations my sincere thanks for the good preparation for this open debate. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on gender issues and advancement of women, Ms. Joanne Sandler, Executive Director of UNIFEM, and Ms. Gina Torry, Coordinator, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

**Mr. President,**

The State of Qatar firmly believes that women are key partners in all efforts and stages of the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security. It also believes in the priority of the ongoing work to integrate women in all peace-keeping and peace-building operations, and in the development of national policies for the consolidation of peace in the areas of armed conflict. The State of Qatar strongly condemns all sexual and physical abuses against women and girls in the areas of armed conflict. The State of Qatar stresses the need to provide them with comprehensive protection, and to take firm action against the perpetrators of sexual abuse against women and girls in the areas of armed conflict, whether by the parties to the conflict or by United Nations peacekeeping operations personnel, in order to put an end to impunity.

**Mr. President,**

We have reviewed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan of action on women and peace and security for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) for the years 2005-2007. In this regard, we would like to commend the efforts and activities carried out by all the entities of the United Nations which have made significant progress in many areas of the plan. It is reassuring that the review process indicates an increase in the political commitment to gender equality, the empowerment of women in peace processes, and the strengthening of capacity building, especially in the area of the women's full participation in all stages of the peace process, including their participation in negotiating and implementing peace agreements, the development of new mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the status of women and their contributions to peace processes. With regard to addressing all forms of violence against women and children in armed conflict, including sexual violence, whether by the parties to the conflict or United Nations peacekeeping operations personnel, and the issue of impunity for such crimes, we commend the efforts made by the United Nations entities in the implementation of the United Nations policy on zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by their personnel, and in providing support to the Member States in their efforts to align their national legal systems with the relevant international standards, and for their cooperation in the area of building national capacity in the fight against those crimes and impunity. We would like to commend the cooperation by the governments of those States, which is considered essential for the success of any plan designed to put an end to this phenomenon.

**Mr. President,**

Despite the progress made, there are still many institutional and organizational challenges that must be addressed to achieve global implementation of the resolution 1325. The Governments of the countries affected by conflict and post-conflict countries bear the primary responsibility for the implementation of resolution 1325. While those countries have succeeded in establishing national mechanisms for the advancement of women, they need financial and technical support to ensure active participation of women in the formulation of policies and programs relating to the instauration and consolidation of peace and security. The Secretary-General has pointed out in his report to the inadequate funding of gender-related projects in peace processes and post-conflict peace building.

**Mr. President,**

Overcoming those challenges does not require the creation of new mechanisms and bodies or submitting new reports. Such an approach would entail a waste of money and effort that could better spent to improve and strengthen existing mechanisms. At the level of monitoring and follow-up, the Secretary-General needs to include in his periodic reports to the Security Council on the situations of armed conflict, the progress made in mainstreaming the gender perspective in all peacekeeping and peace-building missions, and data on all forms of violence against women and children, including killing and maiming, and sexual violence committed by the parties to the conflict and peacekeeping personnel. It is also necessary that those reports include successful experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of resolution 1325.

At the level of national implementation, the successful implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) requires developing the capacity of the United Nations peace support, humanitarian and post-conflict reconstruction operations to backstop the efforts of Member States in strengthening their national capacities, in line with the national objectives of those States and the relevant international standards to achieve gender equality, empowerment of women in the areas of peace and security, the fight against all forms of violence, especially against women and children, and the eradication of the culture of impunity. Such success requires also paying special attention to countries emerging from conflicts, which need financial and technical support in the preparation of national plans of action to implement resolution 1325. We commend the efforts made to take this objective into account in the formulation of the United Nations system-wide plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1325 for the period 2008-2009. We also further stress the importance of continuing to provide financial and technical support, the lack of which could make the objective of achieving the global implementation of resolution 1325 elusive.

Thank you.