

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Ms. Mammadova, Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations

I wish to thank you, Madam President, for having convened this important debate to discuss ways to advance the women and peace and security agenda, with a focus on displaced women.

I also thank the Secretary-General for his insightful report (S/2014/693), which updates us on the progress and challenges pertaining to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Our appreciation also goes to all briefers for their informative statements earlier today.

Conflicts, with their security, socioeconomic and humanitarian implications, continue to expose affected countries on the whole, and women in particular, to the full range of human rights violations. Regrettably, abuse, gender-based violence and discrimination have become recognizable patterns in the conflict and post-conflict settings. It is a matter of great concern, as highlighted in the report, that these trends are deliberate campaigns against women's rights. Based on our own tragic experiences of the aggression to which Azerbaijan was exposed in the early 1990s, acts of violence and the trauma they cause to victims are not easy to heal physically and psychologically, and have long-term impacts on societies that also have a bearing on the prospects of lasting peace and reconciliation.

In situations of mass displacement, ensuring the physical security, well-being and protection of the rights of women should be seen not as an add-on element, but rather as an essential component of the protection agenda. Greater and timely support for efforts promote gender equality and facilitate women's economic and political empowerment can be an important practical step towards mitigating the vulnerability of displaced women in conflict and post-conflict settings. Special attention should be paid to the situation of women and girls in protracted displacement. By the same token, more needs to be done to strengthen the capacities of Governments and to complement efforts of hosting societies to ensure the sustainable social reintegration and rehabilitation of displaced persons, in particular women and girls.

The unresolved conflicts in many parts of the world — involving continued incidents of violence against women and girls, mass displacement flows and related humanitarian crisis — require renewed attention to the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and leadership to deliver on the commitments set out in the landmark resolution 1325 (2000). We welcome the efforts that the United Nations system has put in place to mainstream the priorities and commitments under the women and peace and security agenda into policy and operational tools. These certainly have contributed to strengthening normative and institutional safeguards and accountability frameworks in support of implementation. Beyond doubt, much more needs to be done by States, the United Nations system, and human rights and humanitarian actors.

Prevention should be our common goal, and we share the view that it is important to explore the broader prevention aspects of resolution 1325 (2000). In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the designation criteria relating to human rights and sexual violence within the current sanctions

regime as an important step towards the operationalization of prevention and enforcement tools. Strengthening mechanisms for the control of small arms and light weapons and enforcement can also serve as effective means of prevention. In the meantime, we should remain focused on strengthening the capacity and capability of peacekeeping missions to identify early risks and effectively respond to them, including through regular training for gender advisers and the promotion of the role of women protection advisers in peacekeeping missions.

On the next steps, while appreciating that gains have been made in strengthening the political will and international legal framework to secure justice for conflict-related sexual violence crimes, we believe that more attention should be paid to addressing the full range of violations and crimes experienced by women, including gendered impacts of enforced disappearances, foreign occupation, mass forced displacement, restrictions on humanitarian aid, conflict-related trafficking and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. Combating impunity and strengthening both international and national justice responses to these crimes is equally crucial.

It is critical to ensure respect for the rule of law, and that the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations comprehensively promotes justice and accountability in ways that further the equal rights of women and their right to equal participation in decision-making. Reparation programmes, a key justice priority for women, deserve greater attention and support as a tool for delivering justice and recovery for victims and long-term peace dividends within communities. The need to rebuild the justice and security sectors is critical, not only for the protection of women and combating impunity, but also for enabling women to participate in all aspects of post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation, which are key pillars of the women and peace and security agenda.

Azerbaijan remains committed to implementation and is pleased to have made a contribution to the work of the Council during its presidency in October 2013, including the adoption of resolution 2122 (2013). We look forward to the high-level review of the implementation and cooperation with interested States, UN-Women and other relevant entities in the process of preparations of the global study.