

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

Statement by Mr. Çevik, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations

I would like to thank Executive Director Mlambo-Ngucka, Assistant Secretary-General Mulet and Special Rapporteur Beyani for their insightful briefings. I also thank Ms. Suaad Allami from the Sadr City Women's Centre and Legal Clinic for her remarks.

As the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) draws closer, we welcome the continuing attention paid to the women and peace and security agenda in the Security Council and the Council's spotlight on the issue of displacement and its effects on vulnerable groups. As the number of people who have been forcefully displaced now exceeds the number reached during the Second World War, which led us to establish this Organization, we are compelled to take urgent action to address the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially women and girls.

Women and girls continue to be specifically targeted in conflicts. They are also vulnerable in post-conflict situations, mostly during contested political processes, ceasefires and the early days of the implementation of peace agreements. Moreover, conflict and displacement taking place in urban areas often increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence. The informal urban setting has the potential to expose displaced people to evictions, discrimination in services and lack of access to housing. Therefore, displaced persons in urban areas require carefully crafted durable solutions that combine humanitarian and development approaches. We believe that there are three ways to tackle these challenges.

First, eliminating the root causes of a conflict is the best way to prevent sexual violence. Yet that is not always easy. Therefore, in the short to medium term, ensuring the protection of IDP women and girls from sexual and other forms of gender-based violence is imperative. Prosecution of these acts is another necessity. During this period, multisectoral responses and continuing humanitarian assistance for displaced and stateless women have immediate lifesaving effects.

Secondly, it is necessary to increase women's meaningful participation and leadership in all aspects of decision-making and policy processes related to the displacement and protection of international peace and security. In this vein, there is a need to ensure women's effective participation in peace processes, mediation efforts, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and recovery.

Thirdly, in order to sustain their livelihoods, we need to empower displaced women and girls through a comprehensive approach to their education, health, psychosocial support and human rights. Empowered women and girls bring together empowered families and resilient communities that play a fundamental role in preventing violent extremism.

In response to the forced displacement due to the tragedies in Syria and Iraq unfolding right across our border, Turkey has taken important steps to ensure assistance, protection and durable solutions for displaced women and girls. Let me take this opportunity to touch upon some measures and practices that Turkey has employed in the camps established for the Syrians fleeing the crisis, as they are, in our view, relevant to the women and peace and security agenda.

Ensuring the gender balance in education is paramount. Therefore, the enrolment of girls in school and the continuation of their education are priority policies for Turkey. We also offer extensive vocational training for women and continue to provide additional subsistence assistance for women with no families for their empowerment in households and camps.

Syrian families and women in the camps have an opportunity to attend lectures on issues such as maternal health, child mortality, psychosocial support, the human rights of women and girls and domestic violence. Measures to discourage early and family-forced marriages are also undertaken.

Turkish personnel employed at the camps are regularly trained on the legal framework of international protection and gender-related issues, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Within camps, public areas are constantly lit and put under closed circuit television surveillance in order to maintain public order. Outside the camps, Turkey has established violence monitoring and prevention centres in 14 provinces where significant Syrian populations live. We have more than 90 shelter houses at the disposal of Syrian women fleeing domestic or sexual violence.

In order to complement primary health care services, we have given priority to reproductive health and psychosocial support services for victims who were targeted before and during their escape from violence.

We continue to give priority to women's participation in camps, with their inclusion in decision-making and camp administration, and we enable them to improve their awareness and skills through the support of various non-governmental organizations.

In conclusion, I congratulate the Argentine presidency for today's timely debate on the women and peace and security agenda. We thank the Member States and all the relevant United Nations bodies, in addition to all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels, that are giving priority to the issue of the effects of displacement on women and girls.