



SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

by

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at the Security Council open debate on

Women and Peace and Security

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Mr. President,

I would like to thank Uganda for the initiative to convene this important Ministerial-level open debate on Women, Peace and Security and thank the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other distinguished guests for their presentations today. Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statements to be delivered by the European Union and by Costa Rica on behalf of the Human Security Network.

The Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security acknowledged that women are not just victims of armed conflict and that their equal and full participation is of vital importance in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution, peace-building and post-conflict recovery.

In the past ten years, many activities have been carried out to strengthen the role of women during and after the conflict. However, this anniversary reminds us that despite the efforts, much needs to be done in the protection of women and in the promotion of the participation of women, at the decision making-level, in conflict resolution and peace processes. Violence against women, especially sexual and gender-based violence, persists in conflicts. Recent events in the DRC have shown, that women continue to be deliberate targets of injustice and sexual violence in the conflict and its aftermath.

The Secretary-General in his report encompasses UN activities in the implementation of the resolution 1325. The report shows that a vast range of activities was carried out in the past ten years. However, the fragmentation of these activities demonstrates the need to streamline and coordinate the action of all members of the international community. Slovenia supports the Secretary-General's recommendation to develop a single comprehensive framework which will consist of an agreed set of goals, targets and indicators to guide the implementation of the resolution in its second decade. We are of the opinion that the issue of women, peace and security needs to be addressed in a holistic and comprehensive manner. We welcome the SC decision to take forward the set of indicators as developed by the Secretary-General, to track implementation of resolution 1325 in situations of armed conflict and post conflict and other situations.

Slovenia also supports the recommendation to establish a dedicated working group to review progress in the implementation of the resolution 1325 and to make recommendations to the Security Council on how to address gaps and challenges to accelerate the progress in the implementation of the resolution.

Stronger steps should be taken to address accountability and end impunity for perpetrators of violations. The Security Council should impose targeted and graduated measures against all parties to the conflict responsible of grave violations of women's rights, including sexual violence. Sexual violence should be a priority element in all Security Council resolutions mandating the Sanctions Committees.

We all have a responsibility to implement Resolution 1325. Development of National Action Plans is a key means by which Member States commit themselves to fulfill this responsibility. I would like to inform that Slovenia is about to finalize and adopt such an action plan. The goal is to interconnect the existing national and international activities addressing a broader concept of women, peace and security, to translate them into genuine political commitments

and thus accelerate the implementation of Resolution 1325 and to contribute to the empowerment and protection of women.

Mr. President,

In Slovenia, gender equality is a priority not only in the field of human rights and development cooperation but also in security and defense policy. Since 2008 much has been done to promote gender equality in security and defense sector. The activities consist from the awareness raising and training to the adoption and modification of legislation and other measures as well as Codes of Conduct.

The recently adopted Strategy of the Participation of the Republic of Slovenia in International Operations and Missions promotes equal opportunities with regard to the participation in international operations and missions at all levels, irrespective of gender.

At the end, Mr. President, let me use this opportunity to encourage the Security Council to continue to address the issue of women, peace and security and to seek the most effective means to improve the situation of women in armed conflict. With a comprehensive UN approach and an increased ownership of Member States in their activities, the plight of women in situation of armed conflict and its aftermath can be eliminated.

Thank you, Mr. President.