

STATEMENT BY MR. AMIT KUMAR, COUNSELLOR DURING THE OPEN  
DEBATE UNDER THE AGENDA ITEM - WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY AT  
THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON APRIL 17, 2013

**Thank you, Mr. President,**

At the outset, I would like to thank the UN Secretary General and the SRSG Zainab Hawa Bangura and the civil society representative Ms. Saran Keita Diakité for their detailed briefing.



**Mr. President,**

Women bear a disproportionate brunt of the armed conflict, even though they are in most cases not directly engaged in combat.

The adoption of UNSCR 1325 provides the framework for women to play an important role in resolution of armed conflicts through participation in peace building processes and post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to make a few comments on this important issue. First of all, the need for greater coherence between DPKO and UN Women can hardly be overemphasised. This is necessary not only for operational effectiveness but also for optimal utilisation of resources.

There is need to avoid making standardised prescriptions when dealing with situations of armed conflict. The specific causes and characteristics of each armed conflict vary. So will possible approaches and solutions. The UN peace keeping and political missions should be provided the necessary flexibility to deal with specific situations.

It is also important to recognise that some structural changes can take place only in the mid to long-term. These include encouragement and consolidation of democratic ideals and practices, and effective improvements in the socio-economic conditions.

The task of capacity building and strengthening government institutions, including in the area of security and justice, is therefore extremely critical for sustainable peace. UN support and guidance are crucial but ownership by the State concerned is equally important for institutions to be sustained.

We support UN efforts to deploy greater number of women protection advisors and gender advisors in its Missions. The mandate provided by UNSC on Women Peace and Security also necessarily requires more resources for effective sustained results.

**Mr. President,**

Promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in armed conflict continue to pose a pressing challenge. There should be zero tolerance for gender-based violence and sexual violence. All cases of gender-based violence must be promptly investigated and their perpetrators prosecuted.

We would, however, urge caution in drawing generalized linkages between sexual violence and issues such as exploitation of mineral resources, internal displacement and so on, based on specific country experiences, as the report of the Secretary General contained in document S/2013/149 suggests. It is pertinent to mention here that the report itself points to the presence of armed conflict as the consistent backdrop in all these situations.

It is also critical that the mandate provided by the Security Council should be observed and the report remain focused on the situations of armed conflict on Council's agenda. The so-called 'situations of concern' are not part of this mandate.

**Mr. President,**

While UN peacekeeping missions have provided critical support for gender-related issues in countries emerging from armed conflict, we agree with the Report that it is also important to pay adequate attention to SSR and DDR processes to avoid risk of relapse.

We agree with those who call for increased deployment of female military and police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and for appropriate training to enable UN peacekeepers to effectively discharge their responsibilities.

India stands ready to make available more female formed units at the disposal of the DPKO for deployment as required.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, let me reaffirm India's commitment to positively contribute to UN efforts in the area of women and peace and security.

**I thank you.**

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