

STATEMENT BY MR. M. KRISHNASSWAMY, MEMBER OF PARLAIMENT &  
MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, DURING THE OPEN DEBATE ON  
'WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY' AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY  
COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 18, 2013

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organizing this Open Debate on the agenda item "Women and Peace and Security".

I would also like to thank the UN Secretary General, Executive Director of UN Women and other briefers for their detailed remarks.



**Mr. President,**

The resolution of armed conflict situations requires a sustainable holistic approach to conflict resolution and the overall reconstruction of impacted societies. The participation of women in peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction efforts is necessary to lay the foundation for durable peace. The UNSCR 1325 and its successor Council resolutions have provided a framework for effective institutional arrangements. As the Secretary General's report points out – significant progress has been achieved but much more needs to be done.

**Mr. President,**

India is one of the leading contributors to UN peacekeeping operations with over 160,000 peacekeepers under the blue flag during the past six decades, our peacekeepers have an exemplary record. They have also dealt with this problem under challenging circumstances. Based on our experience, we believe that the Security Council must make available the resources that are required to implement the expanded scope of peacekeeping mandates.

India was the first Member State to successfully deploy an all-women police force as part of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. By deploying women to deal with conflict situations, including women peacekeepers as well as women protection advisors, we have demonstrated that we can assist in empowering women to deal with the crime of sexual violence in armed conflict and play a major role in post-conflict reconstruction of traumatized societies. We hope that more Member States will contribute greater number of women military and police personnel for UN peacekeeping operations.

**Mr. President,**

We have taken note of the indicators proposed in the Secretary General's report. Indicators can serve as a useful reference in assessing situations and in guiding UN action as affected countries move from conflict situation to conflict resolution and peacebuilding to post-conflict reconstruction phase.

At the same time, we must not lose sight of the difficulties in ascertaining credible and verifiable information from armed conflict zones. We believe, therefore, that it will be useful to have wider discussions before adoption of these indicators and to refine them including based on feedback from the ground to ensure their relevance and efficacy.

**Mr. President,**

It is our firm view that capacity building should be a key focus of UN efforts as affected countries emerge from armed conflict situations. If we wish to see sustainable peace and stability, then state institutions, including in the area of security, rule of law and justice, need to be augmented and strengthened. The national governments have the primary responsibility for prosecuting and deterring violence against women including sexual violence.

States need to take ownership as they embark on the difficult process of rebuilding their societies and countries including consolidation of democratic ideals and practices, and effective improvements in the socio-economic conditions. It is important to recognize here that some structural changes can take place only in the mid to long term. The UN and the international community must step up and sustain their support to the affected States in this critical endeavor.

**Mr. President,**

We would like to reiterate our principled position that the Security Council should focus on issues related to the mandate specifically given by the Council. We would urge caution in going beyond mandates in reports submitted to the Council. It will be useful to remind ourselves here that the women and peace and security agenda evolved from the imperative to address the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women including the abhorrent practice of sexual violence against women as an instrument of war.

One recommendation in the current report is to incorporate the Women and Peace and Security agenda in other thematic areas such as countering terrorism, transnational organized crime, etc. This is clearly a mandate overreach; it has also implications for division of work and responsibilities between the UNSC and the UNGA. But the real danger at its core is the potential to dilute significant UN work being done both in the area of women and peace and security, and other areas such as tackling terrorism.

**Mr. President,**

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

**I thank you.**