

**OPEN DEBATE OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL:
WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY**

STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President,

Six weeks ago, the world's leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The fact that this resolution is one of only two Security Council resolutions which found explicit reference in the summit outcome document is a clear sign that its adoption five years ago was a landmark decision. The resolution has the potential to profoundly change the way this organization deals with conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace-building. However, this potential has yet to be fully used. The fifth anniversary provides a welcome opportunity to assess the impact the resolution has had on the ground and to identify ways and means to accelerate its implementation at the local, national and international level. We commend the remarkable work undertaken by the 37 UN entities which have contributed to the elaboration of the system-wide action plan. The action plan provides a wealth of information on activities being carried out for women in conflict and post-conflict situations. This information should facilitate the review of the impact of resolution 1325. In order to make this possible, it will be necessary to provide for interaction and consultation with civil society, in particular women's non-governmental organizations. At the national level, such interaction could form the basis of the establishment of action plans for the implementation of the resolution. It would help raise awareness of the need to promote the active participation of women in the decision-making regarding all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution as well as peace-building. Without such active involvement decision-making will continue to be ineffective. For this reason, we are also of the view that the mandate of the Peace-Building Commission should explicitly commit to partnering with civil society, including women's organizations, through formal mechanisms at headquarters and at the country level. This would go a long way towards ensuring that women's needs, priorities and roles in peace processes are duly taken into account in the Peace-Building Commission's activities and programs, as has been requested in the letter of 14 women ministers, including the Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein.

Mr. President,

In order for women to be heard and for their concerns to be taken into account they must be involved in peace negotiations. There is ample evidence that women are very active in informal peace processes. However, this is not the case in formal processes. All too often this is due to the fact that women are hardly represented in the official groups which are common players in settling a conflict, such as Governments, political parties, armed groups or militias. In addition, a lack of knowledge of the manner in which formal processes are conducted or of international legal and other standards is often put forward as an excuse for not including

women in such formal processes. Strengthening women's capacity as peacemakers must be pursued in parallel with increasing women's participation. At the same time, women need to be encouraged and empowered to hold decision-making positions. Creating awareness of peace negotiations as a tool for achieving gender equality is essential. Against this background, Liechtenstein has consistently been advocating the appointment of women as special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General. Such appointments could play a major catalytic role for the stronger involvement of women in peace processes, especially when they reach more formal stages. They would also strengthen the awareness of the need to mainstream gender issues not only into peace processes but also into other political processes. We are of the view that the number and consistency of such appointments should become an essential element for the review of the implementation of resolution 1325 and part of an overall assessment with regard to the nomination of women in upper echelons of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. At the same time we are aware of the need to provide the Secretary General with names of potential, well-qualified candidates for such posts. We therefore invite all interested States and NGOs to join forces in gathering the necessary information to make the appointment of women to such posts not only a high priority but a recurring reality.

I thank you.