

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 4 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of October, I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council is scheduled to hold an open debate on the subject “The roles of women in the consolidation of peace”, to be held on Thursday, 26 October 2006, in celebration of the sixth anniversary of the adoption by the Council of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

The Council presidency has prepared a concept paper to help guide the discussion on this subject (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **Kenzo Oshima**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations



**Annex to the letter dated 4 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Open debate of the Security Council, 26 October 2006**

**Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)  
Women and peace and security**

**The roles of women in the consolidation of peace**

In post-conflict situations, special attention needs to be given to responding to the challenges that women face, and peace needs to be consolidated with the direct participation of women themselves in a comprehensive, integrated and human-centred manner. On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the Japanese presidency of the Security Council proposes to hold an open debate on the roles of women in the consolidation of peace. The open debate will give particular attention to the actions, good practices and lessons learned from the inclusion of women in the consolidation of peace.

In this context, the consolidation of peace aims at maintaining hard-won peace and preventing the recurrence of conflicts, and represents all relevant efforts that promote peace and reconciliation processes, secure domestic stability and security, extend humanitarian and reconstruction assistance and ensure a smooth transition towards sustainable development, with the spirit of local ownership and international partnership.

Resolution 1325 (2000) and ensuing presidential statements (S/PRST/2001/31, S/PRST/2002/32, S/PRST/2004/40 and S/PRST/2005/52) emphasize the role of women in the consolidation of peace and underscore the following principles:

- Women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security;
- Mainstreaming gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention, resolution and reconstruction to ensure that the needs and priorities of women, girls, men and boys are addressed systematically on equal terms;
- Protection of women and girls from human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, and to end impunity.

Realizing these principles in consolidating peace will not only promote the ability of women to recover from conflict and fully participate in the rebuilding of their communities, but will also contribute to the sustainability of peace and to preventing the recurrence of conflicts. The application of these principles requires the strengthening of direct and equal participation of women in decision-making bodies and gender-aware policies, programmes, budgeting and institutional reform at global, regional, national and community levels.

Over the last decade women have insisted with growing conviction that they have much to contribute to, and much to gain from, engaging in conflict prevention and peace consolidation. Women's groups in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Burundi, Liberia and Timor-Leste have participated in conflict prevention and peace consolidation and have ensured that their experiences of violence in war time get attention and redress, that their needs for property rights and economic recovery are recognized and that their right to participate in public decision-making is supported.

Women's impact on peace consolidation processes is enhanced when they can build on their own strength and common priorities. The empowerment of individual women and the support to their networks and grass-roots peacebuilding initiatives have increasingly become important elements of peace consolidation processes.

In addition to supporting the direct participation of women, it is equally important to guarantee that policies and programmes aimed at reforming and/or rebuilding public sector institutions, such as the security sector, the judicial system, national and local legislatures, and social and economic institutions, are founded on a solid understanding of the impact of armed conflict on different groups of women and are fully responsive to their needs in the post-conflict context. For example, in many conflict and post-conflict countries police and military personnel are often not held accountable for abusive behaviour towards women and children. The introduction of zero tolerance policies is an example of gender-aware institutional reform.

In order to accelerate efforts to fully implement resolution 1325 (2000), it is critical to accumulate good practices and lessons learned and to systematically identify challenges and gaps in promoting the participation of women.

The 2006 open debate will provide a good opportunity to renew political momentum towards the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and discuss concrete strategies for promoting gender equality in all efforts aimed at achieving enduring peace in post-conflict countries. In this regard, the newly established Peacebuilding Commission is expected to contribute to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) by integrating gender-perspectives into its work.

#### *The principal objectives of the meeting*

- To hear views on the current status of implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and recommendations for measures and actions needed to continue to improve implementation, including through national action plans and strategies and follow-up to the United Nations systemwide action plan adopted in October 2005 (see S/2005/636);
- To allow representatives from the United Nations system and civil society to outline how they are working to support the full participation of women and the integration of gender equality perspectives in peace consolidation processes and address specific gaps and challenges encountered;
- To provide Member States the opportunity to comment on issues raised in the debate, both as concerns women's roles in peace consolidation and the integration of gender equality principles in peacebuilding processes and wider implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

#### **Format of the meeting**

The President will open the meeting with short introductory remarks. Following that, the President will give the floor to the speakers, the Council members and non-Council members. Member States may wish to ask specific questions in connection with the issues raised by the speakers in their statements. The President will invite the speakers to respond at the end of the meeting.

#### **Outcome**

The President will prepare a draft presidential statement to be agreed by the members of the Council in time for the open debate.