

November 11, 2010

DPI/NGO Briefing

“Women Preventing War, Promoting Peace - 1325 The Way Forward”

(In Reference to the 10th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security)

Thursday, November 4, 2010, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM
The Salvation Army Auditorium 221 East 52nd Street

1.0 Background Information:

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on October, 2010, in the Security Council opened the debate on Women, Peace and Security with the following statement;

“Let us recognize the important role of women in the justice and security sector and support their participation, and let us eliminate stereotypes and ensure women’s meaningful participation at all stages of the peace processes and decision-making”.

According to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Approximately 90 percent of the victims in current crises situations are civilians, Out of these many are women and children. Additionally women are also inadequately represented in official peace negotiations. They represent fewer than 8 percent of participants and fewer than 3 percent of signatories. No women has ever been appointed chief or lead mediator in United Nations sponsored peace talks (UNIFEM website). The statistics point to the continuing need to include women at all stages of peace building, peacemaking, peacekeeping and conflict prevention.

October, 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This landmark resolution is the first in the Council’s history to call; for international security institutions to engage women fully in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace building and to provide for necessary physical and legal protections for them in conflict affected settings.

With the purpose of seeking women’s views on the means of improving implementation of Resolution 1325, the United Nations organized Open Days on Women, Peace and Security in areas affected by conflict.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in his remarks at the “Women Count for Peace” event recognized the recent achievements such as the appointment of nine women as Special Representatives or Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and the creation of United Nations Women, headed by recently appointed Michelle Bachelet, the former President of Chile.

However, the Secretary-General also noted that even though we have moved forward on this important issue “we still have a long way to go”. Among the issues that he noted that that must be addressed if Resolution 1325 is to be implemented successfully is the need to end all sexual violence in conflict..

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 we have put together a dynamic panel who will consider the issue of Women, Peace and Security. This panel will discuss how to further strengthen women’s rights and their involvement in the peace processes. They will also determine what should be done to further strengthen women’s rights and their involvement in the peace process and what should be done to protect women from sexual violence and hold those responsible and what else is needed to ensure the full implementation of 1325 and its related resolutions

2.0 Moderator:

Ms. Marie-Luisa Chavez, Chief, NGO Relations,
Department of Public Information (DPI)

3.0 Speakers:

Mr. Andrei Abramov, Chief of the NGO Branch,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Ms. Chantale Walker, First Secretary for Political Affairs,
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta, Program Advisor on Governance,
Peace and Security Issues in the United Nations Development Fund
for Women (UNIFEM)

Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, International Coordinator of the
Global Network of Women Peace builders (GNWP)

4.0 The Moderator, Ms. Maria-Luisa Chavez, welcomed everybody and introduced each of the speakers with their backgrounds. She indicated that October 10, 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of United Nations Resolution 1325. Its adoption was the first step taken for women. She stated that this meeting was dedicated to the memory of Ms. Angela King who did much for Resolution 1325.

5.0 The first speaker, Mr. Andrei Abramov, worked with Ms Angela King on Resolution 1325 and its adoption by the United Nations. He has a diverse professional experience in supporting intergovernmental policy making, negotiations and preparing policy documents. He has also represented DESA and the NGO branch in a number of international forums, United Nations interagency task forces and executive committees.

Prior to joining the NGO Branch, Mr. Abramov served as the Principal Social Affairs Officer in the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI). He is credited with taking important initiatives there to strengthen the United Nations system work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. This included his efforts on the establishment of United Nations Women and the achievement of gender related aspects of the Millennium Development Goals.

A long serving United Nations staff member, he has worked in various capacities in peacekeeping missions, undertaking political analysis, participated in negotiations and other peacekeeping activities. He has also served in the Office of Human Resource Management (OHRM) dealing with many critical aspects of staffing both at the United Nations Headquarters and in the field.

Mr. Abramov indicated that Civil Society is the engine of this undertaken. It is very important. NGOs have set up many workshops for this effort. He stated that more and more women are becoming involved and participating. The number of women peace keepers have increased. Much left to be done. Mr. Abramov ended by stating that unfortunately this important resolution is unknown in conflict countries.

6.0 The second speaker, Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta, oversees various global programs supporting gender-responsive peace building. These include the development of indicators for tracking the implementation of Resolution 1325. She also oversees the development and implementation of National Action Plans and Gender Equality Strategies addressing women, peace and security issues, the promotion of women's political participation and support in order to make public service more gender responsive.

Ms. Cueva-Beteta is also one of the main authors of UNIFEM's flagship report "Progress of the World's Women ,2008/2009- Who Answers to Women, Gender and Accountability". She states that we have to determine our priorities. Ms. Cueva-Beteta is originally from Peru where she worked on poverty and development issues for over ten years. She was also a university lecturer and researcher in Peru. She holds a BA in Economics and a MPhil in Development studies.

Ms. Cueva-Beteta stated that we have to determine what are our main priorities. She identified three Security Council Resolutions (1325 Passed on October, 2000, 1820 Passed on June 19, 2008 and 1888 passed on September 30 2009) as important to women.

She listed twenty four examples by country that require our participation in the peace process and mediation. Some of these are;

- Funding, early recovery and post conflict planning, less than two percent of budgets specially address Women's needs
- Women are at the front line of service delivery. This is critical to reporting to police.
- Global indicators are required for SCR 1325. These indicators will enable us to identify any progress.

More information on this is available from <http://www.unifem.org/1325plus> 10/

The highlights by Ms. Cueva-Beteta of this the tenth anniversary are;

- SCR 1325 call for action
- Secretary-General's Report on Women in Peace Building
- Global Open Day for Women and Peace
- Secretary-General's Report on Women, Peace and Security

7.0 The last speaker, Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, is a program partner of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN). Her organization, the GNWP is a coalition of forty-six women's groups and other civil society organizations from around the world. They are directly involved in advocacy action at local, national, regional and international levels for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security as well as supporting resolutions 1888 and 1889.

Ms. Cabrera-Balleza is responsible for coordinating and carrying out the network's projects and programs advocating the implementation of United Nation Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820 and related international laws.

She has facilitated workshops and discussions on national action plans on resolutions 1325 and 1820 in a number of countries including Sierra Leone, Uganda, Nepal and the Philippines. She has also co-coordinated two major research projects ob 1325. These are the civil society in-country monitoring of 1325 and the costing and financing of its implementation.

Ms. Cabrera-Balleza also serves as the President of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters and the Women's International network. She is also an Executive Committee member of the United Nations NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

Forty-six women's groups in thirty-five countries are directly involved in actions locally on these issues. Last week she organized a Peace Fair bringing together all organizations from around the world that are involved on these issues. She also last week did two Cyber dialogues. At present she is working on local action plans. To date she has completed twenty-two action plans. These include Asia. Political awareness of this issue still is a problem. Most countries that are need are not aware of Security Council resolution 1325.

Ms. Cabrera-Balleza ended by stating that it is important to protect both women and children. They do not want war. They want a world without war. She indicated that it is critical that we conduct more training on Security Council Resolution 1325. We must continue to pressure governments on this critical issue.

8.0 Questions/Answers:

8.1 Mr. Andrei Abramov; Violence against women in both commercial and domestic situations are rising.

8.2 Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta; They started reporting perpetrators to police. There has to be specialized training for peacekeepers on sex violence. Hew network is now addressing both sexual violence and the reporting of the incidents reporting as they occur.

8.3 Mr. Andrei Abramov; Papers have been prepared on how the Security Council must address these important issues. The creation of a Women's United Nations group on the Council will help make coordination better.

8.4 Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta; She indicated that her organization will work to continue coordination and improvement. Bringing this important issue to member states will also improve this issue.

8.5 Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza; She stated that the participation of women on peace and security issues is critical. Her organization are still concerned that sexual violence in many countries still exists and that women in the United Nations can address this critical issue.

8.6 Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza; We, Civil Society and NGOs must pressure all member states on this important issue.

8.7 Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta; More meetings in the United Nations are required and must be open to the public when discussing the issues of both women and peace.

8.8 Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza; She asked the question what do we do in those countries that do not have a GNWP ?

8.9 Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta; It is very important that we be careful in reporting both problems and incentives.

8.10 Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza; The nature, character and implementing of solutions are both complicated and critical. Everyone must be involved. All monitoring must be made public. The budgets for the implementation of national action plans on this issue are critical. Big issues are local tribal laws and national laws are a big issue.

8.11 Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta; The key to solving this critical issue are their implementation. They are trying in the United Nations to identify the main bottle necks that now exist in each locality.

8.12 Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta; A group of member states must come together and reach an agreement on this important issue.

8.13 Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza; What we see in the United Nations are how member states deal with each other on this and other issues.

8.14 Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza; The United Nations members speaks in a different languages. We must work with that problem.

PDC George Weinstein
National UN Chairman