

**COUNTRY: RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AGENDA: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT**

**NAME: LAVANYA JHA**

The delegate of Russia would like to point out the current situation of women in international security. Building lasting peace and security requires women’s participation. Half of the world’s population cannot make a whole peace. Ten years after the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1325 on increasing women’s participation in matters of global security, the numbers of women participating in peace settlements remain marginal. While improvements have been made, women remain underrepresented in public office, at the negotiating table, and in peacekeeping missions. The needs and perspectives of women are often overlooked in post conflict disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR), as well as in security sector reform, rehabilitation of justice, and the rule of law. Many conflicts have been marked by widespread sexual and gender-based violence, which often continues in the aftermath of war and is typically accompanied by impunity for the perpetrators. A continuing lack of physical security and the existence of significant legal constraints in post conflict societies hamper women’s integration into economic life and leadership. Best practices for increasing women’s participation include deployment of gender-balanced peacekeeping units, a whole-of-government approach to security sector and judicial reform, and more intentional solicitation of the input of women at the community level on priorities for national budgets and international programs.

Women are often viewed as victims of conflict. But this view masks the important roles women play as leaders, especially in helping end conflict, developing post conflict reintegration efforts and economic life, and even in leading the organization of camps for internally displaced persons. Participants at the conference on The Role of Women in Global Security United States Institute of Peace www.usip.org SPECIAL REPORT Contents Peace making and Peacekeeping 2 Reconciliation, Reintegration, and Rule of Law 4 Economic Development 5 Conclusions 6 Best Practices and Barriers 8 Continued on page 2 2 identified recommendations for ways to provide assistance, tools, and motivation to encourage women to become such leaders in their communities. In conflict zones, women are active participants in the conflicts that affect their countries. They may become combatants. They may become the sole providers for their families, more active in the informal or formal sectors of the economy, or more active in peace making groups as a result of conflict.1 They also suffer disproportionately from sexual violence and displacement. Yet during war and in its aftermath, women too often are excluded from activities aimed at resolving the violent conflicts that so deeply affect them. Those conflicts cannot be brought to a lasting end without making women’s lives more secure, and it is women who are best positioned to determine how that security is achieved. This report focuses on three key areas in which women could foster security: peace decision making and peacekeeping; reconciliation, reintegration, and rule of law; and economic development.

The Russian federation recognizes that peacekeeping operations and uniformed personnel remain the most visible representatives of the United Nations, directly working with communities each day, and that increasing the number of women in peace operations is an operational imperative.

The Russian federation will do its part to support the training of women in the military and peacekeeping, not only in our region, but globally as well, striving to increase the number of women in the security sector.

If women are to play an equal part in security and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically, and represented adequately at all levels of decision- making, both at the pre-conflict stage and during hostilities, as well as at the point of peacekeeping, peace-building, reconciliation and reconstruction. We reaffirm that gender equality and women’s empowerment are critical to conflict prevention, and to broader efforts to maintain international peace and security.