

Bangladesh supports greater role for women in UN peace-keeping and peace-building

New York, 1 November:

"Bangladesh supports a greater role for women in UN peace-keeping and peace-building", said Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in the Security Council, according to reports reaching Dhaka.

He was speaking at a debate organized by the President of the Security Council to mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of a key resolution 1325 (2000), on "women and Peace-keeping". The debate was largely attended. Many representatives from the Civil Society also participated.

It may be recalled that during the adoption of Resolution 1325, Bangladesh was a member of the Security Council and played a key role in the process. Ever since, the Bangladesh delegation has been an active member of a group at the UN called "Friends of 1325".

Speaking of the domestic experience of Bangladesh, Ambassador Iftekhar Chowdhury said: "we believe that gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment are critical factors for development. We know such policies helps marginalize extremist thought and action, which includes the scourge of terrorism." He added that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her government are committed to the implementation of such policies which are bringing about "a quiet societal transformation" in Bangladesh. He further stated that the UN should function as a conduit to transmit such "best practices" throughout the world.

The debate was a one-day event. It was also addressed by Jean-Marie Guehenno, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping, who praised women's roles in ending of conflict and restoration of social stability in strife-torn parts of the world.

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