



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. MRS. SHEILA SEALY MONTEITH
UNDER-SECRETARY
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE
JAMAICA**

DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE

ON

WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY

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Madame President,

I am honored to address the United Nations Security Council and to participate in the debate on Women, Peace and Security in recognition of the historic adoption of Resolution 1325 in 2000 and to mark the 14th anniversary since that action was taken.

This resolution holds much significance for Jamaica as it was adopted during our tenure on the Security Council from 2000 to 2001 and under the Presidency of our sister African country Namibia. We commend Namibia for its initiative to place on our agenda this important issue, which since 2000 has garnered the attention of and action by the international community.

It is recalled that the Resolution sought to promote a gender perspective for peace and security issues by incorporating the special needs of women and girls, the significant role played by women in the prevention of armed conflicts and their contribution to the peace process, as well as the full involvement of women in the decision-making process towards their development.

As we meet on this the 14th anniversary of the Resolution 1325 to review the progress that has been made in realizing its objectives, it is indeed timely and fitting that we focus our attention on the situation of refugee, internally displaced and stateless women and girls. In the past year alone, we have witnessed an increase in violence, mass displacement flows and related humanitarian catastrophes. We note with grave concern that incidences of sexual-violence, abhorrent crimes, human rights violations, the forcible displacement of women and girls from their families and communities, have escalated to unprecedented levels. We must come to grips with the dangerous emerging violence and conflicts associated with the proliferation of militias and armed groups, in some cases violent extremism, where innocent civilians, particularly women and girls suffer the greatest harm.

Against this background, it is important to highlight the responsibility of the international community and of each State, to develop and implement measures to protect women and to ensure access to justice and redress for victims of exploitations. Furthermore, there is need for their inclusion in decision-making processes which would incorporate a gender perspective and analysis in the broader political process and in efforts to prevent, respond to and resolve conflict, displacement and the effects of violent extremism.

My delegation welcomes the **Secretary-General's 2014 Report on Women, Peace and Security (S/2014/693)**, which identifies the areas of progress, limited in some instances, commendable in others, made over the reporting period, even as it underlines quite frankly the remaining challenges and simultaneously, the opportunities for all of us to make good on our commitments.

Madame President,

In keeping with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the principle of gender equality, Jamaica has, over the years, deployed a total of twenty-six (26) female officers who have served with distinction in U.N. Peacekeeping Operations.

Jamaica believes that the empowerment of women and their increased participation in decision-making processes are effective strategies that complement other mechanisms in the maintenance of peace and security. We cannot but commend the resilience of many of the women who experience war and conflict. We salute those who have tackled their situations under difficult circumstances and have survived, and those who act on their behalf. In their name, we must move beyond the rhetoric of support and take action to implement measures in areas where progress is possible and achievable.

Madame President,

At national as well as at the international levels, it is clear that there needs to be adequate funding for the sustainability of programmes to effectively enhance the full participation of women in peace and security initiatives, in keeping with the objectives of Resolution 1325. This can be greatly facilitated by more deliberate involvement of the United Nations System, Member States and other actors.

Looking ahead to a redoubling of our efforts, Jamaica welcomes the high level strategic reviews to be held in 2015 and the prospects for incorporating and integrating the commitments made under UNSC 1325 and successor resolutions to prioritize women issues on the peace and security agenda.

I thank you.