



UGANDA

Permanent Mission of Uganda
To the United Nations
New York

Tel: (212) 949-0110

Fax: (212) 687-4517

OPENING REMARKS

BY

DR. RICHARD NDUHUURA

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NY**

**AT A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE “LOCALIZATION OF UNSCR
1325 AND 1820”.**

New York, May 27, 2015

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President of Ecosoc and the PR of Austria,
The International Coordinator GNWO and Panelists,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen

I welcome to you to the Permanent mission of Uganda to the UN to share experiences in the localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in our regions, countries and local communities.

Mr. President

It was 15 years ago that resolution 1325 was adopted by the Security Council to recognize that peace was inextricably linked with equality between men and women. The Security Council affirmed that equal access and participation of women in power structures and their involvement in all efforts for peace and security was vital for peace building in our society.

In the year 2008, the Security Council adopted another resolution (1820) which reinforces 1325 in that it highlights sexual violence in conflict as constituting a war crime and demands parties to armed conflict to immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians from sexual violence including training troops and enforcing disciplinary measures.

For a long time, there had been an impression created about women as the helpless victims of war and conflict, but with the adoption of both resolutions 1325 and 1820, doors of opportunities have been opened for women who have now shown that they are bringing qualitative improvement in structuring peace and in the post-war conflict architecture.

Mr. President

Resolution 1325 is not an end in itself but the beginning of dialogue and processes that we hope gradually will help to bridge the gaps in inequality in peace and security, especially when women are included in the processes of negotiation and contribution to peace processes.

In Uganda, the constitution recognizes the role of women in all sectors of the society. In this regard, affirmative action policy is being implemented in Uganda to encourage women participation in all activities of the society including representation in politics right from grass root to national parliament. Today women representation in our national parliament where the speaker is a woman stands at 30 percent. The present government has 31 percent of its cabinet position occupied by women.

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This affirmative action by government and the localization of resolution 1325 has encouraged the creation of NGOs in response to the effect of war on women and children in northern Uganda which was ravaged by 20 years of conflict.

There are many such initiatives around the world that include women in peace building and conflict resolution.

Mr. President and Participants,

We are gathered here today to share the different experiences and localization of Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 in Kenya South Sudan and Uganda.

We are here to learn from each other the best practices that will enrich our own to build a stronger coalition to advocate for creation of an effective, transparent and multi-stakeholder mechanism for women in peace building and security.

I wish you a fruitful discussion.

Thank you.