Ministerial Meeting of the Security Council  
October 26, 2010  
Speaking points for Dr. Thelma Awori  

Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Excellencies, friends and advocates of women, peace and security,  

Thank you for inviting me to address you today and to share the perspectives of civil society.  

I would like to begin with one very clear message from civil society: We can no longer afford to wait. It is time for action, not words!  

Women continue to pay a heavy price in both conflicts and post-conflict situations around the world. Too many women have become shocking statistics of one horror or another, be it rape in Eastern Congo; acid thrown in the faces of girls walking to school in Afghanistan; impunity for crimes against women in conflict-affected countries. When women stand up and make their voices heard in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconciliation they often face security risks, they are denied seats at the table, and are excluded from planning and resources that determine their futures.  

This exclusion is costly not only to women but to the sustainability of peace. Survivors of conflict and millions of women and men around the world are looking to the Security Council today to be bold. Ten years after the Security Council adopted resolution 1325, the promise of this resolution has not been realized. SCR 1325 provides a road map for ensuring the Participation of women in peace processes; the Protection of women and girls from sexual violence in conflict and Promoting the leadership role of women in the prevention of conflict. Taking these steps is not only the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do. Communities rebuilding after conflict cannot afford to omit more than 50% of the population in these efforts. To do so would mean institutionalizing inequality which is a recipe for further conflict and instability. Preventing conflict and maintaining peace and security – the mandate of the Security Council – can only be done if the entire population is included, supported, and empowered.  

The Security Council now has at its disposal all the tools it needs to build a pragmatic programme of accelerated implementation of SCR 1325. Global indicators for assessing the implementation of resolution 1325 have been developed by the UN Secretariat. The UN system has a new entity for the empowerment of women, UN Women, which is perfectly poised to coordinate the UN’s implementation efforts. Today the Security Council can itself commit to laying out good practice on women, peace and security in all of its daily work.  

We cannot wait another ten years for action.  

The mixed record in implementing UNSCR 1325 results in large part from the absence of time-bound goals backed by resources, monitoring and accountability.  

Indicators
Recognizing that a lack of systematic information has hindered the implementation of SCR 1325, the Security Council requested the UN Secretariat to develop a set of global indicators to assess and monitor implementation of resolution 1325. The resulting impact-oriented indicators, contained in the Secretary-General’s report, provide a system for organizing evidence and an impetus for cooperation within the UN and between the UN and member states. We look forward to the Council endorsing these global indicators.

**SG’s report on Peace building**

Effective implementation of 1325 requires specific actions, procedures, and changes in how we approach the security field. The combination of the indicators process and the set of actions outlined in the SG’s report on women’s participation in peace building represent the correct formula of evidence needed to tackle the problem. The action plan in the SG’s report on women’s participation in peace building is one of the most pragmatic proposals in years to address the barriers to how the UN and Member States approach security and peace building. It addresses key areas in which change could serve a catalytic function, particularly in financing and economic recovery.

We urge the Security Council to endorse the 7-point action plan included in the SG’s report. There should be systematic procedures to ensure that mediators consult with women and ensure that negotiators dialogue with women’s groups. We look forward to seeing a greater number of women mediators.

**UN Women**

The Council should support UN Women as the UN lead in coordination, monitoring, and providing technical support for the implementation of 1325. This would greatly strengthen coherence and capacity-building for the entire indicators process within the UN as well as among member states. Member states should ensure that UN Women is fully equipped with the resources to become the UN system’s guide on women, peace and security. A large portion of such resources should be used to support programs that allow women to participate directly in all aspects of conflict reconciliation, prevention and reconstruction.

**Accountability**

Without accountability for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, we will continue to see inadequate results on the women, peace and security agenda. We look forward to the Council strengthening measures that bring concrete consequences for flouting its directives. We also recommend that Security Council missions meet with women in order to benefit from their knowledge of early warning or resolution of conflict.

We all have our roles to play in the implementation of resolution 1325. Civil society has been at the forefront of these efforts, bringing to public awareness the scope and depth of the problem. The UN has recently taken steps to address the gaps in its implementation, putting in place the institutional framework and tools to meet its Women Peace and Security obligations. But there is so much more to be done. Civil society will continue to work to empower women in war-affected regions and work on the ground with policy makers to bring about global peace and human security.
We urge Member States to commit to powerful and concrete steps to fully implement SCR 1325 and support UN Women as the system lead on women, peace and security.

We also urge Council Members to be bold and meet this challenge. We look forward to the Council taking up its commitments: by endorsing the global indicators on women, peace and security; by setting up consistent leadership and action on women, peace and security; and by ensuring there is accountability for those whose lives have been affected by conflict.

Let us look at the past ten years as years of preparation, of building awareness of the breadth and depth of the problem, of putting in place the structures and the tools. These ten years of preparation have been expensive to women’s health and wellbeing. Hence the need for urgency of action. This second decade must be the Decade of Action on UNSCR 1325. We cannot wait for another ten years for action.
Thank you.