



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT**

**by**

**Mr. Róbert Chatrnúch**

**Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia  
to the United Nations**

**Open debate of the Security Council  
on  
Women and Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict**

**14 July 2023  
New York**

**-Check against delivery-**

Madam President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect and wishes to add some additional remarks in its national capacity.

We would like to start by thanking the United Kingdom for organizing this important open debate on Women, Peace and Security with focus on conflict-related sexual violence. We would also like to thank the Special Representative Ms. Patten as well as representatives of the civil society for their briefing.

We seize this opportunity to express our deep concern that despite systematic advancement of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the heinous practice of sexual violence in conflict is still present and widespread. This was marked by the Secretary General in its latest report. We fully agree with the Secretary General that enhanced investment by the international community to break the vicious cycle of sexual violence and impunity is urgently needed. The Special Representative Ms. Patten also recently clearly stated that *“Yet despite increased international awareness, the global trendlines of conflict-related sexual violence are worsening”*. We consider it crucial to foster an enabling environment for victims and survivors and to provide them with accessible and quality multisectoral assistance. This includes all 17 conflict-affected countries as described in the report, including Afghanistan, DRC, Myanmar, Syria and Sudan.

Madam President,

As the Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform, Slovakia wishes to recall UNSC Resolution 2151 on SSR which underscored the importance of women’s equal, meaningful and effective participation and full involvement in the security sector in order to build inclusive, accountable and legitimate institutions that more effectively protect populations and promote lasting peace and sustainable development.

Gender-responsive security sector reform is key to developing security sector institutions that are non-discriminatory and representative and capable of effectively responding to the specific security needs of diverse groups.

It is critical to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are not side-lined and that funding for WPS agenda is carefully allocated. I wish to underline that the Security Council mandates should explicitly recognize women's contribution to SSR processes, and more clearly encourage peace operations to support women's meaningful participation and leadership in all stages of SSR processes.

Madam President,

One of the questions that emerged from the concept note of today's open debate is how the Security Council responds to States that fail to hold perpetrators to account? This is a highly relevant query as one permanent member of the Security Council has blatantly violated the international law and principles of the UN Charter. The situation of many Ukrainian citizens has turned into living hell since the Russia Federation decided to start its senseless war of choice. The ongoing unjustified and unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine has resulted in serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including sexual violence. This constitutes not only a despicable act, but it can also qualify as a war crime or crime against humanity. We wish to stress once again that all perpetrators must be brought to justice and held accountable for crimes committed.

I thank you