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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali,
President of the Economic and Social Council
Security Council meeting on women, peace and security**

New York, 26 October 2010

Mr. President of the Security Council,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the outset, I would like to thank the President for giving me the opportunity to address the Security Council, in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council, on the important issue of women, peace and security.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are cross-cutting issues for all development policies and increasingly indeed, for all international policies. The Economic and Social Council has taken the full dimension of this requirement and reviews on an annual basis how the UN system mainstreams gender perspectives in its activities. This exercise is of much relevance to the activities carried out in the field of peace and security, as many of the issues at stake are multifaceted.

Over the years, the Economic and Social Council has promoted a comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development. Its discussions on the transition from relief to development, leading to groundbreaking agreed conclusions in 1998 and an annual follow-up process at the Council's substantive session, is based on the demonstrated need to integrate relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development into a continuum that increases coherence of international support. Peacebuilding is an additional dimension of international efforts that can now be added to this approach. The Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti has also formulated specific recommendations on the gender dimension of international support to Haiti. I invite the Security Council to take them into account.

Violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations is both a development and security challenge that calls for action on a common front by UN Charter and other intergovernmental bodies. Violence against women profoundly affects not only the health and safety of women, but also the political, economic and social stability of their nations. As such UN inter-governmental bodies, in particular, the General Assembly, the Security Council,

the Economic and Social Council and its Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the Peace-Building Commission all have a role to play in fostering international action to eliminate this scourge and deliver results. I therefore wish to suggest a sharing of tasks among these various bodies in order to accelerate mutually reinforcing efforts in this crucial field. For example, ECOSOC could ensure follow-up and monitoring of the indicators developed by its Statistical Commission on violence against women. Given its strong experience in reviewing the achievement of development objectives, particularly the MDGs, the Council could engage in this task with a real know-how and institutional back-up from the UN system at large.

2010 has been a very constructive year for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women at the United Nations. The Commission on the Status of Women reviewed the Beijing Platform for Action in March, ECOSOC adopted a Ministerial Declaration on the matter in July, following its Annual Ministerial Review devoted to gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the General Assembly decided on the creation of UN Women in July, a major step forward for the operationalization of UN work in this field.

2011 will provide important opportunities to follow-up on these events. ECOSOC will review the coordinated follow-up and implementation of the Ministerial Declaration adopted this year, at its coordination segment in July. By so doing, it will focus on the further mainstreaming of the gender dimension in the work of the system at large and will address the programmatic aspect of the work of UN Women. The specific constituency, institutional weight and networks of the Council, which relate to what is commonly presented as its 'convening power', will be used to ensure political significance and broad visibility of this exercise. This opportunity could be used for a joint event with the Peacebuilding Commission in order to review the status of women in peacebuilding settings. It could also be an opportunity for a presentation by the President of the Security Council to ECOSOC.

Mr. President,

By maintaining close dialogue among our different bodies, we can strengthen the impact of the UN voice in our common areas of work. I trust that this meeting today has been a valuable step in this direction.

Thank you for your attention.