

areas where there may be considerable hope for avoiding some of the problems that we have seen elsewhere. My surprise in hearing the panel is the degree of optimism, with an exception or two, and I hope that this optimism proves to be correct in the face of some big people south of us and some big problems nearby. I thank the panel very, very much. I thank all of you for your questions. I know there is frustration that you could not ask more questions, but I thank you very much.

Wright: Thank you all for this exceptional discussion. I think we can say that human security is not only at the forefront of our foreign policy right now, but that we are going to be fairly busy with this agenda in the years to come. As one of the officials that the Minister referred to earlier, we try very hard to have the answers. We do not have all the answers. The great value of a forum like this is fresh approaches for long-term planning. It was an excellent discussion. I would like to thank all the panellists, especially the moderator who, I think, did exceptionally well in very challenging circumstances. Ann Medina, thank you very much.

Medina: Thank you.

SESSION 9.1: Gender and Conflict

The session began with two clips from the film "Women Facing War" produced by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which focussed on the impact of the loss of family members on women and the needs of the girl child.

Jennifer Klot, of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) described follow-up to Security Council's first Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. She noted the resolution's political significance in linking gender equality to international peace and security. This year, the Security Council will assess measures taken to implement the resolution and it will take action on the report it requested of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on women. An independent Expert Assessment commissioned by UNIFEM will also inform this debate. The Independent Assessment is being carried out Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia), former Finance Minister, and Elisabeth Rehn (Finland), the world's first woman Minister of Defense.

The Council's debate on the second anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325, to be held in October 2002, will represent another watershed opportunity to strengthen protection for women in armed conflict and to support women's role in peace-building. A new resolution by the Security Council can ensure that gender issues, as they relate to peace and security, become a regular item on the Council's agenda, and can also set out a clear agenda for action by member states, regional organisations, the UN system and other relevant bodies. Key issues on this agenda include the adequacy of existing legal standards for women's protection; the gender dimensions of security; the role of peace operations and civilian police in protecting women; women's participation at the peace table; strengthening women's organisations and the integration of a gender perspective into prevention and early warning.