

## A 1325 Call to Action – Overall Summary

A compelling high-level Ministerial side-event of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, titled “A 1325 Call to Action”, took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September at the UN Headquarters in New York. The high-level attendance and the spirit of the event set the stage for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) on Women, peace and security (Open Debate set to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2010).

During the event, 32 Member States made statements, as well as representatives from the EU, NATO and ICRC. UN speakers included the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon (who opened the statements session), UNIFEM (part of UN Women) and UNDP. Four representatives from civil society strongly urged governments to make commitments to improving the lives of women in conflict and post-conflict.

The event launched the commitments project, an initiative that aims to assess the degree of implementation of 1325. The commitments database is an important accountability tool being hosted by the PeaceWomen Project (WILPF) at [www.peacewomen.org/commitments](http://www.peacewomen.org/commitments).

We heard resounding messages from all speakers that “our achievements have not met expectations.” The Secretary-General stated that there is a clear need to transform the rhetoric of 1325 into real action. The commitments initiative and database can be a useful tool to ward the fulfillment of this goal. However, few States made clear-cut time-bound commitments. Although, several did state that they are currently formulating these commitments and will present them at the Open Debate. We urge Member States to draft each commitment following the concrete advice presented by the Secretary-General and Mary Robinson.

Several Member States did refer to their own National Action Plans or their plan to prepare one in the future. Further statements included references to combating violence against women – Uganda, Estonia, and Australia to name a few – while other Member States declared their commitment to provide funding – Sweden, Norway, Finland. Germany, Bangladesh, Uganda, committed to increasing the number of women peacekeepers and/or pre-deployment training.

“The time of the 10th anniversary is the time for concrete commitments”, the Secretary-General stated. He added, “We must review progress against reliable indicators. But all these commitments will not make the difference we need without increased resources. Civil society groups can not plan and implement their programmes when funding is not enough, or is unreliable because of donors' shifting priorities. I urge those with the power to mobilize resources for this work to do so.”

Mary Robinson called for the commitments to address gaps in the implementation of SCR 1325 and respond directly to the needs of women in countries that experienced conflict. Commitments should be: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound.

The event was co-hosted by the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Lawrence Cannon, the Minister of Foreign

Affairs of Austria Michael Spindelegger, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh Dipu Moni, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile Alfredo Moreno, the Minister of Gender and Development of Liberia Vabah Gayflor, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Namibia Utoni Nujoma, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone Zainab Hawa Bangura, the Minister for Africa and the United Nations of the United Kingdom Henry Bellingham and by Mary Robinson.

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