

**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Statement by
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United Nations Security Council

Open meeting

SCR 1325 – “Women, Peace and Security”

New York
27 October, 2005

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Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking the Romanian delegation for convening this meeting and once again focusing the attention of the Security Council on the indispensable role of women in all efforts to build and maintain peace and security.

I would like to associate my delegation with the statement to be delivered later by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

Armed conflict affects women and men in different ways. The scale and character of violence committed against women and girls in conflict situations is shocking. It is unacceptable and utterly deplorable when rape, sexual abuse and HIV/AIDS are used deliberately as weapons of war.

But women are not only victims. The resources women possess are striking. In many cases women are the sole providers and protectors of their families often under extremely difficult circumstances in the local community, in the refugee camps or as internally displaced. Their engagement must be at the core of any peace-building initiatives and reconstruction efforts.

Experience shows that involvement of women in conflict resolution and peace negotiations speeds up the peace process and contributes to sustainable solutions. Important, however, it is to underline that by the early involvement of women in the peace process, we create a platform for women's further engagement in reconstruction and development of their country.

Mr. President,

Security Council Resolution 1325 is unique. It focuses on the need to protect the rights of women. It also underlines the need to use the resources possessed by women before, during and after a conflict. 1325 has great potential because it is comprehensive. The challenge is to transform words into action, and – unfortunately – the challenge is as great today as five years ago!

Coordination between the various actors involved and their civilian and military instruments and capabilities must be improved. That applies to the UN, the multilateral and regional organisations, member states as well as NGOs. Denmark is convinced that the Peace Building Commission can play a key role in achieving this. It goes without saying – I trust – that the provisions 1325 will be important guiding principles for the work of the PBC.

As member states, we also have an obligation to implement the resolution in the best and most effective way. In June the Danish government launched a National Action Plan for implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325. It is a firm Danish commitment to implement all elements of 1325. The Action Plan is a result of fruitful cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence in Denmark. It outlines a series of

political and operational actions engaging foreign, defence and development cooperation policies. Each of equal importance for the full implementation of the recommendations in 1325.

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of SCR 1325 presented here today. The Action Plan responds to the need for more systematic implementation of 1325 in all UN activities related to conflict and greater coordination across the UN system.

The Secretary General's report points out the need for formulation of strategies, action and programmes and enhanced inter-agency cooperation. Denmark is especially happy to see that strengthened commitment and accountability at the highest level in the UN is one of the objectives. It is of crucial importance that the UN – now and in the time to come - demonstrates full commitment to the Action Plan at all levels.

The report contains 12 areas of action including the full range of activities before, under and after conflict. The issue of responding to sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff, related personnel and partners is one of the key areas of action. Sexual exploitation and abuse by Peacekeeping forces and other United Nations staff must be stopped. We - the United Nations and member states - need to demonstrate firm action and prosecute the perpetrators, who violates – not only our trust - but the trust of those they were sent to help and protect. The policy of zero tolerance has to be implemented.

Mr. President,

When SCR 1325 was adopted it was a major accomplishment. However, the resolution will only truly benefit women living in conflict when the recommendations have had an impact on all areas of intervention and cooperation.

As it is always the case at the United Nations, the real challenge is to move from good intentions and strong words on paper to concrete results on the ground. It is always difficult but never impossible.

Denmark believes that national action plans are the first steps on the way. We urge other member states to systematize their efforts and develop national action plans to ensure the implementation of 1325. The members of the Security Council could lead the process and set the example.

Only by taking action can we make a difference to the millions of women in conflict situations. Let's take the responsibility upon us and make the resolution on women, peace and security a reality.

I thank you, Mr. President