

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

Statement by
Mr. Erik Hoeg,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations



Statement by Denmark
Open Debate on Women and Peace and Security at
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Mr. President,

I would like at the outset to associate my delegation with the statement by the Permanent Representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

Allow me to thank the Presidency for convening this meeting and thereby once again directing the attention of the Security Council to the indispensable and vital role of women in all efforts to build and maintain peace and security.

This increased awareness across the UN system is indeed encouraging. Denmark welcomes the recent decision by the General Assembly to establish a United Nations' gender entity. We hope this entity will bring about the much needed improvements to the work of the United Nations including in the area of international peace and security. We look forward to receiving a proposal on the details of this entity, as well as an early appointment of the new Under-Secretary-General. We must not lose momentum on this topic.

Mr. President,

The Report of the Secretary General on women, peace and security presents an overview of achievements, gaps and challenges as well as recommendations for further actions to accelerate the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.

The report introduces its conclusions by saying that (and I quote) "The significance of resolution 1325 lies in the way it links the impact of war and conflict on women on the one hand and promotes their participation in various peace and security processes such as peace negotiations, constitutional and electoral reforms and reconstruction and reintegration on the other."

That link - between the impact of war on women and the possibility of using the potential of women in peace negotiations and reconstruction - is precisely what we must focus on in our implementation of the resolution. Resolution 1325 is the backbone of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, highlighting the necessity to address the issue of women as peace builders as well as victims of war. Women's empowerment and

respect for women's rights are among the prerequisites for sustainable peace and for stable, democratic development.

Mr. President,

Let me highlight 3 key areas for the future work:

1. We must work to achieve greater, active participation of women in peacebuilding and reconstruction.
2. We must enhance the recognition of the special needs and rights of women and girls before, during and after armed conflict.
3. We must provide protection of girls and women against violence, including gender-based violence such as rape and sexual abuse and we must end impunity for gender related crimes. Allow me to take this opportunity to welcome the Council's adoption last week of resolution 1888.

These are the three objectives through which Denmark's priorities are focused in our new national action plan for implementation of SCR 1325. In order to enable us to monitor progress, we have developed indicators for each of the mentioned objectives.

Denmark last year revised its national action plan. The new plan for 2008-2013 is based on the experiences from our first plan from 2005. Among the lessons learned is the need to ensure full cooperation of all stakeholders in peacekeeping and security processes - in all phases and at all levels.

In the new Danish plan a stronger emphasis is put on using the untapped potential of women, on involving women actively, on an equal basis, in peace building processes and decision making at all levels and with focus on visibility at country level.

The Danish NAP was formulated in a participatory manner involving all relevant national stakeholders: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Ministry of Defence and the National Police together with Danish civil society, NGOs

and researchers. An annual dialogue with civil society is planned and an inter-ministerial working group is responsible for reporting on the implementation of the plan.

Mr. President,

I have elaborated in some detail on the Danish NAP and its objectives, as the 1325-resolution in itself will not do the trick. It must be implemented. Action plans must be formulated and actions undertaken and monitored.

We fully share the Secretary General's concern over the slow implementation, as implementation is the key for any resolution to be worth the efforts put into the right words.

Resolution 1325 is a strong resolution, and we all have an obligation to effective implementation.

Some progress has been made and should be recognized. Incorporation of gender perspectives into peace processes is emerging, but slowly. UN agencies and an increasing number of governments have developed action plans. International cooperation is increasing. That is positive but not enough.

The resolution 1325 is a women-specific international instrument which can be of vital importance for women's empowerment in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Mr. President,

Denmark fully agrees with the recommendations of the Secretary General on ensuring accountability. We also emphasise the stated need for concerted efforts to collect data. At the end of the day, it is the results that count. It's the responsibility of the UN system, as well as of national Governments, to increase the visibility of the results of the initiatives undertaken to ensure that the resolution impacts on the role and status of girls and women in conflict.

I sincerely hope that we will soon come much closer to full and equal participation of women in peace processes, at all levels in negotiations and in decision making and that we can effectively protect not only the rights of women but also dramatically reduce the occurrence of sexual violence.

We have cases that show that progress is possible. Rwanda is an excellent example of how a country can develop successfully out of conflict when women are benefitting from equal rights and decision making power.

SCR1325 when effectively implemented in other conflict situations can provide similar, positive results.

Thank you Mr. President.