

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

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur,
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations



Statement by Denmark

**Ministerial-level open debate in the Security Council
on Women, Peace and Security**

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Mr. President,

Allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting and thereby ensuring that all key actors are engaged in the imperative debate on how to achieve full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its follow-up resolutions.

Two recent reports from the Secretary General on 'Women and Peace and Security' and on 'Women's participation in peacebuilding' point to some of the main prerequisites for ensuring that peace making, peace building and long term planning after conflict become sustainable through the full participation of women. Implementation of UNSCR 1325 has for the past 10 years been inadequate, but these two excellent reports, which we fully support, have taken us a big step forward by providing sound analysis as well as concrete recommendations which are ready to be implemented. The remaining piece in the puzzle seems to be a single comprehensive framework for the UN system - with clarification of roles and responsibilities of the various UN actors and with clear and measurable goals, targets and indicators. Obviously, the newly developed indicators presented in the Secretary General's report on UNSCR 1325 should guide not only the work of the UN but also Member States, regional organizations and civil society who have equally important roles to play when it comes to advancing this landmark resolution.

Mr. President,

Denmark encourages the efforts to further consolidate the UN peace building architecture and to enhance system-wide strategies. We welcome the establishment of UN Women and the appointment of Ms. Michelle Bachelet as the first leader of this organization. UN Women must play a key role in leading the women, peace and security agenda while ensuring close and effective cooperation with all relevant UN actors such as DPKO, DPA, PBC, PBSO and funds and programmes. We see the creation of UN Women as a vital step for achieving full mainstreaming of women and gender issues also in this area.

Denmark remains as committed to implement UNSCR 1325 as ever. Denmark was the very first country to adopt an action plan for implementation of resolution 1325, and we

are currently implementing our second national action plan (2008-2013). In this plan an even stronger emphasis is placed 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.

As part of our international outreach Denmark and the United States will co-host an international conference on "Role of Women in Global Security" in Copenhagen on 29 and 30 October. The conference will gather political, military, business and civil society leaders and experts to share best practices and discuss how to expand and effectuate women's key roles in peacemaking and peacekeeping and in security-related activities. The goal of the conference is to help us all walk new avenues to enhance and improve women's vital role in the critical political, military and economic processes leading to sustainable peace and security.

The conference will build on the concrete know-how from a number of countries that experience or have experienced conflict, including Afghanistan, Liberia and Uganda. One concrete example of how we have chosen to improve the conditions of women in a conflict zone is our ongoing work in support of women's networks and organisations in Afghanistan. Women's right to justice, strengthening the rule of law and strengthening civil society at the provincial level are fundamental tools in combating the negative impacts that the armed conflict has had on women in Afghanistan. These women's networks help build the basis on which women can play an active and constructive part in addressing the peace, reconciliation and reintegration process in the country.

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325 we must not relent on our accomplishments so far. Rather we must strive to ensure that the women, peace and security agenda finally becomes central to the peace and security debate.

I thank you.