



NORWAY

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**Security Council
Open Meeting
Women, Peace and Security**

S T A T E M E N T

B Y

**H.E. Mr. Ole Peter Kolby
Ambassador
Permanent Representative**

NEW YORK, 28 October 2002

Mr. President,

Norway aligns herself with the statement to be given by Austria on behalf of the Human Security Network later in this debate. Allow me however at this stage to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Resolution 1325, which was adopted two years ago, has put the gender issue on the agenda of the Council in a new way. It has provided us with an instrument to ensure *full and equal* participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation of peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

Moreover, the resolution has contributed significantly to ensuring that gender issues are systematically taken into account when conflict and peace efforts are being considered by the United Nations system as a whole. There is, however, still a long way to go before the strategy of gender mainstreaming can be said to be fully reflected in these activities.

We welcome the recent report of the Secretary-General, in which he highlights the findings of the groundbreaking study by his Special Adviser on Gender Issues. The study convincingly demonstrates that the linkages between gender equality and peace are pervasive and powerful. Its main conclusion is that sustainable peace and lasting security cannot be achieved without women's empowerment and full involvement.

Mr. President,

The progress we have made so far on gender issues related to peace and security makes it abundantly clear how much we will gain by further intensifying our efforts.

Our *point of departure* is that women have a pivotal role to play in the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts and in post-conflict peace-building. Yet women are systematically kept at a distance from the very processes that stand to gain from their participation.

Our main *concern* is how to ensure that women do indeed exercise their right to participate in shaping and securing the peaceful development of the communities in which they live.

Our *goal* is that gender issues take their rightful place in Council affairs and thereby become part and parcel of our efforts to promote international peace and security.

Our *task* is to give new impetus to the important work being done to mainstream a gender perspective into peace operations. Women are a resource that should be included at all levels of peace planning and peace-making.

We must ensure that *gender-specific aspects of peace operations* are reflected in reports to the Security Council. All too often, reports submitted to the Council do not include a gender perspective.

Moreover, in peace operations the Council must satisfy itself that *international humanitarian and human rights law* is fully implemented. This ensures the protection of the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts.

The *low level of participation of women* in leading positions in UN peacekeeping operations should be addressed. Efforts should be made to identify and promote women candidates, both in peace missions and as special representatives of the Secretary-General.

The establishment of a *gender focal point* in the DPKO has been debated in the 4th committee and the Special Committee on peacekeeping on numerous occasions. We are hopeful that the proposal finally will be approved by the 5th committee at the end of this year.

Finally, peacekeeping personnel need to be *trained* in the fields of protection, human rights and special needs of women and children in conflict situations. In line with this, Norway has argued for a strategy of zero tolerance in relation to sexual exploitation of women by peacekeeping personnel.

Mr. President,

The Security Council is the primary global body for promoting international peace and security. As such we would like to see it becoming more involved in bringing together peace and security, on the one hand, and development co-operation, humanitarian assistance and the promotion of human rights, on the other.

Gender issues have a bearing on both peace and development, and women are an asset in the promotion of both. By focusing on women and peace in a broader contextual framework, the Council could assume an even more efficient role in addressing the inter-linked scourges of war, poverty and suffering around the world.

Mr. President,

We have every reason to give women a greater role in decision-making in connection with conflict prevention and resolution. Not only do women have a legitimate role to play in peace processes, but, in our experience, their full participation makes a significant contribution to the general maintenance and promotion of peace. This is one reason why Norway argued strongly in favour of active participation by women in the peace talks on Afghanistan.

Norway stands fully behind the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report on women, peace and security. We note with particular satisfaction that the focus is more and more explicitly being put on women as active players in promoting peace and security, rather than merely as victims of conflict.

It is imperative that the Security Council actively follows up the proposed actions by the Secretary-General in response to resolution 1325. In this regard we are pleased to note that the proposed actions include practical and detailed mechanisms to ensure accountability for gender mainstreaming.

I thank you Mr. President,