



United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations
New York

Statement by H.E. Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the United Nations
Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
26 October 2006
"The Role of Women in Peace Consolidation"

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- I would like to welcome this debate on this vital resolution. I am grateful for the opportunity to hear from civil society representatives and members of the UN family;
- The United Kingdom is committed to ensuring that women are provided with the opportunity to participate fully in all stages of the peace process, from early ceasefire negotiations to reforms of the security sector and restoration of the Rule of Law. Women's full participation in peace consolidation is vital to sustained and long-term stability;
- But even more than that, it is essential that the rights of women, so often the victims, are respected. This means responding to all the problems which confront women in post-conflict situations, and encouraging their empowerment through education, employment, and participation in the political process;
- We know peacebuilding is difficult enough. There is a 50% chance that post conflict countries will relapse into conflict within ten years of the peace agreement being signed. Excluding women from the process only makes peace more uncertain;
- We have high expectations of the Peacebuilding Commission. It should produce greater coherence in the total peacebuilding effort. That includes ensuring that gender is integrated at

the very start of our efforts to establish peace, and carried through in all its different aspects, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, security sector reform and rule of law;

- The recent meetings on Sierra Leone and Burundi identified the need for a gender-sensitive approach. We must see this through as concrete steps are taken to build peace in these countries;
- The Netherlands, Norway and the UK recently participated in a joint donor review of the implementation of 1325 in the UN peacekeeping missions in the DRC, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Kosovo;
- I'm happy to note that progress is being made. But six years on, this should be the norm and not the exception;
- Gender mainstreaming is not taking place, there is an absence of clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, so that accountability is weak. Gender is not included in a systematic or coherent way in either the establishment or running of peacekeeping missions;
- Another problem is implementation. This includes implementation by Member States, where national plans are much needed, implementation by the countries emerging from conflict and implementation by the UN family. We all have a responsibility;
- Within the UN system, there are many dedicated and serious efforts being made to cope with the issues in 1325. But they lack coherence. They are not necessarily co-ordinated. It is not always clear who is responsible for doing what. Can we consistently say that relationships are cooperative and not conflictual?
- Let me end with a challenge to the UN system. Can we set clear objectives for each of our peace support operations in post-conflict countries? The objective is simple – to implement 1325. And in setting that objective, can we then develop an action plan, specific to each

country, agreed with the government, in which individual funds, programmes and agencies assume particular responsibility for the separate elements of 1325?

- In looking at country situations in the Council, the Council would then be able to assess the objectives, the intended implementation and the success in achieving precise outputs. This would result in the systematic application of the Resolution and accountability for how it was done;
- I hope in responding to this debate the Secretariat can endorse such an approach and take on the responsibility of putting a degree of order and planning into the way in which this issue is addressed;
- As the UN looks to new ways to ensure peace consolidation and to reform our service delivery, our starting premise must be that women are full and equal participants in all parts of the process. To do otherwise is an injustice to them and an injustice to the cause of peace, which we seek to serve. The obligation therefore on all of us to work together to ensure the full implementation of 1325 is only too apparent. We all have our part to play. Let us plan to do so.